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## HIGH LEVEL PROBE INTO MAHARA MAYHEM

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The Government will find out who was behind the clashes and resultant destruction at the Mahara Prison and the CID has been entrusted with conducting investigations to determine if any hidden hand was behind this incident, Primary Health Services, Infectious Diseases and COVID-19 Prevention State Minister and former Prison Reforms and

Prisoners' Rehabilitation State Minister Dr. Sudarshini Fernando said.

In addition, she said that a Committee headed by the Prison Reforms Ministry Secretary had been appointed to conduct a probe into the unrest. She assured that a comprehensive investigation will be conducted into the incident with the support of the police and other law enforcement agencies.

"The incident at the Mahara Prison

was very unfortunate but this is not the only incident and recently there were many agitations being reported from several prisons. Recently we witnessed a similar incident at the Boossa Prison and when some prisoners attempted to break free from the Old Bogambara Prison where the prison guards had to open fire to prevent it which resulted in one inmate getting killed," she explained.

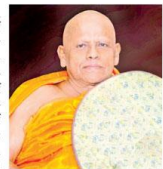


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**Chief Prelates of all Chapters must speak in one voice - Asgiriya Mahanayake**

ASELA KURULUWANSA

Mahanayake of the Asgiriya Chapter Most Ven. Warakagoda Sri Gnanarathana Thera was of the view that Mahanayake Theras of the three Chapters should always issue a joint statement with regard to national and religious issues of the country. Mahanayake of the Asgiriya Chapter Most Ven. Warakagoda Sri Gnanarathana Thera made this statement when new Mahanayake of the Sri Lanka Ramana Maha Nikaya Most Venerable Makulawe Wimala Thera visited the Asgiri



Maha Viharaya yesterday (30). The Mahanayake Thera of the Asgiriya Chapter said that the joint statement issued by the three Chapters with regard to national issues will have an impact and those in the administration can understand the united voice of the Maha Sangha without any embarrassment. The Mahanayake Thera said the members of Maha Sangha should set an example to the country by working in tandem when the country is facing national issues.

<p><b>FAMILY MEMBERS GATHER NEAR PRISON</b></p> <p>A tense situation prevailed opposite the Mahara prison yesterday as family members of inmates gathered and demanded they be allowed to see their imprisoned relatives. Four inmates of the Negombo prison began a protest yesterday evening demanding authorities to expedite trials against them.</p>	<p><b>IGP ORDERS CID PROBE INTO RIOT</b></p> <p>Defence Ministry Secretary Maj. Gen. (Retd) Kamal Gunaratne has instructed Inspector General of Police (IGP) C.D. Wickramaratne to probe into the tense situation that erupted at the Mahara Prison on Sunday. The IGP has directed the Criminal Investigation Department to hold a full</p>	<p><b>EIGHT DEAD, 71 INMATES INJURED</b></p> <p><b>Two prison officers critical</b></p> <p>DILSHAN THARAKA</p> <p>A total of eight inmates of the Mahara Prison have died due to the unrest which had arisen at the Mahara Prison last Sunday. Police Media Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said that another 71 inmates had been injured in the</p>	<p><b>OPPOSITION DEMANDS FULL PROBE INTO MAHARA RIOT</b></p> <p>SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI</p> <p>The Opposition yesterday (30) raised concerns over the Mahara riot incident in Parliament demanding a transparent inquiry into the matter. Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa stated that the investigation done by the subject ministry secretary</p>
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### LTTE banned in every country in Europe - Minister Dinesh

The LTTE is a banned organization in every country in Europe as it has not given up on violence and terrorism, Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said in Parliament addressing the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs.



### COVID cases reach 23,484, 17,560 recover

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

A total of 23,484 persons have been confirmed COVID-19 positive from the country up to yesterday (30). A total of 116 have succumbed to the disease.

As per Health Ministry's Epidemiology Unit statistics 17,560 recovered COVID-19 patients have been discharged from hospitals so far and 5,808 are still under treatment in hospitals and care centres.

### Salute from ASP son to minister father



Public Security Minister Rear Admiral (Rtd) Dr. Sarath Weerasekera assumed duties in his office at Suhurupaya, Battaramulla. It was a rare and special occasion where Minister Weerasekera's son ASP Sachithra Weerasekera saluted him.

### Government in bid to sell State lands in Galle - JVP

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE

Galle Central special correspondent

The government is planning to sell out some valuable lands in Galle including a land with high commercial value located at the Galle Sea Port premises to private firms and individuals, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) alleged.



Former Southern Provincial Councillors Nalin Hewage and P.K. Jayasundara.

### Second COVID awareness campaign begins today

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The second phase of the awareness campaign to educate the public about the virus and the necessary precautions to be exercised to prevent a further increase in infections will be launched at

10 am at the Galle Face Green, Colombo today. It is jointly organised by the Health Ministry, Sri Lanka Police and the National Youth Services Council. Health Services Deputy Director General, Consultant Dr. Susie Perera said.

### Poland job seekers taken a ride by racketeers

RASIKA SOMARATHNA

The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) has uncovered a racket where job seekers have been swindled under the guise of finding lucrative employment in Poland.



ment agencies are in the racket an investigating" a Bureau of Foreign ment spokesman:

Foreign employment agencies involved in the racket lure job seekers by placing advertisements in the media announcing job opportunities in Poland.

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clusters developing in the country. GMAO Editor Dr. Haritha Aluthge stressed that the countries who can manage the pandemic without losing

successfully managed the pandemic during the initial stage finally lost control of the outbreak since health authorities there lost the control of sub clusters.

### Basil, three others acquitted from Divi Neguma case



Former Minister and SLPP founder Basil Rajapaksa walking out of the Colombo High Court premises yesterday. Picture by Wasitha Patabedige.

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Colombo High Court yesterday acquitted former Minister Basil Rajapaksa and three others from one of the Divi Neguma cases filed against them by the Attorney General.

Accordingly, the Colombo High Court acquitted former Economic Development Minister Basil Rajapaksa, former Secretary to the Ministry of Economic

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