

FIVE YEAR INCOME TAX WAIVER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND POULTRY SECTORS - PRESIDENT

Agriculture, Fisheries and Poultry sectors will be exempted from income tax for the next five years, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said.

He was virtually joining in the inaugural session of the Sri Lanka Economic Summit yesterday.

Addressing the event, the President said tax concessions will be granted for strategic investments larger than ten million US dollars in value for agricultural product processing, IT, dairy, fabric, tourism and export industries.

"Exports are being strongly encouraged through the removal of import

taxes on required raw materials, machinery, and equipment used by direct and indirect exporters. The private sector must introduce new technologies that enable farmers to produce more, and to target lucrative new export markets," he remarked.

Addressing the event, the President also said the Government was in the process of bringing in new laws to protect investments. He emphasised the need to attract more Foreign Direct Investment and encourage more local investment for economic growth.

"Our overreliance on loans must

come to an end. That is why the focus of the Government is on fostering investments.

We are also committed to enhancing the ease of doing business in Sri Lanka so that returns on investment can be generated faster," he added.

He noted that the Government was keen on addressing the problems which had delayed and stalled various projects including some funded by foreign Governments.

He also highlighted that the Government strongly encourages new investment into digital infrastructure. **TO PAGE 02**



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Mahara rioters had taken drugs at medical store - Commissioner

SHAVINI MADHARA

The rioting inmates at the Mahara Prison have broken into the medical room and consumed stored pharmaceuticals including those prescribed to treat mental illnesses.

Addressing a press conference yesterday at the Police Headquarters together with Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana, Prisons Commissioner Chandana Ekanayake said the inmates had caused massive property damage during the unrest at the prison premises. **TO PAGE 02**



The Bandaranaike International Airport has upgraded its security technologies with ultra-high tech surveillance equipment. Airport and Aviation Services (Private) Limited (AASL), has fulfilled a dire need to enhance and upgrade the airport security measures and latest technologies. The Incident Command and Control Operations Centre, which is a vital nerve centre, at Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) was opened by AASL Chairman Maj.Gen. (Retd.) G.A.Chandrasiri on November 30. This centre will elevate standards in compliance with Aviation Organization (ICA

Projects carried out on loans halted

Focus on PPP, B00, BOOT, foreign investments

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The government has decided not to obtain loans for any project implemented in the future, Co-Cabinet Spokesman Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said.

According to the Minister, the government has decided to carry out all future projects as Public Private Partnership (PPP) Projects - Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT), Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) **TO PAGE 02**

FR petitions against cremation of COVID dead dismissed

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Supreme Court yesterday decided to dismiss twelve Fundamental Rights petitions filed seeking an order staying the operation of the gazette notification issued to cremate persons who died of COVID-19.

A majority of a divided three-judge-Supreme Court bench refused to grant leave to proceed with these petitions.

Supreme Court three-judge-bench comprised Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, **TO PAGE 02**

AG indicts Sampayo, four others for forgery

ILSHAN THARAKA

Attorney General's Coordinating officer, State Counsel Nishara **TO PAGE 02**

Attorney General's Coordinating officer, State Counsel Nishara **TO PAGE 02**

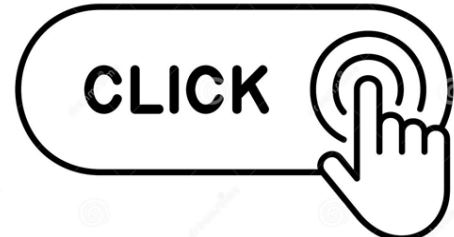
Ordinary Level Examinations for 2020 further postponed

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL AND AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The GCE Ordinary Level Examinations for 2020 has been postponed and will not be held as scheduled in January 2021, Education Minister Prof.G.L.Peiris told Parliament yesterday.

He said a new date will be announced six weeks prior to the examination giving students adequate time to prepare for the examination.

Joining the Committee stage debate of the 2021 budget in parliament yesterday, Prof. Peiris said that around 50% of the schools throughout the country are functioning. **TO PAGE 02**



ation that erupted in the Mahara Prison Complex. He was responding to a question reported recently from Italy. I am not trying to emphasise this as an ordinary thing. **TO PAGE 02**

Former CJ to head Hyatt hotel irregularities probe

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The project was implemented by Sino Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, a subsidiary of the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation, Employees' Provident Fund and **TO PAGE 02**

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Cyclone to hit East Sri Lanka: Rain, rough seas forecast

The Meteorological Department yesterday informed that the deep depression in the south-east Bay of Bengal was likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm and cross the eastern coast of Sri Lanka between Batticaloa and Point-Pedro in the **TO PAGE 02**

Schools closed in East till Friday

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN, Batticaloa special correspondent.

Eastern Province Governor Anuraudha Yahampath has ordered all schools in the Eastern Province to be closed till Friday (4) due to the cyclone warning. **TO PAGE 02**

NPP Leader demands detailed report on Mahara mayhem

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

National People's Power Leader Anura Kumara Disanayake asked if the government is taking measures to address the root causes that triggered the Mahara prison riot.

Dissanayake pointed out that they believe the riot was **TO PAGE 02**

DMMC member's murder suspect arrested in Abu Dhabi

The suspect, Dharmasiri Perera.

The main suspect in the assassination of former Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia Municipal Council (DMMC) member Ranjan de Silva was arrested by Interpol in Abu Dhabi.

Police Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said action is being taken through diplomatic **TO PAGE 02**

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