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SRI LANKA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER | SINCE 1918
THURSDAY DECEMBER 3, 2020 | 40 PAGES | VOLUME -102 - NO 287 RS. 30.00 | REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER IN SRI LANKA | LATE CITY ★

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AG's report on Arjuna Mahendran's extradition due soon - Justice Minister

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL AND AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI
Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC yesterday (02) informed the House that he will soon receive a report on bringing former Central Bank Governor Arjuna Mahendran back to Sri Lanka. Minister Sabry explained that the report is prepared by the Attorney General and it will include any development regarding the said matter. He also said that he will make a statement, based on the report, in Parliament after getting permission from the Speaker of the House to do so. **TO PAGE 02**



CYCLONE 'BUREVI' HITS EAST COAST

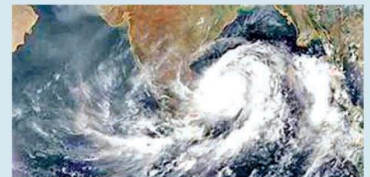
DAMAGE TO COASTAL BUILDINGS, POWER LINES AND FLASH FLOODS UNLEASHED

RUKSHANA RIZWIE
At least 75,000 people were evacuated from homes on the east coast, where tropical cyclone Burevi, packing winds of 80 kph to 90 kph (50 mph to 56 mph) hit the island yesterday evening. At the time of going to press, the cyclone caused damage to coastal buildings, power lines and unleashed flash floods, the Disaster Management Centre said. Those living near its path were

advised to stay indoors. Those evacuated from the Trincomalee district hit the hardest, have been moved into 237 relief centres until the cyclone passes, disaster officials said. At the time this edition of the paper to press the cyclonic system was 140km East-southeast of Trincomalee. The Met Department warned that the system was likely to move west-north-westward and cross north-eastern coast

of Sri Lanka between Trincomalee and Point-pedro close to Mullaitivu by mid-night yesterday. Meanwhile intermittent showers and thunderstorms are forecast for today in the North and North-Western province with heavy rainfall of 150mm in some places. Showers are expected in the Eastern, North-Central, Western, Central and Sabaragamuwa provinces as well as Galle and Matara today. **TO PAGE 02**

AT LEAST 75,000 PEOPLE EVACUATED



Cyclone 'Burevi': All preparations to face any disaster situation

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL AND AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI
Irrigation Minister Chamal Rajapaksa assured that all preparations have been made to face any disaster situation caused by the 'Burevi' cyclone. Making a special speech in Parliament yesterday, he said according to an announcement issued by the Meteorological Department on November 27, the Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, Mannar **TO PAGE 02**

Special holiday for Northern and



Immediate relief to be provided

IVIRATNE
Secretary S.M. said that all on made through aries and Grama the public about the cyclonic system immediate a media briefing istrict Secretariat special meeting rea of the mistaken in light of storm. **TO PAGE 02**

Tri-Forces, Police on alert

CAMELIA NATHANIEL
Defence Secretary, Major General (Retd) Kamal Gunaratne said that all preparations have been made and the relevant District and Divisional Secretaries have been notified on the measures to be taken to assist those who are affected by the cyclone. He said that the Disaster Management Center (DMC) is in touch with the relevant officials in the North and East and is prepared to face the cyclone and the Defence Ministry had notified the Commanders of the Vanni, Northern and Eastern Provinces to extend their fullest cooperation. **TO PAGE 02**

PM at 20th CCC Economic Summit Over 280 large scale projects worth over Rs. 5 Trillion implemented



BY RAVI LADDUWAHETTY
Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, addressing the 20th Ceylon Chamber of Commerce Economic Summit yesterday, said that there are 289 large scale projects worth over Rs. 5 Trillion being implemented by Government Ministries and Departments. "It is also very important that they be completed on time and

also in conformity with the budgeted values which have been allocated," the Prime Minister said. "There are over 1.8 million employees working in 400 Government departments engaged in economic activities. We will treat it as an absolute priority to get the maximum returns efficiently from both the human **TO PAGE 02**

Joint-programme to curb deforestation

The Ministry of Wildlife and conservation along with the Forest Department have taken a decision to collectively mitigate the environmental damage and deforestation that has been rampant over the years, Minister Chamal Rajapaksa said. He was speaking at the Ministerial Consultative Committee Meeting on National Security at Parliament yesterday. He said that the Security Forces will help in these efforts to ensure that there is no deforestation and damage caused to the environment. He said that as he had a limited staff to deal with the rapidly occurring environmental damage in the country such as deforestation, sand mining, gem mining hence for practical reasons, the support of the security forces for the conservation of forests could be solicited. Responding to this, Defence Secretary Mag. Gen.(Retd.) Kamal Gunaratne said that the Air Force, which flies over the island three times a week on the orders of the President, is already monitoring the ongoing environmental damage in Sri Lanka through drones. **TO PAGE 02**



Sri Lanka condemns assassination of Iranian scientist

The Foreign Ministry in a statement condemned the assassination of Dr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, the scientist who has been considered as a driving force behind Iran's nuclear programme. "Sri Lanka condemns the assassination of Dr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, and any form of acts of terrorism against humanity. Sri Lanka calls for the stability and security of the Middle East and the



Persian Gulf region and believes strongly in dialogue and engagement as the most successful means for finding a solution to problems." the statement read. The scientist was mortally wounded when his car was sprayed with bullets in the town to the east of Tehran. During the attack a bomb in a Nissan pickup truck is also reported to have exploded.

UK becomes first country to authorise Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

The UK has become the first country to approve the Pfizer and BioNTech coronavirus vaccine. Health Minister Matt Hancock announced on Wednesday that the UK's medicines regulatory agency has given its authorisation to the vaccine and that the NHS would be ready to start vaccinating early next week. The news comes as three candidate vaccines have announced promising results from phase three trials in the past month. **TO PAGE 02**



Measures to release 6,000 prisoners held without bail

Miracle cure for COVID-19?



DAYARATHNA BANDARA
Kegalle District Group
Dr. Dhammika Bandara, an ayurvedic practitioner from Hettimulla, Kegalle claims to have found an ayurvedic concoction which he claims can cure COVID-19 patients. He said that the base of the concoction is honey which is known the world over for its nutritional and medicinal properties. He claims to have given this medication to individuals who were suspected of having contracted the virus and are now allegedly cured. **TO PAGE 02**

COVID-19 recoveries top 18,000 mark

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA
The number of people who have recovered from COVID-19 in Sri Lanka crossed 18,000 mark yesterday. According to the statistics of the Epidemiology Unit, the total number of coronavirus recoveries reported in the country increased to 18,304 with 487 recoveries reported yesterday. The total number of COVID positive cases detected from the country reached 24,532 and 6,106 of them are still under medical care. The National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCCO) stated that the total number of COVID-19 positive cases reported from Minuwangoda garment factory employees and Peliyagoda Fish Market cluster stands at 20,979. Meanwhile, 14,409 fully-recovered COVID-19 patients from both Minuwangoda (3,059) and fish market (17,920) clusters have been discharged from hospitals. To-date, 122 COVID-19 positive deaths have been reported. **TO PAGE 02**

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