

INLAND REVENUE'S INCOME DEFICIT IN 2018 IS RS. 1.3 TRILLION



The Inland Revenue Department has recorded a deficit of Rs. 1.3 trillion for 2018 as a result of non-payment of dues by many Government institutions, it was disclosed yesterday.

This revelation was made before the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) held in Parliament, chaired by Prof. Tissa Vitharana.

The officials representing the Inland Revenue Department present at the meeting said the major portion of the missing income was to be paid by government institutions, though an independent board has

determined that some of these institutions are currently not in a financial position to pay their dues. Accordingly, the Committee recommended the Income Revenue Department to submit a full report on these institutions.

The Committee recommended the Income Revenue Department to submit a full report on these institutions.

The Auditor General's Department pointed out that another reason for this substantial deficit of revenue was due to 8,060 dishonored cheques worth Rs. 3 billion.

Inland Revenue Department officials pointed out at the committee that a blacklist inclusive of 65 taxpayers has already been prepared.

The Inland Revenue Department was summoned before the Committee on Public Accounts on Wednesday where Treasury and Finance Ministry Secretary S.R. Attygalle, Commissioner General of Inland Revenue C.P.J. Siriwardena and many high-ranking officials of the Inland Revenue Department and the Auditor General's Department were present. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Five Independent Commissions get new members

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The Parliamentary Council has approved nominations made by the President for five Independent Commissions.

Chaired by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, the Parliamentary Council was convened at the Parliament yesterday evening (03). **▶ TO PAGE 02**

O/L exam slated to be held in March - Minister



ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The GCE Ordinary Level Examination which was earlier slated to be held next January will most likely be held in March 2021, Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said.

Speaking at a special media conference held online yesterday under the patronage of Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, the Education Minister said that the exam will not be postponed beyond March 2021 and after the exam, results will be released by June, enabling them to begin their academic activities for the GCE Advanced Level Examination in July 2021. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Couple held with claymore in bag reveal sinister plan

NUWAN HETTIARACHCHI

The couple, who were arrested while transporting a claymore mine with their child, in a bus plying from Jaffna to Kandy on Wednesday had revealed that the bombs were to be used to carry out attacks in the North and the East. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



UDA to find Rs. 1.7 bn for Meethotamulla Urban Park project

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The project to convert the Meethotamulla garbage dump to an urban park will be completed by 2023, Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness State Minister Dr. Nalaka Godahewa told Parliament yesterday.

The Urban Development Authority will have to attract investors to have the urban park up and running at an estimated Rs.1.7 bn project expense, he said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Several parts of the North and Eastern provinces were inundated due to the high rainfall that was experienced as the Burevi storm lashed across the country. Several trawlers in Pesalai coast seen here together with the inundated coast line in Puttalam yesterday. Pictures by Rasula Gamage and L. Siriwardena.

BUREVI LEAVES COUNTRY WITH LOW DAMAGE

The cyclonic storm 'BUREVI' moved away from the country yesterday afternoon causing a relatively lower damage than expected.

The cyclonic storm 'BUREVI' is



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CLICK the Mahara prison inmates contracted the coronavirus. Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa pointed out, "Yesterday, a group of the Samaja Jana Balawegaya MPs visited the Mahara Prison. We need to be well aware of the Prisons Ordinance in relation to the recent incident." **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Matale Mayor removed

ASELA KURULUWANSA

Central Province Governor Lalith U.Gamage has removed Matale Mayor Daljith Aluvihare from his post from Wednesday, following an inquiry into his conduct.

A special gazette notification has been issued, Wednesday announcing the removal of Daljith Aluvihare as Mayor. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Mahara riot: CID records statements from officials, inmates

DILSHAN THARAKA

Police Media Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said that statements have been recorded from 26 persons by the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) over the recent riot at the Mahara Prison.

The CID had recorded statements from eight doctors of the Prison Hospital, two male attendants, ten prison officers including the Chief Jailor and six inmates who sustained injuries in the incident, he added. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Action against Atalugama miscreant - DIG

DILSHAN THARAKA

Legal action will be taken against the person involved in obstructing the duties of a Public Health Inspec-

tor (PHI) in the Atalugama area in Bandaragama.

Police Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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