

PCOI report on Political Victimization handed over to President



Chairman retired Supreme Court Judge Upali Abeyratne handing over the report to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday. Commission Members, retired Appeal Court Judge Daya Chandrasiri Jayatilaka and retired IGP Chandra Fernando and Secretary Pearl Weerasinghe look on. Picture by President's Media Division

The final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCOI) probing political victimization was handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa by its Chairman retired Supreme Court Judge Upali Abeyratne at the Presidential Sec-

retariat yesterday. The three-member Commission was appointed on January 16, 2019. It inquired into complaints of political victimization that occurred between January 8, 2015 and November 16, 2019. The Commission had thoroughly investigated on serious frauds, misuse of state resources, privileges, powers and authority and corruption.

The report consists of 2,043 pages and three volumes. It contains information on 198 complaints lodged at the Commission. In January, President Rajapaksa appointed a Presidential Commission to look in to and obtain information on political victimizations caused by the activities of the Financial Crimes Investigation Division (FCID), the Bribery Commission, and the Police Special Investigation Unit (SIU) during the said period. The Commission had received 1,971 complaints.

Retired Appeal Court Judge Daya Chandrasiri Jayatilaka and retired IGP Chandra Fernando were the other two members of the Commission.

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Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa commissioning the Mannar wind power project yesterday. Power Minister Dulas Alahapperuma was present. (Pictures by PM's Media). See page 17

GOVERNMENT JETTISONS YAHAPALANA VANITY PROJECTS

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The Government has decided not to go ahead with certain large-scale but non-beneficial projects initiated by the previous Government, State Minister of Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms Ajith Nivard Cabraal said yesterday.

"The Government's policy is to implement large scale projects that would benefit the entire country and hence this decision," State Minister Cabraal told the House. Cabraal said that if the Opposition Leader is so concerned about the suspension of the LRT project, then he should have done the same when the Port City project was halted where eventually US\$ 125 million had to be paid as compensation and an additional amount of land area had to be given to them. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



ONLY PROJECTS THAT BENEFIT WHOLE COUNTRY APPROVED

PORT CITY, AIRBUS CANCELLATIONS BURDENED TREASURY

ALL FOREIGN LOANS TO BE REPAYED

AG to study Easter Sunday attack probe reports

Twelve State Counsel panel appointed

DILSHAN THARAKA

Public Security Minister Dr. Sarath Weerasekera said all investigation reports in connection with the Easter Sunday attacks have been handed over to the Attorney General.

Investigations had been carried out into eight bomb blasts that took place on April 21, 2019 and all investigations had concluded and final reports of all investigations were handed over to the Attorney General for further legal action, he added.

He said the Attorney General had appointed a panel comprising 12 State Counsels to examine all reports for further legal action. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

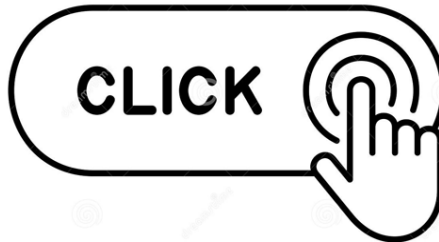


Has the LRT project been suspended? - Opposition Leader

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa yesterday criticized the government alleging that it is holding off on the development of the project under Standing Order 10. He requested the government to fund the initial agreement.

The Opposition has become restless in Sri Lanka impacts, including the highway, air pollution, and it



Errant motor bikers held in night raid



The bikes at the Mirihana Police station. Picture by S.Kahatapitiya.

SENEVIRATNE KAHATAPITIYA and SHAVINI MADHARA

Twenty three young riders who rode high powered racing motorcycles with engines beyond the legal capacity with altered chassis numbers were arrested by the Mirihana Police on Sunday (6). **▶ TO PAGE 02**

COVID 'sti

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Primary Health Services, Pandemics and COVID Prevention State Minister Dr. Sudarshani Fernando yesterday stated that unnecessary fear about COVID-19 has badly affected the pre-

vention and control practices in the country. "Those infected with the COVID-19 virus are trying to hide it as there is an unnecessary fear among the people about the virus and it has created a

problem in controlling COVID-19 and a strategic plan is needed to overcome that situation," the State Minister said. She was addressing the COVID-19 analysis committee that met yesterday at the Health Ministry. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

90-year-old in UK becomes first in world to receive COVID vaccine

Britain's National Health Service began delivering shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine on Tuesday, opening a public health campaign with little precedent in modern medicine and making Britons the first people in the world to receive an authorized, fully tested vaccine.

Early Tuesday morning, Margaret Keenan, 90, a former jewellery shop assistant, became the first person anywhere in the world to receive a clinically authorized, fully tested coronavirus vaccine. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Margaret Keenan became the first patient in Britain to receive the vaccine.

Mahara riot dead: Expert committee to conduct post-mortems

DILSHAN THARAKA

The Wattala Magistrate's Court yesterday allowed a panel of experts to conduct the post-mortem examinations on all bodies of the Mahara riot, allowing the request made by the attorneys of the aggrieved party. The case pertaining to the Mahara Prison riot scheduled to be summoned before the Wattala Magistrate's Court on Friday (11) was **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Infant dies of COVID-19

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

A 20-day-old infant has died of the COVID-19 virus, Lady Ridgeway Hospital Director, Dr. G.Wijesuriya said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

