

Expedite scientific validation of native treatment for COVID cure - PM

MAHINDA ALUTHGEDARA
Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has instructed the National Research Council to expedite the scientific validation of the locally discovered treatments and drugs for COVID-19.

the Prime Minister has recommended to the National Research Council that a local medicine recommended by the Colombo University, a specialised local treatment for COVID developed by Dr. Harsha Subasinghe and Indika Jagoda and the medicinal honey concoction of Dr. Dham-

mika Bandara of Kegalle be scientifically tested further. A research paper on the honey concoction of native healer Dhammika Bandara of Kegalle is being presented with the involvement of professors from the Faculty of Medicine of the Rajarata Univer-

sity and Dr. Hemantha Dodampahala, Specialist in Gynaecology. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa had earlier instructed the National Research Council to study the COVID-19 vaccines and submit a report on them. **TOP PAGE 02**



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CIVIL DEFENCE COMMITTEES TO COMBAT ALL FORMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

NAME AND SHAM CRIME, ASSAULT

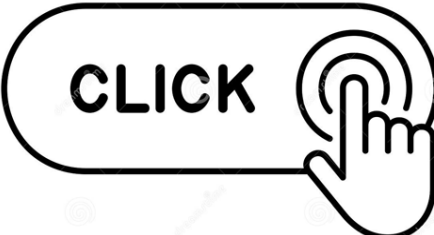
HOTLINE 118 TO BE ESTABLISHED FOR

CAMELIA NATHANIEL
Public Security Minister Rear Admiral Dr. Sarath Weerasekera threatened to name and shame perpetrators of crimes such as child abuse, rape, and robbery through the media, in an attempt to deter such offenders.

He said that the photographs and details of perpetrators who commit acts of violence, child abuse, rape, robbery, and assault in public, will be released to the media in addition to facing legal consequences. The Minister noted that the main aim of this exercise is to deter such perpetrators as their identities would be known by the public and they would be shamed. Referring to an incident

where a youth was assaulted by three persons using clubs and swords, he said with the aid of CCTV footage, the police was able to arrest the three suspects within a few hours. "I instructed the police to publish the names and details of these perpetrators along with their photographs through the media. In future, such persons engaged in rape,

child abuse and attacks publicly would be released to the media so that the whole country would know who they are. By this they would be shamed and we hope that by this measure we would be able to deter and reduce such crimes." He noted that a mechanism is being implemented where an emergency hotline **TOP PAGE 02**



Over 750 new COVID-19 cases yesterday

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA
The National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 (NOCPC) said that 760 new COVID-19 patients were detected as of yesterday (13) morning. The highest number of infected cases has been reported from the Colombo district and the number is 397. In addition, 136 cases have

been reported from the Kalutara district and 55 from the Kandy district. The total number of COVID-19 infected persons reported from the cluster connected to the Minuwangoda Garment Factory and the Colombo Fish Market as of yesterday (13) morning was 28,498. **TOP PAGE 02**

Travel restrictions in seven Galle GS divisions, 174 COVID-19 cases

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE
Galle Central special correspondent
Strict travel restrictions have been enforced in seven Grama Seva Niladhari (GS) divisions in the Galle Municipal area with the rise in the number of COVID-19 infected persons reported in the area. Measures have been taken to establish 14 road blocks in these areas, Galle SSP Vikum Ginige said. So far 174 COVID-19 patients have been detected within the Galle police division out of which 55 are from the GS divisions where

strict travel restrictions have been imposed. It has been observed that despite the travel restrictions the numbers of **TOP PAGE 02**



A police roadblock in Galle area where travel restrictions have been imposed. Picture by Mahinda Liyanage



Vandals arrested for damaging artifacts

Ten persons were arrested by the Anuradhapura Divisional Crime Investigation Division on December 12 for damaging artifacts of historical significance at an unauthorised construction site in the Alahapperumagama area which is said to belong to the historic Vijithapura Fort. Archaeologists have recently complained to the Ipalogama Police that the ancient stone pillars had been removed and damaged during the construction of the wall, despite warnings from the Archaeological Department not to carry out any construction without permission. Police arrested 10 persons in connection with the incident on Saturday. The suspects were produced before the Kekirawa Magistrate's Court. Pictures by Amila Prabath Wanasinghe.

AG's Dept in new building today

The Attorney General's Department will shift to its new building in Hulstsdorp today. Attorney General Dappula de Livera PC will be at the soft opening of the new building.

BIA to open for tourists from December 26

MAHINDA ALUTHGEDARA
The Government has decided to reopen Sri Lanka to foreign tourists from December 26. Accordingly, the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) will be opened only for commercial and special flights at the initial stage and this will be done in accordance with the recommendations issued by the health sector, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said. The Minister said a large



number of requests were being received for the opening of the airport and that foreign airlines had been informed of the possibility of special charter flights arriving from December 26. **TOP PAGE 02**

No distortion of former President's interview - BBC journalist

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE and DILSHAN THARAKA
BBC Journalist Shirley Upul Kumara rejected allegations that his interview with former President Maithripala Sirisena had been distorted.

It was revealed before the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) probing Easter Sunday attacks that the former President Maithripala Sirisena had told the BBC Sinhala Service **TOP PAGE 02**

Rishad called me in an unusual manner after Dr. Shafi's release - SSP

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE and DILSHAN THARAKA
The Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) probing Easter Sunday Attacks on Saturday (12) raised doubts as to whether former Minister Rishad Bathuideen was involved in the granting of bail to Dr. Shafi Shihabdeen, the controversial doctor attached to the Kurunegala Hospital who was

accused of performing infertility surgeries. SSP Mahinda Dissanayake who was in charge of investigations at **TOP PAGE 02**



Former UNP Minister's company taken out from Central Highway construction

Delay in executing Kadawatha to Mirigama section

DINULI FRANCISCO

The construction company named 'Olympus' affiliated to former UNP Minister Daya Gamage has been taken out from the construction of the Central Expressway by Presidential order, Highways Minister Johnstone Fernando said. "The previous government awarded construction contracts to cronies in



The stretch of expressway under construction. its Cabinet. A construction company owned by former minister Gamage was awarded the contract to construct the second phase of the Central Expressway. **TOP PAGE 02**

Mahara riot: CID records 255 statements

RAKSHANA SRIYANTHA
The CID has so far recorded 255 statements regarding the Mahara Prison riot. Police Media Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said. DIG Rohana stated that 27 statements were recorded regarding the incident at the Mahara Prison on the 12th alone and it included 11 statements from prison officers and 16 statements from inmates.

The Police Media Spokesman further stated **TOP PAGE 02**

Patali, Central Committee members resign from JHU

CHANDIMA KARUNARATNE
The General Secretary of the Jathika Hela Urumaya, former Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka, resigned from his post and from the party on December 12.

Accordingly, Patali Champika Ranawaka, Karunaratne Paranavithana, Nishantha Sri Warnasinghe, Anuruddha Pradeep Karnasuriya, Nirosha Athukorala and Local Government members Thushara Swarnathila-

ka, Danushka Ramanayake, Boseth Kalah-eppathirange, Suksha Sunimal Janaranjana, Kingsley Perera, Gaminii Shantha, Gaminii Liyanage and Thushitha Hewage resigned from their posts. **TOP PAGE 02**