

CLINICAL TRIALS MOOTED FOR COVID-19 VACCINES

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Primary Health Services, Pandemics and COVID-19 Prevention State Minister Dr. Sudharshani Fernando yesterday stressed that it is mandatory to conduct a proper clinical trial locally before using any drug or vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

State Minister Fernando said this observation at a meeting held yesterday at the Ministry with the Expert Committee on COVID-19 Vaccination to inquire into the feasibility of using the vaccines currently available in the market to control COVID-19 in Sri Lanka.

"Any drug or vaccine to be used to control COVID-19 should be confirmed by a proper clinical trial, otherwise the possible side effects may be adverse," the State Minister added.

The State Minister further stated that it is essential to ensure that any medicine or vaccine prescribed by a doctor for any disease is not harmful to the human body and that there should be an accurate assessment of the complications and side effects caused by it.

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- Mahanayake Thera

ASELA KURULUWANSA and S.SAMARANAYAKE

Most Ven. Warakagoda Sri Gnanaratana Thera, the Chief Incent of the Asgiriya Chapter, yesterday said it was the responsibility of the relevant authorities to complete tests at the earliest to determine whether the local medicine produced by Dhammika Bandara from Kegalle can cure COVID-19.

"If Dhammika Bandara says that patients can be cured with his medicine, authorities should immediately conduct tests and determine whether this is true. If it can cure the disease, it will be a great victory for us as a country and people suffering from this deadly disease can be cured with our own medicine."

The Chief Prelate of Asgiriya made these remarks when Dhammika Bandara visited the Asgiriya Maha Viharaya yesterday (15) morning. He also presented the concoction invented by him to the Chief Prelate.

The Thera went on to say that it was unfortunate to see some Sri Lankans embracing whatever produced in foreign countries without any scrutiny, while resorting to criticism and slander when something of importance and innovativeness is produced locally. **TO PAGE 02**



Dhammika Bandara of Kegalle receiving the blessings of Most Ven. Warakagoda Sri Gnanaratana Mahanayake Thera. Picture by Ruwan Meegammana.

The SLAF's PT 6 trainer aircraft that crash landed in Kantale. Pictures by Kanchana Kumara Ariyadasa.

SLAF trainer aircraft crashes, trainee pilot dies in Kantale



The SLAF's PT 6 trainer aircraft that crash landed near the Janaranjana tank in Kantale.

The Air Force had dispatched a Bell 212 helicopter to locate the aircraft and the crashed aircraft was found 14 nautical miles off the China Bay Air Base. **TO PAGE 02**

lost communications with the control tower at around 1.15 pm and had crash-landed in Kantale, Officer Cadet K.R.S.V.B. Amarakoon succumbed to injuries in the crash.

Air Force Spokesman Group Captain Dushantha Wijesinghe told the

Daily News that the aircraft had crash-landed near the Janaranjana tank in Kantale.

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BIMSTEC Summit to be held here in 2021

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Cabinet of Ministers approved a proposal made by Foreign Relations Minister Dinesh Gunawardane to accept the BIMSTEC convention at the fifth summit of the BIMSTEC scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka next year. **TO PAGE 02**



Party Leaders to be consulted before decision on PC polls

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Cabinet of Ministers had extensive discussions on the Provincial Councils elections and the 13th Amendment to the constitution,

Co-Cabinet spokesman Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said.

Addressing the weekly Cabinet media briefing held online yesterday, Minister Rambukwella said a proposal on holding the Provincial Council elections was submitted by Minister Janaka Bandara Tennakoon at the Cabinet meeting held on Monday (14). **TO PAGE 02**

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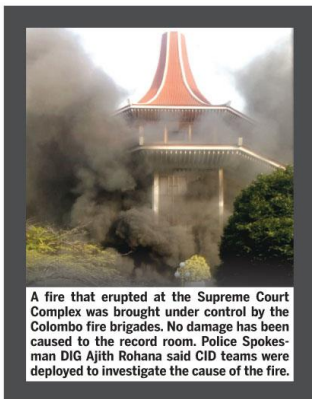


No political prisoners in Sri Lanka - Minister

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Co-Cabinet spokesman, Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpala said there were no political prisoners in Sri Lanka.

The Minister responding to a question at the weekly Cabinet media briefing held online yesterday said the Government of Sri Lanka does not have any issue with regard to political prisoners, as there were no such prisoners in the country. **TO PAGE 02**



A fire that erupted at the Supreme Court Complex was brought under control by the Colombo fire brigades. No damage has been caused to the record room. Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said CID teams were deployed to investigate the cause of the fire.

US Electoral College affirms Biden's win

The 538 members of the Electoral College cast their ballots on Monday, the penultimate step in confirming President-elect Joe Biden's victory over Donald Trump in the November election.

In Georgia, a state Biden was able to flip in 2020, former Democratic gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams took the roll call of electors and announced that the state had cast its electoral votes for him. **TO PAGE 02**

Vehicle 'province' number plate juggernaut to go

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Cabinet of Ministers approved a proposal made by Transport Minister Gamini Lokuge to remove Provincial letters from vehicle number plates. Co-Cabinet Spokesman Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpala said. **TO PAGE 02**



Lawyers allowed access to detained attorney

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Attorney General yesterday informed the Court of Appeal that lawyers will be granted access to detained attorney Hejazi Hizbullah who is currently detained under CID custody. **TO PAGE 02**



TNA hurt by Government's sidelining in NE - MP

RASULA DILHARA, North special corr.

The Tamil National Alliance on Monday accused the Government of engaging in deliberate attempts to manipulate public opinion

against it by sidelining the party from development activities in their own backyard, the North and the East.

TNA Kilinochchi district MP

S.Sridharan said the government keeps sidelining the TNA from development programmes in the North and the East and then resorts to blame citing non-support. **TO PAGE 02**



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