

## OVERSEAS LANKANS CAN RETURN WITHOUT APPROVAL

**SHOULD COMPLY WITH PAID QUARANTINE**

**REPARATION FLIGHTS TO CONTINUE**



Foreign Ministry Secretary Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage

**DISNA MUDALIGE**

Overseas Sri Lankans will be allowed to return to the country from December 26 without the approval of the Foreign Secretary or the Civil Aviation Authority subject to compliance with paid quarantining at a designated hotel, Foreign Ministry Secretary Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage has communicated to the Aviation and Airline authorities on Saturday.

Issuing new instructions on routine operations after the planned re-opening of the international airports on December 26, the Foreign Secretary said Sri Lankans or Foreigners of Sri Lankan origin (Holders of Dual Citizenship) would be allowed to travel on any commercial or non-repatriation flights to Sri Lanka without the approval of the Foreign Secretary or the Civil Aviation Authority.

This is however subject to the limit of passengers per flight determined by the Civil Aviation Authority, based on concurrence of the National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCCPO).

However, the special flights to bring back the stranded Sri Lankan workers will continue in the meantime. "The Foreign Ministry and NOCCPO will arrange special repatriation flights for the Government quarantine facilities in coordination with Sri Lanka Missions abroad for migrant workers, students, patients, short term visa holders and Government and military officials," the Revised Procedure for Inbound Flights stated.

The new instructions were based on the joint decision made by Foreign Ministry, the Immigration Department and the Civil Aviation Authority.

Recommendations made by the Sri Lanka diplomatic mission in the country of origin, when they travel on commercial or non-repatriation flights.

It has also been stated that the existing standard operating procedures

of buildings which are built at slopes, sudden appearance of springs, emerging muddy water and blockage or disappearance of existing springs. People should move immediately away from the areas where they notice the above pre-landslide signs," the NBRO advised.

"People living in landslide susceptible areas should be extra vigilant and should be ready to move quickly to safe places if heavy rain continues," it added.

Meanwhile, the Meteorology Department in its weather bulletin said heavy falls above 100mm can be expected at some places in Central provinces and in Badulla, Ampara and Batticaloa districts today. **TO PAGE 02**

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## Central Expressway will be extended to Dambulla - PM

**DILSHAN THARAKA**

The Central Expressway will be extended to Dambulla, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said.

He made this observation participating in the National Programme to award one million 'Ranbima' deeds islandwide in line with the 'Prosperity and Splendor' National Policy.

The event was held at the Ransara Festival Hall, Kurunegala and the land deeds were presented to 400 beneficiaries in the North Western Province.

The programme is implemented



by the Land Reforms Commission.

Prime Minister Rajapaksa said that the Opposition, while criticizing the negative aspects of the Government, should also have the courtesy to appreciate the good deeds. **TO PAGE 02**

## Landslide warning for Kandy, Matale and Nuwara Eliya districts

### Heavy rainfall for Central Hills forecast

The National Building Research Organization (NBRO) yesterday issued 'level 1' landslide warnings for several areas in the Kandy, Matale and Nuwara Eliya Districts.

People living in Doluwa and Udumbhara Divisional Secretariat Divisions (DSDs) and surrounding areas in Kandy, Elahera DSD and surrounding areas in Matale and Walapane DSD and surrounding areas in Nuwara Eliya have been requested to be watchful on the possibility of landslides, slope failures, rock falls, cutting failures and ground subsidence if the rain continues.

The NBRO had issued the warning as rainfall in those areas had exceeded 75mm yesterday.

"During this Landslide Early Warning period, pay attention to development of cracks on the ground, deepened cracks and ground subsidence, slanting of trees, electrical posts, fences and telephone posts. The people are also requested to be vigilant on cracks in the floors and walls



A landslide in the Walapane area early last year.

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Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at the mural centre.

## Dr. Roland Silva Mural Preservation and Research Centre opens

"The Dr Roland Silva Mural Preservation and Research Centre" was opened by Buddhadasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Minister and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in Dambulla yesterday.

It was built near the 'Rangiri Dambulu Raja Maha Viharaya' as a tribute to Dr. Roland Silva, who was the

founder of the Central Cultural Fund (CCF). This is the first state-of-the-art mural preservation and information centre in Sri Lanka. Rs. 100 million of the CCF was utilised for the purpose.

The Centre will copy historical drawings of murals and scientifically preserve and protect them. **TO PAGE 02**



## Prof. Senaka Bandaranayake Archaeological Field School opened

"Prof. Senaka Bandaranayake Archaeological Field School" constructed by the Central Cultural Fund (CCF) was opened by Buddhadasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Minister and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in Sigiriya yesterday. The Field School was built utilizing Rs. 50 million from CCF funds. It provides residential training facilities for budding scientists.

Eminent Archaeologist Prof. Senaka Bandaranayake is the first Archaeological Director of the Sigiriya Project of the Cultural Triangle. Minister Janaka Bandara Thennakoon and State Minister Vidura Wickramanayake also attended the event. (Pictures by PM Media). **TO PAGE 02**

## Three heroin peddlers arrested with Rs.59 mn in Kaduwela

Three suspects who were in possession of 310 grams of heroin and Rs. 59 million in cash were arrested by the Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB) during a special operation carried out on Saturday.

The Police Narcotics Bureau conducted a special operation in Welivita, Malabe and Kaduwela areas. Two male suspects from Hewagama and Thalagama and a female suspect from Nugegoda have been arrested," DIG Ajith Rohana said.

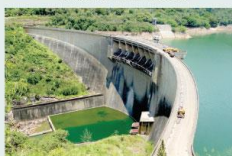
The two male suspects are 27 and the female suspect is 37 years. DIG Rohana said the suspects were produced before the Kaduwela Magistrate yesterday and that the Police will seek a seven-day detention order from Court to continue with the investigations.

He said investigations were being carried out on the offences of drug trafficking and money laundering. **TO PAGE 02**



Bundles of currency notes found with the smugglers.

## Foreign expert team to inspect dams, reservoirs - State Minister



A foreign expert team will be in Sri Lanka early next year to inspect the stability of the Victoria dam, Canals and Common Infrastructure Development in Settlements in Mahaweli Zones State Minister Siripala Gamalath said. **TO PAGE 02**

## Soil excavation in coconut cultivated lands barred

The issuance of permits for sand and soil excavation in coconut cultivated lands in the island has been suspended until further notice, the Environment Ministry said in a press release.

"Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera has instructed the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau to immediately suspend issuing of permits for sand and soil mining in coconut lands, considering the environmental and economic damage caused by sand and soil excavation.

"Accordingly, the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GSMB) has sent a circular to all officials instructing them to suspend the issue of sand and soil mining permits on coconut cultivated lands until further notice.



Removal of sand and soil for any special purpose is permitted only with the approval of the Coconut Development Board," the release stated.

"Currently, sand and soil excavations in coconut cultivated lands have been identified as one of the one main reasons for the increase in coconut prices in the market as well as the decrease in the daily coconut harvest. **TO PAGE 02**

## SJB ratifies its Constitution

**ASELA KURULUWANS**

The Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Executive Committee on Saturday ratified the Party's new Constitution. Chief Opposition Whip and MP Lakshman Kiriella said.

Addressing SJB supporters in Hali-ela, Badulla, Kiriella said the Party Leader is appointed by the Executive Committee as per its new Constitution, adding that it is a democratic decision made by the Party.

"Even though the United National Party (UNP) offered the Presidential Candidacy to Sajith Premadasa, the Party Leadership was not given to him. The Party Leadership was retained forcibly. There is no space for such arbitrary actions as per the SJB Constitution," he added.

