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CID PROBES MASSIVE VEHICLE REGISTRATION SCAM

- 700 vehicles fraudulently registered
- Some RMV officers implicated
- Further inquiries into 'fake vehicle' racket

Welikada Prison to be shifted to Horana

State Minister of Gem & Jewellery Related Industries and State Minister of Prison Management & Prisoners' Rehabilitation Lohan Ratwatte said that the Welikada Prison will be shifted to Horana.



ASELE KURULLUWANSA
The Criminal Investigations Department (CID) has launched an investigation into the forged registration of 700 vehicles through the computer system of the Department of Motor Traffic, State Minister of Transport Dilum Amunugama revealed yesterday.

Amunugama made this disclosure at a media briefing held at the Kandy District Secretariat. Amunugama also said that there are several officers in the department who know the passwords of the computer system and some of them have apparently entered the computer system and registered the vehicles fraudulently.

The State Minister also said that it was a question of whether these documents could be termed as forged documents and that the relevant frauds had been committed by misusing the vehicle registration process of the department. Amunugama further said that the officers who had registered the vehicles could be identified by entering the data into the computer and the CID had been provided with the information and numbers of 700 such vehicles that had been forged. He also said that after a fake vehicle is registered, it can be used to



Appeal to Sri Pada devotees

The Nuwara Eliya District COVID-19 Control Committee requested Buddhist devotees to refrain from worshipping the Sacred Sri Pada Mountain in January as there exists a high health risk exists due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nuwara Eliya District Secretary M.B.R. Pushpakumara pointed out that the Nuwara Eliya District COVID-19 Control Committee reached the decision due to the existing threat of COVID-19 being spread to the estate sector in Nuwara Eliya. He also pointed out that the Committee is of the opinion although the Sri Pada devotees follow the health guidelines, the risk is high.

We will uplift rural economy



Budget Proposals 2021 were presented to implement the "Vision of Prosperity" programme and the Government hopes to build the country's economy by uplifting the lives of the rural people by implementing those proposals, said State Minister for Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure Nimal Lansa. State Minister Lansa expressed these views while participating in a programme.



Another locally made drug under the "Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC) to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa by State Minister Jayasumana. Health Minister Pavithra Wanniaratne.

PM opens new drug for a New Country

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA
Another drug made locally under the "New Drugs for a New Country" programme to produce 50 percent of Sri Lanka's total pharmaceuticals requirement locally was launched yesterday by the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC). The launching ceremony of the new drug



held at the Ratmalana under the patronage of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. In line with the "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour" National Policy Framework, the SPMC running under the purview of the State Minister of Production, Supply and Distribution

SC dismisses students' FR petition

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA
The Supreme Court yesterday refused to grant leave to proceed with a Fundamental Rights petition filed by 42 students who sought an order to suspend the enrollment of Engineering and Physical Science students to universities based on 2019 Z-score. Accordingly, a majority of a divided three-judge-Supreme Court Bench decided to dismiss the petition in limine. The Supreme Court three-judge-Bench comprised Justice Bawaneka Aluwihare, Justice L.T.B. Dehideniya and Justice Yasantha Kodagoda. This petition had been filed by 42 students who sat for the GCE



Advanced Level Examination in 2019 under the new syllabus. The petitioners had cited the Minister of Education, the Secretary to the Ministry of Education, the Commissioner General of Examinations, the University Grants Commission and its Chairman and the Attorney General as respondents.

Single use polythene, plastics ban soon

SHAVINI MADHARA
Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera says that the Gazette Notification for the Prohibition of Single Use Disposable Plastics and Polythene has been referred to the Attorney General's Department for further advice. The Minister expressed these views addressing a media briefing held at the Ministry of Environment yesterday (23). "As a first step, it is proposed to ban six types of single use poly-

thene and plastic products such as disposable sachets, cotton buds and lunch sheets," the Minister added. Minister Amaraweera stated that the gazette notification banning the use of discarded plastics and polythene waste, which is proposed to be implemented from 2021, has been drafted and submitted to the Attorney General's Department for further instructions. In this regard, the

Death of COVID infant: Parents file FR petition

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA
The parents of a 20-day old infant who died after being infected with COVID-19 have filed a Fundamental Rights petition in the Supreme Court. The petitioners are seeking an order directing the health authorities to produce all medical records pertaining to the hospitalization, death and disposal of the dead body of the infant child of the Petitioners. They are also seeking an order to appoint a committee of experts to review the regulations and procedures pertaining to the disposal and cremation of bodies of persons deceased by the COVID-19 virus.

Nearly 30,000 recover from COVID-19

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA
The total number of COVID-19 positive patients directed in the country reached 38,059 yesterday, the Epidemiology Unit of the Health Ministry stated. Around 29,882 of them have recovered while 7,994 remain in hospitals. The National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) stated that the total number of COVID-19 positive cases reported from Minuwangoda garment factory employees and Peliyagoda Fish Market cluster stands at 34,377. Meanwhile, 25, 892 fully-recovered COVID-19 patients from fish market cluster (31,318) have been discharged from hospitals. By yesterday morning, 618 recovered patients had left hospitals and care centres. The COVID 19 death toll of the country remained at 183 yesterday morning with seven deaths reported.

Construction work on Marine Drive extension to be expedited

IRANGIKA RANGE
Highways Minister Johnston Fernando said that construction work on the extension of Marine Drive from the Kollupitiya junction to Ramnutha Hotel will be expedited on the instructions of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The Minister yesterday made an inspection tour of the construction site. He added that work from the stretch between Kollupitiya railway station to American Embassy premises was halted due to security reasons. However, the matter was solved following the discussion held with the officers attached to the American Embassy. The Construction work on this stretch will commence on January 10, 2021 and is expected to be completed by March 2021.



Highways Minister Johnston Fernando made an inspection tour to observe the construction work being carried out on the extension of Marine Drive

JVP commends indigenous medicine trend

NADEE MANIKKAGE
Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) Leader and Parliamentarian Anura Kumara Dissanayake said that the research on the possibility of curing the COVID-19 medicine or indigenous medicine is a commendable trend. He added that the research has commenced with the discovery of new diseases and pandemic situations and it was constructive to

Mohomed Farook

