

SUNDAY OBSERVER

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SRI LANKA'S ENGLISH NEWSPAPER WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION

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SHOW APARTMENT
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**RS. 35 MILLION
UPWARDS**



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GOVT HAS REDUCED
INTEREST RATES AND GIVEN
RELIEF TO PEOPLE

PAGE
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'SCRAP THE PRESIDENCY'
IS A CONDITIONED REFLEX

PAGE
8

ONCE UPON A TWICE
THE UNASSIGNED HOUR

**Youth
OBSERVER**



NEW RETIREMENT AGE -

**PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS
ASKED TO COMPLY**

A committee headed by the Commissioner of Labour has been appointed to draft legislation to extend the retirement age of private-sector employees to 60 years, in keeping with the Budget proposal for 2021.

Minister of Labour Nimal Siripala de Silva told the media on Wednesday (23) that the employers' union and trade union leaders should come to a decision on the matter within a week.

The Minister said he had discussed the issue at the National Labour Advisory Council and that trade union leaders had agreed to extend the retirement age. However, the Minister said if an employee wishes...

SEE PAGE 7

SAVE PEOPLE FROM LOAN SHARKS | SAMURDHI BANKS TO STEP IN

GOVT TO STREAMLINE MICROFINANCE SCHEME



By **Uditha Kumarasinghe**

State Minister of Samurdhi, Household Economy, Micro Finance, Self-Employment and Business Development, Shehan Semasinghe said the Government will streamline the entire microfinance scheme and introduce a new sys-

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Minister Shehan Semasinghe

ould fall in line with the Govern-
ment's policy. "We will have a low-
est scheme with the financial
policy program which we are try-
ing to coordinate," he said.
He said micro financing might
be a higher cost of finance be-
cause of the risk in lending without
collateral, but exorbitant inter-

est rates cannot be charged.
Semasinghe said steps have
been taken to amend the Micro-
finance Act No:6 of 2016, which
has been designed purely to pro-
tect western interests and not the
locals. Only four companies have
been registered under this Act,
while all the... SEE PAGE 2



**Weeratunga to report
on best vaccine for
SL next week**

By **Aanya Vipulasena**

The Government will hold discussions about a vaccine candidate suitable for Sri Lanka in the next few days and provide information by the end of next week,

chief advisor to President, Lalith Weeratunga said.

Weeratunga has been tasked with coordinating with concerned parties and countries to select a vaccine to be used in Sri Lanka. He will look into... SEE PAGE 2

GOVT TO REVIEW COVID-19 CREMATIONS

By **Manjula Fernando and Aanya Vipulasena**

A review of the decision on cremating Covid-19 victims is expected by the Health Ministry in the coming days after research on health aspects is completed.

Co-Cabinet spokesman Dr. Ra-

mesh Pathirana said the Govern-
ment has called upon the Health
Ministry to address the issue
raised by the Muslim community
with a humanitarian approach
and fairness.

Dr. Pathirana said the Cabinet
had not taken a decision to permit
burial of Covid-19... SEE PAGE 2

**THE SUNDAY OBSERVER WISHES ITS READERS
GOOD HEALTH AND EVERY PROSPERITY IN 2021**



**CABINET CONSENT FOR
MENTAL HEALTH
POLICY FROM 2020-2030**



The Cabinet of Ministers have consented to the resolution presented by Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi to implement the National Mental Health Policy from 2020 - 2030.

A mental health policy formulates the strategic framework to prevent mental illnesses, healing, rehabilitation and mental health promotion within the community.

The previous psychological health policy in Sri Lanka was formulated in 2005. Hence, the need for... SEE PAGE 2

**ILLEGAL BABY ADOPTION RACKET
POLICE NET TO NAB ACCOMPLICES**

By **Maneshka Borham**

The police have

suspects and initiate legal action against them and others assisting the suspects. The police arrests

Reveal composition of Experts' Committee - GMOA

By **Nadira Gunatilleke**

The health authorities should

bodies arose. A few months ago, the GMOA clearly stated that epidemiologists, virologists, pedolo-

**AVOID PILGRIMAGE TO
SRI PADA NEXT MONTH**

