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ASIAN BUDDHIST CONFERENCE FOR PEACE
13th EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING - COLOMBO, SRI LANKA
14th January 2021

The 13th Executive Council Meeting of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace was held at the Sri Sambodhi Viharaya in Colombo yesterday, with delegates of other Asian Buddhist nations joining via Zoom technology. Here President Gotabaya Rajapaksa participates in religious observances before the commencement of proceedings with Viharadhipathi Ven. Boralande Vajiragnana Thera. Left: The Maha Sangha at the conference. Pictures by President's Media Division



ASIAN BUDDHIST CONFERENCE FOR PEACE CONVENES WITH PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION

SHAVINI MADHARA

The 13th Executive Council Meeting of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace was held with the participation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at Sri Sambodhi Viharaya in Colombo 7 yesterday (14). After World War II, Buddhist leaders focused on the need for an international Buddhist organisation aimed at promoting unity. Consequently, Buddhist laity and clergy gathered at Maha Viharaya in Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia on June 13, 1970 to hold the first meeting of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace. The second Conference was held in Sri Lanka. At present, all the Buddhist countries in the world are members of this organisation. **TO PAGE 02**

Tax relief for film industry

In an effort to promote the local film industry, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has decided to grant back the tax concession which was initially granted by him during his tenure as President and which was annulled by the previous Good Governance Government, following discussions with film industry professionals. Film industry professionals had met with the Prime Minister on January 8 at Temple Trees where they had conveyed to him their grievances and the impact of the tax on film production as well as equipment. In response to this, the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs after discussions with the Premier decided to revert to the tax concessions which were during the time he served as President. This includes imports of equipment used for film production and screening. When the Premier was the then President, VAT exemptions were granted on production, distribution and exhibition of any film and supply of laboratory facilities for the production of any film. **TO PAGE 02**



Opposition playing politics with tourism industry - Prasanna

The Opposition accused the Government that by inviting the tourists from Ukraine, the spread of COVID-19 would be exacerbated and that there would be a new cluster. However we have proved the critics wrong by ensuring that despite the influx of tourists from Ukraine, there has been no such spread of the virus, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said. "The Opposition is playing politics with the tourism industry," he said. The Minister emphasized that only 1,200 Ukrainian tourists have so far arrived under the pilot project. However, out of all these tourists, only two had been identified as having the COVID-19 virus. **TO PAGE 02**



LARGEST TYRE FACTORY IN SOUTH ASIA OPENED

MASSIVE BOOST FOR INVESTMENT PROSPECTS

US\$ 100 M INVESTED FOR INITIAL PHASE

80 PERCENT OF PRODUCTION SLATED FOR EXPORT

Sri Lanka's drive to attract world-class high-tech investments received a major fillip yesterday with the opening by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa of Ferentino Tyre Corporation (Pvt) Limited's ultra-modern tyre factory in Horana. The total investment for this project will exceed US\$ 250 million. This is the largest tyre factory in South Asia equipped with the latest European manufacturing technology that will produce normal and radial tyres for a wide variety of vehicle



Cabinet approves SOP for vehicle assembly

PAHAN WIJESSEKERA

The Cabinet has approved the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on 'Production, Assembly and Manufacturing of Vehicles in Sri Lanka' prepared by the Ministry of Industry, focusing on an expeditious local alternative to the import of vehicles. Industry Minister Wimal Weerawansa points out that this will lead to a huge revolution in the vehicle assembly industry in Sri Lanka. The Minister said that after the cessation of vehicle imports, Sri Lankan auto importers had held several rounds of discussions with them and their parent companies were willing to invest in the local vehicle **TO PAGE 02**

President bett Sri Lankan

MOHAMMED RASOOLDEEN

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has a strong passion for his goals to serve the Sri Lankans and to strengthen friendly relations with brotherly countries, the new High Commissioner for Bangladesh to Sri Lanka Tareq Md Ariful Islam said on Wednesday. The Envoy, who presented his credentials to the President on Monday was **TO PAGE 02**



Mahara Prison riot: Legal action against 125 including 25 inmates

LAHIRU FERNANDO

The Prisons Department will take legal action against 120 participants including 25 inmates who spearheaded the recent riot at Mahara Prison causing serious property damage. **TO PAGE 02**

Qatar to resume work at Visa Centre in Sri Lanka

Qatar has said it will resume work next week at a Visa Centre in Sri Lanka. The Qatari Interior Ministry said that the centre in Colombo will start on January 20 and that appointment reservations will be available via its website from today. Qatar visa facilities abroad work to finalise procedures for recruiting expatriate workers through accredited centres with the aim of facilitating related measures, protecting migrants' rights and documenting labour contracts. They also guarantee that expatriates will do their jobs upon arrival in Qatar. **TO PAGE 02**



7 FATAL ACCIDENTS DURING LAST 24 HRS

Seven fatal accidents have been reported during the last 24 hours, Police Media Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said adding that there has been an increase in accidents relating to smaller vehicles and pedestrians. **TO PAGE 02**

Travel restrictions in place

The National Operations Centre for the prevention of COVID-19 announced that no individual is permitted to travel out of the Western Province from January 11 until midnight today (15). The advisory was issued by the Department of Government Information.

JVP urges full local ownership of ECT

The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) said that it has not given up its fight for the country to retain the full ownership of the Eastern Container Terminal (ECT) of the Colombo Port with the Sri Lankan Ports Authority whilst accusing the subject ministers of attempting to grant a minority stake to India. Speaking at a media briefing yesterday, politburo member of the JVP K.D. Lal Kantha said that despite media reports that the President will not sell the East Terminal, the JVP will continue to fight until the Ports Authority retains 100 percent ownership. **TO PAGE 02**



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