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PAGE
4

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PAGE
9

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CPB meeting tomorrow

Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake said the meeting of the Committee on Parliamentary Business (CPB) which was scheduled to be held on January 13 has been rescheduled for tomorrow, January 18 on the instructions of Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena. The meeting will be held to decide on the Business of the House for the Parliamentary Week which is scheduled to commence on January 19, a media release issued by the Department of Communication of Parliament stated.



"NO DANGER, ON A GOOD FOOTING"

THIRTY-ONE MPS TESTED NEGATIVE FOR COVID-19

- *Sergeant-at-Arms of Parliament*

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

All 31 Parliamentarians who underwent Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests have been tested negative for Covid-19, Sergeant-at-Arms of Parliament Narendra Fernando said.

He said 980 Parliament employees come under the purview of the Secretary General of Parliament.



However, there are nearly 1,500 persons working in the Parliament complex each day including Police officers, bank staff, post office staff

and the employees of the Chief Government Whip office.

Fernando said 900 Parliament staff and others at the complex

were subjected to PCR tests and all their reports have tested negative for Covid-19.

"Therefore, we have stopped conducting PCR tests for the Parliament staff as almost 80 percent of our employees had already undergone PCR tests. The health authorities have said that we are not in danger and we are on a very good footing. At present there is no

alarming issue with regard to Covid-19 in Parliament.

However, it is up to the Parliament authorities to take all precautionary measures and strictly adhere to the health guidelines," he said.

Earlier, steps were taken to disinfect the parliamentary premises and conduct PCR tests on Parliament staff and... **SEE PAGE 2**



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa who has shown a desire to steer education to preserve dignity of labour takes a ride with Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith at the Benedict XVI Catholic Institute of Higher Studies last week. Coincidentally, the Supreme Court on Friday decided to hear arguments on the 12 fundamental rights applications filed against the state for its failure to prevent the Easter Sunday attacks on April 21, 2019 despite having prior knowledge. The petitions were fixed for argument from March 8-10.

ONLINE LOTTERY SALE - MAHAPOLA LOSES RS. 673M

The Mahapola Higher Education College's Trust Fund had...

Hunt on for buried survivors after Indonesian quake

OVER 45 PEOPLE DEAD, HUNDREDS INJURED

AFP: Rescuers scrambled to find buried survivors yesterday after a powerful earthquake on Indonesia's Sulawesi island killed dozens, injured hundreds and left more feared trapped in the rubble of collapsed buildings.

At least 45 people died after the 6.2-magnitude quake struck in the early hours of Friday, triggering panic among residents of the island, which was hit by a 2018 quake-tsunami disaster that killed thousands.

Dozens of bodies have been



hailed from beneath crumpled buildings in Mamuju, a city of about 110,000 in West Sulawesi province, while others were killed south of the area after the quake struck. **SEE PAGE 2**



... securities transactions of companies under the Mahapola Trust Fund, in 2015 and... **SEE PAGE 2**

MAINTAIN HEALTH GUIDELINES, TOURISM SECTOR TOLD

ETA FOR ALL FOREIGNERS EXCEPT UK

By Aanya Wipulasena

All foreigners except those from the United Kingdom will be permitted to enter the country with an online Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), a spokesman

for the Immigration and Emigration authorities said yesterday. Moreover, all those entering will have to submit a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) in keeping with the guidelines of the Sri Lankan... **SEE PAGE 2**

TALKS ON FATE OF LONG-TERM INMATES

Over 12,335 prisoners released to reduce congestion

By Leon Berenger

The authorities have released 12,339 prisoners since December 1 last year aimed at reducing congestion in the country's jails, a senior official said yesterday.

Prior to their release the inmates were subject to Polymerase Chain Re-

action (PCRs) as a precaution against the Covid-19 pandemic, Prisons Spokesman, Commissioner Chandana Ekanayake said.

Among those released were 371 female inmates, he added.

The majority of those released were convicted prisoners who had defaulted in... **SEE PAGE 2**

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