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Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga and AASL officials at the Bandaranaike International Airport yesterday.



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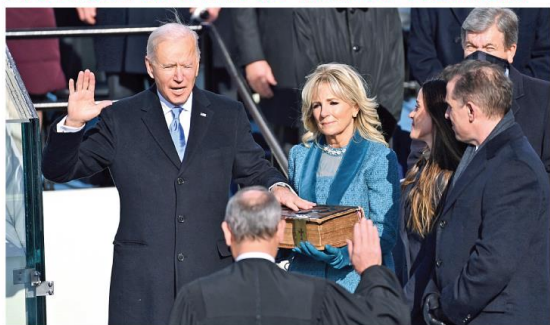
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Easter Sunday Attacks: PCOI report to President before January 31

LAHIRU FERNANDO

The Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCOI) mandated to probe the terror attacks on Easter Sunday has concluded its hearings on Tuesday this week and is to submit the report to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa before January 31. **TO PAGE 02**

Joe Biden sworn in as 46th US President



Joe Biden (L), flanked by US First Lady Jill Biden is sworn in as the 46th US President by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts at the US Capitol in Washington, DC yesterday. - AFP (See also page 10)

Six finance companies fell since 2015 - State Minister

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

Six financial institutions had fallen into crisis since the previous Good Governance government came into power till August 31, 2020.

They are Central Investments and Finance Ltd (formerly Central Investments and Finance PLC Ltd), The Standard Credit Finance Ltd, TKS Finance Ltd, The Finance Company PLC, ETI Finance Ltd and Swarnamah Financial Services PLC, Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal told Parliament yesterday. **TO PAGE 02**



Edirisinghe siblings seek anticipatory bail

SHAVINI MADAHARA

The four former Directors of Edirisinghe Trust Investments (ETI) Finance Limited yesterday filed anticipatory bail applications in the Colombo Chief Magistrate's Court seeking to prevent their arrest over the Swarnamah Financial services incident.

Chief Magistrate Mohammed Mihal fixed inquiries into the anticipatory bail applications for today.

The anticipatory bail applications were submitted by Nalaka Edirisinghe, Jeevaka Edirisinghe, Anjalee Edirisinghe and Asanka Edirisinghe, who were recently accused of criminal misappropriation, cheating, money laundering, and other offences. **TO PAGE 02**

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Suicide bomber's father further remanded

SHAVINI MADHARA

The father of suicide bomber Alaudeen Ahmed Muaid who detonated a bomb at the St. Anthony's Church in Koch-

chikade on Easter Sunday in 2019, was further remanded till February 2 by Colombo Chief Magistrate Mohammed Mihal yesterday. **TO PAGE 02**

Assault charge against Dhammika Bandara

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE and RAKSHANA SRIYANTHA

Police have launched an investigation to arrest local anti-COVID-19 syrup manufacturer Dhammika Bandara for allegedly assaulting a doctor. A

doctor has lodged a complaint with the Peradeniya Police station that Dhammika Bandara had assaulted him at his home in Kegalle.

The doctor who works at the Peradeniya Hospital went to

see Dhammika Bandara at his residence about a week ago.

It is alleged that Bandara and his aides have assaulted the doctor and the others who accompanied him following an argument.

GMOA cautions spike in COVID cases in January

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Government Medical Officers' Association yesterday cautioned on the spike in COVID-19 positive cases reported from January 1.

"More than 11,000 COVID positive cases have been reported only during the last 19 days of this month, Government Medical Officers' Association Editor Dr. Haritha Aluthge said.

He further said that if this situation continues, there is a possibility of reporting 20,000 new cases during January this year alone. **TO PAGE 02**

Dignities of communities must be respected - Teplitz

The US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Alaina B. Teplitz says the right and dignity of all communities should be respected by permitting the observance of faith in accordance with international public health guidelines.

The Ambassador took to twitter to quote Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which Sri Lanka is a signatory to. **TO PAGE 02**



Public Officials must be allowed to speak on policy matters - COPA

The Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) yesterday (19) recommended that a policy decision should be taken regard-

ing the space available for public servants to present their views on Cabinet decisions on perplexing issues. **TO PAGE 02**

Fleeing COVID infected man found

The COVID infected man who fled the Punalani COVID treatment centre on Tuesday (19) night has been found in Ebdiyagoda, police said.

Police media spokes-

person DIG Ajith Rohana said that the individual was arrested following a search operation by a special police team. "Health authorities and police are working to send him back to a treatment centre. However police are working to ascertain how this individual had travelled and the mode of transport used." **TO PAGE 02**

Special police unit at Lands Ministry to check on grabs

DINULI FRANCISCO

A special police investigations unit has been set up under the Lands Ministry to investigate and resolve a number of issues related to lands.

Lands Minister S.M. Chandrasena stated that longstanding issues in lands coming under the Lands Ministry and in the lands owned by the

Land Reforms Commission will be taken into consideration by this unit. The Police Investigation Unit was set up last Tuesday (19).

The Minister said that thousands of acres of land owned by the Land Reforms Commission were being misused by various individuals and plantation companies. **TO PAGE 02**

Expert Committee to probe Muthurajawela destruction

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera has instructed Ministry Secretary to Dr. Anil Jasinghe to appoint an expert committee to conduct a full study on environmental damage in the Muthurajawela Wet Sanctuary. **TO PAGE 02**



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