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## SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

**COUNTRY ON RIGHT ECONOMIC PATH DESPITE PANDEMIC**

**RS.180 BN WORTH LOANS PROVIDED TO 63,000 AFFECTED BUSINESSES**

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The industrial sector is showing cant growth and the country is on t economic path despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been proven thro comparison of statistics of the sector of 2020 with that of the previous. Finance Ministry said in a statement. This development has been attril the measures taken to normalise pt based on the guidance of Presid baya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister l Rajapaksa. Restrictions on imports :



## President congratulates Biden, Harris



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday congratulated US President Joe Biden who was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States at the US Capitol on Wednesday. Rajapaksa in a tweet congratulated the new US president and wished for strengthened bilateral ties between the two nations.

'Congratulations & best wishes to President @ JoeBiden on assumption of office as 46th President of the #USA. My government and I look forward to working together towards a stronger & mutually beneficial bilateral relationship', he tweeted. **TO PAGE 02**

## Service an honourable profession - Minister

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Service is an honourable profession and it is not suitable for police officers deployed for VIP security to carry out the duties of VIPs, said Public Security Minister Rear Admiral Rasekera. **TO PAGE 02**



## Conducting Antigen and PCR tests Call to adopt strict, authorised regulatory mechanism at private hospitals

Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) Head General Shavendra Silva and Medical Specialist and Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena on Wednesday (20) jointly met a representative gathering of private sector laboratory technicians and discussed the possibilities of implementing a common **TO PAGE 02**



Passengers of the first commercial flight that arrived at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA), Katunayake after its reopening yesterday being checked at the immigration counter. (Inset) Passengers at the BIA. Pictures by T.K.G. Kapila, Katunayake Group Corr.

## 35 airlines plan to resume Colombo, Mattala flights

IRANGIKA RANGE



Thirty-five international airlines have expressed interest in resuming operations to Sri Lanka with the reopening of main international airports yesterday, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said. All the international airports including the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Airport in Mattala and the Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake resumed international flight operations after a 10 month closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Ranatunga made these remarks during a media briefing held in Colombo to officially announce the reopening of the country to tourists.

"There were nearly 80 international passenger and commercial flights movements before the airports were closed due to the pandemic. However, it will take some time to resume flight operations up to that level," he added. **TO PAGE 02**

## LTTE suspect to face trial in Germany

An LTTE suspect accused of a deadly bombing in Sri Lanka is to go on trial in Germany. The suspect is to appear in court in Düsseldorf, Germany after he claimed to have detonated a bomb when he was a teen, killing six people. The Düsseldorf Public Prosecutor's Office in their indictment said that the LTTE suspect detonated a bomb remotely in front of a convoy of the Sri Lankan Army. The allegations are largely based on the defendant's own statements. He had made the claims in his asylum application in 2018. The accused faces the maximum youth sentence of ten years in prison. The Higher Regional Court has earmarked eight days for the case. (Menafra)

## Easter Sunday terror attacks

### CID, TID conduct probes at eight locations, 268 suspects arrested

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the Terrorist Investigation Department (TID) were conducting investigations into the Easter Sunday terror attacks

which took place on April 21, 2019 at eight locations in Sri Lanka and 268 suspects have so far been arrested, said Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana.

He said that 268 suspects had been arrested in

connection with the attacks and 195 suspects have been remanded on court orders. In addition, 73 suspects have been detained as per the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) at the CID and the TID. **TO PAGE 02**



## Anticipatory Bail applications of three former Swarnamahal PLC directors fixed for inquiry

SHAVINI MADHARA

Anticipatory Bail applications filed by three former Directors of Swarnamahal Financial Services PLC, were fixed for inquiry on January 27 by Colombo Chief Magistrate Mohomed Mihal.

However, the Magistrate rejected the anticipatory bail application filed by Deepa

Edirisinghe, another Director of the Swarnamahal Financial services PLC, due to a printing error.

Accordingly, the Magistrate issued notices to the OIC of the Criminal Investigation Department who was named as the respondent of the anticipatory bail applications. **TO PAGE 02**

## FR against release of non-forest lands fixed for March 4

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

A Fundamental Rights petition filed challenging the legality of a joint Cabinet Memorandum to hand over the management of Other State Forests to Divisional Secretaries was yesterday fixed for March 4 by the Supreme Court.

The Court was informed that both petitioner and respondent parties are expecting to reach for a statement regarding the petition.

This petition had been filed by G.Kapila Renuka Perera, an engi-



neer by profession through Counsel Dharshana Weruduwege. The Supreme Court Bench comprised Justice Buwaneka Aluwihare and Justice Kumuduni Wickremasinghe. **TO PAGE 02**

## Expert Committee to conduct research on Seruwawila mineral deposits



Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera yesterday said that an Expert Committee has been appointed to carry out extensive scientific research on the Seruwawila gold, copper and iron ore deposits.

He was addressing a media briefing at the Ministry of Environment yesterday (21). This mineral deposit was explored in the 1970s with the technology available at that time and it was found that there was iron, copper and some amounts of gold in the Seruwawila deposit. **TO PAGE 02**

## SriLankan pilot tests positive for COVID-19

SriLankan Airlines yesterday confirmed that one of the pilots who was in attendance at a meeting of an In-flight Management Team had tested positive for COVID-19 and all necessary precautionary measures are being taken by the Airline as per the guidelines issued by the Health Ministry to prevent the spread of the virus. The airline in a statement

## Sajith was only interested in becoming UNP leader, alleges Rathnapriya

NP RAJADORAL, Ratnapura Group Corr.

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa did not work for the UNP's victory when he was in the UNP and whatever he did in the party was aimed at grabbing

power by profession through Counsel Dharshana Weruduwege. The Supreme Court Bench comprised Justice Buwaneka Aluwihare and Justice Kumuduni Wickremasinghe. **TO PAGE 02**

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