

SUNDAY OBSERVER

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SRI LANKA'S ENGLISH NEWSPAPER WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION
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**RS. 35 MILLION
UPWARDS**



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GOVT HAS NO IDEA
OF SELLING ECTO TO ANY
FOREIGN COUNTRY

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NO DECISION YET ON UNHRC
CONSENSUAL
RESOLUTION

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A TALK WITH
TENNIS
TOP TALENT

Youth
OBSERVER



PAVITHRA TESTS COVID-19 POSITIVE



By Nadira Gunatilleke

Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi has tested positive for Covid-19, a Health Ministry spokesman said.

He said the PCR test and the Rapid Antigen test conducted on Minister Wanniarachchi showed positive results. She is now receiving medical treatment at the Covid-19 Treatment Centre at Hikkaduwa.

She was undergoing home quarantine before the relevant medical reports were produced and participated in some events... **SEE PAGE 12**

MISAPPROPRIATION OF RS. 3,000 MILLION

TOP PMB OFFICIALS INTERDICTED

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

The Paddy Marketing Board (PMB), Deputy General Manager (Operations), Director Finance and a Regional Manager have been interdicted for misappropriation of nearly Rs.3,000 million funds of the PMB.

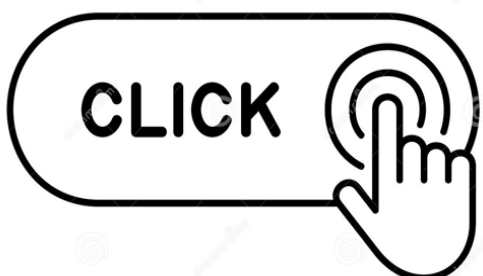
On my instructions, these top officials of the PMB were in-

terdicted on Friday (22) in connection with a series of frauds committed

these PMB officers and all files in connection with the frauds will be

to continue in their jobs without any hindrance. During the Yahapalana regime investigations had been conducted on some of the frauds and corruption in the PMB. However, the files and other documents relevant to the investigations had been deliberately hidden to cover up the case. According to information received, three top PMB officials had misused nearly Rs.3,000 million belonging to the PMB.

The Minister said the CID has already arrested the Regional Manager of the PMB over a fraud committed in the sale of 30,000 metric tons of paddy and added that he is now... **SEE PAGE 12**



Indian fishermen's death 'unfortunate' incident - SLN

By Anya Wipulasena

Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) maintained its stand that the incident where four Indian fishermen died when their fishing trawler capsized northwest of Delft Island was 'unfortunate'.

The four corpses of fishermen of the sunken Indian fishing trawler were handed over to the Indian Coast Guard at the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) around 10.00 a.m. yesterday (23), Sri Lanka Navy spokesman said.



COVISHIELD VACCINE FROM INDIA DUE ON WEDNESDAY

By Maneshka Borham

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday said that the first 600,000 doses of Covishield vaccine manufactured in India to combat Covid-19 will arrive in Sri Lanka on

Wednesday (27). The President who was participating in a "Conversation with the Village" program in the Kalutara district said frontline workers, healthcare workers, the Security Forces, and police... **SEE PAGE 12**



Health officials held a dry run of Covid-19 vaccinations at the Piliyandala MOH office, the Piliyandala district hospital and the Colombo North Teaching hospital, yesterday (23) to test preparedness and identify issues. According to Deputy Director-General, Health Services Dr. Hemantha Herath the trials will also be useful in deciding on the number of vaccines that can be distributed within a certain timeframe. The government approved the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine for emergency use on Friday (22) and the first consignment of the vaccine will be shipped from India on January 27. Sri Lanka has recorded over 52,000 Covid-19 cases and 265 deaths by yesterday. **Pic: Eranga Jayawardena**

Wildlife Dept to conduct elephant census



By Maneshka Borham

The Secretary, Ministry of Wildlife Conservation, Bandula Harischandra said the Department of Wildlife Conservation will conduct an islandwide elephant census this year to determine the exact number of elephants in the country. The last elephant census was conducted in 2011 and it was estimated that Sri Lanka had 5,179 elephants. The census that was to be conducted in 2019 was not held, he said.

Sri Lanka topped world headlines last year when it was revealed in Parliament that Sri Lanka had the highest number of elephant deaths due to the human-elephant conflict. Although the average... **SEE PAGE 12**

HUNDRED DOCTORS TEST COVID-19 POSITIVE - GMOA SECY

By Nadira Gunatilleke

The Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) Secretary Dr. Senal Fernando said 100 doctors have been infected with

Govt's response to UNHRC report on Wednesday

by Manjula Fernando

The government will present its response to the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on Wednesday



already started lobbying friends and likeminded groups to support the country,' amid reports that the Core Group Canada, UK, Germany, Montenegro and Macedonia, was mooted another resolution on Sri

Two new airlines begin flights to Sri Lanka

By Anya Wipulasena

Two new airlines have begun flights to Sri Lanka while five others await approval, Manager Air Services and Traffic Rights

hara Gunawardana said. He said Ethiopian Airlines and Maldivian Airlines started operations to Sri Lanka last month. Ethiopian Airlines mainly carry cargo and will also bring down UN officials