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FIRST BATCH OF COVID VACCINE TO REACH ON JANUARY 27 - PRESIDENT VACCINATION TO BEGIN NEXT DAY ITSELF

The first batch of COVID vaccines provided by the Indian Government free will reach Sri Lanka on Wednesday 27th, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said.

Vaccinating frontline members of the health sector and Security Forces will begin next day (28) itself, the President added. Plans are afoot to expedite the

import of the required quantity of vaccines as already discussed with India, China and Russia, the President further said. The President made these

remarks participating in the seventh of the series of programme "Discussion with the Village" in Yattapatha, Walallawita in Kalutara district on Saturday (23).

TAINED OFFICIALS WILL BE REMOVED - PRESIDENT

MISSION TO ELIMINATE CORRUPTION, INEFFICIENCY IN PUBLIC SECTOR

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said that he would not hesitate to remove tainted officials who stand in the way of his endeavour to eliminate corruption and inefficiency in the Government sector, especially in the Customs.

The seventh of the series of programme "Discussion with the Village" in Yattapatha, Walallawita in the Kalutara district on Saturday. "Eliminating inefficiency in the public service is one of the requests of the people. Several measures have been taken to eradicate corruption

and inefficiency at Customs, for example. I am determined to do away with malpractices in such institutions even by removing officials who stand in the way to their success. "There are good officials at every government institution. They too are calling for an efficient public service free of

corruption. The public servants are maintained with public money. The people have given me a Parliament with 150 Members because they have faith that I perform my role well," he said. President Rajapaksa focusing on the ongoing debate concerning



Navy rescues all 18 onboard grounded bulk carrier



The stranded 'MV Eurosun' off the Sri Lankan coast. MOHAMMED RASOOLDEEN and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The Navy rescued 18 crew members from a Liberia-flagged bulk carrier, which ran aground at Little Basses, which is about 5.5 nautical miles (10km), near Yala, off the Southeastern coast on Saturday. Navy spokesman Captain Indika De Silva told the Daily News that they were able to rescue all 18 crew members safely without any problems from the carrier named 'MV Eurosun' en route to Trincomalee, from Abu Dhabi Port of UAE carrying clinker.

Polluters beware, Police after you



Filephoto of garbage collected in the sidewalks in Colombo.

DINULI FRANCISCO

Police have begun a special environmental operation in the Western Province from yesterday to apprehend those violating and disrespecting environmental laws, especially with regard to waste disposal.

Police Media Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana stated that cases have been reported about litter and garbage being dumped in many places in the Western Province, especially in Colombo.

Therefore a special operation was initiated by the Environmental Police to apprehend polluters.

DIG Ajith Rohana further said that if a person has violated environmental laws, that person would be arrested and charged under the National Environmental Act. "Haphazard disposal of household waste as well as plastic,

COVERED DESKS FOR CHILDREN OF YAKKALAMULLA SCHOOL



Covered desks provided for progress at a hygienically designed

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE,

Galle Central special correspondent

A special programme has been launched at Yakkalamulla Magedara Primary School to ensure the safety of schoolchildren in the face of the COVID pandemic. All students in the school have been provided with infrastructure facilities to carry out their education in a

special precautionary health system. A hygienically protected cubicle has been created for each child which is made of polythene and wood.

This programme has been launched by the School Health Promotion and Productivity Committee.



SJB launches 'Intellectuals Forum' to harness knowledge

The Samagi Jaba Balawegaya (SJB) on Saturday launched its 'Intellectuals Forum' (Buddhi Mandapaya) with the participation of academics and professionals working in various fields.

Opposition Leader and SJB Leader Sajith Premadasa addressing the gathering said



Sethsiripaya Phase III to be largest Government office complex

SHAVINI MADHARA

Construction of 'Sethsiripaya Phase III', the largest Government office complex, commenced at Battaramulla last Friday (22).

This construction will see several offices of public institutions in one location to provide an efficient public service and easy access to services to the people under the "Vision of Prosperity" policy



Minister Wimal Weerawansa, State Minister Dr. Nalaka Godaheewa and Ministry officials after the ground breaking ceremony. traffic congestion. Speaking Minister Wimal Weerawansa

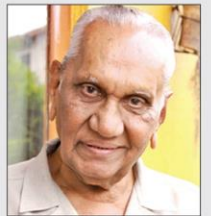


Final rites of Kala Keerthi Edwin Ariyadasa today

The funeral rites of veteran journalist and media personality Kala Keerthi Edwin Ariyadasa will be held today (25) at the Borella Cemetery.

Due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation, the funeral will be conducted in keeping with the health guidelines under close supervision of health authorities. The final rites will be held from 3.30pm to 5pm. His remains lie at the 'Respect Hall' Jayaratne funeral parlour till 3.30pm today for the public to pay their last respects.

Kala Keerthi Edwin Ariyadasa passed away last Friday at the age of 98. Born on December 3, 1922,



in Unawatuna, Galle, Ariyadasa is an alumnus of Mahinda College and the University of Ceylon where he obtained a degree in Sinhala and English languages.

Banded together only to protect Port's ECT - Workers' Association

SIGIRIYA SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

No force will be allowed to use the battle ground to protect the East Container Terminal of the Colombo Port to overthrow the Government, Ports Authority Progressive Workers' Association for Commercial Industry and Services (PWACIS) Secretary Shamal Sumanaratna said.

Sumanaratna made this observation at a special media briefing held in Dambulla on Friday.

He observed that none of the patriotic forces in the country want to overthrow the Government but help direct the Government on the right path.

He pointed out that the protest is an attempt to make the "Vision of Prosperity and Splendour" a reality and that no organization would be allowed to play a double game by exploiting the movement to safeguard the Eastern jetty of the Colombo Port.

OL classes begin in WP schools

Schools in the Western Province will reopen from today for students in the Ordinary Level classes, Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said.

However, any school belonging to an isolated area will not be opened till the isolation is lifted.

The Minister said the OL examination would be held for eleven days from March 1 as scheduled. He said the decision to re-open schools for OL students was to expedite their lessons which had been interrupted over the past few months.