

SUNDAY OBSERVER

www.sundayobserver.lk

SRI LANKAN DAILY NEWSPAPER WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION
Vol.94 - No 05 | Pages 72 | Rs. 8000



SHOW APARTMENT
READY FOR INSPECTION
PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION

+94 7631 12233

**RS. 35 MILLION
UPWARDS**



VISIT OUR
WEBSITE



PAGE
4

**PUBLIC-PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIP NEEDED
TO DEVELOP ECT**

PAGE
8

SRI LANKA CELEBRATES THE NATIONAL DAY

**MEN'S TENNIS
NATIONALS 2020
CHAMPION**



**Sri Lanka ranked 10th in
Covid-19 Performance Index**

Sri Lanka has been ranked tenth in an anti-Covid-19 Performance Index of almost 100 countries compiled by the prestigious Australian think tank Lowy Institute. It is one of the most rigorous studies of the dramatically different health impacts of the pandemic around the world.

Covid-19 Performance Index

RANK	COUNTRY	AV.
1	New Zealand	94.4
2	Vietnam	90.8
3	Taiwan	86.4
4	Thailand	84.2
5	Cyprus	83.3
6	Rwanda	80.8
7	Iceland	80.1
8	Australia	77.9
9	Latvia	77.5
10	Sri Lanka	76.8

China was not included in this ranking due to the lack of publicly available data on testing (AV - Average)

RUSSIA PERMITS LANKA TO PRODUCE SPUTNIK V VACCINE

GREEN LIGHT NEEDED FROM NMRA

By Manjula Fernando

Russia has expressed its willingness to allow Sri Lanka to produce its own Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V locally if the Nation Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) authorises it for local use, a senior state official said. The Sputnik V vaccine is already being manufactured in India and the two countries signed agreement

last year to produce 300 million doses of the Rus-



regular use, the official said. The Indian manufactured Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine was given the green light for emergency

CHINA READY TO PROVIDE 300,000 DOSES

Sinopharm free to Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka's Ambassador to China Dr. Palitha Kohona told the *Sunday Observer*. "As soon as the approval is given the vaccine can be shipped to Sri Lanka," he said.

However, the Russian Government has not indicated any vaccine grants to Sri Lanka, other than permitting the drug to be locally produced which will be beneficial in terms of cost-effectiveness.

Health officials said that front-line workers such as hospital staff, PHIs, Police and other personnel pressed into tackling the Covid-19 pandemic needed 700,000 doses of the vaccine.

The Health Ministry recorded 305 Covid-19 deaths and 62,445 infections so far with nearly 56,300 of them classified as recovered. There are still 5,863 patients in hospitals receiving treatment.



ECT, a private-partnership, not a sell-out - Amunugama

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

State Minister of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry Dilum Amunugama said certain sections are attempting to misinterpret the public-private part-

nership of the East Container Terminal (ECT) of the Colombo Port as a move to sell the ECT.

The Hambantota Port deal of the former Yahapalana Government was a pure sale of the facility for 99 years and according to the agreement it can also be extended to...

SEE PAGE 2

ECT PORTS ISSUE

Nothing will be detrimental to country - Keheliya Rambukwella

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

The Government under the administration of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa will not resort to any move which is detrimental to the country regarding the issue of the East Container Terminal (ECT) at the Colombo Port, Minister of Mass Media Keheliya Rambukwella said yesterday.



SEE PAGE 12



The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all activities around the globe for almost a year now. However, Independence Day celebrations of any country take pride of place, despite the day-to-day challenges in life. Here two health officials keep a vigilant eye as the Security Forces conduct rehearsals yesterday for Sri Lanka's 73rd Independence Day celebrations on Thursday. Pic: Rukmal Gamage

PLANS TO HAND OVER WCT TO INDIA

Port TU leader gives the nod

By Aanya Vipulasena

Chairman of the Independent Port Services Trade Union, (PSTU) Lal Bangamunage, said that they



that their work to rule campaign is continuing successfully.

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera refuted allegations that the Government was planning

INDEPENDENCE DAY REHEARSALS

Don't use drones, kites, balloons, public told

By Leon Berenger

NEW VACCINE EXPORT CONTROLS

The politics of vaccines in the EU

LONDON, Jan. 30 (BBC) - The European Union has confirmed it is introducing export controls on coronavirus vaccines made in the bloc, amid a row about

to deny authorisation for vaccine exports if the company making them hasn't honoured existing contracts with the EU. "The protection and safety of our citizens is a priority and the