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## Report on ECT to be handed over today

### SLPA can run jetty operations - Chairman

**LAHIRU FERNANDO**  
The Government appointed committee to look into concerns connected with the East Container Terminal (ECT) of Colombo Port will hand over its report to Ports and Shipping Minister Rohitha Abeygunawardane today.

Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) Chairman Daya Ratnayake said the report and its contents will be made public by the minister thereafter. He also said the Minister will apprise the Cabinet on the ECT issue today. The Chairman stated this speaking to the media at his office on Saturday. "I am confident that the report submitted to the government containing the suggestions and opinions of all stakeholders of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority



including the Trade Unions (TUs) would be accepted by the government. I am also optimistic that we will be able to face this situation well," he added.

He said it has been the sole expectation of the Ports Authority to carry out container operations of the ECT under the SLPA. "If the Trade Unions are facing any problematic situation, as the SLPA Chairman I am fully committed to help solve them. As responsible parties I expect the TUs to fulfill their duty properly too," the Chairman said.

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# THREE JUDGES TO RECOMMEND REMEDIAL ACTION AGAINST POLITICAL VICTIMISATION

● PERIOD COVERS JANUARY 8, 2015 TO NOVEMBER 16, 2019

● BROAD MANDATE FOR PCOI

**DINULI FRANCISCO**  
President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has appointed a special Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) to implement recommendations and decisions made by the PCoI appointed to inquire into incidents of political victimisation.

As per the Extraordinary Gazette issued the members of the newly appointed PCoI are Supreme Court Judge Justice Dhammika Priyantha Samarakoon Jayawardena, Supreme Court Judge Justice Khema Kumudini Wickremasinghe and Court of Appeal Judge Justice R.Gurusinghe. The commission is headed by Justice Jayawardena.

The Commissioners are authorised and empowered to conduct nec-

The recommendations of the final reports states: that by establishment

cal organization under the name of Anti-Corruption Committee and a National Executive Council, which was established against the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and contrary to the provisions of the same, with the intention of directly or indirectly retaliate the Complainants who are mentioned in the said investigation report. **10 PAGE 02**



## Sri Lanka won't be swayed by foreign dictates - Minister



**IRANGIKA RANGE**  
Sri Lanka will not be governed according to the dictates of other countries and organisations, Highways Minister Johnston Fernando said. He added that the UN Human Rights Commissioner who accused Sri Lanka on various matters has not seen how the previous Yahapalana government harassed and jailed opponents by influencing the Police and the Judiciary. **10 PAGE 02**



## Traffic diversions around Independence Square

**CAMELIA NATHANIEL**  
Several roads leading to the Independence Square will be closed for traffic during rehearsals for the Independence Day celebrations, Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said. Motorists are advised to use alternative routes during rehearsal times. Rehearsals will be conducted from 6.00 am to 1 pm today, Tuesday and Wednesday. **10 PAGE 02**



Rehearsals for Sri Lanka's 73rd Independence Day celebrations to be held at the Independence Square will continue to be held till Wednesday with the participation of the Three Forces, Police and the Civil Defence Force, the National Cadet Corps and schoolchildren among others. The parade will be held at the Independence Square in Colombo 7 under the patronage of the President and the Prime Minister on Thursday. **Pictures by Saman Sri Wedage.**

## Sachets, PET, PVC packs banned from March 31

**LAHIRU FERNANDO** and **DINULI FRANCISCO**

Traders will be given a grace period to clear the remaining stocks of items made of polythene and plastic, the use of which will be prohibited from March 31 2021, Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said. According to a Gazette Extraordinary issued by the Minister on January 21, the use of several polythene and plastic packing materials has been banned from use for



any process, trade or industry after March 31, 2021. **10 PAGE 02**

## Minor tremor in Walapane

**DINULI FRANCISCO**  
The Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GMSB) stated that a minor tremor was reported in the Walapane area in Nuwara Eliya yesterday morning (31). **10 PAGE 02**



GMSB Chairman Anura Walpola said an expert committee appointed to investigate the Diganawa tremor was requested to examine the minor tremor in Walapane. **10 PAGE 02**

## 19th Century Printing Press regains past glory

**DISNA MUDALIGE**  
The ancient printing press that printed 'Lankalokaya', which is considered the country's first Sinhala newspaper, was opened for public display on Thursday at the Ranwella Purana Viharaya in Kathaluwa, Galle after full renovation. The 160 years old Columbian printing press, which was badly destroyed by a fire in November 2012, has been restored to working condition with the support of local engineers and a financial donation from Thailand. That Ambassador in Sri Lanka Chulamanee Chartsuwan graced the occasion of opening the renovated press. This UK-made printing press was imported to Sri Lanka in 1860 with a donation by the then Thai King along with a set of valuable books and Buddha statues. **10 PAGE 02**



The renovated printing press.

## Three dead in car crash

**CAMELIA NATHANIEL**  
Three people were killed in a motor accident in Ekala yesterday (January 31). The Police media division said a car travelling on the Minuwangoda - Colombo road had skidded and crashed onto a parapet wall causing the accident. Three males travelling in the vehicle had been killed in the crash which happened opposite the Ekala Air Force Camp around 6.40 am, Police said. The victims are aged 48, 49 and 63 according to the Police.

