

# NO REPRIEVE FOR EASTER ATTACKERS, BOND SCAMMERS - PRESIDENT

**NO ROOM FOR EXTREMISM, CORRUPTION**

**ECONOMIC HUBS WILL NOT BE SOLD TO FOREIGN ENTITIES**

**GOVERNANCE ACCORDING TO BUDDHIST TEACHINGS**



CAMELIA NATHANIEL

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa pledged in his Independence Day address yesterday that there would be no escape from justice for those who perpetrated the Easter Sunday attacks and the Central Bank Bond Scam.

President Rajapaksa told the Nation that he had advised the Attorney General's Department to swiftly act upon matters that have caused great concern to the public, including the Easter



**MILITARY VETERANS OF SRI LANKA**

Military veterans of Sri Lanka at yesterday

Sunday bomb attacks and the Central Bank Bond Scam.

While giving a solemn pledge not to allow extremism to raise its head



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa addressing the Nation at the 73rd Independence Day Celebrations held at the Independence Square yesterday.

Pictures by President's Media Division.

Parliament's Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security, action will be taken against all parties involved in this tragedy. We will not allow those responsible for designing and enabling this tragedy to escape justice."

"I am the leader that you searched for. I will discharge the responsibility you have entrusted to me, with commitment and dedication," President Rajapaksa added.

President Rajapaksa firmly vowed to meet the challenges ahead of establishing national security, achieving true reconciliation amongst various communities of the nation, and building a strong economy that can deliver sustainable economic development and eliminate poverty. **TO PAGE 02**

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## UNHRC Chief has no mandate to violate Charter - Minister

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The purpose of the UN Charter is to protect the interests of its members and it should not be used as an instrument to interfere, Public Security Minister Rear Admiral Dr. Sarath Weerasekera said. He said that if the UN Human Rights Commissioner's actions leads to interference, then she is

violating both the spirit and the letter of the Charter. The Minister said this during his address at the 13th edition of Aero India held at the Taj Samudra on Wednesday organised by the Indian High Commission, Aero India 2021, the tech exhibition began in Bengaluru's Air Force Station in Yelahanka yesterday. **TO PAGE 02**



## Dr.Neville Fernando succumbs to COVID



Former Panadura MP and former Chairman of the Neville Fernando Hospital and South Asia Institute of Technology and Medicine (SAITM) succumbed to the COVID virus at the IDH Hospital last evening. He was 89 years. **TO PAGE 02**

## Veddah chief alarmed over COVID in their community

Mapakadawewa group corr.

With the number of COVID-19 patients around Mahiyanganaya and Rideemaliyadda rising to 173, the Dambana village, the home of the Veddah community (indigenous people) is



also at risk, Veddah chief Uruwariye Wannila Aththo said. **TO PAGE 02**

## Expert

## Methodology to be published on February 8

The Interim Report prepared by an expert committee on a methodology for the specific determination and identification of the national heritages of Sri Lanka was handed over to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at his official residence on Wednesday afternoon.

It was handed over by the members of the committee, the Prime Minister's media division said.

According to the interim report,

the proposed methodology will be published in newspapers on February 8 seeking public views.

At the request of National Heritage, Performing Arts and Rural Art Promotion State Minister Vidura Wickramanayake, the Prime Minister as Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs the Minister obtained Cabinet approval to present a suitable methodology for the specific determination and identification of the National Heritages of Sri Lanka.

Accordingly, an expert committee consisting of 16 experts was appointed to formulate a suitable methodology for the specific determination and identification of national heritages. The Committee included the Ven. Prof.Induragare Dhammaratana Thera, Prof.Malini Edagama, Prof. Rohana P. Mahaliyanarachchi. **TO PAGE 02**

## Jaffna celebrates National Independence Day

A large group of Jaffna civilians held a rally followed by a meeting in the city yesterday to celebrate the National Independence Day (February 4).

They paraded along the streets surrounding the Jaffna Fort and the town expressing solidarity with sentiments of reconciliation, co-existence, **TO PAGE 02**



The youth led by peace activist Arul Siddharthan led a peaceful march to celebrate Independence Day in the Jaffna city yesterday.

## UNP remembers first PM D.S.Senanayake

SHIROMI ABEYSINGHE

Just as the British Colonial rulers divided and ruled the country before Independence, some groups that rule



UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe paying a floral tribute to the statue of the late PM D.S.Senanayake at the UNP headquarters yesterday.

the country today are trying to divide the people on ethnic and religious grounds and rule them merely for petty political gain, UNP Deputy Leader Ruwan Wijewardene said.

Addressing the UNP Independence Day celebrations at the Sirikotha party headquarters yesterday Wijewardene charged that some were even preparing to change the country's National Flag. The party's Independence Day celebration was held under the patronage of United National Party Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The party leaders hoisted the National Flag and paid floral tributes at the statue of Sri Lanka's first Prime Minister in the post-independence era D.S.Senanayake. This was followed by a special memorial address on D.S.Senanayake. **TO PAGE 02**

## COVID recoveries top 60,000

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The number of people who have recovered from COVID-19 in Sri Lanka crossed 60,000 mark yesterday.

According to Health Ministry's Epidemiology

Unit statistics the total number of coronavirus recoveries reported in the country increased to 60,567.

The total number of COVID positive cases detected from the coun-

try reached 66,409 and 5, 510 of them are still under medical care.

The country confirmed three deaths on Wednesday (3) due to COVID-19 raising the death toll from the viral disease to 332.

## Arrested drug lord will be extradited - DIG

SHAVINI MADHARA

Notorious Sri Lankan drug lord K.Gunasekaram alias "Kimbula Ele Guna", who was arrested in India, will be extradited under provisions of SAARC bilateral agreement of both Sri Lanka and India. Police Media Spokesperson

DIG Ajith Rohana said 129 red notices have been issued through INTERPOL on Sri Lankan fugitives over various crimes in Sri Lanka

Rohana stated that a majority of criminals are currently in Dubai in the UAE and some are reportedly **TO PAGE 02**



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