

**PUTIN REITERATES  
CLOSE TIES,  
COOPERATION  
WITH SRI LANKA**



Russian President Vladimir Putin, in a congratulatory message to mark the 73rd Independence Day ceremony in Sri Lanka, reiterated friendly relations and constructive bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The Russian President in a message addressed to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said, "Please accept sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Holiday of your country - Independence Day. **TO PAGE 02**

**GMOA calls for  
amendments to three  
COVID-19 control policies**

ISHARA  
MUDUGAMUWA



The Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) yesterday proposed to the Ministry of Health and other relevant authorities to take immediate measures to bring amendments to three main policies related to COVID-19 control.

Accordingly, the GMOA proposed to amend the testing policy, quarantine policy and isolation policy in order to make more accurate **TO PAGE 02**

# Daily News

SRI LANKA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER | SINCE 1918

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2021 | 16 PAGES | VOLUME - 103 - NO 32 | RS. 30.00 | REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER IN SRI LANKA | LATE CITY ★

**100  
PLUS  
YEARS**

LAKE  
HOUSE



## PRICES OF 27 ESSENTIAL ITEMS REDUCED

**SATHOSA, COOPERATIVE SHOPS AND Q-SHOPS TO SELL ITEMS**

AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI



The Trade Ministry has decided to reduce the prices of 27 essential goods for an initial period of three months from Monday (08), Trade Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena announced yesterday.

Accordingly the 27 essential items will be available at Sathosa, Cooperative Shops and Q-Shops from next Monday (08).

Minister Dr. Gunawardena made this revelation at a media briefing held at the Ministry of Trade.

The 27 essential goods include  
Red R: 1kg  
White: 5kg  
Sani

sugar, Brown sugar, Tea, Australian red lentils, Indian Big Onions, local potatoes, Pakistani potatoes, Chickpeas, Dried chilli, local canned fish, imported canned fish, Thai sprats, chicken, crystal salt, Powdered milk, Soybean oil, Laundry soap-BCC, Laundry soap, Body soap, Handwash and Face Masks (SLS certified).

Accordingly the new reduced price of Red Raw Rice (1kg) shall be Rs. 93, White Raw Rice (1kg) Rs. 93, White Nadu (1kg) Rs. 96, Samba (1kg) Rs. 99, Keeri Samba (1kg) Rs. 125, Wheat flour (1kg) Rs. 84, White sugar (1kg) Rs. 99, Brown sugar (1kg) Rs. 125, Tea (100g) Rs. 95, Australian 1kg tani

## Sri Lanka settles swap facility with Reserve Bank of India

Sri Lanka has settled its currency swap facility with the Reserve Bank of India as scheduled, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) announced yesterday.

"The CBSL settled its Swap facility with the Reserve Bank of India as scheduled. There was no special request from India for a premature settlement as erroneously reported by certain media outlets. Discussions on future collaborations continue," the Central Bank tweeted in its Twitter handle.

The Central Bank and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

entered into a currency swap agreement on July 24, 2020 under the Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries for 2019 - 2022.

It was to provide short-term financing to the CBSL to meet the country's balance of payment requirements. **TO PAGE 02**



## Declaration of Assets: Parliament told to release list of MPs

LAHIRU FERNANDO

Following a two-year long hearing, the Right to Information Commission (RTIC) on Tuesday (2) ordered Parliament to release immediately the list of MPs who have handed over their respective Declarations of Assets and

Liabilities from 2010 to 2018 and in 2018 alone.

The Commission made this order based on an appeal made to the commission by journalist Chamara Sampath with regard to his RTI request submitted to Parliament seeking the above list. **TO PAGE 02**

## China, Russia stress non-interference in countries' internal affairs

BEIJING: China and Russia said Thursday that the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, one of the basic norms governing international relations, should be upheld.

In a phone conversation between Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, the two sides also pledged to jointly preserve global and regional strategic stability.

The international situation is at an important watershed, Wang noted, adding that at such a time, it is even more



Wang Yi and Sergei Lavrov

important for China and Russia to strengthen strategic communications.

Last week, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin delivered speeches respectively at the World Economic Forum Virtual Event of the Davos Agenda. **TO PAGE 02**

**CLICK HERE TO BE AWARE**

**CONSTRUCTION IN PALUGASWEWA**

**5000 TANKS TO BE REHABILITATED**



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa launching the "Wari Saubhagya" national programme in Palugaswewa in Anuradhapura yesterday. Ministers Chamal Rajapaksa and S.M. Chandrasena were also present. *Picture courtesy President's Media Division*

AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The construction of South Asia's longest irrigation tunnel extending to 28 kilometres began in Palugaswewa in Anuradhapura with the participation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

This project marked the commencement of the "Wari Saubhagya" national programme to rehabilitate 5,000 tanks.

The programme was a fulfillment of a pledge in President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's

'Saubhagayee Dekma' (Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour) policy statement.

The longest irrigation tunnel project comes under Phase 1 of the Main Canal Project of the North-Central Province. The Main Canal Project is the sixth and the last of the Mahaweli Development Projects.

The aim of the project is to supply water to 'Rajarata' from Moragahakanda and Kaluganga Reservoirs. It has been planned as an environmental friendly project. **TO PAGE 02**

## Special drug awareness programme for schoolchildren

DINULI FRANCISCO

A special programme will be launched to raise awareness among school children as well as school leavers with the aim of eradicating drug menace, Police Media Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said.



This was decided at a discussion between the Public Security Ministry and the Education Ministry yesterday. Public Security Minister Rear Admiral (Rtd) Dr Sarath Weerasekara presided at the meeting.

The Police Spokesman said that thousands of drug addicts are found around the country and that this number was increasing day by day. Therefore all the stakeholders agreed to launch a special programme to educate children on the negative effects of drug menace. **TO PAGE 02**

## SJB contemplates presenting legislation for Contempt of Court

ASELA KURULUWANSA

The 'Samagi Jana Balawegaya' (SJB) is contemplating presenting legislation for Contempt of Court as a Private Member's Bill in Parliament, Chief Opposition Whip and SJB MP Lakshman Kiriella said.

He was speaking at a press conference at the Opposition Leader's Office yesterday.

He pointed out that the Contempt of Court Law is operational in countries such as India and the UK, but Sri Lanka lacks such a Law approved by Parliament.

He added that the SJB has assigned a group of lawyers to draft a piece of legislation for Contempt of Court and it would be presented to Parliament once the work is completed. **TO PAGE 02**



## India requests DNA samples of Angoda Lokka's family

SHAVINI MADHARA

The Indian authorities have asked the Sri Lanka Police to provide under-world kingpin Maddumage Lasantha Chandana Perera alias Angoda Lokka's next of kin's DNA to ascertain whether he was the person who died in India last year, Police Media Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said.



DIG Ajith Rohana stated that a Red Notice was issued by Interpol for his arrest. **TO PAGE 02**

ka's closest relative(s). He stated that the Criminal Investigations Department has commenced an operation to obtain the necessary DNA samples.

He further noted that Angoda Lokka had reportedly fled to India after an attack on a prison bus in the Ethanamadala area in Kalutara, in which under-world gangster 'Samayan' was killed.

DIG Ajith Rohana stated that a Red Notice was issued by Interpol for his arrest. **TO PAGE 02**

## Certain politicians making false statements over Kurudumale Viharaya excavations - Ven. Medhananda Thera

SHAVINI MADHARA

Pura Vidya Chakravarthi Ven.

at the Department of Information yesterday, Ven. Ellawala Medhananda

Kurudumale Viharaya as an ancient Buddhist Shrine." Secretary to the

## Court orders House Sec Gen to maintain status quo regarding Ranjan's Seat

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

A Court of Appeal two-judge-