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GOVT READY TO FACE  
UNHRC ALLEGATIONS



PRESIDENT'S UNIQUE SPEECH  
THAT DEFINED THE NATION AND  
ITS HISTORIC VALUES

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## “TRUE FRIENDS WILL STAY WITH US” LANKA READY TO FACE GENEVA CHALLENGE

- **Gammanpila**



By **Uditha Kumarasinghe**

Co-cabinet Spokesman and Minister of Energy Udaya Gammanpila said the Government is confident that true friends will stand by Sri Lanka and we can collectively face any challenge posed by the forces with vested

interests at the upcoming United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) sessions in Geneva.

The UNHRC has been passing resolutions against Sri Lanka after LTTE terrorism was defeated in 2009 but since then we successfully faced those challenges, the Minister told the Sunday

Observer yesterday. He said the Government has decided to re-mentation of the resolution 40/1 passed by the UNHRC.

GOOGLE.LK REDIRECTED  
TO HACKER'S WEBPAGE

**LANKA COMES  
UNDER CYBER  
ATTACK**



Sri Lanka came under a cyber-attack yesterday (6) after the google.lk country domain site faced a malicious redirection to a webpage created by the hackers.

Internet users attempting to reach these sites were redirected to this page instead which displayed statements relating to the struggle of the Sri Lankan estate workers to increase their wages to Rs. 1,000. "In what appears to be a major domain level hijack, Sri Lanka's traffic of Google. Lk seems to be redirected to a propaganda page. **SEE PAGE 2**

**New Consular  
office in Kandy**

The Foreign Ministry opened a Regional Consular office in Kandy yesterday under the guidance of Foreign Minister, Dinesh Gunawardena.

"The new office will give an impetus to the National Policy Framework of the Govern-

**CLICK**

The Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA), once used by the previous Yamapalana Government to store paddy after it was closed down, is now becoming a hive of activity as the country's second international airport. Air Astana, the national carrier of Kazakhstan, became the latest airline to commence charter flights to the MRJA yesterday, making Hambantota its latest destination. **Pix: Sulochana Gamage in Mattala.**

**TWO WEEKLY FLIGHTS FROM APRIL**

## Air Astana lands at MRJA

From **Shirajiv Sirimane**  
in **Mattala**

Air Astana, the national airline of Kazakhstan launched charter flights to the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRJA) yesterday and hopes to launch two weekly flights every Saturday from April.

The airline started opera-

tions to Sri Lanka for the first time yesterday. "This we believe is indeed a historic occasion in view of the confidence that has been placed on post pandemic Sri Lanka by this leading airline," said Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunga.

He said that more airlines have expressed willingness to operate flights to the MRJA and the Bandaranaike International Airport. "We also hope to relax restrictions for tourists such as reducing the number of Polymerize Chain Reaction (PCR) tests similar to that in Dubai and the Maldives and in line with the rules offered for repatriation," he said. He added that since opening Sri Lanka for tourism 10 days ago... **SEE PAGE 2**



**PURCHASE OF INDIAN COVID-19 VACCINES**

**First consignment in  
two weeks**

By **Aanya Wipulasena**

The Government expects the first consignment of the newly purchased Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines to reach the country in two weeks. Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals State Minister Channa Jayasumana said. An order for



18 million doses of India's Serum Institute manufacturer Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines was made since the... **SEE PAGE 2**

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**Over 81,000 Lankans repatriated  
under Govt's program**

By **Aanya Wipulasena**

Over 81,000 Sri Lankans have been repatriated since the Government commenced its program to bring down migrant workers who were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, Army Commander

General Shavendra Silva said yesterday. More people will be repatriated depending on the requests by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Sri Lankan diplomatic missions, General Silva who is also the Head of the National... **SEE PAGE 2**

**EASTER SUNDAY ATTACKS, BOND SCAM**

**Action against perpetrators in  
two weeks - Aluthgamage**

By **Uditha Kumarasinghe**

Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage said that action will be initiated against the perpetrators of the 2019 Easter

Sunday attacks and the Treasury bond scam within the next two or three weeks. The people have reposed their utmost confidence in the President and the new Government... **SEE PAGE 2**

**Don't be misled  
on Sri Lanka**

- **Ravinatha Aryasingha**

Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the US Ravinatha Aryasingha in an Independence Day speech called upon stakeholders in the US not to be misled by efforts of certain groups to vilify Sri Lanka and its leadership.

"I ask all to pay heed to the facts and recognise the difficult tasks the Government has embarked upon in a short time notwithstanding grappling with a global pandemic that has crippled most of the world," he said during an Independence Day event in Washington.

He said US-Sri Lanka ties today are multifaceted. The visit of US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo in October 2020, is testimony to the importance placed by the US Government on Sri Lanka." This visit provided a platform to... **SEE PAGE 2**