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வெளிநாட்டு அமைச்சு
FOREIGN MINISTRY

ජනරජ මහා විදුලි මණ්ඩල, කොළඹ 1, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව, குடியரசு கட்டிடம், கொழும்பு 1, Republic Building, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka

Media Release

The first consignment of AstraZeneca vaccines received from Japan at the request of the President arrived in Sri Lanka day before yesterday

Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena expressed his gratitude to the Government of Japan and its people on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka for donating over 1.4 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines to Sri Lanka at the request of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, under the COVAX facility. He made these special comments speaking at a media briefing at the Katunayaka Bandaranaike International Airport on Saturday (31/07) afternoon, after receiving the first consignment of the AstraZeneca vaccines (over 700, 000) donated by Japan.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa wrote to the Prime Minister of Japan requesting for a consignment of AstraZeneca vaccines to save the people of Sri Lanka from the COVID pandemic. Following this request, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Japan Sanjiv Gunasekara under the guidance of Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, and Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka Sugiyama Akira worked towards realizing this donation along with the UNICEF and the WHO in Sri Lanka. The Chief Sangha Nayaka of Japan Ven. Banagala Upatissa Nayaka Thero also assisted in this effort. Minister Gunawardena said that this consignment of vaccines will be used primarily to give the second dose of AstraZeneca vaccine to the 490,000 people in the country who had received the first dose.

This consignment of vaccines, brought to the Katunayake Bandaranaike International Airport aboard a SriLankan Airlines flight UL 455 arrived from Narita Airport, Japan last Saturday afternoon, was received by Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena accompanied by Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka Sugiyama Akira, Minister of Health Pavithra Devi Wanniarachchi, Minister of State Prof. Channa Jayasumana, Advisor to the President Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the Foreign Ministry Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage, officials from the Health Ministry, and representatives from UNICEF, WHO and other dignitaries.

Foreign Ministry
Colombo

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