

Indian medical team moves to Pulmoddai

by Dilanthi Jayamanne

Indian Consultants who arrived on Tuesday (10) to provide medical assistance to internally displaced persons arriving from Mullaitivu and uncleared areas of the Vanni, met with Health Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva last morning (11). The team includes eight consultants.

Spokesman for the Health Ministry said yesterday (11), that the 52 member medical team was made up of doctors, nurses and medical laboratory technicians.

The Indian Government also provided life saving drugs worth Rs. 70 million and an emergency medical unit and hospital with a bed strength of 50.

The Health Minister observed that most other countries that came forward to assist Sri Lanka did so after enforcing many clauses and laws to be adhered to. But India has volunteered assistance to the internally displaced persons (IDPs) without such demands, he said. The emergency medical unit and hospital will be set up by Friday (13), in Pulmoddai.



Indian High Commissioner, Alok Prasad introduces Health Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva to consultants from India.

Meanwhile the Indian High Commissioner, Alok Prasad said

the Indian Government was committed to continuing with its

assistance towards providing necessary medical needs for IDPs.

Faculty of Allied Health Sciences does not conform to local and intl standards - GMOA

by Aisha Ediris

The Government Medical Officer's Association (GMOA) alleged the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences at Peradeniya University does not conform to local and international medical standards.

GMOA spokesperson, Dr. Upul Gunasekara said yesterday (11) that paramedics and nursing students at the University would be in trouble if the authorities do not introduce a valid syllabus to the courses.

"The Vice Chancellor of the University and the University Grants Commission (UGC) has requested the university to adhere to regulations set by the UGC before the courses commence. However, the relevant authorities failed to do so," Gunasekara said.

He said that the faculty's

Dean and the staff are not given permanent appointments and the Paramedic and nursing lectures were conducted by Doctors.

"We are really worried about the students since their qualifications would not be recognised both nationally and as well as internationally. The patients too will face problems if the authorities keep on ignoring the situation."

Dr. Gunasekara alleged that the authorities have not specified the job description of the students, "this will destroy the whole system."

He also said the quality of education at Peradeniya University had deteriorated during the past several years and the students who passed out from the university are at the bottom of the merit list.

Meanwhile, GMOA warned

there is a severe shortage of specialist doctors in the country.

"There are only five Neurologists, seven Cardiologists, 19 Psychiatrists - a major problem for the country, especially when we are having a war situation," he said.

Gunasekara also added that the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine has not allocated sufficient resources to conduct lectures and also failed to increase the amount of examinations conducted annually to increase the intake of medical specialists.

He further said the Institute has commenced medical courses for students without any medical degree.

GMOA is due to handover a report to President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Post Graduate Institute of Medicine and the authority's malpractices.

Its now... From page 1

said that if the President further delayed the appointment of the Constitutional Council, the UNP was ready to take to the streets to safeguard democracy.

If the President nominated someone and appointed the Council, he and the Government could be free from at least some of the accusations made by the international community that there was no democracy in Sri Lanka, the UNP leader said.

Five persons had been named to the Council and the issue of appointing of the nominee by the minor parties too had been sorted out by the Speaker. All that remains to be done was to make the President's nomination to the Council so that it could be appointed, he said.

If the President agreed that appointment of independent commissions would strengthen democracy in the country all he had to do was to appoint the Constitutional Council without any further delay, Wickremesinghe said.

The Colombo District UNP MP Ravi Karunanayake, UNP Western Provincial candidates Mohan Lal Gero, Nimal Bulathsinhala and Srinath Lalika Kumarasinghe also addressed the rally.

HC...

In this application for bail, M. Aloysius, the OIC of Commercial Crime Division of Criminal Investigation Department and the Attorney general were cited as respondents.

Kotalawela had mentioned in his application that he was granted surety bail of Rs. 2.5 million earlier by the Magistrate of Mt. Lavinia. Later on February 26 the Magistrate had ordered

to remand him, even without an application by the Attorney General to that effect.

In the case before the Magistrate's Court, Lalith Kotalawela, Khavan Perera, Cecilie Kotalawela, Suramya Karunanayake, Niranjan Fernando, Sarda Sumanasekera, Daniel Jegasothi, Padmini Ramanayake, Bandula Ranawera, Renuka Kamalini de Silva, Shantha Ranatunge, Priyantha

Devasundera, Padma Nandani Kumari, Niranjan Fernando, Suramya Karunanayake, and Lasantha Perera are alleged to have engaged in misappropriation of funds of Golden Key Credit Card company.

The Attorney General's Department was attempting to set up a fund to recover the money due to be paid to the depositors of Golden Key but the plan was not successful as Kotalawela's lawyers failed

several times to attend the meetings called for that purpose.

It was alleged that the fraud amounted to a sum of 26 billion rupees.

With continuous failure on the part of the suspect Kotalawela, the Mount Lavinia magistrate remanded Ceylincro Group Chairman Lalith Kotalawela and another Director while issuing a warrant on its Director Mrs. Cecilie Kotalawela over the alleged fraud at the

Consideration...

Attorney at Law C.R. de Silva appearing for the first suspect informed Court that already 75 per cent of the initial 617 depositors who had deposited about Rs. 2m or less each had been settled.

He explained that assets such as the Golden Key Hospital in Rajagiriya could not be sold in a hurry to pay the depositors. He submitted that the sale procedures might entail the first suspect to travel abroad.

At this point Deputy Solicitor General Sarath Jayamanne intervened stating that the first suspect and she would know the volume of the funds taken from the respondent entity, he said.

Attorney-at-Law Anil Silva appearing for second suspect Khavan Perera submitted that Kotalawela had placed an advertisement in the media last December which triggered a panic amongst

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depositors. That step was taken, when arrangements were on the verge of finalisation to repay depositors funds. The advertisement had prevented the refunding of depositors funds.

Attorney-at-Law Anura Medagoda, appearing for the aggrieved party, urged a complete draft on the proposed trust to be submitted to the Attorney General's Department. He alleged that Yasmim Chitty had perpetrated a massive fraud. There had been money laundering, he alleged.

Medagoda told Court that in remand Kotalawela and Khavan Perera sat together and discussed the issue. When Perera inquired from Kotalawela why he had acted in such a manner as to get him arrested, Kotalawela said that it was not his doing, but his other directors. He had apologised to Perera.

Attorney-at-Law Kumudu Hewage, appearing for the depositors alleged that the Ceylincro Consolidated had transferred funds overseas.

Attorney-at-Law Neville Aberyatne, appearing for depositors, submitted that Khavan Perera, the second suspect, was paid Rs. 6.5 mn from depositors funds as salary.

Panel discussion

The next Buddhist public panel discussion of the Colombo YMBA will be on Sunday, 15th March at 10.00 a.m. at its Borella building on "Planes of Existence". The panelists are Prof. Tilak Karayawasam, former Prof. of Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya and Anil Gunawardena with Rajah Kuruppu as moderator.

Mahinda Club AGM

The 12th Annual General Meeting of the Mahinda Club (an oldboys organization of Mahinda College, Galle), will be held at 3.30 a.m. on the 15th (Sunday), March 2009 at the OPA Auditorium, Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 07. Office bearers for the coming year also will be elected on this day.

All members are invited.

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Attorneys-at-Law appearing for employees of the Ceylincro Group expressed fear that the present crisis could lead to a loss of employment for about 40,000 in the group and it could also have an adverse impact on the economy.

Attorney-at-Law Nalin Laduwathie submitted that the Ceylincro Group was finalising a deal to supply software in a venture with foreign collaboration. Due to Kotalawela being in custody this deal was facing the prospect of collapse. The deal could contribute Rs. 500 mn to the proposed trust.

Teen... From page 1

Two officers were seriously injured, but there was no immediate information on other casualties.

The gunn has not yet identified the gunman.

It was the nation's worst shooting since another teenage gunman killed 16 people and himself in another high school in 2002.

"He went into the school with a weapon and carried out a blood-bath," said regional police chief Erwin Hettler. "I've never seen anything like this in my life."

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Today is World Glaucoma Day

Free screening at Colombo Eye Hospital

To mark World Glaucoma Day which falls today, The College of Eye Surgeons in collaboration with the Vision 2020 Secretariat of the Ministry of Health, has organised a screening clinic for Glaucoma, at the Eye Hospital Colombo.

President of the College of Ophthalmologist of Sri Lanka, Dr. Muditha Kulkathunga said that those over 45 years of age can visit the hospital today and get their eyes tested free of charge.

Glaucoma, he said was a disease which can lead to permanent blindness if not detected and treated early. "In early stages it is asymptomatic. It can be detected only at routine screening. Cost effectiveness of such screening needs to be assessed. However once detected and treated adequately the disease can be almost totally controlled with eye drops and tablets. In rare instances surgery would be required." (LJ)

Exposition of Sacred Tooth Relic extended by one day

by Cyril Wimalasurendre

KANDY: The exposition of the Sacred Tooth Relic has been extended till March 17.

Diyawadana Nilame Pradeep Nilanga Dela Bandara told the media yesterday (11) the public exposi-

tion of the Tooth Relic scheduled to end on March 16 was extended by one day with the consent of the Most Ven. Mahanayake Theros of Malwata and Asgiriya for the convenience of the public.

The exposition is open from 1 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. daily.

Religions services for speedy recovery of Mahinda Wijesekera

Employees attached to the Department of Post is organising a series of religious activities in temples, kovils, churches and mosques to invoke blessing for a speedy recovery of Post and Telecommunications



Minister Mahinda Wijesekera was injured and hospitalised when a suicide bomber targeted a ceremony to celebrate birthday of Prophet Mohammed on Tuesday in Godapitiya, Akuressa.

BASL condos

The President, the Executive Committee and members of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka are shocked and grieved at the tragic death of Mr. Upali Sarathchandra, Attorney-at-Law and member of our association, states a press release issued by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Sarathchandra was the incumbent President of the Malara Law Society and the Vice Chairman of the Akuressa Pradeshiya Sabha.

Mr. Sarathchandra was a victim of an act of violence at the hands of a suicide bomber at the Jumma Mosque in Godapitiya.

Akuressa on March 10, 2009, which the Association unreservedly condemns.

The Bar Association extends its heartfelt sympathies to the family of our bereaved member and to the family members of government officials and other civilians who have also suffered similar losses in their hour of grief.

The funeral will take place at the General Cemetery, Akuressa on Friday, March 13, 2009.

We wish Mahinda Wijesekera, Minister of Posts & Telecommunication who is also a member of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, a very speedy recovery.

University of Ceylon Peradeniya: 1959 Batch Celebration

The 1959 batch commemorates fifty years of entry to the university

this year. A representative group from the 1959 batch plans to organise a batch reunion in celebration of this landmark event.

Batch mates are invited to contact: M.D. Bandusena, mbandusena@yahoo.com Phone: 2575311.

Nihal Rodrigo, chitrarodrigo@yahoo.com, Phone: 2668828.

Claude Fernando, claudef@inet.lk, 077-3991813, 2645319.

Nissanka Warakaulle, registrar@lics.ac.lk, Phone: 2352116.

Merrick Gooneratne,

merrick.gooneratne@tosla.lk, Phone: 2465160-1, 077-751815.

Bernadette Aloysius nee Tambimuthu, bernadette@autodrome.lk, Phone: 2695195, Mobile: 0777-782112.

Yoga Rasanayagam nee Sivasubramaniam, yrasanayagam@yahoo.com, Phone: 2580956 / 2367377.

Surangani Ranasinghe nee Samarakody, Sura2710@st.lk, Phone: 2686018.

Please give us your phone and email contact and postal address. Details of the celebration will be communicated eventually.

Golden Key Credit Card Company The Magistrate also issued a 10-day ultimatum to settle the dues of the Golden Key Credit Card Company depositors.

By the present application before the High Court of Colombo Kotalawela challenged the order of the Magistrate made on February 26.

The Attorney General's Department will file their objections against the bail application on 26 March.