

COMMUNITY/NEWS

Office bearers

Special Olympics Sri Lanka

Special Olympics Sri Lanka held its 6th Annual General Meeting recently at Batticaloa December 2010 at the Special Olympics Sri Lanka Training centre at Batticaloa. Following office-bearers were elected at the meeting.

Sri Lanka Belgium Association

President – Amardasa Gunawardana, General Secretary – Wilmon Wickremasinghe, Treasurer – Sumith Ediriprakarana, Media Secretary – Harold Peiris, Hon. Auditor – Anton Hettige.

At the 10th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Past Employees of

President: Kingsley Munaweera, Secretary: Hirshika Jayasinha, EAMNB Executive Secretary: Director: Sachinda Jayasinghe (Special Olympics Gold Medalist), Internal Audit: Lakshman Tebuwane.

Singer held at Sea View Hotel, Colombo 03 on 12th December 2010, the following members were elected to the Executive Committee for the year 2011.

Patron – Hemaka Amarasingha, President – Bertha Fernando, Secretary – Ananda Epa, Treasurer – AMM Nissar.



Inter-Religious Alliance for National Unity co-chairman and Colombo Dewatagaha Masjid Chief Imam As-Seyed Hassan Moula blessed the country and the President including all the Sri Lankan citizens on the completion of work of Senior Ministers at the Senior Minister's Camp. Hon. Economic and Development Minister Basil Rajapaksa and Athwadee Senarathna, A H M Fowzia, P Dayaratna and J R P Suriyappuruma were among the Senior Ministers who participated.



The annual cultural and musical entertainment and the prize distribution of the Devarakkiththa Primary School at Kirilla took place recently at the school premises under the patronage of Technology and Research Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi. Here the Minister is having a chat with several students who passed the Year 5 Scholarship examination.



The Philip Gunewardane Sports Complex in Seethavakupura, Avissawella was declared open by Water Supply and Drainage Minister Dinesh Gunawardane at the invitation of Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning Geethanjana Gunawardane. Addressing the public, Declaring the Sports complex open Minister Gunawardane stated that the name Philip Gunewardane can be inscribed not only to the map of Seethavakupura, but to the entire island. The reason being the invaluable service he has rendered to his country. Geethanjana Gunawardane is seen inspecting the ground after the speeches by Dinesh Gunawardane and Sports Minister Mahindananda Alutgamage. Picture by Indika Ranasinghe



Coroners' Association had a special meeting with Justice Minister Rauf Hakeem in Colombo recently. Colombo City Coroner Edward Abhangama, Muslim Janaza Coroners' Association Chairman Mohamed Haris, Ministry Secretary Dr M M M Musni and some other coroners participated in the meeting.



Economic Development Minister Basil Rajapaksa distributed food relief sent by India among the flood affected in the Batticaloa district at two schools in Batticaloa. Disaster Management Minister Mahinda Amaraweera and Indian Envoy Ashok K Kantha was also present. Picture by Chaminda Hettige

Prince Charles voices concern

Message from the Prince of Wales to the President Mahinda Rajapaksa:

"My wife and I have been watching with mounting concern the terrible effects of the flooding which has been afflicting much of Sri Lanka. Our hearts go out to the families of those who have so tragically lost their lives and to all those who have lost their property and, crucially, their next harvest.

On behalf of us both, I wanted you to know how much you and the people of Sri Lanka are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time of times and to send you every encouragement and countless good wishes as you begin the task of rebuilding shattered communities."



Here the special task force personnel helping the flood hit

Funds set apart for flood victims

Economic Development Minister Basil Rajapaksa and his Sandesha team 45 million rupees has been set aside for renovation of completely damaged houses in the flood-affected areas.

The special meeting on

finding out the extent of damage in the Batticaloa district by the floods and landslides has been held today under the guidance of Minister Basil Rajapaksa.

The meeting was attended by number of parliamentarians of the Batticaloa district and Government offi-

cials. Action will also be taken to repair the flood-affected roads, bridges and tanks in the area.

The Minister assured that every effort would be made to provide the food items necessary for the victims.



Here the boat services organised by Red Cross Society assisting flood victims



Hambantota District MP Namal Rajapaksa being received by 23rd Division Commander Brig Mahinda Maddugoda and Col Lalith Kotterarachchi who visited the affected areas in the Batticaloa district. MP Namal Rajapaksa also distributed food among those affected by floods in Batticaloa district.

Floods recede in Ampara

M A PHAKURDEEN

Adidascheni Group Corp.

The flood affected Ampara District is returning to normal as the weather condition has eased during the last 3 days. Although 116,878 families with 441,000 people were affected by the floods in the district 130,000 families with 36,000 people are now in 185 Welfare Centres until Saturday. Many people were with their relatives' and friends' houses, until the floods receded.

According to the District Secretary of Ampara, who is also the Commissioner who is observing the situation day by day said there are only 50 Welfare Centres accommodating approximately 50,000 people in whose houses the flood waters have not receded at present.

The situation may improve in next couple of days and many of the flood victims may return to the houses and rebuild their structures, it's expected.

District Secretary Sunil Kariyawasam also said

although 3,938 houses

have been damaged in the flood

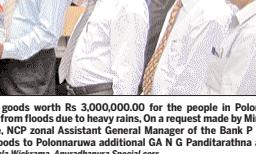
havoc, 365 houses have

been fully damaged according to reports he has received upto now and this number may increase. Meanwhile, extensive damage has been caused to 64,000 acres of paddy cultivations and 6,120 acres of subsidiary and other food crop cultivations too.

While the Divisional Secretaries of the areas who were busy in distributing relief materials in the 185 Welfare Centres with the assistance of World Food Program, many other Volunteer Organizations too are distributing supplies of essential food items.

It may be noted that CARE International Sri Lanka was the first INGO to extend a helping hand to the flood victims no sooner the flood devastated their houses and properties. In the midst of the rain its Project Director G D D Thushara Jayawardene along with his Officials visited Alaydavumbu, Akkaraiapattu and Ambalathurai where people were very badly affected and were on the rescue operation. They supplied essential food items and other daily requirements to the flood victims.

Prof Peiris briefed the Heads of Mission on the flood situation and stated that the Government has acted swiftly to assist people affected in the country. However, given the sheer scale of the problem, the Minister requested the



People's Bank donated sanitary goods worth Rs 3,000,000.00 for the people in Polonnaruwa district who are suffering from floods due to heavy rains. On a request made by Minister Maithreepala Sirisena, here, NCP zonal Assistant General Manager of the Bank P M Phamphraya handing over the goods to Polonnaruwa additional GA N G Panditarathna in Kaduruvella. Picture by Sarath Manela Wickrama, Anuradhapura Special corr

OIC to help flood victims

A meeting chaired by External Affairs Minister Prof G L Peiris with the Heads of Mission of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) based in Colombo was held at the Ministry of External Affairs to discuss relief measures for persons affected by floods. Justice Minister Kishan Hakeem was also present.

Prof Peiris briefed the Heads of Mission on the flood situation and stated that the Government has acted swiftly to assist people affected in the country. However, given the sheer scale of the problem, the Minister requested the

assistance of the Member States of the OIC for immediate requirements such as roofing sheets, blankets, mosquito nets, tents, dry rations and water pumps among others.

Minister Hakeem stated that during discussions with President Rajapaksa on the flood situation in the Eastern Province the President had been apprised of the meeting to be held with the Heads of Mission of the OIC.

The Minister informed that the people of the Eastern Province have been the most affected.

Deputy Management Minister Secretary Marina Mohamed, making a pre-

sentation on the emergency situation, stated that the initial estimated damage from the flood stands at US \$ 35 million.

The Government has spent US \$ 10 million to provide cooked meals and dry rations for people in all affected areas.

The Ambassadors assured the Minister that they would get in touch with their governments and respond as early as possible.

Representatives of fourteen Member States of the OIC based in Colombo and officials of the Ministry of External Affairs attended the meeting. Ministry of External Affairs, Colombo

