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Bishop of Mannar in ICU

(sundaytimes.lk) Rev. Dr. Rayappu Joseph, Bishop of the Mannar Diocese who came to Colombo on Saturday to meet US Secretary of State John Kerry was admitted to the Colombo National Hospital Intensive Care Unit after he collapsed due to High Blood Pressure, local media reported. Reports suggest the Bishop is still warded at the ICU.

Johnston Fernando arrested

(sundaytimes.lk) Former Trade Minister Johnston Fernando has been arrested by Police Financial Crimes Investigation Division over alleged financial corruption at Sathosa during the previous government. Earlier today he was summoned by the division to record a statement.

President given copy of No Fire Zone

(colombogazette.com) President Maithripala Sirisena has been supplied with a personalized copy of the Sinhala language version of the controversial film No Fire Zone. The film's director, Callum Macrae, told the President in a message: "The truth is coming out. I appeal to you not to obstruct that process, but to encourage it. To be on the side of truth." The film's director handed the copy of the film - which contains his personal message to the President - to government officials at a specially arranged meeting in the Sri Lankan High Commission in London.



CKD preventive activities brought to standstill since prez election

By Don Asoka Wijewardena
 (island.lk) Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Research Scientist Dr. Channa Jayasumana yesterday disclosed that the preventive health care activities to alleviate suffering of more than 70,000 kidney patients in the North Central, North Western, Uva, Eastern, Central and Northern Provinces which were active before the Presidential election had come to a standstill now. Dr. Jayasumana said that in those affected

districts and provinces many forms of cancer such as breast, oral, oesophagus and liver were beginning to spread due to toxins in water. He described the situation as a double whammy for residents in the affected districts. To make matters worse much of Sri Lanka's dry zone was currently grappling with a drought caused by delayed Monsoon, he said.

Dr Jayasumana maintained that now the government as well as officials responsible for preventing the CKD in the affected areas were shirking their responsibility to treat and prevent its spread. Each dialysis session cost around Rs. 12,000 (USD 92) and many hospitals did not have enough dialysis machines, Dr. Jayasumana said. He said that the Secretary to the Health Ministry had told a seminar in early 2011 that Rs.350 million (approximately USD 2.6 million) - 4.6 per cent of the health budget - was spent every year on CKD patients.

Second phase of Outer Circular Road from Kaduwela to Kadawatha to open next month

by Maheesha Mudugamuwa
 (island.lk) Linking the Southern Expressway from Kaduwela to Kadawatha, the 8.9 km long second phase of the Colombo Outer Circular Highway (OCH) would be completed and opened to the public next month, according to Highways and Investment Promotion Ministry.

Construction of the OCH is being carried out in three phases including Phase 1, an 11.0 km section from Kottawa to Kaduwela, which was opened earlier by the previous government, Phase 11, an 8.9 km section from Kaduwela to Kadawatha; and Phase 111 - a 9.3 km section from Kadawatha to Kerawalapitiya.

The Construction of the road commenced in October 2009 and is to be completed in September 2017. The expressway will be Sri Lanka's most expensive road, estimated at US\$ 57 million per km. The construction of first stage from Kottawa to Kaduwela, a length of 11km, was completed at a cost of Rs. 27 billion in early 2014.



Construction of the second stage of the project from Kaduwela to Kadawatha, a length of 8.9 km, began on 18 February 2012 at an estimated cost of Rs. 49 billion. Meanwhile, the cabinet approval had been granted for the third phase of the OCH from Kerawalapitiya to Kadawatha. The government said that the cost of the approved civil works contract of the third phase amounted to Rs. 66,689 million and 95 per cent of the said cost would be financed by an EXIM loan from China. The acquisition of land for the above project is in its final stage and compensation of Rs. 1,100 million is to be paid in this regard. The project will commence under the amended scope of work recommended by the Review Committee appointed for the evaluation of technical and financial matters of this project. According to the Road Development Authority (RDA) plan, the OCH will be developed as a four-lane highway with provision for future expansion to 6-lanes. The design speed of the Highway is 100 kmph.



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