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Train colision in Alawwa - 5 dead, 35 injured

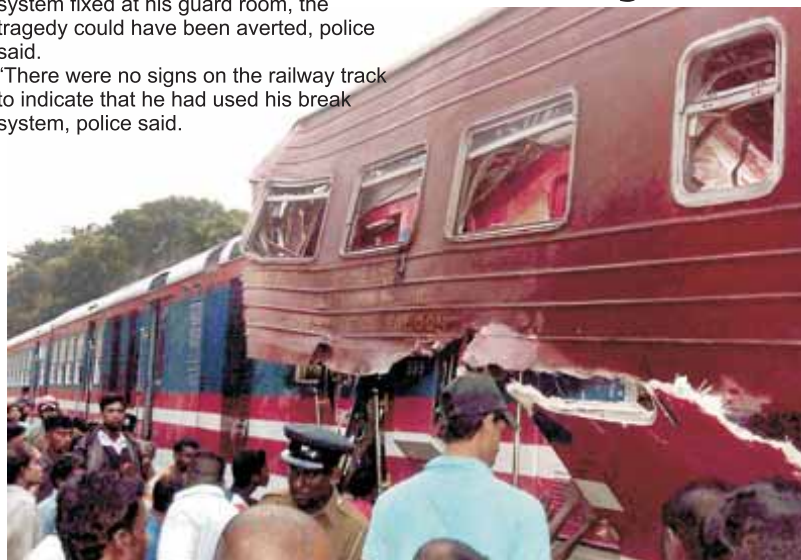
In response to a request made by the Alawwa Police, court directed Railway Department officials that the engine of the Saturday evening accident should not be removed on any grounds till investigations are over. The Government Analyst is also due to check the engine and the location to ascertain whether the train crash was a result of human or technical failure. IGP N.K. Ilangakoon ordered an indepth inquiry into the train mishap which occurred near the Alawwa railway station where five people, including the engine driver, his assistant and a German national, died and over 35 persons were injured. A train that was travelling towards Rambukkana got stalled at the Alawwa Station. A few minutes later it was followed by another

passenger train travelling towards Polgahawela and it was warned by the Trains Control that a Rambukkana bound train was stalled at Alawwa and was advised to push the stalled train towards Rambukkana.

While this train was being pushed from Alawwa, the intercity express from Colombo Fort to Kandy was already on the way and it was warned by the Trains Control of the situation at Alawwa. However due to some fault, most probably due to signal failure, the intercity express ploughed into the Polgahawela bound train that was pushing the Rambukkana bound train.

Initial police investigations have proved that the guard of the train failed to use his break though the engine driver was convinced that there was a signal defect at the time of the accident. Over 40 statements have been recorded by the police and none of them have mentioned that the guard had taken any preventive methods to prevent the crash. If the guard was able to use the break

system fixed at his guard room, the tragedy could have been averted, police said. "There were no signs on the railway track to indicate that he had used his break system, police said.



The engine of the Rambukkana train is seen encased by the wreckage of the Intercity express train's observation carriage after the impact. Pic by Jayantha Kumara Dissanayake

COLOMBO COLUMN

By Reggie Fernando Dudley Perera See page 25



SEE P21



Sri Lankan Designer Charini Suriyage's Eco-Luxury Brand launched at Esthetica September 2011. See P18



Breakaway CC group forms new party JVP suffers major split

By Saman Indrajith (Island.lk) - A group of JVP heavyweights has broken away from the Marxist outfit's Central Committee to form a new political party. The decision of the breakaway group to sever links with the party was officially announced at a Central Committee meeting on Monday. The new party is expected to be registered with the Elections Commissioner shortly. The dissidents led by (Ms) Dimuthu Atygala (JVP Politburo member and leader of the Women's Wing), Pubudu Jagoda (JVP Politburo member cum chief of the Education Wing) and Waruna Rajapaksa (JVP Central Committee member) had a

secret meeting at Biyagama on Monday night after announcing their breakaway and walking out from the Central Committee meeting at the JVP headquarters at Pelawatte. See P8

Bank of Ceylon (UK) Ltd. launches its new website: www.bankofceylon.co.uk



Dr Gamini Wickremasinghe, the Chairman of Bank of Ceylon officially launched the new web site of Bank of Ceylon (UK) Ltd "bankofceylon.co.uk" on 20th September 2011 in the presence of the staff of the bank. Chief Executive Officer of the bank Mr. Senarath Bandara expressed at the occasion that, the revamping of the website had been identified as a long felt need in improving the service and providing better awareness of the products and services among Sri Lankans living in UK. Further, he paid gratitude to customers who made a valuable contribution by expressing their views and suggestions for the improvements of the website.

Scholarships for UK Students



The Government of Sri Lanka has decided to implement a scheme to offer 100 undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships for foreign students. Out of these 100 scholarships, 2 undergraduate and 1 postgraduate scholarships, will be offered to UK students. Closing date of applications is 30.09.2011. For details, please visit: www.srilankahighcommission.co.uk

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