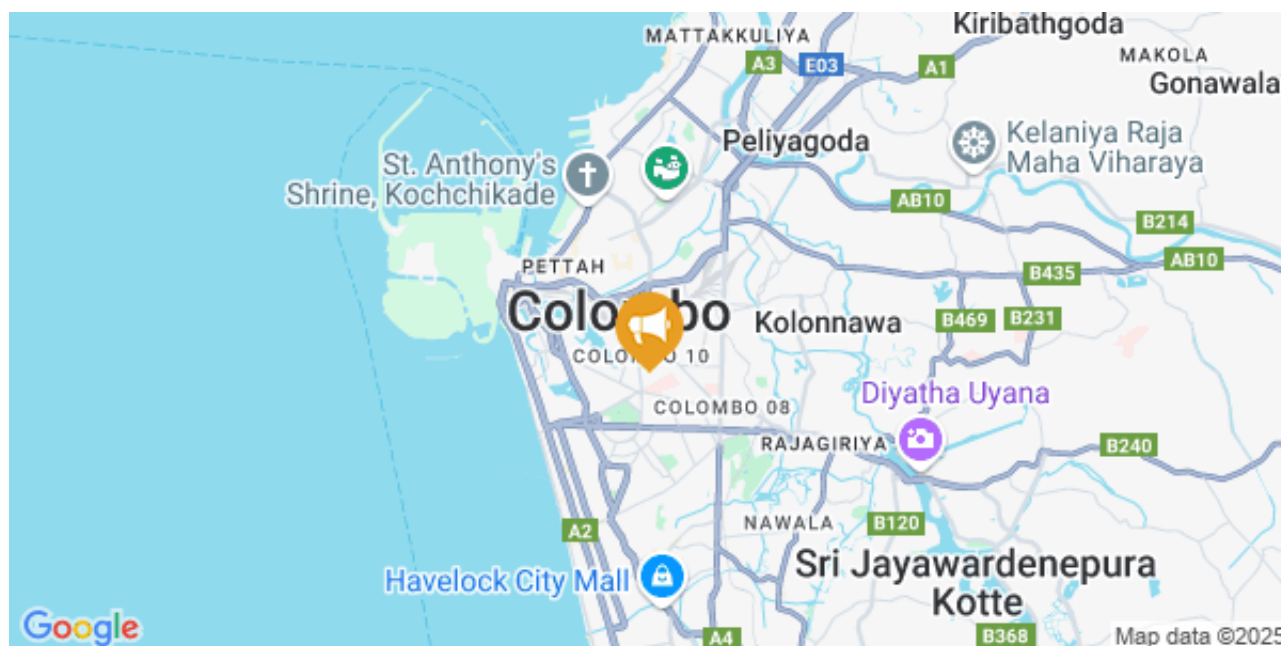


Protest



23

APR
5:25 UTC

Sri Lanka Tactical: Medical groups announce protest in Colombo on April 24; maintain vigilance

Current Situation:

- Multiple groups, such as the Inter-University Students' Federation (IUSF), the Allied Health Sciences Graduates' Unity (AHSGU) group, and the Federation of Health Professionals are slated to hold a protest in Colombo on April 24.
- No specific location or timing was announced as of writing.
- The protesters will call for the shutdown of unregulated institutions offering health-related degrees and demand strict action against unregulated private degree programs.

Source: [Facebook](#), [Facebook](#), [Facebook](#)

Assessments & Forecast:

1. The turnout at the slated gathering is expected to range between the high dozens to low hundreds, based on the groups' mobilizing capabilities, coupled with the attention garnered by the event on social media. Attendance at the gathering is likely to be bolstered slightly by the potential presence of other medical students and faculty members, given the resonance of the issue within the community.

2. The lack of a confirmed location being announced is likely to be viewed as a tactic to prevent the authorities from blocking the gathering. Some of the potential locations include Galle Face, Fort Railway Station, Victoria Park, and the Presidential Secretariat, based on precedent from previous protests. A protest also remains likely outside the Ministry of Health as well, given that the IUSF held a demonstration at the location on April 3. The authorities are expected to implement security measures, including police deployment and barricade placement, near these potential protest sites to monitor proceedings.
3. The risk of scuffles between the police and protesters is likely to persist, considering the sensitivity surrounding the issue among medical students and professionals. The police are likely to use forcible dispersal measures, such as baton charges and temporary detentions, should protesters engage in unruly behavior, such as blocking major roads. Localized disruptions to vehicular traffic are expected in the vicinity of the potential protest locations during the protest hours on April 24 due to the anticipated turnout and associated security measures.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Colombo on April 24 are advised to maintain vigilance in the vicinity of the aforementioned potential protest locations due to the slated protest and associated risk of scuffles while allotting for travel disruptions.