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### Attempt To Conceal Evidence

By Nirmala Kannangara

(thesundayleader.lk) Deliberate attempts to hide the facts involving the death of Sri Lanka rugby player Mohommed Wasim Thajudeen over the past one-and-a-half years have now come to limelight, CID source said.

Although the police confirmed that Thajudeen had died as a result of a fire in the vehicle he was travelling, the Government Analyst's report had stated that carbon monoxide had not been found in Thajudeen's lungs, which contradicted with the post mortem report.

"We have to consider the Government Analyst's report as the Narahenpita police investigation team had failed to follow the proper investigation procedure," sources said on conditions of

anonymity.

Thajudeen's charred body was found on May 17, 2012 on Park Road, Colombo and IGP N. K. Illangakoon had directed the CID in February this year to expedite the investigation into this mysterious death after the Government Analyst's report was released one-and-a-half years after the death.

According to CID sources, there have been many lapses when conducting the investigation and they queried as to why the investigation team failed to obtain CCTV footage from buildings in the vicinity.

"Unlike in other places, we found out that there were many CCTV cameras around the place the accident occurred. The reasons why the investigators failed to obtain the footage is questionable. They also deliberately failed to obtain the call details of his phone. They also failed to take proper evidence from the neighbourhood and from the security guards at Shalika playground. They also should have obtained evidence from the fire brigade officers and to find out from them the reason the vehicle caught fire," sources said.

Sources further queried as to why the police team did not suspect any foul play into this death although Thajudeen's body was found to the left of the driving seat.

"At the post mortem, glass particles had been found on the back of deceased's knee and the injuries had been caused by a broken bottle. It is also surprising as to why these glass particles were not sent to the Government Analyst and further investigations were not conducted on the matter," sources claimed.

The Narahenpita police investigation team has also failed to produce the witnesses to the Government Analyst when he came to the scene to check the charred vehicle and the body.



### Human rights situation in Sri Lanka improved in first half of 2015: UK report

(ft.lk) London: Following the election of President Maithripala Sirisena in January and the appointment of a new government, the human rights situation in Sri Lanka improved during the first half of 2015, although some concerns remain, the United Kingdom said yesterday.

In its update to the 2014 Human Rights and Democracy Report, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) said during the first half of 2015, Sri Lanka took a number of positive steps to address human rights and democracy concerns, including establishing new institutions and undertaking legal reforms.

The FCO noted that among others, freedom of expression improved, with exiled journalists invited to return to the country and a number of banned websites unblocked.

The democratic space has opened up with travel bans on foreign nationals visiting the north lifted,

and the NGO Secretariat moved from the Ministry of Defence to the Ministry of Policy Planning and Economic Affairs. Local contacts in the north and east noted a significant reduction in surveillance by security forces with increased space for journalists and civil society activism.

However, the report said challenges remained, including those related to high levels of militarization, such as military involvement in civilian life, and the continued occupation of land by the armed forces. There were also concerns over women's security as well as reports of journalists being intimidated.

Following is the full text of the report:

The human rights situation in Sri Lanka improved during the first half of 2015, although some concerns remain. Following the election of President Maithripala Sirisena in January and

(Contd: on P4)

### Police arrest 4 people over violent clash

The police today arrested four people over the violent clashes which erupted at the ODI cricket match played between Sri Lanka and Pakistan at the R. Premadasa Cricket stadium last night.

The clashes resulted in several people including police officers being injured and the game being temporarily suspended for over half an hour. Riot police were called in to protect the players and bring the situation under control.

The police said that investigations over the clashes were continuing to arrest several other individuals who are alleged to have been involved in the incident.

Objects including a stone was thrown at the field where Pakistani players were making their way to a clean victory with Sri Lanka struggling to chase the 317 run mark to win.

Players were called into the center of the field and both teams later left the field as police emptied one half of the stands. The clashes are believed to have begun in the upper level of the D Block between two groups who later started exchanging blows

and throwing stones at each other. Violent clashed erupted outside the stadium as well with several vehicles and property being damaged in the incident.

However, play resumed at around 10:05pm local time in almost half empty stands with no reduction in overs. Pakistan went on to complete a 135-run win, and take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series. (Colombo Gazette)



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