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Win Warne-Muralitharan trophy for 1st time - Dilruwan Perera gets 6 for 70 - Herath hat-trick

Sri Lanka win Test series against Australia

SA'ADI THAWFEEQ reporting from Galle

GALLE: Sri Lanka laid their hands on the Warne-Muralitharan trophy for the first time since its inception in 2007 when they completed a comprehensive 229-run win over the world's no. 1 ranked Test team Australia, 35 minutes after lunch on the third day of the second Test to take a winning 2-0 lead in the three-match series at the Galle International Stadium on Saturday. Sri Lanka won the first Test at Pallekele by 106 runs.

Australia were already up against it when they resumed at a shaky 25 for three chasing an imposing target of 413 and it was no surprise when they lost their remaining wickets for 158 runs to be dismissed for 183 with off-spinner Dilruwan Perera grabbing the limelight from the other two spinners Rangana Herath and Lakshan Sandakan by capturing ten wickets for 99 to take the man of the match award.

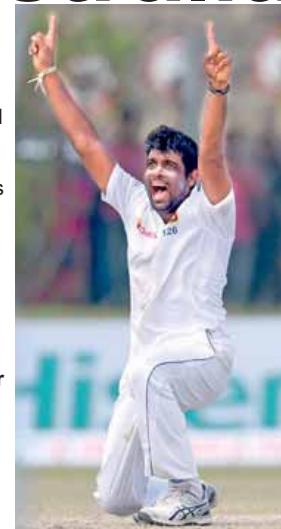
Apart from Muthiah Muralitharan and Rangana Herath the only other spinners who have captured

ten wickets or more in a Test match were Ajantha Mendis (10/209) v India at Galle 2008 and Upul Chandana (10/210) v Australia at Cairns in 2004. Perera for so long the unsung hero with Herath always grabbing the limelight came to his own at his favourite venue where he has captured 29 of his 55 Test wickets to sow the seeds of doubt on the minds of the Australian batters. None of them played him with any degree of comfort. While some were befuddled by his off-breaks that bit the surface and caught them on the wrong foot.

It was the first time Perera who plays for Colts CC in the Premier League had taken a match bag of ten or more in a Test and his figures of six for 70 was also another career best effort. In addition to his quality spin Perera also displayed his prowess as a batsman top scoring for his team in the second innings with a useful 64 off 89 balls. Following the heroics of Herath at Pallekele and in the first innings here where he became only the

second Sri Lankan bowler to perform the hat-trick, and Lakshan Sandakan's memorable debut also at Pallekele, it was the turn of Perera to come to the party. Criticised by his captain Angelo Mathews for his poor bowling at Pallekele, Perera came roaring back to send the Australians tumbling to defeat. At the same time Perera also became the quickest Sri Lankan bowler to 50 Test wickets achieving it in 11 Tests to beat Ajantha Mendis who reached it in 12. Sri Lanka it seems work their bowling heroes in rotation to torment the hapless Australian batsmen who have shown in the two Tests so far that they are nowhere near to tackling the spin tracks of the subcontinent. Australia have now gone through eight consecutive defeats in Tests in the subcontinent losing 0-4 to India in 2013, 0-2 to Pakistan in 2014 and now trailing Sri Lanka 0-2. However much of preparations they may have gone through there is nothing like facing the spinners in reality in the middle and the Australian batsmen gave a feeble display against quality spin

bowling at Galle yesterday. The bottom line is that the no. 1 ranked Test team in the world cannot play spin which questions the rankings of a Test nation. The series loss to Sri Lanka means that Australia lose their number one position in the Test rankings. **The chief destroyer of the Australian second innings Dilruwan Perera who finished with career best figures of 6 for 70.**



PM: 'Legislature should not let the judiciary usurp its powers'

SC rules VAT Bill unacceptable

By Saman Indrajith

Speaker Karu Jayasuriya on Tuesday informed Parliament that the Supreme Court had determined that the Value Added Tax (Amendment) bill was unacceptable as it had failed to adhere to due process a financial bill should follow. Making a special announcement the Speaker said: "The Court has determined that the provisions contained in Article 152 of the Constitution and Standing Order 133 are imperative in character and the failure to follow them render the subsequent proceedings nullity. "Since the due process had not been compiled with in terms of Article 78(2) and 152 in the Constitution before the bill was introduced in Parliament, the Supreme Court has made in terms of Articles 120 and 121 read with Article 123 and 152 of the Constitution, that no determination

would be made at this stage on the ground of challenge raised by the petitioners." He then directed the determination of the Supreme Court be printed in the official report of the proceedings. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said that Speaker Jayasuriya should give a ruling with regard to the matter. For that purpose the Speaker should summon a meeting of party leaders, he said. The legislature should not let the judiciary usurp its powers. However, if the Speaker and the Supreme Court insisted that the government should bring about afresh bill on VAT, the government would do so, Wickremesinghe said. "We would not sack the Chief Justice or bring an impeachment against him because the court did not give us a

favourable ruling," he said. MEP Leader Dinesh Gunwardena said that the VAT bill brought by Finance Minister brought was null and void and the Supreme Court too had also held so. "There is a responsibility with minister when a bill is brought to parliament. Had the secretary to the Ministry misled the minister it is would have been another matter, but the Secretary General too had made a mistake here. The bill had not received the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers. When a bill is presented to Parliament, the letter containing the approval of the cabinet is attached to the bill. If there is no document, it is the Secretary General of Parliament to inform the minister or secretary to the ministry that the certificate of cabinet of ministers' approval is missing. Without that certificate of approval, a draft bill could not

be included in the Order Book or the Order Paper of Parliament. The Secretary General should not let such a bill to be presented to this House. Had this bill not been challenged before the Supreme Court, it would have become the law though it did not have the approval of the cabinet or against the provisions of the Constitution." Speaker Jayasuriya said that a special meeting of party leaders would be held to discuss the future course of action with regard to the VAT bill.



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Mrs. Amari Wijewardane

SL's new High Commissioner in London

By Sujeeva Nivunhella in London

(Island.lk) - After lapse of more than 18 months, a new Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Mrs. Amari Wijewardane, arrived in London and is expected to assume duties in the near future. Since former High Commissioner Dr. Chris Nonis left following an alleged incident where he was assaulted by the then Foreign Affairs Overseeing MP Sajin Vass Gunawardena, both the former Rajapakse regime and the present government dragged their feet in naming a new envoy to head this important diplomatic station.

The new High Commissioner Mrs. Amari Wijewardane has a wealth of experience in management and administrative skills in industry, manufacturing, marketing and exports. She has managed the Swadeshi and Sedawatte Groups for over 36 years as the chairperson. She has traveled widely, both in Europe and Asia, and has a keen interest in art, culture and history.

She leads many charitable projects including organizing health camps for children and midwife clinics across the country, extending financial assistance to the Dambadeniya Raja Maha Viharaya, Ridee Viharya, Saman Devalaya, Ratnapura, Kiri Vehera and Kataragama Devalaya.

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