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3rd Test - Herath 1st innings - 6/81, 2nd innings - 7/64, Man of match & Man of series.

Herath bowls Sri Lanka to series whitewash

(Cricinfo.com) - History was against this Sri Lanka team, so they created their own. Before this series, Sri Lanka had beaten Australia just once - one single Test in 33 years of cricket between the nations. Kumar Sangakkara, perhaps the finest batsman Sri Lanka has ever produced, played 134 Tests and never tasted victory against Australia. Dhananjaya de Silva and Lakshan Sandakan, uncapped a month ago, have now played in three. So too has Rangana Herath, whose grey-tinged hair and cuddly build can trick you into thinking he was born 38 years old. But he was young once. At 21, he sat in the rooms in Kandy and watched his squad-mates beat Australia in 1999, the only previous occasion on which they had managed the feat. Herath had to wait until the next Test in the series to make his debut. Seventeen years later, he has been part of whitewashing Australia.

A significant part, in fact, for Herath finished the series as the leading wicket taker, with 28 at 12.75. And never was he more devastating than the final day of the final Test, when he collected 7 for 64 to bowl Sri Lanka to their triumph. Set 324 for victory, Australia briefly dreamed of a consolation win while David Warner was moving briskly to 68. But once he departed the capitulation came quickly, Australia bowled out for 160, defeated by 163 runs. Make no mistake: this series was a complete humiliation for Australia. They arrived in Sri Lanka as the No.1 team in the world, confident of overcoming No.7. Apart from the first day of the series, when they skittled Sri Lanka for 117, Australia were rarely in with a chance. The No.1 ranking is not only gone, but Australia have slipped to third, behind India and Pakistan, while Sri Lanka have moved up to sixth. Australia's loss in

Colombo was their ninth consecutive Test defeat in Asia, a record that augurs exceptionally poorly for their four-Test tour of India early next year. Mitchell Starc was brilliant, finishing with 24 wickets and the best strike-rate of any bowler ever to take 20 wickets in a Test series in Asia. But the batting was deplorable. Only twice in the past hundred years have Australia's batsmen collectively averaged so few runs in a series of three or more Tests as the 19.86 they averaged in this series. There were good excuses on the other occasions: in 1978-79 Australia were ravaged by World Series Cricket, and in England in 1956, Jim Laker was unplayable on uncovered pitches prepared to suit him.

Here there were no such excuses. The pitches turned but were perfectly decent. Sri Lanka's batting was inconsistent

and they gave Australia's bowlers openings, but always there was someone to step up and rescue the innings: Kusal Mendis in Pallekele and Galle, Dinesh Chandimal and de Silva in the first innings in Colombo and Kaushal Silva in the second. Sri Lanka's spinners used the conditions well, Australia's batsmen were often incompetent. But that is for Australia's management to assess in their post-mortems. Now is the time to celebrate Sri Lanka's achievement. Only three times previously had they whitewashed any team in a three-match series - Zimbabwe once, Bangladesh once and West Indies once. Surely none of those triumphs can match the feat not only of crushing the No.1 team, but doing so with a developing squad, so soon after the retirements of champions such as Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene. That is why it was so satisfying for Sri Lanka that contributions came from newer faces. De Silva,

who debuted in Pallekele, led the series run tally with 325 at 65.00. Mendis, with only one first-class century before this campaign, played the innings that effectively determined the course of the series. Sandakan, though rarely needed because the finger-spinners bowled so well, took nine wickets at 23.00.

He wasn't even needed on the final day, such was the annihilation brought on by Herath, with assistance from Dilruwan Perera. When the Test finished with half an hour still to play until tea, it was remarkable to think that Sri Lanka were still batting when the morning began. Angelo Mathews allowed his men nearly five overs on the final morning to bump the target up to 324, which required Australia to make their highest ever fourth-innings total in Asia.

Briefly they had hoped, as Warner played his naturally attacking game and compiled a 77-run opening stand with Shaun Marsh. But once that partnership was broken on the brink of lunch, when Marsh was brilliantly caught at short leg by Mendis off Perera, the last nine wickets tumbled for less than a hundred runs. In fact, from the moment Steven Smith was bowled trying to cut Herath, Australia lost nine for 60 in 18 overs. It was a complete capitulation. Herath straightened one just enough to trap Adam Voges lbw for 1. Warner was bowled around his legs offering no shot to Perera for 68. Moises Henriques, brought in for this match at the expense of Usman Khawaja, added 4 more to the 4 he scored in the first innings, never looking comfortable against the spinners. He was run out when he advanced to Perera, the ball flew off his pad to Mathews at slip, and the captain threw down the stumps. After that it was all Herath. Mitchell Marsh was caught behind off a beautiful turning delivery. Peter Nevill top-edged a sweep and was taken at slip.



Starc too skied an attempted slog sweep and the keeper Perera took a fine running catch. Then Josh Hazlewood was lured just out of his crease and stumped, and Nathan Lyon was lbw sweeping to end the match.



Task Force on Reconciliation Mechanisms releases interim report on missing and disappeared

The Consultations Task Force on Reconciliation Mechanisms, appointed by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on 26 January 2016, has released an interim report on the Office on Missing Persons Bill and Issues Concerning the Missing,

the Disappeared and the Surrendered. This interim report, released last week to legislators, is based on all written submissions received as of 17 July 2016 and consultations conducted until 8 August 2016.

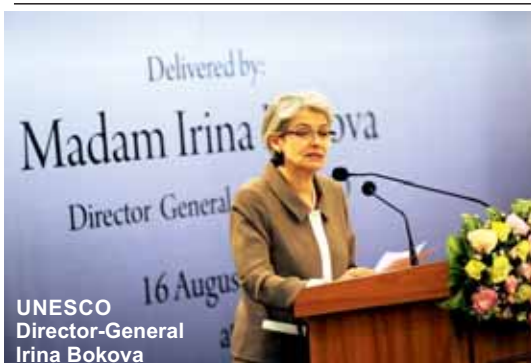
response to the Draft Bill to provide for the establishment of the Office on Missing Persons (OMP), which was gazetted on 27 May 2016.

The report aims to inform the Sri Lankan Government and the public about the consultations pertaining to the OMP and the issues of the missing and the disappeared made in the submissions received by the CTF. According to the Chairperson of the 11-member Task Force, Manouri Muttetuwegama, the report seeks to distil the experience of a wide range of persons affected by disappearances, including those who experienced the war in their

very midst in the North and East, families of servicemen missing in action, disappearances from the hill country Tamil Community, Sinhala fishermen who disappeared in waters in the North and East of Sri Lanka, disappearances attributed to the LTTE and other armed militant groups, or occurring in the context of the political violence of the 1987-1991 period.

The full report is available on <http://hrcls.lk/english/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Interim-Report-Consultation-Task-Force-on-Reconciliation-Mechanisms.pdf>

This preliminary report provides a summary of submissions relating to the missing, disappeared and surrendered. It is prepared as a matter of priority in



UNESCO Director-General in Sri Lanka

(Dailynews.lk) - UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, at a public lecture at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies in Colombo, affirmed the key role of 'soft power' to achieve Sri Lanka's vision of sustainable development and reconciliation. The Director-General paid tribute to the late Kadirgamar, Sri Lanka's three times Foreign Minister, assassinated in 2005, as 'a great statesman, and politician, a man of intellect and most of all a great humanist devoted to human rights and dignity, and to peace in Sri Lanka on the basis of... SEE P4

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