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Ford resigns, Pothas takes over as SL head coach

by Rex Clementine

(Island.lk) - The national cricket team's Head Coach position vacated by South African Graham Ford has been filled by another South African - Nic Pothas. Sri Lanka Cricket President Thilanga Sumathipala during a media briefing yesterday announced that Pothas will continue as the Head Coach until August which will take him through India's tour of Sri Lanka. A former South African wicketkeeper, Pothas was contracted by SLC last year as the team's Fielding Coach. SLC also announced a 13 member squad for the first two ODIs against Zimbabwe and the biggest surprise was the axing of wicketkeeper batsman Dinesh Chandimal. Arguably the finest young batsman in the country, Chandimal had a tough Champions Trophy campaign but he was Sri Lanka's best batsman in ODIs last year averaging nearly 60. Chandimal was the 11th highest run getter in the world in ODIs in 2016. However, Cricket Manager and Selector Asanka Gurusinha assured that Chandimal is very much in



their plans for the remaining three ODIs that will be played at Hambantota.

Altogether the selectors overlooked eight players who were part of their Champions Trophy campaign with the others being - Dhananjaya de Silva, Nuwan Kulasekara, Suranga Lakmal, Thisara Perera, Seekuge Prasanna, Chamara Kapugedera and Kusal Perera. Some of the players were recovering from injuries.

Only 13 players were named in the squad for the first two ODIs and the surprise inclusion is that of Richmond College all-rounder

Wanindu Hasaranga.

Akila Dhananjaya has been recalled to the side after four years. Captain Mathews said that he was impressed with the variation the off-spinner showed during the recent Inter-Provincial tournament.

The first two ODIs will be played in Galle. This is the first time in 17 years Galle is hosting an ODI. The teams will move to Hambantota for the remaining three ODIs.

The one-off Test match will be played at R. Premadasa Stadium.

"It's been a long time since we were involved in a bilateral series in Sri Lanka. We are looking forward for a competitive series and looking forward to some exciting cricket," Zimbabwe Head Coach Heath Streak told journalists.

Streak is assisted by Lance Klusener as Batting Coach and Makhaya Ntini as Bowling Coach. Zimbabwe are ranked 11th in ODI cricket while Sri Lanka are ranked eighth. A 5-0 clean sweep will help Sri Lanka to overtake Bangladesh into the seventh position.

Head to head these teams have met in 50 ODIs and 41 of them have been won by Sri Lanka. Zimbabwe have won only seven games with two matches ending in no results. In Tests, these teams have met in 17 games. Sri Lanka have won 12 and drawn the rest.

Sri Lanka Squad: Angelo Mathews (Captain), Upul Tharanga, Niroshan Dickwella, Danushka Gunathilaka, Kusal Mendis, Asela Gunaratne, Wanindu Hasaranga, Lahiru Madushanka, Akila Dhananjaya, Lakshan Sandakan, Nuwan Pradeep, Dushmantha Chameera and Lasith Malinga.

Is it enter Mr. Hathurusingha

By Champika Fernando

(SundayTimes.lk) - Sri Lanka Cricket is reportedly in discussions with former national cricketer Chandika Hathurusingha to replace head coach Graham Ford. Fielding coach Nic Pothas has taken over during the interim.

Ford left the team midway through his four-year contract after Sri Lanka's early exit from the ICC Champion's Trophy. When he was handed a 45-months contract early last year, current SLC administrators had considered Ford to be the ideal candidate to carry the team through its transition period.

He saw Sri Lanka attain their first-ever series whitewash against Australia at home, followed by a Test and limited-over triumph in Zimbabwe. Since then, however, the team has been through a lean patch losing four out of five Test matches and eight out of 11 ODIs.

Hathurusingha is currently head coach of the Bangladesh national team with whom he is contracted till the 2019 World Cup. Under his mentorship, the Tigers made giant strides in world cricket. ... See P29

Dr. Saman Kelegama passes away

By Yusuf Ariff

(Adaderana.lk) - The Executive Director of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Dr. Saman Kelegama, has passed away at the age of

58.

The leading economist and author had passed away when he had a heart attack in Bangkok, the Sri Lankan Embassy in Thailand confirmed.

He joined the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) in 1990 and served as a Research Fellow until 1994. He was appointed as IPS Executive Director in 1995.

He was a Fellow of both the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Economic Association and was the President of the Sri Lanka Economic Association (SLEA) during 1999-2003.

He was also a former director of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE).

A past pupil of Royal College, Dr Kelegama completed his master's degree (1983) in Mathematics (Five year integrated programme) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, India.

He completed his M.Sc (1985) and D.Phil (1990) in Economics at St Catherine's College, Oxford University, UK.



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Prosperous friendship between Sri Lanka & UK

Following the recent sad events in London there is now an even greater need for all communities to work together towards achieving a cohesive, fair and prosperous society.

The British Sri Lankan Association (BRISLA) was honoured to meet and discuss these issues with the Rt. Hon. Mark Field MP, Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office at The Savoy in London this month. The Rt. Hon. Mark Field MP said, "The UK and Sri Lanka are great and longstanding friends, and I am sure that our relationship will go from strength to strength in the months and years to come. I am delighted to see British Sri Lankan communities here in the UK working together to promote trade and investment, and to keep

developing the prosperous friendship between our two countries."

Dr. Zimar Sivardeen, Chairman of BRISLA says, "Culturally diverse communities carry with them a diversity dividend and I welcome the Minister of State's intention of contributing to the welfare, prosperity and inclusion of the British Sri Lankan communities within the UK public at large." "BRISLA hopes to build bridges and contribute to the forward development of this important conversation by strengthening strong ties between all communities and faiths."

Dr. Zimar Sivardeen, Chairman of BRISLA with the Rt. Hon. Mark Field MP, Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific at the FCO.



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