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SI lose 3rd ODI, Crowds stop play, Selectors resign, Sanga speaks

(DailyNews.lk) - Following the wave of defeats Sri Lanka has suffered in the past eight months the five-member national cricket selection committee headed by former Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya tendered their resignation to Sports Minister Dayasiri Jayasekera. The Sports Minister said that the five members had met him yesterday and outlined the reasons for resigning. The selection committee comprising Jayasuriya,

Bangladesh and a one-day international series to Zimbabwe - two teams that are ranked well below them.

Further they were whitewashed by South Africa both in the Tests (3-0) and ODIs (5-0) series and they also had a disappointing Champions Trophy campaign failing to get beyond the qualifying stage.

A media release from the Ministry of Sports states a combined letter bearing the names of the five selectors had conveyed their decision to the Sports Minister and according to the letter their tenure will end on September 7.

Initially a four-member selection committee was appointed with Jayasuriya as the chairman in May last year and Gurusinha was added onto it in April.

The national selectors have been under the microscope of criticism with the mounting defeats and for not being consistent with their selections.

Jayasuriya had defended their stance stating the number of injuries was the cause for fielding 51 international cricketers across all formats that includes 40 in ODIs alone. Last month the Sports Minister extended the term of the national selection committee for a further six months till 31 December 2017. A new committee will be appointed by the Sports Minister in consultation with Sri Lanka Cricket ahead of next month's cricket series against Pakistan in the UAE.

Ugly scenes at Pallekele

(Island.lk) - There were ugly scenes at Pallekele on Sunday as fans threw objects to the ground as India were closing in on a series-clinching win in the third ODI against Sri Lanka. With India needing eight runs to complete the win, a section



Riot police enter the field to control the unhappy crowd

of the fans started hurling objects to the field. After sometime the objects were being thrown from all parts of the stands and the umpires were forced to abandon play.

It was the first time that a game had to be stopped in Sri Lanka due to crowd trouble and it reminded the ugly scenes in Calcutta during the World Cup semi-final in 1996. Match Referee Clive Lloyd awarded that game to Sri Lanka then.

Sanga says the stark truth
By Champika Fernando
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Midway through the fiasco, the players shook hands and retired to the dressing room meaning the game had been defaulted by Sri Lanka. But eventually once the Match Referee Andy Pycroft was given the assurance of no more crowd trouble the game resumed and India completed the win.

Riot police had to get into the stands to evacuate the fans on the grass bank of where the scoreboard is located. A total of



Sanath and rest of selectors resign

Romesh Kaluwitharana, Ranjith Madurasinghe, Eric Upashantha and Asanka Gurusinha have already selected the squads for the last two ODIs and the one-off T20 International against India and will remain in force till the tour ends on September 6.

The selection committee and Sri Lanka Cricket administrators have come under severe criticism from all quarters in recent weeks following the poor performances by the national cricket team. Sri Lanka has already conceded the ongoing five-match one-day international series to India 3-0 after losing the third match played at Pallekele on Sunday by six wickets where irate spectators held up play for more than 30 minutes throwing plastic bottles onto the field.

That defeat came after Sri Lanka had been drubbed 3-0 in the Test series by India. Prior to the Indian series Sri Lanka had for the first time in their history lost a Test match to



Sanga

32 minutes' play was lost due to the incident.

Over 300,000 households in Sri Lanka facing food insecurity

(Colombogazette.com) - The United Nations (UN) says over 300,000 households in Sri Lanka are estimated to be food insecure as a result of the drought.

Available water sources are also at alarmingly low levels with reservoirs country-wide 18.5 per cent full, compared to 51 per cent at the same

time in 2016.

The UN says bilateral assistance has been received or pledged by China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Republic of Korea, including provision of water bowsers, rice and cash assistance. Development partners have also committed to implementing longer-term projects, including those

aimed at building sustainable knowledge or practices in the agriculture and water management sectors, as part of disaster risk reduction actions.

UNICEF today handed over four water bowsers to President Maithripala Sirisena in support of the Government of Sri Lanka's ongoing response to the country's worst drought in 40 years. Across the country, 20 out of 25 districts have been affected with significant impacts on the economic activity, livelihoods and lives of communities. Despite the recent onset of the Southwest monsoon in late May, which triggered flooding and landslides in the country's southwest provinces, country-wide drought conditions are ongoing.

As of 29 August (1200hrs, UTC+5.30), 1.8 million people were estimated to be affected by the drought across 20 districts, according to the Disaster Management Centre.

With the drought impacting the primary and secondary harvests of ... **SEE P4**



Final draft Constitution to CA in Sept.

(ceylontoday.lk) - The final draft Constitution will be submitted to the Constitutional Assembly (CA) in the second week of September and would be made public thereafter, a high ranking official told Ceylon Today.

He added that the Executive Presidency would not be totally abolished through the amendments and that the alternate proposals would be annexed, regarding matters on which consensus could not be reached. The Operational Committee is to meet on 6 and 7 September to discuss the final draft. The Committee has informed the party leaders to submit their proposals before 31 August so that they could be annexed to the final draft, the official said.

He added that the 13 members of the Operational Committee had met on Thursday (24).

The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) said at the meeting that they had more proposals to submit. The Operational Committee has come to a policy decision on increasing the women's representation in the Parliament. However, the percentage regarding the women's representation had not been discussed, he added.

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