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## Judicial Commissioner slams Sri Lankan cricket trio as 'ringleaders'

by Rex Clementine (Island.lk) - Judicial Commissioner Michael Beloff, who heard a case on breach of Code of Conduct against the top brass of Sri Lankan cricket consisting captain Dinesh Chandimal, Head Coach Chandika Hathurusingha and Manager Asanka Gurusinha has slammed the trio as 'ringleaders'.

The International Cricket Council had named Beloff as the Judicial Commissioner to determine the sanctions again the Sri Lankan trio after they pleaded guilty for breach of conduct that is contrary to the Spirit of Cricket.

The Sri Lankans were found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute by holding up play for two hours during the second Test match against West Indies last month after captain Dinesh Chandimal was charged for ball tampering. In a 22 page report submitted to the ICC and

seen by The Island, Beloff makes very serious remarks that questions the integrity of captain, coach and manager apart from rebutting Sri Lanka Cricket and questioning the competence of their lawyers.



Judicial Commissioner Michael Beloff has criticized the Sri Lankan captain Dinesh Chandimal, Head Coach Chandika Hathurusingha and Manager Asanka Gurusinha.

In his verdict, Beloff remarks, "As three persons in such senior positions they should have been leaders by example, rather than ring leaders of dissent." "I am not oblivious to the natural tendency of those who see themselves (whether rightly or wrongly) as victims of unauthorized procedures and unevincenced criticism to stick together, but, I repeat, emotion is no exculpation. A message must be sent out not only to these Defendants but to the cricketing community generally that such behaviour is unacceptable and must and will be visited with punishment," notes Beloff.

In the detailed report, Beloff also claims that the Sri Lankans eventually took the field after being told that the game will be awarded to the West Indies. "Shortly before 11.30am, under threat of the Match Referee abandoning the Match and awarding the Match to the West Indies by forfeit under clause 16.2.1.2 of the Playing Conditions, the Sri Lankan team eventually went back onto the field."

The report has gone onto point out the Sri Lankans' total lack of respect for those involved with the game apart from exposing their lack of knowledge of the Code of Conduct.

"The conduct which gave rise to the charges showed a serious lack of respect for the authority of the match officials and a disregard of the interests of other stakeholders, spectators, broadcasters, commercial partners, and, particularly the West Indies cricket team," the report states. The report also makes fun of the defence put by the Sri Lankan lawyers who represented the trio.

"I find that the behaviour of the Team, for which the three Defendants in light of their role and status must take the blame, was a further exhibition of truculence; and I find the submission that, by being within the boundary, albeit not in the middle, the team

and the Defendants were respecting their obligation to play as, in a phrase once used of a prominent British Minister, "too clever by half", Beloff states.

The Sri Lankan board has also been rebuked. Although Minister of Sports Faizer Mustapaha has recently accepted that the Sri Lankans were wrong to not to take the field, soon after the incident happened, SLC was claiming that they will defend the players. SLC is currently run by the Secretary of the Sports Ministry.

"The Sri Lankan board's e mail put a retrospective spin (in the political not cricketing sense of the word) on the Team's behaviour, which did not in fact uphold the Spirit of the Game, but undermined it," Beloff states.

Beloff handed the maximum penalty to the trio banning them for two Tests and four ODIs.

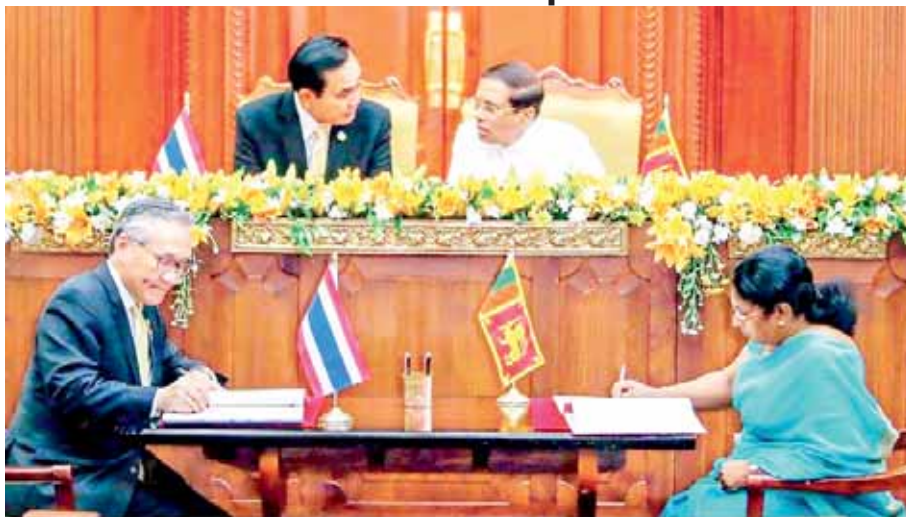
Chandimal was represented during the hearing by Chandaka Jayasundere, President's Counsel, assisted by Pulasthi and Mehran Careeem, Attorneys-at-Law while Chandika Hathurusinghe and Asanka Gurusinha were represented by Kalinga Indatissa, President's Counsel, and assisted by Pulasthi, Isuru Balapatabendi, Charaka Jayarathne and Mahesh Senarathne, Attorneys-at-Law.

## Sri Lanka and Thailand to boost trade and technical cooperation

(FT.LK) - Sri Lanka and Thailand signed four agreements this week during the two-day official visit to Sri Lanka by Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha, aimed at developing economic partnership and technical cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting with President Maithripala Sirisena and visiting the Prime Minister, discussions also focused on developing a joint tourism promotion program to take the Buddhist heritage of both countries to the world. Following the bilateral discussions, the two

countries signed a number of agreements to strengthen relations. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Strategic Economic Partnership was signed by Minister Malik Samarawickrama and Thailand's Deputy Minister of Trade. An agreement on Joint Action Program for Cooperation on Sustainable Community Development Model Based on the Application of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in Sri Lanka was also signed, while another MOU was signed on Technological Collaboration Related to Value Addition of Primary Products by Kasetsart University in Thailand and the Ministry of Primary



Industries. Further Minister of Justice Thalatha Athukorala and Thailand's Foreign Minister Kobsak Pootrakool signed a treaty on the Transfer of Offenders and on Co-operation in the Enforcement of Penal Sentences. The Prime Minister of Thailand, who was visiting Sri Lanka on the invitation of President Sirisena, extended an invitation to President Sirisena to visit Thailand again to further strengthen the cooperation and friendship between the two countries. Appreciating the relations between the two countries, both leaders focused on exploring opportunities to strengthen

ties during the bilateral discussions, a statement released by President's Media Division said. President Sirisena appreciating the progress made by Thailand in the agricultural and technical sectors and requested assistance to develop fields in Sri Lanka. General Prayut Chan-o-cha agreed to this request, promising to take steps for cooperation, the statement said. Further General Chan-o-cha also pledged to explore the possibility of providing more opportunities for Sri Lankan tea in Thailand, the statement said.

## SL complete 278-run rout inside three days

Rex Clementine reporting from Galle (Island.lk) - The worst batting by a South African team that has come to Sri Lanka was on display at the Galle International Stadium as the tourists were bowled out for 73 runs in their second-innings, their lowest total since readmission to cricket after the end of apartheid. It eclipsed South Africa's previous worst total of 79 recorded in Nagpur against India three years ago.

Set a target of 352, South Africa suffered a massive 278 run defeat as the game ended inside two and half days with off-spinner Dilruwan Perera claiming career-best figures. Perera finished with six wickets for 32 runs in the second-innings and collected a match-bag of ten wickets for 78 runs. **SEE P30**



Ten wickets in the match: Dilruwan Perera (C) leaves the grounds with team-mates after their memorable victory in the opening Test against touring South Africa at the Galle International Stadium yesterday, July 14. Sri Lanka bowled out the visitors for 73 in the second-innings, their lowest total after re-admission to Tests in the 1970s. Sri Lanka won by 278 runs. (Lakruwan Wanniarachchi / AFP)

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