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THURSDAY - 02 AUGUST 2018

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ISSUE 1391

Cricket legends slam Sumathipala on match fixing allegations

Karupiah Ramakrishnan (DailyNews.lk) - Cricket legends and former Sri Lanka captains Arjuna Ranatunga and Aravinda de Silva jointly denied the statements made by former Sri Lanka Cricket president Thilanga Sumathipala that they were involved in match fixing. Sumathipala had named Ranatunga and De Silva as two players who started match fixing from Sri Lanka and alleged that they had taken \$15,000 from someone by the name of 'Gupta'. The former SLC president had made these comments to reporters in Anuradhapura. Replying to these allegations at a press conference held at the Ministry of Petroleum Resources Development yesterday, De Silva said, "I never bother about statements made by politicians. Even my friend (Arjuna Ranatunga) is a good politician but I never bother about what he says. But the accusation made against us by Thilanga Sumathipala was investigated by the ICC headed by Queens Counsel Desmond Fernando and the ICC's Anti-Corruption Panel, Jeff Rees, and fellow investigator Alan Peacock and after the inquiry we were cleared from the allegation. "I don't know why Thilanga is talking about the inquiry which was concluded by ICC. I have

been working for the selection committee of SLC and I even declined a salary because I like to contribute to Sri Lanka cricket's development," said de Silva. Speaking further De Silva said that Thilanga had also invited him to contest for the vice presidency of SLC on several occasions. "My question to him is why did he invite me to contest if I am a person who is involved in match fixing?" Ranatunga said that Sumathipala was playing a dirty game to hide his corruptions. He questioned why Sumathipala went to Dambulla Stadium prior to the first ODI between Sri Lanka and South Africa to inspect the ground without any knowledge of it. "I can understand if someone like Sanga or Murali went to inspect it." "Aravinda and I have never played for money while representing the country. It is during Thilanga's period as president for the first time in the history of Sri Lanka Cricket domestic cricket fixing has happened. If bookies come to power ultimately fixing will happen. We should change the SLC constitution and the present system of voting otherwise our cricket will be simply destroyed," said Ranatunga.



Cricket legends Arjuna Ranatunga and Aravinda de Silva addressing a press conference at the Ministry of Petroleum Resources Development

PM announces plans for massive development of East

(Island.lk) - Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on Sunday announced that a mega development plan will be implemented with the objective of uplifting rural areas in the next two years. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said so addressing the opening ceremony of the newly built Manmunai Pattu Divisional Secretariat building in Batticaloa on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister Wickremesinghe said that necessary steps have been taken to develop tourism industry in the Eastern province. "We have already started an accelerated development program throughout the country. With the present government taking office, in 2015, each Grama Niladhari division in the country was given 1 million rupees for development programs.



Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe addressing the opening ceremony of the newly built Manmunai Pattu Divisional Secretariat building in Batticaloa on Sunday

The Divisional Secretariat is the main hub of development work. In 2015 there were many shortcomings existed in these Divisional Secretariats and we decided to address them." "By now, steps have been taken to fix the shortcomings in Divisional Secretariats and provide efficient

services to the people," the Premier added. He said the government is planning to continue the implementation of the mega development plan for rural areas in the year 2019 and 2020. "The President has initiated the "Grama Shakthi" Rural Development program according to this plan. We have also started the Gamperaliya program. In addition, several other development projects have been started focusing on developing the village," the Premier said. The rural development programs will renovate existing and construct new reservoirs anicuts and roads, the Premier explained. He added that when these constructions are carried out, the government hopes to give priority to local farmers associations and constructors not to the large scale contractors in order to direct the money to the village. "In addition, we have launched other programs to develop the conflict-affected East. One step is to develop the tourism

industry in this area but the main issue is the difficulty in transportation. As a solution we are planning to commence aviation services for tourists in the Eastern Province," he said. The Prime Minister also vested in the public the new Eravur Divisional Secretariat building. The new Manmunai Pattu and Eravur Divisional Secretariat buildings were constructed with the financial allocation from the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Government has spent over 69 million rupees to construct the new buildings consisting of fully equipped auditoriums and all facilities needed by the staff. The Minister of Home Affairs, Vajira Abeywardena, State Minister of Highways and Road Development, ALAM Hisbulla, Governor of the Eastern Province, Rohitha Bogollagama, Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs, S.T. Kodikara and a large number of government officials including politicians and politicians participated in the events.

PC polls: SC to be moved against NEC

By Shamindra Ferdinando (Island.lk) - Chairman of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) and top Joint Opposition spokesman Prof. G.L. Peiris said that his party would soon seek a Supreme Court intervention to compel the National Election Commission (NEC) to take tangible measures to hold Provincial Councils polls this year. Prof. Peiris said so, at a media briefing, at the Nelum Mawatha Office of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa.



Prof. G.L. Peiris

Prof. Peiris said that the SLPP/Joint Opposition decided to seek Supreme Court intervention in the wake of NEC Chairman Mahinda Deshapriya publicly declaring that he was powerless to act though elections to three PCs-East, Sabaragamuwa and North Central-were overdue by about 10 months. A writ of Mandamus seeking Supreme Court intervention to compel the NEC is to be sought in late August. NEC consists of Mahinda Deshapriya, Dr.

Nalin Abeysekera and Professor Ratnajeewan Hoole. Prof. Peiris recalled the circumstances under which the Sirisena-Wickremesinghe government repeatedly put off Local Government elections, which ultimately led to what he called a countrywide rout at Feb 10, 2018 polls. The former External Affairs Minister explained how the government deliberately delayed the finalization of the process in respect of the Provincial Councils (Amend) Act No. 17 of 2017 which was passed in Parliament on Sept. 20 and certified by the Speaker on Sept.

22. The former law Professor said that against the backdrop of the Supreme Court ruling out the possibility of extending the terms of Provincial Councils under any circumstances in respect of a case file last year against the government, yahapalana leaders purposely sabotaged laid down procedures to ensure scheduled PC polls. Prof. Peiris emphasized that in accordance with the existing law, in case news law couldn't be enacted as envisaged the PC polls could be held in accordance with the 'old law.' SEE P10

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