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South Africa wins ODI series 3-2

Clinical Sri Lanka hand Proteas third heaviest defeat

by Rex Clementine

(Island.lk) - The old wounds of South Africa were reopened on Sunday at RPS as the tourists struggled against the quality spin bowling of Akila Dananjaya to crash to a heavy 178 run defeat. Dananjaya claimed career best figures of six for 29 to earn the Man of the Match award as South

Africa were bowled out for 121 runs inside 25 overs after being set a target of 300. The loss was South Africa's third heaviest in terms of runs in the history. Their worst remains the 182 run loss to Pakistan in Port Elizabeth in 2002.

Only stand-in captain Quinton De Kock showed any resolve against Dananjaya, who shared the new ball with Suranga Lakmal. His first spell of five overs produced three wickets. After a partnership of 31 runs, Aiden Markram ended up giving a return catch to end a wretched tour where he failed to make a half-century after nine innings. Markram, South Africa's captain in waiting, managed a top score of 20 in Sri Lanka. The next ball, Reeza Hendricks was dismissed for a duck putting Dananjaya on a hat-trick.

The off-spinner came back for a second spell and polished off the tail. Dananjaya narrowly missed the record for best figures against South Africa by a bowler. Sunil Narine of West Indies who took six for 27 in Guyana in 2016 holds the record. Dananjaya's effort, however, is the second best figures against the Proteas. Captain Angelo Mathews produced a superb unbeaten 97 batting with authority. He required a boundary off the last ball of the innings to post his third ODI century, but just managed a single off Kagiso Rabada. It was his 37th half-century. Mathews' run a ball 97 contained 11 fours and a six. Niroshan Dickwella (43) added 50 runs for the first with Upul Tharanga (19). The form of Tharanga is a bit of concern as the opener went through the



Sri Lankan players celebrate after winning the fifth and final ODI against South Africa at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on August 12, 2018. Pic by Lakruwan Wanniarachchi.

series without scoring a half-century. Tharanga was Sri Lanka's best batsman last year in ODI cricket scoring over 1000 runs. Kusal Mendis (38) and Dhananjaya de Silva (30) chipped in with useful contributions to push Sri Lanka's total close to 300. Mathews was involved in two 50 plus partnerships with Dhananjaya de Silva and Thisara Perera and the moment Sri Lanka set South Africa a target of 300, the game was in the bag as no team had chased that many to win an ODI at RPS. The highest successful run chase at RPS is 288 for five made by India against Sri Lanka in 2012. The wicket was offering some assistance for spin bowlers and South African spinner Keshav

Maharaj was hard to score off as his ten overs cost only 32 runs. This was the 100th day night One-Day International at RPS, a landmark reached by only three other international venues - SCG, MCG and Sharjah.

HM The Queen recognises Prashan De Visser



Prashan De Visser receives the award from James Dauris, UK

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has today recognised Prashan De Visser, as the 2nd Commonwealth Point of Light from Sri Lanka, in honour of his exceptional voluntary service engaging young people and promoting peace across Sri Lanka. He is the 65th global Commonwealth Point of Light. Prashan De Visser, is the president and founder of 'Sri Lanka Unites', a youth movement bringing young people together in the aftermath of the war. Prashan launched the movement in 2009 and, since then, Sri Lanka unites has grown to a 20,000 community of 12-30 year olds from different ethnic and religious backgrounds, active in 25 districts. They have created five reconciliation centres for young people to come together to discuss collaboration and promote peace. Under Prashan's leadership the charity employs 15 full-time members of staff including a team which visits local schools to share the charity's vital work. **SEE P14**

I will never enter politics: Sanga

(DailyMirror.lk) - Former star cricketer Kumar Sangakkara confirmed that he will never enter politics despite varying opinions and speculations from both public and media on his imminent entry into politics as a possible candidate for the presidential election in 2020. Posting a statement on his facebook, Sangakkara said politics and public service was a very serious responsibility and that public duty should always be served with accountability and integrity holding sacrosanct the public trust. Full Statement: I would like to put to rest speculation and rumour once and for all, confirming that I do not harbour any ambitions for political office. I never have, and, with enormous certainty, I can say I never will. I have read with a sense of concern

reports of my imminent entry into politics in Sri Lanka as a possible candidate for the presidential election in 2020. I was also made aware of varying opinions and speculations on this from



both members of the public and media. I have, by what I hear and read, been touted as a suitable candidate by some while that others have questioned my credibility and character. While respectfully appreciating the varying

diverse opinions made public, I would like to put to rest speculation and rumour once and for all, confirming that I do not harbour any ambitions for political office. I never have, and, with enormous certainty, I can say I never will. I believe that politics and public service is a very serious responsibility. Public duty should always be served with accountability and integrity holding sacrosanct the public trust. I have the greatest respect for those public servants, whether elected or appointed, who are motivated by good and honourable intentions and are therefore steadfastly committed to the betterment of our country. While I have no political ambitions, I do hope that we Sri Lankans have the patience and foresight to not only vote the best-suited and most-qualified persons into public office, but also thereafter retain patience as positive social and economic change will not be achieved overnight. I also hope that we have the strength to

continuously agitate and demand integrity, accountability, transparency and respect from our elected politicians, ensuring they fully appreciate and understand they that are entrusted with our will to be exercised with responsibility in a manner that benefits all in our society equally. Post cricket, my plan is, first and foremost, to focus on my family after many years of sacrifice on their part while I was away playing cricket around the world. I am also looking forward to the challenge of developing a second post-playing career in an exciting new phase of my life. Finally, I wish to continue to work with existing charitable partners and friends striving to help various disadvantaged sections of our community. I am forever inspired by the selfless and passionate leaders and volunteers driving these charitable organisations forward and I will try my hardest to support their wonderful efforts in meaningful and useful ways.

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