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## \$5.5m fraud - SLC Chief Finance Officer says his e-mail was hacked

by Rex Clementine

(Island.lk) - Sri Lanka Cricket's Chief Financial Officer has informed investigators looking into one of the biggest financial scandals in the country that his e-mail had been hacked. Last Friday, Sony Television who own the television rights for the upcoming bilateral series against England, informed SLC about a suspicious move to redirect finances the company owed to SLC to an offshore account. The Chief Financial Officer on either the 3rd or 4th September had e-mailed Sony Television asking them to transfer US\$ 5.5 million to the offshore account. The correspondence between the Chief Financial Officer and Sony had been on for several weeks until the request to transfer funds in early September and Sony had no reason to doubt the process as the e-mails had been copied to both CEO Ashley de Silva and Chief Operating Officer Jerome Jayaratne. However, there was a major glitch. Although De Silva's e-mail id is [ceo@srilankacricket.lk](mailto:ceo@srilankacricket.lk), the mail had been copied to a false address [ceo@srilankacricet.us](mailto:ceo@srilankacricet.us). The same formula had been used with the e-mail copied of Jayaratne with 'us' replacing 'lk'. No one detected foul play until a telephone call from

Sony to CEO of SLC.

Since the account was not one that was provided by SLC at the moment the contract between the parties was signed, Sony had asked CEO Ashley De Silva as to whether they could go ahead and make the payment. De Silva, a former Test cricketer, avoided a major financial fraud when he smelt a rat and called for explanation from the Chief Financial Officer. At that point he was informed by the Chief Financial Officer that his account had been hacked. The CEO ordered an immediate inquiry and with no breakthrough eventually decided to make a complaint to the FCID on Monday. SLC's Finance Department was sealed on Monday as investigators decided to carry out an audit for the last 12 months. An insider told The Island that SLC didn't buy into the story that the e-mail had been hacked. "We find it difficult to believe that one particular e-mail has been hacked. However, this kind of investigation is beyond our means and I am sure the truth will come out the moment FCID finish investigations," a prominent official of SLC told The Island. The official also denied that the Chief Financial Officer, who had been sent on compulsory leave, had links with former

President of SLC Thilanga Sumathipala having worked for him previously.

The spotlight, however, will turn on members of SLC's former Executive Committee who decided not to renew the contract of former Head of Finance Chandramali Korale. Known as an efficient and honest employee, Ms. Korale may have ruffled a few feathers when she didn't dance to whims and fancies of certain members of the former Executive Committee. They wanted a change and it has been a disastrous one. Among those who endorsed the new recruit were prominent figures including Nuzki Mohammad and Shammi Silva. The CEO of the board has come in for immense praise for averting a major financial scandal and the whole episode gives us a reminder that there requires tighter controls in managing the finances of SLC. It must be mentioned here that in 2009 the then Sports Minister sold the television rights to a blacklisted company without proper verification and SLC suffered a loss to the tune of US\$ 10 million after the company defaulted payments. Successive governments have failed to investigate one of the biggest financial scandals in the country.



SLC CEO Ashley De Silva's timely intervention prevented a financial disaster

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### Sri Lanka win Asian Netball Championship

(DailyNews) - Sri Lanka emerged the Asian region champions in the M1 Asian Netball Championships 2018 after triumphing over host Singapore 69-50 in the final played at OCBC arena, Singapore on Sunday. This is the fifth occasion Sri Lanka has won the Asian championship the last occasion being 2009. Sri Lanka and runners-up Singapore have qualified for the Netball World Cup that will be held in Liverpool in 2019. Despite putting on a strong fight,

Singapore were unable to stop the Sri Lankans from winning. The first quarter concluded with both teams tying on 16 points. Sri Lanka got into action in the second quarter to secure it 16-10.

The third quarter tested the defence of both teams with some good passes and Sri Lanka held the advantage due to Tharjini Sivalingam's height which helped to shoot all the goals while their opponents struggled.

Sri Lanka took the third quarter 18-12 and continued their domination in the fourth and final quarter which they finished in style winning 19-12.

Sri Lanka team coach Thilaka Jinadasa said: "It's our hard work that has paid off to emerge with the title after nine years. Our girls have done an excellent job throughout the tournament. We had so many obstacles but our girls managed the situations well.

"Our goal attackers and defenders did an immense job and it was well executed by goal shooter Tharjini who helped us to take the leads."

Captain of the Sri Lanka team Chaturangani Jayasuriya remarked: "I am really proud and happy for my coach and my team. In the last eight months, we



Sri Lanka champions of Asia after winning the Asian Netball Championships in Singapore

trained very hard with our coach. We maintained good discipline, as nothing is possible without that. We stuck together and maintained our team bond. I think that is our secret to winning." Despite the loss, Singapore head Coach Natalie Millich was pleased with her team's performance. "We started the match competitively, but it was always going to be hard after seven days of netball to maintain that intensity but I'm very proud. Our goal was always to make that top two and I think we did our country

very proud." Malaysia finished the M1 Asian Netball Championships in 3rd position after beating Hong Kong 52-46. Thailand won the Plate finishing 5th beating Brunei 70-34. Japan took seventh place beating India 57-54. Philippines beat Maldives for the second time in the tournament 49-37 to clinch ninth place and take the Bowl. Pakistan beat Chinese-Taipei 82-27 to take 11th place. KR



Sri Lankan players celebrate victory in the final

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