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IS SHANE WARNE DOWN AND OUT ?



Could Shane Warne have bowled his last ball on Australian soil? In the upcoming T20 bash we have heard of Lasith Malinga and Murali playing a vital part but there has been no word about Shane Warne's participation – compared to last year when he played such a high profile role in the T20 series.

Liz Hurley and Shane were featured at Crown in a fund raising stint for his foundation. He has recently had to fend off rumours of an end to that relationship too.

He is shown here 'being stretched' at the Galle Cricket Ground just prior to the start of a test match.

But Melbourne and Australian cricket lovers will forever remain grateful for the memory of his mesmerizing spin – how can we ever forget the "Gatting ball"?

MUHAMMAD ALI (1942)- "Float like a butterfly sting like a bee" and "I am the greatest".

Elephas maximus maximus and Motherly Care in heavy traffic

The number of safari jeeps at Yala National Park has increased significantly in recent years and traffic can be heavy when a baby elephant needs to cross the road – but a mother's guiding trunk is all that is needed to assure the baby that it is safe to cross. The mother generally looks after her young for between three to five years and other female elephants assist in the care of herd.

The Sri Lankan elephant population is now largely restricted to the dry zone in the north, east and southeast of Sri Lanka. It is believed that Sri Lanka has the highest density of elephants in Asia.

Asian elephants are smaller than African elephants and females are usually smaller than males and have short or no tusks.

Udawalawe, Yala, Lunugumvehera, Wilpattu and Minneriya National Parks provide a safe haven for these magnificent beasts and avoids the human-elephant conflict due to habitat loss.



Painted Stork at Yala

These large wading birds add a touch of colour to the wild life seen at Yala. They are often seen in flocks and live on small fish as they wade along the waterholes of Yala. They also nest on trees together in large numbers. They are hardly ever heard even when they are in large numbers. They don't travel far and are not migratory birds. They live peacefully with other birds as is shown in this picture taken at Yala in July 2013.

"It was the Rainbow gave thee birth, and left thee all her lovely hues" W.H. Davies 1910



Meckiff - Murali - and now Johan Botha



Fifty years have passed since Ian Meckiff's fast bowling action was "called" by leg umpire Col Egar during the test match against South Africa in Brisbane in 1963. His second, third, fifth and ninth balls were considered illegitimate by Col Egar. Captain Richie Benaud did not give Ian Meckiff another over to bowl and so ended the 18-Test career of this fast bowler at the age of 28.

Richie Benaud's spineless action was in contrast to that of Captain Arjuna Ranatunga who stood by Murali's bowling action and threatened to take his team off the Adelaide cricket ground some years later. Biomedical expert Darryl Foster at the school of human movement at the University of Western Australia conducted tests that showed Murali's flexion to be within a fifteen degree range that was considered acceptable.

Now exactly fifty years after Meckiff's brush with an umpires visual impression of an "illegitimate" delivery, South African Johan Botha's action has been called in to question after he was reported during a Ryobi Cup match as he played for South Australia against Victoria a few days ago. He has been given two weeks withing which time a report will again be obtained from Western Australia.

Murali and Lasith Malinga will both be here to play for the Melbourne Renegades and Melbourne Stars in the T20 competition that commences shortly - Johan Botha will again play for South Australia in that competition.

Australia's Mr. Cricket - DAVID HUSSEY- was recently asked to name the best three bowlers he has faced in his career - he named Murali as no. 1, Morne Morkel as no. 2 and Dale Steyn as no. 3. He went on to say that he could read Murali only 80% of the time and his accuracy was phenomenal . "He hardly bowls a loose ball" said David Hussey. "You could hear the ball fizzling in the air and the revs on the ball were Impossible".

The chanting of spectators saying "no ball" when Murali came on to bowl has ended - perhaps Johan Botha will now be the target of chanting this season.

"The important thing in life is not the victory but the contest: the essential thing is not to have won but to have fought well" Baron Pierre de Coubertin 1908