

2 govts should accept responsibility for Lahore attack

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The governments of Pakistan and Sri Lanka should accept responsibility for the terror attack on Sri Lankan cricketers in Lahore, 'Development Watch' national organizer Hashan Tilakaratne said.

A former Test captain, he told the media in Colombo today (Mar. 06) that the Sri Lankan cricket, in the midst of a severe financial crisis, had been lured into the series against Pakistan despite serious security concerns.

Mr. Tilakaratne said Sports Minister Gamini Lokuge should answer for deciding to go ahead with the tour.

Speaking further, he said broadcasting rights of the Indian tour had been sold to Nimbus for 7.5 million US dollars.

However, records say the deal is worth only 6 m USD, he said, adding that it was a question to whose pocket the remaining 1.5 m USD had gone to.

Former co-chairman of Professional Cricketers Association Shiral Lakthilake said he admitted Sri Lanka's obligation to reciprocate previous good turns by Pakistan, although Sri Lanka Cricket and the Sports Minister should never be forgiven for endangering the lives of the cricketers.

DW coordinator Asanga Magedaragamage said it was a failure on the part of SLC administration that broadcasting rights of World Cup runners-up had been sold for only 65 m USD, whereas Bangladesh and Pakistan have secured 89 m USD and 141 m USD respectively