



# GoodSport NEWS

S R I L A N K A O L Y M P I C W E E K L Y N E W S B U L L E T I N

SPORTS NEWS

*International Sports*

## NEXT STAGE IS SET PRO PUGILISTS IN SRI LANKA



*“Professional boxing is happening for the first time in the history of Sri Lanka”*

Transforming Sri Lanka for the next shift in sports in line with cricket – the only sport that is being played professionally in its true sense is a challenge that Dubai-based Sri Lankan entrepreneur and boxing enthusiast Dunstan Paul Rozairo is undertaking.

Now the stage has been set to make Colombo another Las Vegas for boxing as the fifth edition of the ‘Count-down to the Middle East Crown’ series comes to Sri Lanka on November 26 at the Sugathadasa Stadium which has a sitting capacity over 5000 seats.

Three Sri Lankans Tharindu Madushanke, Kaumini Hashini and Niraj Wijewardena will feature in the 10-fight card from 14 countries.

Truly this is one area that all federations who carry the destiny of all girls, boys, men and women could utilize.

If the respective sport could formulate schemes to ensure at least the afterlives of those sports people who bring international honour to country, the stock of the particular sport is bound to get more secure and more youngsters getting into the game.

Agree or not, this is exactly what has happened to cricket.

Fifty years ago, the game of cricket was more confined to a handful of cricketers who graduated from Colleges or to be more specific, big schools.

However, today, the worm has turned.

The majority of professional crickets in Sri Lanka start their cricket in the peripheries or at the village level.

From Page 01

Coming from a family of boxers and a former boxer at St. Mary's College Dehiwela, Rozairo made his mark in as a multifaceted event organiser in Dubai through his event management company DJMC founded in 2019.

Back of his mind, Rozairo needed give back some back to his motherland and especially, at a time when things are not so hunky-dory at this end. This is his primary reason to choose to be staged in Colombo instead of more lucrative India.

“Series 5 was to be held in India. DJMC decided to move the series to Sri Lanka to support Sri Lanka and its tourism.

“Having a series in Sri Lanka the benefit that you get is you are bound to get a lot of international exposure.

“Professional boxing is happening for the first time in the history of Sri Lanka and this should attract a lot of international promoters and boxing organizers to come over to be a part of the event.”

Professional boxers from countries like India, Japan, USA, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Ukraine and more are listed to be on show on November 26.

Rozairo added “I have been living in Dubai for the past thirty-three years. There I planned to give something to the country that made me who I am.

“In 2018, we started the first series with a lot of expectations. Our first series began in 2019. But, due to the pandemic the years 2020 and 2021 were hampered; yet, we kept moving ahead.

“Now we have reached the position that the rest of the world is looking at us as a company that could do great things for the game of boxing.

“Now that we are getting a lot of response from the world, I had a chat with the authorities in the UAE and obtained permission to move out into the world.

“Now with the support of the Lankan sports authority now we here to see that event is a success here in Sri Lanka. This is bound to create a lot of opportunities for our boxers.

“With this I am sure that most of the ex-boxers will have an afterlife in the arena.”

Rozairo also said that he is fully aware that without the game being popular, up and running in the schools and the clubs there is no way that you could have boxers who could be a part of this spectacle.

“We have to start at the grassroots level, we need to support the schools and the clubs to have more of these boxing competitions in Sri Lanka.

“It is then that we would be able to move on to the next level and have some god boxers coming from our own backyard. Then we could put them on the world stage so that they could be competitive along with the rest of the world.”

Sports minister Roshan Ranasinghe, who was the chief guest at the occasion said that, he welcomed the advent of entrepreneurs in the calibre of Rozairo, saying that this could be the threshold of a new beginning of offshore sports in Sri Lanka, and we have a lot of potential of projects of this nature especially, in the coastal areas.



# DAKAR 2026: A FIRST FOR AFRICA



The Dakar 2026 will mark the first time that an Olympic sports event will be held on the African continent.

Dakar was confirmed as host of the Youth Olympic Games at the 133rd IOC Session in 2018.

The West African nation was chosen ahead of Botswana, Nigeria and Tunisia.

The event was originally scheduled in 2022, but following the global health crisis in 2020, Senegal and the IOC agreed to postpone the Summer Youth Olympics to 2026.

## **Full gender equality at Dakar 2026**

Dakar 2026 will mark the first time that there will be an equal number of male and female athletes at the Olympics, and an equal representation in each sport and event as well.

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Of the 239 events in Dakar, there will be 11 mixed team events, 114 men's events, and 114 women's events.

The only gender-restricted competitions will be the women's rhythmic gymnastics individual and group events; these will be balanced by the two additional men's apparatus in artistic gymnastics.

There will still be 108 athletes in each gender category across the two gymnastics disciplines, the first time the sport has reached gender parity at a Games.

## **The new sports at Dakar 2026**

There will be 28 sports on the Dakar 2022 programme, plus seven additional sports that were proposed by Dakar 2026, namely;

- Baseball-5,
- Breaking,
- Karate,
- Skateboarding,
- Sport climbing,
- Surfing,
- Wushu.

This means that all sports from Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 will be included in the Dakar 2026 Programme.

Additionally, wrestling will welcome the new discipline of beach wrestling to sit alongside freestyle.

Canoe/kayak events will be held as beach events in the Atlantic Ocean, while for the first time the modern pentathlon swim will be held as an open water race.

Continued on Page 04

From Page 03

***A long-lasting legacy for Africa and the Senegalese Youth***

Dakar 2026 hopes to encourage young people to get active through a celebration of sport and culture that launches in October and November 2022, when the 2022 YOG were originally scheduled before their postponement.

The Dakar en Jeux festival aims to not only promote the Youth Olympics, but also “encourage young people to get involved”.

The festival will be held each year until 2026, featuring sports activities and competitions, concerts and cultural celebrations.

The local organising committee will also run a new education programme focused on the Olympic values that aims to reach up to 900,000 children in 11,000 schools by 2026.

Students aged from 9 to 15 throughout Senegal will have the opportunity to attend the courses, with participants also given the opportunity to volunteer at the YOG.

There is also a Kids Olympic Skills initiative to promote education and youth engagement through sport, with the nationwide project giving children aged from 6 to 18 the chance to try a range of different sports.

All these activities are in line with Youth Olympic Games mission that is about learning important skills, connecting to other cultures, and celebrating the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect.

***Dakar 2026: The Venues***

The Games will be held across different venues in three host sites: the capital Dakar, Diamniadio and Saly on the coast.

**Dakar**

- Complexe Iba Mar Diop (Iba Mar Diop Stadium) ;
- Caserne Samba Diery Diallo;
- Complexe Tour de l'Oeuf (Olympic pool) ;
- Arène Nationale de Lutte;
- Plage Vivier Almadies.

**Diamniadio**

- Stade Olympique de Diamniadio;
- Dakar Arena;
- Dakar Expo Centre;
- CICAD;
- Académie Francophone de Tennis

**Saly**

- Saly Beach, East;
- Saly Beach, West;
- Golf de Saly.



## IOC PRESIDENT THOMAS BACH MEETS WITH MACKY SALL, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

During a visit to Senegal, IOC President Thomas Bach updated the head of state on the great progress of the preparations for the Youth Olympic Games that will take place in Dakar in 2026, becoming the first ever Olympic event in Africa

“It has been a great pleasure to finally meet again after the COVID-19 pandemic,” said President Bach after the meeting.

“I would like to thank President Sall for all the support he has been giving to the youth of Senegal, to sport, and to the Olympic Movement.

“Thanks to this support, we are very confident in the success of the Youth Olympic Games here in Senegal in four years.”

The IOC President shared his anticipation of the event: “We cannot wait for the moment to be back here and to enjoy this first Olympic event on African soil, an event for Africa, with Africa, that will welcome the youth of the world in Senegal.”

The West African country will become the continent’s first ever Olympic host when it welcomes the Youth Olympic Games 2026 in Dakar.

“We can expect a festival of excellence in sport, of African culture, the joy of living and the wonderful hospitality of the African people,” concluded President Bach.



President Macky Sall thanked Thomas Bach and the IOC for their friendship and expressed his gratitude “for the great cooperation with the Dakar 2026 Organising Committee”.

The two leaders also discussed the global geopolitical situation and other topics of mutual interest.

Earlier in the day, the IOC President visited the campus of the university of Diamniadio, host of the future Youth Olympic Village.

In the presence of 100 students and young girls and boys from Senegalese sports clubs, he planted a symbolic baobab to celebrate the first phase of tree-planting activities for the Olympic Forest in Senegal and Mali.

At Dakar train station, the IOC President was introduced to the Dakar fresco, a colourful creation by talented young artists inspired by the Olympic values, portraying Olympians. There, he also interacted with young kids training for Dakar 2026, who showed off their skills in fencing, badminton, breaking and wushu, all part of the Youth Olympic Games sports programme.

Throughout his visit, President Bach was accompanied by Mr Mamadou Diagna Ndiaye, IOC member in Senegal and President of the Organising Committee of the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026, and Ms Kirsty Coventry, IOC member in Zimbabwe and Chair of the Dakar 2026 Coordination Commission.

# COLOMBO KICKERZ FOOTBALL CARNIVAL 2022 POWERED BY ABANCHY

*Abanchy Ceylon joined hands with Colombo Kickerz Football Academy to host its inaugural Football Carnival*



The event featured merchandise stalls, food and beverage stalls, face painting and a bouncy castle for the children to have a field day amidst wet weather at Racecourse.

The weather did not dampen the spirits of the participants, parents and fans as a successful tournament - the first of its kind - organized by the Colombo Kickerz Football Academy ended in flamboyant style.

Event Partner Abanchy Ceylon was the main sponsor, and this would not have been possible without their encouragement.

The Carnival was conducted on the 22nd of October 2022 with the participation of twenty eight teams in three age categories as they battled it out at the Racecourse International Stadium.

The teams comprised from Blue Jay's Football Academy Hatton, Colombo International School, Colombo Lions Football Academy, Kotaheena Central College, Renown Football Academy, Royal College, St. Joseph's College, Sunday Football Academy Avissawella, The Overseas School of Colombo, The Traveller Football Academy Gampola and hosts Colombo Kickerz Football Academy.

The games were played in a league format in the round robin stage, while the knockout stage featured a pair of qualifiers and an eliminator to pick the ultimate winner.

Renown dominated the tournament, winning the Under-12 and Under-14 age groups, while The Traveller Football Academy won the prestigious Under-16 category.

An award was presented to the team which displayed Fair Play, while the Golden Glove and Golden Boot were awarded to the best players of each age category.

Second Runner Up	Under - 12 - Colombo Kickerz		
First Runner Up	Under - 12 - Blue Jay		
Winner	Under - 12 - Renown White		
Second Runner Up	Under - 14 - Royal College		
First Runner Up	Under - 14 - Blue Jay		
Winner	Under - 14 - Renown White		
Second Runner Up	Under - 16 - Royal College		
First Runner Up	Under - 16 - Renown Blue		
Winner	Under - 16 - The Traveller Football Academy		
Fair Play Award	The Traveller		
Golden Glove	Under - 12 - Mahir Imran (Renown White)	Under - 14 - Ahamed Nadeera (Renown White)	Under - 16 - Mohomad Hamdi (Traveller)
Golden Boot	Under - 12 - Yakob (Renown White)	Under - 14 - Sithija Niroshan (Renown White)	Under - 16 - Nazmi Ahamed (Traveller)