



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

STATE-OF-THE-ART SLADA - A HUGE IMPETUS FOR LANKAN ATHLETES AND ATHLETICS



Competition is an inherent extension of humanity. An animal brood generally engages in competition among the siblings – engaging in mock battles automatically establishes the leader of the gang and thus this position establishes the pup’s position right into adulthood.

In early human evolution, it may have been the same, but, through their ability to grasp more, the humans created more branches to that tree and the segments became broken into the hierarchical governing system et al. At the same time, especially in combat situations, competition churned into an art and involuntarily, sport also developed as a tool to establish a man’s "manliness" in non-combat situations.

Nonetheless, when the ancient Greeks established the Olympic Games, the meaning of the word competition in sport took an organised meaning and norm.

That was the very reason that French aristocrat Pierre de Coubertin organised the world’s first Congress on Physical Education in 1889 and began to build the international network of educators, politicians, aristocrats, commerce, culture and sport who would help him fulfill his Olympic dream.

Five years later, on 23 June 1894, in the grand amphitheater of the Sorbonne University, 2,000 people rose in acclamation of his proposal to revive the Olympic Games.

From that point onwards sports developed into an organised world forum and the competitors also began to develop their skills at unbelievable speed - up to the level of producing Usain Bolts who finished the 100m in an amazing 9.58s and endurance athletes in the calibre of Michael Phelps, Carl Lewis, Marx Spits and Ian Thorp, who are responsible for an astonishing 46 gold medals - is worth emulating.

Is this where the crux of the problem lay? Can everyone be equal to one of the above-mentioned? For some, the only avenue to divinity is the crooked road. That is why performance-enhancing substances have become a global problem.

From page 01



Dr. Seevali Jayawickrama - Director General of SLADA

The World Anti-Doping Agency is a foundation created through a collective initiative led by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). It was set up on 10 November 1999 in Lausanne, Switzerland. It is now situated in Canada.

Sri Lanka Anti-Doping Agency (SLADA) is the Sri Lankan arm of WADA – World Anti-Doping Agency. Now, with a fully-fledged research unit, they are ready to serve Lankan sports - free of crooked substances and shortcuts to fame. At the same time, they are also on the lookout for new accepted enhancements which are produced through flora and other homegrown organic material. That is the idea behind their research unit.

GoodSport took time off to visit this state-of-the-art sports treasure with Dr. Seevali Jayawickrama - the Director General of SLADA and share some thoughts on how to make Lankan sports a better place and make Lankan athletes a better commodity on the sports field.

Dr. Jayawickrama explained, "According to act no. 33/13, the convention against doping, is one of our objectives to have a research unit. Ours is an agricultural country and this county is blessed with countless medicinal herbs. Out of these, a lot is used in Ayurvedic treatment and so might as well probe into the possibilities uncovering any substances that could provide our sportsmen and women natural performance enhances."

The SLADA head explained that he is of the view that this is something that is lacking in this country. Through the research unit, they may be able to find suitable replacements for risky and banned substances that could end the careers of some promising athletes.

He explained, "We are a stakeholder of the World Anti-Doping Agency; also, we are the sole representatives for all the federations in this country to check and to give awareness to anti-doping education.

"So the research unit – we thought if we could fulfill our other objective meaning to eradicate doping in sports. It is a humongous task we may be able to control doping to a certain level and these supplements that are being introduced to the country are not registered under the food and drug authority. These come as borderline food agents or pharmaceuticals.

"To overcome this, we need to see if there is any possibility of finding natural substances which will enhance performance. This is one of the primary reasons for establishing a state-of-the-art facility of this nature. I am thankful that the establishment acceded for the establishment of this research unit and this unit is for the future and maybe in another three to four years, this could start yielding."

He added that scientists who are interested in this type of activity could join the unit in this endeavour. He said, that the visiting scientists also bring their proposals regarding nutrition.

Continued on Page 03



From page 02

Nutrition is one of the most important aspects of a sportsperson. Without nutrition, athletes cannot perform at all. At present, they are in the process of developing MOUs to this effect.

He also added, “We are also looking into the possibility of working with pharmaceuticals or any manufacturers in the allied line to work with us.

“Mainly, we are thinking from the medicinal point of view - like Ayurvedic manufacturers, and seek the possibilities of producing substances that could help our athletes.

“At the same time, if there are publications that go international, offshore scientists also might get interested in working at this facility.

“As far as the testing perspective is concerned, it is a separate thing. Some may query as to why we are sending the samples overseas for testing. But, here we have to abide by the World Anti-Doping Code and the international testing standards. Around the world, there are only 31 accredited laboratories and we have to select one of them.

“Annually, we get around 300 samples in the region; out of this, we get about 5% to 10% positive cases.

“The norm is, that a research organisation will not come under a testing unit and it has to be separate. These testing units are separate – transparency in this type of work is important.



“There are only 6-7 testing destinations in Asia. Each test costs about 250-300US\$. This is costly business; we have to target educating the athletes. For instance, out of the main cities, many people do not know what Anti-Doping is. This is a task at hand and we need to collaborate with a CSR programme of a company and go together to popularize this message of Anti-Doping. Besides, we managed to include this in the curriculum from grades 6 to 11.

GoodSport inquired about Anti-Doping aspects and the preparations for the Asian Games, which is around the corner. He said, “In Sri Lanka, if we have a proper database on athletes' performances and their ups and downs, there should be a scientific committee to examine the cases according to the available data and learn – if there is a drop in performance, what the reason is and what their shortcomings are.

“For instance, the organisers of the Asian Games will send all the requirements to the National Olympic Committee.

“It is the gateway to international sports in this country. At that point, if we also could get involved - we might be able to conduct seminars, awareness and testing in a proper manner and the whole effort could yield better results.

“Unfortunately, in Sri Lanka, things begin to move only with around three months to go and there is a huge rush; these things should be properly organized so that every aspect of the preparation could work very smoothly. When the pools are being set up, our part of the operation should be in force. When the final selection is done and there is hustle and bustle, it is difficult to accomplish our and the athletes' tasks smoothly.”



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සම්පූර්ණ කිරීමට තිළිණ
එක්සත් රාජධානියට



ලිම්පික් බැඩ්මින්ටන් ක්‍රීඩිකා තිළිණ හෙන්දහේවා ක්‍රීඩා විද්‍යාව පිළිබඳ ශාස්ත්‍රපති උපාධිය සම්පූර්ණ කිරීම සඳහා දිවයිනෙන් එක්සත් රාජධානිය බලා පිටත්ව ගියාය.

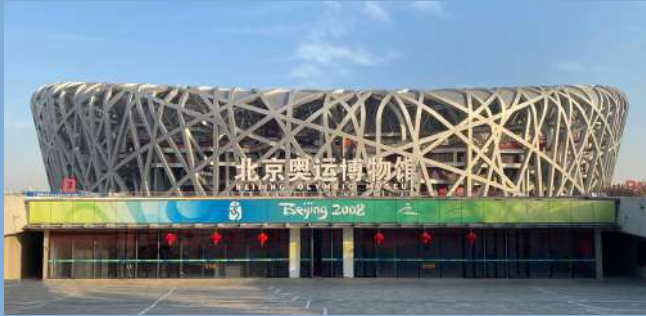
දැනට පැවැත්වෙන බැඩ්මින්ටන් ජාතික තරඟාවලිය මඟ හැරීමට සිදුවූණ තිළිණ, සවුක් වේල්ස් විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයට අනුයක්තව එක්සත් රාජධානියේ විවිධ තරඟවලට සහභාගි වෙමින් ක්‍රීඩාවේ දිගටම රැඳී සිටීමට බලාපොරොත්තු වෙයි.

ඇය 2014 චීනයේ නැන්ජිං හි පැවති ගිම්හාන යොවුන් ඔලිම්පික් උළෙලට මෙන්ම, 2014 සහ 2018 පොදුරාජ්‍ය මණ්ඩලීය ක්‍රීඩා උළෙලට ද ඉදිරිපත් වූවාය.

2014 දී, ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික ශූරතාවලියේ කාන්තා කේවල ශූරිය වූයේ හෙන්දහේවා ය. ඇය 2017 ලාගෝස් ජාත්‍යන්තර තරඟාවලියේ කාන්තා කේවල ඉසව්වෙන් ඇයගේ පළමු ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ ජාත්‍යන්තර ශූරතාව දිනා ගත්තාය.

එම තරඟාවලියේදීම, ඇය කවිදි සිරිමාන්නගේ සමඟ එක්ව යුගල ඉසව්ව ජයගත් අතර, පසුව 2019 දකුණු ආසියානු ක්‍රීඩා උළෙලේ රන් පදක්මට ගිම්කම් කීවේය. ඇය 2022 ඔසීෂා විවෘත තරඟාවලියේදී සවින් ඩයස් සමඟ මිශ්‍ර යුගල ඉසව්ව ජයග්‍රහණය කළ විට, BWF ලෝක සංචාර තරඟාවලියක් ජයග්‍රහණය කළ පළමු ශ්‍රී ලාංකිකයන් දෙදෙනාගෙන් කෙනෙකු බවට පත් විය.

BEIJING OLYMPIC MUSEUM BECOMES NEWEST MEMBER OF THE OLYMPIC MUSEUMS NETWORK



Since 2014, the BJOM has run a series of community-based programmes and workshops for the local public to promote Olympic culture and Olympic education among young people, in addition to presenting its collections of torches, medals, uniforms, equipment and other heritage items through the permanent exhibition “One World, One Dream”. The Museum welcomes about 200,000 students each year, and its educational activities are divided into four categories: guided tours, special events, information campaigns and exhibition tours.

The Beijing Olympic Museum (BJOM), which commemorates both the Olympic Summer Games 2008 and the Olympic Winter Games 2022, has joined the global Olympic Museums Network (OMN) as its 33rd member. Located inside the “Bird’s Nest” (National Stadium), the BJOM boasts 34,500 square metres of multi-media exhibits and displays that transport visitors into the history, sporting culture and Olympic legacy of Beijing.

By making full use of the legacy left by the two editions of the Olympic Games held in the city, the BJOM hopes to introduce the Olympic Movement to more people and encourage the general public, especially teenagers, to actively participate in sport.

The BJOM was elected to the OMN, headquartered in Switzerland, during the latter’s 17th General Assembly, held at The Olympic Museum in Lausanne in late 2022. During the General Assembly, BJOM Director Hou Ming presented the BJOM’s objectives and plans to the 56 representatives of 32 Olympic Museums from 22 countries. “Established in 2009, the Beijing Olympic Museum never stopped collecting artefacts and creating educational programmes to reach local populations and share the Olympic values,” he said. “We are now refurbishing our Museum to enhance the visitor experience and give the best exposure to our collections.”

The OMN was founded in 2006 at The Olympic Museum in Lausanne, and is now a 33-member multi-national network that creates a unique, integrated platform to promote Olympism, the values of sport and the Olympic Games. Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage (OFCH) Director and OMN Chair Angelita Teo said: “The Beijing Olympic Museum is a great addition to an already dynamic network, and this further enhances our commitment to reach more people to spread the Olympic ideals.”

GANGWON 2024: YUNA KIM REVEALS MASCOT MOONGCHO AT EVENT TO CELEBRATE ONE YEAR TO GO

Gangwon 2024 mascot Moongcho was unveiled at a ceremony on the 19th January 2023, to mark one year to go before the Winter Youth Olympic Games, with B-girl Kim Yeri appointed as the second honorary ambassador for Gangwon 2024 after Yuna Kim.

A number of symbols of the upcoming Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games were revealed at the ceremony to mark one year to go at Yongpyeong Resort in PyeongChang. The event, which marks the countdown to Gangwon 2024, was also staged as an opener for the 2023 Winter Korea Festival Day, which aims to promote the Visit Korea Year of 2023/24.

The Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games will take place in Gangneung City as well as the provinces of PyeongChang, Jeongseon and Hoengseong from 19 January to 1 February 2024, with 1,900 athletes – 950 women and 950 men – from more than 70 countries participating.

The ceremony began with a message from IOC President Thomas Bach wearing a sweatshirt with the slogan “Grow Together, Shine Forever” printed on the chest.

Gangwon 2024 ambassador Yuna Kim, General Secretary of the Organising Committee Kim Cheolmin, Chairman of the PyeongChang 2018 Legacy Foundation Yoo Seungmin, and Korean Sport & Olympic Committee President Lee Kee Heung were also present at the ceremony. Created by designer Park Suyeon, Gangwon 2024 mascot Moongcho was born of a snowball that PyeongChang 2018 mascots Soohorang and Bandabi played with during their snowball fights. The mascot was chosen from no fewer than 601 candidates that were submitted during a nationwide contest. The Organising Committee of Gangwon 2024 hosted the contest, open to youth aged between 14 and 24, with the aim of getting young people involved in the competition.

The official theme song 'We go high' was composed by a college student named Kim Keunhak. The choreography that accompanies the song, created by Kim Sori, was performed on stage by 60 youngsters including 15 from overseas who have taken part in the Dream Programme hosted by the PyeongChang 2018 Legacy Foundation.



One of the performers was none other than Kim Yeri, who won the bronze medal in breaking at the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games. Also known as B-girl Yell, Kim was appointed as the second ambassador of Gangwon 2024 and will work alongside Yuna Kim.

"As a matter of fact, I never imagined that I would become an ambassador for any sporting event," she admitted. "I thought this kind of role was for people who are more influential than myself, but I'm motivated to work harder as I've been given this role. When I took part in the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, I thought young athletes could compete as well as their senior counterparts in terms of their physique and skills. So I expect to see more talent emerge at Gangwon 2024 as well. There are so many people who have worked hard from a young age, long before they become senior athletes. It's such a glorious opportunity for them to participate in the Youth Olympic Games, no matter whether or not they win medals."

