



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

OLYMPIC NEWS

Equestrian – the first to jump the Olympic hurdle



Karlsson now cynosure of all eyes

In this tiny island there are athletes, volleyball players, boxers and you still add a few more to the list.

Yet, they are either still striving in hope or completely out of the Olympic race.

Sri Lanka is fortunate because it is an Equestrian who has been added to the record books, after thirty-seven-year-old Mathilda Karlsson became eligible to take part at the 2020 Olympic Games from 23 July to 8 August 2021 in Tokyo, Japan.

Sri Lanka earned the individual Tokyo 2020 quota place in jumping following a successful appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

The decision by the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) to annul results from its events at Ville-neuve-Loubet in France that concluded in January 2020 was successfully challenged by the



Lankan Equestrian Association and Karlsson.

GoodSport had the good fortune of zoom chatting with Karlsson on -

her achievement, while walking down a busy German street in high traffic time. Her initial sentiments were aired in this manner. She said “I am so happy with the bumpy road and there is a long way to go; I am eagerly waiting to represent Sri Lanka at the Olympics.”

At that point we asked her about her ordeal where she was in the competition at one moment and out of in the next. We wanted her to explain in her own words.

She said “The Olympics is a very important event. Everyone is really fighting hard to gain a slot.

From Page 01

“I knew that I did not do anything wrong and at the same time everyone was trying to help me during my predicament. I think Hong Kong was pretty sure that they will have it (the show jumping event).

“At one point it looked like when I dropped a little in the ranking in November, but I gained points that I needed once again in December and they took a chance I guess to try to find a reason why I should not go as I had earned the points.

“Yet, it took a long time to get through the system and finally win this case, but I knew whole time that I was right and I would go through, but time was a little bit against me, but because of the postponement due to Corona things worked to my advantage.

“In fact, it took more than a year and I am so relieved that it was done.”

GoodSport then turned to the President of the Sri Lankan Equestrian Association Suranjith Premadasa about his views on the matter.

“ The Olympics is a very important event. Everyone is really fighting hard to gain a slot. ”

He said “As she told us about the issue and every sport has these loop holes – someone to get into a slot.

“But we fought the case in Lausanne and from this end I did whatever we could along with the NOC SL to do the paperwork.

“Because we knew that this was the only way that we come to the first place of the given sport, so the FEI had taken it back at one moment and now they have given it back.”

We asked her about what category that she intends taking part? Mathilda said that she would be taking part in the show jumping discipline.

We then turned to Premadasa and asked about their partnership and how it works.

He said “We were looking at suitable expatriates from several destinations and I knew that Mathilda would be suitable because of the primary reason being that she had the horses and the real ones.

“I hope that association has worked well enough and now we are taking part at the Olympics.”



Continued on Page 03

OLYMPIC NEWS

GoodSport NEWS

From Page 02

Talking about horses GoodSport asked Mathilda about what kind of horse that she intends riding at the Olympics.

She explained “In reality he is my second half.

“He is a fine stallion and he is the best partner that you can have. I had him for all his life and he is very special.

“I do not think there would be many competitors at show jumping in Tokyo, people who have bred their horses and lived the full life except for us.

“We know each other so well. He has everything that an Olympic horse should have.

“He loves travel and scream out his name when he enters the arena. We understand each other very well.”

Then we asked a little about her horse breeding farm.

Mathilda said “I am really blessed to have a partner and we do a lot of breeding and we get about two hundred foals a year and that is amazing.

It is nice to see them grow and many of the horses I have been riding are the father, the mother and sometimes even the grandmothers and it is special.”

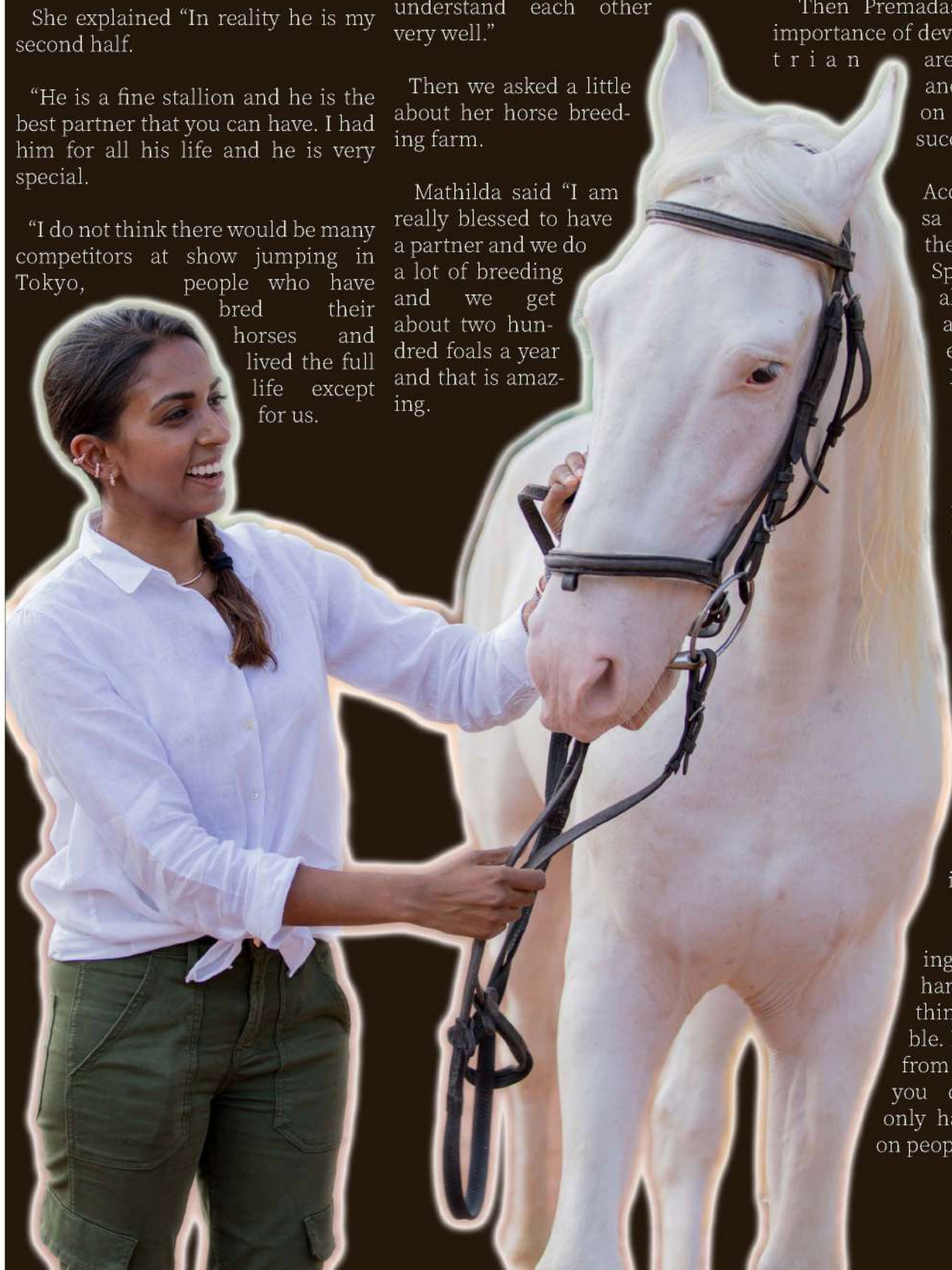
Then Premadasa reiterated the importance of developing an equestrian arena in Sri Lanka and he is working on it with very little success.

According Premadasa it all depends on the Minister of Sports because they already have a plot allocated for equestrian in Diyagama, but the work is stalled in the project. But they have about 1400 riders with basic training.

If they have the arena they could request from the FEI – their governing body.

GoodSport asked Mathilda as what her advice to all budding athletes in Sri Lanka.

She said “Main ingredient is to work hard, even when things look impossible. It does not matter from what background you come from you only have to keep trust on people that matters”.



They are at the doorstep while Paralympic rower Jayakody is in

In 2019, petite Milka Gehani de Silva said with a twinkle in her eyes that she believed that if she could live up to the given schedules in Japan offered she would be able to live the rest of the

Sri Lanka's second contender for Olympic Medal honours after Show Jumper Mathilda Karlsson who has already jumped the hurdle.

The final qualifying event for the Olympics was to be held in May or June but it is unlikely to be held because of the health situation around the world.

Olympic qualifying competition for the Tokyo Games was not held last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic with the last event being 2019 World Gymnastics Championship in Japan where Gehani obtained 47.2 points to emerge as Asia's number one. Significantly her performance places her ahead of renowned Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak.

With no other qualifying events likely to be held before the Tokyo Games, Milka Gehani is likely to retain the number one rank in Asia but the international federation has not officially confirmed her participation in the Olympics.

Training in Japan under the Olympic Solidarity Programme, the 18-year-old star has competed in several international tournaments and represented Sri Lanka at the 2016 Commonwealth Youth Games and 2018 Youth Olympics.

A past pupil of Methodist College, Milka Gehani is a product of former national gymnast Ranjana Tharanga.

Gymnastic community in Sri Lanka.

Now it has to be as she emerged as the number one in the artistic nastic event.

The International Gymnastics Federation has not yet confirmed her qualification to the local body or the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka (NOC SL). Now the question is that would Gehani be -

The postponed Tokyo Olympics is scheduled to take place from July 23 to August 8.



OLYMPIC NEWS

GoodSport NEWS

From Page 04



Mathew Abeysinghe another in the short list?

Not far behind, swimmers Mathew Abeysinghe and Aniqah Gaffoor, Judoka Chamara Dharmawardena, Olympic Badminton player Niluka Karunaratne and hopefully a few athletes from Archery, Athletics, Shooting, Wrestling and Weightlifting are likely to make it to Japan.

This will be a landmark to remember.

Among them the most significant is Sri Lankan high jumper Ushan Thiwanika Perera who is currently a student at Texas A&M University.

Niluka Karunaratne striving hard



Chamara looking the second Olympic opportunity

He renewed his Sri Lanka record as well as South Asian record in men's high jump with a leap of 2.30m at the Texas Conference meet on May 8, 2021. He is only three centimetres short to qualify for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

However,

Ushan said 'I strongly believe that I shall make Olympic qualification with my maximum effort in the upcoming meets - that's my dream.'

According to the World Athletics, Ushan is ranked 64 with a score of 1129 [updated on May 04, 2021]. With his last recorded performance, he shall definitely climb up the World Athletics ranking ladder.

Legend in High Jump Dr. Nagalingam Ethirveerasingham OLY said "Ushan's current performance is marked as the best height in Asia in this year in outdoors." Also, Dr. Ethirveerasingham believes that Ushan has a great potential to bring an Olympic medal to home.

Continued on Page 06



From Page 05



Rower Mahesh Jayakody has joined another three para Olympians at the Tokyo Stadium

Jayakody also makes it to Tokyo to make the count up to four para-athletes

Meanwhile like Mathilda Karlsson in the mainstream of the Tokyo Olympics, Sri Lanka's Mahesh Jayakody also qualified for Tokyo Paralympics in men's single sculls rowing. Jayakody secured a direct entry to Paralympic Games after finishing first in the PRI Men's Single Sculls at the Asia and Oceania Olympic and Paralympic rowing qualifier in the Japanese capital Tokyo.

With Jayakody's achievement, four Sri Lankans have now qualified to take part in this year's Tokyo -

Paralympic Games and the Paralympic Committee of Sri Lanka expects the number of athletes would go up to seven.

Paralympic bronze and World Para Championship silver medallist Dinesh Priyantha Herath (Javelin F 46), Samitha Dulan (Javelin F44), Sampath Bandara (Archery) already qualified for the event.

6th Summer Paralympic Games, is scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan between 24 August and 5 September 2021.

The rowing final was dominated by the Sri Lankan who came to the event with a wealth of experience was able to lead the event from start to finish.

He became the first para-rower to qualify for the Tokyo Paralympics Games during the competition. Uzbekistan's Egamberdiev Kholmorod secured the second place and B Comnujan of Thailand finished third. Jayakody secured a silver medal in both Asian Para Rowing Championship in 2019 and has won many other awards in a number of local tournaments for rowing.

Dr. Samitha Samanmali competed in the Women's PRI Single Sculls event and came behind the home favourite Tomomi Ichikawa of Japan.

Ichikawa was the most experienced athlete who has finished 14th in the 2019 World Rowing Championship held in Ottensheim, Austria went to podium finish without any major resistance from her competitor. However, Dr. Samitha Samanmali created history by being the first Sri Lankan woman to win a medal at the Asian Para Rowing Championship 2019 held in Chungju, South Korea.

Sri Lanka fielded two competitors in the Men's and Women's PRI Single Sculls events and Captain A M M M Alahiyawanna (Coach), Captain M B C H Liyanage (Asst Coach), Lasantha Welikala (Manager) joined the Sri Lankan Contingent as officials.

Applications are Open for Advanced Sport Management Courses An Advanced Diploma Programme

Olympic Solidarity and the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka have joined to provide a unique opportunity for Olympic Sport Organizations, including the National Olympic Committee, National Federations, and organizations responsible for the development of Olympic Sport through the Advanced Sport Management Courses (ASMC).

The ASMC consists of six modules covering organising an Olympic sport organisation, managing strategically, managing human resources, managing finance, managing marketing, and organising a major sporting event.

This advanced sport diploma course will be conducted over a twelve (12) months period in seven sessions consisting of two day long sessions. In total, 14 days will be devoted to in-class work, involving a general presentation and discussion of each chapter and presentation of case studies, and the remaining time will be devoted to distance-learning, which involves reading the Managing Olympic Sport Organizations (MOSO) book chapters and completing case studies.

The sessions are managed by Programme -

Director, who has been qualified by training conducted by Olympic Solidarity, and course facilitators, who will assist the Programme Director and are responsible for the delivery of the programme.

ASMC is designed for volunteer and paid staff of the executive level at the National Olympic Committee, National Federations and other bodies responsible for the development of Olympic Sport.

It is important that participants are at the executive level because those who are not in senior management positions will find it extremely difficult to complete the case-study work and presentations that are a key part of the courses.

They may also find it difficult to contribute to the general discussion and sharing of experience and knowledge that will create the desired learning community. Participants must attend 100% of the -

sessions for all six modules to successfully complete the course. For each module, participants will need to develop a small case study on their organizations.

After completing the six chapter modules, participants must evaluate the impact of the course on their organization and themselves through the development of a report on the learning process, which will be presented and discussed in small groups with the Programme Director and Course Facilitators. In addition, participants will complete an anonymous final internal evaluation questionnaire related to the content, teaching methods and material of the ASMC.

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive an Advanced Professional Certificate in the Management of Olympic Sport Organizations, certified by the International Olympic Committee.



Call for Application...

Advanced Sport Management Course

One-year Advanced Diploma



Entry Qualification:

- Hold a Managerial/ Executive position in an organization dealing with sports, physical education leisure and recreation and sport
- A good command of English with ability to write
- Computer

Selection process:

All applicants are required to attend the full day workshop on **May 31, 2021** for the final selection. The successful candidates will be notified on **June 05, 2021** through e-mail.

For more info – olympic.lk/nocnews/347

How to Apply:

- ✓ Downloaded Application from website
- ✓ A recommendation from National Federation or representative organisation
- ✓ Resume
- ✓ Address to "The Secretary General, NOC Sri Lanka, 100/9F, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka"

Course Payment: LKR. 65,000/=

Apply before
May 20, 2021

Tel: +94-11-268-4420
Email: natolocom@slt.lk
Web: www.olympic.lk

