



GoodSport NEWS

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SPORTS NEWS

Sri Lanka's national sport gets huge fillip

Sports Ministry

allocates **Rs 42mn** for the development

National Volleyball

Sri Lanka's The Sports Ministry has decided to allocate a sum of Rs 42 million to the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation (SLVB) for indoor volleyball and beach volleyball.

With the National Sports Council (NSC) having identified volleyball as a sport in which Sri Lanka can win on the international arena, the ministry has decided to grant funds to the SLVB.

Volleyball has been recognized as the national sport and has a history of over 100 years.

The Sports Ministry has given these funds for the benefit of volleyball -

players and to improve the facilities required for both indoor and beach volleyball.

The SLVB and the Department of Sports Development of the ministry signed a memorandum of understanding in this regard.

The MoU signing took place in the presence of Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa at Volleyball House, Galle between Department of Sports Development Director General Amal Edirisuriya and SLVB secretary A.S. Nalaka.

Elaborating on the draft Secretary SLVB Nalaka said "Though we are certain of the allocation, we are not -

sure as to when we could launch the programme in earnest owing to the prevailing situation of the country.

"According to the MoU, indoor men's volleyball will get Rs 27,391,800/=, men and women beach volleyball Rs 16,600,200/=.

"These funds will be disbursed in instalments by the Sports Ministry in future.

"However the allocations will come in monthly instalments and the programme is for a period of two years."

From Page 01



Department of Sports Development DG Amal Edirisuriya and SLVB secretary Nalaka exchanging documents after the signing of the MoU.

Four lifters (3 men and 1 woman) who took part in the Asian Weightlifting Championships in Uzbekistan from April 16-21 failed to achieve Olympic qualification while the Sri Lanka wrestling team failed to make it to Sofia, Bulgaria for the World Wrestling Championship (May 6-9) which was the final Olympic qualification event.

“Besides nurturing the three Volleyball pools the monies will also be utilised for the purchase of air tickets when we are taking part in engagements overseas.

“We have had the support of the ministry on previous occasions, but, this is the single most boost for the development of the National Sport of this country and I feel it is a huge fillip to the game”

One of the main objectives is to improve Sri Lanka’s volleyball ranking in Asia.

Sports Minister Rajapaksa has also urged the SLVB to make arrangement to host an international volleyball tournament in Sri Lanka once the COVID-19 situation returns to normal.

Meanwhile, on the advice of the Mahela Jayawardene-led NSC the Sports Ministry plans to channel their resources to five sports identified as having the potential to win at international level. Apart from volleyball, the others are tennis, karate, swimming and shooting with the ministry expected to sign MoUs with the respective associations in the near future.

Weightlifting and wrestling seek wildcard entry for Olympics

Sri Lanka’s hopes of achieving the qualifying standard for the Tokyo Olympics in weightlifting and wrestling have been dashed.

Weightlifters Indika Dissanayake (73kg) and Viraj Palangasinghe (61kg) and wrestler Chamara Malinda Perera (65kg) have missed out on going to the Olympics.

The delay in getting visas prevented wrestler Perera and two officials (manager and coach) from participating in the 2021 World Wrestling Olympic qualification event.

Meanwhile, the president of the Sri Lanka Wrestling Federation (SLWF) Sarath Hewavitharana who was to accompany the wrestling team to Bulgaria is still hospitalized at IDH after being tested positive following a PCR test.

Considering the adverse health situation in the country, SLWF president Hewavitharana and Sri Lanka Weightlifting Federation secretary G. Nishanthan hope to request the respective international bodies and the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka to give them ‘wildcards’ for the Olympics.



Daraz now the Official Overseas Team Sponsor of Sri Lanka Cricket

Daraz will be the Official Overseas Team Sponsor of Sri Lanka Cricket for the remainder of the year 2021, which will include high profile series against Bangladesh, England, South Africa and Scotland, promising excellent entertainment eagerly awaited by many across the country.

The culture of Sri Lanka is steeped in cricket and transcends the boundaries of age, gender, race and religion and we as a people, thrive on it as our lifeblood.

As such, Daraz takes great pleasure in announcing their role as the Official Overseas Team Sponsor of Sri Lanka Cricket for 2021. The Daraz Group, a subsidiary of global e-commerce giant Alibaba, view cricket sponsorships as one of the key pillars of Daraz's brand strategy.

In response to the love for the game by our customers in many of our markets, Daraz also sponsors the national cricket team of Bangladesh as well. As such, marking a first in Cricket in the region, both teams at the upcoming Sri Lanka – Bangladesh ODI series, will be sponsored by the same company.

This is indicative of the continuous prosperity and growth of the largest online shopping platform within South Asia, as they continue to improve the e-commerce infrastructure in the region.

Sharing his thoughts at the sponsorship, Rakhil Fernando, Managing Director of Daraz, stated, "It is our vision to see Daraz grow from strength to strength and ingrain itself in the fabric of culture within the markets we operate.

"This sponsorship is a testament to that plan and vision. Us sponsoring the Sri Lanka cricket team as they represent our country overseas, solidifies our support and commitment to Sri Lanka".

The Chief Executive Officer of Sri Lanka Cricket Mr. Ashley De Silva observed, "By partnering with Sri Lanka Cricket, Daraz has made an excellent move, which I am certain will benefit their brand immensely". This is not Daraz's debut cricket sponsorship.

Having most recently partnered Sri Lanka Cricket, during the England Tour of Sri Lanka, which took place in January 2021, as well as the Lanka Premier league which took place in November and December 2020.

Daraz also co-sponsored the test matches of the Sri Lankan tour of South Africa in December 2020 at Centurion and Johannesburg, South Africa.



OFFICIAL OVERSEAS TEAM SPONSOR OF SRI LANKA CRICKET

Olympic athletics at Tokyo: top five things to know

Here is your guide to road, track and field events at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, including top athletes, venue information, Games schedule, and more!

Track and field has been one of the most-watched Olympic sports. There will be no Usain Bolt for the first time in five Olympics, but the sprints are certain to be the biggest draw.

The track and field competition will be spread over 16 sessions at Tokyo's Olympic Stadium, while the marathons and race walks will be held in Sapporo, on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.

Below, we take a look at the athletes expected to light up the Olympic Stadium, the competition schedule, and even some Olympic history in our top things to know about Olympic athletics guide.

The Jamaican, regarded as one of the greatest sprinters of all time, set an unbeaten record winning gold at three consecutive Olympics – Beijing 2008, London 2012 and Rio 2016.

In the absence of the track legend, there is still a stellar field of world's fastest men looking to step in his spikes.

With world champion Christian Coleman banned, American Noah Lyles, the reigning 200m world champion, is one of the favourites to win the men's shortest dash. Like Bolt, Gatlin, a five-time Olympic medallist, launched his sprinting career in 2001, and they had raced each other since Athens 2004.

The return of South Africa's Wayde Van Niekerk after a long injury lay-off following his 400m gold at Rio 2016 should also light up the track.

Another top attraction will be the 400m hurdles where on-form Karsten Warholm will be eyeing the Olympic title after the season of his life.

He ran the second quickest time in history of 46.87 seconds.

The women's sprints should also boast a top-notch field featuring Jamaica's double Olympic champions Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Elaine Thompson-Herah, as well as Bahamas track superstar Shaunae Miller-Uibo.

Miller-Uibo will be eyeing the 200m crown alongside her 400m Olympic title defence.

East African runners are likely to dominate the middle- and long-distance races.

The emergence of double distance world record holder Joshua Cheptegei should spice up the two longest track events.

The Ugandan hopes to be the man to return the 5,000m and 10,000m Olympic titles back to the region after Mo Farah ended the reign of Ethiopian and Kenyan runners over the distances.

Britain's Farah, who achieved the double-double at London 2012 and Rio 2016, intends to defend his 10,000m crown.

Ethiopian-born Dutch runner Sifan Hasan and Rio 1500m gold medallist Faith Kipyegon both had consistent last few seasons, and are ready to challenge for Olympic titles.

National anthem: The best of Kenya in Rio

Eliud Kipchoge, the Olympic champion who is also the fastest marathoner of all time, has trained his eyes on matching the feat of Abebe Bikila (1960 and 1964) and Waldemar Cierpinski, winner in 1976 and 1980.

Bikila and Cierpinski are the only men who have won the Olympic marathon twice.

Kipchoge's compatriot, Brigid Kosgei, the women's record holder who won the 2020 London marathon, is the hottest of the favourites for the women's marathon title in her first Olympics.

In the field events, the 2020 World Athletes of the Year Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis and Yulimar Rojas have been in dazzling form and have their eyes set on their first Olympic gold medals.

“NOC Sri Lanka - Crysbro Next Camp”

Congratulates victorious Tharushi Karunarathne on World Junior Championship qualification

NOC Sri Lanka - Crysbro Next Camp” congratulates champion athlete Tharushi Karunarathne for qualifying for the highly competitive World Athletics U20 Championship (World Junior Championship) in the 800m event.

The vivacious 16-year-old Tharushi, the NOC Sri Lanka - Crysbro Next Champ scholarship awardee, qualified by securing the second place at the Senior Nationals with a record time of 2.07 minutes.

As a result she secured the rank of 6th in the world and the first in Asia in the under-18 category. The World Athletics U20 Championships will be held in August this year in Nairobi, Kenya.

A student of Walala A. Rathnayake College, Manikhinna - Kandy, Tharushi displayed the promise of great natural skill and talent since an early age, growing up to excel in the 400m and 800m events. She has dominated these events at both All Island School Games and Sir John Taret Championships, with records of 2.14 Minutes in 800m and 56.54 seconds in the 400m races.

“We are thrilled to hear of Tharushi's qualification to the World Junior Championships and are confident that she will claim victory at this international arena. This is clear testament to the effectiveness and power of the Next Champ initiative which aims to mould future torchbearers of Sri Lankan sports. Our hope is that as a spirited young

athlete, Tharushi will inspire a generation of young Sri Lankans to follow in her footsteps. Crysbro will continue to invest our very best efforts into creating a successful, secure environment for athletes in our country, and be a part of building a great cultural, educational and sports legacy for Sri Lanka's sporting talent,” stated Crysbro Senior Marketing Manager Amores Sellar.

As part of its ongoing mission to empower and support the aspirations of young people in Sri Lanka, the country's premier poultry producer Crysbro recently awarded several scholarships to a select group of gifted young athletes selected under the ‘NOC SL-Crysbro Next Champ’ Initiative. The NOC SL-Crysbro Next Champ Initiative was launched with objective of empowering talented young athletes, and refining their potential to be winners in the international sporting arena.

The scholarships cover all transportation costs, nutrition, coaching fees, accommodation, logistics such as clothing, sports gear, and medical

expenses necessary for the training, grooming and development of each selected athlete for two years with prospect of extension. The programme also gives athletes access to a combination of high-value tools and world-class mentors.

The ‘NOC SL-CRYSBRO Next Champ’ scholarship programme is phase-II of Crysbro's 'Next Champ' scholarship programme, which up to date has groomed and supported the dreams of 130 young athletes from the underprivileged regions of the country. The initiative has also successfully produced a collection of athletes who secured gold and silver medals at the Nepal South Asian Games in 2019.

The project's founding vision sought to bolster Crysbro's already significant social contribution as a key pillar of the country's rural economy by creating sporting opportunities and promoting the message of staying physically and mentally active.



Are you a young creative filmmaker?



Short Film Competition

23rd June 2021



Register before
29.05.2021

The National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka hosts
"A SHORT FILM COMPETITION"
concurrent to the Olympic Day Celebrations 2021

Theme : Respect | Understand | Move forward
Time Lap : Not less than 5 minutes and Not more than 7 minutes.
Prizes : 1st Place 20,000/-
2nd Place 15,000/-
3rd Place 10,000/-
All the participants will be awarded an e-certificate.

For more details :
072 064 5540 – Kandula
077 055 6534 – Chalani
076 097 0125 – Charuni



The National Olympic Committee is calling applications for a short film competition concurrent with the Olympic Day Celebrations 2021, which is scheduled to be held on 23 June 2021.

The competition focuses on the younger generation and promotes, encourages and understanding Olympic values under the theme of Respect, Understand and Move Forward.

