



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

Crysbro Programme one year hence

**“To my mind the athletes
have done really well”
- Shehan Ambepitiya**

Picture shows Table Tennis player Senura Silva receiving his traveling assistance of Rs.125,000 from Crysbro Senior Marketing Manager Amoris Sellar & NOC Sri Lanka Secretary General Maxwell De Silva. Also in the picture is selector Shehan Ambepitiya

Generally, the National Olympic Committee is reputed to be a gateway facilitator, but within the past few years they have changed their stance and gear to get involved with the sport, the associations and other federations and seek ways of elevating skill, mental and social levels of the athletes so that they could concentrate their pathway to medals and inner glory.

At the completion of one year, the Crysbro Next Champ Programme has gathered momentum and we are beginning to see the results our invaluable investment on Junior athletes.

Initially the Crysbro/NOC SL selection committee invaluablely assisted by Shehan Ambepitiya and Ineka Cooray who came up with the names of twenty athletes who would be the fodder in this useful exercise. They are -- Kanas Kumar Danushan (Golf), Amandhika Amarasinghe (Shooting), M. Tehan Sanchith Rayman (Boxing), Sudhdhathcharige Nethmi Nimthera (Boxing), H.H. Ravindu Sithum Jayasundara (Athletics), D.M.T.D. Tharushi Karunarathne (Athletics), W. Deshan Kapila Kumara (Weightlifting), R.L.Sachini Rajika Laksarani (Weightlifting), P.D. Senura Dilanka Silva (Table Tennis), -

A.D. Nadila Nethviru (Gymnastics), U.L. Tharinda Mandara Premakumara (Taekwondo), M. Senori Sasadara Fernando (Taekwondo), Kaluarachchige Sithuli Sodithya (Athletics -- High Jump) W.A. Ishara Samanmalee (Athletics -- Long Jump), T.O. Vinod Ariyawansa (Athletics -- 400m Hurdles), M.D. Madushika Premarathna (Weightlifting), H. Anju Minuwandana de Silva (Weightlifting), Bimandee Bandara (Table Tennis), D.A. Wenuka Kithnula (Tennis), P. Nethmi Ahinsa Fernando (Wrestling). These were the upmost junior athletes in our athletic larder today.

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Just as when the programme was about to take off in grand fashion, the entire globe was struck by the vagaries of the Covid-19 pandemic and soon our little island also became a victim of circumstances. Yet, during that time the Crysbro Scholarship holders who were assisted by the programme's benevolence had the wherewithal to develop their inherent skills even without competition. Now with the country back on its feet and competitions back on stage gradually the jig-saw is filling up.

Out of the twenty athletes, namely – Senura Silva (Table Tennis), Bimandee Bandara (Table Tennis), Nethmi Ahimsa (Wrestling), Nadila Nethviru Ambuldeniyage (Gymnastics), Tharushi Karunaratne (Track and Field - 800m), Sithum Jayasundara (Track and Field) have already taken part in international competitions. This means 30 per cent of our athletes have performed well in the Junior world athletic stage and there are more names coming up.

“ The programme was about to take off in grand fashion, the entire globe was struck by the vagaries of the Covid-19 pandemic and soon our little island also became a victim of circumstances. ”



As a matter of fact, the Crysbro Assistance does not stop at giving the athletes their training allowance of Rs. 47,000/- a month.

They also have a Rs. 125,000/- overseas travelling assistance programme for ten of the twenty athletes plus an assistance scheme to obtain various implements to help the athlete hone their skills while training, through the NOC SL/Crysbro Next Champ assistance portal where anyone could be a partner home or abroad.

So far, the following athletes have received the overseas tournament incentive of Rs. 125,000/-.

They are Senura Silva and Nadila Nethviru Ambuldeniyage while wrestler Nethmi Ahimsa is scheduled to get her incentive in the near future. Two of the athletes' requirements put in the portal are collected from the public and handed over to the respective athletes namely Tharushi Karunaratne for Spikes (LKR. 10,210/=) and Tharinda Premakumara for Taekwondo sparring uniform (LKR. 27,600/=).

Commenting on the completion of one year the National Olympic Committee Secretary General Maxwell de Silva said “Crysbro came with the wonderful concept of next champ and they came in at a time when nobody came as a sponsor even dared to assist sports. The whole country was – first recovering the Boxing day bombing and followed by the Covid-19 closures. That is commendable. There is no question about it. We need to see that there is continuity for the future so that we would churn out not only champions but, role models in this country who respect all those Olympic values and this is my clear message.

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“However even in the future we must go deeper into the thought process and seek to assist the athletes who are at the grass root level, athletes from a certain background where the parents who are finding it hard to make ends meet. I think that should be our prime objective – something in line with the ideals of former minister Lalith Athulathmudali who came up with the Mahapola concept.” On the part of the sponsors of the programme Next Champ – Crysbro Senior Marketing Manager Amores Sellar Said “It is heartening note that the fruits of the seeds that we sowed a year ago has begun to bear fruit. When one thinks about a 30 per cent succes in a programme which was severely hampered by the Covid-19 closures and the lack of competitions and opportunities it is commendable.

“Now it is up to our joint committee to see on how we work closely with the individual athletes and see that we could converte them into future medal winner and especially in the higher echelons like the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games which is coming up within the next one-year and follow it up with a medal at the Olympic Games”.

Crysbro selector Shehan Ambepitiya commenting on the subject said “To my mind the athletes have done really well. We selected the twenty with a variation in different sports. Out of them already six have represented the country internationally and especially 800metres athletes Tharushi Karunaratne taking part in the World Junior Championships in Nairobi did a great job be reaching the semi-finals.

"Then Senura Silva representing table tennis did very in his tournament by reaching semi-finals at the World Youth Table Tennis Championships held in Muscat, Oman while Gymnast Nadila Nethviru ended up with a Silver in the individual apparatus pommel horse at the Central South Asian Gymnastics Championship 2021.

“This depicts that we are on the right track. But, then again, the programme is just one-year old and it was also affected by the Covid pandemic. "We have a long way to go and we are also looking at the possibilities of re-launching the programme with more sponsors as Mr. Amores Sellar suggested earlier and that would give more opportunities for the athletes.

“If the Asian Youth Games were to be held this year on schedule, we would have won several medals in the range of 6-8. But unfortunately Asian Youth Games and The Junior Olympic Games were postponed. But next year we have the Asian Youth Games and I am sure our athletes will be performing well as expected.”

The gamut of assistance to the young athlete’s does not stop at that point. The National Olympic Committee on its part have come up with innovative programmes such as the Educational Development Programme that has already been put on road and the free medical check-up programme which will be set in place with Dr. Asela Ratnayake at the Kandy General Hospital.

To make the project more effective and centric we are hoping to launch the athlete visiting programme where the organisers, sponsors and the selection committee visit the athletes on location where they are training with their respective coaches. As agreed, we would have to work out the programme with your collaboration.

We are also looking at the possibilities of having a nutritional awareness programme for the athletes with Professor Renuka Silva of the Wayamba University in the near future.

Shehan Ambepitiya



Peres Jepchirchir and Albert Korir make Kenya proud at New York City Marathon 2021

Rlympic champion Peres Jepchirchir (Women) and Albert Korir (Men) are the New York City Marathon 2021 winners on Sunday 7 November.

Jepchirchir won gold on her Olympic debut at Tokyo 2020, and now she's topped the podium on her first attempt in New York too.

The Olympic champ was in control from start to finish and dictated the pace before pulling away from fellow Kenyan Viola Cheptoo and winning by four seconds, with Ethiopian runner Ababel Yeshaneh finishing third.

Tokyo 2020 marathon bronze medallist Molly Seidel of the USA finished just off the podium in fourth.

And shortly afterwards Albert Korir made it a Kenyan double as he crossed the finish line first in the men's pro race.

Second in 2019, the 27-year-old claimed the biggest win of his career here, 44 seconds ahead of Moroccan Mohamed Reda El Aaraby, with Eyob Faniel of Italy in third.

New York City Marathon 2021 - Results

Men's

Albert Korir 2:08.22
 Mohamed El Aaraby 2:09.06
 Eyob Faniel 2:09.56
 Elkanah Kibet 2:11.15
 Abdi Nageeye 2:11.39

Women's

Peres Jepchirchir 2:22.39
 Viola Cheptoo 2:22.44
 Ababel Yeshaneh 2:22.52
 Molly Seidel 2:24.42
 Helalia Johannes 2:26.29

Men's Wheelchair

Marcel Hug 1:31.24
 David Weir 1:38.01
 Daniel Romanchuk 1:38.22

Women's Wheelchair

Madison de Rozario 1:51.01
 Tatyana McFadden 1:53.59
 Manuela Schaer 1:54.02
 Peres Jepchirchir powers on

What a year it's been for Jepchirchir.

She won Olympic gold at her first attempt this summer, then repeated the feat in New York in November. The Kenyan national hero came into this race well-rested after a 13-week breather following that sensational performance at Tokyo 2020, and never looked in trouble as she controlled the pace and had plenty in the tank for a final burst to the line.

"2021 has already been a magical year, and I am excited that it is not yet over," Jepchirchir said before the race, "I know that a victory in New York will mean so much to the people of Kenya." She has brought much joy to her running-mad country and today will be another big celebration as Kenya's golden pacer added New York to her sparkling CV.

Albert Korir wins New York marathon 2021

Kenya's celebrations grew doubly loud as Korir came home first just after Jepchirchir in the men's race. Much of the talk pre-race focussed on four-time Olympic medallist Kenenisa Bekele, the Ethiopian coming into the race having finished third in Berlin on September 26.

But Bekele dropped off a quick pace set early by Morocco's El Aaraby and Italian Eyob Faniel, while Korir bided his time and got his tactics right, running to his own rhythm and surging into the lead with around 10k (6 miles) to go.

The 27-year-old showed a clean pair of heels and wasn't going to be caught, building up a 44 second cushion over El Aaraby in second to claim his first major title.

Olympic News



Peres jepchirchir

Djokovic beats Medvedev to claim record sixth Paris Masters title

Novak Djokovic won a record 37th Masters title by avenging his US Open final defeat against Russian Daniil Medvedev with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory at the Paris Masters on Sunday.

Djokovic moved one clear of fellow 20-time Grand Slam winner Rafael Nadal for Masters trophies, and nine ahead of Roger Federer, the other tennis great with 20 majors.

The win also marked a record-extending sixth Paris Masters title.

The Serbian, who is guaranteed to secure the year-end world No. 1 spot for a record seventh time, needed time to adjust to break the world No. 2's sturdy defence but was unstoppable once he found his opening.

Djokovic was looking to avoid ending a season without a Masters title for the first time since 2017 and kept his cool throughout to accomplish his mission against the holder. Medvedev was overwhelmed in the third set and bowed out of the contest on the first match point when Djokovic unleashed a superb forehand winner down the line.

Two months after Medvedev denied Djokovic a record-breaking 21st Grand Slam men's singles title when he beat him at Flushing Meadows, the Russian was hoping to lock his opponent into a backhand-to-backhand battle again.

Medvedev broke in the opening game as Djokovic made a flurry of unforced errors with the lanky Russian keeping him on the back foot.

The world No. 1 leveled for 2-2, but Medvedev stole his serve again to move 4-3 up with a splendid sliced backhand at the net.

The Russian then held serve twice to pocket the first set when Djokovic returned long.

The Serbian, however, turned the tables in the second set, going 3-1 up as Medvedev buried a backhand into the net.

Djokovic served and volleyed to save a break point at 5-3 and saw off a second with a big serve. Medvedev set up a third with a spectacular block at the net but the top seed's

first serve again came to the rescue.

Djokovic eventually took the match into a decider with an ace on his third set point.

He broke for 3-2 courtesy of three unforced errors by Medvedev and stole his opponent's serve again to move 5-2 up.

Serving for the match, Djokovic gave Medvedev too much space and the Russian pulled a break back, but his tank was empty and he surrendered on his serve in the next game. Medvedev complained he had been bothered by a spectator making too much noise in the crowd.

"I got mad because crucial, crucial moment, 5-2 for him, double break, even if I manage to get the break back, we all know that against Novak it's tough to actually come back from this score," he told a news conference.

"I got mad because it was not nice, and it was done on purpose. Some of the spectators, they were just into the match and you could feel it. You're getting ready for serve, they were like, Allez, Novak or Allez, Daniil. But you could feel it was like they are just trying not to be in the game, and you wait.

"This one was done, when I did the toss already, it was done by a Serbian spectator ... I hope he doesn't watch tennis anymore."

Courtesy ESPN

