



# GoodSport



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



## FAST FORWARD THROUGH HANZGHOU ( I )

“From anticipation to meeting, from reunion to farewell, this is a carnival for all of Asia”, at the 19th Asian Games at Hangzhou

Looking back at the Games, it is only fair to say that Team Sri Lanka surely stroke Gold and saw a shift towards the brighter side this time around. At the final medal tally, Sri Lanka was ranked 26th – the highest rank since Busan 2002 and 5 medals - the highest amount of medals, also, since Busan 2002. But, do you want to know what happened at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou but missed exciting parts? Fear not, get to know all the progress of Team Sri Lanka in a few pages with GoodSport!

19 September 2023 – Beach Volleyball saw the beginning of Team Sri Lanka’s journey at Hangzhou when the Lankan duo - Chathurika Madhushani and Deepika Bandara, was involved in two games in Women’s Preliminary Round. They initially lost to China at 2-0 and then lost in a close encounter against Kazakhstan at 2-1 at the Ningbo Banbianshan beach Volleyball Centre.



20 September 2023 – Rower Maheshi Liyanage became the first Lankan to make an impression at Hangzhou, when she rowed herself to the semi-finals in the Women’s Single Sculls event at the Fuyang Water Sports Centre while finishing her 2000m course in 08mts 53:68 secs.

Moreover, Maheshi Liyanage and Jayani Hirunika finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the Women’s Double Sculls failed to qualify further. Similarly, in the Men’s Single Sculls, Mohamed Nafirani finished in the 4<sup>th</sup> position, while Nafirani along with Nuwan Sampath in the Men’s Double Sculls (4<sup>th</sup>) failed to make it to the next round.

From page 01



**21 September 2023** - Nafirán along with Nuwan Sampath came in 4<sup>th</sup> in Men's Double Sculls, Repechage 1 and qualified for Final B with a timing of 07mts. 23.07 secs while Maheshi Badra and Jayani Hirunika came in 6<sup>th</sup> in Women's Double Sculls, Repechage 1 and qualified for Final B with a timing of 08mts. 20.63 secs.

At the Ningbo Banbianshan Volleyball Centre, the Lankan Beach Volleyball duo - Deepika Bandara and Chathurika Madushani won against the South Korean duo - Shin Jieun and Kim Seyeon, in the Women's Preliminary Round with score of 2-0.



**22 September 2023** - Mohamed Nafirán redeemed himself at the Men's Double Sculls Repechage 1 when he came in 2<sup>nd</sup> with a timing of 07mts 48:92secs and qualified for Final B with a timing of 07mts 57:55secs at the Fuyang Water Sports Centre.

At the Ningbo Banbianshan Volleyball Centre, the Lankan Beach Volleyball duo lost against the Philippines with a score of 0-2 in the Women's Preliminary Round.

Meanwhile, Sailor Taalya Tranchell came in 6<sup>th</sup> place in Race 1, 2 and 3, but managed to surge forward to the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Race 4 in Girl's Dinghy - ILCA4.

In Boy's Dinghy - ILCA4, Sailor Tharen Nanayakkara came in 11<sup>th</sup> Race 1 and 2, rose to 10<sup>th</sup> in Race 3 but went back to 11<sup>th</sup> place in Race 4. These games were held at the NBX Sailing Centre Area.

Lankan Cricket journey was kick-started today when the women's team stepped into the quarter-final of the proceedings against Thailand in a bid to defend or upgrade their Incheon Bronze at the Zhejiang University of Technology Cricket Field.

Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to bowl where the Lankan lasses 84 for 2 (Sanjeevani 32, Putthawong 2-21), beat Thailand comfortably 78 for 7 (Sutthiruang 31, Priyadharshani 4-10), by 8 wickets.



**23 September 2023** - The opening ceremony was preceded by the Xiangshan Sailing Centre seeing 2 Lankans - Tharen Nanayakkara and Taalya Tranchell, sailing their 05<sup>th</sup> and 06<sup>th</sup> races in Boy's and Girl's Dinghy - ILCA4 respectively.

Nanayakkara came in 11<sup>th</sup> place in both 05<sup>th</sup> and 06<sup>th</sup> races respectively. Concurrently, Tranchell was placed 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in her 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> races respectively.



**24 September 2023** - The 9 year wait was finally over - Sri Lanka was finally guaranteed an Asian Games medal since Incheon 2014!

The Lankan women's cricket team won over Pakistan by 6 wickets in the Women's cricket 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi-final and qualified for the final event today at the Zhejiang University Cricket Stadium. Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to bowl and managed to hold Pakistan back at 75 runs for 9 wickets. However, the Lankan lasses cruised into the finals with 77 runs over 4 wickets and will face Team India in the fated Finals.

Team Sri Lanka had 12 events in the 7 other sports during the course of the day. Gymnast Nadila Nethviru had his first performance in Artistic Gymnastics and ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the Subdivisions 1, 2 & 3 in the Men's All-Around category and qualified for the finals.

At the NBX Sailing Centre Area C seas, Tharen Nanayakkara came in 9<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Boy's Dinghy - ILCA4 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> races respectively, while Taalya Tranchell came in 8<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Girl's Dinghy - ILCA4 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> races respectively.

The Fuyang Water Sports Centre saw Rowers Mohamed Nafirán and Nuwan Sampath came in 3<sup>rd</sup> with a timing of 07mts 05:08secs in the Final B of Men's Double Sculls.

From page 02

Concurrently, Maheshi Badra and Jayani Hirunika came in 4<sup>th</sup> in the Women's Double Sculls Final B with a timing of 08mts. 03.66 secs.

Swimming events kick started and Lankan swimming star Matthew Abeysinghe participated in the Men's 100m Freestyle Heat 6 and came in 7<sup>th</sup> place and did not qualify for the finals of the event. However, he will be competing in the Men's 50m Freestyle Heats tomorrow.

The return of Chess to the Asian Games was marked today and young Sri Lankan Susal de Silva carried Sri Lanka forward with style. He managed to beat Hong Kong, Chinese national Wing Ki Kwong in the Men's Individual Round 1 and had a draw score Uzbek Javokhir Sindarov in the Men's Individual Round 2.

At the Ningbo Banbianshan Volleyball Centre, the Lankan Beach Volleyball duo - Deepika Bandara and Chathurika Madushani lost in the Round of 16 in the Women's category against the Thai duo - Worapeerachaya Kongphopsarutawadee and Taravadee Naraphornrapat, with a score of 0-2.

Meanwhile, the OCA Rugby 7s team played against Chinese Taipei and South Korea in Pool B. They managed to score 7 but unfortunately lost for 22-7 against both the countries.

25 September 2023 - Lankan willow wielding ladies clinched the coveted Silver medal at the 19th Asian Games Women's Cricket at the match against India.

It's an insurmountable task to chase a score of 117/6 by the leading women's cricket team in the world - India and score 98/7, especially when the conditions are to bat on a sluggish wicket with uneven bounce. Hasini Perera fought and fought hard for 25 runs off 22 balls while Nilakshika Silva scored 23 off 34 balls. Oshadi Udeshika coming in the middle order entered double figures (19) off 26 balls but it was an uphill task.

Finally, Lankans succumbed to a 19 run defeat but nonetheless, it was effort with a silver lining.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka managed to recover in the final half of the match, restricting the Indian score to 116/7. Udeshika Prabhodini (2/16), Sugandika Dasanayaka (2/30) and Inoka Ranaweera (2/21) were among the wickets for Sri Lanka.

Howsoever, the most important aspect of the game is, Sri Lanka finally broke a 9-year dry spell barring them from Asian Games medals marking the day all Sri Lankans can celebrate as a milestone victory that - now, Sri Lanka is back at Asian Games medals!

In other events, Team Sri Lanka had 17 events in the 8 other sports. The Fuyang Water Sports Centre saw Rowers Mohamed Nafirani 4th with a timing of 7mts. 39.20secs. in the Final B of Men's Single Sculls.

Concurrently, Maheshi Badra came in 5<sup>th</sup> in the Women's Single Sculls Final B with a timing of 8mts. 36.99secs.

In the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Aquatic Sports Arena, Swimmer Akalanka Peiris came in 4<sup>th</sup> Men's 50m Backstroke - Heat 2 clocking 26.01secs. -- establishing a new National Record of Men's 50m Backstroke.

Moreover, Swimmer Matthew Abeysinghe participated in the Men's 50m Freestyle Heat 6 and came in 4<sup>th</sup> and Swimmer Ganga Senavirathne came in 8<sup>th</sup> in the Women's 50m Backstroke Heat 4.

Lankan Taekwondo journey marked its inception at the LA Sports Centre. Taekwondoin Chalinda Sampath competed against Cambodian Youdeth Sam in the Men's -58kg Round of 32 and won with a score of 2-0 and qualified for the Round of 16 where he lost against South Korean Jang Jun with a score of 0-2. However unfortunately, Taekwondoin IPK Mahadula got disqualified in the Men's -58Kg Round of 16.

Judoka Chamara Repiyallage competed in Men's -73kg Round of 16 and came in 9<sup>th</sup> overall, however, opponent Chyngyzkhan Sagynaliev of Kyrgyzstan won against him by Ippon, and therefore score 10 to 0s1.

Meanwhile, Sailor Taalya Tranchell came in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> places in Race 9 and 10 respectively in Girl's Dinghy - ILCA4. In Boy's Dinghy - ILCA4, Sailor Tharen Nanayakkara came in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in Race 9 and 10. These games were held at the NBX Sailing Centre Area C.

Young Sri Lankan Susal de Silva carried Sri Lanka forward further today. He lost to Chinese Wei Yi in the Men's Individual Round 3, but quickly recovered and managed to beat Thai Prin Laohawirapap in Round 4.



From Page 03

At the Xiaoshan Guali Sports Centre Sanda, Pethum Balawardhana competed in the Men's 60kg 1/8 Final in Wushu and lost to South Korean Kim Minsoo with a score of 2-1 while Nipun Weerasnigha fought in the Men's 65kg 1/8 Final in Wushu and lost to Vietnamese Truong van Chuong.

Meanwhile, the OCA Rugby 7s team played against Afghanistan and Philippines in Men's Placing 9-13 category and won against both with scores of 36-10 and 21-12 respectively.



**26 September 2023** – Artistic Gymnast Nadila Nethviru represented Sri Lanka at the Men's Individual All-Around Final after being qualified last Sunday.

Nadila was placed 18th with a score of 10.333 in the 1st rotation in Rings but he performed in Vault and scored 13.500 to rise to a cumulative score of 23.833, which lifted him to the 16th rank in the 2nd Rotation. He performed in Parallel Bars in the 3rd rotation and, scored 12.833 and a cumulative score of 36.666 and ranked 17th. He proceeded to the 4th Rotation to perform in Horizontal Bar to and achieved a score of 12.266 and cumulative score of 48.932 and maintained the 17th rank. His 5th Rotation had him in the Floor Exercise where he scored 12.033 and a cumulative score of 60.965 and continued to maintain the 17th rank.

The last and 6th Rotation of Nadila was to perform in Pommel Horse and he scored 10.100 and a final score of 71.065 ranking 17 overall. Chinese Zhang Boheng clinched the Gold Medal of the event with a near perfect score of 89.299.

Among the other events, Team Sri Lanka had 8 events in 4 sports through the course of the day.

Swimmer Ganga Seneviratne was placed 5th in the Women's 200m Backstroke Heat 1 clocking 2mts. 26.37secs.

Lankan Boxer Rukmal Prasanna fought at the Hangzhou Gymnasium in the Men's 51-57Kg - Preliminaries - R32 but opponent Bangladeshi Salim Hossain won with a score of 3:2 (Win on Points).

Meanwhile, Sailors Taalya Tranchell and Tharen Nanayakkara finished their Sailing journey today at the NBX Sailing Centre Area C.

Tranchell came in 5th in Race 11 of Girl's Dinghy – ILCA4 and ranked 6th overall. In Boy's Dinghy – ILCA4, Sailor Tharen Nanayakkara came in 11th Race 11 and ranked 11th overall as well.

IM Susal de Silva competed in the Men's Individual Round 5 and 6 today and lost against Vietnamese GM Ngoc Truong Son Nguyen in Round 5, but quickly recovered and managed to beat Mongolian IM Gan-Erdene Sugar in Round 6.

Meanwhile, the OCA Rugby 7s team leaped into victory against Nepal scoring 68 for nil and had a close defeat against Thailand after leading with a score of 7-5 thus succumbing in the second half to a score of 10-7 in Men's Placing 9-13 category.

But it only leaves to our imagination, with the right guidance and support, what a player with skills of that caliber could go on to be...

Then, young wrestler Nethmi Ahinsa has the cake, but does not have the icing to wallop it.

She too has to take the international count and prepare for the next journey.

Definitely, Nethmi is medal material, but, how she is hoping to translate them in to reality in tough international competition is another.



**27 September 2023** – Lankan Chess ace IM Susal de Silva ended his dream of an Asian Games medal at the Qi-Yuan (Zhili) Chess Hall but ended the show with a bright note when he was victorious against Kyrgyzstani opponent Mikhail Markov in the Men's Individual Round 9.

Before that, he encountered an unlikely defeat at the hands of Filipino counterpart IM Paulo Bersamina in his penultimate outing at the Men's Individual Round 8 here today. All in all, young Susal achieved an overall ranking of 15 with 5.0 points, after battling among 34 contenders.

Meanwhile, Swimmer Ganga Seneviratne was placed 6th in the Women's 100m Backstroke Heat 2 clocking 1mts. 07.21secs.

Continued on Page 05

From Page 04



while Abeysinghe was placed 6th with a new National Record timing of 24.58s.

In the boxing arena at the Hangzhou Gymnasium, Niraj Madhushan took on his opponent from China Taipei - Kan Chia Wei in the Men's 71kg Preliminaries - Round 16 bout today, where he lost by 0:5 (WP).

Esports for Team Sri Lanka began at the China Hangzhou Esports Center. The team comprising - Chamudith Halwinne, Mohamed Riham, Mohammed Rizny and Ramesh Kavindu, competing in Peace Elite Asian Games Version, came in 2nd clocking 57mts. 33.253secs. in the Preliminary Round 1 Group B and successfully went to rank themselves at the 2nd place clocking 01hrs. 03mts. 52.435secs. in the Preliminary Round 2 Group C.

28 September 2023 - It's rather superfluous to narrate about the prospects of medals with several rounds still to be completed, but Golf was one game that brought home the bread.

All four golfers Thangaraja at 11.50 am, Anura Rohana at 12.00 noon, Mithun Perera at 12.10 pm and Prabhakaran at 12.20 pm sounded well and covered the initial tee off with confidence.

Golf Manager Lal Wickrematunga explained, "All four golfers are good for competition any day, but Prabhakaran with his win at the Visakapatnam tournament stands out for the moment. But, Anura Rohana, already an Asian Games Medalist in the past knows what this challenge is. Any of these players could turn a game around".

Though it was not sufficient in the individual, a total of 213 against a best of South Korea 190 could be thought provoking - looking at four rounds. Thangaraja 71 Anura Rohana 71. Mithun 72. Prabhakaran 72, had played within their capabilities, improvement is needed.

Meanwhile, Swimmer Akalanka Peiris and Matthew Abeysinghe OLY took part in the Men's 50m Butterfly Heat 3 and 5, respectively, at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Aquatic Sports Arena. Peiris ranked 7th in his heat clocking 24.91s, -



29 September 2023 - The inception of the most electric sport and undoubtedly the most awaited sport the games - Athletics was marked, and Sri Lanka sure put on a show to remember at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium. The first event of Sri Lanka featured Nadeesha Ramanayaka, performing in the Women's 400m Heat 2. Nadeesha ranked herself 2nd, clocking 52.67s - the 3rd best timing of all the heats, and earned herself a spot in the final tomorrow. Her performance was followed by Kalinga Kumarage in the Men's 400m Heat 1, who gave a gallant performance to come in 1st in his heat, clocking the 2nd best -

timing of all the heats with 45.57s and second only by 0.01s to Japanese Fuga Sato's timing of 45.56s, and followed suit to earn himself a rank in the final tomorrow. Finally, Aruna Dharshana ran in the Men's 400m Heat 3 and came in 3rd in his heat with a timing of 46.07s and earned himself a spot in tomorrow's final alongside Kalinga.

The yo-yo like performance of the at the West Lake International Golf course did not help the Sri Lankan cause as they finished the second round of the four-round event at the 13th position in the Team category, ending up with a total 431 (-1). In spite of ending up 213 at the end of the first round, the Lankan team faltered more on the second with a total five bogeys and two double bogeys by veteran Anura Rohana on the 6th and Prabhakaran on 9th. Yes, they had their fair share of happiness with eight birdies, but over performance, it was disappointing with all four players a mistake or more. Finally, Sri Lanka ended the board under Nepal in the 12th position. South Korea (-44) 388, Hong Kong China (-38) 394, and Japan (-34) 398 were leading at the end of day 2.

Lankan Esports contingent took on the 1/8 Eliminations Group D in Peace Elite Asian Games Version at the China Hangzhou Esports Center. Battling against Japan, Indonesia and Kazakhstan, Team Sri Lanka came in 3rd, clocking a total time of 01hrs. 03mts. 20.830secs.



Stay tuned for part (ii) next week!