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Right of Reply

SIGN WITH SIRINAMA: NOC SL REFUTES SPURIOUS MEDIA ALLEGATIONS

It has come to our attention that a report circulating on social media has raised concerns about the conduct of senior officials from the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka (NOC SL) during the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) elections held in July.

We would like to clarify and address these concerns in order to provide the right picture.

Firstly, it is important to note that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Ethics Committee report, which was sent to the OCA and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of Asia,

does not implicate any officials from NOC SL in the OCA elections held in Bangkok. There is no mention of their involvement in the said election.

Furthermore, we would like to emphasize that the NOC SL accounts undergo rigorous auditing by the Auditor General, and all funds received from IOC/OCA are also audited by their appointed International Auditor in Sri Lanka.

These audits have consistently shown no adverse observations or comments regarding the financial management of NOCSL since its inception.

While it is true that there have been past investigations into allegations against senior officials of NOC SL, nonetheless it is important to highlight that none of these allegations were found to have merit.

NOC SL plays a crucial role in promoting sports development in Sri Lanka.

They conduct numerous educational programs for National Sports Administrators, Coaches, and Athletes, with funds received from the IOC.

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Additionally, they facilitate overseas training for Technical Officials and Athletes, contributing to valuable international exposure.

Firstly, it should be noted that it the NOC Sri Lanka is directly responsible for initially bringing athletes in the caliber of Tharushi Karunaratne – the recent Asian Games 800m -

gold medallist in Hangzhou, China and the Commonwealth Games Wrestling Bronze Medallist in Birmingham the year previous to the limelight initially.

They were in a NOC SL mooted Junior Development programme since 2019.

Besides the success of Weightlifting which was the sole medal yielding sport in major sports event for more a decade was closely monitored and supported by the NOC SL.

Besides, many other national athletes also have received long-term funding for training abroad, sponsorship for participation in foreign sports events, and extensive support for major sporting contingents.

It also must be mentioned that all these programmes were floated along with respective Federations whom the athletes belong.

In conclusion, NOC SL remains committed to promoting sports development, ensuring transparency in financial matters, and fostering the success of Sri Lankan athletes on the international stage.

We appreciate the opportunity to address these concerns and provide clarity on the matter.



DESANDHI FIRST RUNNER-UP AT FIDE WORLD AMATEUR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2023



Muscat, Oman — In a dazzling display of strategic prowess, Desandhi Dhihansa Gamage, a formidable contender from Sirimavo Bandaranaike Vidyalaya, emerged first runner-up in the Rating Under 2000 category at the prestigious FIDE World Amateur Open Chess Championship 2023.

The international chess battleground, spanning from 2 to 10 November, hosted 86 players hailing from 38 countries.

The championship unfolded over 9 rounds in the Swiss format, featuring a time control of 90 minutes with a 30-second increment from move 01.

Gamage showcased exceptional skill and strategic acumen, amassing a commendable score of 5.5/9 points in the fiercely contested open category of the rating below 2000.

Her remarkable performance not only secured the women's first runner-up position but also propelled her ELO rating by an impressive 143 points.

The women's championship title was claimed by Norovsambuu Badamkhand of Mongolia, demonstrating unparalleled prowess.

Meanwhile, Niki Nadernia of Iran secured the second runner-up position, contributing to the diverse and intense competition witnessed at this global chess extravaganza.

Desandhi Dhihansa Gamage's achievements reflect not only her personal dedication but also the growing prominence of Sri Lankan talent on the international chess stage.

As the chess community applauds her success, Desandhi stands as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring chess enthusiasts worldwide.

The FIDE World Amateur Chess Championship 2023 has not only celebrated excellence but also fostered a spirit of camaraderie among chess enthusiasts from around the globe. The event serves as a testament to the universal appeal and unifying power of chess, bringing together minds and strategies in a shared pursuit of victory.

Congratulations to Desandhi Gamage for her outstanding accomplishment, and may her journey continue to inspire and elevate the standards of chess in Sri Lanka and beyond.

JUNIOR GOLFERS SECURE 8TH POSITION IN JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY



From Left to Right: Reshan Algama, Jevahn Sathasivam, Coach Priya Hemantha, Dinushan Kumar, Adithya Weerasinghe

The Sri Lankan junior golf team concluded a journey of discovery when they finished on a high note in the team event at the second Selangor International Junior Golf Championship at the Seri Selangor Golf Club in Malaysia.

The Lankan foursome namely -- Jevahn Sathasivam, Dhanushan Kumar, Adithya Weerasinghe, and Reshan Algama finished in eighth place with a gross score of 711 (242, 228, 241) among a total of 14 participating teams. The championship title was claimed by the team representing the Philippines, with a gross score of 652 (223, 207, 222), while the South Korea 'B' team and host Malaysia secured the runners-up and third place with gross scores of 672 and 688, respectively.



However, in the individual segment for Sri Lanka, Reshan Algama did impressively to claim the 15th place with a gross score of 230 (79, 75, 76) among 55 participating players.

Dhanushan Kumar secured 31st place with a gross score of 241 (81, 74, 86), while Jevahn Sathasivam was at 35th place with a gross score of 243 (84, 79, 80).

Adithya Weerasinghe finished in the 50th place with a gross score of 256 (82, 89, 85).

Media Release - CGF General Assembly 2023

OFFICIAL PROCESS TO SELECT THE NEXT COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES HOST TO BEGIN IN EARLY 2024



Destiny Nkemakonam Agbo of Nigeria competes in the Women's Discus Throw - F42-44 / F61-64 at the Trinidad 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games at Haseley Crawford Stadium, Trinidad and Tobago. Photo by Jamie Squire/Getty Images for Commonwealth Sport

Singapore, 14 November 2023 – The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) will commence the formal host selection process for the eighth Commonwealth Youth Games in early 2024, following the highly successful Trinidad 2023 event. The announcement, made ahead of the CGF's General Assembly in Singapore, follows hosting interest from a number of Commonwealth Games Associations and is testament to the overwhelming support the Commonwealth Youth Games has garnered since its inaugural event in 2000.

The Commonwealth Youth Games is an invaluable springboard for the stars and leaders of tomorrow, contributing to the further development of youth sport throughout the Commonwealth.

Athletes who have competed at a Youth Games and gone on to be successful on the global stage include Jessica Ennis-Hill (Athletics), Chad Le Clos (Swimming) and Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (Badminton).

Trinidad 2023, the seventh edition of the Youth Games, took place on the twin islands of Trinidad and Tobago in August.

The Games brought together diverse cultures, celebrated the spirit of friendly competition, and provided a platform for the next generation of Commonwealth athletes to shine on the international stage.

At the heart of the Games were the achievements and triumphs of the 14-18 year-old participants, with 99 medal events across seven sports, resulting in over 20 existing -

Commonwealth Youth Games records being shattered by the outstanding young athletes.

Notable achievements included the historic victory of Destiny Agbo of Nigeria, a GAPS (1) athlete, who won the first ever Para gold medal in the Women's Discus Throw - F42-44 / F61-64.

Dame Louise Martin, President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, and the driving force behind the Youth Games, said: "As my tenure with the CGF comes to an end, one of my proudest achievements is the establishment of the Commonwealth Youth Games and the role it plays in uniting young athletes from around the world.

"These Games go beyond the glory; they empower athletes, give many their first taste of multi-sport events, and create lifelong friendships."

Katie Sadleir, Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Games Federation, commented: "The Commonwealth Youth Games has become such an important part of the Commonwealth Sport Movement and, following the enormous success of Trinidad 2023, it is exciting to see hosting interest across the Commonwealth ahead of the formal selection process beginning in the new year."

As well as Trinidad and Tobago, the Youth Games has been hosted by The Bahamas, Samoa, Isle of Man, Pune, Bendigo, and Edinburgh.