



GoodSport



NUWARAPAKSHA SHINES AT TOKYO GRAND SLAM 2023

Sri Lankan Judoka Rajitha Nuwarapaksha, ranked 211 beat Uzbek Murtozoev Nurbek, ranked 57 in the Tokyo Grand Slam 2023 / Round 1 under the -81 kg weight category held from December 2 and 3 as part of the International Judo Federations World Tour and during the 2024 Summer Olympics qualification period held on Tokyo Japan.

Eighty-four countries took part at this tournament. Gamini Ranasinghe, based in Australia, was Nuwarapaksha's manager for the event.

Ranasinghe has been actively supporting the development programs school level Judo competitions.

21-year-old Judoka Nurbek Murtozoev competed at the Junior World Championships in Guayaquil in 2022 and finished seventh.

He secured a silver medal at the Summer World University Games in Chengdu 2023.

Following this achievement, Nuwarapaksha rose to rank no. 128 from no.444, up by 83 ranks in the -

International Judo Federation – World Ranking List.

This also marks the first time in a Judo grand slam that a Sri Lankan player had moved to the 2nd round.

He's now likely to be qualified for the Paris 2024 Olympics as well.

Judoka Rajitha is one of the Olympic Solidarity scholarship recipients, undergoing special training in Italy and it is facilitated by the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka.

SRI LANKA GEARS UP FOR ASIAN ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Standing (L-R): Nethuki Senanayera, Oneli Chandrasekera, Venuk Paduwawala, Kehan Sooriyarachchi, Disas Sooriyarachchi, Shivanedra Goonewardena, Mithil Wickramasinghe, Havishka Perera, Jaanya Kumarawadu.

Seated (L-R): Shaylon Gunaratna (Athlete), Pedro Sanz (Technical Director of ARASL), Pasan Ranaaweera (Hony. Secretary of ARASL), Dimuth Gunawardena (President of ARASL), Sithira Wickramasekera (Vice President of ARASL), Shanaka Kariyawasam (Assistant Junior coach of ARASL), Rovynia Wijesekera (athlete).

Sri Lanka is set to send a team of eleven junior rowers to compete in the upcoming Asian Rowing Under-19 and Under-23 Championships.

The championship, organized by the Asian Rowing Federation, is scheduled to unfold in Pattaya, Thailand, spanning from December 14 to 18. The team had undergone an intensive four-month training program at the Diyawanna Rowing Centre, guided by National Coach Pedro Sanz prior to their departure.

The focus of their preparation has -

been to not only participate in the competition but also to pose a challenge to established rowing nations such as China, India, and Japan.

Dimuth Gunawardena, President of the Sri Lanka Rowing Association, acknowledged the financial hurdles faced in securing funds for the tournament and coach payments. Despite these challenges, the determined team is poised to represent the nation on the international stage. The squad is a balanced mix of talent, featuring five female athletes - Nethuki Senanayake, Oneli Chandrasekera, Jaanya Kumarawadu, Rovynia Wijesekera, -

and Havishka Perera, and six male athletes - Kehan Sooriyarachchi, Disas Sooriyarachchi, Venuk Paduwawala, Mithil Wickramasinghe, Shivanedra Goonewardena, and Shaylon Gunaratne.

The Sri Lanka Rowing Association envisions this participation as a step towards building a competitive team for future Asian competitions.

Gunawardena expressed confidence in the team, stating, "These youngsters are in excellent shape, and we hope they bring honour to the country. That's our wish."

9TH ADVANCED SPORT MANAGEMENT COURSE



The third session of the ASMC was held on 2-3 December at the Hemasiri Fernando Auditorium.

The participants presented their case studies related to the second chapter - "Managing Strategically" on the first day.

Ms. Kinithi Jayatissa delivered the third chapter of the course on Managing Human Resources on the second day.

The fourth session of the course is scheduled to be held in February 2024.

GOLD COAST RULES OUT HOSTING 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES



Mayor Tom Tate struggled to find support for his idea

The coastal city hosted the 2018 Games, and mayor Tom Tate had - unilaterally - insisted it could do it again.

But the federal and state governments have repeatedly ruled out supporting the event, as had his own deputy mayor.

Games before Victoria volunteered, and a month after the state's withdrawal, the only contender for the 2030 Games - the Canadian province of Alberta - also dropped its hosting plans. There are no other firm bids to host either the 2026 or 2030 Games.

Organisers have said they may have to postpone or cancel the next instalment of the Games.

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) had struggled to find a host for the 2026

Governments say the cost of the event is skyrocketing, while experts argue its global image and perceived relevance is waning.

"Since the sudden withdrawal of Victoria in July 2023 as host of the 2026 Games, the Commonwealth Games Federation has been working-tirelessly with Commonwealth Games Associations to find a new host who would be able to step in at such short notice," a spokesperson said.

"We are in active conversations with a number of potential hosts across the Commonwealth and hope to provide an update on those discussions in early 2024."

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS OLYMPIC TRUCE FOR PARIS 2024

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach and Paris 2024 Organising Committee President Tony Estanguet today welcomed the adoption by the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) of a resolution for the observance of the Olympic Truce for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024. The resolution was formally introduced to the General Assembly on behalf of the French Government by Tony Estanguet and IOC President Thomas Bach appealed for the adoption of this resolution.



International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach

It was agreed on by an overwhelming majority of 118 votes in favour, with 2 abstentions, and no votes against.

In his address to the UN General Assembly in New York, USA, President Bach spoke of the significance of the Olympic Truce at a time when the world is facing so much confrontation, division and polarisation:

“In this fragile world, this Olympic Truce Resolution is more relevant than ever. In these difficult times, this resolution is our opportunity to send an unequivocal signal to the world – yes, we can come together, even in times of wars and crises.

“Yes, we can join hands and work together for a better future.” He went on to say that the title of the resolution – “Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal” – is a clear demonstration of the shared values of the UN and the IOC:

“The Olympic Games can contribute to this noble goal. Because the Olympic Games are the only event that brings the entire world together in peaceful competition. The Olympic athletes send the powerful message that: yes, it is possible to compete fiercely against each other and at the same time live peacefully together under one roof. This is our contribution to peace.”

The IOC President emphasised that sport “can only unite the entire world in peaceful competition if we are not torn apart by political, religious, cultural or other interests and differences. Therefore, we must be politically neutral and stand against any kind of discrimination.”

The UN Member States explicitly recognise the Olympic values of universality, non-discrimination, political neutrality and the autonomy of sport, as enshrined in the Olympic Charter, as well as the IOC’s role in leading the Olympic Movement. IOC President Bach thanked them for this particular recognition.

From Page 04

Underlining the unifying force of the Games, the IOC President noted: “the athletes, the entire Olympic community, billions of people around the world – all of us are looking forward to the Olympic Games Paris 2024, which will truly be Olympic Games of a new era: more inclusive and more sustainable.

“They will be the first Olympic Games with full gender parity. The first Olympic Games inspired, planned and delivered in line with our Olympic Agenda reforms from start to finish.” After noting that the title of the resolution - “Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal” - was the UN’s and IOC’s joint response to the challenges of our turbulent times, President Bach stated, “In this Olympic spirit, I call on you to come together, adopt the resolution, but then even more importantly: uphold this noble Olympic Truce.” He concluded with a call to all the UN Member States, when he said, “Please: Give Peace a Chance!”

In his introduction to the Session, which was delivered on his behalf by UNGA Vice President Mohan Pieris, UNGA President Dennis Francis said: “Beyond their impact on development, sports are a powerful force for peace. The Olympic Games stand as a symbol of tolerance, peace and cooperation among diverse peoples, cultures and nations.” He commended the IOC “for its commitment and contribution to gender parity. By allocating an equal number of quota places to male and female athletes, the IOC is not only leading by example, but also signalling a stride towards closing the gender pay gap.”

Closing his speech, he said: “Let us continue working together to reiterate our commitment to the values of the Olympic Truce, fostering an environment where understanding and collaboration prevail over conflict and strife. As we champion the cause of sports, let us always be reminded of its transformative power, particularly among the youth who comprise the next generation of humans to inherit this planet. I sound the clarion call: sports for peace and prosperity.”

Afterwards, UNGA President Francis welcomed the adoption of the resolution: “By uniting the world in peaceful competition, the Olympic and Paralympic Games make a powerful contribution to peace.

“They are organised in a spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship, tolerance and inadmissibility of discrimination of any kind, with the participation of all.

“This includes the requirement that sports events be organised under the authority of sports organisations, and the rules of sport have to apply.

This principle has been recognised and confirmed again in today’s resolution: ‘Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal’.

It calls on all UN Member States to cooperate with the IOC and the IPC in their efforts to use sport as a tool to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation in areas of conflict, during and beyond the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.”



Paris 2024 Organising Committee President Tony Estanguet

From page 05

The resolution calls for the Olympic Truce to be respected from seven days before the Olympic Games in July 2024 until seven days after the Paralympic Games.

Paris 2024 President Tony Estanguet formally introduced the resolution to the General Assembly on behalf of the French Government. He spoke about the example that the Games and the athletes living together in the Olympic Village give in an ever more divided world: “The Olympic Village, where thousands of athletes from all over the world live together peacefully, is the most symbolic representation of the universality of the Games. It is a place where, whatever your nationality, gender or skin colour, you can live in harmony, respecting others.

The Village is humanity united in one place, in all its diversity. Like this United Nations General Assembly, of which you are the worthy representatives, the Village and its athletes help to show that a better world is possible.” He concluded by pointing out Paris’ willingness to play its part in building a better world through sport: “Today we bring you a strong message, a universal message in favour of peace, according to the Ancient Greek tradition of the Olympic Truce.”

He went on: “I stand before you humbled by the course of world events, but also with the deep conviction that, more than ever, sport has a role to play and can help us take a step towards a better world. The Olympic Games Paris 2024 are ready to play their part.”

The tradition of the Olympic Truce – “Ekecheiria” – has been to ensure a halt of all hostilities, allowing the safe passage and participation of athletes and spectators taking part in the Olympic Games.

The resolution reaffirms that the Olympic values of peace, solidarity and respect are as important across the world today as they were over 3,000 years ago, when the ancient Olympic Games first took place in Greece. The main objectives pursued by the IOC through the Olympic Truce are to mobilise young people for the promotion of the Olympic ideal, to use sport to help build bridges between communities in conflict, and, more generally, to create a window of opportunity for dialogue and reconciliation.

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