



Tuesday 2nd September, 2008

## Sri Lanka 'A' progress to 749 for five against South Africa 'A'

If the proposed tri-nation tournament in South Africa that involves Sri Lanka and Pakistan gets underway, the competition for places in the national side will really get interesting. After a poor show by Sri Lanka's middle order during the recent defeat to India in the five match ODI series, several young players have come up with noteworthy contributions in Sri Lanka 'A' tour of South Africa with four of them posting hundreds against a strong South African side in the first unofficial Test at Senwes Park in Potchefstroom yesterday.

In reply to 459 all out by South Africa 'A', the Sri Lankans made a massive 749 for five declared with Tharanga Paranavithana (159), Angelo Matthew (131), Thilina Kandamby (138) and Kaushal Silva (103\*) all making hundreds.

Apart from the four centuries, all Sri Lankan batsmen made useful contributions with Upul Tharanga (61), Kanchana Gunawardene (80) and Dilruwan Perera (59\*) making half-centuries.

The Sri Lankans declared, before lunch on the fourth day, but



Thilina Kandamby

the game was heading for a high scoring draw.

Resuming from the overnight score of 640 for five, with three batsmen having already post hundreds the previous day, Silva joined them yesterday morning and added an unbroken 111 run stand for the sixth wicket with Dilruwan Perera.

Silva also had added 142 runs for the fifth wicket with captain Kandamby. Earlier, Gunawardene and Paranavithana added 160 runs



Tharanga Paranavithana

for the second wicket while Paranavithana teamed up with Matthews to put on 125 for the third wicket.

Batting for over five hours, Paranavithana faced 242 balls in his knock of 159 hitting 18 boundaries and a six and was caught behind by wicketkeeper Heino Kuhn off the bowling of fast bowler C.J. de Villiers.

Matthews too batted for over five hours and faced 218 balls for his 131 hitting 13 fours and a six



Angelo Matthew

and was caught behind, this time off the bowling of veteran fast bowler Johann Louw. Matthews was one of the two centurions in the tourists' warm-up game against South African Airlines XI, where opener Upul Tharanga too got a hundred (169).

Kandamby, meanwhile, only faced 181 balls for his 138 and hit 14 boundaries and a six and was out when he offered fast bowler Henry Davis a return catch.

There were also four South



Kaushal Silva

Africa 'A' bowlers who went for over 100 runs and South African international

Thandi Tshabalala's off spin went for 228 runs. He picked up the wickets of Tharanga and Gunawardene after bowling a marathon 50 overs.

The South African total of 459 all out was boosted by hundreds from captain Ahmed Amla (106), the elder brother of South African Test batsman Hashim Amla and left-hander Arno

Jacobs, who made 131.

The pair added 242 runs for the third wicket and were dismissed in the space of four balls. Matthews picked up Amla while the off-spin of Dilruwan Perera ended Jacobs' resistance.

For the Sri Lankans, fast bowler Suranga Lakmal and Perera picked up three wickets apiece while Ishara Amerasinghe and Chanaka Welagedara accounted for one wicket each alongside Matthews. Left arm spinner Rangana Herath went wicketless despite bowling 32 overs.

The teams will move to Kimberly for the second unofficial Test and then for Benoni for the third and final encounter.

### Brief Scores:

**South Africa 'A' 459 all out** (A. Amla 106, A. Jacobs 131, J. Louw 78, S. Lakmal 3-77, D. Perera 3-48)

**Sri Lanka 'A' 749/5 declared** (U. Tharanga 61, T. Paranavithana 159, K. Gunawardene 80, A. Matthews 131, T. Kandamby 131, K. Silva 103\*, D. Perera 59\*)

## Sri Lanka Paralympics team leave for Beijing



Sandun Wasana Perera (Captain), Shantha Kumara, Lal Pushpa Kumara, Upali Rajakaruna, Udaya Pushpa Kumara



### Susil Premalal reporting from Beijing

The Sri Lankan team left for China on Sunday to take part in the Paralympics which will be held from September 6 to 17 in Beijing.

Sri Lanka team includes five athletes, three coaches and a physiotherapist. Colonel Rajeeva Wickramasinghe, the President of the National Paralympics, Interim Committee, will be the Chef de Mission of Sri Lankan contin-

gent. Ranjith Perera, Shiran Obeysekera and Preethi Kumara will function as coaches while K.W. Ranawaka will be the physiotherapist.

The Beijing event will be the third Paralympics for Sri Lanka captain Sandun Perera. The National Wheel Chair Marathon champion since 1991, Sandun Perera was placed eleventh in Power Lifting in Sydney Paralympics. Sandun Perera who has represented Athens Paralympics as well won a Bronze in the Pacific Sports Festival held in Bussan (2002) and was placed ninth in the Pacific Sports Festival held in Kuala Lumpur.

39-year-old Sandun Perera an old boy of Sudharma MV Galle won a gold medal in the Belgium Power Lifting Championships and was placed ninth at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games. He is the only civil athlete in the Sri Lankan contingent.

## Swedish swimmer Anna retires

**STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)** - Ten-time European swimming champion Anna-Karin Kammerling has retired.

The 28-year-old Swede, who won bronze in the women's 400-meter freestyle relay at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, set the world record seven times in her favored 50 butterfly event.

Kammerling, who recently graduated with a degree in economics, will start working at a real estate company, the Swedish Swimming Association said Monday.

In addition to 10 European Championship gold medals between 1999 and 2007, Kammerling won a gold medal in the 50 butterfly at the 2002 short course world championships.

At the Beijing Olympics, she failed to reach any finals in individual events and was part of the Swedish team that was disqualified in the 400 freestyle relay.

## Abu Dhabi group buys Man City

**LONDON (AP)** - Manchester City agreed Monday to a takeover by a United Arab Emirates business group, a deal that will end former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's brief ownership of the Premier League club.

The Abu Dhabi United Group for Development and Investment will now look at the club's accounts and contracts before a takeover is completed.

The group reached agreement late Sunday night with Thaksin, board member Sulaiman Al Fahim, who brokered the deal, told The Associated Press.

Thaksin will retain a minority stake and remain on the board as honorary president without any administrative responsibilities, al-Fahim said.

The club said in a statement that a "memorandum of understanding" has been signed and the deal is subject to a due diligence, allowing investors to request information from Man City and the Premier League.

Financial terms were not immediately available, but the UAE group described it as a "huge takeover" which gives the consortium "all the management rights."

Thaksin, who bought Man City last June, had his assets frozen and fled to Britain last month to escape corruption charges in Thailand, claiming that he couldn't be assured of a fair trial.

Al-Fahim - chief executive of Abu Dhabi-based developer Hydra Properties - reached the deal at the Abu Dhabi Emirates Palace Hotel with Thaksin and Khalid Kadfour Al-Muhairy, the legal chief of the

Emirates Group.

Al-Fahim said the group was attracted to the "richest European competition with more than US\$3 billion revenue."

Like Thaksin, the new owner wants manager Mark Hughes to deliver Champions League qualification by breaking into the top four of the Premier League.

"We will give support to the club by investing and buying new players," Al Fahim told the AP. "My goal is to make Manchester City one of the top four clubs in the Premier League."

After two wins in the first three matches of the season, City is third in the standings - one point behind leader Chelsea.

Unlike many of the Middle Eastern funds that have taken large stakes in international companies in recent years, City's new owner is not affiliated with the government, al-Fahim said.

Al-Fahim said the little-known consortium is composed of "prestigious businessmen" in the UAE's capital city, but he declined to name the group's members. Al-Fahim said he represents the investors but is not himself one of them.

Al-Fahim pledged to clear any pending payments and solve the club's financial problems, which left Thaksin resorting to obtaining loans from former chairman John Wardle.

"We will adopt marketing plans that reflect positively on the club and the company," al-Fahim said.

Al-Fahim said the deal was a "massive achievement" that will help make Abu Dhabi a global sports capital.

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