

Chocolate coated  
fresh Strawberries

Available only on order.

The *Kandos* Shop

Tel: 011- 2370771



# The Island Sports

Tuesday 23rd June, 2009

## Pakistan celebrate Twenty20 World Cup victory

Pakistan's eight-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the Twenty20 World Cup at Lord's on Sunday will have gone a long way toward making up to its fans for the nation's inability to host international matches due to security concerns.

And considering that the ongoing army offensive against the Taliban in the northwest of the country and a series of suicide bombings will not allow international cricket to return to Pakistan for years to come, it was a much-needed boost to the country's millions of cricket fans.

The International Cricket Council acted early to move the 2011 World Cup matches that Pakistan was due to host and also awarded its hosting rights to the Champions Trophy to South Africa last year. However, the game's governing body will be under pressure not to isolate the nation of 160 million people - the second-largest cricket-playing population after India.

"They (ICC) won't be able to discard Pakistan after Sunday's terrific victory," said veteran columnist Zakir Hussain Syed.

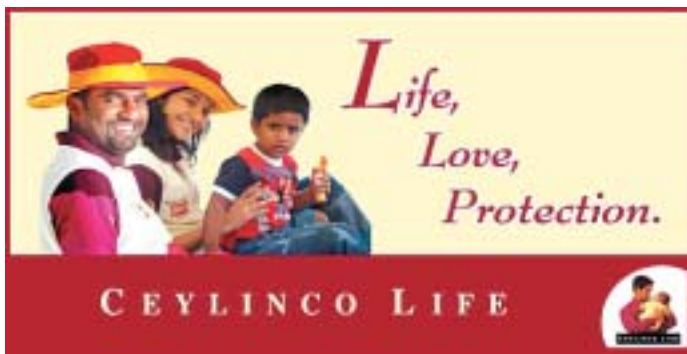
Pakistan's lack of international exposure meant that the team went into the tournament with little international match preparation.

The world's top Twenty20 World Cup contenders such as defending champion India and Australia prepared for the competition by giving their players as much international exposure and practice as possible in the shortest form of the game, but Pakistan's players were forced to rely on just their domestic Twenty20 competition to prepare.

Pakistan's government barred its players from competing in the Indian Premier League just before the tournament was shifted to South Africa, giving all of their opponents whose players participated in the much-publicised and



Pakistani cricket fans in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Sunday, June 21, 2009, celebrate their country's cricket team victory in the final of Twenty20 World Cup against Sri Lanka, which was played in London. (AP Photo/Anjum Naveed)



lucrative IPL a significant edge. Pakistan became a cricketing pariah after gunmen sprayed the Sri Lankan

cricket team's bus with bullets and fired a rocket and a grenade as it traveled to a match against Pakistan in Lahore on March 3. Seven players were wounded and six police killed before the bus sped off and eventually reached the safety of the stadium.

The result was that the ICC and other cricket-playing nations made Pakistan a no-go zone.

But all that was forgotten - at least temporarily - on Sunday as Pakistan beat Sri Lanka in the final. Giant screens were put in place in the

main markets of Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad and Multan where thousands of men, women and children gathered to watch the final live.

When the celebrations of Pakistan's triumph die down, the country's cricketers and the sport's administrators will need to once again face the reality of living in an international cricket-free zone.

"No doubt for a while - may be for a year or so - we have to concentrate on organizing our matches at a neutral venue, but gradually when security improves, we should see international teams returning to Pakistan," Syed said. Just when that will be is anyone's guess.

## Yousuf, Razzaq picked for SL series



Former ICL players Mohammad Yousuf and Abdul Razzaq were selected in Pakistan's 15-player squad on Monday for next month's three-test series in Sri Lanka.

While Razzaq played for Pakistan as it won the Twenty20 World Cup final on Sunday, Yousuf last played for his country in July and hasn't played test cricket since a match at India in 2007.

Both players are available to play for Pakistan after leaving the rebel Indian Cricket League.

"It feels good to be back in the national team," Yousuf said. "It's difficult to play after such a long gap, but I will try my best to adjust quickly."

Shahid Afridi, the man-of-the-match in Sunday's final for his unbeaten 54 off 40 balls against Sri Lanka, will join the squad for the following five-match one-day series.

"He has requested for 15 days rest and will join the team for ODIs," the PCB said in a statement.

Pakistan selected spinners Danish Kaneria and fast-improving Saeed Ajmal to counter Sri Lanka's batsmen on pitches expected to suit slow bowlers.

Mohammad Aamir, a 17-year-old left-arm paceman, was also picked in the test squad after impressing at the Twenty20 World Cup.

The first test begins at Galle from July 4-8. Colombo will host the remaining two matches - at P Sara Oval from July 12-16 and Sinhalese Sports Club Ground from July 20-24.

**Test squad:** Younis Khan (captain), Salman Butt, Khurram Manzoor, Mohammad Yousaf, Misbah-ul-Haq, Shoaib Malik, Kamran Akmal, Umar Gul, Saeed Ajmal, Mohammad Aamir, Danish Kaneria, Abdul Razzaq, Abdul Rauf, Fawad Alam, Faisal Iqbal.

## SSC Open Tennis 2009

### Main draw events from today

by Revata S. Silva

With the start of the Under-12 girls and boys main draws, the first 'A' grade tennis tournament of the year, the Singhalese Sports Club Open, will begin today at the four club clay courts at Maitland Place, Colombo. Due to rain, the start of the main draw matches were postponed on Monday following qualifying round matches that were worked off, amid rains, over the last weekend.

The main feature of this year's SSC Open, held for the 7th consecutive year this time, is the additional facility the club provides for the participants of the tournament from outstations. This will therefore be the first such tennis tournament in recent history where free accommodation is provided for the players tak-

ing part in a major domestic competition. Accommodation is provided at the SSC player quarters during the tournament that is going on till July 11.

Aruna Seneviratne will be the Tournament Director while Ishara Seneviratne is the Tournament Referee in this SLTA ratified event.

Girls' U-12 Top 5 seeds: 1. Tisuri Molligoda, 2. Kavindya de Silva, 3. Nethmi Waduge, 4. Harindi Lokuge and 5. Fathoum Issadeen

Boys' U-12 Top 5 seeds: Chehan Fernando, 2. Joshua Jayaratne, 3. Nadir Nazar, 4. Akila Vimukthi and 5. Thanusha Eswarage

Title sponsors: Bank of Ceylon, Demo, Excel Trading, HNB Assurance, Dialog, Ole, Fontera and 3G Sports, the local agents for Head sports products.

## Under-15 Division I Cricket

### Dharmapala amass 344

by Reemus Fernando

Dharmapala College, Pannipitiya beat S. Thomas' Prep according to Parabola System as they restricted their opponents to 52 for four wickets in 22.2 overs in reply to their massive 344 runs before rain halted their Inter School Under-15 Division I match at Pannipitiya yesterday.

**Scores:** Dharmapala 344 all out in 49.1 overs (Vimukthi Radella 31, Isuru Gunathilaka 40, Dumindu Samarasinghe 77, Kushan Jayalath 73, Pramod Priyamal 17, Supun Chathura 24 n.o.; Jeson Senanayake 3/69, Julian Devid 2/65, Dinuk Subasinghe 4/50)

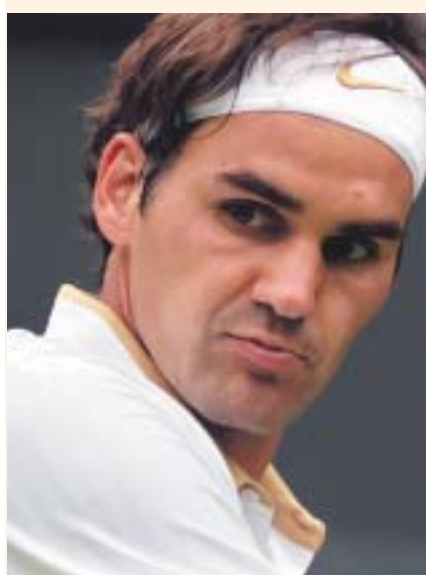
(Jeson Senanayake 32 n.o.; Supun Perera 2/10, Kanishka Pramod 2/06) Madusanka restricts Gamini to 50

Right arm leg spinner Sithara Madusanka picked up his second five wicket haul in the tournament for Devananda College to skittle out Gamini MMV for 50 runs and record a nine wicket victory in their Under-15 Division I match played at Bentota yesterday.

**Scores:** Gamini MMV 50 all out in 25.4 overs (D. Pathiraja 12; Udara de Silva 3/20, Sithara Madusanka 5/06) Devananda 51 for 1 in 12.4 overs (Yoshan de Silva 27 n.o., Ishara Mendis 15)

## WIMBLEDON

### Federer wins to start



**England (AP)** - Roger Federer was briefly tested in the opening match on Centre Court at Wimbledon, falling behind early before charging past Yen-hsun Lee of Taiwan, 7-5, 6-3, 6-2.

Federer failed to convert his first four break-point chances Monday, then lost serve to trail 3-2. But he immediately broke back, broke again in the final game of the first set and dominated from there.

Bidding for his sixth Wimbledon title, Federer won for the 41st time in his past 42 matches at the All England Club. The lone loss came in last year's final to Rafael Nadal, a match hailed by some as the sport's best ever.

### Sharapova gets past Kutuzova



**England (AP)** - Maria Sharapova has overcome a poor start to beat Viktoriya Kutuzova in the first round at Wimbledon.

Sharapova rallied from two breaks down in the first set before winning 7-5, 6-4 Monday.

The former top-ranked Russian trailed 4-1 and 5-3 in the first set before winning the last four games.

Both players struggled to hold serve in the second. Sharapova broke Kutuzova for a 5-3 lead to serve for the match, but was broken at love. The 2004 champion then broke again, converting her first match point as Kutuzova netted a backhand.

## Shanaka hits 129 in Badulla victory



Bandarawela Central batsman Dumindu Shanaka cracked 129 runs in 128 balls inclusive of 18 fours for Badulla District to score a 58 run victory over Moneragala District in the Prima Under-15 Inter District Cricket tournament match played at Badulla yesterday.

Batting first Badulla amassed 268 runs as Shanaka top scored with 129 runs. In reply Moneragala were bowled out for 210 runs.

**Scores:** Badulla 268 all out in 49.5 overs (Kavindu Dumindu Shanaka 129, M.L. Madushanka 17, P. Madushan 21; Kanishka Madushan 2/30, Ruwan Nishantha 3/37)

Moneragala 210 all out in 44 overs (Janaka Thushara 43, Shashika Udayasri 30, Kumudu Chandima 24, Ruwan Nishantha 20; P. Malinga 3/31, Lahiru Madushanka 2/11) (RF)

