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The Island Sports

Wednesday 1st July, 2009

Dulaj and Nadishanee enter finals in 400 metres dash

Susil Premalal reporting from Singapore

Sri Lanka's Dulaj Lahiru and S.H.Nadishanee qualified for the finals of boys' and girls' segments at the 400 metres sprint events respectively on the opening day of the Asian Youth Sports Festival in Singapore yesterday.

Lahiru, a student of Joseph Vaz Vennappuwa, recorded a timing of 51.55 seconds as he came second in heat number 3 of the 400 metres sprint event.

Nadishanee, representing Track Masters Sports Club, recorded a timing of 59.63 seconds came third in heat number two of the same event for girls.

Both Lahiru and Nadishanee, speaking to journalists after the heats, said

that they were a little nervous in taking part in the heats because this was their maiden athletics tour abroad. The duo however, said that they were confident of performing better at the finals.

They were the only members of the Sri Lankan athletics contingent to make it to any of the finals.

Sri Lanka's Nimesha Madushanee was unlucky to miss out on a probable bronze medal by as little as 0.3 metres in

the girl's high jump event. Madushanee retained an achievement of 1.65 metres while the gold medal went to an athlete from Chinese Taipei who retained an achievement of 1.75 metres.



Today Sri Lanka's sportsmen and women will be seen in action at basketball, beach volleyball and table tennis. Sri Lanka's swimmers are expected to take part in swimming events tomorrow.

India had the honour of winning the first gold medal at the Asian Youth Sports Festival which has attracted entries from 1400 participants, representing 42 countries.

It is reported that the wide spreading swine flue in Singapore had affected one of the participants at the games. But games officials said that the patient had recovered fully after receiving treatment.

Team manager Nishantha Piyasena told *The Island* that the entire Sri Lankan contingent was in the best of health.

Quarter-finalists found at SSC Open

by Revata S. Silva

The eight quarter-finals in both girls and boys Under-10 and girls Under-12 age categories were found by Monday (June 29) at the ongoing SSC Open 'A' Grade tennis tournament, amid continuous interruptions by rain, at the five club clay courts in Colombo.

Promising St. Peter's College schoolboy, Nishangan Nadarajah was the first to enter the quarter finals of the Under-14 boys' singles. Nadarajah, a member of this year's Sri Lanka U-14 team for the ITF World Junior (Boys) final qualifying round held last May in Kuching, Malaysia, is incidentally the bottom seed in a draw that features two of his schoolmates, Aritha Weerasinghe (seed 1) and Aaron Assauw, who also made the 3-member National team that played in the above Malaysian tourney.

Results:
Girls U-10 Singles (16-player draw)

(Following winners entered last 8):
Asalya Bandara (seed 1) (bye),
Nethra Nawarathnarajan bt Nimashi Dahanayake 9-5, Medhira Samarasinghe (3) bt Savanna Ranasinghe 9-0, Piumi Wickramasinghe bt Amali Wijeratne 9-3, M. Sithara bt Chagi Jayasekara 9-0, Lavinia Francis bt Dinithi Randeniarachchi (4) 9-5, Pavithra Vasanthakumar bt Kamani Navaragodagedara 9-4, Umashi Ranaweera (2) w/o from Maheetha de Silva

Boys U-10 Singles (32-player draw)

(Following winners entered last 8):
Adavan Pushparaj (seed 1) bt Nuwantha Dissanayake 9-0, Jerique Rajapakse bt Tarin Munasinghe 9-5, Kalinda Abeynayake bt Eranga Goonewardana 9-6, S. Nithujan w/o from Nathrath Alam, Isuru Wijeratne bt Kavinka Fernando 9-5, Pasindu Sooriyabandara bt Kevin Assauw 9-5, Harshana Abeyratne bt B.K. Tharaka 9-5, Andrew Muttiah (2) bt Kishan Rathnayake 9-0

Girls U-12 Singles (24-player draw)

(Following winners entered last 8):
Tisuri Molligoda (seed 1) bt Gaveshini Abeygunawardana 6-0, 6-2, Fathoum Issadeen (5) bt Rukshana Abdeen 6-3, 6-4, Nethmi Waduge (3) bt Chalani Gunathilake 4-6, 6-0, 7-6 (1), Thilini Atapattu (6) bt Tasha Fernando 6-0, 6-1, Thewuni Dewrage (7) bt Jayathma Navaragodagedara 6-0, 6-0, Harindi Lokuge bt Oshani Wickramasinghe 6-3, 6-1, Piyumi Mahinsala (8) bt Vindya Kathepiyarachchi 6-0, 6-2, Kavindya de Silva (2) bt P. Yathushani 6-0, 6-2
Boys U-14 Singles (32-player draw) -
Nishangan Nadaraja (seed-2) bt Chamod Perera 6-1, 6-2.

Asian Junior Wheelchair Tennis Camp at SLTA

Providing an ideal opportunity for differently-abled kids in the country to start a career in an internationally recognised sport- wheelchair tennis - the Sri Lanka Tennis Association (SLTA) will conduct an Asian Junior Wheelchair Tennis Training Camp, open for differently-abled children between age ages of 5-18, at the SLTA premises on July 18 and 19 from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. each day. The SLTA will provide equipment and meals for the participants of this two-day camp. Juniors who wish to attend should contact (Ms) Zareena or Diana on 011 537161 for further details.

(RSS)

PCB disband selection committees

ISLAMABAD (AP) - Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ijaz Butt has disbanded the national selection panel in the wake of the Twenty20 World Cup triumph.

The PCB said in a statement Tuesday that the decision to disband the senior and junior selection committees would come into effect immediately, but that former test wicketkeeper Wasim Bari would continue to work as chairman of interim selection panel.

Bari was appointed earlier this month after Abdul Qadir blamed meddling by PCB officials for his sudden resignation as chief selector during the Twenty20 World Cup in England. Pakistan beat Sri Lanka in the T20 World Cup final to collect its first major international prize since claiming the 1992 World Cup title in the 50-over format.

Vaughan confirms retirement

LONDON (AP) - Former England captain Michael Vaughan confirmed his retirement from all forms of cricket on Tuesday.

The 34-year-old Vaughan led England to a national record 26 test wins from 51 matches, notably the victorious 2005 Ashes campaign against Australia.

"After a great deal of consideration, I've decided that now is the right time to retire from cricket," Vaughan said. "It has been an enormous privilege to have played for and captained my country and this is one of the hardest decisions I have had to make."

Intermediate boxing c-ships

Over 100 male boxers and over 25 female boxers are contesting the on going intermediate boxing championships at the Sugathadasa Stadium with the view of qualifying for the upcoming Boxing Nationals.

The champions and runners-up of the each category will qualify for the Nationals. Reputed boxers are not eligible to take part at the intermediate championship.

As many as 24 clubs are vying for honours at the intermediate championships which got off to a star on Monday at the Sugathadasa Stadium. The finals will be worked off on Friday.

Three day side game at Colts Cricket Club grounds

Kapu hits century in warm up game



Middle order batsman Chamara Kapugedara warmed up for the first Test against Pakistan in Galle when he scored a hundred on the second day of the three-day practice match against Pakistan at the Colts Cricket Ground yesterday.

Resuming from his overnight score of 90, Kapugedara reached three figures in the morning session and retired having made 115. He faced 150 balls and hit 11 boundaries and three sixes. Kapugedara is vying for the number seven position with Angelo Mathews for the first Test and with the century in the warm up game is a key contender to play in Galle.

Earlier, on day one, former under-19 opener Lahiru Thirimanne scored 116.

Sri Lanka resumed day two on 278 for three and declared their first innings at 345 for five with captain Thilina Kandamby unbeaten on 21.

There was not much joy for the Pakistani bowlers as paceman Abdur Rauf picked up two wickets while spinners Danish Kaneria and Saeed Ajmal picked up a wicket each.

In reply, the tourists got off to a solid start with Khurram Manzoor and Salman Butt hitting half-centuries. The pair added 153 runs for the first wicket, but fell in the 80s. Muthumudalige Pushpakumara was the most impressive bowler picking up three wickets. His victims were Manzoor, captain Younis Khan and star batsman Mohammad Youf.

There was a mini collapse as Pakistan lost quick wickets and from 207 for one fell to 238 for five, but Faisal Iqbal and Fawad Alam added



Pakistani fielder Faisal Iqbal, right, is hit by a ball played by Sri Lankan Cricket XI batsman Gihan Rupasinghe, left, during the second day's play of a three day practice match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka Cricket XI in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Tuesday, June 30, 2009.

(AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena)

an unbroken 63 runs for the sixth wicket and ensured there were no further hiccups. At stumps, Iqbal was unbeaten on 21 while Alam was on 40.

Yousuf, who is making a comeback at the international stage after his involvement with the banned Indian Cricket League (ICL), failed to impress and was one of the three victims of off-spinner Pushpakumara. He made 14.

Suraj Mohammad picked up two wickets while Dilhara Fernando and Farveez Maharoo failed to take wickets.

This is the only warm up game for Pakistan ahead of the first Test Match against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Cricket Stadium, starting on Saturday.

Brief Scores:

Sri Lanka Cricket XI 345/5 decl (90)

(L. Thirimanne 116, C. Kapugedara 115, Abdur Rauf 2/62)

Pakistan 301/5 (72)
(Khurram Manzoor 83, Salmann Butt 82, M. Pushpakumara 3/83)

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