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# The Island Sports

Tuesday 13th October, 2009

## St. Patrick's and Bandaranaike meet in historic cricket match today

### Bandaranaike College



Seated from left: Kanishka Ravihansa, Ramesh Fernando (V. Capt), Samith Danushka (Asst. Coach), Kapila Samaraweera (MiC), Sunil Nanayakkara (Vice-Principal), Kanishka Amarasinghe (Coach), Asiri Bandara (Captain), Viraj Dharmaratne.

Standing from left: Aravinda Palliyaguru, Dinindu Samodana, Pathum Vimukthi, Malindu Perera, Thilina Lakruwan, Ipula Ranasinghe, Ravindu Munasinghe, Anupa Sandeep, Sajith Udayanga, Sanitha Imbulana, Pasindu Madusanka, Gayan Kulathunga

### St. Patrick's College



Seated from left: Mark Hamilton, Mariadas Sajeendran, Pathmanathan Navadeevan (Captain), Sylvester Sahayarajah (PoG), Rev. Fr. Jero Selvanayagam (Rector), Pararajasingham Jeyakumar (MiC), Amaladas Seranus Nishanthan (Coach), Siluvaidas Milando Jenifer (V.Capt), Arul Mariadas Manoj.

Standing from left: Mariyathas Marino, Mariaruban Dilakshan, Anthonyrajah Gavaskar, Bonifas Ketheesan, Julian Patrick Eric Prathap, George Jehan Rejilais, Vijesinghan Kugabala, Aniston Ajithdarvin, Arul Mariadas Norbert, Joseph Clinton, Thuraisingham Moris Miroshan, Rosario Jackson.

#### Reemus Fernando reporting from Jaffna

St. Patrick's College, Jaffna and Bandaranaike College, Gampaha will make history when they meet in the Inter-School Under-19 Division II two day tournament Group D fixture here in Jaffna today.

It's the first time a Jaffna District team is drawn in the Under-19 two day tournament in as many as two and half decades and it's also the first time a team from the southern part of the country braved the tiresome 10 hour journey in

more than two and half decades to reach the Jaffna peninsula by A9 road to play cricket.

Although the result of the match is vital for both teams to earn points for their success in the Division II tournament, the historic importance makes the outcome of the match almost immaterial to thousands of cricket loving and peace loving enthusiasts who were waiting for decades to see this moment dawn.

Cricket passed probably its hardest passage of time in the peninsula during the last two and half decades. Playing

only among schools within the district and moving out seldom to adjacent districts for Under-15 and Under-17 lower division matches, the talents of the cricketers of war ravaged districts were known only to them.

The war and the transportation difficulties held the cricketers of Jaffna from coming to the southern part of the country and vice versa. There had been instances when combined teams from Jaffna visited south for matches but they were arranged largely for peace promotion activities. This will be the first time

teams from south and north meet in a two day tournament match after two and half decades.

The St. Patrick's College officials said that they played friendly two day matches (home and away) with Ibbagamuwa Central way back in mid 80s but it stopped after war broke out.

St. Patrick's earned a division II promotion last year when they did well in the Limited Overs tournament and in their Division III two day tournament in the 2008/09 season as they reached Colombo by air for the first time in many

decades to interact in sports activities.

Captained by Pathmanathan Navadeevan, St. Patrick's will look forward to gain the home ground advantage in what would be their first match of the season against a team that has met fluctuating fortunes. Bandaranaike captained by fourth year coloursman Asiri Bandara will be trying to overcome the strain of a 10 hour bus journey to try their luck against Jaffna lads.

The match will commence at St. Patrick's Ground at 9.30 am today after a brief ceremony.

## Fiji suspended from 2010 Commonwealth Games

**NEW DELHI (AP)** - The Commonwealth Games Federation on Monday suspended Fiji's membership, ruling it out of the 2010 Commonwealth Games to be staged in New Delhi.

"Consequent to Fiji's suspension from the Commonwealth, its membership of the Commonwealth Games Federation has also been suspended," CGF president Michael Fennell said after the CGF general assembly in New Delhi. The Commonwealth suspended Fiji last month after it failed to meet certain conditions of membership, including holding early democratic elections.

Fennell said the CGF would make a representation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting that sport not be included

in the sanctions imposed on Fiji.

"Among the CGF members, there's great sympathy for the plight of Fijian athletes who are aspiring to compete in New Delhi," said Fennell.

"Sport and sporting events should be exempted from political suspension," he said.

Fennell said the CGF would approach the Commonwealth Secretary-General with a recommendation "that that sport be removed from the sanction imposed upon a nation suspended from the Commonwealth."

Fennell said such an exemption could provide Fiji's athletes an opportunity to participate in the 2010 Commonwealth Games, which are scheduled for Oct. 3-14.

# Massa does first F1 test since accident

**FIORANO, Italy (AP)** - Ferrari driver Felipe Massa took his first test drive in a Formula One car since a life-threatening accident and said Monday he's back to the driver he was before.

The Brazilian drove a F2007 at Ferrari's private test track.

"It went well," Massa said. "I felt fine physically and it felt like the accident never happened."

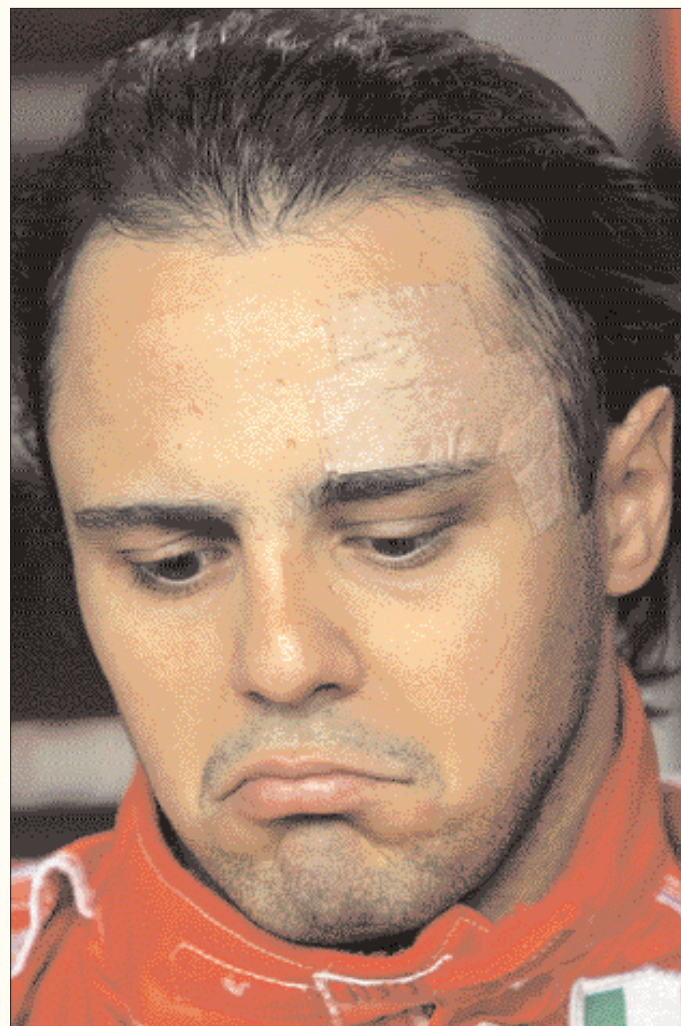
Massa was knocked unconscious by a loose car part in qualifying at the Hungarian Grand Prix in July and crashed into a safety barrier. He injured his left eye area and required surgery and later had a metal plate inserted.

After an initial lap to get reoriented, Massa returned to the garage briefly and then headed back out on the track.

On Saturday, Massa was cleared in medical exams with governing body FIA at a hospital in Paris.

While he has hinted several times since the accident that he would like to return for the season-ending Abu Dhabi GP on Nov. 1, Ferrari has said repeatedly that Massa won't race again until next season.

"I didn't have any problem with my vision and I would be prepared to race not just one but two races in a row," Massa said, according to the Gazzetta dello Sport's Web site. "Obviously there is a timeline that needs to be respected, but I can tell you I'm back to the same driver I was before the accident."



Felipe Massa

## Three alive for two berths

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)** - With three South American teams assured of their berths for next year's World Cup in South Africa, three more will have their shot at two remaining spots in the final round of qualifying Wednesday.

Brazil, Paraguay and Chile have already qualified for the World Cup, leaving Argentina, Uruguay and Ecuador to decide the last remaining direct qualification from the region. The fifth-placed finisher earns a playoff with the No. 4 North and Central America and the Caribbean side for another berth. The opponent will be either Costa Rica or Honduras.

Going into Wednesday, Argentina has 25 points, Uruguay 24 and Ecuador 23.

Argentina plays at Uruguay and Ecuador plays at Chile. In three other matches that have no bearing on World Cup berths, it's Peru vs. Bolivia, Brazil vs. Venezuela and Paraguay vs. Colombia.

Argentina is in the best position, thanks to Saturday's 2-1 victory over Peru in which Martin Palermo scored in the third minute of injury time - in a driving rainstorm - to give the underperforming regional powerhouse the victory at River Plate's Monumental stadium.

The worst team in South America, Peru has won only two of 17 qualifiers.

Palermo, who entered as a second-half substitute, may have saved Argentina from missing its first World Cup since 1970.

"A Miracle Named Palermo," read the headline in Sunday's La Nacion newspaper.

Palermo celebrated the goal by pulling off his shirt and raising his arms skyward in the downpour. At the same moment, embattled Argentina coach Diego Maradona dived headfirst into the soaking wet pitch - as if he'd just scored the goal.

"This lets us go to Montevideo at bit more relaxed," said Barcelona striker Lionel Messi.

If Argentina beats Uruguay at Montevideo on Wednesday, the two-time champions advance to the World Cup. The same for Uruguay. A victory and it goes to South Africa.

For Argentina, a draw might be enough to finish fourth, and it can even lose and still have a shot at the playoff spot.

For Uruguay, a draw would only be enough for a possible finish in fifth place - and a playoff in November. Uruguay might even reach the playoff with a loss.

## St. Peter's bowled out for 67

St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya were bowled out for a paltry 67 runs as Pradeep Rathnayake and Hasitha Nirmal picked up four wickets each for Dharmapala College, Pannipitiya to take first day's honours in their match commenced at Pannipitiya yesterday.

In reply Dharmapala were all out for 118.

#### Scores:

**St. Peter's** 67 all out in 24 overs (Denham Perera 18; Pradeep Rathnayake 4/22, Hasith Nirmal 4/17)

**Dharmapala** 118 all out in 65.3 overs (Tharindu Liyanage 23, Hasith Nirmal 38, Rashitha Gamage 72, Hasitha Wickramasinghe 27, Tharindu Gamlath 20; Angelo Emmanuel 5/56)

