

HANAN OLIMPIADA PRA-SUKIRI 20



Winners: Danyal (third from right) with the winners.

Athletes at their best

Championship held to seek
participants for international games

Photos by SHAARI CHEMAT

INTERNATIONALS hogged the limelight in the Pre-Higher Learning Education Ministry Games athletes championship at the UPM Sports Complex in Serdang recently.

Mohd Zabidi Ghazali, representing

Universiti Malaya, was in his element and won the men's 200m gold in a time of 22.80.

In second place was Amin Jusoh (23.68) followed by Lesego Kgalemawg (24.23).

Former Malaysian Schools Sports Council (MSSM) star K. Ganthimathi, representing UPM, won two gold medals.

Her first came in the 800m and the second in the 1,500m.

Internationals Adi Aliffudin Hussin, Robani Hassan and Norjannah Hafiszah Jamaludin, all former students of UPM, also took part in the two-day championship.

UPM sports officer Mohd Firdaus Abdullah said 25 teams took part in the championship.

"Besides athletes from public universities, we also had participants from private colleges as well as state teams.

Selangor and Johor were represented by their athletes preparing for the Malaysia Games.

"The championship was also an opportunity for the Higher Learning Education Ministry to evaluate their preparations for the coming Games in October," said Firdaus.

The Higher Learning Education Ministry Games (Sukipt) will be held for the first time.

About 10,000 athletes and officials from 110 higher learning institutions in Malaysia

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—MOHD FIRDAUS ABDULLAH

with 14 sports offered – swimming, bowling, badminton, athletics, rugby 7s, archery, netball, tennis, volleyball, chess, taekwondo, karate, sepak takraw and shooting.

Sukipt, Mohd Firdaus said, was a platform for them to identify their representatives for the Asean University Games in Laos in December.

"We will also be participating the World University Games next year. Sukipt will be an excellent platform for us to evaluate our athletes," he said.

Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) vice-president Datuk Danyal Balagopal, who gave away the prizes, commended the organisers.

"We have to initiate more training programmes and competitions for our young athletes. This meet should be a motivation to the athletes to be active after their university days," said Danyal.





Together: Nuhammad Suhaimi (left) and G. Tharmaraj in action in the men's 3,000m steeplechase.



Strength: UM's Abdul Aziz won the silver medal in the men's javelin with 44.75m effort