

Starting right: Mohd Jironi enjoying his sahur at 4.30am at the National Sports Council cafeteria.

Jironi a model sportsman

Plucky youngster continues training during Ramadan

K.P. SIVAM

kpsivam@thestar.com.my

Photos by

MAL SELLEHUDDIN

MIDDLE distance runner Mohd Jironi Riduan is an exemplary sport model – dedicated, disciplined and determined to do his utmost for the

highest.

Despite having to fast in the month of Ramadan, the plucky Jironi has not stopped his training in preparation for the Asean University Games in Kuala Lumpur from Dec 11 to 21.

Jironi, who won the 1,500m gold medal at the Kuala Terengganu Sukma in May this year, usually

trains for two hours in the morning and another two hours in the evening each day.

He also goes for regular physical workouts at the National Sports Council (NSC) gymnasium.

Jironi's coach S. Muthiah, a former international and three-time SEA Games 1,500m gold medalist, has drawn up a training programme for

him during the fasting month.

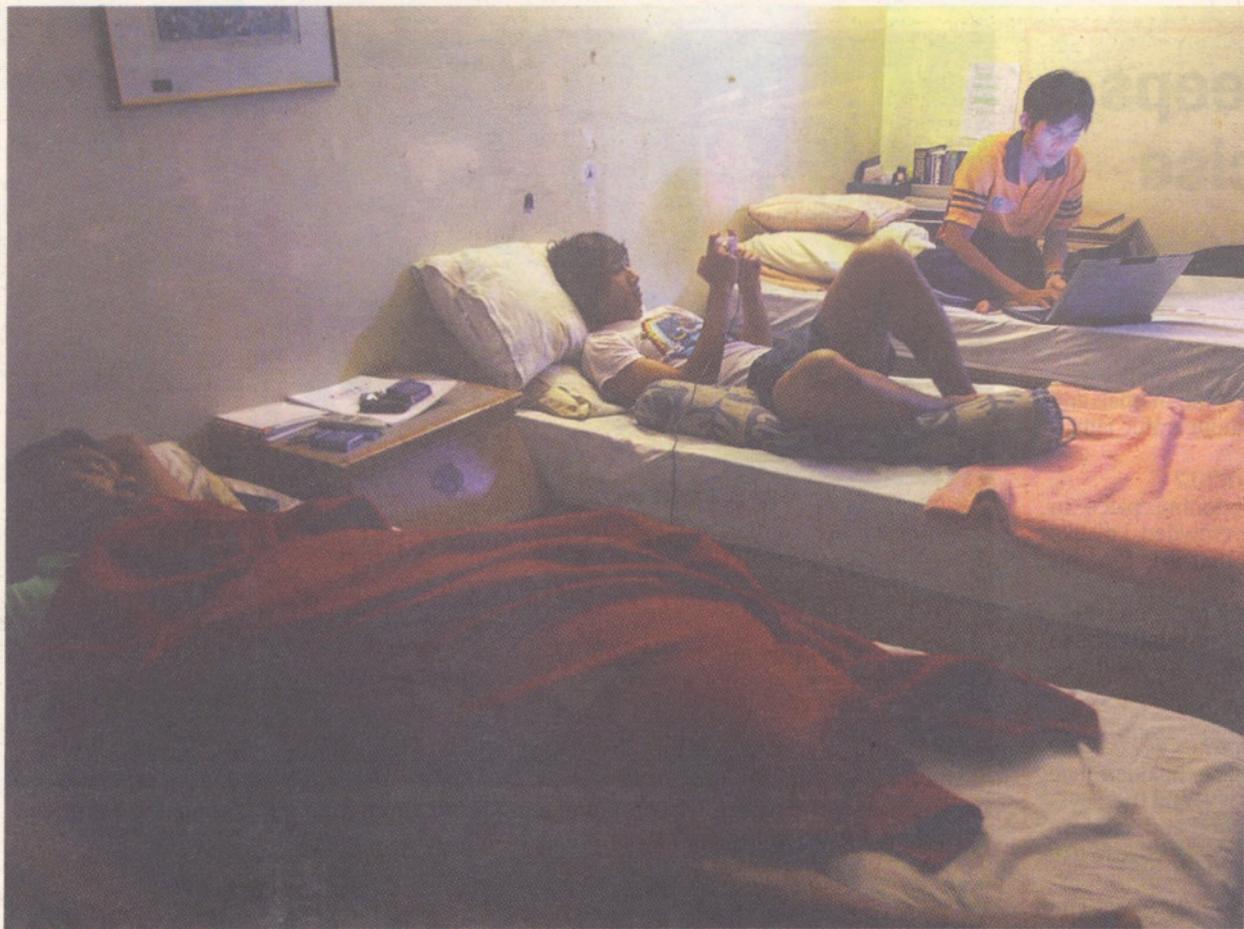
Muthiah said he would like Jironi to be physically conditioned for the Asean University Games.

"The Games is the only competition for Jironi for the remaining part of the year. Since it is the fasting month, I don't want any exhaustive training sessions for him.

"But the boy is very dedicated

9. Call to prayer:
Mohd Jironi attends the terawih prayers at night.





2. Short break: After sahur, Mohd Jironi checks his e-mail and gets ready to attend classes at UPM.

and disciplined and has not missed any training session," Muthiah said.

During the fasting month, Jironi, who stays at the Bukit Jalil Sports School (BJSS) dormitory, wakes up at 4.30am. After Sahur and prayers, he takes a break, checking e-mails.

Then he goes off on his motorcycle to attend classes at UPM. During lunch time, while his non-Muslim colleagues are having lunch, Jironi goes to the mosque at UPM to recite the Quran.

He then returns to the afternoon class session. At 4pm, he starts his two-hour training session at the National Sports Council (NSC) training centre in Bukit Jalil.

Jironi sticks strictly to the training programme drawn up by Muthiah.

"It is tiring but I know have to go through the routine to maintain my fitness and physical condition. I have lost about 3kg in the last two weeks. Though not strong, I am detemined to go through the daily training programme," Jironi said.

Jironi, who won the bronze medal



7. Tired out: Mohd Jironi takes a breather during his training session.

in the 800m in the SEA Games in Korat last year, breaks fast with his Muslim colleagues.

On the day *StarMetro* interviewed him, Jironi attended a breaking fast

session hosted by the Sport Minister at the Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

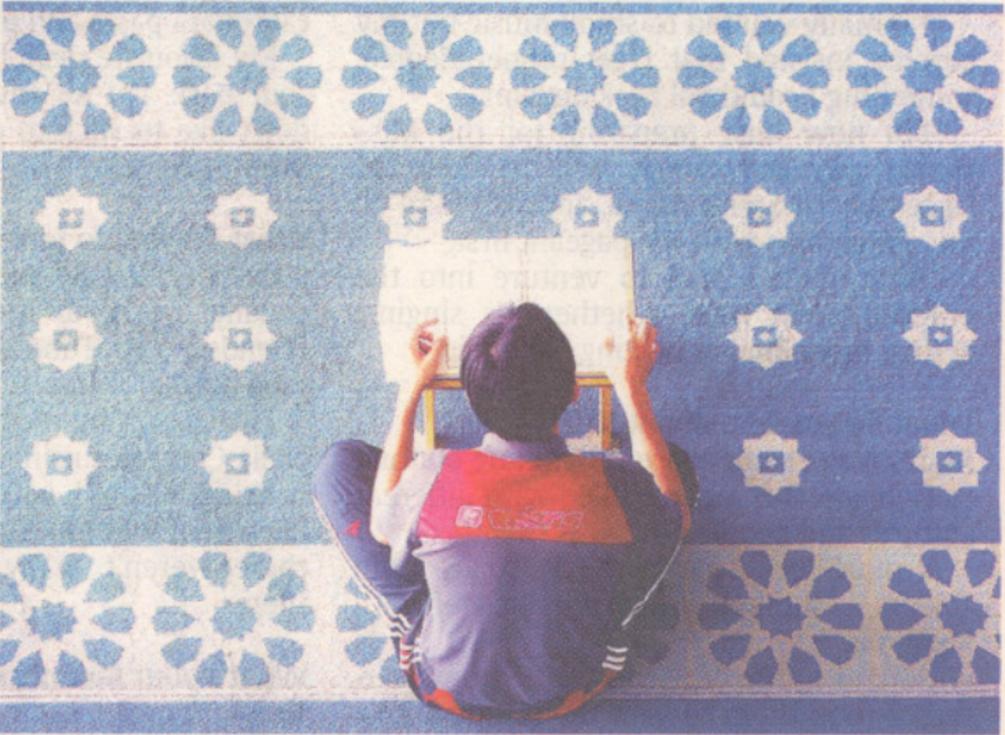
The day ends with Jironi joining his team mates for the Terawih prayers at the NSC surau.



8. Dinner together: At 7.15pm, Mohd Jironi (second from right) usually breaks fast with other athletes at the Putra Stadium.



3. Off to class: At 9am, Mohd Jironi travels by motorbike to UPM Serdang.



4. Pious devotion: At lunch time, Mohd Jironi takes some time to recite the Quran.



5. Back to class: Mohd Jironi returns to the class at 2pm.



6. No breaks: At 4pm, Mohd Jironi is at the National Sports Council training centre for his two-hour training session.