

Adi's preparation in disarray as coach Nazar is warded

By AFTAR SINGH

KUALA LUMPUR: National shot putter Adi Alifuddin Hussin's preparation for the World University Games in Kazan, Russia, from July 6-17 has been thrown into disarray as his coach Mohd Nazar Abdul Rahim has been hospitalised since last Friday with heart problem and pneumonia.

The 42-year-old Nazar, when met at the HUKM Hospital in Cheras yesterday, said that he felt weak because "three of my arteries are blocked".

"My legs are swollen due to the water in my lungs. I'm not sure when I'll be able to coach my athletes because I'll get admitted to the IJN (National Heart Institute) once I recover from pneumonia," said Nazar, who has been the

national throws coach since 2001.

Adi has been training under Nazar since 2004. Under Nazar's guidance, the 25-year-old Adi erased his own national record of 17.38m by hurling the putt to a distance of 17.53m en route to winning the silver medal in the 2011 Indonesia SEA Games in Palembang.

Nazar admitted that Adi's training had been affected because of his illness but hoped that the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) student would continue his training under coach Faizol Harun for the World University Games.

Adi, who broke the national record five times under Nazar, will have to better or equal his own mark again to qualify for the Myanmar SEA Games in December.

The Terengganu-born Adi is praying that Nazar would recover soon and help him become

one of the top shot putters in the South-East Asian region.

"Although Nazar won't be able to train me now, it won't stop me from doing my best in Kazan," said the burly Adi.

Malaysian Athletics Federation (MAF) president Datuk Zainal Abidin Ahmad, who visited Nazar at the hospital yesterday, said they would offer him financial assistance for his treatments.

"He needs a good rest as he also has kidney problems. We hope he will recover soon and continue training his athletes for competitions, especially the Myanmar SEA Games," said Zainal, who is also the competitions committee chairman.

The others MAF officials who visited Nazar were deputy president Datuk Wan Hisham Salleh, general manager Datuk Kenneth J. Luis and assistant general manager Anthony Samy.