

BIGGEST BIRTHDAY PRESENT



Malaysian divers with their medals at the Bukit Jalil National Sports Complex's National Aquatic Centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

MALAYSIA TOPS WITH 145 GOLD MEDALS

Athletes win 1 out of every 3 gold medals on offer at Kuala Lumpur Sea Games

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AS Malaysia celebrates its 60th National Day today, our Sea Games athletes have presented the country with its biggest birthday present.

The Malaysian contingent rose magnificently to the occasion with a record 145 gold medal haul in the Kuala Lumpur Sea Games, which came to an end yesterday.

Malaysia had the better of traditional rivals Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia by winning 35.8 per cent of the 406 gold medals on offer in 38 sports.

Many got it wrong in terms of the medals prediction as the Malaysian athletes surpassed expectations.

The Youth and Sports Ministry targeted 111 gold medals, while sports pundits forecast between 119 and 125 titles, but they did not anticipate 145.

National Sports Council director-general Datuk Ahmad Shapawi Ismail said the performance of the 844 athletes in the national contingent could be split into excellent, good and satisfactory.

The Malaysian contingent was phenomenal as it surpassed the previous best haul of 111 gold medals achieved in the 2001 edition that took place here.

The Malaysia athletes, who include world keirin champion Azizulhasni Awang, world diving champion Cheong Jun Hoong, bowling icon Shalin Zulkifli and shooter Jonathan Wong, produced notable performances to make this happen.

Finishing on top of the Sea Games medal standings will certainly make Malaysians feel good as the wau logo of KL2017 helped contribute to the wow factor.

It is a beautiful and fitting way to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the country's independence with a top of the world feeling.

It was stirring to see Malaysians of all races packing Sea Games venues to cheer on Team Rimau.

The Jalur Gemilang was raised for the first time when the Faiz Roslan-led team performed magnificently to win the chinlone linking event at Titiwangsa Indoor Stadium on Aug 16, and this

was followed by a gold rush in the subsequent days.

Three Malaysian athletes achieved significant firsts in the 29th Sea Games.

Sultan of Terengganu Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin became the first ever Malaysian state ruler to win gold medals — in the equestrian endurance individual and team events. Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin became the first minister to win a Sea Games gold via polo.

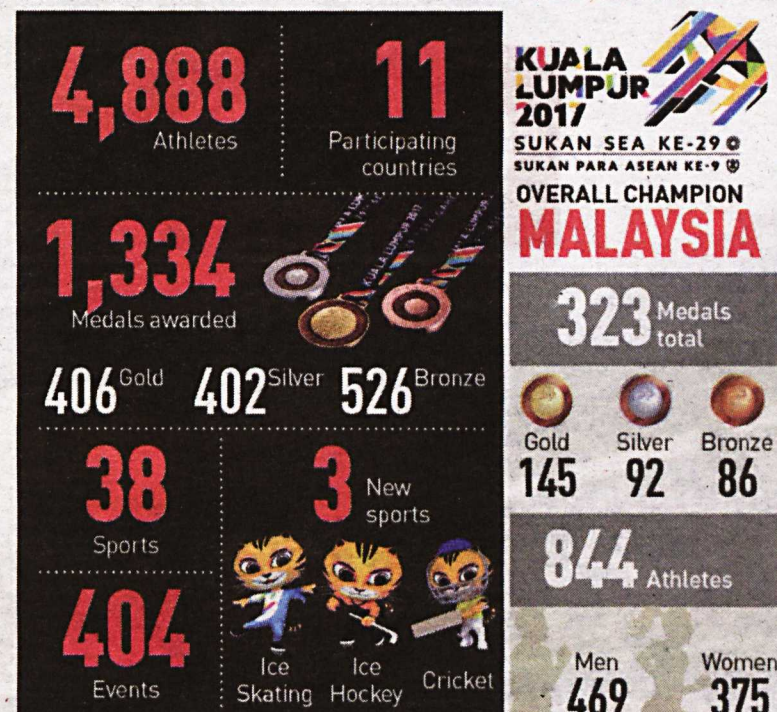
Adam Yoong Hanifah will be remembered as the youngest gold medallist at the KL Games. The 9-year-old triumphed in the water ski individual tricks events in Putrajaya.

Azizulhasni was exceptional as he duly led the cycling track team to 11 of the 13 gold medals on offer while Shalin, 39, rolled back the years to win three titles on the lanes.

Jonathan emerged as one of the biggest stars in the Sea Games when he sensationally upstaged Olympic champion Hoang Xuan Vinh of Vietnam for the men's 10m air pistol gold medal.

The icing on Malaysia's birthday cake was fittingly provided by the national ice skaters who delivered three gold medals yesterday.

29TH SEA GAMES KUALA LUMPUR MEDALS TALLY



Edition	Malaysia/ Malaya ranking	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total medal
2017, Kuala Lumpur Sea Games	1	145	92	86	323
2015 Singapore Sea Games	4	62	58	66	186
2013 Myanmar Sea Games	5	43	38	79	160
2011 Indonesia Sea Games	4	58	50	81	189
2009 Laos Sea Games	4	40	40	59	139
2007 Thailand Sea Games	2	68	52	96	216
2005 Philippines Sea Games	4	61	49	65	175
2003 Vietnam Sea Games	5	44	42	59	145
2001 Kuala Lumpur Sea Games	1	111	75	85	271
1999 Brunei Sea Games	2	57	45	42	144
1997 Indonesia Sea Games	3	55	68	75	198
1995 Thailand Sea Games	4	31	49	69	149
1993 Singapore Sea Games	5	43	45	65	153
1991 Philippines Sea Games	4	36	38	66	140
1989 Malaysia Sea Games	2	67	58	75	200
1987 Indonesia Sea Games	4	35	41	67	143
1985 Thailand Sea Games	4	26	28	32	86
1983 Singapore Sea Games	6	16	25	40	81
1981 Philippines Sea Games	4	16	27	31	74
1979 Indonesia Sea Games	5	19	23	39	81
1977 Malaysia Sea Games	5	21	17	21	59
1975 Thailand Southeast Asian Peninsular Games	4	16	11	4	31
1973 Singapore Southeast Asian Peninsular Games	3	30	35	50	115
1971 Malaysia Southeast Asian Peninsular Games	2	41	43	55	139
1969 Burma Southeast Asian Peninsular Games	4	16	24	39	79
1967 Thailand Southeast Asian Peninsular Games	3	23	29	43	95
1965 Malaysia Southeast Asian Peninsular Games	2	33	36	29	98
1963 Cambodia Southeast Asian Peninsular Games		CANCELLED			
1961 Burma Southeast Asian Peninsular Games	3	16	24	39	79
1959 Thailand Southeast Asian Peninsular Games	3	8	15	11	34