



ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS
Target: No target announced
Achievement: 3 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze

Farah Ann Abdul Hadi continued where she left off at the Singapore Games, contributing another two gold like she did two years ago.

Tan Ing Yueh could have also delivered two gold had she not been demoted to silver in the vault discipline after a protest from competing teams.

It would be nice to see these two highly experienced gymnasts making the breakthrough at the much tougher Asian Games level.



RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS
Target: 6 gold
Achievement: 8 gold, 5 silver
Malaysia's rhythmic gymnasts were peerless at KL2017, sweeping all eight gold medals on offer at the sport with minimal fuss.

Koi Sie Yan was the standout gymnast for Malaysia, winning four gold and two silver.

It is important that the squad continue to maintain their performance at the 2019 Philippines Sea Games and prove that they are capable of delivering the goods both at home and abroad.



ARCHERY
Target: 4 gold
Achievement: 5 gold, 3 silver, 2 bronze

With a haul of five gold, three silver and two bronze medals, the national archers equalled the tally they achieved in 2015 at the compound and recurve archers won three and two gold medals respectively.

Of greater significance is the resurgence of the women recurve archers, who won the team event for their first gold medal in 12 years. Malaysia's strength in depth is evident in the fact that four of the gold medals came in team events though the archers can consider themselves unlucky to have lost in three other finals.



ATHLETICS
Target: 6 gold
Achievement: 8 gold, 8 silver, 9 bronze

With their best performance since 1999, athletics bounced back from an all-time low of three gold medals in 2015 to win eight gold, eight silver and nine bronze.

Khairul Hafiz Jantan blazed his way to 100m glory as the national athletes broke six national records and three Sea Games records.

Credit for the emergence of a new and young brigade of athletes goes to the Kita Juara initiative of the National Sports Council, with youngsters such as Grace Wong, Yap Sean Yee, Elena Goh and Irfan Shamshudin set to propel the sport forward.

TIMESPORT'S SEA GAMES REPORT CARD

Many sports pass with flying colours while a few fall flat



BADMINTON
Target: 2 gold
Achievement: 1 gold, 5 silver, 2 bronze

Malaysia will have to go back to the drawing board as things are not looking good for the national team.

At the Sea Games, Malaysia players, especially those who reached the finals, failed to capitalise when it mattered most. With the Thomas Cup, Asian and Commonwealth Games looming, it will be interesting to see how BAM president Datuk Seri Norza Zakaria and his coaches turn things around.



BASKETBALL
Target: 1 gold
Achievement: 1 gold

The national women's team, under coach Yoong Sze Yui, bulldozed their way to a winning 6-0 record to retain the gold medal they won in Singapore two years ago.

As the men laboured to yet another fifth-place finish, the women's team provided the cheer for the fans at the Maba Stadium. The Malaysian Basketball Association, however, have to find a way to get the struggling men's team to perform after missing out on the semi-finals yet again following a defeat by Thailand.



BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER
Target: 1 gold
Achievement: 3 bronze

Expectations were high on Rory Thor Chuan Leong and Moh Keen Hoo to retain their singles and doubles gold medals, but they succumbed to pressure in their own backyard.

It was the first time Malaysia did not win a gold medal in the Sea Games since the 2009 Korat edition. Cue sports are not highly regarded and as a result, they receive limited funding for exposure. Furthermore, there is no training centre to develop the sport.



BOXING
Target: 1 gold
Achievement: 1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze

Much to the delight of the Malaysian Boxing Federation, the team met their target through Muhammad Fuad Mohd Redzuan (men's light flyweight). However, powerhouses like the Philippines have cried foul over dubious judging. In truth, Malaysian boxers still have a long way to go before they could be

on par with countries like Thailand or the Philippines. A good achievement, nevertheless.



BOWLING
Target: 4 gold
Achievement: 7 gold, 4 silver, 3 bronze

You can always count on bowling to deliver when it matters. Rafiq Ismail and Shalin Zulkifli were the top performers as they won three titles each in the men's and women's competitions.

For the women, it was a sweet outing as they overcame rivals Singapore who brought in eight coaches for the Sea Games. Bowling will now shift their focus to next year's Indonesia Asian Games.



CRICKET
Target: 2 gold
Achievement: 1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze

Cricket made a successful Sea Games debut with Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand sharing the three gold medals on offer. However, the national team will be disappointed to have allowed Singapore to take the men's Twenty20 gold medal after making an atrocious start to the final. The Malaysian Cricket Association had targeted two gold medals, including the 50-overs title which Malaysia won, and will now have to work hard in negotiations with the Philippines to ensure cricket remains on the programme in 2019.



CYCLING (Road, track and BMX)
Target: 11 gold
Achievements: Track: 13 gold, 10 silver, 3 bronze

Road: Two gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze
BMX: 1 bronze

Cycling, in all three disciplines, exceeded their targets as all track, road and BMX athletes played their part to add to the 145-gold haul but there were ups and downs along the way.

The ups was Fatehah Mustapa coming out as the most profitable winner in cycling as she entered with a tall order of participating in four different categories (women's keirin, women's sprint, women's time trial and women's 500m), and she delivered in all four.

Azizulhasni Awang provided cycling with its great moment when he delivered the nation's 11th gold (the men's sprint), the targeted milestone needed for Malaysia to emerge as the Games overall champions. The downside was Mohd Harif Saleh's setback in the men's road race

when he failed to defend his title after winning the criterium earlier.



DIVING
Target: 13 gold
Achievement: 13 gold, 5 silver, 1 bronze

OLYMPIANS, world champion multiple Sea Games champions made up the diving squad and it was no wonder that Malaysia made a clean sweep of 13 gold on offer. Amazingly, the oldest diver stole the limelight and it looks like 32-year-old Leong Mun Yee will still be around for the Philippines Sea Games in two years time. Mun Yee took her Games gold medal haul to 17 and is now the third most successful Malaysian athlete behind bowler Shalin Zulkifli (20) and swimmer Nurul Huda Abdullah (22).



EQUESTRIAN AND POLO
Target: 3 gold
Medals won: 6 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze

The equestrian team were in fine form at KL2017, comfortable exceeding the 2 gold target with some stunning performances, thanks to some big name appearances. Siblings Qabil Ambak and Quzandria Nur Mahamad Fathil's return to the squad made a significant impact, with them playing a hand in securing three gold for the team.

Terengganu ruler Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin was also in his element in the individual endurance event while Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin lived up to the pre-games hype as he led the polo squad to a successful defence of the polo gold.



FIELD HOCKEY
Target: 2 gold
Achievement: 2 gold

The Malaysian men's and women's hockey teams have no rivals among their Asean neighbours.

Our men are ranked 12th while the women 22nd in the world and they easily laid their hands on the promised golds. The women have reached the World League Semifinals stage, while the men have qualified for the 2018 World Cup. The other Asean countries have poor facilities and lag far behind.



FOOTBALL
Target: 2 bronze
Achievement: 1 silver

Ong Kim Swee's side defied the odds by reaching the final only to lose through goalkeeper Haziq Nadzli's blunder in

the 1-0 defeat to Thailand. The team had limited preparation due to time constraint while Kim Swee had to deal with tired players prior to the Sea Games. Forward N. Thanabalan was the star with four goals.

There was no progress in the women's team as they finished last by losing to champions Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar and the Philippines.



INDOOR HOCKEY
Target: 2 gold
Achievement: 1 gold, 1 bronze

The first proper indoor court was laid at the Malaysia International Trade & Exhibition Centre (MITEC) and the men's and women's teams only trained for five months there but still managed to dazzle. The men won gold and the women bronze. In comparison, Thailand and Indonesia have been actively playing the sport for the last five years.

However, the sport is set to be placed on the backburner again, as nobody knows what to do with the artificial carpet once it's ripped off to turn MITEC into an exhibition centre again. National Sports Council director general Datuk Shapawi Ahmad said he will look for another hall, but admitted there is none available at the moment.



ICE HOCKEY
Target: No target set
Achievement: 1 bronze

As the sport was contested for the first time ever at the Sea Games, the national men's ice hockey team did not expect much.

Malaysia won their opening match against Indonesia (10-3) but subsequently lost against Thailand (4-10). They won the bronze after the 8-2 victory over Singapore. The Malaysian Ice Hockey Federation aim to keep working on developing new talents.



JUDO
Target: 2 silver
Medals won: 1 silver, 2 bronze

Malaysia's judokas have not won a Sea Games gold in 36 years and it was not realistically expected to happen at KL2017. Chong Wei Fu did well to deliver a silver as Mohd Farhan Uzair Fikri and Nor Izzatul Fazlia Tahir, both expected to challenge for gold, faltered at the semi-final stage. The sport will need to expand at the grassroots to be able to progress.



KARATE
Target: 7 gold
Achievement: 7 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze

KARATEKAS delivered seven gold in two consecutive games to be among the successful teams. The fighting was intense in kumite and the pattern was mesmerising in the kata as Malaysia were well prepared.

And with instant video referral available for coaches to protest on points awarded, there was no issue of bias judging at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

However, Vietnam were also impressive and walked away with a haul of 5-3-6, and Malaysia must be wary of their advancement in the sport.



LAWN BOWLS
Target: 4 gold
Achievement: 7 gold, 1 silver

The lawn bowlers showed they have no peers in the region on the way to sweeping seven out of eight gold medals and exceeding their four-gold target.

But a side that included former world champion Safuan Said missed out on the men's fours gold to the Philippines.

The performances are a good sign for the Commonwealth Games next year where the relative youth of the Malaysian squad should augur well.



MUAY
Target: 2 gold
Achievement: 2 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze

The Muay squad proved their two gold haul at the 2013 Myanmar Games was no fluke as they matched that performance with almost a completely new set of fighters.

Ain Kamarudin and Mohd Ali Yaakub lived up to expectations as they both stuck gold in their classes. Muay was not included at the 2015 Singapore games.



NETBALL
Target: 1 gold
Achievement: 1 gold

The national women's netball squad came into the Sea Games with one mission and one mission only - that is to take the gold medal from 2015 hosts, Singapore and they did exactly that.

In the preliminaries, Malaysia won four of four matches for a clean sheet to only meet old-time rivals Singapore in the final and eventually winning 65-41.

Well led by captain Nur Syafazliyah Mohd Ali, the team saw exceptional performances from Nur Fariha Abdul Razak, An Najwa Azizah and Norashikin Kamal Zaman.



OPEN WATER
Target: 1 gold
Achievement: 2 gold

Kevin Yeap and Heidi Gan exceeded the target by winning a gold medal each in the men's and women's 10km open water race.

It was a great ending to their careers as Kevin and Heidi announced their retirements after their events. Malaysia must now look for new talents to fill their shoes.



PENCAK SILAT
Target: 8 gold
Achievement: 10 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze

Best ever performance from the pencak silat squad as they bagged three gold from the seni and seven from the olahraga events.

Mohd Al Jufferi Jamari won his fourth consecutive Sea Games gold since 2011. At 25, the three-time world champion still has his best years ahead of him.

He will be the nation's main hope for gold when the sport makes its debut at the Indonesia Asia Games next year.



RUGBY 7s
Targets: One silver (men's), third place (women)
Achievements: One gold (men) and one

bronze (women). Following a great year for Malaysian rugby, the team routed Singapore to win the rugby 7s Sea Games gold.

This was after upsetting 2015 champions Philippines.

In the women's competition, Malaysia's second attempt at rugby 7s in the Sea Games produced exactly what they were hoping for, a better result than fourth place in 2015, when they won the bronze medal following a narrow 7-5 win over the Philippines.



SAILING
Target: 5 gold
Achievement: 6 gold, 4 silver, 4 bronze

The Malaysian sailors won six gold from 14 events to exceed their target by one though it was down from the seven gold won in 2015, when 20 events were staged. Four of the gold medals came in age-restricted optimist and International 420 events which point to a bright future for Malaysian sailing.

The challenge now is for the sport to translate regional success into continental level at the Asian Games next year where Malaysia have a gold medal to defend.



SEPAK TAKRAW
Target: 2 gold
Achievement: 2 gold, 3 silver, 6 bronze

As expected, the national team had no problems achieving their two-gold target through the inter-regu and chinlone linking events as arch rivals Thailand did not compete in both.

The squad were, however, disappointing in the men's team event where they lost to Indonesia in the round robin competition and were forced to settle for bronze.

The Sepak Takraw Association of Malaysia and the sports ministry have said the true test for the team will be at the Asian Games in Indonesia next year. Judging from their performance at KL2017, there remains much work to be done.



SHOOTING
Target: 2 gold
Achievement: 4 gold, 5 silver, 3 bronze

Jonathan Wong created a stir by overcoming an Olympic champion for the men's 10m air rifle gold medal as shooting surpassed their target at the Subang Shooting

Range. Other gold medalists were Benjamin Khor (men's double trap), Ezuan Nasir Khan (men's 50m rifle prone) and Alia Sazana Azahari (women's 25m pistol).

The achievement is a sign of progress but the National Shooting Association of Malaysia (NSAM) must look into the poor performance of the women's rifle team who were once the country's top medal winners.



SKATING
Speed Skating and Figure Skating
Target: 3 gold
Medals Won: 5 gold, 3 bronze

The Ice Skating Association of Malaysia (ISAM)'s target was exceeded by two gold medals when Anja Chong delivered three gold in the women's individual 500m, 1000m and 3000m team relay.

Julian Yee also contributed with gold in men's figure skating while the men's 3,000m relay of Mohd Ariff Rasydan, De-Vin Wong, Khairil Ridhwan Khalil and Hazim Shahrum finished on top of the podium.

The figure and speed skaters will now focus on qualifying for the 2018 Winter Olympics as well as becoming the nation's first-ever representatives in Pyeongchang, South Korea.



SQUASH
Target: 7 gold
Achievement: 6 gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze

The sport's best-ever medal haul of six gold, four silver and two bronze was tempered by the loss of the men's team event to unheralded the Philippines in the semi-finals.

The national coaches underestimated the opposition in choosing a weakened line-up and paid the ultimate price as squash fell short of its seven-gold target.

However, in deciding to field a squad of youngster for the Sea Games, the Squash Racquets Association of Malaysia should be lauded for placing their trust in juniors, as shown by the women's team who won gold with a side exclusively made up of teenagers.



SWIMMING
Target: 3 gold
Achievement: 3 gold, 3 silver, 3 bronze

Welson Sim was the star with two gold medals in the men's freestyle while Phee Jing En kept her promise by retaining the women's 100m breaststroke title as the Joseph Schooling-led Singapore dominated the pool.

The team may have achieved their target, but it does not augur well for Malaysia as national coach Paul Birmingham depended on the same swimmers that won him titles at the 2015 Singapore edition.

The other swimmers failed to rise to the occasion in their own backyard.

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING
Target: 2 gold



Achievement: 2 gold, 3 silver
Gan Hua Wei and Zylane Lee were the

stars for Malaysia, but Singapore did better by winning three of the five events. Other members of the national team could not raise their performances due to lack of experience.

The national synchronised swimmers hardly compete overseas, while Singapore have been investing in top coaches to guide their team. More must be done by the Amateur Swimming Union of Malaysia to develop this sport.



TABLE TENNIS
Target: 3 bronze
Achievement: 2 bronze

Table tennis ended on a slightly disappointing note for the Malaysian contingent as some of the players, namely, veteran Ng Sock Khim failed to make it past the qualifying stage.

Sock Khim had initially targeted a bronze but it did not materialise. The paddler will have one more last chance (next year's Commonwealth Games) to make it count before calling it quits next year.



TENNIS
Target: 1 bronze
Achievement: 1 bronze

Jawariah Noordin and S. Theviya ended Malaysia's 14-year medal drought in a non-team event by winning the women's doubles bronze medal.

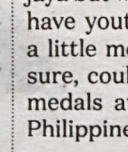
In the other events, Malaysian players failed to make any impact, losing in the early rounds. Malaysia will have to wait for another two years to end the country's 44-year gold medal wait in the sport.



TRIATHLON
Target: 1 gold
Achievement: 1 bronze

Irene Chong's bronze medal in the women's triathlon was all the sport could manage after Rikigoro Shinozuka won silver in the men's event two years ago in Singapore. The Philippines proved too strong for the rest of the competition as they won gold and silver and both the men's and women's races.

The Malaysians struggled in Putrajaya but with the exception of Irene, have youth on their side and with a little more experience and exposure, could return to challenge for medals at the next edition in the Philippines.



VOLLEYBALL
Target: 1 bronze
Achievement: Nil

Volleyball was the only sport that did not deliver a medal for the Ma-



laysia contingent. In fact, both the men's and women's teams did not even reach the semi-finals.

Malaysia's best result was winning a silver at the 2001 edition, but have not come anywhere close since.

Malaysia Volleyball Association claimed there are not enough tournaments in the country and it's hard sourcing for players. Something must be done about it.



WATER POLO
Target: No target
Achievement: 1 bronze

The men's water polo team defied the odds by winning the bronze following wins over the Philippines and Thailand, while the women's team failed to finish on the podium.

It was the first podium finish for the men's team since the 2005 Manila edition. The water polo fraternity hope more funding will be channelled to the sport after the success.



WATERSKI
Target: 2 gold
Achievement: 4 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze

Once again, the Hanifah Yoong clan reigned supreme in the sport, exceeding the two gold target.

The nation's waterski darling Aaliyah Yoong bagged three gold while her brother Adam became the youngest athlete at the KL2017 to win gold in the trick event.

The focus now is to increase the pool of athletes, so that more Malaysians can be as good as the Yoong skiers.



WEIGHTLIFTING
Target: 1 silver, 2 bronze
Achievement: 1 silver, 1 bronze

It has never been easy for national lifters at the Sea Games and it was no different this time as the squad found it tough against their Olympic-class opponents.

Mohamad Fazrul Azrie Mohdad, 22, however, snatched a surprise silver in the men's 85kg class. Along with Loro Wellkinson Peuji, the sport does have potential that can be developed.



WUSHU
Target: 6 gold
Achievement: 6 gold, 5 silver, 3 bronze

Loh Jack Chang and Yeap Wai Kin were the top performers with two gold medals each in their respective events. Unlike the previous editions, there were no bias judging as top officials from the International Wushu Federation were called in to oversee the competition.

It was a successful event as Malaysia emulated the six gold medals they won in the 2001 KL edition.