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Hectic weekend in store for horse lovers

Randhir Singh

GOOD times are ahead for equestrian sport. The South-East Asia World Cup league, the 3Q International Invitational and the National Horse Show - all over the next one week.

Add to it the Equestrian Association of Malaysia will get a Rakan Sukan partner tomorrow.

EAM president Tan Sri Musa Hitam said equestrian will receive further boost with these events to be staged in Kuala Lumpur and Kuang, Selangor.

The Horse Show on Aug 29-31 at the Selangor Turf Club Equestrian and Sports Centre in Sungai Besi, to be opened by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, will feature the best riders in the region in both the dressage and show-jumping events.

For enthusiasts and less serious riders, the show will also provide novelty events such as rider class, hack class, handy pony.

But well before that, this weekend to be precise, the riders will compete in the World Cup show jumping South-East Asian League at the 3Q Equestrian centre in Kuang, Selangor.

The top riders from the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia have gathered here for the two-day first leg of the World Cup.

They will also feature in the RM40,000 3Q Invitational.

Names such as Alexis Ching of the Philippines, Indonesia's Indra Rosendi and Rafiq Radinal, Thailand's Sunetr Buraksikom and Malaysians Quzier Ambak and Ram Talib will be the riders to watch.

Alexis, 18, is the youngest rider in the league, spent much of her time training in the United States. Indra is the top Indonesia rider.

Then there will be Julie Hicks of the United States, South Korea's Jason Cheon, Helena Gabrielsson of Thailand, Peter Abisheganaden of Singapore, Chris Ladbrook of New Zealand and Thierry Au Poumeyrol of France.

These riders will also feature in the second leg of the World Cup qualifier to be held on Sept 1.

Off the course, equestrian will see more funds coming its way. EAM will get a minimum of RM100,000 a year from Ibex Corporation under a programme initiated by the National Sports Council (NSC).

The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will witness the signing between EAM and Ibex Corporation at the Bukit Kiara Equestrian Club tomorrow.

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