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Games-Boxing (Finals)

CANADIAN PUGILISTS LIKELY TO STEAL SHOW

By: Azhar Ghazali

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 19 (Bernama) -- Canadian pugilists are likely to hog the limelight when finals of the Commonwealth Games boxing competition get underway here tomorrow.

Michael Strange, defending his title in 63.5kg category, and three other Canadians -- Jeremy Molitor (67kg), Mark Simmons (91kg) and Troy Amos (81kg) -- are in commanding form.

Canada, a boxing powerhouse, have thus a chance to repeat their four-gold medal haul at the games here.

But action at the Shah Alam's Malawati Stadium is not without surprises. The defeat of Rowan Donaldson, a Canadian-turn-Jamaican and holder of the 75kg title, and outstanding performance of Gerry Legras of Seychelles are few such examples.

Legras intimidated Australia's Casey John 31-11 in the semi-final. But, Strange is an opponent of different class and the contest is expected to be full of action.

Local hero Sapok Biki, facing the fight of his life, will take on Kenya's Moses Kinyua in the final. Though the Kenyan starts as favourite, crowd support might give Biki an extra push.

Biki held aloft portrait of Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohammad after his historic win over England's Gary Jones. He attributed his victory to Dr Mahathir -- his No.1 idol.

Kenyan coach Albert Matito said: "The gold will be ours 99 per cent. I will not say 100 per cent because umpiring is still there. If we get fair umpiring, we will win the gold."

There have been complaints about the judgements, including a formal one filed by Ghana. Malaysia team manager Abdullah Siok has also voiced his unhappiness saying Adnan Yusof and Rakib Ahmad lost because of "poor judgements".

England team manager Ian Irwin also complains that Judges had ignored Jones' body shot, resulting in his defeat.

-- BERNAMA

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