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Our rhythmic gymnasts win gold

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The Malaysian rhythmic gymnastics quartet of Thye Chee Kiat, Caroline Au Yong, El Regina Tajuddin and S. Sarina put on a graceful show to win the Commonwealth Games gold at Putra Stadium today.

Cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd of 10,000, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysians worked their collective magic to earn a total of 93.023 points to finish ahead of Canada and Australia.

It was a night of high drama and emotions as hardly 200 metres away, the Malaysian men snatched a 1-0 win against India at the National Hockey Stadium.

They meet Australia in the final tomorrow.

Skipper Mirnawan Nawawi scored the golden goal off a penalty corner after the match stood 0-0 at the end of regulation time.

It was a pleasant surprise at the KLBA Badminton Stadium where Hooi Yee and Lim Pek Siah beat third seeded New Zealand pair Rhona Robertson and Tammy Jenkins to enter the final.

It is the first time in Games' history Malaysia will have representatives in the women's finals. The last time Malaysia won a gold was in 1978 when Sylvia Ng took the singles.

The men made the semifinals in both the singles and doubles.

Yong Hock Kin and Wong Choon Hann cleared the singles quarterfinals and the pairs of Choong Tan Fook-Lee Wan Wah and Yap Kim Hock-Chea Soon Kit, the doubles.

Saedah Abdul Rahim made it another memorable day for Malaysia when she qualified for the women's singles lawn bowls final in Bukit Kiara.

Aziz Maswadi and Tazman Tahir had earlier won the bronze beating Canada's combination of Mark Stanford and James McLellan 32-9.

More can be expected of the Malaysians tomorrow in boxing where Sapok Biki competes in the 48kg final at Malawati Stadium.

At the shooting range in Langkawi, Malaysia's Roslina Bakar, after a comfortable start, faltered in the final lap finishing third in the women's sport rifle three-position event with 666.3 points.

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