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A race to remember for Sayuti

Zubaidah Abu Bakar

FOR Kelantan youngster rider Sayuti Zaid winning the Under-15 hill climbing event at the Kedah Open Cycling Championship in Jitra yesterday was an event he would cherish for life.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad presented him with the winner's medal and what an honour it was.

Dr Mahathir had earlier flagged off about 400 riders in combined (under-18, under-15 and Under-12) climbing race. He and his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, spent an hour watching the race before presenting the prizes to the top three finishers in the Under-15 category..

Zamri Salleh of Terengganu was second and Kelantan's Che Hafizan Che Roza third.

Dr Mahathir said more youths should take part in cycling events so that new talents can be tapped and groomed to represent the country at international meets.

The patron of the annual RM1.6 million Le Tour de Langkawi, Dr Mahathir said that with proper training and guidance, Malaysian cyclists could compete in international events, like the prestigious Tour de France.

The Kedah championship, organised and sponsored by First Cartel in cooperation with the Kedah Sports Council, was held in conjunction with the Prime Minister's two-day working visit to Kedah.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's Sea Games-bound riders swept the first three spots in the elite men's criterium race.

Faizul Izuan Abdul Rahman from Perak, the latest addition to the six-rider road squad to Brunei, recorded 47 minutes and 59.50 seconds in the 15-lap race around a 2.4km circuit while teammates Mahadzir Hamad from Selangor and Musairi Musa of Kuala Lumpur took second and third places respectively.

Last year's Commonwealth Games silver medallist Nor Effandy Rosli, who represented the National Sports Council, won the mountain bike open event after defeating Selangor's Johari Khamis and Martin Fernandez who finished second and third.

The national riders, who are down to compete for three gold medals in the men's criterium, individual time trial and mass start events, will depart for Brunei on Thursday.

Results - Criterium (junior): 1 Suhardi Hassan (Per), 2 Ahmad Fallanie Ali 3 Yusof Nasir (Sel).

Mountain Bike - Women: 1 Nor Nadea Jamaluddin (Per), 2 Rosliza Mat Yusuf (Per), 3 Nor Aisyah Abu Bakar (Per).

Under-18: 1 Jasmin Ruslan (Ter), 2 Mohamed Fazli Zainuddin (Pah), 3 Fauzi Jasni (Kel).

Under-15: 1 Sayuti Zaid (Kel), 2 Zamri Salleh (Ter), 3 Che Hafizan Che Roza (Kel).

Under-12: 1 Haramizan Basri (Per), 2 Nor Qamarul Mahmud (Ked), 3 Chan Thian Fook (Ked).

(END)