

30/08/1999

PM wishes Yoong speedy recovery

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday wished Malaysian F3000 driver and Formula One aspirant Alexander Yoong a speedy recovery from the crash he suffered at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit in Belgium on Saturday.

"I hope he recovers soon and go on to pursue his dream of racing in Formula One," the Prime Minister said during a Press Conference at the Sepang F1 Circuit.

Yoong crashed into a side-on barrier at high-speed after his car collided with that of another driver Justin Wilson.

Wilson was attempting to overtake him at the infamous Eau Rouge corner in the FIA F3000 Championship when their cars touched sending Yoong's car into the barrier.

Yoong suffered a severe concussion, bruises on his body and a torn ligament on his left knee and is recovering at Leige hospital, 20km from the circuit. He was flown by helicopter to the hospital after the crash.

Doctors cleared him of any neurological or spinal injuries but have kept him for observation for a few days.

Yoong's father Hanifah Yoong Abdullah in a faxed statement from Belgium said his son lost consciousness on impact.

"He later said that he remembered nothing of the accident except seeing a car near him on his rear left upon entering the Eau Rouge," Hanifah Yoong said.

The Spa-Francorchamps circuit's Eau Rouge corner is well-known for its notoriety.

Prior to Yoong's race, F1 drivers Jacques Villeneuve and Ricardo Zonta lost control of their cars on Friday at the uphill and high-speed curve before their cars snapped sideways, spinned and rolled before hurtling into the barrier alongside the track.

(END)