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Five for Central Asian stint

Radzi Sapiee

FIVE national boxers will train and fight in Central Asia in the next two months to prepare for the Kuala Lumpur Sea Games in September.

Zamzai Azizi, Jaiwat Yamun, Adnan Yusoh, Rakib Ahmad and Che Andli Che Hashim will be in Kyrgystan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan from tomorrow till Aug 29. While there, they will also take part in international tournaments.

National coach Kalen Asanov, from Kyrgystan, said the stint will include athletics training in his country at the huge 120km by 60km Issik Kue lake and a mountain camp 25km from capital, 1,800km above sea level.

"The stint is to get them ready for the Sea Games. One of the things that have been bugging me is the national boxers tend to forget the techniques I taught them. Melayu mudah lupa (Malays easily forget)," he said in front of the the boxers at the national training centre at Jalan Raja Muda Stadium.

Asanov was borrowing a quote from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the recent Umno assembly to remind the Malays not to forget their struggle to improve the lot.

But he believes the situation would be remedied after the stint.

Asanov said the boxers need to see how the boxers in, say Kazakhstan, respond to their coaches.

"Here, they talk too much. The boxers tend to question the coach's instructions. Not in Kazakhstan. There, the coaches need only point to an opponent for his boxer to take on and they will do the job without a word and hesitation," he said.

Asanov said they would like to take all 11 Sea Games boxers for the trip if not for financial constraints.

"The five are chosen because they have more experience than the rest. They in turn can help the younger boxers on their return," he said.

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