

15 SEP 2001
SEA-Mahathir
GO FOR THE CROWN, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed hope that Malaysia's success in meeting their 80-gold target at the ongoing SEA Games will spur the athletes to win more medals to become the overall champions.

"I am thankful and happy that the (80-gold) target has been met," the prime minister told reporters at the National Aquatic Centre here today.

He said Malaysia have never won the overall title since the inception of the Games in 1959, when it was then known as the Southeast Asian Peninsular (SEAP) Games.

Dr Mahathir watched several gymnastics and aquatic events during his visit to the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil.

Asked whether he would declare a public holiday now that Malaysia had met their 80-gold target, he said: "I'll think about it."

Malaysia hit their 80-gold target when Kevin Lim won the men Laser event in yachting in Port Dickson, about 80km from here, today.

Kevin's landmark gold was the fourth in yachting today after his compatriots performed admirably to win three other classes.

The result for the men Laser event was issued to the media at about 4pm.

As at 5pm, Malaysia still led the medal chase with 80 gold, 55 silver and 60 bronze medals.

Abdul Rahim Mohd Zain won the boys' Optimist Class while the pair of Kelly Yin and Hasikin Yaakob were victorious in the women's 470 category. The other gold medal was contributed by Tiffany Koo in the Laser Radial class.

Malaysia, the overnight leaders with 73 golds, started Day Eight on the right footing when G. Saravanan won the men's 50km walk to give Malaysia a clean sweep of the three walk events.

Lai Kin Ngoh clinched Malaysia's seventh gold in bowling by winning the women's Masters event while Nicol David led Malaysia to an expected women's team gold in squash in Penang.

-- BERNAMA
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