

08/08/2002

Riders urged to hone skills at equestrian meet

Shuib Taib

RIDERS representing the country at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan, South Korea should make use of the Centenary International Horse Show 2002 to further hone their skills, said Equestrian Association of Malaysia president Md Azar Ismail.

The horse show and the South-East Asian World Cup League are being hosted by the Selangor Polo and Riding Club at off Jalan Ampang Hilir in Kuala Lumpur, beginning today until Sunday.

Md Azar said the equestrian event was the second one organised by the club.

The South-East Asian League is also the third of five qualifiers for the Asian Games.

"Top riders from Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Canada, Korea, Sweden, Myanmar, Germany, Philippines and Malaysia have confirmed their participation in the show," he said.

Since it started in 1996, local riders had never won the South-East Asian League until last year when national rider Qabil Ambak Mahamad Fathil broke the jinx.

Meanwhile, the Centenary International Horseshow offers 65 events in dressage, showjumping, equitation, show classes, novelty and gymkhana games.

About 100 riders and 150 horses will participate in the show.

"Admission is free for the show, and we hope the public will come in droves to see the event," said Md Azar.

Even Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to attend the South-East Asian League on Sunday at 9.30am.

Meanwhile, Selangor Polo and Riding Club co-ordinator Sandra Cooper said the club was in need of more volunteers for programmes involving disabled riders.

"The club holds free riding sessions for disabled children from various homes every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thurs-day and Friday.

"Those keen to help out need not worry as we will provide the necessary training on how to handle the horses," she added.