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Super Shahrیمان surprises rivals

Glen Peters

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Shahrیمان Rusdee Morshidi upstaged older competitors by winning the BMX bicycle stunt park final event, giving Malaysia the perfect start to the Asian X-Games Qualifier at the KLCC Park yesterday.

Competing in the Junior X-Games, which continues today and will culminate in the Asian Games for senior athletes, Shahrیمان performed in what looked like a super turn in the air that saw him amass 92.75 points, 1.75 ahead of Thai competitor Nuttapol Suwannatat and 7.25 better than Zameer Abdul Malik of Singapore.

Shariman is now in the driver's seat but will have to do well in the best trick event today to win the gold medal, a feat never achieved by any Malaysian before.

The medals will be awarded based on the accumulated park final and best trick event scores.

Shariman, a native of Sibu, Sarawak, said he felt confident prior to yesterday's event.

"I was very confident today (yesterday), I guess my experience in Phuket in 2000 helped. I am confident of a good showing in the best trick final that will decide the medal winners," said Shariman in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Shahrیمان's father Morshidi Jalil, who is also national coach, was proud of his son's achievement, and feels he has a good chance of winning the gold medal if he finishes first or second in today's event.

Favourite Wan Malick Wan Aldam Hassan and Mohamed Sharizad Asri qualified for the final of the bouldering event yesterday.

The top ten finishers in the semifinal qualified for today's final.

"I am very happy that two of our climbers, Wan Malick and Mohamed Sharizad qualified for the final. Based on the strength of the competitors, I was only expecting Wan Malick to qualify for the final," said national coach Shahreeza Salimi yesterday.

"It would be good if we win the gold and silver tomorrow."

An estimated 15,000 people came for the opening ceremony which was officiated by Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed yesterday.

Results - Bicycle Park Final: 1 Shahrیمان Rusdee (Mas) 92.75 pts, 2 Nuttapol Suwannatat (Tha) 91.0, 3 Zameer Abdul Malik (Sin) 85.50, 4 Mohamed Fauzi Salleh (Mas) 82.75, 5 Shih-Yun Huang (Tai) 81.75, (tie) Prachaya Aiamsa-ard (Tha) 81.75.

Bouldering junior boys semifinal (top 10 qualify for final): Ming Hong Lee (HK) average 100 percent score, 2 Ja Bee Kim (S Kor) 100 percent, 3 Thomas Farrell (Aus) 100 percent, 4 Tim Clarke (Aus), 5 Wan Malick Wan Aldam Hassan (Mas) 100 percent, 6 Ming Chong Lee (HK) 100 percent, 7 Chrisper John D. Ruela (Phi) 95.45 percent, 8 Mohamed Sharizad Asri 88.46 percent, 9 Meizan Diandra Nataadiningrat (Indon) 76.92 percent, 10 Victor See Chin Han (Sin) 76.92 percent.

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