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Sports-Bowling (World)

MALAYSIA RETAIN WORLD TEAM CUP SQUADS

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 2 (Bernama) -- The bowlers who won Malaysia both the men's and women's titles in the World Tenpin Team Cup early this year have been selected for the 15th World Championships, which begin next week.

The men's team comprise experienced Ben Heng, Daniel Lim, Alex Liew and Azidi Ameran as well as two World Championships debutants, Zulmazran Zulkifli and Jonathan Lim.

The women's team have reigning international bowler of the year Shalin Zulkifli, Lai Kin Ngoh, Sarah Yap and three debutants, Wendy Chai, Sharon Chai and Choy Poh Lai.

Youngsters Nadri Mohd Noor and Zandra Aziela Ibrahim were dropped from the final squad of six men and six women for the world meet, which will be held at the Pyramid Megalanes in Bandar Sunway near here from Sept 11 to 20.

Malaysian Tenpin Bowling Congress (MTBC) secretary general Sidney Tung, who confirmed the final squads today, said they were keeping faith in the bowlers who won both the titles in the World Tenpin Team Cup in Odense, Denmark, last February.

"Yes, we have finalised the final squad of six men and six women for the world meet. They are the best line-up that the coaches and selection committee panels could pick at the moment," he told reporters at the National Sports Council in Bukit Jalil today.

Earlier, MTBC received a RM200,000 sponsorship for the World Championships from their Taja Gemilang sponsor, Sri Jentayu Sdn Bhd, a machinery supplier.

Sri Jentayu managing director Zakaria Hussein presented the mock cheque to MTBC president Datuk Dr P.S. Nathan. With the sponsorship, Sri Jentayu has become the main corporate sponsor for the event.

The 12 bowlers, who were present at the ceremony, also made a pledge to win the championship as a prize for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who will be retiring next month.

"We, the Malaysian bowlers, pledge to play our best to achieve success in the competition as a prize for and our contribution to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in conjunction with his retirement," they said in the pledge-taking, led by Shalin.

Malaysia have never won the gold medal in the previous 14 World Championships but with homeground advantage, this year's tournament is probably the best chance for them to clinch the gold.

National coach Holloway Cheah said his charges were ready for the challenge this time around.

"I am quite happy with their commitment in training sessions. They're in great conditions. We will change their training time from morning to night sessions this week so that they will adapt to the actual tournament time," said Cheah.

-- BERNAMA
HRS AHH YBY