

23 MAY 2003

Malik-Marathon

ABDUL MALIK HOPES SEA CONDITION WILL FAVOUR HIM

KUALA PERLIS, May 23 (Bernama) -- Marathon swimmer Abdul Malik Mydin hopes the sea condition will favour him when he swims from here to Pulau Langkawi tomorrow.

Swift current, strong wind and the hot temperature are among the major challenges that Abdul Malik faces but he is confident that he can reach Kuah, Langkawi within 20 hours.

The 28-year-old swimmer, from Penang, is satisfied with the preparations made for his last test in the country before swimming across the English Channel in July.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will flag off Abdul Malik for the 48-kilometre marathon swim at the Malaysian Fisheries Development Board jetty, here at 8.30pm tomorrow.

Abdul Malik, when met while inspecting the cage that will protect him during the swim tomorrow, said the waves would not be a problem as they were expected to be between one and two metres high.

He said the attempt to swim from Kuala Perlis to Pulau Langkawi would be his first try and he believed that he would become the first Malaysian to achieve the feat.

Previously, a swimmer from Alor Setar, Kedah, Ang Kean Kee made two attempts to do so in 1997 and 1998 but failed to accomplish the feat due to choppy sea condition and the threat from jellyfish.

Abdul Malik said three representatives from the English Channel Federation would also monitor his swim tomorrow.

On his attempt to swim across the English Channel in July, he said in the past 128 years, less than 500 swimmers had succeeded in crossing the cold channel with strong current and waves of between seven and eight metres high.

Abdul Malik said he had trained for his feat to cross the English Channel for the past four years and would continue his training in Melbourne, Australia next week.

-- BERNAMA

AD AO