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Sports-Squash
MALAYSIA TO HOST ASIAN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 27 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will host the 12th Asian Squash Championships in June, for the fifth time since 1986.

Malaysia holds the record of hosting the championships on four occasions -- in 1986, 1994, 1998 and 2002.

Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia (SRAM) President Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir said the championships would be held from June 18 to 26 at the National Squash Centre in Bukit Jalil.

"They were initially to be hosted by Sri Lanka or Kuwait with Hong Kong as a standby but unfortunately all three were unable to do so," he said here today.

In view of this, he said the Asian Squash Federation (ASF) approached him early this month to seek his assistance to host the championships.

"I am delighted to announce that the ASF has agreed to our conditions and we are in business," he said.

"Besides this, we are also answering the call by the Youth and Sports Minister to utilise all the Bukit Jalil sporting facilities since the National Squash Centre has not been utilised fully after the SUKMA 2002 event," he said.

He said the Asian Squash Championships 2004 will be SRAM's third attempt to sweep all the four titles at stake -- Men's, Women's, Men's team and Women's Team.

"The championships are held every two years and were last held in Malaysia," he said.

Malaysia won both Men's and Women's titles, by Ong Beng Hee and Nicol David, respectively, back-to-back in 2000 and 2002.

-- BERNAMA
SKS AHH SRI