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Nadri sparks Malaysian sweep

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MALAYSIA made a sweep of the Boys' singles events on the opening day of the Sixth Asian Schools Championships at the Megalanes in Prai yesterday.

This was followed by more celebrations after the Boys' and Girls' teams finished the first block play-offs with a one-two lead in their respective groups.

The Malaysian girls, however, could only manage a silver and a bronze in the singles events, losing the gold which they won in Melbourne last year to Indonesia by 26 pins.

Still, it was a memorable win which saw 17-year-old Selangor rookie, Nadri Mohd Noor, blaze the lanes to lead from start to finish in the six-game event.

Nadri knocked down an impressive total pinfalls of 1,346, with an average of 224.33, to take the gold won by team-mate Jonathan Lim last year.

Lim could only amass 1,223 to finish fifth behind J..C Tupaz of the Philippines.

And then there was Eric Ang Soon Wei, winner of the Penang Youth Cup, and Aaron Kong Eng Chuan, who scored a 'perfect game' in Melbourne, to ensure an all-Malaysian presence on the podium, finishing second and third respectively.

Both Penang duo, Ang and Kong, who had no problems adapting to the lanes and have been treating the 50-lane centre as their 'second home', registered 1,320 and 1,245 points for the silver and bronze medals.

Nadri, representing Malaysia for the first time in the Asian Schools Championships, was not expected to be the singles gold winner although he felt his game had improved tremendously.

"Never did I dare to dream of winning the gold medal.

"All that I had expected was to finish in the top five.

"But the victory has kind of spurred me to do better in the teams event and I hope to continue to bowl the same way as I did to ensure Malaysia win another gold and also be the overall champions," said the jubilant Nadri.

While Nadri triumphed in his debut appearance, Indonesia's Sharon Adelina Limansantosa had to wait for her third appearance before winning the Girls' singles title.

Although it was a slim victory, the 18-year-old Indonesian felt 1,211 pinfalls was good enough "as I have waited long enough."

"I am glad I finally got to win the gold medal since representing my country when I was 16 years old," said Sharon, who pipped name-sake, Sharon Koh Suet Len.

Sharon Koh of Selangor finished with 1,185 for the silver while Sabah Games gold medallist Voon Kim Ling took the bronze with 1,136 pinfalls.

Results - Boys' singles (Malaysians unless stated): 1 Nadri Mohd Noor 1,346 pinfalls, 2 Eric Ang Soon Wei 1,320, 3 Aaron Kong Eng Chuan 1,245, 4 JC Tupaz (Phi) 1,227, 5 Jonathan Lim 1,223, 6 Matt Sofia (Aus) 1,205, 7 Clark Tiu 1,201, 8 Chris Slattery (Aus) 1,165, 9 Angga Wickasono (Ina) 1,161, 10 Chen Wu Chi (Tpe) 1,151.

Team: 1 Malaysia (Khairul Hafidz Zamri, Mahathir Mohd Nor, Steven Yam, Karry Chang) 2,367, 2 Malaysia (Jonathan Lim, Eric Ang Soon Wei, nadri Mohd Noor, Aaron Kong Eng Chuan) 2,261, 3 Taiwan (Chen Wu Chi, Lo Cheng Hung, Tsai Yi Min, Hung Kun Yi) 2,256, 4 Philippines (Jomar Jumapao,

Clarence Tiu, Diego Candano, Markwin Tee) 2,235, 5 Philippines (JC Tupaz, Ian Dychangco, Timmy Medrano, Clark Tiu) 2,159.

Girls' singles: 1 Sharon Adelina Limasantosa (Ina) 1,211, 2 Sharon Koh Suet Len 1,185, 3 Voon Kim Ling 1,136, 4 Toni Woodcock (Aus) 1,133, 5 Kim Lao (Phi) 1,118, 6 Yazlin Razlan 1,110, 7 Elaine Lam Sau Wei 1,101, 8 Enazdiana Ezanee 1,092, 9 Jayde Flanagan (Aus) 1,085, 10 Yazliza Razlan 1,077.

Team: 1 Malaysia (Sharon Koh, Elaine Lam, Enaz Diana Ezanee, Esther Cheah) 2,105, 2 Malaysia (Yazliza Razlan, Zandra Aziela, Yazlin Razlan, Voon Kim Leng) 2,103, 3 Australia (Toni Woodcock, Kate Murray, Bianca Flanagan, Jayde Flanagan) 2,053, 4 Taiwan (Hsiao Ju Fang, Wang Ting Wen, Chen Tzu Yi, Liu Hsiao Ying) 1,963, 5 Philippines (Joylyn Yambao, Lorraine Racho, Kim Lao, Kat Cruz) 1,924.