Cyclist's stepdad seeks Khairy's help

8 JUN 2016
NEW STRAITS TIMES (MS. 6)

KUALA LUMPUR: Young cyclist Mohd Justin Felix Nagel's stepfather Azil Iskandar Abdul Aziz yesterday submitted an official letter requesting Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin's intervention in sorting out the former's citizenship woes.

Mohd Justin Felix Nagel

The policeman said he hoped Khairy would be able to assist in speeding up the approval of 14-year-old German-born Justin's citizenship, which had been rejected by the Home Ministry on three previous occasions.

"We just hope the minister will be able to assist as it will not only open the door for Justin to be roped into the national junior squad, but would also reduce the burden we have to deal with," said Azil, 32.

A check with Khairy's office revealed that he was on his way home from Japan, but was aware of Justin's predicament.

Azil said he had contacted the National Registration Department (NRD) to check on the progress of their latest application which was made in January.

"They tell me it is still being processed; which I sense is no different than our previous three applications.

"We hope with the attention on Justin's case, there will be reason for the authorities to look at this matter seriously," said Azil.

Justin, born to a German father and a Malaysian mother Hasni Samsuddin, who is currently married to Azil, has seen his application for Malaysian citizenship rejected three times in the past nine years.

The cyclist, who has shown promise having been scouted and nurtured by the Bandar Maharani Cycling Club, is seen as among the more promising juniors in the country and eagerly wanted his citizenship to be sorted out soon.

His biological father, Hasni said, had not provided any child support since their divorce in 2006 and Justin was determined to remain in Malaysia as he was a practising Muslim and was more comfortable with the way of life here.

"We hope it is also clear that Justin's younger brother of the same father, Joshua Adam, does not face the same predicament as he was born here," said Azil.

Ellina's true test

THE MALAY MAIL (M/S) 50 8 JUNE 2016

PETALING JAYA — Gymnast Nur Eli Ellina Azmi who was part of the team that won gold at last year's SEA Games won two of the seven gold medals the national team won at the Singapore Open Artistic Gymnastics Championships that ended yesterday.

Malaysia finished with seven gold, seven silver and six bronze medals.

Ellina took gold in in the vault and balance beam plus a bronze in the floor exercise.

"The Singapore championship was a good experience as I was the most senior gymnasts and had to lead the team," said Ellina.

"Usually the workload as a 'captain' and handling the juniors is undertaken by Tracie Ang or Farah Ann Abdul Hadi.

"But they didn't go to Singapore. I was nervous as I needed to lead by example. I'm glad I managed to win two gold medals and the team won seven in total."

Ellina revealed she was competing in her first competition since the death of her mother.

"My mother (Azizah Juno) passed away last December at the age of 53 due to advanced metastatic cervical cancer," said Ellina.

"It was quite hard to compete without her cheering me on as she always followed me during competitions. Despite her absence, I'm sure she is happy to see I can still win a gold medal."

She added she is now looking forward to the next leg of the World Cup Series in Portugal from June 23 to 26 and next year's Kuala Lumpur SEA Games.

"Tracie, Farah and Tan Ing Yueh are going to Portugal but the association will add another one, either me or Racheal Yeoh," she said.

Separately, Ellina said Malaysia should beware the Singaporean gymnasts who could post a threat at next year's SEA Games.

One of those is 15-year-old Tan Sze En, who won the floor exercise.

Ellina shows off her gold medals.

Juniors' performance bodes well for Malaysian athletics

THE STAR (M/S 37)
8 JUNE 2016

By AFTAR SINGH

PETALING JAYA: The future of Malaysian athletics is looking bright again after ending the Asian Junior Championships in Ho Chi Minh City with three golds, three silvers and one bronze.

It was Malaysia's best-ever performance in the biennial meet since its inception in 1986.

What's more pleasing is that the juniors won medals by achieving their personal bests.

National chief coach Zainal Abas has credited the success to the proper implementation of their development programme.

"Our development programme has shown encouraging results and I'm proud that our athletes have also proven that they can perform well against top contenders from Asia to win gold medals.

"We have three – Khairul (Hafiz Jantan), R. Kirthana and (Mohd) Rizzua (Haizad) – who are the best junior athletes in Asia. They should continue to strive for better results in higher-level competitions."

Khairul won the 100m in of 10.36. The 18-year-old from Malacca also bagged a silver in the 200m in 21.15 and was a member of the 4x100m quartet who took silver in 39.91.

The other members of the relay team were Badrul Hisyam Abdul Manap, Asnawi Hashim and Muhd Haiqal Hanafi.

Kirthana leapt 13.20m to win gold in the girls' triple jump event. The 19-year-old bettered her personal best by seven centimetres.

Rizzua won gold in the boys' 110m hurdles gold in 14.00. He had earlier achieved a personal best of 13.87 in the semi-finals.

Khairul, Kirthana, Rizzua and Badrul have qualified for the Under-20 IAAF World Junior Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland from July 19-24.

In the Asian meet, Japan emerged overall champions with a 13-10-4 medal haul, followed by China on 11-7-4. India were third with 7-4-6, followed by Malaysia (3-3-1).

Proud moment: Khairul Hafiz Jantan (centre) and team-mates posing with their Asian junior athletic medals upon arrival at KLIA yesterday. — MUHAMAD SHAHRIL ROSLI/The Star.

'Terus perbaiki kelemahan'

SINAR HARIAN (M/S 55) 8 JUN 2016

■ SHAFIQ TINO

Malaysia mara ke Pusingan Ketiga Kelayakan Piala Asia 2019 selepas membenam Timor Leste 3-0 di Larkin, kelmarin.

"Malaysia nyata pasukan yang kuat dan pemain pula bagus, tapi pemain saya pamerkan semangat melawan tidak mudah berputus asa. Pada 45 minit pertama kami lebih baik berbanding Malaysia. Saya beritahu pemain beri tekanan, kami peroleh tujuh lapan peluang di separuh masa pertama."

\- Pengendali Timor Leste, Fabio Maciel

PENGENDALI Harimau Malaya, Datuk Ong Kim Swee akan terus melakukan penambahbaikan terhadap skuad kebangsaan susulan kejayaan mara ke Pusingan Ketiga Kelayakan Piala Asia 2019 selepas menewaskan Timor Leste 3-0 di Larkin, kelmarin.

Gol daripada Khair Jones, Ahmad Hazwan Bakri dan Chanturu Suppiah mengesahkan kemenangan agregat 6-0 ke atas pasukan Asia Tenggara berkenaan yang dibimbing Fabio Maciel.

"Ia sesuatu yang bagus kerana kita menang, tetapi masih banyak perkara yang perlu dipelajari dan perbaiki.

"Pasukan masih samar-samar untuk mencari kekuatan, dan saya yakin perlawanan kelayakan serta Piala Suzuki yang berlangsung nanti menjadi ujian sebenar kepada pemain dan pasukan," kata Kim Swee.

Katanya, beliau mungkin akan mengekalkan skuad sekarang kerana pelbagai faktor di samping mereka juga menunjukkan peningkatan mendadak setiap perlawanan.

"Inilah barisan utama yang kita ada pada masa kini, dan kita akan bawa mereka untuk Siri Jelajah Ocenia bulan ini.

"Kita kena mengkaji semula strategi jika menentang pasukan seperti Thailand seandainya kita gunakan *attacking full-backs* (Azrif Nasrulhaq dan Khair) di bahagian tengah," katanya.

Kemenangan di Stadium Tan Sri Dato' Haji Hassan Yunos itu membolehkan skuad negara mara dalam kelompok 24 pasukan terbaik merebut 12 tempat ke pusingan akhir pertandingan di Emiriah Arab Bersatu (UAE) pada 2019.

Sementara itu, pemain tengah Harimau Malaysia, Brendan Gan berkata, semua pemain skuad kebangsaan telah mempamerkan aksi terbaik sepanjang perlawanan dan berbangga dapat mengekalkan jumlah jaringan besar ke atas lawan.

Brendan juga turut menyangkal perbezaan kelab menjadi punca pemain gagal mendapat keserasian.

"Kita bermain seperti satu pasukan dan mengikut segala percaturan diberikan jurulatih. Perbezaan kelab langsung tidak memberikan masalah kepada kami untuk mencari keserasian dan gaya permainan yang bagus.

"Buktinya, enam gol dapat dihasilkan dalam dua perlawanan. Kelab adalah kelab tetapi semasa kami menyarung jersi negara, potensi dan kesungguhan yang diberikan akan sentiasa 110 peratus," katanya.

Jing En terus buru tempat ke Rio

Oleh SITI SARAH NURUL LIYANA

PERENANG muda, Phee Jinq En berharap keletihan tidak menghalangnya daripada melakar satu lagi kejutan buat negara dengan sasaran untuk merebut slot ke Sukan Olimpik 2016 dalam acara 100 meter kuak dada pada kejohanan renang Jelajah Mare Nostrum, Caneten-Roussillon, Perancis hari ini.

Atlet dari Selangor itu berkata demikian setelah muncul sebagai atlet renang kebangsaan pertama memenangi pingat emas pada kejohanan di Eropah apabila muncul juara acara 50m kuak dada pada Jelajah Mare Nostrum di Monaco kelmarin.

Jinq En mengakui tidak menjangka untuk menghabiskan renangannya di hadapan pencabar-pencabar lain dengan rekod renangan peribadi baharu iaitu 31.66 saat meskipun kepenatan setelah menghadapi jadual yang ketat.

"Saya tak pasti sekiranya latihan keras di Australia sebelum ini banyak membantu saya. Dengan jadual yang padat dalam masa tiga minggu, saya terasa sangat penat.

"Namun siapa sangka, sebaik saya tiba di garisan penamat, saya muncul sebagai juara.

"Ini agak mengejutkan, lebih-lebih lagi apabila saya menghadapi tiga acara pada hari-hari sebelum itu," kata Jing En ketika dihubungi *Kosmo!* semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Jinq En turut merangkul pingat perak dengan catatan masa 1:09.18s menerusi acara 100m kuak dada pada sksi di Monaco, Sabtu lalu.

Jinq En perlu mencatatkan masa sekurang-kurangnya 1.07.85s untuk merebut tiket kategori A ke Sukan Olimpik 2016.

"Sebenarnya saya bukan seorang yang percaya pada tuah tetapi saya berharap untuk mencipta satu lagi kejutan dengan meraih tiket ke Sukan Olimpik pertama saya di sini (Perancis) atau di Sepanyol nanti," katanya.

KOSMO (M/S 62)
8 JUN 2016

JIN EN masih belum berputus asa memburu tiket untuk layak ke Sukan Olimpik Rio.

Fatehah antara atlet dijangka raih pingat

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Kuala Lumpur: Timbalan Presiden Persekutuan Kebangsaan Berbasikal Malaysia (PKBM) Datuk Naim Mohamad tidak menolak kemungkinan Fatehah Mustapa turut berpeluang membawa pulang pingat untuk negara dari Sukan Olimpik Rio.

Katanya, peluang pelumba wanita negara berkenaan tidak boleh dinafikan apabila beraksi di Brazil nanti.

"Dia mempunyai 'outside chance' bagi membawa pulang pingat untuk negara. Kita tidak boleh menidakkan terus peluangnya," katanya.

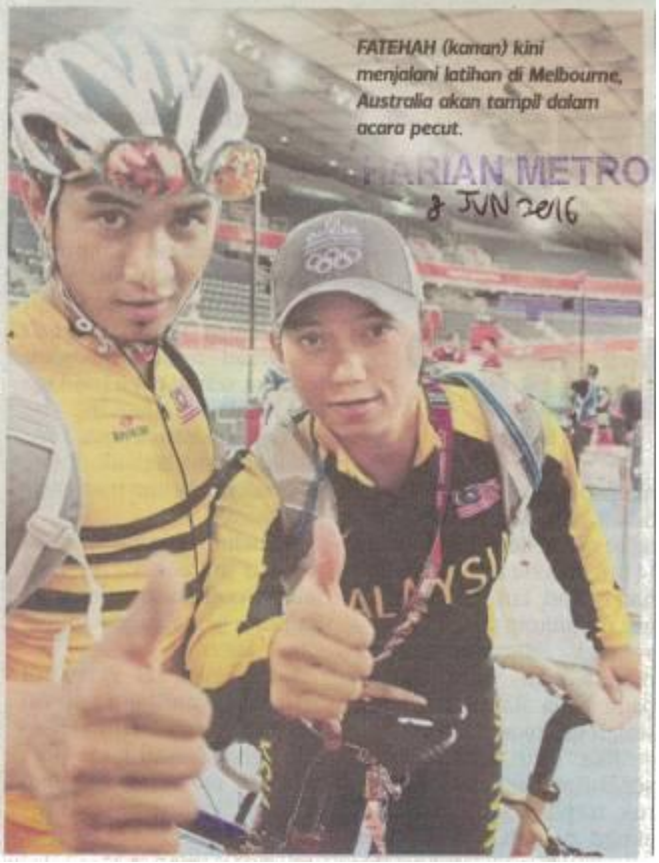
Fatehah yang kini menjalani latihan pusat di Melbourne, Australia akan tampil di Olimpik buat kali kedua dan akan beraksi dalam acara pecut.

"Saya fikir dia berada dalam keadaan terbaik. Masalah kesakitan belakang yang dihadapinya sudah selesai," tambah Naim.

Ditanya mengenai masalah pembinaan velodrom pertandingan yang masih belum siap sepenuhnya, Naim berkata, ia tidak menjejaskan perancangan skuad berbasikal negara.

"Kita memang tidak bercadang untuk pergi awal ke Rio atau mengambil bahagian dalam kejohanan ujian. Jadi ia tidak mengganggu perancangan kita.

"Kita juga mahu meminimumkan risio virus Zika. Ia adalah masalah sensitif di sana, kita perlu berhati-hati," katanya.



FATEHAH (kanan) kini menjalani latihan di Melbourne, Australia akan tampil dalam acara pecut.

Dihantui kecederaan

HARIAN METRO 8 JUN 2016

Chong Wei tarik diri sertai Terbuka Australia akibat kejang otot

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Kuala Lumpur

Cemas 2012 seakan-akan kembali menghantui jaguh perseorangan lelaki negara, Datuk Lee Chong Wei (*gambar*) apabila terpaksa menarik diri dari Terbuka Australia selepas mengalami kekejangan otot.

Bagaimanapun, kecederaan ini tidak serius seperti dialaminya sebelum Sukan Olimpik 2012 London apabila tendon buku lali kanan terkoyak ketika beraksi mewakili negara pada saingan Piala Thomas di Wuhan, China.

Menurut jurulatih perseorangan lelaki negara, Hendrawan, anak buahnya itu mengalami kekejangan otot di bahagian pinggul kiri yang tidak serius.

"Kecederaan ini dialaminya ketika perlawanan akhir Terbuka Indonesia lagi. Jadi dia membuat keputusan menarik diri kerana otot berkenaan sangat penting terutama dari segi pergerakan di gelanggang," katanya semalam.

Terbuka Australia kejohanan terakhir buat Chong Wei sebelum beraksi di Sukan Olimpik 2016 Rio.

Sementara itu, Pengarah Teknikal Persatuan Badminton Malaysia (BAM), Morten Frost Hansen berkata, Chong Wei mengalami sedikit kekejangan dan ia dimaklumkan fisioterapi, Sandra Fiedler.

"Tanpa sangsi lagi memang Chong Wei mengalami kecederaan ketika final Terbuka Indonesia dan kita tidak mahu mengambil sebarang risiko," kata bekas pemain perseorangan Denmark itu.

Jelasnya, Chong Wei juga sebenarnya sudah berangkat dan tiba di Australia sebelum melakukan pemeriksaan dengan doktor kejohanan untuk mengesahkan kecederaan dialami.

Selain Chong Wei turut menarik diri daripada menyertai Terbuka Australia ialah Lin Dan (China), Ajam Jayaram (India), Tommy Sugiarto (Indonesia) Jan O Jorgensen dan Viktor Axelsen (Denmark).