

PRESS RELEASE

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MALAYSIAN GOLF ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCED THE PLAYERS FOR THE SEA GAMES 2019

Kuala Lumpur: November 8, 2019 – The Malaysian Golf Association National Team Subcommittee headed by Tan Sri Mohd Anwar Mohd Nor today announced the players selected to represent Malaysia in the upcoming SEA Games to be held at Luisita Country Club, Clark, Philippines from December 4-8, 2019.

The criteria for the selection of players as determined by MGA National Team Subcommittee are as follows:-

1. Champion at International Golf events
2. Champion at Regional Golf events
3. Champion at SUKMA
4. World Amateur Golf Ranking
5. Scratch Players Ranking
6. Stroke average
7. Discipline and attitude of players

The results that were taken into consideration were in respect of events held during the period from June 2018 to July 2019.

MGA is pleased to announce that the following players have been identified to be a part of the SEA Games 2019 Squad:-

Men

1. Ervin Chang
2. Rhaasrikanesh Kanavathi
3. Adam Arif Madzri
4. Zubair Firdaus

Ladies

1. Natasha Andrea Oon
2. Alyaa Abdulghanny
3. Ashley Lau

"MGA has engaged the services of Kim Baldwin and Lim Ai Lian to ensure that our strategic plans are professionally managed to enable our players for podium finish," said Tan Sri Mohd Anwar Mohd Nor, President of the Malaysian Golf Association.

Ervin Chang, a senior at Liberty University in the USA started his SEA Games campaign on the right foot by finishing as the best amateur in the Singapore Open, a professional event back in January 2019 with a total 3-under-par-281 to finish joint 34th. He went on to finish in the top 5 in several collegiate events back in the USA in 2019. His teammate, Rhaasrikhanesh has also won several tournaments this year notably the TSM Golf Challenge and Kelantan Amateur Open back to back before he went to the USA to further his tertiary education at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley along with another member of the Malaysian SEA Games team, Adam Arif Madzri. Adam's accolades are also impressive. He won the Sarawak Amateur Open in April 2019 and fourth place in the 2019 Indonesia Amateur Open. The last member of the Men Team, Zubair Firdaus is a student at the Hills Golf Academy, Australia. This would be his first time competing in a multi-sport event. In January 2019, he won the inaugural Asia Pacific Junior by the Yang Foundation in Singapore by overcoming a 3-stroke deficit.

The ladies players are all geared up and confident of a strong finish at the Manila SEA Games 2019. Alyaa Abdulghany proved that she deserved the slot by recently winning the Southern California Golf Association Women's Amateur Championship from 29-30 July 2019 and finished second to teammate Natasha Andrea Oon at the Malaysian Amateur Open held in Kuching, Sarawak from 20-23 June 2019. This year, Natasha Andrea Oon has been producing good results locally and internationally. She was crowned Champion in the Malaysian Amateur Open in June 2019, finished in the top 2 in three of her collegiate events and won the Gold Rush in the USA back in February 2019. Ashley Lau meanwhile had a very decent season this year, she finished second in the Orlando International Amateur Championship in February and 12th in the Women Amateur Asia Pacific Championship.

The Championship will be played on a stroke play format over 3 rounds for the Individual Event while the Team Event will be played on a matchplay format. Malaysia will be represented by their top elite men and women amateurs with the aim of securing medals for the Country.

No doubt, it won't be easy as they will be up against top amateurs from the South East Asian countries who are also aiming to secure medals to their overall tally.

Inaugurated in 1959 in Bangkok, Thailand, the SEA Games is a biennial multi-sports event participated by 11 member countries of the SEA Games Federation; Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam.

As Golf is not a compulsory sport in the SEA Games Federation Charter, it has not been staged in all SEA Games event. Golf was first introduced in 1985 SEA Games where Thailand hosted and continued to be hosted until 1997. Brunei

hosted the Games in 1999 where Golf was dropped. Malaysia included Golf again in 2001 when we hosted and eventually became the Overall Champion where Golf contributed 1 Gold and 1 Silver Medal. It was dropped again in 2003 when Vietnam hosted but since 2005, Golf continued to be present in the multi-sports event.

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Released on behalf of the Malaysian Golf Association. For further information or enquiries, please contact Nadia at 012-2556205