

Universiti Utara Merdeka Run draws 800 participants

Athletes from Thailand join in annual event

By Syed Zainol Rashid

ABOUT 800 people took part in the "Larian Merdeka" of Sintok Universiti Utara Malaysia 2001, held around the university campus area in Kedah recently.

The annual run attracted not only university students, but also participants from Negri Sembilan, Selangor, Penang, Perak and Songkla in southern Thailand.

Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) vice-chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr. Ahmad Hawzi Basri flagged off the participants at the university sports complex.

Event organising chairman Abu Seman Awang said the 10 and 12-kilometre run was divided into even categories — men's senior, women's senior, men's veteran, participants

from institutes of higher learning (men and women) and school children categories for boys and girls.

National runner R. Muniandy from Sungai Petani in Kedah emerged champion in the men's senior category, followed by V. Thiruvatheran, also from Sungai Petani, while Mohd Nordin Ali from Alor Star was third.

In the women's senior category, S. Devamani from Port Dickson in Negri Sembilan was first, with D. Vasuki from Ipoh and J. Shanitha from Songkla, Thailand in the second and third places respectively.

G. Supramaniam from Selangor was first in the men's veteran category, while S. Appaman from Perak was second and Sawong Chochit from Songkla third.

In the Institutes of Higher Learning category for men, G. Sugunrao of the Institut Kejuruteraan Midas

in Sungai Petani was first, followed by G. Krishnakumar, also from the same institute, in second place while K. Kumaravello from Universiti Malaya came in third.

In the women's category, the first place was grabbed by Naiyani Rakhaphan from Songkla, while the second and third places were taken by Tai Ai Leng and Wong Chiew Kuan, both from UUM, respectively.

S. Niwat from Songkla was first in the school boys' category, with S. Arumamani from Kuala Lumpur in second place, while Senthil Kumaran from Penang third.

The girls' category saw Matika Rakkaphan from Songkla coming in first, followed by S. Sharon Sharmini from Penang and Tham Gie Ting from Alor Star in third place.



CLOSE FIGHT ... Niwat (second from right) attempting to out run some senior participants.

www/0053/NSP/08-09, 2001