

NHDP comes to Perak, Penang and Kuala Lumpur

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THE National Hockey Development Programme (NHDP) is a grand plan involving 92 centres for boys and girls around the nation, and this weekend, things were abuzz simultaneously in Perak, Penang and Kuala Lumpur.

Tournaments for Under-14 boys and girls are being held at the three venues, and the logistics involved are mind-boggling.

“Competitions have always been something that children look forward to, and a core element of the NHDP is to have as many competitions as possible at different scales and tiers,” said Malaysian Hockey Confederation (MHC) development chairman Datuk S. Shamala.

There are 72 centres for boys and 20 for girls as the NHDP goes big nationwide after being put in the cold for the last two years due to Covid-19.

The MHC provides training T-shirts, hockey sticks, balls and goalkeepers’ pads for the Under-12, Under-14 and Under-17 development centres.

“The NHDP zonal competitions are one format that has taken good form even though it’s a huge tournament and requires enormous amount of coordination with each of the centres as travel, accommodation, food and the actual competition venues need to be looked into,” said Shamala.

At the Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, the NHDP boys Under-14 is ongoing with nine teams competing in two groups.

Anderson, SMK Trolak, SMK Jalan Reko, SMK Titiwangsa and SMK Sungai Pusu (Gombak) are in Group A, while in Group B are SMK Gunung Rapat, SMK Clifford, SMK Pengkalan Permatang and SMK Bukit Bandaraya (Bangsar).

At the KLHA Stadium in Pantai, the girls’ Under-14 is being held with some of the participating teams from SMK Gunung Rapat, SMK Raja Perempuan, Pengkalan Permatang, DHC-W Klang and SMK Seri Titiwangsa.

In 2018, the 1Mas nationwide programme was brought to a halt because it was not producing the desired results.

NHDP then restarted a development programme at the end of 2020, but its launch and its systematic field training programme could only be realised after the pandemic was brought under control recently. By Jugjet Singh

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