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## The Star Online: Bodybuilder Syarul Gets Much-Needed Financial Muscle

By K. RAJAN



Timely boost: Bodybuilder Mohd Syarul Azman Mahen Abdullah (right) receiving the mock cheque for RM50,000 sponsorship from Amcorp Group Berhad Director Shahman Azman (left).

**PETALING JAYA:** World champion Mohd Syarul Azman Mahen Abdullah received a shot in the arm ahead of the Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Championship in Batam, Indonesia, from Sept 27-Oct 3.

The cash-strapped Syarul, who is eyeing his fifth Mr Asia title since winning it in 2015, received RM50,000 from AmBank Group's Azman Hashim Foundation yesterday.

"I can't thank them enough for their generous contribution. This whole year I didn't have any sponsorship and I was having difficulty purchasing my supplements," said the reigning three-time world champion.

"Body building is not a mainstream sport or part of the Podium Programme, so we don't get much funding. It's extremely tough for me to source for my own fundings.

"So it came as a pleasant surprise that the Azman Hashim Foundation took notice of my plight. I really hope more corporate bodies will come forward to help non-mainstream athletes like me," added the freelance physical trainer.

Syarul, who will compete in the athletic physique up to 167cm category in Batam, will also travel to Jeju, South Korea, to compete in the World Championship from Nov 5-11.

"I have two back-to-back competitions where I'll be defending my titles. It won't be easy as other competitors are catching up," said the 46-year-old.

"Preparing for competitions has not been easy as I now have to adjust my diet and tweak my training routine as I'm getting older.

"But I'm happy with how my training has been going and I'm confident of doing well."