

# 'Stroking' up new friendships

## Argentinian and Aussie take to swimming to meet new friends

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**GEORGE TOWN:** Argentinian Maria Del Carmen Soria and Australian Colin Stanford may come from different sides of the world, but they have a common trait – making new friends through their love of swimming.

Soria, 74, and Stanford, 79, are both competing in the Asia Pacific Masters Games 2018 swimming competition at the MBPP Relau Sports Complex in Bayan Lepas.

Soria, a professional violinist, comes from a family of musicians and was part of an orchestra.



**Never too old:** Stanford (left) and Soria.

She is the only one in her family who ventured into swimming and is loving every minute of it.

"I am old, but I love the water. Being in the water makes me happy and I just feel great."

"Swimming is one part which got me involved in sports," she said, adding she has been swimming since 1999.

Soria swam in the 200m breast-stroke event in the 70-74 age group competition and finished fourth.

She also swam in the 200m butterfly event yesterday.

She participated in the World Masters Games in Auckland, New Zealand, last year, and also in the World Swimming competitions in Canada and Sweden in individual swimming meets.

For Stanford, he felt that swimming is what keeps him going.

The Aussie, who will be turning

80 soon, suffered a heart attack two years ago.

"Swimming is probably what saved my life," he said.

Stanford, from a small town near Sydney with a population of just 600, was an avid swimmer from young, but stopped when he started working as a plumber in his early 20s.

Upon his retirement at 50, he returned to the pool again.

Despite being a regular swimmer, he suffered a heart attack probably because of his eating habits.

His doctor encouraged him to continue swimming despite being a heart patient.

"Being in the water and swimming makes me feel great. It makes me feel good and healthy, not to mention rejuvenated," said Stanford, after swimming in the 200m freestyle and emerging tops.

Stanford, who is making his international Masters Games debut in Penang, took part in one event only.

Swimming is one of the 22 sports contested in the APMG 2018, the inaugural masters multi-sport event in Asia. The average minimum age to participate in is 30 years old.

The official opening ceremony of the Games was held at the City Stadium last night. It runs until Sept 16.

## CM: Works around dam to be completed within two years

By M. SIVANANTHA SHARMA  
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**BUKIT MERTAJAM:** Although the Mengkuang Dam expansion project has been completed, an 11km stretch of the road surrounding the dam is still closed to the public to allow repair works at 23 landslide sites.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said the repair works were expected to take between 18 and 24 months to complete.

"The landslides happened during the stormy weather in September to November last year."

"The Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry is in the process of awarding tenders to contractors to repair the damaged sites."

"Once all the repairs have been completed, the dam will be handed over to the Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP)," he said during a site visit yesterday.

Meanwhile, Chow said the Mengkuang Dam was expected to operate at full capacity in 2020.

"The expansion work is to increase the maximum capacity from 22 billion litres to 73.5 billion litres so that there will be no water rationing in Penang," he said.

He said the expansion works were completed on April 10 last year but the defect liability period would only end on Nov 16, 2019.



**Preventive measure:** Plastic sheets lining one of the 23 landslide sites in the Mengkuang Dam area.

Chow further said other works involving the upgrading of the Mak Sulung pumping station to increase raw water pumping capacity from 200 million litres per day (MLD) to

400 MLD from Sungai Kulim to help fill up the Mengkuang Dam was completed on Sept 28 last year.

"The third component is the laying of 6.85km of 1.6m diameter mild

steel pipelines from the Mak Sulung pumping station to the Sungai Dua canal to upgrade the delivery capacity from 300 MLD to 600 MLD. "It's expected to be completed by

2020," he said.

Also present were PBAPP chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa and Penanti assemblyman Dr Norlela Ariffin.



**Serious injuries:** Two of the eight men receiving first aid at the scene of the accident in Kota Damansara.

## Car ploughs into passengers at bus stop

By FARIK ZOLKEPLI  
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**PETALING JAYA:** Eight men suffered multiple injuries after a car ploughed into people waiting at a bus stop in Kota Damansara here.

Petaling Jaya OCPD Asst Comm Mohd Zani Che Din said the driver was believed to have lost control of the vehicle and hit the victims in Jalan 5/1, Sepah Putri, Kota Damansara at about 8.45am yesterday.

The victims were seven Bangladeshi workers and a Malaysian man.

"They were waiting at the bus stop when the incident occurred. The victims have been sent to the Sungai Buloh Hospital for treatment," he said.

It is believed the victims were queuing to board the bus when the car crashed into them.

The Bangladeshi men are high-way construction workers.



**In a fix:** The car that crashed into the eight men.

According to a witness, Bahari Sitam, 58, who runs a foodstall nearby, he heard a loud bang.

"A RapidKL bus had stopped to pick up passengers when the car crashed into the bus and several

Bangladeshis at the scene," he said.

Bahari said he was informed by a friend of the victims, who is also a Bangladeshi, that they were planning to go to the capital to buy things before flying home tonight.