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'Don't turn loss into racial issue'

> MMA fighter urges Malaysians to stay united

BY RAJVINDER SINGH
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PETALING JAYA: Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter Agilan Thani has urged Malaysians not to turn his loss in the ONE welterweight world championships into a racial issue.

Agilan, who lost in the first round, said his defeat was all down to himself alone and no one else should be blamed for it, especially not the government.

He said many issues had been raised due to his loss, with some even turning it into a racial issue.

He said he had to go on Facebook Live to address the controversy.

"I'm making this video because of the issues on Facebook. For example, there was a post about me saying that I'm an Indian, that's why the government does not support me," said the 21-year-old on Saturday night.

He urged the people to stay united and not to make it a racial issue.

"Please do not pull me into this scene, I want to see all the people in Malaysia together," he said.

By yesterday afternoon, his video had

garnered over 22,000 reactions and more than 8,000 likes.

Agilan said many people made comments without understanding his situation.

On the issue of sponsorship, he said it would be difficult for him to receive government help due to the high risk of injury in his sport compared with other sports Malaysians participate in.

Agilan reminded everyone that he identified himself as a Malaysian who was born and raised in Kuala Lumpur.

He pointed out in his video that he trained all sorts of people in the gym; Indians, Chinese, Malays, and even foreigners.

"It's not fair for people to just come up with words saying 'Oh, ah, you are an Indian, that's why the government does not support you'."

With a bandage on his right eye, he reminded everyone: "We live in Malaysia, people have to be together."

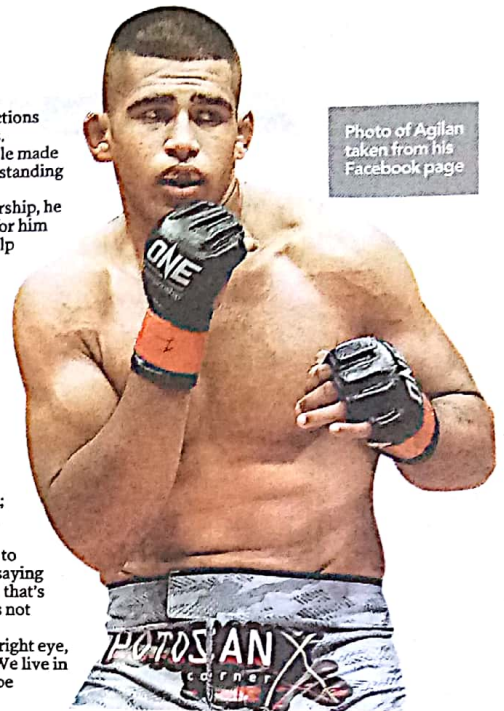


Photo of Agilan taken from his Facebook page

Old wounds also found on child

► FROM FRONT PAGE

Mohd Azlin said the couple are under a seven-day remand order for investigations into the boy's death.

Sources said based on the old wounds found on him, investigators believe the child had suffered the abuse for years.

It is learnt that the couple, who have another child, a six-month old daughter, had only a week earlier moved to Subang Jaya from their previous home in Jalan Kelang Lama.

It is believed that the Welfare Department has taken custody of the baby following the arrest of the couple.

Meanwhile, in KOTA TINGGI, an unemployed woman and her lover were charged in the sessions court yesterday with the murder of her 20-month-old son.

Sofia Nabila Naim, 22, who is currently three months pregnant, and mechanic Mohd Hanafi Misban, 28, nodded after the charge was read to them before judge Salawati Djambari through an interpreter, but no plea was recorded.

They were jointly charged with murdering Muhammad Zahril Sufyan Abdul Zahir at a house in Block 4, Felda Bukit Easter here between 7.10am and 2.30pm on May 15, Bernama reported.



Mohd Hanafi and Sofia Nabila being led to the Kota Tinggi sessions court yesterday.

The charge, under Section 302 of the Penal Code carries the mandatory death sentence.

Salawati set July 3 for mention pending a post mortem and DNA test reports.

Deputy public prosecutor Suhaila Shafi'uddin appeared for the prosecution while both accused were unrepresented.

CM's aide to resolve slapping incident

GEORGE TOWN: The aide of Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, who was allegedly slapped in front of a mosque, plans to meet up with non-governmental organisation (NGO) group leader Mohd Hafiz Noordin soon following the ruckus.

Zaidi Ahmad said he plans to clarify the controversial fatwa issues in a proper manner to ensure it is explained properly.

"It might be a dialogue session or even debate," he told *theSun* but did not elaborate further.

He, nonetheless, said he will keep the media updated as he needs time to sort matters out first.

Zaidi said he did not blame the senior citizen who attacked him but the group leader should control the crowd to

prevent any untoward incident.

He added that violence was not part of the country's culture.

"I will not lodge a police report or take any further action," he said.

Hafiz could not be reached for comments at time of writing.

Last Friday, a group of protesters held placards critical of the state government over alleged interference related to fatwa outside a mosque in Jalan Macalister.

The drama began when Hafiz gave a speech alleging state interference in religious matters related to fatwa.

Zaidi, who was at the mosque for prayers, came out and tried to reason with the protesters but was instead attacked by one of the members of the group. — by Edmund Lee

BRIEFS

COUPLE KILLED IN COLLISION

KUALA TERENGGANU: A couple was killed in an accident at Km36, Jalan Kuala Terengganu-Kuantan on Saturday. In the 5.35pm incident, religious teachers Maimun Mamat, 48, and her husband, Daud Setaffa, 55, from Marang were travelling from Kuantan to Kuala Terengganu when the vehicle, driven by Daud, crashed with an oncoming car. Maimun died at the scene while Daud died after he was admitted to a hospital. The other driver suffered minor injuries. — Bernama

SEARCH FOR MISSING YOUTH CONTINUES

JOHOR BARU: The search and rescue operation to find Mohd Syami Hasing, 16, who went missing in the waters off Pontian on Friday continued yesterday, according to Johor Fire and Rescue Department. Eight fishermen fell into the sea after their boats capsized in stormy seas but six managed to swim to safety. One of the two missing fishermen, Muhammad Atif Hafifi Abd Manaf, 28, was found drowned at 8.35am yesterday. — Bernama

BODY OF GARDENER FOUND

TAIPING: The body of a gardener was found in a pool of blood by a member of the public at Pengkalan Sungai Kerang, Padang Gajah near Trong on Saturday. District police chief ACP Harith Kam Abdullah said the deceased, Wong Chee Kheong, 43, was believed to have been attacked by a male suspect out of anger or jealousy for allegedly having an intimate relationship with his wife. He said police are hunting for the 43-year-old suspect, who lived in the same village as the victim, and his Thai wife. — Bernama