Time to trim the sails, analogy hunters

By Peh Shing Huei

MOVE aside football, it is sailing’s moment in the Singapore political sun.

The Beautiful Game’s decades-long status as the favoured ground for metaphors among Singapore politicians was blown away last night as Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong urged Singaporeans to sail the high seas of possibilities.

Referring to the final keelboat match between Singapore and India, he said: “Both teams used identical boats, but Singapore won.

“What made the difference? Our team, the five-man crew – Justin Wong, Renfred and Roy Tay, Ivan Tan and their skipper Teo Wee Chin. Their abilities and their skills, their training and their teamwork, their determination and their will – never give up, think coolly under pressure, battle tenaciously and prevail.

He said Singapore sailors’ five-gold medal haul at the Doha Asian Games last year exemplified the Singapore spirit.

“This is the Singapore spirit which will see us through as we remake our nation and build our home together.”

Elaborating later, Mr Teo, 20, told The Straits Times: “Even in difficult situations, such as when we were falling behind in the race, we didn’t shout at each other but remained focused on getting the boat up to maximum speed.

PM Lee continued: “Whatever the challenges, we’ll tackle them one by one and sail through. Over the next decade, we have a unique opportunity to transform Singapore. Together, let’s make this truly a City of Possibilities, and a home for all of us.”