

# It's finally over for Nurul

By T. VIGNESH

**NATIONAL** women's artistic gymnast Nurul Fatiha Abdul Hamid who won two bronze medals in the recently concluded Korat SEA Games is ready to call it a day.

The 21-year-old lass from Kuala Lumpur won her medals in the team event and in the floor exercise. She was disappointed at failing to win a medal in her pet event, the uneven bars.

Nurul was seventh in the uneven bars where she was a gold medal prospect.

The gold was won by Malaysian gymnast Chan Sau Wah.

"I'm sad and disappointed at not winning a medal of any colour in the uneven bars," said Nurul.

"I was unlucky as I fell and hit my face. Luckily I wasn't hurt."

The Universiti Putra Malaysia student is quitting gymnastics to concentrate on her studies.

"I think it is time to get my priorities right.

"I would not mind coming back to coach the junior gymnasts if the Malaysian Gymnastic Federation needs my services."

Nurul has won six gold, one silver and three bronze medals during her participation in four SEA Games.

She won three gold medals in her SEA Games debut in 2001 which Malaysia hosted.

In the games in Vietnam she won two gold medals, but man-



**WINNING COMBINATION:** (Clockwise from left) Nabila Ali, Nurul Fatiha, Chan Sau Wah, Loh Hui Xin, Noor Hasleen and Tracia Ang

aged just one gold in Manila.

Nurul who started gymnastics at the age of seven participated in the Doha Asian Games and qual-

ified for the final but was no match for the Chinese gymnasts.

Nurul who started representing the country in 1997, thinks her

top eight finish in the World Cup in Shanghai this year was her best ever achievement.

She has been a role-model for

young gymnasts during her stint with the national squad.

Her absence will be missed by the younger generation.