

Kannan, Nurul Sarah vow to do better

S. KANNAN and Nurul Sarah Kadir have vowed to do better after emerging as the country's top university sprinters by winning their 100m finals in the Malaysian University Athletics Championships at the Universiti Malaya Arena yesterday.

Universiti Putra Malaysia's Kannan surged past fellow national sprinter Zabidi Ghazali at the halfway mark to win the men's final in 10.82 seconds while Nurul Sarah, also from UPM, won the women's event unchallenged in 12.32s.

Kannan said he was happy with the win in only his second race of the year and is confident of doing better in an attempt to qualify for the Sea Games in December.

"This is only my second competition this

year and it was a tough race," said Kannan, 26, who has a personal best of 10.59s. "Zabidi is a fighter and after 50 metres I just powered on and overtook him.

"I have just recovered from a foot injury so I am not yet at 100 per cent. For now I am happy with this win but in future races, I hope to do better and qualify for the Sea Games."

Nurul Sarah did not run for several months until the Australian Open in April and her winning time was indicative of the early season rust.

"It's been a while since I raced and I need more training to do better. First, I have to go under 12 seconds and then I can think about qualifying for the Sea Games," said Nurul Sarah,

who needs to clock 11.69 to go to Myanmar.

Two other national athletes easily won their events as Norliyana Kamaruddin cleared 1.67m to win the women's high jump while erasing Wong Boon Syian's meet record of 1.63m.

K. Ganthimanthi ran the two laps of the women's 800m practically alone to win in 2:23.09 as Max Anzie Jetol of Universiti Malaysia Sabah set the second meet record of the day in winning the men's javelin with a 52.24m effort.

UPM lead the medal tally after the first day with five gold, two silver and one bronze, followed by UMS (3-1-2) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (2-1-1). **By Devinder Singh**