

Kannathasan misses Sea Games qualifying mark

S. KANNATHASAN just missed out on qualifying for the Sea Games despite winning the Malaysian Universities Athletics Championships men's 400m final at the Universiti Malaya Arena yesterday.

Universiti Putra Malaysia's Kannathasan was neck-and-neck with Arif Zulhilmi Alet of Universiti Teknologi Mara, entering the final stretch but pulled away in the final 20 metres to win in a meet record of 47.87 seconds to Arif's 48.39.

Kannathasan's time was just short

of the 47.71s qualifying mark for the Sea Games in Myanmar in December.

"I think in another two or three months I should be able to do it with competitions in Kedah and Taiwan to come," said Kannathasan who was part of the Sea Games 4x400m relay squad in 2011 stripped of their gold medal due to Yunus Lasaleh's failed drug test.

"I have not run in the individual event at the Sea Games so I hope this will be my first time. This is only my

third race this year which is also my season's best."

Kannathasan, who clipped a barrier and fell in the 400m hurdles on Friday, had competed in the Australian Open and Malaysian Grand Prix last month.

"I had not run the hurdles in a while and lost my rhythm and fell. It was bad but it did not affect me today."

Soh Sian Siang of Universiti Sains Malaysia completed a middle-distance double when he won the

1,500m in 4:27.37s to add to his 800m title.

UPM edged UiTM to the men's 4x100m gold in 42.33s and also won the women's relay in 52.00.

Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris's Korea Bal won the decathlon with 4,605 points while teammate Ahmad Nur Aharif finished second (4,486).

UPM continue to lead the medal tally with 11 gold, five silver and two bronze, followed by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (4-3-4) and USM (4-1-1).