

# Archers can end medal wait in Turkey

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Olympian Khairul Anuar Mohd missed the mark by a whisker – and it ended Malaysia's hopes of a first archery recurve medal in the opening leg of the World Cup in Shanghai last month.

But the wait could end when Khairul and his team-mates – Atiq Bazil Bakri, Fareez Rosli and Haziq Kamarudin – compete in the second leg of the World Cup in Antalya, Turkey, from June 10-16.

After five months of tweaking and fine-tuning their game, national coach Lee Jae-hyung is hoping for the men's team to give themselves a timely boost ahead of the World Championships, which will be held at the same venue in Turkey from Sept 29-Oct 6.

Jae-hyung hopes that the men archers will use the World Cup as the perfect "warm-up" platform ahead of the World Championships.

"We are only sending the men's team because the women are not ready. The women will only take part in the Asian Grand Prix in Malaysia in July. The men have shown great commitment in training ... we're hoping for a good showing," said Jae-hyung, who left with the team to Turkey yesterday.

"Out of the four men archers, only Fareez was occupied with his examinations for several days (at Universiti Putra Malaysia) but he is back on track. If all goes well, we can look forward to a good outing."

Khairul finished fourth in Shanghai while the men's team crashed out in the early rounds.

In Turkey, all the top archers from South Korea, Japan, Italy and United States will be out to steal the show again.

In Shanghai, South Korea won three out of the four gold medals at stake in the recurve events.

Jae-hyung said that the priority this year was for the Malaysian team to taste success in the World Championships for the first time.

"We've won medals in the World Cup but never gone past the quarter-finals in the World Championships. Hopefully, our men will show that they can end this wait by doing consistently well," said Jae-hyung.

For the record, Malaysia last won a bronze medal through the men's team, led by Cheng Chu Sian, at the World Cup series in Turkey in 2009.