



Ready to roll: National runner S. Kannathasan has qualified for the 400m and 4x400m relay events in the Myanmar SEA Games.

Kannathasan out to bury ghost of Palembang in Myanmar Games

By AFTAR SINGH

KUALA LUMPUR: National runner S. Kannathasan wants to bury the ghost of the past at the Myanmar SEA Games in December.

The Kuala Lumpur-born athlete has qualified for the 400m and 4x400m relay events in the Myanmar Games.

He clocked a personal best of 47.47 in the Taiwan Open last month to surpass the qualifying mark of 47.71, which is the silver-medal winning mark of the previous Games.

The scratch men's 4x400m quartet of Kannathasan, Mohd Arif Zulhilm, Mohd Ardaus Mazalan and Mohd Jironi Riduan qualified for the Myanmar Games by clocking 3:14.87 at the Asean University Games in Laos last December – beating the qualifying mark of 3:14.90.

At the 2011 Indonesia SEA Games in Palembang, the national 4x400m team won the gold medal but they were stripped of it after Mohd Lasaleh Yunus was tested positive for a banned drug.

The other two relay runners were P. Yuvaraj and Schzuan Ahmad Rosley.

The 22-year-old Kannathasan, who is majoring in Computer Science at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) will be competing in the National Closed junior and senior championships beginning today at the National Sports Council (NSC) Training Track in Bukit Jalil.

He described the National Closed as a good warm-up meet in preparation for the World University Games in Kazan, Russia, from July 6-17.

"This is first time I'm competing in the World University Games and I'll be more than happy if I can reach the second round in my pet event," he said.

"My mission this year is to dip below 47 seconds and bag the gold in the 400m as well as win the relay event in the SEA Games."