

# Medal is all that matters

## Youngster Shahira out to spring a surprise



**ARCHER** Shahira Abdul Halim (*pic*) is hoping to spring a surprise by winning a medal in her second SEA Games outing.

The Selangor-born archer made her debut in Jakarta two years ago, losing in the quarter-finals of the women's 70m individual recurve event. Malaysia finished in fourth in the team event.

The national women archers returned home from Jakarta empty-handed while their male counterparts did well to win two golds and one silver.

The 21-year-old Shahira, who trained at the archery centre in Wunna Theikdi yesterday, said that she definitely wants to do much better in Myanmar.

"There is no pressure on me as I'm still young. But I hope to create an upset and win a medal. Nothing is impossible. Coach Lee (Jae-hung) has been pushing me hard in training as he knows that I can deliver a medal.

"I just need to stay focused to collect points in the qualifying round (which begins on Saturday)," said Shahira, who has been with the national team



since 2010 and was a member of the women's recurve team who finished fourth in the 2010 New Delhi Commonwealth Games.

In the run-up to the SEA Games, Shahira competed in the Asian meet in Taiwan last month and finished 33rd in the individual 70m recurve event.

Shahira, who is pursuing a degree in Human Resource Development at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), likes the weather in Naypyitaw, describing it as "nice ... not hot like in Malaysia".

Coach Jae-hung said that Shahira has indeed made progress and should be able to upstage more renowned archers from Indonesia and Myanmar to be on the podium.

"The time has come for her to rise to the occasion in the SEA Games," he said.

The other members of the women's team are Fatin Nurfatehah Mat Salleh, Norhayati Al Madihah Hashim, Nor Rizah Ishak, Saritha Cham Hong, Nur Aliya Ghapar, Sunantra Suchat and Farah Amalina Azhar.