

Nauraj a cut above the rest

SEA Games gold medallist Nauraj Singh Randhawa could have done better but nevertheless proved untouchable at the Malaysian Institutions of Higher Learning Games (Sukipt) athletics competition at the Universiti Malaya (UM) Arena in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Nauraj's leap of 2.04 metres was enough to clinch the men's high jump title and better the previous Games record of 1.78m jointly held by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia's (UTM) Norhaizad Mohamed Taibi and Moemedi Kabo of Uniten. It was, however, some way off his personal best of 2.20m.

The UM student, who is looking to qualify for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in July, said he was happy with the win — his first of the season — but stressed that he has some way to go before reaching peak form.

"It feels great to get the win on my first Sukipt outing but I believe I still have to improve myself," said Nauraj, who turns 21 this year.

"It is still early days and I want to maintain a level of performance around my personal best in my next tournaments.

"I need to hit 2.23m to qualify for the Commonwealth Games and will have to keep working hard to reach that."

Nauraj will next compete at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Hangzhou, China next week.

UM teammate Irfan Shamsuddin, also a Sea Games gold medallist, was



Top finishers in the men's high jump (from left): **Kavee Alagan Anpalagan** (UPM) silver, **Nauraj Singh Randhawa** (UM) gold and **Moemedi Kabo** (Uniten) bronze.

also in record breaking form as he added close to 10 metres to the Games mark when he notched 48.05m to seal victory in the men's discus.

Irfan, however, was also not at his best having set the national record of 53.16m at the Myanmar Sea Games in December.

The former Sukipt record of 38.85m had belonged to Muhamad Azwan Fahmi Zuhairi of Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP).

The men's 400m hurdles saw Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) Eldy Sham Irlon bag the title in a time of 54.17 seconds while Nurul Hasyikin Adha Ismail (Kolej Komuniti Sabah) emerged the winner over the same distance in the women's category after clocking 69.76s.

Muhamad Khairil Harith Harun (UPM) lopped over a second off M. Sathiaseelan's (Politeknik Sungai Petani) old Games mark of 50.9.35s

when he clocked 48:50.08s to emerge victorious in the 10,000m walk while Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) successfully defended their women's 4x100m title in 49.92s.

In bowling, UiTM's Jonathan Ding Sagan clinched the men's singles title with a 1,511 total pinfall.

In the men's taekwondo events, Kolej Komuniti Johor's Syahmi Ahmad (Under-54kg), Uniten's Abdelrahman Ahmed (Under 74kg) and Politeknik Selangor's Tey Yen Khai (over 87kg) came out winners in their respective categories at the UiTM campus in Shah Alam.

The women's events saw Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia's Fitriya Abu Mansur (Under-46kg), UPM's Noor Idayu Remy (Under-67kg) and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's Yong Mun Yi emerge victorious in their respective weight classes. **By Fadhi Ishak**