A bittersweet day

Ezuan wins gold but Hassanul qualifies for Games

BY AFTAR SINGH

PETALING JAYA: National shooter Mohd Ezuan Nasir Khan broke the national record en route to the gold medal but it was Mohd Hassanul Adzhar Mohd Badrin who hogged the limelight in the men’s 50m rifle prone event in the Selangor Open Shooting Championships at the Subang Shooting Range.

The 25-year-old Hassanul was in sizzling form as he registered a personal best of 594 points in the qualifying rounds to book his ticket to the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in July.

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— MOHD HASSANUL ADZHAR MOHD BADRIN

The qualifying mark is 592 points, which is the sixth-placed finish at the New Delhi Games in 2010.

However, Hassanul, who is busy with his Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) examinations, failed to maintain his good form in the final as he only managed a score of 118.5 points to finish sixth.

Hassanul, who is the youngest among eight siblings, said that he was thrilled to have improved on his personal best and qualify for his first Commonwealth Games.

“I want to thank my sister’s footsteps. She won a silver medal in the 25m sport pistol event in last month’s Myanmar SEA Games,” said Hassanul, who holds the Malaysia Games (Sukma) record of 592 points in the 50m rifle prone event set in Malacca in 2010.

“I want to thank my sister for encouraging me to take up the sport nine years ago. But I could not maintain my form in the final,“ said Hassanul, who is pursuing a degree in Human Resource Development at UPM.

The 25-year-old Ezuan, of Kuala Lumpur, said that he never expected to break the national record after his disappointing outing in the SEA Games last month.

“I finished a poor 15th in the same event. But I’m glad that I overcame the disappointment by setting a national record. It will inspire me to keep improving to qualify for the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games,“ he said.

Results

| GIRLS | 10m air pistol individual: 1. Noor Syahidah Mohd Rawa (Selangor) 192, 2. Nur Fadilah (Pahang) 190, 3. Tai Zi (Perak) 189.