

# Quest in jeopardy

**STRUGGLE:** Studies and work commitments holding back Johnathan and Hadafi's charge for honours

**AJITPAL SINGH**

ajitpalsingh@nst.com.my

**C**OMMITMENTS outside the shooting arena could jeopardise Johnathan Wong and Hadafi Jaafar's quest for glory in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games and the Incheon Asian Games.

Johnathan, a second semester aerospace engineering undergraduate of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), is finding it tough to cope with training commitments and studies.

As for Hadafi, a corporal with the Royal Malaysian Police, he has not been training regularly since he was transferred from the Kuala Lumpur Traffic headquarters to Pulapol last September.

Both shooters, who are bound for World Cup competitions in June, were also unable to go through the entire 12-day training camp at the Langkawi International Range recently.

Despite facing difficulties, Johnathan and Hadafi managed to win gold medals in their forte events at the Tun Hanif Trophy competition in Subang yesterday.

Johnathan, a triple bronze medallist at last December's Myanmar Sea Games, edged compatriot Eddy Chew in the final of the men's 10m air pistol individual elimination final. It was a nervy affair as both shooters were level on points with one attempt left.

However, the 22-year-old Johnathan posted 8.7 for a grand total of 196.7 points compared to



**Johnathan Wong**

Eddy's 196.2 for the title while Siau Zianyi finished third on 173.7.

"I have qualified for the Commonwealth Games but I am not peaking accordingly ahead of the competition. I did not perform well today (yesterday). It has been tough balancing studies and shooting. I now train only three days a week and that is not enough," said Johnathan at the Subang Shooting Range yesterday.

"I only attended the first week of the training camp in Langkawi before I reported back to UPM for my second semester recently. I also couldn't practice when I got back because my pistol was in Langkawi."

The Malacca-born, however, has been granted permission by the university to sit for his semester examination next month.

"I informed them that I could not sit for my papers in June as it clashes with the German and

Slovenia legs of the World Cup. Once I have cleared my exams, I will be able to focus on preparing for the Commonwealth Games," Johnathan added.

Hadafi posted a total of 445.6 points to win the 50m rifle three-position ahead of silver medallist Lufti Othman (441.20) while Zubair Mohamad finished third with 425.70.

The 29-year-old rifle specialist said Pulapol has yet to grant him permission to train full-time.

"I have applied for the exemption but am still awaiting approval. I have not been posting good scores of late due to lack of training time.

"It is crucial for me to train full-time to earn a spot in the team for the Commonwealth Games. Four other shooters have also qualified for the assignment and only two will be picked, based on current form," said Hadafi, who has been with the elite squad for the last six years.

**Results — Men's 10m air pistol:** 1 Johnathan Wong Gunjie (M'cca) 196.70 points, 2 Eddy Chew (Joh) 196.20, 3 Siau Zianyi (Per) 173.70.

**Team:** 1 Terengganu (Raja Ahmad Firdaus Raja Mohd, Zul Fadzi Alias, Ahmad Helmi Rasid) 1,675; 2 Selangor (Rishipal Singh, Tan Tong Tat, Chai Bo Kang) 1,670; 3 Armed Forces (Denis Ejoh, Aziz Yunus, Khairul Azri Roslan) 1,665.

**25m standard pistol:** 1 Khalel Abdullah (ATM) 563, 2 Hasli Izwan Amir Hasan (Per) 556, 3 Khairul Azri Roslan (ATM) 555; **Team:** 1 Armed Forces (Khalel Abdullah,



**Hadafi Jaafar** is finding it tough training regularly since being transferred to Pulapol.

Khairul Azri Roslan, Ridhuan Mohamed) 1,654; 2 Terengganu (Raja Ahmad Firdaus Raja Mohd, Safirredzuan Salim, Amirul Hisyam Luxman) 1,614; 3 Pahang (Eric Low, Luqman Nul Hakim Rusdan, Abdul Aziz Abdul Malik) 1,598.

**50m rifle three-position:** 1 Hadafi Jaafar (Pol) 445.60, 2 Lufti

Othman (NS) 441.20, 3 Zubair Mohammad (KL) 425.70; **Team:** 1 Pahang (Nurrahimin Abdul Halim, Hassanul Adzhar Badrin, Nazirul Azhar Motalib) 3,386; 2 Terengganu (Amad Adib Aiman Rafii, Nabil Mashudi, Nur Muhd Izham Azwi) 3,347; 3 Perak (Ahmad Khusyairi Abdul Razak, Razi Aizat Adzha, Izzuadin Salmi) 3,334.