



High jumpers **S. Navin Raj** (right) and **Kavee Alagan** won gold and silver respectively yesterday. Pic by Hasriyasyah Sabudin

ASEAN UNIVERSITY GAMES

Strong showings in Palembang

NATIONAL athletes did well to kick-off the track and field competition at the Palembang Asean University Games (AUG) with two gold, five silver, a bronze and a new national record at the Jakabaring Athletics Stadium yesterday.

National elite athlete Noor Amira Mohd Nafiah did well to break the long-standing national mark in the women's long jump event. Her 6.29 metre effort erased the former national record of 6.27m set by Ngew Sin Mei in 2005.

Noor Amira, however, had to settle for bronze, finishing behind Asian Games gold and silver medalists Maria Natalia Londa (6.40m) of Indonesia and Vietnam's Bui Thi Thu Thao, who had also notched 6.29m but was jumping into the wind.

The Universiti Putra Malaysia student, who also holds the national triple jump record, said it was a sweet achievement after battling a heel injury for the past two years.

"My target coming here was to break the national record and I am happy I have managed to do it as I had been stuck on 6.16m for the past few meets," said the 26-year-old.

Zulhilmi Mohamad Arif successfully defended his title in the men's 400m after clocking 47.74 seconds to finish ahead of Vietnam's Quach Cong Lich (47.96s) and third-placed Edi Ariansyah (48.78s) of Indonesia.

"My time today (yesterday) was not close to my personal best (47.42s) but I am still happy to defend my gold here. Running under 48 seconds is a good way to end the season for me," Zulhilmi said.

The women's 400m saw Nurul Faizah A. Mazlan bagging silver after crossing the line in 57.05s behind Vietnam's Quach Thi Lan who won in 53.35s. Indonesia's Mayasari Sri took the bronze (57.50s).

S. Navin Raj delivered the second gold of the day after he edged teammate Kavee Alagan to the title in the men's high jump. Both had managed 2.09m but Navin took the title on the countback. Thailand's Rattapo Kaekwampod finished third on 2.00m.

Malaysia took both silver in the men's and women's 100m via

Jonathan Nyepa (10.55s) and Zaidatul Husnia Zulkifli (11.62s).

Indonesian Iswandi (10.46s) took the gold in the men's event with compatriot Fadlin (10.60s) finishing third. Vietnam's Vu Thi Huong won the women's 100m title after finishing in 11.61s while Indonesia's Anelis Unani Serafi (12.00s) clinched the bronze.

Yap Jeng Tzan bagged silver in the women's discus throw with a 44.39m effort but was some way behind gold medallist Subenrat Insaeng (Thailand) who managed + 56.85m. Lee Shin Han (Singapore) took the bronze on 42.59m.

National archers continued their strong run in the tournament, making all four finals in the men's and women's team recurve and team compound events at the Jakabaring Sports Complex.

The men's compound team made up of Ahmad Aliff Fadhlullah Alwi, Ahmad Syafiq Azim Saeri and Lutfil Hadi Mohd Yusof defeated Singapore 12-9 in the last four while the women's compound team (Norhayati Al Madinah Hashim, Fatin Nur-fatehah Mat Salleh, Saritha Cham Nong) had received a bye for the semi-finals.

Azuanis Abdullah, Siti Nurul Asiah Mahmud and Shahira Abdul Halim edged Singapore 5-4 in the women's team recurve semi-final while the men's squad comprising Mohamad Haziq Kamaruddin, Muhammad Shaiffuddin Mohd Kamro and Atik Bazil Bakri eased past Singapore with a 5-1 win in their last-four encounter.

All four Malaysian teams will face Indonesian teams in the decider which will be held tomorrow.

Malaysia remain in third overall with 10 gold, 15 silver and 14 bronze behind Thailand (23-9-8) and Indonesia (15-26-9).

The national teams' hopes of winning the football competition came to an end after going down 4-2 to Indonesia in the semi-final at the Jakabaring Stadium.

Malaysia will play Laos, who lost 3-0 to defending champions Thailand in the other semi-final, in the bronze medal playoff tomorrow. **By Fadhli Ishak**