

SUKIPT

Hard work pays off for UiTM

TOO GOOD: Razif, Yusuf, Muhammad Ozzer and Firdaus blaze the lanes

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Strong team chemistry paid dividends for Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) as they upset their more illustrious peers in the Malaysian Institutions of Higher Learning Games (Sukipt) men's team bowling event in Johor Baru yesterday.

Razif Szazali, Yusuf Abdul Raof, Muhammad Ozzer Othman and Muhammad Firdaus Idris kept their calm to notch a respectable 4,844 total score to emerge overall winners at the Daiman bowling centre.

Sunway University (Wan Nadzmi Fikri Mohd Faisal, Cheah Yung Ren, Jonathan Ding Sagan and Muhammad Rafiq Ismail) came in a distant second on 4,552 while Universiti Malaya's (UM) Ahmad Daniel Zainal Abidin, Muhammad Arsyad Mohamed Don, Muhammad Zakwan Jafri and Syed Muhammad Hafiz Syed Hussien took the bronze with 4,537.

Razif, who together with Firdaus won the doubles gold on Saturday, said the victory meant a lot to the team as they knew the competition would be tough.

"We had our ups and downs but we managed to cover each other when it happened.

"Our strategy was to stay calm, focused and not pressure each other. The team blended well and eventually we got the win," said Razif.

"The competition here is really tough with a lot of current and former national players in the field,



UTM vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Wahid Omar with the UTM volleyball team that won gold yesterday.

Sunway themselves are a very solid team who have a player like Rafiq on their side.

"So, to win this means a lot and gives us great satisfaction as we had targeted to win at least one gold in each the men's and women's tenpin bowling competition."

Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) Chuah Yu Tian defended her women's pole vault title with a 3.50m

effort which erased her former games mark of 2.80m set in 2014. It was the first time she had hit the 3.5m mark since winning gold at the Pahang Malaysia Games in 2012.

Pua Ling En (UPM) also set a new games record en route to winning the women's 5,000m in 27:20.31s, bettering the former mark of 28:51.00s set by Loh Chooi Fern (Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman)

in 2014.

The 100m games records were both broken as UM's Harith Amar Mohd Sobri notched 10.53s while UPM's Zaidatul Husniah clocked 11.83s to emerge victorious in the men's and women's finals. Mohd Azhar Md Ismail (Kolej Komuniti Pahang) held the previous men's record of 10.82s while the women's record of 12.63s was set by UPM's



UM's Gillian May Ng and UPM's Yuen Chee Wern

Chiew Hui Lian, both in 2014.

UTM continued their dominance in women's volleyball with a straight games 25-16, 25-19, 28-26 win over INTI College in the decider. UTM have won gold in the event at all three editions of Sukipt so far.

UKM were made to work hard in the men's decider, going to five sets before emerging 30-28, 22-25, 25-16, 25-27, 16-14 winners over UPM.

In squash, Gillian May Ng (UM) downed Nattasha Ariffin (Politeknik Pulau Pinang) 11-2, 11-6, 13-11 in the women's decider while the men's final was an all UPM affair which saw Yuen Chee Wern beating Gurshan Singh Tarvinder 11-8, 11-8, 13-11.

The men's team table tennis tournament saw Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) beating Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) 2-0 in the final while the women's gold went to UiTM after edging Sunway 2-1.

With four days remaining, defending champions UiTM are looking comfortable in the lead with a 30-gold, 30-silver and 14-bronze haul. Sunway and UM were second and third on 17-12-11 and 13-8-9 respectively.