



Universiti Putra Malaysia's **Faridzul Afiq** (centre) shoots at goal in the final against Universiti Malaya in the Sukipt Games yesterday.

## SUKIPT GAMES

# UiTM's reign continues

**UNIVERSITI** Teknologi Mara (UiTM) successfully defended their Malaysian Institutions of Higher Learning Games (Sukipt) overall title after assuming an unassailable lead in the competition yesterday.

UiTM secured victory after ending the day with 50 gold, 46 silver and 33 bronze and with only four gold on offer in the final day of competition today, second placed Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) have no chance of overtaking with only a haul of 40-18-21 to their name.

Universiti Malaya (UM) and Sunway Universiti are third and fourth on 25-16-14 and 17-17-15.

Chef-de-mission Dr Bahrin Mohd Othman said he was relieved UiTM managed to defend their title considering the higher standard of competition this year. UiTM had won with a 64-44-34 haul in 2014.

"Defending a title is always much harder than winning it for the first time and obviously, we are very happy to remain the overall champions," said Bahrin.

"It was a much tougher compe-

tion this time as the other teams have all improved significantly, especially the private institutions such as Sunway.

"Although we won slightly less medals this time, I believe we have improved as we managed to win medals in a variety of sports, making it a more holistic achievement."

Swimming was the biggest contributor for UiTM with their swimmers winning 14 gold, eight silver and six bronze.

The penultimate day of competition, however, saw UPM excelling in the core sports events.

They notched a double in hockey with their men's team downing defending champions UM 3-2 on penalty strokes after both sides were tied 1-1 at full time at the Taman Daya stadium. The women's team successfully defended their title with a 1-0 win over UiTM.

UPM won both the women's recurve and compound team gold medals after beating Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UnisZA) 6-0 and Universiti Sains Malaysia (12-11) in

the deciding matches.

The men's team events saw UM beating UPM 6-0 in the recurve final while International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) edged UnisZA 13-12 in the compound decider.

Records continued to fall in athletics as Help University's Aravin Thevar bettered the Games mark of 22.26s set by Harith Ammar Sobri (UM) two years ago by over a second after winning the men's 200m in 21.11s.

UPM's Zaidatul Husniah was equally impressive as she also set a new Games mark in the women's 200m, winning the event in 24.34s to erase the old record of 25.97s set by Fathin Fapihah Mohd Yusuf (Kolej Komuniti Sabah) in 2014.

The women's 3,000m steeplechase saw Politeknik Kedah's Teoh Kim Ling winning in 12:58.35s, bettering the previous record of 16:42.72s set by Anathasia Thomas (Institut Pendidikan Guru Pulau Pinang) at the last edition.

As expected, UPM emerged the overall winners of athletics with a haul of 16-5-4 while UM and Universiti Malaysia Perlis came in second and third on 7-2-1 and 4-5-0 respectively. **By Fadhli Ishak**