

# Ultimate sacrifice

Johnathan to stop studies for one semester to chase Olympic glory

By AFTAR SINGH

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Johnathan Wong Guanjie is ready to make all the sacrifices in his bid to gun down an Olympic medal.

For starters, the national pistol shooter will put his studies on hold for one semester. And secondly, it will be a rather short break for the Chinese New Year (CNY) and then it is back to the rigours of training at the shooting range on Feb 15.

The 24-year-old Johnathan, who will return from New Delhi today, will celebrate CNY with his parents and siblings in Malacca next week and then get down to preparing for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in August.

Johnathan qualified for the Rio Games after winning the gold in the men's 10m air pistol event at the Asian Olympic Qualifying Championships in New Delhi on Monday with a 198.70 score.

"I want to do my best in the Olympics and I have six months to prepare. I am leaving no stone unturned to achieve a good outing," said Johnathan.

"It will be difficult for me to study and train, so I have decided to take a break from my studies for one semester to focus on training and competitions," said Johnathan, who is pursuing a degree in aerospace engineering at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

"I also want to compete at least in five high level competitions to be on par with the world class pistol shooters at the Olympics," said Johnathan, who will be featuring in the first leg of World Cup in Bangkok from March 1-9.

"I also hope to compete in the second leg of



**Nose to the grindstone:** Shooter Johnathan Wong Guanjie will have a short break for the Chinese New Year and then it is back to training for the Olympic Games.

World Cup in Rio de Janeiro (from April 13-25) to get used to the Olympic Games venue," said Johnathan, who holds the national qualifying record of 585 last September.

Last December, he broke the national record of 201.5 points in the final to win the gold in the men's 10m air pistol in the South East Asian

(SEASA) Shooting Championships in Jakarta.

Johnathan said that he hopes to defy the odds and create history in the Rio Olympics.

"I have proven myself in the SEASA and also in the Asian Olympics Qualifying meet in New Delhi. And hopefully I can spring another surprise at the Olympics."