

# Johnathan struggling to come close to personal best

By AFTAR SINGH

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Things are looking pretty bleak for Rio Olympic Games-bound national pistol shooter Johnathan Wong Guanjie.

The 24-year-old took a semester break from his university studies two months ago to focus on competitions after qualifying for the Games in January when he won the gold in the men's 10m air pistol event in the Asian Olympic Qualifying Championships in New Delhi.

But since then, he has failed to come close to his personal best in competitions.

Johnathan, who's studying aeronautical engineering at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), featured in the ISSF World Cup in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday, but could only manage 575 points in the qualifying round to finish 29th out of 68 shooters.

His total was 10 points short of his personal best of 585.

Last month, Johnathan competed in the Ally T.H. Ong Trophy at the Subang Shooting Range and failed to win gold in his pet event.

He finished second with a score of 198.2 in the final. Eddy Chew won the gold with 198.9 points.

Johnathan admitted that things are not looking up for him.

"I took a break from my studies with the hope of giving my best in competitions. Unfortunately, I've not been able to come close to my personal best.

"I need to shot around 580 points in competitions if I want hope to become the first Malaysian shooter to qualify for the final in the Olympics," Johnathan said in a telephone interview from Rio de Janeiro yesterday.

"I'm quite happy with the shooting range in Rio, although it's not fully completed yet. I hope to return to Rio early to train for the Olympics in August."

Johnathan will compete in two more ISSF World Cups - in Munich, Germany (May 17-26) and Baku, Azerbaijan (June 20-29) - before leaving for the Rio Olympics.

He knows that a good showing at these two meets would be crucial in boosting his confidence ahead of the Olympics.