

# A dramatic victory

## Malaysian quartet bag gold and break 4x100m national record

By AFTAR SINGH

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Malaysian women's 4x100m quartet stunned favourites Thailand in dramatic fashion to win the relay gold – and break the national record – in the Thailand Open Track and Field Championships in Bangkok.

The quartet of Shereen Samson Vallabouy, Siti Fatimah Mohamed, S. Komalam Shally and Zaidatul Husniah Zulkifli clocked an impressive 45.19 to clinch gold at the Thammasat University Sports Complex yesterday.

Their time erased the previous mark of 45.32 set by Zaidatul, Komalam, Siti Fatimah and Nurul Faizah Asma Mazlan at the Singapore Open Championships in April last year.

Thailand, who won the Singapore SEA Games gold in 2015, came in second in 45.29 and Singapore third in 45.65.

Malaysia can thank pint-sized Zaidatul for yesterday's impressive win as she ran the race of her life to overtake the Thai anchor just 10 metres from the finish line.

And Zaidatul, 24, who won the 100m silver on Monday, was thrilled to bits after their win.

"This is a sweet victory for us, especially since we did it in front of their home crowd. The Thais have been dominating the relay in the SEA Games for so long," said Zaidatul, who holds the national 100m record of 11.45.

"It's also great that we broke the national record.

"We are looking forward to another good outing in the Malaysian Open (at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil from July 17-19).

"Our two-month training stint in Pretoria (South Africa in March) is paying dividends. Our aim now is to win gold in the SEA Games," added Zaidatul, who ran in the Rio de Janeiro Olympics last year.

Malaysia also won a silver and a bronze on the fourth and final day of the Thailand Open.

The Malaysian quartet of Fatin Faqihah Mohd Yusof, Nurul Faizah Asma Mazlan,



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**Proud moment:**  
(from left)  
National 4x100m women's quartet Zaidatul Husniah Zulkifli, S. Komalam Shally, Siti Fatimah Mohamed and Shereen Samson Vallabouy posing with their gold medals in the Thailand Open Track and Field Championships in Bangkok yesterday.

Shereen and M.R. Thanalaksiumy clocked 3:48.52 to come in second in women's 4x400m.

Jonathan Nyepa, Badrul Hisyam Abdul Manap, Mohd Aqil Yasmin and Khairul Hafiz Jantan clocked 40.02 to end up with the bronze in the men's 4x100m.

The men's 4x400m foursome of Kwong Kar Jun, Muhd Azam Masri, Quek Lee Yong and para athlete Nasaruddin Mohammad finished fourth in 3:13.12.

Malaysia ended the four-day meet with a medal haul of 4-9-4.