

## ATHLETICS

# BLAZING RUN IN BANGKOK

Shereen and Co  
stake claim for Sea  
Games gold

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**T**HE national track and field squad ended their campaign at the Thailand Open on a high after the national women's 4x100m relay quartet set a new national record in Bangkok yesterday.

The foursome of Shereen Samson Vallabouy, Siti Fatima Mohammad, S. Komalam Shally and Zaidatul Husniah Zulkifli clocked 45.19 seconds to win gold in the event and erase the mark of 45.32 set at the 2016 Singapore Open.

Siti Fatima, Komalam and Husniah were also part of the quartet, along with Nurul Faizah Asma Mazlan, which set the previous record last year.

Despite a slow start, anchorwoman Husniah finished strongly after receiving the baton from

Komalam in third place before making up ground to cross the line ahead of the Thai Air Force Club (45.29) while Singapore (45.65) came in third.

The performance augurs well for the sprinters ahead of the Kuala Lumpur Sea Games in August though they would have to dip under 45 seconds to seriously challenge Thailand and Vietnam for the relay gold medal.

In any case, sprints coach M. Balamurugam said the sprinters were on the right track.

"It was a good performance as they have broken the national record again," said Bala.

"I'm very happy with their performance and I am sure they will improve for the forthcoming Sea Games.

"The possibility of going under 45 seconds is there."

The men's 4x100m quartet of Jonathan Nyepa, Badrul Hisyam Manap, Aqil Yasmin and Khairul Hafiz Jantan finished with the bronze medal after clocking 40.02 seconds.

The Thai Air Force Club won



(From left) Shereen Samson Vallabouy, Siti Fatima Mohammad, S. Komalam Shally and Zaidatul Husniah Zulkifli.

gold in 39.54 seconds ahead of Hong Kong (39.84).

Malaysia also won a silver in the women's 4x400m in 3:48.52s but the men's quartet could only finish fourth in 3:13.12 as Philippines claimed victory in 3:11.42.

The national track and field squad ended the four-day meet with a haul of four gold, nine silver and four bronze medals at the Thammasat University Stadium.

In addition to the women's relay team, Malaysia's other gold medallists were Khairul in the

100m, shot putter Ziyad Zolkefli<sup>+</sup> and hammer thrower Grace Wong, who posted 57.49 metres for her win on Wednesday.

Both Ziyad and Norliyana Kamaruddin, who won silver in the heptathlon, achieved personal bests.