

# Keep it up, Kirthana

## Long jumper makes amends for Naples setback with meet record

By AFTAR SINGH

**KUALA LUMPUR:** National long jumper R. Kirthana made a quick rebound by leaping to a gold and ending a 25-year-meet record at the Kuala Lumpur Open Athletics Championships.

The 22-year-old made up for the disappointment of missing her first World University Games in Naples, Italy, last month, by registering a personal best of 6.15m in the women's long jump event at the National Sports Council (NSC) training track in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

Kirthana, who is pursuing a degree in mass communication at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), smashed the old meet record of 6.06m set by Doris Chong in 1994.

Her effort was 19 centimetres better than her previous best of 5.96m, which she did in the same meet in 2015.

But she failed to beat the Philippines SEA Games qualifying mark of 6.45m.

Kirthana was one of the four athletes who did not get to compete in the University Games when team manager Malik Tobias

failed to confirm her entry together with pole vaulter Iskandar Alwi, sprinters Russel Nasir Taib and Muhd Aqil Yasmin.

Kirthana, who will focus on her pet event – the triple jump – in the Malaysian Open from Aug 16-18 in Bukit Jalil, was happy with her achievement.

“I did not allow the misfortune in Naples to affect my performance in the KL Open. I'm just glad to finally surpass the six metre mark in long jump,” said Kirthana.

“Unfortunately, I did not make the cut for the SEA Games but it's a positive build-up ahead of the Malaysian Open.”

Meanwhile, hammer thrower Grace Wong Xiu Mei, who broke the SEA Games record in the 2017 KL SEA Games with an effort of 59.24m, failed to qualify for the Philippines Games after a poor throw of 54.35m.

She won the gold but her effort was way off the qualifying mark of 56.15m.

Kuala Lumpur SEA Games gold medallist Khairul Hafiz Jantan competed in the KL Open after all and won the gold in the 100m with a time of 10.50 but he failed to beat the SEA Games qualifying mark of 10.43.



**Simply smashing:** R. Kirthana competing in the women's long jump final during the Kuala Lumpur Athletic Championships at the National Sport Council training track yesterday. — AZHAR MAHFOF / The Star

### RESULTS

(National athletes unless stated)

#### Men

**100m:** 1. Khairul Hafiz Jantan 10.50, 2. Muhd Solihin Jamali (Kul) 10.65, 3. Muhd Fakhru Abdul Aziz (BJSS) 10.67.

**400m hurdles:** 1. Shahril Amri Azmi (Per) 59.44, 2. Muhd Azri Amran (Sel) 59.58, 3. Lian Yee Jun (Kul) 60.20.

**800m:** 1. Mohd Amirul Alif (Joh) 1:54.72, 2. Wan Muhd Fazri (BJSS) 1:55.45, 3. Devin Roy Vincent (Nse) 1:58.00.

**Hammer:** 1. Sadat Marzuqi Ajisan 52.45m, 2. Evan Allenby Anak Edmund (Kul) 42.89m, 3. Rizad Azi Che Radzi (Per) 34.46m.

**Javelin:** 1. Ahmad Rustam Razali (Joh) 53.11m, 2. Lim Chuah Chyi (Joh) 52.40m, 3. Muhd Akmal Mohd Zain (Per) 49.63m.

#### Women

**100m:** 1. Siti Zubaidah Adabi (Quantum Athletics) 12.58, 2. M. Darshini (Pah) 12.68, 3. A. Siva Sangkari (Prk) 13.15.

**Discus:** 1. Connie Choo Kang Ni 47.54m (meet record), 2. Queenie Ting 44.52m, 3. Yap Jeng Tzan (Quantum Athletics) 43.02m.

**800m:** 1. Siti Aishah Abdul Rashid (Sel) 2:33.30, 2. R. Loshini (Pen) 2:43.78, 3. Suhana Abdul Rashid (Kul) 2:46.09.

**Hammer:** Grace Wong Xiu Mei 54.35m, 2. Nurul Hidayah Lukman (Sel) 49.42m, 3. Shahidatul Nadiah Ismail (Joh) 24.81m.

**High jump:** 1. Ngu Jia Xin (Prk) 1.75m, 2. Yap Sean Yee 1.75m, 3. S'ng Michelle (Sin) 1.65m.

**Long jump:** 1. R. Kirthana 6.15m (meet record), 2. Nur Shahidatun Nadia Mohd Zuki (BJSS) 6.11m, 3. Siti Zubaidah Adabi (Quantum Athletics) 5.73m.