

# Birthday girl Kung Ni targets Kang Ni

By AFTAR SINGH

**KUALA LUMPUR:** National discus thrower Queenie Ting Kung Ni (*pic*) will turn 22 tomorrow.

Her birthday wish? To upstage national No. 1 Choo Kang Ni for the second time and win gold in the Penang Open Athletics Championships at the City Stadium this weekend. And to top it off, she wants to set a personal best distance.

The Sarawakian upset Kang Ni, the 2017 Kuala Lumpur SEA Games silver medallist, to win the Malaysian Closed in Bukit Jalil in August with a personal best of 46.51m.

Her previous best was 46.08m, which she did in a competition in Hallesche, Germany, last year.

Kang Ni, who holds the national record of 47.91m, only managed 46.05m to take silver.

Queenie said she wants to prove in the

Penang Open that her win over Kang Ni was no fluke.

"Kang Ni is a good friend and she also always motivates me in training and competitions. I have high respect for her as she is one of the best women discus throwers in South-East Asia," said Queenie.

"But I want to keep aside my friendship to beat her once again in the Penang Open. I am in good form and I also want it to be a special birthday by winning the gold.

"I don't just want to win, I want a personal best in the Penang Open to boost my chances of finishing on the podium in the SEA Games in the Philippines," said Queenie, who will be competing under Category B in Manila as she failed to beat the silver medal qualifying mark of 47.91m.

Under Category B, the association pay for the participants to the SEA Games but will be reimbursed by the Olympic Council of

Malaysia if she wins a medal of any colour.

Queenie added that she has been training hard under coach Mohd Ali Hamid and believes she has a good chance of a medal finish.

"My effort in the Malaysian Closed was more than one metre better than the last SEA Games bronze-medal winning mark of 45.10m (set by Nguyen Thi Hong Thuong in 2017)," said Queenie, who also bagged bronze in the Vietnam Open in May with a throw of 45.67m.

Queenie, who is pursuing a degree in physical education at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), will be featuring in her second SEA Games. She made her debut in the Singapore Games in 2015 and finished fifth. Two years ago in KL, she failed to qualify.

Kang Ni and Yap Jeng Tzan featured. Kang Ni broke the national record with an effort of 47.91m to bag silver.

