

THE 25TH SEA GAMES: THE MOST EXTENSIVE COVERAGE ON MEDIACORP

No blanks for Ser

19-year-old Singapore star pips Thai in a shoot-off to finally win gold

TANYO-HINN

yohinn@mediacorp.com.sg

VIENTIANE — She is one of six elite athletes currently in the Olympic Pathway Programme run by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.

Shooter Jasmine Ser's big target is the 2012 Olympic Games.

For the first three days of the shooting competition here at the SEA Games, Ser endured a frustrating time, with only a team silver in her bag.

Just when it seemed as if the 25th Games would be one to forget for her, Ser struck gold yesterday in her final event.

The 19-year-old clinched the women's 50m rifle three positions gold, a first for Singapore in the event.

Ser edged out Thailand's Majchacheep Sununta 10.0 to 9.1 points in a shoot-off, after both had finished the final level on 677.6 points. Ser's team-mate Aqilah Sudhir took the bronze (675.2).

"It makes up for my disappointment in the 10m air rifle," said Ser, who competed



Ser's (centre) gold in the 50m rifle three positions is a first for Singapore in the event. She also combined with Aqilah (left) Lim Chea Rong to win the team silver. TAN YO-HINN

with a 6.5kg Anschutz rifle, compared to her regular 4.7kg Feinwerkbau.

"Because it is longer, it is more unstable," she explained. "I didn't know what the scores were and thought I was going for the bronze. But when I got into the shoot-off, my first thought was, 'if (team-mate Goh) Jia Yi can do it, so can I'."

On Thursday, Jia Yi, 14, claimed the women's 10m air rifle gold after a shoot-off. In the 50m rifle three positions, a shooter fires off 20 shots each in three positions: prone, standing and kneeling. In the final,

You're winning so many golds, how about leaving some for us?

A Malaysian team official was overheard teasing SSA chief Chng Seng Mok

a shooter fires 10 shots from a standing position.

Earlier in the day, Ser combined with Aqilah and Lim Chea Rong to win the team silver, posting a score of 1,717. Thailand won

the gold (1,725) and Malaysia the bronze (1,702).

It took the Republic's tally to five gold, four silver and four bronze medals from the shooting range so far.

"We've had more pleasant surprises than disappointments at these Games," said Singapore Shooting Association (SSA) president Chng Seng Mok, beaming with pride.

Aqilah, Jia Yi and Ser leave for Doha today for the Asian Air Gun Championships, which also serves as a qualifier for the 2010 Youth Olympic Games in Singapore.

FOURTH-TIME'S A CHARM FOR KHOR



Before coming here, wushu exponent Khor Poh Chin (centre) had been to three SEA Games starting in 2003, but never won gold. The 23-year-old ended her barren run on the very first day of competition at the 25th SEA Games at the Lao International Trade Exhibition & Convention Centre, partnering Tao Yi Jun (left) and Tay Yu Juan (right) to win gold in the women's duilian (with weapon) event. The trio notched up 9.46 points with a solid performance, outscoring their Vietnamese and Bruneian opponents, who both posted scores of 9.45 to tie for the silver medal. "After four SEA Games, I've finally won the gold medal, and our six months of hard work has finally paid off," said Khor, who finished second in the women's changquan at the 2007 Games in Korat, Thailand. "We were faster and swifter than our competitors today, and that gave us an extra edge." LOW LIN FHOONG

Top Thai shooter ordered out of Laos

VIENTIANE — Jakkrit Panichpatikum, one of Thailand's top shooters and described as an Asian Games medal hope next year, was ordered to return home by Lao police after causing a disruption here at the SEA Games.

Following a long-running spat with the National Shooting Sport Association of Thailand and even some team-mates, Jakkrit, who finished seventh in the men's 10m air pistol final at last year's Olympics, was fired on Saturday.

There was no muzzling the disgruntled shooter, who marched into the National Sports Complex' shooting centre for an impromptu press conference yesterday.

Speaking to a scrum of reporters, Jakkrit, 36, who helped Thailand win the team gold in the men's 25m standard pistol on Thursday, said: "It is painful. I've always put my country first, but I believe this decision is because of personal feelings, rather than national interests.

"I have no idea about my future now, and I don't know if I can compete at the Asian Games."

While Thai team manager Boorapa Rerksangket declined comment, the national association released a statement saying it was wrong for the shooter to hold a press conference without any notification.

TANYO-HINN



Jakkrit (left) won the 25m standard pistol team gold with team-mates Karndee Prakarn and Kulchirattana Pongpol on Thursday. AFP