

Archer Khambeswaran shoots straight for the record

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Record breakers Khambeswaran and Farah Amalina (right) pose for a photo after winning their events in Sukma at Unimas ground. - Bernama

KUCHING: Archer M. Khambeswaran came to the Sukma with one aim – to set a national record.

And the 17-year-old Penangite did just that in the men's 30m compound event at the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) ground.

He shot 360 points to erase the previous mark by one point. The old record of 359 was set by Lang Hong Keong at the Asian Grand Prix in Bangkok in 2008.

Khambeswaran also bettered the Sukma record of 356 set by Penang's Zulfadhli Ruslan in Pahang in 2012.

Sabah's Wong Co Wan took the silver with 359 points while homester Chio Chung Yin bagged the bronze with a 357 total.

Khambeswaran was not the only national record breaker in Monday's competition.

Kedah's Farah Amalina Azharroke accumulated 350 points to set a new mark in the women's 30m recurve.

The 21-year-old improved the national record by one point, erasing the mark of 349 set by Nurul Shafiqah Hashim in the third National Circuit in Lumut in 2012.

She also broke the Sukma record by nine points. The old mark of 341 was set by Ng Sui Kim of Perak in Malacca six years ago.

Earlier, Farah also broke the Sukma record in the women's 50m recurve after registering 322 points. Her efforts bettered the mark of 317 set by Shahira Abdul Halim of Johor in 2010.

Khambeswaran said he was confident of breaking the national record after chalking up 359 points in the second National Archery Circuit in Alor Setar in May.

"It is a very special moment and I dedicate this gold and record to my parents," said Khambeswaran, who took up the sport three years ago.

"I hope my achievement here will earn me a national call-up," said Khambeswaran.

For Farah, she was delighted to end her Sukma with a bang.

“What a way to say goodbye to the Games with one national and one Sukma record,” said Farah, who featured in the Singapore SEA Games last year.

Two more Sukma records were also shattered on Monday.

Sarawak’s Ngu Gao Teck erased the men’s 50m compound mark with a score of 349. The previous record of 342 was set by Zulfadhli Ruslan of Penang in Kuantan in 2012.

Rikisa Fira Mukelis of Selangor was in her element as she amassed 357 points to win the women’s 30m compound. The old mark was 355, set by Lau Jiun Sien of Sarawak, in 2010.