

sweat

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ASIAN GAMES 2006

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# S'pore's silver Saturday

Schoolgirls bang on target in 10m air rifle, despite the distraction of books



► Chan Yi Shen  
IN DOHA

FOR the past month, sisters Jasmine and Adrienne Ser plus Vanessa Yong have been spending more time in the examination halls than on the shooting range.

But, at the Lusail Shooting Range yesterday, they passed their Asian Games test with flying colours.

The trio won Singapore's first Doha Asiad medal: a silver in the women's 10m air rifle team event.

They combined for 1,183 points, behind winners China (1,192). India (1,181) took the bronze.

The silver is worth \$200,000 under Singapore's Multi-Million Award Programme – about \$67,000 each.

An hour after receiving her medal, Jasmine, who completed her O levels on Nov 16, was still in a state of disbelief.

Said the 16-year-old Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary student: "This is beyond my wildest dream. We never expected a silver. There are China, India, Japan here. I thought the best we could hope for was a bronze."

She shot a 396, while teammates Vanessa and Adrienne got 394 and 393 respectively.

All three are graduates of Ahmad Ibrahim's shooting club.

Vanessa, 18, has just finished her A levels at Hwa Chong JC while Adrienne, 19, could only join the team on Friday, after her National University of Singapore exams.

Said Adrienne: "Ideally, we would have wished to train more than once a week. But it's also about the quality, not the quantity, of training."

Added Vanessa: "We had to go full-steam ahead after exams. It was more intensive. But I enjoy shooting more than studying. So no complaints."

The silver is Singapore's first Asian Games medal in air weapons. It is also the sport's best result at the Asiad since Fred de Souza won gold in the 50m small bore rifle prone in 1962.

So, after a taxing year end, it is finally time to celebrate.

Said Jasmine, who finished seventh in the individual shoot: "We are going out for dinner first. We are quite tired of the food at the Athletes' Village."

"Then when we get back to Singapore, a chalet with all my AI schoolmates."

"It's the holidays, after all."



TASTE OF SUCCESS, as shooters (from left) Jasmine Ser, Adrienne Ser and Vanessa Yong kiss their silver medals.

PHOTO: ALBERT SIM