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## Zain fires a double in individual and team trap events

By Terrence Voon

IN BANGKOK - IT WAS a showdown worthy of the old Westerns.

A three-way



JOY OF WINNING: Zain rushing to meet his teammates, whose wide grins and whoops confirmed that he had won the individual trap event. It was his second gold of the day, after he helped secure the men's trap team title. -- ST PHOTO: EDWIN KOO

sudden-death shoot-out that would decide who would win the coveted men's individual trap gold.

In Bangkok's afternoon heat yesterday, Singapore's Lee Wung Yew and Thailand's Atig Kitcharoen wilted.

Only one gunslinger stood tall: Singapore's Mohamed Zain Amat.

All three men had ended the final round tied on 125 after 150 birds.

With two Singaporeans in the mix, the Republic were a good bet for gold, whispered spectators.

But when Lee, a 15-time SEA Games gold medallist, was eliminated after missing his third shot, the tension mounted on Zain's shoulders.

Said the police regular: 'I thought to myself, mati mati (die die) Singapore must win.'

He got his wish, even though Kitcharoen was in good form.

Like Zain, the Thai had shot down five birds in a row.

But, when his rival missed his sixth shot, the Singaporean did not hesitate.

His next target shattered in a plume of red smoke, and the gold was Singapore's.

'Did I win?' he asked anxiously.

The wide grins and whoops from his onrushing teammates was the only answer he needed.

The gold was Zain's second of the day, after he helped the Republic secure first place in the men's trap team event.

Not bad, for someone who converted to trap shooting less than two years ago.

At the 2005 Games in Manila, Zain had also won a gold, but in his pet event, the double trap.

'I was not expected to win in the trap, so there was no pressure at all,' he said.

But the heat was definitely on teammate and individual defending champion Choo Choon Seng, who nearly fluffed his lines in the morning's team shoot.

Having shot to the top of the individual leaderboard with an excellent 69 out of 75 shots, Choo had also helped Singapore to a 10-shot overnight lead in the team event.

But a disastrous 14 birds out of 25 in the second day's opening shoot saw the Republic's lead whittled down to two