

Siti looks good for Laos

KEDAHAN Siti Zubaidah Che Omar's place in the Malaysian team for the Laos Asean University Games (AUG) looks certain after she delivered a flawless performance to reach the final of the women's below 65kg category at the Deputy Prime Minister's International Pencak Silat Cup yesterday.

Siti Zubaidah's lightning fast reflexes and clean execution against Singapore's Nur Shafiqah Sheik Alau'Ddin in their semi-final bout at the Square One Mall in Batu Pahat saw her emerging the clear winner with all five judges unanimously awarding her victory.

She will meet Laos' pre-tournament favourite, Backan Paloy who had received a bye in the semi-finals, in the final today.

"I am very happy with my win as she (Nur Shafiqah) was a tricky opponent as she is quite tall with ex-



cellent reach," said the 21-year-old, who is competing under the Malaysian Silat Sports Focus Centre banner.

"Hopefully I will be on form for the final as I am expecting a tough fight for the title."

Siti Zubaidah, who won gold medals at the 2010 and 2012 Malaysia Games and the 2011 National

Championships, said she hopes her performance will serve as a springboard for greater success on the international stage.

Siti Zubaidah's teammate Siti Humairah Kosidin advanced to the below 60kg final by beating Laos' Vonikhan Sone Bouaphny 3-2 while Wan Ammar Fikri Wan Ali eased past Mohammad Loqman Al-Hakim (5-0) in the men's below 75kg category to book his place in the final.

Normanjalina Madon (women's below 45kg) and Siti Khatijah Hassan (below 75kg), however, did not fare as well in their semi-final bouts which saw them losing to Laos' Chathilath Soursakhon (5-0) and Singapore's Nur Shazira Osman (3-2) respectively.

The finals will be contested today.

By Fadhli Ishak