Torres rules Asian meet’s long jump event

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Four-time Southeast Asian Games champion Marestella Torres reigned supreme in the third and final leg of the 2012 Asian Athletics Grand Prix women’s long jump competition held in Chonburi, Thailand.

Torres underscored her readiness for the 2012 London Olympics as she posted an impressive 6.62-meter distance, beating Johny Mayooka of India (6.50) and Maria Natalia Londa of Indonesia (6.42), who settled for second and third, respectively.

“It only proved that athletics is one of the best performing national sports associations in international scene. We will continue supporting our athletes in their quest of bringing honor to our country,” said Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (PATAFA) President Go Teng Kok.
It was Torres’ second medal in the three-leg Asian Grand Prix after winning a bronze in the first leg held in Bangkok last week.

Former SEA Games titlist Henry Dagmil also made an emphatic finish by clinching the silver medal in the men’s long jump event of the tournament sanctioned by the Asian Athletics Association and International Athletics Associations Federation.

Dagmil clawed back from a heartbreaking fourth-place finish in the second leg held in Kanchanaburi, scoring 7.55 meters on his final jump, good enough for the second spot. Chinese Li Jinzhe dominated the field with his golden leap of 7.80 while Iranian Arzandeh Mohammad took the bronze medal with 7.49.

Second leg bronze medalist and former Palarong Pambansa standout Archand Christian Bagsit registered 47.90 second for fourth place in the men’s 400-meter event topped by Hashermiahan Sajad of Iran (46.31), Kunhu Puthanpurakkal of India (46.44) and Prasanna Amarasekara of Sri Lanka (47.80).

In men’s javelin throw, Danilo Fresnido wound up 10th with 59.89 meters while Tarzumanov Rinat of Uzbekistan (76.57), Ivan Zaytcev of Uzbekistan (71.44) and Makki Ammar of Iraq (71.29), grabbed the top three positions.

Overall, the national track and field squad will be going home with one gold, one silver and two bronze medals.

“It’s a job well done for the team. We’re looking forward to see them win in the coming tournaments that they’ll be joining especially Marestella who will be competing in the London Olympics in July,” added Go.