

# Bronze will do nicely



**Winners all:** (from left) Malaysian bronze medallists Cheong Jun Hoong-Pandelela Rinong, gold medallists Chang Yani-Ren Qian of China and silver medallists Kim Mi-rae-Kim Kuk-hyang of North Korea posing on the podium after the women's 10m platform synchro event in the FINA Diving World Series second leg in Guangzhou, China, yesterday.

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## North Koreans deny Pandelela-Jun Hoong silver with last dive

By LIM TEIK HUAT

**PETALING JAYA:** Malaysia's Pandelela Rinong-Cheong Jun Hoong maintained their good form in China with another podium finish in the women's 10m platform synchro event at the FINA Diving World Series second leg in Guangzhou.

Pandelela-Jun Hoong, who had taken silver in the season-opening event in Beijing last week, clinched the bronze medal yesterday with a five-dive total of 332.46 points.

Pandelela-Jun Hoong, silver medallists at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics last year, were on the brink of victo-

### FINAL RESULTS

**Men's 10m platform synchro:** 1. Chen Aisen-Yang Hao (Chn) 463.71, 2. Patrick Hausding-Sascha Klein (Ger) 437.94, 3. Victor Minibaev-Aleksandr Bondar (Rus) 429.03.

**Women's 10m platform synchro:** 1. Ren Qian-Chang Yani (Chn) 347.82, 2. Kim Kuk-hyang-Kim Mi-rae (Kor) 339.72, 3. Pandelela Rinong-Cheong Jun Hoong (Mas) 332.46.

ry at the Aoti Swimming Natatorium – sharing the lead with China's Ren Qian-Chang Yani – with two dives to go.

Pandelela-Jun Hoong's scores of 54.00-54.00-74.70-72.00-77.76, however, resulted in them being overtaken by North Koreans Kim Kuk-

hyang-Kim Mi-rae for the silver.

The North Koreans, who finished fourth in Rio, scored 76.80 and 83.52 in the last two dives to secure their first silver medal of the season.

China's Ren Qian-Chang Yani romped to their second gold in as many weeks with 347.82 points.

The back-to-back podium feat on Chinese soil was enough for the Malaysians to share second spot with the North Koreans on 45 points in the overall standings at the half-way stage of the prestigious series.

China lead the eight-nation standings with 54 points.

Malaysian coach Yang Zhuliang was pleased with the performance of Pandelela-Jun Hoong.

"They put up a tidier performance this time compared to the first leg in Beijing, where they scored 316.08.

"The North Koreans executed a very clean final attempt to deny us the silver.

"The North Korean pair may be new, but I think they are a threat to us in the coming events," he said.

The last two legs of the series will be in Kazan, Russia (March 31-April 2); and Windsor, Canada (April 21-23).