

Divers ready to take the plunge

THE national divers are eager to rewrite into the history books when the Sea Games diving competition gets underway at the National Aquatic Centre in Bukit Jalil today.

This is the first time ever that the Sea Games will offer 13 gold medals in diving, and national coach Yang Zhuliang believes his world class divers can easily sweep them all.

While Zhuliang has included all his world class divers, his dream of a clean sweep depends on the forms of newcomers -Jellson Jabillin, Hanis Nazirul Jayasurya, Gabriel Gilbert Daim and Kimberly Bong - in the five-day com-

petition. Except for Sarawak-born Kimberly, who is 15, the other three are 16.

Gabriel will be the first newcomer to step out when he pairs up with two-time Olympic medalist Pandelega Rinong for the team event (3m springboard and 10m platform) today.

In the 2015 Singapore edition, Malaysia swept all eight titles on offer.

"The Sea Games is a test for the juniors. They were with me in Guangzhou for a recent training stint, where they showed potential," said Zhuliang.

"The four started from nothing

and the routines they learned should be enough for the Sea Games level.

"They are our future. A good showing will give them the confidence and motivation to get to the next level. The seniors in the team also started off in the Sea Games before they became world class divers.

Reigning women's 10m platform world champion Cheong Jun Hoong will only dive one event - the 1m springboard individual discipline.

Jun Hoong is not being entered in other events as she is still recovering from a back injury. Zhuliang does not want her to ag-

gravate it. "The 2020 Olympics in Tokyo is still the priority for our divers and we want them to be in top condition by that time," Zhuliang added

Ooi Tze Liang and Ahmad Amsyar Ahmad will compete for honours in the men's 3m springboard individual event today, while Nur Dhabitah Sabri and Wendy Ng will do so in the women's discipline.

While Malaysia are expected to take up the gold medals, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines will share the silver and bronze.

- Entries**
- Men: 1m springboard individual:** Ooi Tze Liang.
- 3m springboard individual:** Tze Liang, Ahmad Amsyar Azman.
- 10m platform individual:** Tze

Liang, Chew Yiwei.
3m springboard synchro: Amsyar-Yiwei.
10m platform synchro: Jellson Jabillin-Hanis Nazirul Jaya Surya.

Women: 1m springboard individual: Cheong Jun Hoong-Nur Dhabitah Sabri.

3m springboard individual: Dhabitah-Wendy Ng
10m platform individual: Pandelega Rinong, Kimberly Bong.

3m springboard synchro: Dhabitah-Wendy.

10m platform synchro: Leong Mun Yee-Traisly Vivien Tukiet.

Mixed: 3m springboard synchro: Jasmine Lai-Muhd Syafiq Puteh.

10m platform synchro: Mun Yee-Jellson.

Team: Pandelega-Gabriel. **Ajitpal Singh**