

Nervous day for world champ Jun Hoong

WORLD champion Cheong Jun Hoong admitted she felt nervous when so many people came to see her dive yesterday. But she was simply in a class of her own in the Sea Games 1m springboard.

» **JUGJET SINGH** REPORTS ON **PAGE 42**



Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah presenting the Sea Games 1m springboard gold to Cheong Jun Hoong (right) at National Aquatics Centre yesterday. In the middle is Malaysia's Jasmine Lai who won silver. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD



SEA GAMES



JUN HOONG SHOWS HER CLASS

World champion wins gold in front of the Sultan of Perak

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THEY came to watch the world champion in action yesterday, from royalty to the rakyat. Fans packed the National Aquatics Centre in Bukit Jalil, with many more denied entry as tickets were sold out.

On the VIP stand were Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah and his consort Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Zara Salim and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

Though Cheong Jun Hoong is a world champion in the 10m platform, she admitted the pressure of performing in front of her home crowd almost got to her.

"I started my career at the Sea Games level and there never was any pressure on me.

"But today, when I saw the full gallery and the VIP stand, the pressure was simply too much for me," admitted Jun

Hoong.

"My old back injury was also acting up. I can't do anything to make it go away, just rehabilitation to minimise the pain.

"All these factors combined to add to the pressure," she said.

Nonetheless, Jun Hoong was in a class of her own as Malaysia picked up two more gold medals in diving yesterday.

Jun Hoong won the women's 1m springboard gold with 268.55 points while teammate Jasmine Lai Pui Yee took

silver on 233 points.

In the men's 10m platform, Ooi Tze Liang won gold on 442.65 points, while team-mate Chew Yiwei bagged silver on 412.75 points.

Even though Jun Hoong won gold, she said the score could have been bet-

ter.

"The score is still low compared to the marks in the Asian and Commonwealth Games. So, I need to tighten up my routine a little more when I compete there," said Jun Hoong.

She won the women's 10m platform gold on 397.50 points at the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest recently.

