

Nothing to show for

Pandelela fails to shine in Kazan

By LIM TEIK HUAT

PETALING JAYA: Pandelela Rinong will return home empty handed from the third leg of the Diving World Series in Russia.

The double Olympic medallist failed to get her act right in the women's 10m platform individual final in Kazan on Saturday, finishing a dismal sixth with 325.70 points.

Fellow Malaysian Nur Dhabitah Sabri, in her first final appearance in the series, finished slightly better in fifth spot with 333.75 points.

Reigning Olympic champion Ren Qian secured the gold for China with 394.25 points ahead of compatriot Si Yajie's 382.90 total.

Mexico's Viviana Del Angel stamped her mark with her first-ever medal in the series with 349.55 points for third place.

It's the first time this season Pandelela failed to finish on the podium. She partnered Cheong Jun Hoong to a silver in the 10m platform synchro in the opening leg in Beijing last month. The pair then settled for a bronze the following week in Guangzhou.

Jun Hoong, however, complained of back pain on Friday and pulled out at the last minute. Dhabitah stepped in as the replacement and partnered Pandelela to finish fourth in

FINAL RESULTS

Men's 10m platform individual: 1. Cao Yuan (Chn) 515.40, 2. Xie Siyi (Chn) 507.10, 3. Ilya Zakharov (Rus) 486.70.

Women's 10m platform individual: 1. Ren Qian (Chn) 394.25, 2. Si Yajie (Chn) 382.90, 3. Viviana Del Angel (Mex) 349.55; *Selected:* 5. Nur Dhabitah Sabri (Mas) 333.75, 6. Pandelela Rinong (Mas) 325.70.

Mixed 10m platform synchro: 1. Lian Jie-Lian Junjie (Chn) 347.76, 2. Luliia Timoshinina-Viktor Minibaev (Rus) 323.88, 3. Wu Melissa-Domonic Bedgood (Aus) 314.34.

the 10m platform synchro.

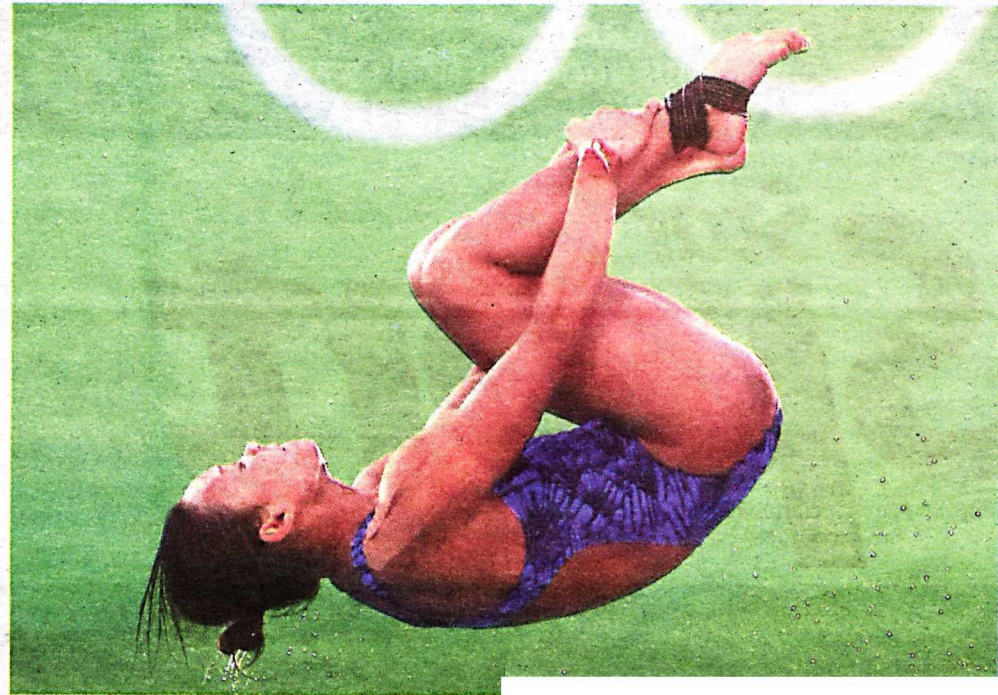
Pandelela combined with Jun Hoong to take the silver in the event at the Rio Olympics last year. She was the bronze medallist in the 10m platform individual in London in 2012.

Although she failed to find her footing in Saturday's final, it is still a step up from Pandelela as she failed to qualify for the individual final in Beijing and Guangzhou.

National coach Yang Zhuliang said Pandelela failed to execute her dives properly in the final.

"She did not get above eight points in any of her dives, so she was never fighting for a podium place."

"Pandelela has to keep working on her consistency to get her confidence back for the final leg in Windsor (Canada) later this month," said Zhuliang.



Not her day: Pandelela Rinong could only finish sixth after scoring 325.70 points in the 10m platform individual final of the Diving World Series in Russia on Saturday.