



Pandeleda Rinong (left) and Cheong Jun Hoong came in fourth in the women's 10m platform synchro preliminaries at the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest yesterday.

DIVING

Pandeleda, Jun Hoong qualify for world final

PANDELELA Rinong and Cheong Jun Hoong showed no signs of injuries when the Malaysians took fourth spot in the women's 10m platform synchro preliminaries at the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest yesterday.

Pandeleda suffered a shoulder injury in April while Jun Hoong aggravated her old back problem recently.

Both divers were given a less hectic training schedule in the build-up to the world meet as national coach Yang Zhuliang did not want them to suffer serious injuries.

Pandeleda-Jun Hoong, the silver medallists at last year's Rio Olympics, qualified for the final with 309.66 points.

World Series champions Ren Qian-Si Yajie topped the standings with a 334.32 total, followed by North Korea's Kim Mi Rae-Kim Kuk Hyang (325.62) and Australia's Taneka Koychenko-Melissa Wu (311.16)

The final, comprising 12 pairs, was held late yesterday.

"Pandeleda and Jun Hoong performed well today despite still carrying injuries. I hope today's performance will give them mo-

tivation," said Zhuliang yesterday.

Jun Hoong blew her chance to earn an individual medal when she finished last in the 12-field women's 1m springboard final on Saturday.

The Perak-born, who took third in the preliminaries, only garnered 252.45 points.

Australia's Maddison Keeney won gold in the non-Olympic event in 314.95 points as China surprisingly ended up without a medal after Chen Yiwen took fourth on 294.70.

RESULTS (Finals): Men's 3m springboard synchro: 1 Evgenil Kuznetsov-Ilya Zakharov (Rus) 450.30, 2 Cao Yuan-Xie Siyi (Chn) 443.40, 3 Oleg Kolodiy-Ilya Kvasha (Ukr) 429.99...10 Ooi Tze Liang-Chew Yiwei (Mas) 370.77.

Women's 1m springboard individual: 1 Maddison Keeney (Aus) 314.95, 2 Nadezhda Bazhina (Rus) 304.70, 3 Elena Bertocchi (Ita) 296.40...12 Cheong Jun Hoong (Mas) 252.45.

Mixed's 10m platform synchro: 1 Ren Qian-Lian Junjie (Chn) 352.98, 2 Lois Toulson-Matthew Lee (Bri) 323.28, 3 Kim Mi-rae-Hyon Il-Myong (Prk) 318.12. Ajitpal Singh