

# They'll be bold for gold



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**Game for change:** Malaysia's synchronised swimmers Zylane Lee Yhing (left) and Gan Hua Wei. **Below:** Hua Wei in action at the World Championships in Budapest on July 14. — AFP

## Coach believes change in routine will pay off for Zylane-Hua Wei

By LIM TEIK HUAT

IT'S a bold move to change the routine with the competition only three weeks away but Malaysian synchronised swimming coach Long Yan is optimistic her charges can still deliver the gold.

The Chinese coach decided to change the routine for Zylane Lee Yhing-Hua Wei in the duet technical after the duo finished behind Singapore's Debbie Soh-Miya Yong at the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, last month.

Zylane-Hua Wei were placed 31st with 73.157 points compared to the Singaporeans' 74.739 points for 28th spot.

Zylane, 25, is the most experienced member in the squad and was paired off with the 18-year-old Hua Wei after her partner Katrina Ann Hadi retired at the end of 2015.

Zylane-Katrina delivered the first gold for Malaysia in the duet technical and free routine combined at the 2015 Singapore Games.

"We saw our weaknesses at the World Championships so we decided to go for a new routine. It will be hard to fight Singapore with our previous routine.

"I'm confident Zylane and Hua Wei can fight for the duet technical gold (on Friday). This is our best chance for gold," said Long Yan.

Synchronised swimming starts with two golds up for grabs in the solo technical and solo free events at the National Aquatic Centre in Bukit Jalil today.

Gan Hua Wei and Gan Zhen Yu will compete in the solo technical



while Zylane and Foong Yan Nie are down for the solo free event.

The competition ends on Sunday with two more golds to be decided in the duet free and team free events.

"We hope to win two out of the five events contested.

"It will be very tough for us to fight Singapore in the team free event. Except for Zylane, the other girls are relatively new to synchronised swimming."

Malaysia enjoyed their best-ever outing in synchronised swimming at

the 2011 Indonesia Games. Then, they made a clean sweep of all five golds.

But without the services of Katrina, Malaysia are unlikely to repeat the achievement at these Games.