



Gan Hua Wei in action en route to winning the Solo Technical Routine gold at the National Aquatics Centre yesterday. OSMAN ADNAN

HUA WEI STUNNER

Gan surprises with a golden performance

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EX-BELLERINA Gan Hua Wei twist and turn to the music 'Torn', a soundtrack from the movie High Strung to win the synchronised swimming solo technical routine gold medal at National Aquatic Centre in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

The Negri Sembilan-born won the event by a mere 0.0133 points with a 73.8386 total, ahead of Singapore's silver medallist Debbie Soh (73.8253).

Singaporean Miya Yong took bronze with a 72.3769 total.

Hua Wei, 18, and Debbie were on par in terms of points given for execution and impression. However, the Malaysian won the title after garnering 28.8386 points for element compared to Debbie's 28.8253.

"I took up ballet when I was two-years-old before I quit in 2014 after I made it to the national team," said a delighted Hua Wei, who won two silver

medals in the 2015 edition in Singapore, yesterday.

"I felt pumped up when I walked onto the podium to start my routine as the fans especially my father and younger sister were cheering so loudly.

"I felt motivated as my teammate and sister Gan Zhen Yu, who came out first to perform, was in third position before it was my turn in the pool.

"It is the first time I am competing in the solo technical routine event in the Sea Games and I am glad to have won the title."

Asked why she chose the music 'Torn', Hua Wei said she watched the movie High Strung a year ago and fell in love with the soundtrack composed by Nathan Lanier.

"Lanier is a violinist and I like his music. I then decided to adopt it for my performance last year," said Hua Wei, who the silver medal in the same event at last year's German Open.

Hua Wei and Zylane Lee will

combine today in the duet technical routine where Malaysia are the favourites for the gold medal.

Earlier, Zylane performed gracefully to the Spanish version of Demi Lovato's 'Stone Cold' for the solo free routine silver medal.

The 25-year-old posted her season best of 74.7000 points to take second spot behind gold medallist Debbie, who mesmerised the judges with her near-perfect routine to Stromae's Formidable for a 75.000 total.

Miya took third on 73.0333.

The silver medal effort in the solo event is Zylane's first ever individual medal in her third Sea Games outing.

"What I can say... it is my season best score in the solo event. We normally do not train for solo events but I included it in training for the Sea Games.

"I was aiming for 74.000 points but I achieved higher today. Losing the gold by 0.3000 is very close in this sport.

"I am disappointed for not winning the title but I am happy with the tremendous progress I made today," said Zylane, who managed 72.2667 in the same event at last month's World Championships in Budapest, yesterday.

