

Jellson in the limelight

Debutant clinches gold and silver at home Grand Prix

By AFTAR SINGH

KUALA LUMPUR: Sixteen-year-old national diver Jellson Jabillin couldn't have asked for a better introduction to the Diving Grand Prix series.

Despite a hectic schedule, the Sabahan managed to help himself to a gold and silver in the 10m platform events in the Diving Grand Prix Kuala Lumpur at the National Aquatic Centre in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

He first clinched silver in the men's 10m platform synchro with Nazirul Hanis by amassing 364.26 points.

Then, in the afternoon, Jellson partnered world champion Cheong Jun Hoong to win Malaysia's first gold in the 10m platform mixed synchro with a total of 310.20 points.

Only three teams took part in the 10m platform mixed synchro and Malaysia's Muhammad Syahmi and Leong Mun Yee finished second with 296.10 points.

However, the Grand Prix rules state that each country are allowed to win just one medal in the synchro events.

That saw South Korean divers of Kim Yeongnam-Cho Eunbi, who finished third with 295.80 points, taking the silver medal.

But Jellson was clearly the star of the day and he was thrilled with his efforts despite the hectic schedule.

"It's not easy to focus on two events in a day. My dives in the 10m platform mixed synchro were a bit slack as I did not get enough rest after competing in the morning," he explained.

"I still have room to improve as I'm still young, but it was a good experience competing in my first Grand Prix.

"I only trained for two weeks with Jun Hoong, so I'm happy to deliver Malaysia's first gold in the Grand Prix," said Jellson, who is looking forward to competing in the Grand Prix in Gold Coast, Australia, next month.

Jun Hoong, who is the first Malaysian diver to win a gold medal (10m platform) in the World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, in July, admitted that fatigue was the reason why Jellson's first two dives were not too well executed.

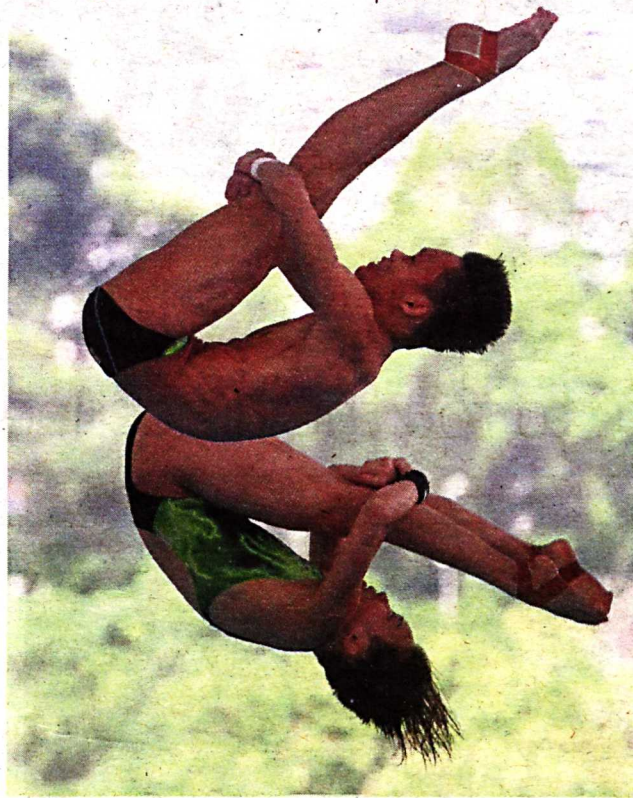
"But I motivated him by telling him that he could do it. Thankfully, he did well in the next three dives to help us win the first gold for Malaysia," said Jun Hoong.

It was a fruitful day for Malaysia as they another silver and a bronze.

Ahmad Amsyar Azam-Ooi Tze Liang won the second silver in men's 3m springboard synchro with a 415.47 total.

Nur Dhabitah Sabri faced a strong challenge from China's divers before clinching the bronze in women's 3m springboard individual.

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Going all out: Jellson Jabillin (top) and Cheong Jun Hoong in action during the 10m platform mixed synchro of the Diving Grand Prix at the National Aquatic Centre in Bukit Jalil yesterday. — SAMUEL ONG/The Star

RESULTS

● MEN

3m springboard synchro: 1. Woo Haram-Kim Yeongnam (Kor) 427.65, 2. Ahmad Amsyar Azman-Ooi Tze Liang (Mas) 415.47

10m platform synchro: 1. Kim Yeongnam-Woo Haram (Kor) 432.60, 2. Jellson Jabillin-Nazirul Hanis (Mas) 364.26, 3. Barowski Artsiom-Kaptur Vadim (Bel) 353.43

● WOMEN

3m springboard individual: 1. Wang Han (Chn) 342.20, 2. Chen Yiwen (Chn) 338.25, 3. Nur Dhabitah Sabri (Mas) 316.85

● MIXED TEAM

10m platform mixed synchro: Jellson Jabillin-Cheong Jun Hoong (Mas) 310.20, 2. Kim Yeongnam-Cho Eunbi (Kor) 295.80.