



# DIVERS 'FALL FLAT'

Jun Hoong, Pandeleda fail to win medals

**M**ALAYSIA had a reigning world champion in Cheong Jun Hoong, and a former Commonwealth Games gold medallist in Pandeleda Rinong competing in the women's 10m platform yesterday, but both divers failed to make the podium at the Optus Aquatic Centre.

The good news is that the divers are enjoying the sport more under interim head coach Zhang Yukun, and assistant trainer, Australian Christian Brooker.

Zhang Yukun took over from Yang Zhuliang, whose contract was not extended, late last year, while Brooker was hired in January.



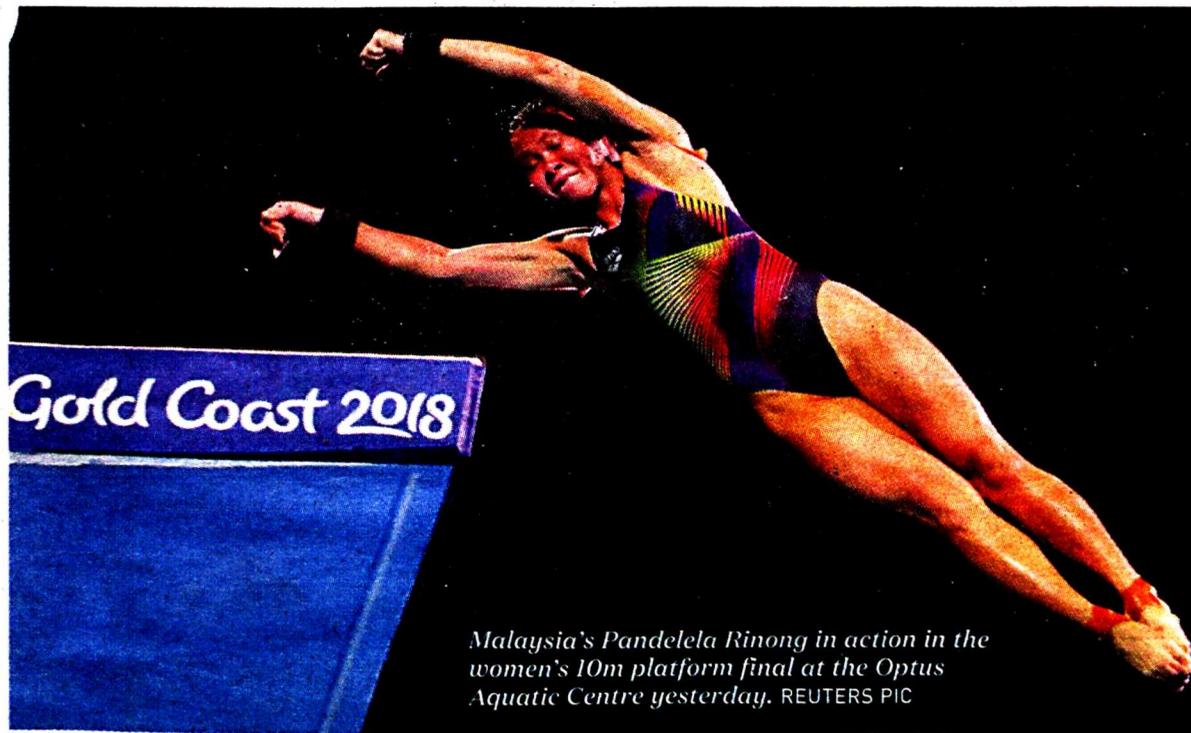
Pandeleda was a whisker away from winning a bronze or silver, but a poor fifth dive saw her finish fourth with a total of 340.20 points, one rung above Jun Hoong, who posted 332.85 points.

Newcomer Kimberly Bong finished 10th, with a five-dive total of 294.20 points.

Hopes were high on Pandeleda and Jun Hoong in the final, as they finished first and second respectively in qualifying.

Australia's Melissa Wu won gold with 360.40, followed by Canada's Meaghan Benfeito (359.75) and England's Lois Toulson (344.20)

"I am now starting to love diving



Malaysia's Pandeleda Rinong in action in the women's 10m platform final at the Optus Aquatic Centre yesterday. REUTERS PIC

even more, ever since I embraced sports science (under the new coaching staff). In the past, I would cry if I had failed, but now, I accept it and look forward to improve myself," said Pandeleda, who has not won an individual medal since taking bronze at the 2015 Kazan world meet.

"The coaches keep things emotionally balanced now. Of course,

I am disappointed after winning gold (in 2010 New Delhi) and silver (in 2014 Glasgow), but this is normal in sport... it doesn't matter, as long as you do not give up. I did not do well in my first and fifth dives today.

"I have to accept that my rivals performed better. Maybe, we did not recover well enough after winning yesterday's platform synchro event, so our momentum

probably dropped today."

Jun Hoong, who won last year's 10m world title, said: "It is my best performance since the world meet, so I am quite happy though things would have been different had I done better in my first and third dives.

"I have injuries but things are under control. I normally do not think about injuries in competitions."