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# MAJESTIC PERFORMANCE

Jun Hoong and Pandelega display great skill to win 10m platform synchro gold

**D**ESPITE the windy conditions, Cheong Jun Hoong and Pandelega Rinong produced a dominant performance to win the women's 10m platform synchro gold medal at the Optus Aquatic Centre yesterday.

Jun Hoong-Pandelega, silver medallists at the 2016 Rio Olympics and bronze medallists at the 2017 World Championships, impressed the judges with their world class show as they earned 53.40, 70.20, 76.80, 74.88 for a five-dive total of 328.08 points. They led from start to finish.

For the record, it is Malaysia's third Commonwealth Games title in diving after Pandelega (10m platform in 2010) and Ooi Tze Liang (men's 3m springboard in 2014).



Compatriots Leong Mun Yee-Nur Dhabitah Sabri gave Malaysia more cheers by bagging a

bronze in the 10m event to add to the afternoon's 3m springboard synchro event; thanks to a high scoring final dive of 74.88 for a 308.16 total. Canada's Meaghan Benfeito-Caeli McKay took silver on 312.12.

For Jun Hoong, it was a special day as the gold was also her first medal in the competition since making her Commonwealth Games debut in 2006.

"I feel happy and blessed. Thanks to my partner, I have finally won a Commonwealth Games medal. It is also the country's first synchro title at the games," said the Ipoh-born Jun



Leong Mun Yee (left) and Nur Dhabitah Sabri won bronze in the 10m platform synchro.

Hoong.

"It was windy when we were on the platform but we kept our focus."

Pandelega said they were uncertain about their form as they did not do too well in training before the event.

"However, we managed to perform well. We only knew we would win after completing our final dive. "In diving, things can go wrong and we kept our concentration on our final dive," said Pandelega.

Mun Yee-Dhabitah felt that the bronze they had won in the 3m synchro was tougher than the one they achieve in the 10m event.

"We were fourth going into our final dive in the 10m event. We promised ourselves to give our best shot on our dive and get a medal.

"The 3m synchro bronze, however, is worth more than the one from the 10m as it was more difficult for us," said Nur Dhabitah, who only paired up with Mun Yee early this year.

Mun Yee said competing in two

## DPM congratulates duo

**DEPUTY** Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has congratulated Cheong Jun Hoong and Pandelega Rinong on their successful efforts in winning the women's 10m synchronised platform gold at the Optus Aquatics Centre in the ongoing Commonwealth Games in Gold

Coast, Australia yesterday.

"Malaysia's third GOLD gift from the women's 10m synchronised platform. Congratulations @cheongjunhoong & @Pandelega\_R. Let us all continue to support our national athletes at #GC2018, he announced via his official twitter account.

synchro events on the same day was taxing to her body. "It was challenging as were here at 7.30am to train before the competition. We only returned to the Games' Village for an hour for lunch before returning to the venue for the 10m event," said Mun Yee.

Asked whether the Gold Coast outing, her fourth games, would be her last, the 34-year-old said: "Most likely, it will be my last. A great way to end it if it is my

last."

In the 3m synchro event, Mun Yee and Dhabitah were 61.40 points away from the gold medal but the latter miscued her entry in the pair's final dive to finish with a 264.90 total. They recorded 46.80, 48.00, 69.30 and 58.50 in the opening four dives.

Australia's Esther Qin-Georgia Sheehan won the gold medal with a 284.10 total, followed by England's Alicia Blagg-Katherine Torrance (276.90).

## Tze Liang ready to kickstart his career again

**OOI** Tze Liang's career has been going downhill since he won the men's 3m springboard gold medal at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

The diver hopes to revive his fortunes when he steps on the springboard to defend his title at the Optus Aquatic Centre today.

At the 2014 Glasgow edition, Tze Liang upset Jack Laugher of England for the gold.

Signs are that the Malaysian will struggle in the event following his poor show in yesterday's 1m springboard discipline.

Tze Liang finished 11th in the 1m event with a 319.00 total while debutant Syafig Puteh (378.90) and Ahmad Amsyar Ahmad (369.40) ended up fifth and sixth, respectively.

"I am focused on performing well tomorrow. The poor show today will not really affect me in the 3m springboard," said Tze Liang.

"I will use my experience on the board today to do better tomorrow. It is windy in the morning and night, but I think I have adapted to the conditions here.

"As a defending champion, I will do the best I can with Laugher being the contender."

Amsyar and Chew Yiwei are the other Malaysians competing in the 3m event today.

For Syafig, it was a memorable outing as he did better than Podium Programme divers Amsyar and Tze Liang.

Syafig said: "I am delighted with my performance in the 1m springboard final. It is my career-best total score.

"I could have done better had I done better in two of six dives."