

DIVING

JUN HOONG-PANDELELA TRIUMPH

Duo win 10m platform synchronised silver at World Series in Beijing

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CHEONG Jun Hoong and Pandeleda Rinong returned to the pool for the first time this year on a promising note by winning the women's 10m platform synchro silver medal at the Beijing leg of the World Series yesterday.

The reigning Olympic silver medalists executed a fine fourth dive to earn 76.80, pushing them from bronze to silver medal position.

Jun Hoong-Pandeleda main-

tained their consistency by garnering 66.24 to finish with a five-dive total of 312.24 points at the National Aquatics Centre.

The Malaysians garnered 50.40, 50.40 and 68.40 for the first three attempts.

Although, the total score was not impressive, it is still a good achievement as the world series is their first competition since the Kuala Lumpur Sea Games in August.

The medal will definitely offer them a boost for next month's Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.

China's new pairing of Zhang Jiaqi and Zhang Minjie won the gold with 368.22 points, while Australia's Taneka Kovchenko-Melissa Wu took bronze on 299.46. Canada's Meaghan Benfeito-Caeli McKay were fifth with 290.88 points.

Interim national coach Zhang Yukun said: "I am happy as Jun Hoong-Pandeleda finished ahead of the Australian and Canadian pairs who are likely to be their main rivals at the Commonwealth Games.

"This is only the first compe-

tition for Jun Hoong and Pandeleda since the Australian Grand Prix in Gold Coast last year, so they can still be better in consistency.

"But it's a good start. We hope they can maintain it at the Commonwealth Games," said Zhang Yukun.

For the record, Jun Hoong and Pandeleda did not pair up for events at the Australian Grand Prix.

Nur Dhabitah Sabri-Leong Mun Yee finished fifth in the women's 3m springboard synchro with a 282.84 total. Dhabitah will compete in the women's 3m springboard individual on Saturday.

RESULTS → Men's 10m plat-

form synchro: 1 Chen Aisen-Yang Hao (Chn) 484.29, 2 Maksym Dolgov-Oleksandr Gorshkoyozov (Ukr) 417.93, 3 Tom Daley-Daniel Goodfellow (Bri) 400.68.

Women's 3m springboard synchro: 1 Chen Yiwen-Wang Han (Chn) 336.12, 2 Esther Qin-Anabelle Smith (Aus) 297.60, 4 Jennifer Abel-Melissa Citrini Beaulieu (Can) 292.74... **5 Nur Dhabitah Sabri-Leong Mun Yee (Mas) 282.84.**

10m platform synchro: 1 Zhang Jiaqi-Zhang Minjie (Chn) 368.22, 2 Cheong Jun Hoong-Pandeleda Rinong (Mas) 312.24, 3 Melissa Wu-Taneka Kovchenko (Aus) 299.46.