

Her ideal platform

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Jun Hoong likely to focus on one discipline in bid for gold

By LIM TEIK HUAT

PETALING JAYA: It's a platform to showcase her quality. And Cheong Jun Hoong (*pic*) is likely to focus only on one discipline as she bids to win her first Commonwealth Games medal in Gold Coast next month.

The 28-year-old diver has yet to fully recover from a back injury sustained just before her historic triumph at the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, last July.

In Budapest, Jun Hoong beat two top Chinese divers, Si Yajie and Ren Qian, in the women's 10m platform individual final to claim the nation's first gold at the world meet.

Expectations are high on Jun Hoong to deliver again but the Amateur Swimming Union of Malaysia (Asum) secretary Mae Chen said they would be taking a cautious approach.

"We hope the divers will perform but a lot will depend on their form on competition day.

"What's more important is for Jun Hoong to be in a good condition over there.

"She's still coping with her back injury and we don't want her to over exert herself.

"Jun Hoong is most probably only doing the 10m platform synchro event with Pandelega Rinong and the individual platform.

"Although Jun Hoong has dived previously in the springboard also, we have other options. Leong Mun Yee has started to train for the 3m springboard individual as the coaches can make the final decision over there," said Mae.

Diving has contributed gold at the last two Commonwealth Games.

In New Delhi in 2010, Pandelega claimed the first-ever diving gold for Malaysia after winning the 10m platform individual final.

It was Ooi Tze Liang's turn to shine in Glasgow four years later when he came out tops in the men's 3m springboard competition.

"We hope to maintain the one-gold performance. Our best hope will be Pandelega-Jun Hoong in the 10m platform synchro as they won silver in the last Olympics in Rio," added Mae.

The other women divers are Nur Dhabitah Sabri, Jasmine Lai and Kimberly Bong.

Tze Liang leads the men's squad of Chew Yiwei, Ahmad Amsyar Azman, Jellson Jabillin, Hanis Nazirul Jayasurya, Gabriel Gilbert Daim and Muhd Syafiq Puteh.

Malaysian divers are expected to face challenges from Australia, Jamaica, Canada and England in the fight to win medals from 10 events.