

Appetiser for Gold Coast

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Malaysian diving duo on track for medal in C'wealth Games

By LIM TEIK HUAT

PETALING JAYA: Diving duo Cheong Jun Hoong-Pandelela Rinong signalled their intention to land a Commonwealth Games gold medal in the women's 10m platform synchro next month after a good start at the Diving World Series in Beijing, China.

Jun Hoong-Pandelela, the reigning Olympic silver medallists, returned to the pool for the first time this year to capture the silver medal at the opening round of the Diving World Series yesterday.

They executed their fourth dive well to garner 76.80, pushing them from a bronze to a silver-medal position.

The Malaysian pair held on, earning 66.24 to finish with a five-dive total of 312.24 points at the National Aquatics Centre, also known as the Water Cube.

Jun Hoong-Pandelela earned 50.40, 50.40 and 68.40 for the first three attempts.

China's new pairing Zhang Jiaqi-Zhang Minjie claimed the gold with 368.22 points.

Australia's Taneka Kovchenko-Melissa Wu posted 299.46 to snatch the bronze from North Koreans Kim Kuk-hyang-Kim Mi-rae (293.34) while Canadians Meaghan Benfeito-Caeli McKay were placed fifth with 290.88 points.

Only the top six pairs from the



All the best: Nur Dhabitah Sabri will compete in the women's 3m springboard individual today.

RESULTS

Men 10m platform synchro final: 1. Chen Aisen-Yang Hao (Chn) 484.29, 2. Maksym Dolgov-Oleksandr Gorshkovozov (Ukr) 417.93, 3. Tom Daley-Daniel Goodfellow(Bri) 400.68.

Women 3m springboard synchro final: 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. **Selected:** 5. Nur Dhabitah Sabri-Leong Mun Yee (Mas) 282.84.

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

World Aquatics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, last year qualified for the Diving World Series.

Acting head coach Zhang Yukun was pleased that Jun Hoong-Pandelela made it to the podium.

"The Australian and Canadian pairs are their main rivals at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.

"This is only the first competition