

## AQUATICS

## DUO ON PLATFORM OF OLYMPIC HOPE

Pandelela, Mun Yee shine in World Championships but men fail to impress

FADHLI ISHAK  
fadhli.ishak@nst.com.my

**D**IVERS Pandelela Rinong, Leong Mun Yee and Wendy Ng all delivered when it mattered at the World Championships in South Korea but the rest failed to show up.

Pandelela and Mun Yee, who replaced the injured Cheong Jun Hoong, showed their experience against a talented field, comprising scratch pairings, in the women's 10m platform synchro final to win silver and also qualify for next year's Tokyo Olympic Games.

They put up a strong performance, despite not having been paired for more than two years.

Pandelela also made the Olympic cut in the platform individual event at the world meet.

As for Wendy, injuries affected her form prior to the world meet but she produced a strong performance to reach the final of the women's 3m springboard and qualify

for the Olympics, though she finished only ninth in the event.

However, the team failed to come close in other events, especially in the men's category where the divers struggled to make it past the preliminaries.

National coach Li Rui is pleased with the progress of his divers.

"I think the divers showed positives. We will continue working hard for the Asia Cup (in September) and next year's World Cup, which are Olympic qualifying events," said Li Rui when met on the team's arrival at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang yesterday.

"I was not surprised to see Pandelela and Mun Yee win a medal because they are both quality divers.

"Mun Yee trained very hard leading up to the competition and it all paid off for her."

Li Rui, however, did not give any guarantee the duo would remain as a pair going forward.

"When Jun Hoong returns from her in-

jury, we will try all options in the event," he added.

Li Rui disclosed that the squad will head to China for a training stint next month as part of their preparation for the Asia Cup in Kuala Lumpur.



(From left) Pandelela Rinong and Leong Mun Yee pose with their World Championships medals with National Sports Council (Strategic) deputy director Suhardi Alias on their arrival at KLIA yesterday. PIC BY AHMAD IRHAM MOHD NOOR