

S'pore women in troubled waters

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FOR the second consecutive day, Singapore's women were plagued by unpredictable conditions and equipment troubles, putting paid to their hopes of top placings at the World 420 Championships in Israel.

Singapore's top pairing of Rachel Lee and Cecilia Low, who had gone into the Gold fleet races after qualifying in third place, suffered the misfortune of a broken spinnaker yesterday – the large sail on the boat which resembles a parachute.

"Again, it simply wasn't our day. It tore between races, and it's essentially impossible to maintain any sort of speed without a functioning spinnaker," said Serena Wong, the contingent's team manager.

Wong also spoke to The New Paper of the unpredictable weather conditions and shifty winds at the course, which had made it difficult for the sailors to adapt, ultimately resulting in their disappointing, if respectable placings.

Lee and Low eventually finished 21st, 25th and 13th in the day's three races, to lie 18th overall with five races remaining.

Singapore's other two pairings of Denise Lim and Benita Chua, as well as Griselda Khng and Sakina Mohd Halim, also had poor showings on the course in Haifa, lying 24th and 32nd respectively after the six races completed so far.

And although a podium finish is perhaps out of the women's reach now, Wong is confident of a better showing for the remaining races.

"Hopefully, we can put in a few good races over the next two days, put in some numbers and climb up the standings," she said.

At the top of the leaderboard, the Italian pairing of Roberta Caputo and Benedetta Barbiero cemented their lead with two more first-place finishes, to remain ahead of the US's Morgan Kiss and Katia Da Silva. Rebecca Kalderon and Katrina Brewer of Great Britain lie in third.