

MAYBANK MALAYSIAN INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE 2012

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*Maybank M'sian
Badminton International
Challenge starts today*

BY MARTIN YEE

KUCHING: Malaysian shuttlers are favourites to win at least two titles when the Maybank Malaysian International Challenge 2012 badminton tournament held at the UNIMAS hall here starting today until Nov 18 gets underway.

They are posing the strongest challenge in the men's singles where eight Malaysians, including top seed Hafiz Hashim are likely to win the prize for the men's singles champion.

Apart from the men's singles, Malaysians are tipped also to win the women's singles, the women's doubles and even have a chance in the mixed doubles with Tan Aik Quan and Lai Pei Jing as the top seed.

In the men's draw, Hafiz ranked 35th in the world is followed by second seed Mohd Arif Abdul Latif ranked 46th, Zulfadli Zulkifli ranked 68th who is fourth seed while Misbun Mohd Misbun Ramdani ranked 75th who won the recent Pahang Open.

The other Malaysian top seeds are I. Zainuddin, S. Goh and K. Chan with Singapore's Ashton Y. Chen the only top shuttler in the top three while Indonesians W. Prasetyo, D. Alrie Guna and Ricky Subagja are seeded 9th, 10th and 11th.

In the women's singles the Malaysian top seed is S. Saniry followed by the Cheah sisters with Singapore's Chen Jia Yuan the likely threat as she is the fourth seed with Yang Li Lian of Malaysia next as 7th seed.

Malaysia can also dominate in the



WONG CHOONG HANN

women's doubles with Chow Mei Kuan and Lee Meng Yean as the top pair followed by fellow Malaysian pair of A. Anscelly and Fei Cho Soong with Indonesian third seed pair of S. Aulia and A. Awanda and Chinese Taipei combination of Szu Yu Chen and Ting Yi Chen in third and fourth seed.

World badminton power Indonesia are likely to win the men's doubles as two of their pairs are seeded one and two with R.

Alexander and Selvannus Geh as the top pair followed by W. Arya Pankaryanira and Ade Yusuf as the second seeded pair.

Malaysia's challenge comes from third seeded pair of Kok Zheng Yi and Kong Keat Zhen while Brunei pair of A. Ebrahim Jafar and Her Setiawan is seeded fourth.

In the mixed doubles, the Malaysian pair of Tan Aik Quan and Lai Pei Jing will have their work cut out for them for they face threat with

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LYDIA CHEAH of Malaysia.

Singapore second seeded pair of Liu Yi and Ting Ting Ting their closest rival while Indonesian pair of L. Nugroho and Annisa Saufika seeded 3rd can also pose as a threat.

Wong Choong Hann and Kuan Beng Hong are two of Malaysia's former great who will participate in the tournament.

Choon Hann and Mohd Hafiz Hashim are independent players while the rest of the Malaysia shuttlers come under the banner of the Badminton Association of Malaysia

(BAM)

Tickets for the matches are sold at RM10 for the qualifying and preliminary rounds (Nov 13-15) which starts today from 9 am to 1.05pm and from 3pm to 5.40pm, RM20 for the quarter-finals on Nov 16, RM30 for the semi-finals on Nov 17 and RM40 for the final on Nov 18.

For details on the tournament, please contact SBA at 082-579598 or Abdul Hadi at 016-8644101, Soh Theng Sai 019-8166268 and Bong Nyat Nee 016-8938962.