

Tajuk : Semi Showdown Begins

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Maybank Malaysian Open International Challenge 2012

Semi showdown begins

BY FAIZAL BUJANG

KUCHING: The Maybank Malaysian Open International Challenge 2012 badminton tournament enters its semifinal round today.

Five categories - men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles - will be held alternately at UNIMAS Indoor Stadium in Kota Samarahan starting 5pm.

The winners will enter the final which will be held tomorrow at the same venue.

Meanwhile, national singles shuttler and tournament favourite Muhamad Hafiz Hashim maintained his winning run in the third round on Thursday night by defeating national teammate Kuan Beng Hong 2-0 (21-17, 24-22).

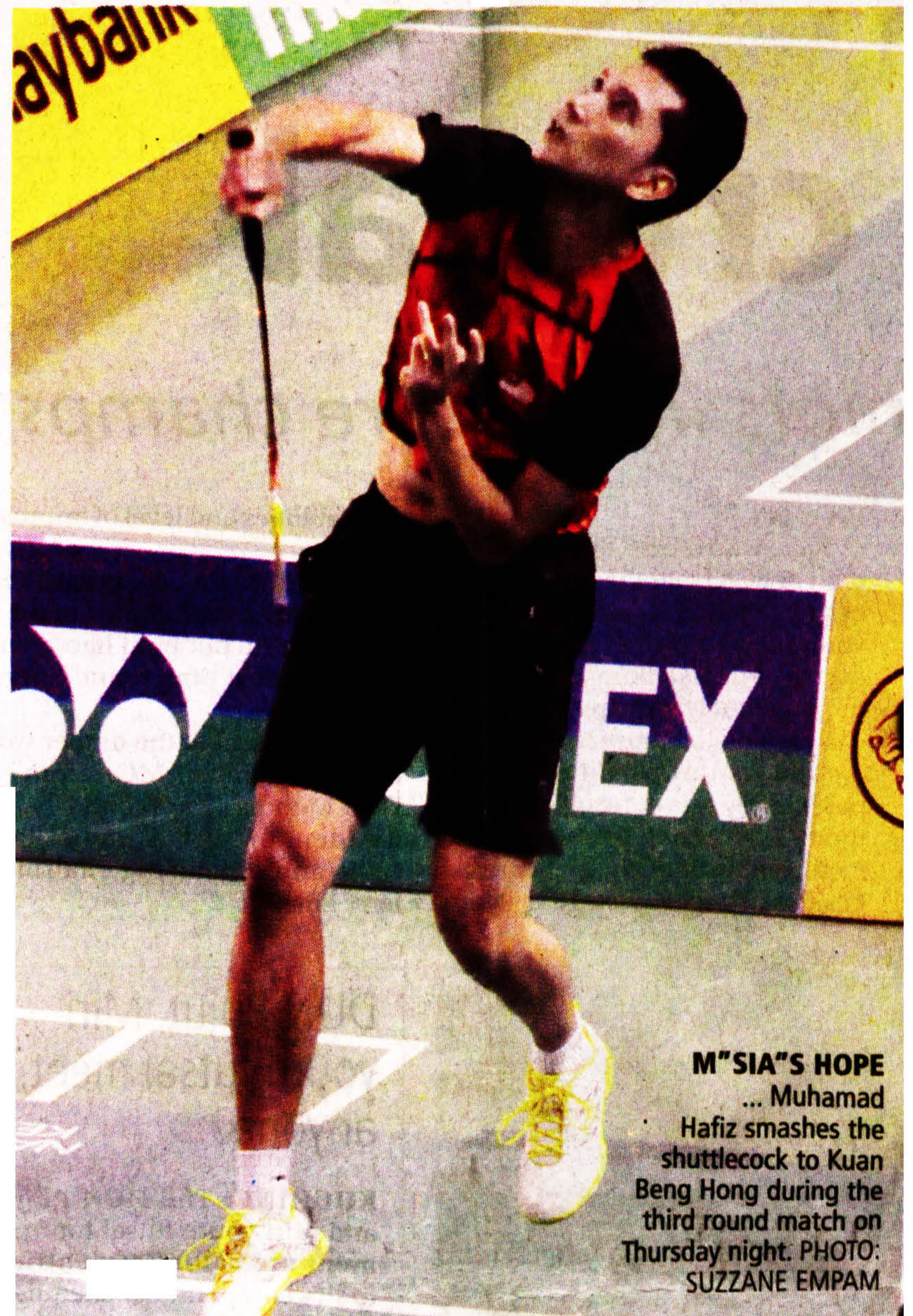
Another national player, Zulfadli

Zulkiffli also followed suit by beating Indonesian Robin Gonansa 2-0 (21-12, 21-10) to reach the quarter-finals.

However, second seed Mohamad Ariff Abdul Latif failed to make the last eight after another unseeded Malaysian, Joo Ven Soong of Malaysia stopped him 2-0 (21-19, 21-9) in the third round.

So was another Malaysian hopeful, Goh Giap Chin who fell to Pakawat Vilailak of Thailand. The latter won 2-1 (21-15, 13-21, 21-13).

In the women's category on Thursday night, two Malaysians shined out through top seed Sannatash Saniru who beat Chia Hsin Lee from Taiwan 2-1 (11-21, 21-15, 21-19) and Soniasu Ya Cheah who overpowered Thidarat Kleebyeesoon from Thailand 2-0 (22-20, 21-6).



M"ZIA" S HOPE
... Muhamad Hafiz smashes the shuttlecock to Kuan Beng Hong during the third round match on Thursday night. PHOTO: SUZZANE EMPAM