Quarter-final heartbreak

Women’s singles top seed Sannatasah crashes out of Maybank Malaysia International Challenge

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KUCHING: Women’s singles top seed Sannatasah Saniru’s campaign in the Maybank Malaysia International Challenge came to an end in the quarter-finals at the Unimas Indoor Stadium here.

The Malaysian fell to seventh seed Liang Xiaoyu of Singapore 20-22, 16-21 yesterday.

Her compatriot Lydia Cheah Li Ya was not so unlucky as she fought back to win her match against Chinese Taipei’s Lin Ying Chun 21-19, 21-22, 21-14.

She will tackle Liang in today’s semi-finals.

Another Malaysian, fifth seed Yang Li Lian, lost to Singapore’s Chen Jiayuan 21-13, 23-21.

Yang had earlier defeated compatriot Lee Ying Ying 21-9, 21-10 in their second round match early yesterday.

In another quarter-final match last night, Malaysian Lydia Cheah Li Ya was in action against Indonesian sixth seed Yeni Asmarani.

Meanwhile, Thailand’s Pakkawat Vilailak became the first player to book his semi-final berth in the men’s singles after he defeated unseeded Malaysian Goh Giap Chin 21-10, 21-17 last night.

The other quarter-final matches were still in progress at press time.

In the third round of the men’s singles early yesterday, badminton fans were treated to two unexpected results.

Malaysian second seed Mohamad Arif Abdul Latif lost to compatriot Soong Joo Ven 21-19, 21-19 while 13th seed Loh Wei Sheng of Malaysia stunned third seed Ashton Chen Yong Zhao of Singapore 21-11, 18-21, 24-22.

Top seed Muhammad Hafiz Hashim encountered little problem as he easily defeated fellow Malaysian Kuan Beng Hong 21-17, 21-12.

Fourth seed Zulfadli Zulkifli and eighth seed Kwong Beng Chan, both of Malaysia, also made the last eight, as did Indonesian ninth seed Wisnu Yuli Prasetyo and his unseeded compatriot Andre Marteen.