

Rebuyas barges into main draw

Pereira routs Joseph to enter final

CASSIUS Pereira defeated Stalin Joseph 6-1, 6-2 to advance to the veteran men's singles final in the inaugural Indian Expat Open Tennis Championship, being played at the Indian Club in Manama.

It was the second successive straight-sets victory for Pereira in his title bid. He had earlier beaten Rajesh Kumar 6-4, 6-1 in the quarter-finals to set up his clash with Joseph, who had laboured to a tough 6-2, 5-7, 7-5 victory over Gora Bhatt in their round-of-eight tie.

Pereira will now be playing the winner of the other semi-final between Lester Ferrao and VV Mohan. Ferrao outplayed GC Reddy 6-2, 6-2 to secure his seat in the last four, while Mohan defeated Uday Shanbag 6-3, 6-4 to advance.

Ferrao continued his winning ways in the men's singles division, where he registered a 6-3, 6-0 win against Sridhar Natarajan to keep his bid for a championship double intact.

Ticket

In the boys under-18 singles, Neal Ramchander cruised past Abishek Konar 6-0, 6-0 to book his ticket to the division final, where he will meet Rohid Thomas.

Rohid had earlier taken down Vaibhav Mohan 6-1, 6-2 to take his place in the championship encounter.

Meanwhile, Neal partnered with Timothy Das to defeat Pereira and Rohid 6-4, 6-4 to move on to the men's doubles semi-finals. Also moving on were VV and Vijith Mohan, who had come back from a set down to beat Shanbag and Joseph 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Finally, in the veteran men's doubles, Ferrao and Joseph scored a 6-1, 6-0 triumph over Sidney Ponniah and R Stephen. Matches in all the championship's categories continue tonight.

The event is Bahrain's first-ever 'desi' tennis tournament. It is being sponsored by BMMI, and is set to conclude later this week. Organisers intend for the competition to act as a warm-up for the 61st edition of the Indian Club Open Tennis Championship, which is scheduled to be played next month.

By PATRICK SALOMON
KIRKSTEEN Rebuyas of the Philippines led four qualifiers yesterday into the boys singles main draw of the inaugural Zain Bahrain International Tennis Federation (ITF) Junior Championship.

Rebuyas will be joined in the tournament proper by Yash Deshpande of India, Yezan Abu Dayeh of Jordan, and Abdulrahman Muhsen of Kuwait.

The championship is set to get underway today at Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC) in Juffair. Matches in the first round of the boys singles and girls singles will be played starting from 8.30am at the newly refurbished BTC facilities. A lunch-break will follow at around noon, and action will resume from 4pm.

Rebuyas, who is based overseas but has played in Bahrain in an Asian Tennis Federation competition in the past, marched on to the 32-player main draw after ousting Tarun Nath Surath of India in a tough three-set encounter 6-4, 1-6, 7-5.

In the other decisive matches of the qualifying competition, Deshpande defeated Junya Toyozumi of Japan 6-2, 6-4 to secure his seat; Abu Dayeh beat Saudi Arabia's Alwaleed Al Sayyah 6-3, 7-5; and Muhsen outlasted Briton Ross Henson 6-3, 7-5 to make it through.

Despite his loss, Al Sayyah was

SEEDED PLAYERS

*denotes ITF junior ranking:
Boys: 1-Nils Brinkman, Germany (567th); 2-Mina Albert, Egypt (641st); 3-Karim Kadry, Egypt (676th); 4-Daniel Hansen, Denmark (712th); 5-Osongor Toth, Hungary, (887th); 6-Mohammed Al Shatti, Kuwait (1,004th); 7-Sherif Abohagaba, Egypt (tied-1,143rd); 8-Abdullah Bouhamad, Kuwait (tied-1,143rd).
Girls: 1-Yasmin Ebada, Egypt (414th); 2-Aarzoo Malik, India (575th); 3-Nicole Kaluzik, Germany (611th); 4-Sara Sherif, Egypt (723rd); 5-Marina Albert, Egypt (743rd); 6-Skye Hopper, Australia (782nd); 7-Natasha Afridi, Pakistan (875th); 8-Anushika Bhargava, India (1,295th).

rewarded a slot in the main draw as a lucky loser, following the last-minute withdrawal of another participant.

All four qualifiers now face tougher opponents in the opening round today. Rebuyas goes head to head with Sander Brendmoe of Norway, Deshpande battles Falzan Khuram of Pakistan, Abu Dayeh plays Bahraini wild card Yousef Qaed, and Muhsen faces fifth-seed Osongor Toth of Hungary.

Favourites

The boys' top seed is Nils Brinkman, who boasts an ITF ranking of 567th among all juniors worldwide. The number two seed is Mina Albert of Egypt who is ranked 641st by the ITF, while number three is Karim Kadry of Egypt who is 676th.

On the distaff, Yasmin Ebada of Egypt is the girls singles top seed. She is



Rebuyas looks to hit a backhand return to Surath yesterday

ranked 414th by the ITF among all girls in the world. The second seed is Aarzoo Malik of India, who has an ITF junior rank of 575th, while Nicole Kaluzik of Germany is seed number three. Kaluzik is ranked 611th among juniors in the

world by the ITF.

Following today's play, the tournament's official opening ceremony will be held at 6pm. It will take place under the patronage of General Organisation for Youth and Sports president Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, who is expected to be present at the inauguration. Also set to attend are BTC president Khamis Al Muqla, officials from title sponsors Zain Bahrain, invited guests, players and fans.

The championship is the first-ever ITF event of its kind to be held in Bahrain. Over 120 youngsters from 40 countries all over the globe have signed up to compete. All are welcome to watch the matches at the BTC, free of charge.

Team Black keep bowling lead

TEAM Black held on to first place in the Filipino Club Tenpin Bowlers Monday Mixed League despite being held to a 2-2 (2,698-2,649 team totals) stalemate against Team Red during the 10th week of play at Funland Centre.

Red, paced by the 539 series of Polly Bataller, won two out of the three games, but Black managed to take the superior overall pinfalls count mainly thanks to their big 971-841 victory in the second game, which allowed them to share the points.

The league leaders were paced by the 606 series of Matt Macatangay. Adel Sharif added a 554 total and Egay Abutin 546, as Black improved to 26.5 wins and

stayed a half-a-point ahead of current second-placers Team White.

White closed the gap at the top following a resounding 4-0 (2,800-2,539) triumph against Team Blue. Danny Sevilla took down a team-best 623 pins for the winners, while JM Villanueva led their opponents with a 551 series in the loss.

Also scoring a 4-0 (2,731-2,563) sweep were Team Gray over Team Green. Medel Villanueva top scored for victors with 615 pins, while Jawan Fizer registered a 567 total and Bernard Binondo a 560 for valiant efforts in defeat.


Elsewhere around the league, Romy Ocampo scored a scintillating 732 series to lead last-placed Team Pink to a stunning 3-

1 (3,074-2,781) win against Team Yellow; while Team Orange followed suit with their own 3-1 (2,793-2,774) triumph against Team Brown, led by Lim Villanueva (622) and Vic Seabrooks (615).

Ocampo's total was the league's best individual score of the week.

Tournament action continues tonight at the same venue, with Black going head to head with White, Brown playing Green, Red taking on Blue, Yellow battling Gray, and Pink facing Orange.

STANDINGS (in order of wins, losses, overall pinfall totals): 1 Black (26.5, 13.5, 27,684); 2 White (26.0, 14.0, 27,431); 3 Brown (25.5, 14.5, 28,236); 4 Red (20.5, 19.5, 27,452); 5 Yellow (20.0, 20.0, 27,289); 6 Gray (19.0, 21.0, 27,031); 7 Blue (18.5, 21.5, 27,413); 8 Orange (17.0, 23.0, 27,522); 9 Green (17.0, 23.0, 25,728); 10 Pink (10.0, 30.0, 26,804).



World Results

<h3>ATHLETICS</h3> <p>Chicago Marathon: Men: 1. Sammy Wanjiru (KEN) 2hrs 5mins 41secs; 2. Abderrahim Goumiri (MOR) 2:06:04; 3. Vincent Kipruto (KEN) 2:06:08. Women: 1. Liliya Shobukhova (RUS) 2:25:56; 2. Irina Mikitenko (GER) 2:26:31; 3. Lidiya Grigoryeva 2:26:47.</p> <h3>BASEBALL</h3> <p>Major League first-round playoff games (all series best-of-five): National League at St Louis Los Angeles 5 St Louis 1 (Los Angeles wins series 3-0) At Philadelphia Colorado v Philadelphia postponed (Series tied 1-1)</p> <h3>GOLF</h3> <p>US v Internationals Presidents Cup match play tournament at Harding Park in San Francisco: USA 12.5; Internationals 9.5 (Overnight score US; 6.5 Internationals 5.5)</p>	<p>Foursomes: US 3.5; Internationals 1.5 Phil Mickelson/Sean O'Hair (US) bt Retief Goosen/Camilo Villegas (RSA/COL) 5 and 3; Justin Leonard/Jim Furyk (US) bt Ernie Els/Adam Scott (RSA/AUS) 4 and 2; Yang Yong-Eun/Ryo Ishikawa (KOR/JPN) bt Kenny Perry/Zach Johnson (US) 3 and 2; Stewart Cink/Hunter Mahan (US) v Robert Allenby/Vijay Singh (AUS/FIJ) halved; Tiger Woods/Steve Stricker (US) bt Mike Weir/Tim Clark (CAN/RSA) 1-up. Four-ball: US; 2.5 Internationals 2.5 Ernie Els/Mike Weir (RSA/CAN) bt Zach Johnson/Justin Leonard (US) 5 and 3; Geoff Ogilvy/Robert Allenby (AUS) bt Stewart Cink/Lucas Glover (US) 2 and 1; Anthony Kim/Jim Furyk (US) bt Angel Cabrera/Adam Scott (ARG/AUS) 2-up; Tiger Woods/Steve Stricker (US) bt Ryo Ishikawa/Yang Yong-Eun (JPN/KOR) 4 and 2; Phil Mickelson/Sean O'Hair (US) v Vijay Singh/Tim Clark (FIJ/RSA) halved.</p> <p>National Hockey League: Boston 4 NY Islanders 3 (Shootout)</p>	<p>Pittsburgh 5 Toronto 2 Ottawa 4 Atlanta 2 Anaheim 3 Philadelphia 2 (Shootout) New Jersey 3 Florida 2 Detroit 3 Washington 2 Tampa Bay 5 Carolina 2 Los Angeles 2 St Louis 1 Buffalo 1 Nashville 0 Chicago 4 Colorado 3 (Shootout) Columbus 2 Phoenix 0 Edmonton 3 Montreal 2 San Jose 4 Minnesota 2</p> <h3>RUGBY UNION</h3> <p>European Cup Pool 3: Leicester (ENG) 32 Ospreys (WAL) 32 Pool 5: Toulouse (FRA) 36 Sale (ENG) 17</p> <h3>SOCCER</h3> <p>Australian A-League: Central Coast 1 North Queensland 1</p>	<p>Brisbane Roar 0 Gold Coast United 1 Brazilian championship: Corinthians 2 Gremio 1 Coritiba 1 Barueri 2 Flamengo 2 Sao Paulo 1 Internacional 1 Atletico Paranaense 1 Santo Andre 1 Fluminense 2</p> <h3>World Cup Qualifying:</h3> <p>Africa (final round) Group B Nigeria 1 Mozambique 0 Tunisia 1 Kenya 0 Group D Benin 1 Ghana 0 Group E: At Accra, Ghana Burkina Faso 2 Guinea 1 Friendly: Macedonia 2 Qatar 1</p> <h3>TENNIS</h3> <p>ATP/WTA China Open in Beijing (x denotes seeding): Men's singles final: Novak Djokovic (SRB x2) bt Marin Cilic (CRO x8) 6-2, 7-6 (7/4). Women's singles final: Svetlana Kuznetsova</p>	<p>(RUS x6) bt Agnieszka Radwanska (POL x12) 6-2, 6-4. Men's doubles final: Bob Bryan/Mike Bryan (USA x2) bt Mark Knowles/Andy Roddick (BAH/US) 6-4, 6-2. Women's doubles final: Peng Shuai/Hsieh Su-wei (CHN/TPE x5) bt Alla Kudryavtseva/Ekaterina Makarova (RUS) 6-3, 6-1. Japan Open in Tokyo (x denotes seeds): Men's singles final: Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRA x2) bt Mikhail Youzhny (RUS) 6-3, 6-3. Men's doubles final: Julian Knowle/Jurgen Melzer (AUT) bt Ross Hutchins/Jordan Kerr (GBR/AUS) 6-2, 5-7, 10-8 (final set 10-point tie-break system). Women's singles final (ITF event): Julie Coin (FRA x1) bt Olga Savchuk (UKR) 7-6 (8/6), 4-6, 7-6 (8/6). First day of the ATP Shanghai Masters in China (x denotes seeding): First round: Andreas Beck (GER) bt Jose Acasuso (ARG) 7-6 (7/2), 1-0, retired; Zeng Shao Xuan (CHN) bt Dudi Sela (ISR) 2-6, 6-1, 6-4; Feliciano Lopez (ESP) bt Guillermo Garcia-Lopez (ESP) 6-3, 6-4; Igor Kunitsyn (RUS) bt Igor Andreev (RUS) 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-2.</p>
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