



Mens Doubles runners up (left) and winners (right).



Womens Doubles Runners up (left) and winners (right).

PRANEETH THRASH NILUKA TO LIFT BIC SINGLES TITLE

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Third seeded Indian Sai Praneeth ranked 65 in the world defeated top seeded Sri Lankan and ranked 36th in the world Niluka Karunaratne 14-21, 21-14, 21-17 in the men's singles final of the UAE Xchange Bahrain International Challenge (BIC) 2012 Badminton Tournament which concluded last night at the Bahrain Keralaya Samajam (BKS) Diamond Jubilee Hall premises in Segaiya.

In an excellent first set for the Sri Lankan who represented his country at the 2012 London Olympics, he comfortably took the opening game after coming from 1-4 down early on to win 12 unanswered points to take a 13-4 lead and go on to win.

The second set saw win the reversal of fortunes as Praneeth took control of the set after holding an early 3-0 lead and regained dominating the latter stages winning three crucial unanswered points to level the match.

In a thrilling final game watched by hundreds of enthusiastic badminton fans, Praneeth kept his nerve and after building up a 8-2 lead stayed on course to take the title.

The women's final was also a three-game affair with



Mixed Doubles Runners up -left & winners - right

India's Arundhati Pantawane coming from a game down to defeat compatriot Tanvi Lad 20-22, 21-12, 21-19.

Pantawane who has a career best ranking of 51 and a runner-up in the Czech Republic Challenge 2011 was trailing in the third game 12-17 but managed to win six unanswered points to take a 18-17 against Lad who is

ranked number nine in the juniors before clinching the title.

In the men's doubles final, top seeds Rupesh Kumar and Sanave Thomas defeated the young pairing of compatriots Kumar Nandagopal and Jishnu Sanyal 21-18, 19-21, 21-18.

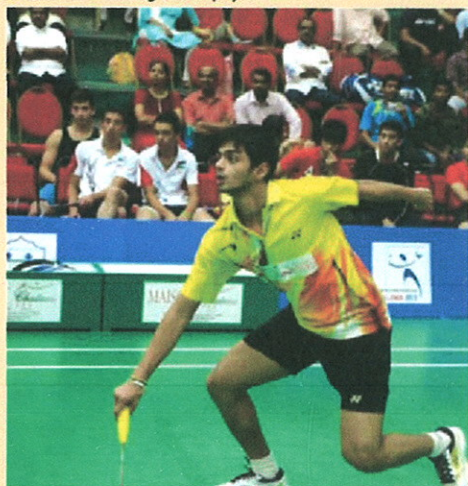
The women's doubles final was an all Thailand

affair with third seeds Rodjana Chuthabunditkul and Chanida Julrattanamee defeating Pacharakamol Arkornsakul and Jongkonphan Kittiharakul in straight games 21-14, 21-18.

The mixed doubles title went to Tanvir Gill and Mohita Sahdev of India after defeating Bahrain pairing Heri Setiawan and Rihana



Arundhati receiving the trophy



Singles champion Sai Praneeth in action

Sunder.

This event was sanctioned by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) and Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC) with Prize Money of \$15,000 up for grabs along with ranking points.

A total of around 125 players and officials from 17 countries have participated

in the five day event with the largest contingent being from India.

Attending the finals were UAE Xchange Country Manager, Deepak Nair, BKS President, P V Radhakrishna Pillai, Secretary of the Bahrain Badminton and Squash Federation, Hisham Al Khan, BKS officials and other guests.