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SOON KIT-KIM HOCK BLAST INTO SEMIS

HANOI, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's last hope Cheah Soon Kit-Yap Kim Hock blasted through China's new hopefuls Luo Yigang-Chen Gang to reach the men's doubles semifinals of the Vietnam Open badminton tournament here today.

The seeded national pair easily beat the Chinese 15-1, 15-1 in a 20-minute match at the packed Hanoi Indoor Stadium where the five-day tournament is being held.

The Hanoi trip is the second international outing for Kim Hock after last week's Thai Open. He had been out of action since May due to injury and subsequent surgery on his shoulder.

Malaysia sent six shuttlers to the Vietnam Open but only Soon Kit and Kim Hock remained to carry the flag as the others, including Mahathir Mustaffa, crashed out in the earlier rounds.

They will meet Indonesia's Ricky Subagja-Rexy Mainaky tomorrow. The Indonesians had a tough 55 minutes today to beat Thailand's Pramote Teerawiwatana-Siripong Siripol 12-15, 15-6, 15-5. -- BERNAMA

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