

SIA eager for new Govt's agenda

By ELIAS CHIPEPO

AS President-Elect Hakainde Hichilema gets inaugurated today, Sport-In-Action (SIA) expects that sport-for-development agenda becomes one of the top priorities of the new government.

Executive director Frankson Mushindu said that as an organisation that has been implementing sport-for-development for the last 20 years, SIA was anxiously to hear what developmental milestones the leadsports minister would have in store once cabinet is announced.

"Our focus as a sport-for-development organisation has always been on policy-not politics nor personality, hence we look forward to working with the appointed minister under the incoming government which we expect to enhance policy formulation and implementation including the revision of the National Sports Act of 1975," he said.

Mushindu said there was need to revisit the Act as it was long-overdue.

He said there was urgent need to include issues of how sport, recreation and physical education could be developed further to provide the much needed environment for children and young people to exercise their right to play and recreation at community and school levels in our country.

"We also call upon the government, through the incoming sports minister to work at strengthening the Sports Council of Zambia by building its capacity in various aspects such as human capital, finances and facilities.

Being the mother body of sport-for-development in Zambia, we expect the Sports Council to be a shining example of how a sports federation should govern and be governed," he said.

Mushindu said the above would call for reduced tension amongst administrators but most importantly, the

enhancement of strategic working relations with the Paralympics Committee and the National Olympic Committee.

He said the same should be stretched to academies and that SIA called for strengthened relationships between the SCZ and sports academies dotted around the country.

"Most sports disciplines such as football, netball and volleyball are benefiting a lot from grassroots programmes and in order to produce results that produce glory to the country, formalising working relationships is the way to go," he said.

Mushindu also expressed happiness to hear President-elect Hichilema in his address to the nation emphasise on the need to unite the country.

"It is our hope that working with sports federations will afford us the opportunity to reduce tension the country is faced with and increase unity through mainstreaming sport-for-development in key ministries," he said.

Mushindu said SIA was appealing to the new government to ensure that the ministries of sport, local government, health and education closely work together as they are inter-related and in so doing, the creation of a strong foundation for physical education in communities, schools and work setups can be achieved.

He said incoming sports minister would have the huge task to ensure that chief executive officers or general secretaries are remunerated and capacity built in order for federations to establish offices of their own.



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•PACQUIAO, also a senator in the Philippines, said he achieved everything he wants to in boxing.

LAS VEGAS - MANNY Pacquiao has hinted about a potential retirement after he was beaten by Yordenis Ugas in their WBA 'super' welterweight clash on Saturday night.

The 42-year-old took Ugas through all 12 rounds but the judges unanimously voted the Cuban as the winner in Las Vegas, with the scorecard reading 115-113 116-112 116-112 in favour of Pacquiao's opponent.

Pacquiao, who shares his boxing career with a life in politics as a senator in his native Philippines, hinted before the Ugas bout that he may not fight again after Saturday night, but remained coy about his future in his post-match press conference.

"In the future, you may not see Manny Pacquiao fight again in the ring," said the 42-year-old after the Ugas clash. "I don't know. But for how many decades, I'm so happy with what I've done in boxing.

"I contribute a record in boxing also and to make boxing the top. And especially bring honour to my country and the Filipino people. I'm so proud to be a Filipino and thankful to all the fans all over the world.

"I don't know if I'll fight again. Let me relax and think about it. I want to help my people."

In Las Vegas on Saturday night, Pacquiao came out flying in the first round and forced Ugas on the ropes early on, but

Pacquiao hints at retirement

the Cuban recovered well and comfortably landed several jabs as he took advantage in the fight.

As the final bell rang, Ugas lifted his arms in the air in celebration, knowing he had done

enough to win the fight and retain the WBA belt he won last year against Abel Ramos.

Pacquiao claimed in his post-fight interview that his legs were too tight during the contest and

he had a 'hard time' in the ring, but cut out the excuses by the time he got to his press conference.

"I did my best tonight, but my best wasn't good enough," said the Filipino boxer. "No excuses. I

wanted to fight for the title tonight in the ring. And tonight, the champion's name is Ugas."

The 42-year-old is widely regarded as one of the greatest boxers of all time having held world

titles in eight different divisions, the only fighter in the history of the sport to achieve that feat.

His record has now fallen to 62-8-2 following the defeat to Ugas, who was drafted in as a late injury replacement for Errol Spence Jr - the Cuban's shock victory is the biggest of his career to date. - **Dailymail.co.uk**

Murray routs lucky loser, Kyrgios withdraws from Winston-Salem

WINSTON-SALEM - NICK Kyrgios pulled out of the ATP Winston-Salem Open on Sunday night, paving the way for Andy Murray to breeze into the second round with a dominating win over lucky loser Noah Rubin.

After a slow start to the first set, the former world No 1 Murray found his form and cruised through his opening match, beating Rubin 6-2, 6-0 in just 58 minutes.

Murray was initially scheduled to face Kyrgios but the Aussie withdrew just before the start of their match, throwing Sunday's schedule into chaos.

Murray will next face 13th seeded Frances Tiafoe, who received a bye into the second round.

Organisers gave Murray several different scenarios before finally deciding he would face American Rubin, who had to play back-to-back matches with just an hour rest between them.

"It was a strange 45 minutes before I played this match," said the Scot. "I didn't know if I would be playing tonight.

"They said I would play a qualifier and wouldn't play until tomorrow. And then they said I would play a lucky loser. So my opponent change three times in 45 minutes.

"Unfortunately for (Rubin) he had to play a tough match in the heat and then had to come out again."

Rubin took the court after falling to France's Lucas Pouille in a two-hour qualifying final.

The 34-year-old Murray has had to battle injuries of his own, with his latest one being a groin problem. But that didn't seem to be a factor against Rubin as Murray blasted 11 aces and had just three double faults.

Kyrgios withdrew saying he had been bothered by pain in his left knee for some time.

He said he would rather rest for the upcoming US Open than aggravate it at a regular tournament.

"Obviously I had to look after my body and with a Grand Slam next week," he said. "I have been dealing with knee pain the last couple of weeks.

"With the US Open just around the corner I just

didn't feel this was worth the risk of going out there and possibly making it worse."

Kyrgios and Murray were set to square off for the seventh time overall with Murray holding a commanding 5-1 series lead.

"I have been in Florida rehabbing and training and I came here excited

to play Andy Murray one of my good friends," said Kyrgios, who stood for his new conference with a cloth medical wrap on his left knee.

Kyrgios' only win over Murray came in their most recent match three years ago at the Queen's Club, where Murray made his return following his first hip surgery. - **AFP**

City to unveil Silva, Kompany statues before Arsenal game

MANCHESTER - MANCHESTER City will unveil statues made in honour of former players David Silva and Vincent Kompany outside the Etihad Stadium ahead of

Saturday's Premier League game at home to Arsenal, the club said on Monday.

Spanish midfielder Silva, who helped City win the Premier League four times and the FA Cup

twice, left the club last year. Former captain and Belgian defender Vincent Kompany left in 2019 after 11 years at the club.

A third statue, in tribute to all-time leading goalscorer Sergio Aguero, who left the club at the end of last season after a decade-long association, will be unveiled in 2022.

"The decision to honour the three players was based on their unparalleled contribution to the club's transformation over their combined 31 years at the club," City said in a statement.

Silva and Aguero are currently with LaLiga teams Real Sociedad and Barcelona respectively, while Kompany is the head coach of Belgian Pro League club Anderlecht. - **Reuters**

Europe picks three rookies to join Solheim title defence

OHIO - CAPTAIN Catriona Matthew selected a trio of Solheim Cup rookies for Team Europe's title defence as the biennial tournament kicks off next week at the Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio.

Europe take on favourites United States with newcomers Nanna Madsen of Denmark, who finished fifth on Sunday at the women's British Open, Ireland's Leona Maguire and Finland's Matilda Castren among the six captain's selections.

Maguire and Castren are the first players from their respective nations to compete for Europe in the tournament.

"I don't think it has really sunk in yet, but it brings tears of joy into my eyes just thinking about it," said Castren, who had her first LPGA tour win at the Medihealth Championship in June.

Matthew also selected Solheim veterans

Madeline Sagstrom of Sweden, who finished tied for second at the women's British Open, Celine Boutier of France and England's Mel Reid.

The United States have won 10 of the 16 editions of the Solheim Cup and are favourites, with world No 1 Nelly Korda expected to anchor.

But Matthew said last week she had no concerns accepting the "underdogs" tag ahead of the tournament.

Joining Team Europe through automatic qualifying were Sweden's Anna Nordqvist, who secured her third major triumph by one shot at Carnoustie on Sunday, German Sophia Popov, Spain's Carlota Ciganda, Emily Kristine Pedersen of Denmark and England's Charley Hull and Georgia Hall.

The American team is set to be announced later Monday. - **Reuters**

Korda heads US qualifiers for Solheim Cup

OHIO - WORLD No 1 Nelly Korda heads the list of nine automatic qualifiers who will represent the United States against Team Europe in the upcoming Solheim Cup in Toledo, Ohio.

Korda, the Olympic gold medalist, will be joined by Danielle Kang, Lexi Thompson and older sister Jessica Korda. The other qualifiers are Ally Ewing, Austin Ernst, Lizette Salas, Jennifer Kupcho and Megan Khang.

The final three players for the 4-6 September event will be named to the team Monday via picks by captain Pat Hurst.

"The last two years have been so long and I'm so happy to finally know who be on Team USA in Toledo," Hurst said in a news release.

"This is an incredibly talented group of players, with so much crucial experience to lean on as we work to win back the Cup. I'm excited for the opportunity to lead this team and can't wait to finally get to Inverness."

Sweden's Anna Nordqvist landed one of six automatic spots on Team Europe by winning the AIG Women's Open at Carnoustie on Sunday.

The victory elevated Nordqvist from No 54 to No 16 in the World, giving her a spot on Team Europe for the seventh time.

Joining Nordqvist are Denmark's Emily Kristine Pedersen, England's Georgia Hall and Charley Hull, Germany's Sophia Popov and Spain's Carlota Ciganda.

Team Europe captain Catriona Matthew will fill out the team with six selections on Monday.

"I'm really happy with my team right now for the 2021 Solheim Cup," Matthew said in a news release announcing the European automatic qualifiers. "Congratulations to Anna on her AIG Women's Open win and securing a qualified spot on the team. There is plenty of experience there and it is great to have Sophia representing Europe for the first time."

The Solheim Cup is held every two years. Team USA holds a 10-6 series lead, but Team Europe prevailed 14.5 to 13.5 in the 2019 meeting in Scotland. - **Reuters**

Zverev adds Cincy Masters to Olympic gold

CINCINNATI - ALEXANDER Zverev backed up his Olympic triumph with a fifth ATP Masters 1000 title as he crushed Andrey Rublev 6-2, 6-3 in Cincinnati on Sunday.

The German needed less than an hour against his longtime childhood friend and rival to lift the trophy and put himself into a solid position with the US Open starting a week from Monday.

"The US Open starts in a week's time, so obviously I want to keep it up and I want to maybe play even better there," Zverev said.

Women's world No 1 Ashleigh Barty was similarly impressive in winning her fifth title of the season at the combined ATP and WTA event, cruising past Swiss wild card Jil Teichmann 6-3, 6-1.

The Australian, who will keep a firm grip on the No 1 ranking as the final Grand Slam of the year approaches, took control mid-way through the opening set and was never truly threatened.

"It's been an awesome week, with each match it was getting progressively better," Barty said.

"Today I was able to trust myself and play with confidence, which was important in a big final.

"I'm excited to get matches in tough conditions here in Cincinnati going into New York."

Zverev showed no effects from the stomach discomfort which forced him to take a medical timeout during his draining semifinal victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas on Saturday.

Zverev won his 11th match in a row and his fifth against Rublev, a player he's been playing since their junior days.

The German came into the week with six defeats in prior Cincinnati appearances, but turned that negative on its head.

"My first win here was on Wednesday and now I'm holding the title four days later," he said.

"It's been an incredible week, I had a lot of great matches. It's a great feeling going into the Open."

Zverev kept his unforced error count to just six, though he was out-aced by Rublev 11 to six.

The third seed produced 16 winners and broke Rublev five times.

Zverev's only minor hiccup came as he was broken while serving for victory leading 5-2 in the second set.

But he closed out the convincing win a game later with a timely break back as Rublev found the net with a return.

"Until the end I was playing pretty good tennis," Zverev said. "I didn't do a big celebration at the net since Andrey and I have been best friends since we were 11 or 12.

"With my Olympic gold and this fifth Masters I'm really looking forward to New York."

Although she doesn't leave Cincinnati with a trophy, women's runner-up Teichmann departs after a stellar week.

The world No 76 beat three top 12 players, including four-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka, fourth seed Karolina Pliskova and Olympic gold medalist Belinda Bencic of Switzerland.

But she had no answers as Wimbledon champion Barty

stretched her WTA Tour-leading match win tally this season to 40.

"I'm very happy with my week, today I wanted to win, but Ash was just too good," she said. "I felt like I was there in the first set, but suddenly the first set was gone. She stepped up her level in the second - she was too good."

Barty played a near-impeccable match against a first-time Masters-level finalist, losing serve only once as she served for victory.

The top seed quickly corrected course, breaking Teichmann back in the final game to clinch the title in 71 minutes.

Barty, who didn't drop a set all week, said she hadn't expected her run to the title to be so seamless after she had played only the Olympics since Wimbledon.

The double Grand Slam champion will on Monday start her 83rd consecutive week in the No 1 spot.

The win in her 19th career singles final gave Barty a 13th trophy, including seven from her last eight finals appearances. - **AFP**