

## Asian Cup-World Cup qualifiers

## Bahrain down the Azkals

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After losing the earlier fixture against the Philippines, Bahrain got revenge over the Philippine Azkals, 2-0, on the home turf in the World Cup Qualifying fixture yesterday at the Bahrain National Stadium in Riffa.

This helped the national team move to within a point of its beaten opponent last night in a Group H of the FIFA World Cup 2018/AFC Asian

**Bahrain side broke the deadlock in the 53rd minute through veteran striker Ismail Abdul Latif**

Cup 2019 joint-qualifiers at the National Stadium in Riffa.

Bahrain started with goalkeeper Mohammed Jaffar Sayed, defenders captain Hussain Ali Baba, Abdulla Al Hazaa, Sayed Mohammed Adnan, Mohammed Adel Hassan, Rashid Al Hooti, midfielders Sayed Dhiya Shubbar, Abdulla Yasser, Isa Moosa and strikers Sami Al Hussaini and Ismail Abdul Latif.

Coming off an encouraging 0-0 draw against North Korea, Philippines started the first half as the brighter of the two sides. Phil Younghusband had chances in both the early and late parts of the first half, but failed to convert either.

The Bahrain side coached by Argentine Sergio Batista broke the deadlock in the 53rd minute through veteran striker Ismail Abdul Latif who has been a fixture in the side since 2005. In the 61st minute, defender Sayed Mohammed

**Defeat sees the Philippines concede their second loss in the World Cup Qualifying group H**

Adnan doubled the lead and also made it two goals in the qualifying matches so far.

The Azkals threw everything forward, but the Bahrain defence remained strong as they rode off the storm. This defeat sees the Philippines concede their second loss in their World Cup Qualifying group, making it increasingly difficult for them to qualify for the next round.

Bahrain will be happy with the win, but they have an uphill struggle to even reach second



Action from an earlier Bahrain AFC qualifier

place as runaway group leaders North Korea defeated Yemen 1-0 at Kim Il Sung Stadium in

Pyongyang with a goal by 2010 AFC Youth Player of the Year Jong Il-gwan, who struck in

the 19th minute with a penalty. As it stands, North Korea lead with 13 points from five games, followed by Uzbekistan (4-9), Philippines (5-7), Bahrain (5-6) and Yemen (5-0).

The Bahrainis have a very tough finish to the campaign with a trip to North Korea on November 17, then a relatively easy match (on paper) at home to Yemen on March 24 next year and finish off with a concluding match in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on March 29.

The group winners and four best runners-up (total 12 teams) will advance to the 2019 AFC Asian Cup finals and the final round of qualifying for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

The next best 24 teams from the preliminary stage of the joint qualifiers will compete in a separate competition for the remaining slots (12 slots or 11 slots + 1 slot for the host) in the 24-team 2019 Asian Cup.

## Drag and Drift night at BIC attracts record turnout

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A record turnout of 120 participants flocked to Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) last night to participate in the season's opening round of the E K Kanoo Drag and Drift Night, powered by Motor City.

The hugely popular event attracted drag racing and drifting enthusiasts of all skill levels, with the drag racing held along BIC's state-of-the-art quarter-mile drag strip, which is a member of the prestigious National Hot Rod Association Worldwide Network.

The drifting took place along a predetermined course

at BIC's car parks numbers five and six. Aside from the primary participants who were behind the wheel, nearly 200 other people took part in the evening's events as passengers on a busy night with nearly 600 racing lovers in attendance at BIC.

Action returns on October 26, which also offers the immensely popular Dragster Xperience and one of the circuit's most unique and ultimate-adrenaline activities, as it gives participants a taste of pure speed as they are taken from zero to 100kph in just one second while seated in a Top Dragster.

## International Badminton Fest heads to Khalifa Sports City

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The Bahrain International Badminton Festival 2015 is set to take place from October 28 until November 7 at the Khalifa Sports City in Isa Town and provide world class competition play and development opportunities for local and regional players and officials.

Organised by the Bahrain Badminton and Squash Federation (BBSF) under the patronage of its President Shaikh Hussam bin Isa Al

Khalifa, it begins with the Victor-Rayan Sports Bahrain International Series 2015 from October 28 to November 1 and the Badminton International Challenge 2015 from November 3 to 7 and is sanctioned by the World Badminton Federation and the Asian Badminton Confederation.

These events will both offer top quality badminton action as they attract world class fields with players coming from across the world and carrying ranking points to boost their

chances of going to the Rio Olympics next year along with \$20,000 of prize money on offer. The Victor-Rayan Series will see over 120 participating players and the Badminton International Challenge just under 200 entrants and the largest ever field for a professional badminton tournament held in Bahrain.

Players from more than 30 countries will be represented including Bahrain, India, Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, US, Russia, Uzbekistan, South Africa,

Egypt, Turkey and Thailand to name but a few. Aside from the action, a number of courses to boost the quality of the sport's officials and coaches, both locally and regionally – Asian Badminton Confederation Courses will be run for local and regional umpires; 'Shuttle Time' (the brand name used by The World Badminton Federation for all of its youth initiatives) courses will be provided for Bahrain's school and college coaches; and there will also be a one day Bahrain National Line Judges Clinic.

## Golf Challenge '15

## Abdulaziz Ahmed wins Volvo Golf qualifier

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Abdulaziz Ahmed (38 points) narrowly won the third and final Bahrain qualifying competition on the count back system in the 2015 Bahrain Volvo World Golf Challenge 2015, being hosted at the Royal Golf Club.

Keith Watson (38) finished as the runner-up with Reinhold Lutz (37) clinching third place and nearest the Pin side contests on holes 7 and 12 were won by Rob Lane and Ali

Al Kowari respectively while a Longest Drive contest on hole 13 was won Harold Hutchins.

Refreshments were served in the Members' Lounge after play where Trevor Fletcher, Sales Manager – Motorcity Passenger Car division, handed over the trophies to the winners.

A video was then shown of the previous finals of the World Volvo Golf Championship was played in the Lounge so that the winners could see what's at



Winner Abdulaziz Ahmed with Trevor Fletcher of Motorcity

stake when they compete in a final round at the Royal Golf

Club on November 14.

The winners of the finals

will receive a complimentary invitation to fly off to the World Final, an unforgettable golfing occasion which is held each year in an exotic location.

Kanoo Vehicle Leasing (KVL) and AXA Insurance have continued their association with Volvo World Golf Challenge again this year and as an incentive for the competitors, anyone achieving a hole in one would win a Volvo S80, though for the third qualifier the prize was unclaimed.

## Results:

1 Abdulaziz Ahmed (38 points c/b), 2 Keith Watson (38), 3 Reinhold Lutz (37). Nearest the Pins: Rob Lane (hole 7) and Ali Al Kowari (hole 12). Longest Drive: Harold Hutchins (hole 13).

Qualifiers: Abdulaziz Ahmed, Keith Watson, Reinhold Lutz, Bill Lindsay, Steven Hill, Robert Graham, Naeem Khan, Mohamed Al Sayed, Todd Gillespie, Debbie Lane, Martyn Wright.