

Muharraq held by Najma



Action from the match

TDT | Manama

Muharraq came up short last night in their bid to return to the top of the table in the 2019/2020 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

The Arad-based outfit were held to a goalless draw by Al Najma, in a match played on their home pitch.

Both teams had their chances to score and they each came close, but neither could supply the finishing touch to spell the difference.

With the result, Muharraq registered their fourth draw in 14 matches and improved to 31 points—a single point behind solo leaders Hidd. Najma also claimed their fourth stalemate, as they went to 22 points in fourth place overall.

Last night's match was previously postponed after a Muharraq player had tested positive for the coronavirus



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(COVID-19).

League action continues on Saturday with Manama taking on Al Ahli, while three match days will be played in succession next week from Monday to Wednesday.

Neymar contracts virus

Neymar is one of three Paris Saint-Germain players to test positive for coronavirus following a holiday in Ibiza

● Angel Di Maria and Leandro Paredes have also tested positive

AFP | Paris

Neymar is one of three Paris Saint-Germain stars to have contracted the coronavirus, a well-placed source said yesterday, after the Champions League runners-up announced several positive tests.

“Three Paris Saint-Germain players have confirmed positive Sars CoV2 tests and are subject to the appropriate health protocol,” PSG said in a statement.

“All of the players and coaching staff will continue to undergo tests in the coming days.”

When contacted by AFP, the club declined to confirm the identity of the players in question.

But the source replied “yes” when asked if Neymar was one of those to test positive, along with teammates Angel Di Maria and Leandro Paredes, as had earlier been reported by French sports daily L'Equipe.

The cases would appear to be linked to a holiday trip to the Spanish Mediterranean island of Ibiza that several PSG players took following the Champions



Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar (L) and Angel Di Maria warm up ahead of a match (file photo)

League final defeat by Bayern Munich.

The news is a setback to the French champions' preparations for the scheduled start of their Ligue 1 campaign next week, with a game away at Lens set for September 10 but possibly now at risk of being postponed.

PSG had already said on Monday that two unnamed players had reported back with coronavirus symptoms following a holiday.

L'Equipe reported the players in question at the time were Argentinian duo Di Maria and Paredes.

Those two, and Neymar, were

among several players who travelled to Ibiza following the Champions League final, mixing with friends and family after spending the previous weeks isolated in a secure sanitary 'bubble' with teammates in Portugal.

Postponement raises questions

That was after the controversial decision was taken to postpone the game at newly-promoted Lens, initially scheduled for last Saturday, in order to give the PSG squad a break following their Champions League 'Final Eight' exertions.

PSG, France's richest club,



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PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

have played five competitive games in the last six months.

Mauro Icardi, Ander Herrera, Keylor Navas and Marquinhos were also in Ibiza, and the latter's wife revealed on Instagram that the Brazilian defender had been placed in isolation while awaiting the results of his own test for Covid-19.

After playing Lens on September 10, PSG are then due to entertain bitter rivals Marseille three days later.

In the meantime, various members of coach Thomas Tuchel's squad are set to play for their countries in the UEFA Nations League, with Kylian Mbappe and Presnel Kimpembe in France's squad for a game against Croatia just 48 hours before their club's scheduled return to action.

BRAVE CF 42 in Bahrain to host Torres vs Santella, two other Flyweight bouts

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation has confirmed that three of the first round matchups of its much-anticipated Flyweight World Title Tournament will take place in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as part of the “Kombat Kingdom” series.

The event on September 24th will be headlined the clash between two Americans, Jose “Shorty” Torres and Sean “Shorty Rock” Santella, as both men look to book a place in the semifinals and to define the best Flyweight in America.

Torres is coming off a defining victory against Amir Albazi in his first BRAVE CF outing, while Sean Santella returns to the fold after a disappointing loss in his first BRAVE CF fight, when he lost to Velimurad Alkhasov by decision.

Another bout of BRAVE CF's prestigious Flyweight world title tournament will also take place at the same night, in the main card, with Finland's Abdul “ABBA” Hussein facing USA's Zach “Fun Size” Makovsky.

Hussein is known for its amateur world title, while veteran Makovsky has tasted gold in other promotions and fought across the world in his professional career.

Last but not least, Flavio Queiroz will face the biggest challenge of his career as he goes up against sambo world



A poster for Jose Torres vs Sean Santella bout

BRAVE CF 36 Fight Card

Flyweight Quarter-final: Jose Torres vs Sean Santella
Flyweight Quarter-final: Zach Makovsky vs Abdul Hussein
Flyweight Quarter-final: Flavio Queiroz vs Velimurad Alkhasov

champion Velimurad Alkhasov in another quarter-final set for the second BRAVE CF show in Kombat Kingdom.

BRAVE CF 42 will be the second of three consecutive events scheduled by the world's fastest-growing MMA promotion to the Kingdom of Bahrain between September and October.

Labeled as “Kombat Kingdom”, the fight night marathons will kick off on August 17, with BRAVE CF 41, headlined by the Middleweight title fight

between Daniel “Gaucho” and Mohammed Fakhreddine.

A week later, the Flyweights will take the main stage with the first round of the epic inaugural title tournament at BRAVE CF 42. To wrap up the schedule, BRAVE CF 43, still without its main event confirmed, will take place on October 1st. All three events will be held at closed-doors arenas, following the strongest Covid-19 protocols within the MMA industry.

Basketball is back in Bahrain!

● Bahrain league back in action after months-long hiatus with Riffa facing Manama, Ahli playing Muharraq in first games of Golden Square semis

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From left, Riffa's Serbian head coach Dragan Vascanin, Kasse, Riffa basketball head Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, Kuwayed and Boone

A pair of titanic clashes mark the highly anticipated return to the hardwood of the Kingdom's top basketball league.

Scheduled for tonight, in the first games of their respective best-of-three Golden Square semi-finals in the 2019/2020 Zain Bahrain Basketball League, are title hopefuls Riffa and Manama locking horns at 5.30pm, followed by Al Ahli taking on defending champions Muharraq at 7.45pm.

The games will be played at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam. Both series are re-matches of last year's final four, when Riffa stunned Manama in a hotly contested three games and Muharraq swept Ahli in two.

All four teams will be hoping to book their tickets to the championship series, and have reinforced their line-ups with the signings of two foreign professional players.

Riffa have brought back Senegalese big man Mansour Kasse

to partner on their front-line with ex-NBA talent Josh Boone, both of whom have starred in Bahrain in years past, and will also be boosted by the return to form of star Bahraini forward Mohammed Kuwayed, who was sidelined for much of this season as he nursed an injury.

Manama have signed former NBA player Maciej Lampe from Poland, who will be suiting up alongside American Harvey Jerami Grant, brother of Denver Nuggets forward Jerami Grant, son of retired NBA player Harvey Grant, and the nephew of four-time NBA champion Horace Grant.

Al Ahli have brought in the American tandem of Dominique Sutton and Brandon Brown, who will battle in the paint against Muharraq's former NBA player Jerome Jordan of Jamaica and American Jaylen Bond. Following the Golden Square,

the league's championship series will then be held from September 20 to 26.

Livestreaming

The FIBA Asia Champions Cup Facebook page and the FIBA YouTube channel will be livestreaming all the league games, the Bahrain Basketball Association announced.

“We are very happy to see the return of the league in Bahrain after a six-month hiatus,” said FIBA executive director-Asia Hagop Khajirian.

“The Kingdom has one of the most exciting leagues in Asia due to the competitiveness of its clubs and the passion of its fans.

“With most leagues cancelled or rescheduled to later dates due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this is one of the rare opportunities for basketball fans in Asia to watch and enjoy live basketball.”