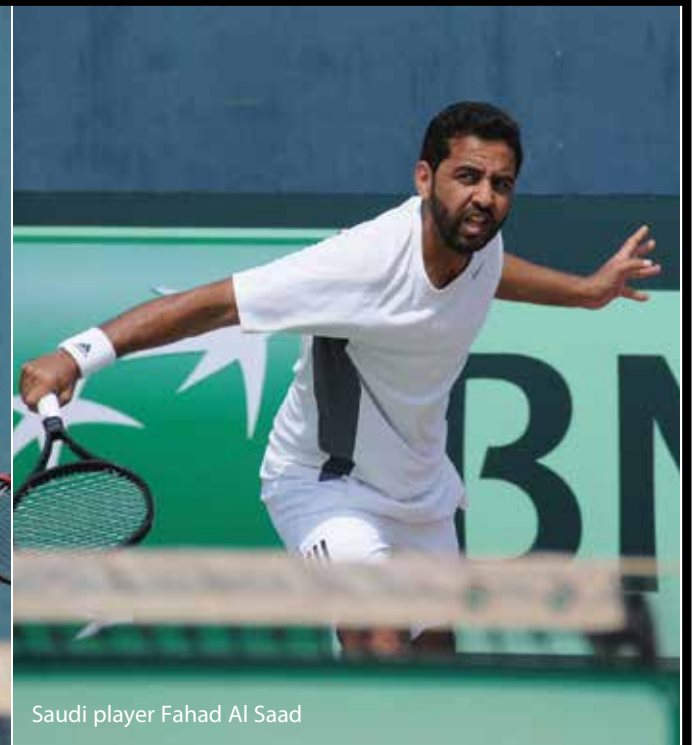


Davis Cup: Saudi beat Bahrain

Bahrain's Hassan Abdulnabi in action



Saudi player Fahad Al Saad

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Bahrain ranked 107th in the world lost 3-0 yesterday to Saudi Arabia (111) in the opening match of its International Tennis Federation (ITF) Davis Cup match in Pool A of the Asia/Oceania Group IV on the hard courts of the Bahrain Tennis Federation Courts at the Bahrain Polytechnic in Isa Town.

In the opening singles rubber, Saudi player Fahad Al Saad was a 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 winner over Hassan Abdulnabi in a match lasting nearly two hours.

The second singles rubber saw Saudi Ammar Al Hogbani beat Yousif Qaed in straight sets 6-2, 6-0, then the Saudi duo of Saud Hogbani and Ammar Hogbani in the doubles defeated Abdul Kareem Abdulnabi and Hassan Abdulnabi 6-3, 6-3.

In the other match in the pool A match, Cambodia (101) won 3-0

against Myanmar (120).

In pool B: Oman (122) beat Bangladesh (112) 3-0 as well as Singapore (107) against Tajikistan (123) and for Mongolia (126) an upset 2-1 win over Iraq (106).

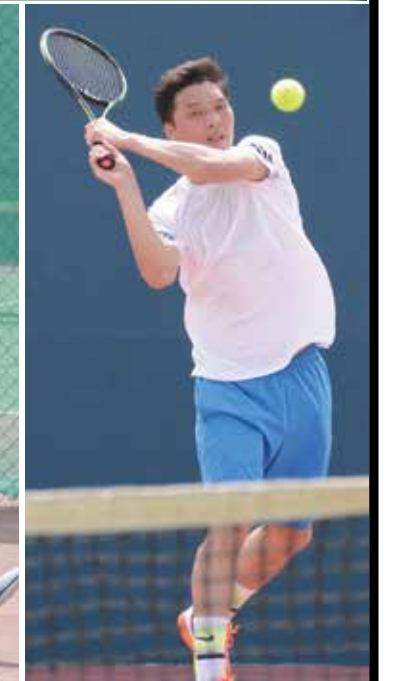
11 teams are playing round-robin in their respective groups with the promotion places decided by the winners of a play-off match between the Pool A winners and Pool B runners-up and the Pool B winners against Pool A runners-up to Group III for the 2018 edition of the Davis Cup.

Bahrain's team are coached by its non-playing captain and 64-match Davis Cup veteran Essam Abdul A'al and comprises Yousif Qaed, Hassan Abdulnabi, Abdulkarim Abdulnabi and Elyas Abdulnabi.

Bahrain first entered the Davis Cup in 1989 and have four times been in Group II of the regional zones.



Highlights of other matches



Industrial Bowling: Kareem victorious



The four qualifiers for the step ladder

Manama
Abdulla A Kareem of Bapco defeated Yaser Al Khan of Gulf Air 220-194 in the final match of the stepladder phase in the Bahrain Industrial Bowling League Masters Tournament Scratch, 2017 at Fun Land Bowling Centre in Manama.

The step ladder began with the top four qualifiers, with third placed Al Khan winning 195-168 against fourth placed Osama Khalifa Khalfan and then Al Khan knocked out second placed Emerson Gotencio from the Ministry Of Interior (MOI) 229-226

for his place in the final.

Qualifying results:

- 1) Abdulla A. Kareem (Bapco, 1,393 pins)
- 2) Emersom Gotencio (MOI, 1,387)
- 3) Yaser Al Khan (Gulf Air, 1,345)
- 4) Osama Khalifa (Banagas, 1,297)
- 5) Ahmad Al Khaja (Batelco, 1,294)
- 6) Ahmad Al Malki (MOI, 1,270)
- 7) Fawaz Abdulla (Batelco, 1,253)
- 8) Mohammed H. Janahi (Bapco, 1,238)
- 9) Mohammed Sultan (Batelco, 1,202)
- 10) Abdulla Eqab (MOI, 1,125)
- 11) Mohammed Al Murbati (Banagas, 1,090)
- 12) Ali Al Helofrom (Bapco, 1,066)

Wenger hopes Arsenal build on Man City draw

London

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger expressed hope his side's 2-2 draw with Manchester City will represent a turning point after an extremely testing period in the club's recent history.

Criticism of Wenger from angry fans escalated during a run of four defeats in five Premier League games that saw the club slide out of the top four.

But while uncertainty about his future continues to linger, he hopes Sunday's battling performance against City will help the team move on.

"Overall I felt it was a mental test and you could see the team was touched on the confidence front," he told his post-match press conference

at the Emirates Stadium.

"It will help us to rebuild confidence because the players felt that we showed some mental strength. That will help us come back to our natural fluency.

"Mathematically, for both teams it's not the best operation. But hopefully it will help us to restart now."

The result kept Arsenal seven points below City, who occupy the fourth and final Champions League qualifying berth, but they retain a game in hand. Fans protested against Wenger once again before the game.

An advertising van carrying a huge poster calling for him to leave was parked near the ground, while leaflets were handed out to supporters urging

them to join the 'Wenger Out' brigade.

But Wenger praised the supporters inside the stadium for throwing themselves behind the team.

"Despite all that happened, I felt our fans were fantastic," said the Frenchman, whose side entertain West Ham United on Wednesday.

"In very difficult moments in the game -- at 1-0 down, 2-1 down just before half-time -- our fans could have turned against us.

There was no update on Wenger's future, but in a sign he may be starting to think about life after Arsenal, he vowed to "always support the club".



Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger