

Riffa crowned HM the King's Cup champions

Jassim Al Shaikh, Komail Alaswad both on target for victors in second half to lift them past Al Ahli in tournament final



HH Shaikh Khalid presents HM the King's Cup to Riffa team members and officials



Riffa team members celebrate in the awarding ceremony with HM the King's Cup

● **Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first vice-chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee president His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa attends final**

● **Riffa claims seventh King's Cup title. Their last triumph was in 2019, which was also the last time they played in the championship game**

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Riffa were last night crowned champions of this year's His Majesty the King's Cup.

Riffa clinched the coveted title after outclassing Al Ahli 2-0 in the tournament final, played at the National Stadium in Riffa.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first vice-chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee president His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa was in attendance, along with other high-ranking BFA and club officials.

Both teams later received their respective awards in a ceremony.

Bahrain national team stars Jassim Al Shaikh and Komail Alaswad were on target for the winners. Both goals came in the second half, when Riffa proved their supremacy over their ri-

vals. With the result, Riffa claimed their seventh HM the King's Cup title. Their last triumph was in 2019, which was also the last time they played in the championship game.

Ahli were gunning for their ninth crown. Their last victory in the competition was in 2003.

Last night's match was tightly contested over the first 45 minutes, and neither team were able to break the deadlock despite having some chances on target.

After the interval, however, Riffa raised their level and threatened multiple times. Al Shaikh finally rewarded their efforts with the game's opening goal in the 56th minute, when he received a pass from teammate Mahdi Humaidan on the



Following their HM the King's Cup triumph, Riffa are in line to capture an impressive title double in the 2020/2021 national football season, as they are currently the leaders in the Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League

edge of the penalty box. Al Shaikh then unleashed a shot that flew straight to the left of goal despite pressure from the Ahli defence.

Both Al Shaikh and Humaidan were facing their former team, having both starred for Ahli in past seasons.

Alaswad then added Riffa's second in the 77th minute with a brilliant solo effort. He did well to create some space from his Ahli markers a few yards outside of the area, enough to be able to fire in a left-footed strike into the bottom-right corner of the net, far from the reach of Ahli goalkeeper Abdulla Hasan Aldawadi.

Riffa could have added a few other goals throughout the second half, but attempts from their other stars including Humaidan,

Mohammed Marhoon and Ali Madan were just narrowly off target.

Riffa's triumph in HM the King's Cup is their first major accolade of the 2020/2021 national football season. They are currently also the front-runners for the title in the Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Riffa qualified for yesterday's title-decider after defeating East Riffa 2-1 in the semi-finals, while Ahli ousted last year's losing finalists Hidd 5-3 in a penalty shootout.

HM the King's Cup is the richest tournament in Bahrain football. Last year's winners were Muharraq, but they were unable to make it past the quarter-final stage this season, where they were eliminated by Ahli.

BIC launches F1 ticket sales for vaccinated and COVID-19 recovered fans

● **Bahrain Grand Prix will take place between 26 and 28 March**

● **Tickets are available with a single discounted price of BD100 for tickets across stands for the three-day event**

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" announced the launch of ticket sales for The Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix.

To ensure that the event can proceed in a safe environment, and in line with Government health advice, tickets will only be available to vaccinated or COVID-19 recovered individuals.

The 2021 edition of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix will take place between 26 and 28 March and tickets are on sale now at bahraingp.com with a single discounted price of BD100 for tickets across stands for the three-day event.

Fans this year will experience the



Action from a previous Formula One race at BIC

excitement of being present at the first race of the 2021 F1 season, with the thrilling racing this brings, together with entertainment and extensive food and beverage offerings within a COVID-19 safe area.

Full eligibility criteria for those wishing to attend the race is available at bahraingp.com.

Comprehensive measures will be put in place at the circuit to ensure specta-

tors can enjoy the excitement of F1 in a safe environment.

Due to restrictions, there will be no Paddock Club or corporate lounges for the 2021 race weekend.

BIC Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa commented, "We are delighted to be able to launch our ticket sales today, once again giving fans the opportunity to witness the spectacle of F1. In November and December last

“We are delighted to be able to launch our ticket sales today, once again giving fans the opportunity to witness the spectacle of F1. In November and December last year, we had the honour to host our healthcare heroes as spectators, and we are pleased this time be open for a broader group of fans, with tickets available to buy for this prestigious first race of the season.”

BIC CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHAIKH SALMAN BIN ISA AL KHALIFA



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"I am thankful for all the support we receive from across Government in Bahrain and the coordination that makes Bahrain a successful F1 every year. I especially thank The National

Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus and Ministry of Health in Bahrain for their planning and guidance, which will allow us to offer a safe experience for fans.

"We would urge eligible fans to reserve their tickets now for the best possible seats to witness the first edition of F1 2021," he added.

For more information, visit bahraingp.com.