



Davis Cup: Bahrain go down fighting to Myanmar

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Manama

Bahrain ranked 107th were downed 2-1 yesterday by Myanmar (120) on the second and windy day of matches in the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Davis Cup matches 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, Myanmar's Tin Myo Wai defeated Bahrain's Elyas Abdulnabi 6-2, 7-5.

However, Bahrain levelled in the second singles rubber with Hassan Abdulnabi cruising to a comfortable 6-3, 6-2 victory against Aung Kyaw Naing 6-2, 6-3.

In the deciding doubles match, Myanmar duo of Aung Kyaw Naing and Phyo Min Thar edged out Bahrain's Abdulkarim and Hassan Abdulnabi after coming from a set down to win 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

In the other match Pool A match, Cambodia (101) won 2-1 against Kyrgyzstan (124) after a good start thanks to Mam Phalkum, winning the opening singles rubber 6-2, 6-1 against Farhad Urumbaev, but

Kyrgyzstan through Evgeniy Babak defeated Cambodia's Our Sarith in straight sets 7-5, 6-2 in the second singles rubber.

The tie was decided when

Today schedule (10pm):

Pool A:

Bahrain vs Cambodia,
Saudi Arabia vs Kyrgyzstan.

Pool B:

Iraq vs Oman,
Singapore vs Bangladesh,
Tajikistan vs Mongolia.

doubles partners for Cambodia's Bun Kenny and Mam Phalkum came from a set down to win 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 against Evgeniy Babak and Denis Surotin.

In Pool B action, Oman (122) beat Singapore (107) 2-1, Mongolia (126) defeated Bangladesh (112) 2-1 and Iraq (106) were 2-1 winners over Tajikistan (123).

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.



Qatar in talks to host Club World Cup

Doha

Qatar is in discussion with FIFA to host several major international tournaments ahead of 2022 including the Club World Cup currently held by Real Madrid, sources familiar with the matter have said.

The Gulf state could also be the venue for the Under-17 and Under-20 World Cups.

Sources say each of the three competitions are being considered by the Qatari authorities and football's governing body.

Potentially, all three tournaments could be played in Qatar in 2021.

The Emirate is urgently looking for test events to try out the multi-billion dollar infrastructure it is putting in place -- and which is reshaping the country -- for the 2022 World Cup finals.



Real Madrid are the current Club World Cup champions

Concerns about Qatar's fiercely hot summers -- which prompted FIFA to move the World Cup from June/July 2022, to November/December that year -- also meant football's governing body ruled out

playing the 2021 Confederations Cup in Doha.

On a trip to Qatar in February, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said Qatar needed rehearsal tournaments but at the time said

no specific discussions were taking place.

A FIFA spokesperson confirmed on Tuesday that talks were underway and that the three tournaments "are options which are all open".

The Club World Cup is held annually, and was most recently won by Real Madrid, who beat Japan's Kashima Antlers in the final.

The tournament is traditionally played in December, the same time of the year the 2022 World Cup will be played.

The U-17 tournament is held every two years, the next event taking place in India in October this year.

The U-20 World Cup is also held biannually, and the next competition begins in South Korea in May. (AFP)

Football

Scores as of closing

English Premier League:



Leicester	2	Sunderland	0
Burnley	1	Stoke	0
Watford	2	West Brom	0
Manchester United	1	Everton	1

English Championship:



Aston Villa	1	QPR	0
Barnsley	0	Cardiff	0
Brentford	2	Leeds	0
Brighton	3	Birmingham	1
Derby	4	Fulham	2
Ipswich	3	Wigan	0
Preston	5	Bristol City	0
Rotherham	0	Sheff Wed	2
Wigan	0	Ipswich	3
Wolves	1	Nottm Forest	0
Reading	3	Blackburn	1

French Cup quarter-finals:

Frejus Saint-Raphael	0	Guingamp	1
Monaco	2	Lille	1

Spanish La Liga:



Athletic Bilbao	2	Espanyol	0
Real Betis	0	Villarreal	1
Athletic Madrid	1	Real Sociedad	0

German Bundesliga:



Borussia Dortmund	3	Hamburg	0
Cologne	1	Eintracht Frankfurt	0
Werder Bremen	3	Schalke 04	0
Hoffenheim	1	Bayern Munich	0

Italian Cup semi-final second leg:

Roma	3	Lazio	2
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