

# Cambodia beat Saudi, finish on top



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Cambodia ranked 101 in the world defeated Saudi Arabia (111) 2-1 to finish with four wins from four and top Pool A as the round-robin matches concluded on the fifth day of action 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.

Both sides had qualified for today's promotion matches with Cambodia

comprising Kenny Bun, Samneang Long, Saith Our and Phalkun Mam, while the Saudis clinched the runner-up spot despite its loss and comprise Saud and Ammar Al Haqbani, along with Fahad Al Saad and Faisal Al Rebdi.

In the other pool match, Myanmar (120) edged out Kyrgyzstan (124) 2-1. Bahrain (107) had a bye yesterday after the completion of its matches and the squad of Hassan Abdulnabi, Abdulkarim Abdulnabi, Elyas Abdulnabi, Yousif Qaed under 64-match veteran non-playing captain and coach Essam Abdul A'al are set to play Tajikistan in the seventh and eighth match play-off against Tajikistan today at 11am.

Bahrain first entered the Davis Cup in 1989 and have four times been in Group II of the regional zones. Meanwhile, Singapore (107) and Oman (122) finished top of Pool B respectively following Singapore's 2-1 win over Iraq (106) and Oman's

(122) 1-2 loss to Mongolia (126), while Tajikistan was a 2-1 winner over Bangladesh.

Three sides finished on a four win one loss record - with Mongolia losing out due to its percentage of sets won head to head record and the other three teams had a one win and four loss record which also determined the final placings.

Singapore's squad comprised Shaheed Alam, Roy Hobbs, Hao Yuan Ng and Joshua Liu and for Oman, Younis Al Rawahi, Abdulla Al Barwani, Mohammed Al Nabhani and Zakariya Alsuleimani. 11 teams have been playing round-robin which concluded yesterday 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 today, along with three classification matches.



In pictures, players in action

## Final standings (win-loss):

### Pool A:

- 1) Cambodia (4-0),
- 2) Saudi Arabia (3-1),
- 3) Myanmar (2-2),
- 4) Bahrain (1-3),
- 5) Kyrgyzstan (0-4).

### Pool B:

- 1) Singapore (4-1-13/2-27/5),
- 2) Oman (4-1-12/3-25/9),
- 3) Mongolia (4-1-8/7-17/15),
- 4) Tajikistan (1-4-4/11-11/22),
- 5) Bangladesh (1-4-4/11-9-23),
- 6) Iraq (1-4-4/11-9/24).

### Today schedule (10am):

#### Promotion play-offs:

Singapore vs Saudi Arabia, Cambodia vs Oman.

#### 5/6th Place Classification:

Mongolia vs Myanmar,

#### 9/10th Place:

Bangladesh v Kyrgyzstan.

#### (11am): 7/8th Place:

Bahrain vs Tajikistan.

## Football

Scores as of closing



### Spanish La Liga:

Villarreal 3 Athletic Bilbao 1



### German Bundesliga:

Eintracht Frankfurt 2 Werder Bremen 2



### French Ligue 1:

Lille 1 Nice 2



### Major League Soccer:

Los Angeles Galaxy v Montreal



### English Championship:

QPR 1 Brighton 2



## Practice aborted in Shanghai

Shanghai China's notoriously murky air cut short practice sessions at the Chinese Grand Prix on Friday, prompting speculation of a radical schedule shuffle to prevent the race being scuttled entirely.

Smog and damp weather combined to interrupt morning practice and force the cancellation of the afternoon running without title hopefuls Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel logging any timed laps. Formula One officials

also said the race's medical helicopter would not have been able to land at a suitable hospital in the city, where poor visibility had caused a number of commercial flight delays.

With further poor conditions forecast, one option for organisers could be to bring the race forward from Sunday to Saturday as a precaution, while Hamilton offered an alternative suggestion.

"Sat program: 3 practice sessions, qualifying Sunday morning and then race. Who's down for the switch up?" he tweeted.

The three-time world champion, who alleviated some of the boredom by running over to the vast main

grandstand to throw signed baseball caps to screaming fans, added: "Seriously tho, this could actually be a blessing in disguise. A chance for new bosses to be proactive & be creative."

Hamilton later told reporters: "The track was absolutely fine and we could have run all day today with no issue if weren't for the clouds."

"It's not good for the fans watching on TV and even worse for all those people in the stands who have paid money to come out here from the city or even from other countries."

More than half the drivers got a crack at the boggy circuit during a curtailed morning running. (AFP)



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton shows his mobile phone during the second practice session