

Uzbekistan down Bahrain 3-0 in qualifier

WC hopes tumble



Bahrain National Football Team

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Bahrain's 2018 FIFA World Cup hopes are in tatters after Uzbekistan thrashed the hosts with four second half goals in a Group H qualifier last night as the halfway round of matches (four) in round-robin qualifying were completed at the National Stadium in Riffa.

The hosts, coached by Argentine Sergio Batista, were fourth in the five-team group before the start of play and needed a victory to stay in contention for qualifying

for the World Cup along with the 2019 Asian Cup, but things went disastrously wrong after a goalless first half.

Bahrain started with goalkeeper Sayed Mohammed Jaffar, defenders Abdulla Al Hazza, Sayed Mohammed Adnan, captain Hussain Ali Baba, Rashid Al Hooti, midfielders Sayed Dhiya Shubbar, Sayed Ahmed, Abdulwahab Al Malood, Abdulla Omar, forwards Abdulla Yousef Helal and Sami Al Hussaini and stayed on level terms against the Uzbeks coached by Samvel Babayon and captained by Odil Akhmedov. Things went horribly

wrong in the second half as Igor Sergeev opened the scoring in the 52nd minute, the skipper Akhmedov doubled the lead six minutes later, with further goals added Sardor Rashidov after 66 minutes and substitute Eldor Shomurodov in stoppage time.

The result leaves Bahrain fourth in the group with three points from its four games, while Uzbekistan who in four previous World Cup qualifiers against Bahrain had drawn and lost twice each are second on nine points after four matches.

Bahrain are next in action on Tuesday when they take on 'surprise team' Philippines at the National Stadium at 6pm, who are known as the 'Azkals' shocking group leaders North Korea by holding the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifiers to a 0-0 in the Kim Il Sung Stadium in their capital Pyongyang.

In Singapore, Iraq captain Younis Mahmoud rescued a point for Iraq with a last-ditch penalty as the former Asian champions drew 1-1 with Vietnam in Hanoi in the Asian Qualifiers for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

In other early matches yesterday, Singapore downed Afghanistan 1-0 in Group E with a 72nd minute header by Khairul Amri, while goals by Hassan Maatouk and Abbas Atwi gave Lebanon a 2-0 win over Myanmar in a Group G game in Bangkok.

Central Cafe win Indian Club cricket tourney title



Finalists with organisers, committee members

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Central Cafe won The Indian Club Indian Expats Seven-a-Side Softball Cricket Tournament by five wickets and two deliveries to spare after defeating Mangalore Boys in the Final match at its premises in Gudaibiya.

After winning the toss, Central Cafe opted to field and Mangalore Boys struggled along to 36 for five in its six overs.

Mangalore Boys suffered a blow from the onset of its innings and saw Najish dismissed without scoring, though opener Hidayat (8 of 5 deliveries, 1x6) and Imran (13 off 15, 1x6) helped move the score along to 13 for two in the third over and of the remaining batsmen, only Lloyd (10 off 8, 1x6) made any significant contribution with Sachin (two for four) the pick of the bowlers.

In reply, Central Cafe batted

consistently to stay ahead of the run rate as opener and man of the match Vasanth (22 not out off 19, 2x4) top scored as he played a patient innings with Sachin (5 not out off 5) in support at the end to secure the victory.

The trophy presentation ceremony was presided over by club president, Anand Lobo, treasurer Mahesh Kumar, cricket secretary Vijay Noronha, other committee members and invited guests.

Results (Semi-finals): Mangalore Boys 22-2 in 4.5 overs bt Indian Star 21 all out in 4.5 overs by 4 wickets. MoM: Imran (Mangalore Boys). Central Café 33-3 in 6 overs bt Spartans 29 all out in 6 overs (Fayaz 18) by 3 wickets. MoM: Sachin (Central Cafe).

Tournament Awards:
Best Batsman: Prashant (Spartans). Best Bowler: Imran (Mangalore Boys). Man of the Match in Final and the Tournament: Vasanth: (Central Cafe).



Action from the match

British Club win in Netball

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British Club A won a hard fought battle 17-4 against Rugby Club B on a humid and sultry night to win its second consecutive match in the second round of matches of the DHL Bahrain Netball League at the British Club premises.

The British Club comprising centre and player of the match Debbie Cochrane, along with Lucy Steptoe, Kate Cochrane, Emma Wales, Fifi Faiz, Martine Timmer-Arends, Paige Baker, SukyRaju and

Onika dominated the first quarter leading 6-0.

The Rugby Club team comprising of Nicola 'Boomer' McHugh, Molly Cramp, Billie Jo Englis, Kelly Kettunen, Sarah Hugo, Marianne Ballard, Sarah and Bridget, managed to get on the score sheet in the second quarter but still trailed 10-1 at half-time, then went into the final quarter 12-4 down.

Defending champions Rugby Club A maintained its winning ways with a 43-10 win over Dilmun Club B despite only leading 9-6 after the first quarter after a brave

effort by its opponent. Rugby then stepped up and led 23-6 by half-time and held a very healthy lead of 34-8 going into the final quarter.

Players of the match were Amani Al Asfoor the goal attack for Rugby and goal defence Natalie Myatt for Dilmun.

Other scores (players of the match): British Club B (GD, Tamsin Smith bt Sri Lanka Club (GD, Munira Adamally) 30-3. Dilmun Club A (GA, Olivia Watson) bt Dilmun Club C (C, Sarah Welch) 61-1.

Saleh and Al Omran top Monday Madness Golf



From left, Singh with winners Al Omran and Saleh

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Ali Saleh and Khalid Al Omran (34 points) won the fourth round of the Porsche Monday Madness Night Golf Series at the Royal Golf Club, putting them at the top of the series leaderboard with two competitions left to play.

Hilde Kwik and Dagfrid Berge (35) were runners up for the second consecutive week and are just a point behind Al Omran and Saleh in the order of merit, while Bijan Majidi and Ashley Price (36) took third place with nearest the pin side contests on holes 12 and 16 won by Ali Saleh and Andrew Raine respectively.

Around 40 golfers participated in the

two player betterball competition which was rounded off with a prize presentation ceremony in the Club's Members' Lounge where Sohail Singh, the Royal Golf Club's Tournament Coordinator, was on hand to present the prizes on behalf of Porsche Centre Bahrain. The series continues on Monday and is a nine-hole competition also open to non-members and tees off with a 6:30pm shotgun start.

Results: 1 Ali Saleh/ Khalid Al Omran (34), 2 Hilde Kwik/Dagfrid Berge (35), 3 Bijan Majidi/ Ashley Price (36), 4 Ebrahim Al Hashel/Eid Adel Meftah (36), 5 Marc Dixon/Barry Wearing (37). Nearest the Pins: Ali Saleh (hole 12) and Andrew Raine (hole 16).

Drilling, Marketing share points in Bapco bowling

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In a thrilling match, Drilling and Marketing shared the points in a 4-4 draw in the third round of the Bapco Interdepartmental Bowling League at the Bapco Club in Awali.

Top scoring for Drilling was Osama Khalifa (246) high game and (641) high series and for Marketing it was Ghassan Abdulla (260) high game of the week and (588) series.

In another match, Information Technology Department (ITD) defeated Public Relations 8-0 with the top scorer for ITD being Abdul



Abdul Latief Hassan



Ghassan Abdulla

Latief Hassan (234) game and (657) high series of the week and for Public Relations Abdulla Mohammed (206) game and (544) series.

Other results (player, game, series): Tatweer (Fahad Al Saii 217, 603) bt Production (Mohammed Al Murbati 200, Abdulla Murbati 563) 7-1. Projects (Hassan Kamal Hubaishi 232, Isa Akbar 608) bt Engineering (Abdulla Saleh 229, 654) 7-1. Refining (Hussain Ali 232, Jassim Ebrahim 560) bt Security (Nabeel Al Obidly 215, 567) 6-2. Land Management (Ahmad Buchiri 192, 584) bt Ladies Team (Nazeeha Ahmad 206, 555) 8-0.