

Manama edge Al Sadd in West Asian basketball

Bahrain league champions claim hard-earned overtime win against Qataris in Gulf sub-zone game of FIBA West Asia Super League

● Charles Wayne Garcia makes one of two free-throws with one second to go in regulation to force overtime

TDT | Manama

Manama eked out a hard-earned 99-94 victory in overtime over Al Sadd of Qatar in their Gulf sub-zone contest of the FIBA West Asia Super League (WASL). The game was played at the Al Gharafa Sports Club Multi-Purpose Hall in Doha. Manama's Charles Wayne Garcia made one of two free-throws with one second to go in regulation to force the extra five-minute session. There, the Bahrainis were able to pull away from their



Manama's Ali Hussain posts up against Faisal Nabil Abuissa

opponents with baskets from American Elijah Robinson and standout national team guard Mustafa Hussain to peg the final score. The result earned Manama their second win in three tries in their WASL Gulf group. They previously lost to Kuwait Club at

home after opening their tournament bid with a win over Al Nasr Riyadh from Saudi Arabia. Hasan Nowrooz led six Manama players in double figures with 20 points, while Hussain added 18 and Robinson 14. Lamonte Ulmer chipped in with 11 while Garcia and Ahmed Alder-

Muharraq rout Isa Town

Muharraq routed Isa Town 99-69 last night in their week 16 game of the 2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League, played at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam. The victors built a comfortable 28-14 lead at the end of the first quarter and then enjoyed their biggest advantage of 39 in the second half. They stretched their advantage with a 34-17 third period. American professional Tony Mitchell top scored for the winners with 35 points, while Bader Abdulla Malabes added 24 markers, firing in six three-pointers in the process. Oumar Barry had 25 for Isa



Muharraq's Tony Mitchell goes for a fadeaway as he is guarded by Isa Town's Jihad Ahmed

With the result, Muharraq claimed their 10th win to go with four losses, while Isa Town suffered their league-worst 13th loss.

azi finished with 10 apiece. Vander Lee Blue 11 had 27 points for Sadd while Babacar

Dieng had 23 in the loss. It was a tightly contested game throughout, with neither team

building leads of more than seven points. Hussain buried a three-point-er to beat the buzzer to give Manama a 44-41 lead at the half, and then they went up 65-60 heading into the final canto. Omar Mohamed Saad buried a go-ahead triple with seven seconds to go to give Sadd a slim 86-85 advantage, which paved the way for Garcia's tying charity shot to force overtime. Manama are back on the hardwood for WASL action on 23 January when they take on Nasr in the return affair at home. The WASL is a new basketball competition sanctioned by FIBA, the sport's global governing body. Manama are one of 16 teams in the inaugural edition. They are in Group B of the Gulf sub-zone alongside Sadd, Nasr and Kuwait. The Bahrainis will be facing each of the three sides in home-and-away contests.

Kvitova wins battle of Wimbledon champions at Adelaide

AFP | Adelaide

Petra Kvitova won the battle of Wimbledon champions on Monday at Adelaide International II, out-serving Elena Rybakina who has crashed early in two tournaments leading into next week's Australian Open. Two-time Wimbledon winner Kvitova beat the current All England Club champion 6-3, 7-5 in round one, exacting a measure of revenge. Russia's 23rd-ranked Rybakina won their first head-to-head meeting last year in Ostrava. World number 16 Kvitova never faced a break point in 86 minutes, while breaking Rybakina at the tail end of each set to move safely through. "I tried to play faster than Elena," said Kvitova, who won Wimbledon in 2011 and 2014. "She played really great (in Ostrava), it was a good match and I know that she's serving really well. "I was focusing on my serve and I was trying to wait for some chances to break her." There are two ATP-WTA



Petra Kvitova reacts after winning a point

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PETRA KVITOVA

Adelaide Internationals this month, with Novak Djokovic and Aryna Sabalenka winning the titles in week one.

Bahrain handball team wrap up friendly tournament in Spain

● Nationals now head for final lead-up to world championships, co-hosted by Poland and Sweden

● Worlds begin tomorrow, Bahrainis to play first game on Friday against African giants Tunisia

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national handball team have concluded their participation in the Torneo Internacional de Espana and are now set for their final lead-up to the 28th International Handball Federation (IHF) Men's Handball World Championship, which is scheduled to begin on Wednesday. The nationals lost all three of their games in the friendly tournament, first bowing to Argentina 27-31, then losing to hosts



Ali Issa, left, presents a commemorative national team shirt to Francisco V Blazquez Garcia, centre, in the presence of Bahrain national team official Ismail Baqer

Spain 21-34, before completing the competition with a 24-27 loss to Romania. At the end of the tournament, Bahrain Handball Association president Ali Issa presented Royal Spanish Handball Federation president Francisco V Blazquez Garcia a commemorative souvenir in appreciation of the hosts.

The Bahrainis are now headed for the worlds, which are to be co-hosted by Poland and Sweden. The nationals are in Group H, which will be played at Malmo Arena in the Swedish city of Malmo. Bahrain's first fixture will be against Tunisia on Friday. They then play Denmark on Sunday before closing out the first stage

on Tuesday next week against Belgium. The Bahrainis are one of 32 national teams from five confederations competing in the event. They have been divided into eight groups for the tournament's preliminary stage. After a single round-robin, the top three teams from each of the eight groups move on to the main round, where they will be divided into four further groups of six teams apiece. The other eight squads will vie for the President's Cup. Bahrain head coach Aron Kristjansson from Iceland has 19 players for the worlds. They include long-time skipper Hussain Al Sayyad, Mohammed Mirza, Ali Mirza, Jassim Al Salatna, Mohammed Abdulhussain, Mohammed Habib Mohammed, Ali Eid, Hasan Alsamaheji, Ahmed Fadhl, Mohammed Ali, Hassan Mirza, Komail Mahfoodh, Hesham Ahmed Isa, Qassim Qambar, Abdulla Alzaimoor, Mujtaba Alzaimoor, Mahmood Hussain Mohammed, Muntadher Ebrahim Ali and Abdulla Ali.

‘Frenemies’ Djokovic and Kyrgios to play practice match before Australian Open

AFP | Melbourne

Novak Djokovic and Nick Kyrgios will rekindle their bromance by playing a practice match before the Australian Open, giving the latter a chance to stretch his legs before the year's first Grand Slam. Kyrgios, ranked 22nd in the world and runner-up at last year's Wimbledon, has not played since October. He missed the United Cup and also pulled out of warm-up tournaments due to an ankle injury. Australian Open organisers



Novak Djokovic poses with the trophy after winning the Wimbledon men's singles final alongside runner up Nick Kyrgios (file photo)

said "tennis' most famous frenemies" will play each other at Rod Laver Arena on Friday. Djokovic had said last week

that he had discussed playing a practice match with Kyrgios, adding that the Australian wanted shorter sets. The pair were once at loggerheads and had a frosty relationship when Kyrgios labelled Djokovic "boneheaded" and a "tool". But Kyrgios defended the Serbian when he was detained and then deported ahead of last year's Australian Open, leading to an unexpected friendship blossoming between the two ahead of the Wimbledon final where Djokovic won in four sets.

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CHANGE OF NAME

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