

# Al Hilal win <sup>12<sup>th</sup></sup> King's Cup



Al Hilal celebrate their King Cup triumph at Al-Inmaa Stadium in Jeddah

**Hussain Al Maskati**  
TDT | Manama

**A**l Hilal came from behind to defeat Al-Khoolood 2-1 and claim their 12th Saudi King's Cup title on Friday night, adding another trophy to their decorated history despite a season filled with challenges on and off the pitch.

The match began in dramatic fashion as Al Khoolood stunned the favourites with an

early breakthrough just three minutes in, capitalising on defensive disorganisation to take a shock lead. The newly promoted side, who have enjoyed a remarkable rise since entering the Saudi top flight in 2024, showed no signs of intimidation in the opening stages.

However, Al Hilal responded well after settling into the game. Under head coach Simone Inzaghi, they continued with their structured 3-1-4-2 system, grad-

ually taking control of possession and territory. Their pressure eventually paid off late in the first half.

In the 42nd minute, Nasser Al Dawsari equalised after reacting quickest inside the box following a dangerous cross from Malcom on the right flank. Just minutes later, Al Hilal struck again in first-half stoppage time when Sergej Milinkovic-Savic delivered another precise

ball into the area. After a partial clearance, Theo Hernandez finished confidently to complete the turnaround and send Al Hilal into the break 2-1 ahead.

Al Khoolood attempted to regroup in the second half by staying compact and disciplined defensively, but they struggled to regain their early attacking momentum. Al Hilal, meanwhile, managed the game effectively and controlled possession,

limiting their opponents' chances.

Despite a late opportunity for Al Hilal to extend their lead, the scoreline remained unchanged, confirming their third King Cup triumph in the last four years.

#### Award Ceremony

The final was also attended by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who presented the trophies and medals to the players in a symbolic ceremony that

added to the occasion's significance.

While Al Khoolood's fairytale run ended in defeat, their journey to the final marked a historic achievement for the club.

For Al Hilal, attention now turns to a crucial top-of-the-table Saudi Pro League clash against Al Nassr on Tuesday, as the title race reaches its decisive stage.

## Bahrain 3x3 squads set for Gulf Games

TDT | Manama

**B**ahrain's men's and women's 3x3 basketball teams departed today for Doha to compete in the Gulf Games, which run from May 11 to 22. Both sides aim to maintain the kingdom's strong regional presence in the sport.

The women's team will be represented by Bayan Salman, Aya Murtadha, Shireen Abdulrahman, and Mariam Sameer as they prepare for a busy opening day of competition.

The men's team will be led by Mohamed Buallay, Wayne Chism, Austin Ajukwa, and Bogdan Dragovic; their campaign is set to begin on Tuesday.

Bahrain's men open their Group stage against Oman at 3:50 PM before facing the United Arab Emirates later in the day at 7:10 PM, in what is expected to be a demanding start to their tournament schedule.

The women's side will also be in action on Tuesday, beginning their campaign against the United Arab Emirates at 5:05 PM before taking on Saudi Arabia at 6:45 PM. Each fixture will be key in shaping their early



Wayne Chism greeted by BBA President Shaikh Mohammed Al Khalifa

momentum in the competition. Both national teams are guided by Serbian coach Bogdan Dragovic and Bahraini coach Murtadha Mohammed, a partnership that brings significant experience in 3x3 basketball. Their combined expertise and familiarity with the players are

expected to play a key role in preparing both squads for the challenges ahead in Doha.

With a packed opening day for both sides, Bahrain will be looking to start strongly and build early momentum in their pursuit of success at the Gulf Games.

## Martin surges to MotoGP sprint win as Marquez breaks foot at Le Mans

AFP | Le Mans, France

**J**orge Martin surged to victory in the MotoGP sprint race at the French Grand Prix at Le Mans on Saturday as Marc Marquez broke a foot in a spectacular crash.

Martin started eighth on the grid but raced through the pack heading into the first corner and then pulled away to win.

"I love this track," said Martin, who won both the sprint and the main race at Le Mans on his way to the 2024 world title.

Behind him, reigning world champion Marquez endured a nightmare day that ended in a violent crash on his factory Ducati. It left him with a broken right foot that will require surgery.

Marquez started on the front row but had slipped to seventh before losing control with less than two laps of the 13-lap race to go.

He put his left foot on the ground to try to regain his balance but was flipped over the handlebars in the opposite



Aprilia Racing's Spanish rider Jorge Martin (C) celebrates poses on the podium with second placed Ducati Lenovo Team's Italian rider Francesco Bagnaia (L) and third placed Aprilia Racing's Italian rider Marco Bezzecchi (R) after winning the MotoGP Grand Prix of France Sprint race at Le Mans, northwestern France

direction, sliding along the ground as his disintegrating Ducati cartwheeled just past him.

Ducati issued a statement after the race saying that an X-ray showed "a fracture of the fifth metatarsal in his right foot" and that Marquez, who is a distant fifth in the standings, would miss Sunday's

main race and at least one more.

"He will fly to Madrid this evening to undergo surgery in the coming days. He will not participate in the Catalan Grand Prix next week," said the Ducati statement.

Martin started from eighth on the grid but jumped to first early on his Aprilia.