

Saeed goal helps Shabab upset East Riffa



Action from Shabab's win over East Riffa last night

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Al Shabab stunned heavily favoured East Riffa 1-0 last night to kick off the 13th week of action in the 2019/2020 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Ali Hassan Saeed scored the game's lone goal to separate the two sides in the contest, which was played at Khalifa Sports City stadium in Isa Town.

After a goalless first half, Saeed found the net in the 59th minute with a low shot from an acute angle on the left of the box—an effort that should have been saved by East Riffa's Bahrain international goalkeeper Hamad Al Dossary.

Star striker Mohammed Al Rumaihi had a chance to equalise for East Riffa just two minutes later, but his one-on-one attempt on a quick counterattack was saved brilliantly by the Shabab keeper.

The result marked only the third win for Shabab in 13 matches this season. They

improved to 10 points on the league table and moved up to seventh place, while East Riffa were dealt their fourth loss as they stayed in fourth place with 21 points.

In yesterday's other clash, Manama and Al Hala played to a goalless draw. Manama improved to 16 points on the standings in sixth while Hala rose to six points in last place.

League action continues tonight with another three matches on the cards.

One of the games is between Muharraq and Al Ahli—a match-up that is widely known to local football fans as Bahrain's version of the "El Clasico".

The game will be played at Khalifa Sports City.

Also today, defending champions Riffa face Busaiteen at Al Ahli Club stadium in Zinj, while current league leaders Hidd go head-to-head with Al Najma at the Muharraq Club stadium in Arad.

All three games are scheduled for 7pm kick-offs.

Dar Kulaib clinch title

Dar Kulaib spikers win the prestigious Crown Prince Cup after beating Al Najma

● Dar Kulaib secure the title after dominant three-set victory over Al Najma

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Dar Kulaib were last night crowned champions of this year's Crown Prince Cup in volleyball.

Dar Kulaib secured the title after a dominant 3-0 (25-19, 25-21, 25-16) victory over Al Najma in a quick hour-and-a-half clash, played at the Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) arena in Isa Sports City in Riffa.

BVA president Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa and Bahrain Olympic Committee secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf were on hand to watch the contest, which took place with no fans in the stands, as per the requirements issued by government authorities in the Kingdom's fight against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

All health protocols were also followed for the safety of those



Dar Kulaib players and team staff celebrate with the Crown Prince Cup. Picture courtesy Al Ayam

involved.

Following the game, the prestigious Crown Prince Cup was lifted by Dar Kulaib's players and team staff in an awarding ceremony, attended by Shaikh Ali, Al Nusuf, and a few other BVA officials.



Last night's Crown Prince Cup final was a family affair, as brothers Yousef and Fouad Abdulwahid were on opposing sides as coaches of Dar Kulaib and Al Najma, respectively; while their other sibling Mahmood was a Dar Kulaib player

Najma also claimed their silver medals.

Dar Kulaib did well to get the match off on a positive note with a fine showing in the first set. They were then able to hold

off a Najma challenge and close the second set strong to take a commanding two-set advantage.

The victors then rode their momentum into the third, giving their opponents little chance to seriously threaten to extend the proceedings to a fourth set.

Last night's final was also a family affair, as brothers Yousef and Fouad Abdulwahid were on opposing sides as coaches of Dar Kulaib and Najma, respectively.

To add to that, their brother Mahmood also suited up for Dar Kulaib as a player.

Earlier in the competition, Dar Kulaib had upset league champions Muharraq in the semi-finals to book their tickets to the title match, while Najma overcame Al Ahli in the same stage. Both games went the maximum five sets before a winner was determined.



Action from the match

Stephen Loman completes 1000 days on top of the world at BRAVE CF

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The longest-reigning world champion at BRAVE Combat Federation is celebrating a milestone today. Stephen "The Sniper" Loman's reign as the Bantamweight titleholder started exactly 1000 days ago, on November 17th, 2017.

It was at BRAVE CF 9 that Stephen announced himself to the world of MMA. Coming in as an underdog against Gurdarshan Mangat, Loman shocked everyone by knocking out his opponent in the first round.

The win sent shockwaves through the world of mixed martial arts, and Loman instantly became a fan-favourite back in his home country of the Philippines. Before he could defend his throne in front of his fans, however, Stephen would go around the world defeating some of the best Bantamweight fighters in the world.

Starting with rival Frans Mlambo. A teammate of Conor



Stephen Loman celebrates after a bout

McGregor's, "The Black Mamba" was vying for revenge since he was defeated by Loman in both men's first appearances at BRAVE CF.

When the cage door closed for the main event of BRAVE CF 13, however, it was more of the same. Showcasing his complete and well-rounded mixed martial arts game, Loman dug

deep and dominated Mlambo throughout in front of McGregor and defended his title for the first time.

At BRAVE CF 18, in Bahrain, he faced off against the most dangerous striker in the division, Felipe Efrain. The logical step would be to constantly go for takedowns, but "The Sniper" wanted to prove a point. And he

did, with yet another stellar performance, standing up and only using his wrestling occasionally, he defended his belt once again.

It was then time for his homecoming. At BRAVE CF 22, he took on a former Featherweight world champion in Elias Boudęzdam and showed why he was the present and the future of Filipino MMA. In the most dominant performance of his career, he TKO'd Elias in the fourth round to retain his title.

His last fight came in November of last year, as he once again dominated his opposition, this time handing Louie Sanoudakis the first loss of his BRAVE CF career in India at BRAVE CF 30.

The Covid-19 pandemic has been in the way of his plans for 2020, but Loman has all the tools to continue making history and will look to get back to action at least one time this year. For now, we applaud the legend that is Stephen Loman, the biggest world champion in BRAVE CF history.

Bahrain Esport GT pre-qualifying event set

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Forty-eight drivers will today be vying for 15 places in the second season of the Bahrain Esport Gran Turismo Championship, being organised and run by the Bahrain Motor Federation (BMF).

The competition's one-off pre-qualifying event is scheduled to be held along a virtual version of popular Austrian track the Red Bull Ring.

The series' hopefuls will be divided into four groups, with the first getting the action underway at 4.25pm. The last group will then begin their session at 6.25pm.

15

qualified drivers will compete over five rounds in the second season of the Bahrain Esport Gran Turismo Championship, starting next weekend

The new season is being held under the patronage of BMF president Shaikh Abdullah bin Isa Al Khalifa, and is supported by Bahrain International Circuit, DHL and VP Racing Fuels. It follows the success of the inaugural championship, which wrapped up last month.

The pioneering electronic sports series features the Gran Turismo Sport video game for the Playstation 4 platform.

Following today's event, the 15 qualified drivers will compete over five rounds, starting next weekend. Cash prizes and trophies or medals will be awarded to the top three finishers of each race, while the overall championship winner will win an additional BD500, while second place will get BD300 and third BD200.

The series is being held within the framework established by the International Automobile Federation on Esports, which is growing in popularity due to the current times.