

# BFA confirms King's Cup final

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Football Association (BFA) confirmed that the King's Cup final will take place on April 24 at 5:20 PM at the Bahrain National Stadium, with Riffa facing Muharraq in the 49th edition of the competition.

The final adds another chapter to a rapidly intensifying rivalry between Bahrain's two most successful clubs. Riffa already holds a psychological edge this season, having defeated Muharraq in the Khalid bin Hamad Cup final in February. Their league meetings have also been tightly contested, finishing level in two 1-1 draws, and highlighting how evenly matched the sides have been across all competitions.

Historically, the two clubs are also separated by fine margins



Riffa players celebrate during last month's league draw against Muharraq

in domestic cup success. Riffa are chasing an eighth King's Cup title, while Muharraq remains the competition's most successful club with 9 titles.

Al Ahli also holds 9, underlining the significance of silverware in Bahrain's elite football hierarchy.

Both teams reached the King's



The King's Cup on display, inscribed in Arabic as "the most prized of cups"

Cup final through dramatic semi-final ties involving late twists and VAR controversy.

Riffa secured their place after a 3-3 draw with ex-holders Al

Khalidiya, eventually winning 4-3 on penalties. After falling behind early, they responded through Bader Al Asam and later took the lead via Rodrigo Yuri's

penalty. Despite twice conceding equalisers, including a late spot kick that forced extra time, Riffa held their nerve in the shootout to progress.

Muharraq also endured a tense route to the final, beating Al Ahli 2-1 in a heated "Clásico" despite playing more than 50 minutes with 10 men. Arthur Rezende opened the scoring before being sent off for a high-boot challenge, but Soufiane Mahrouk doubled their lead soon after. Al Ahli pulled one back and pushed hard for an equaliser, but a stoppage-time penalty was overturned by VAR as Muharraq survived late pressure to seal their place in the final.

With both teams having navigated testing semi-finals and separated by fine margins across the season, attention now turns to a final between the Kingdom's most decorated clubs.

## Bauhaus leads Bahrain charge on Limburg

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Phil Bauhaus leads Bahrain victorious at the Ronde van Limburg today, as the team targets a sprint finish in the 178km one-day race from Hasselt to Tongeren-Borgloon.

He is supported by Alberto Bruttomesso and Alessandro Borgo, while a young Development Team group also steps up to gain experience at World-Tour level.

Among them, Seth Dunwoody arrives in strong form after finishing second at Paris-Roubaix Espoirs. Meanwhile, Kasper Borremans and Mikita Babovich are expected to look for breakthrough opportunities, with Leonardo Consolidani focusing on positioning Bauhaus for the finale.



Phil Bauhaus

The 178km route presents a varied challenge, combining climbs, cobbles and exposed sections across Limburg. Key difficulties include the Kolmontberg and Zammelenberg, which are expected to shape the decisive phases of the race.

Speaking ahead of the start, sports director Enrico Gasparotto said the team is aiming to balance development opportunities for its younger riders with a strong sprint result for Bauhaus.

## FIBA 3x3 World Tour set for return to Bahrain

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The Bahrain Basketball Association has confirmed an agreement with the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) to host the FIBA 3x3 World Tour in the Kingdom for the fourth consecutive year. The event will take place on November 20-21.

The agreement continues Bahrain's recent run as a regular host on the international 3x3 calendar, following previous editions staged in Manama.

The event is being organised in coordination with the Bahrain Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Tourism as part of wider efforts to attract international sporting events and support tourism activity in the country.



Manama Finals at Bahrain Financial Harbour last November

Last year's edition in Manama drew around 7,500 spectators and was broadcast in more than 230 countries. It recorded over 3 million minutes of television viewing and 1.3 million

minutes on YouTube, with an estimated total economic and media impact of \$8.6 million, including \$2.6 million in direct and indirect economic activity.

3x3 basketball, which is now part of the Olympic programme, has been expanding globally in recent years, increasing its profile and commercial value for host nations.

# Manama Force Game 4 in League Finals

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Manama kept their championship hopes alive with an 89-83 win over defending champions Muharraq in Game 3 of the Zain Bahrain Basketball League Finals at Khalifa Sports City Arena. Last night's result cuts the series to 2-1 and denies the Red Wolves an early title sweep. Game 4 is scheduled for Friday at 7pm at the same venue.

Muharraq, coached by Peter Schomers and chasing a domestic treble alongside a fifth league crown, started strongly and controlled stretches of the opening phase. They looked set to move within one win of the title but were unable to sustain their early momentum.

Manama found rhythm through Donovan Smith, who has impressed since joining after a strong semifinal series while playing for Al Najma. He

anchored the offense with consistent scoring through contact, while Ahmed Salman and Emran Hasan provided steady support.

The opening quarter was tight until Muharraq broke away with a 9-2 run, sparked by Bader Abdulla and Mahmood Abbas Isa from deep, with Wayne Chism controlling the paint. Manama responded quickly through Smith inside, supported by Ali Jaber and Mohamed Ghazi.

Momentum shifted late in the first half as Manama punished turnovers and pushed in transition. Jaber's defensive pressure and Ghazi's perimeter shooting helped disrupt Muharraq's rhythm.

The key stretch came between the second and third quarters, when Manama produced a 25-12 run to take control. Smith dominated inside and on the boards, drawing fouls and finishing efficiently, while Jaber fueled fast breaks and Ghazi hit crucial



Manama's Donovan Smith looks to beat compatriot Wayne Chism

**Manama defeat Muharraq 89-83 in Game 3 to cut Finals series to 2-1 and keep title hopes alive. Can Manama force a decider, or will Muharraq seal the title?**

three-pointers. Muharraq struggled to reorganize defensively.

Muharraq responded late in the third quarter through Chism inside and Abdulla's perimeter scoring, with Mahmood Abbas Isa adding range. Still, Manama carried a 71-59 lead into the fourth.

The final quarter turned tense as Muharraq mounted a 10-4 run behind Chism, Nick West's second-chance points,

and Abdulla's shooting. However, Salman Ramadhan's side closed it out strongly. Smith controlled the glass and free-throw line, Alex Young hit a key three-pointer, and Ali Jaber produced a decisive steal leading to a fast-break finish. Buallay stabilized late possessions as Manama held firm.

Smith finished with 29 points, 14 rebounds, and 3 blocks to earn Man of the Match honors. He was supported by Ahmed Salman (19), Mohamed Ghazi (10), Ali Jaber (9), and Emran Hasan (9). Muharraq were led by Bader Abdulla and Mahmood Abbas Isa with 16 each, Wayne Chism with 15, and Nick West with 10.

Manama's defensive intensity ultimately proved decisive as they forced Game 4 in pursuit of a record-extending 26th league title. History remains against them, as no team has ever overturned a 2-0 deficit in the league finals.