

# Al Khaldiya win Bahrain Super Cup

Samy Frioui, Zahir Sulaiman Al Aghbari both on target for winners in single-game affair against last season's title clinchers

● **Samy Frioui sends ball home from face of goal off a short cross from the left of the penalty area**

● **Zahir Sulaiman Al Aghbari fires in fine left-footer from edge of the box to secure the victory**

TDT | Manama

of opportunities to go ahead. They had a golden chance just a minute before the half when Ali Hasan Saeed intercepted a pass by Khaldiya's Mohammed Adel several metres outside the penalty area. His ensuing lobbed shot flew over Khaldiya goalkeeper Sayed Shubbar Alawi but bounced off the crossbar.

Hashem Sayed Isa also had a chance but his effort went inches wide of the right post.

After the re-start, it did not take long for Khaldiya to take



Al Khaldiya skipper Ismael Abdullatif receives the Bahrain Super Cup from HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Isa Al Khalifa

control of the game with their successive strikes.

They opened their account in the 57th minute through Frioui, who tapped the ball home from the face of goal off a short cross from the left supplied by Al Aghbari.

Then, the very next minute, Al Aghbari strengthened their claim for the Bahrain Super Cup with a brilliant left-footed shot from the edge of the box that he fired in despite some defensive pressure from Riffa.

Those goals were enough to separate the two sides and earn them the coveted crown.

Khaldiya's win prevented Riffa from repeating as the game's winners. Riffa clinched last season's Bahrain Super Cup following a penalty shootout win over East Riffa. That result completed an historic treble last season after also clinching the Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League title and lifting His Majesty the King's Cup.

**A**l Khaldiya were last night crowned champions of the 2022/2023 Bahrain Super Cup.

Samy Frioui and Zahir Sulaiman Al Aghbari scored just a minute apart in the second half to help lift their team to the victory, which came at the National Stadium in Riffa.

Khaldiya clinched their first Bahrain Super Cup title with the result.

Present at the game and awarding the winners their trophy were Bahrain Football Association (BFA) vice-president His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Isa Al Khalifa and other BFA officials.

In the first half of last night's match, Riffa had a number



Al Khaldiya players celebrate with the Bahrain Super Cup



**Al Khaldiya's victory prevent Riffa from repeating as Bahrain Super Cup winners. Riffa were last year's titlists after defeating East Riffa in an exciting penalty shootout**

## Legend Federer hails 'incredible adventure' as he announces retirement



AFP | London

Swiss tennis legend Roger Federer is to retire after next week's Laver Cup after admitting yesterday his battles with a knee problem had forced him to call time on his historic career.

"The Laver Cup next week in London will be my final ATP event," he said in a statement posted on social media.

The 41-year-old winner of 20 Grand Slam titles has been out of action since a quarter-final loss at Wimbledon in 2021, after which he underwent his third knee surgery in 18 months.

"The last 24 years on tour have been an incredible adventure," he wrote.

"While it sometimes feels like it went by in 24 hours it has also been so deep and magical that it seems as if I have already lived a lifetime."

Federer has struggled with the knee problem for the past three years that has restricted him

**I have played more than 1,500 matches over 24 years. Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt, and now I must recognize when it's time to end my competitive career**

ROGER FEDERER

to only three of the 11 Grand Slams staged since the start of 2020.

His fellow tennis legend Serena Williams is all but certain not to play again after bowing out of the US Open in the third round this month. Federer said that his body had effectively told him it was time to bring the curtain down.

"I've worked hard to return to full competitive form," he wrote.

"But I also know my body's capacities and limits, and its message to me lately has been clear.

"I am 41 years old. I have played more than 1500 matches over 24 years.

"Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt, and now I must recognize when it is time to end my competitive career."

### 'Most fortunate people'

Wimbledon paid him a handsome tribute in keeping with him being a record eight-time champion in the only Slam played on grass.

"Roger, Where do we begin?" tweeted Wimbledon.

"It's been a privilege to witness

### Federer's records and milestones

- Won **20** Grand Slam titles, only behind Rafael Nadal (22) and Novak Djokovic (21).
- Claimed **103** titles, second only to Jimmy Connors' Open Era record of 109.
- Won **1,251** singles matches, second in the Open Era behind Connors' 1,274.
- Most consecutive weeks at world number one (**237**).
- Oldest player to hold the number one ranking (36 years, 320 days).
- Most Wimbledon titles for a men's singles player (**8**).
- Oldest men's player to win Wimbledon (35 years, 342 days in 2017).
- Never retired from a match in his career, having played **1,526** singles (W 1,251) and 223 doubles (W 131) matches.
- Only player to win two Grand Slams five consecutive times - Wimbledon from 2003-07 and the US Open from 2004-08.
- Only player to reach **10** straight men's Grand Slam finals (2005-06). He played **31** finals in all, one behind Novak Djokovic's record tally of 32.
- Only player to reach all four Grand Slam finals in the same calendar year three times (2006, 2007 and 2009).
- Holds the Open Era record for the longest winning streak on grass (**65**) and the all-time record on hard courts (**56**).
- Only men's player to win at least **10** titles on clay, grass and hard courts.
- Won **24** straight finals on the ATP Tour (2003-05).
- Holds the record for most titles (**6**) at the year-end Tour Finals, which only features players ranked in the top eight.

your journey and see you become a champion in every sense of the

word. "We will so miss the sight of you gracing our courts, but all we can say for now is thank you, for the memories and joy you have given to so many."

Teenager Carlos Alcaraz, the coming man in tennis having won the US Open last Sunday to become the youngest ever world number one, paid tribute to him as well with a broken heart emoji on Twitter.

"Thank you for everything you have done for our sport," Alcaraz said.

The Laver Cup team event in London will also give him a final chance to play competitively as part of the "Big Four", who dominated tennis over the past two decades.

### Reactions

Dear Roger, my friend and rival, I wish this day would never have come. It's a sad day for me personally and for sports around the world. It's been a pleasure but also an honour and privilege to share all these years with you, living so many amazing moments on and off the court

Rafael Nadal

Thank you for everything you have done for our sport

Carlos Alcaraz

Roger, Where do we begin? It's been a privilege to witness your journey and see you become a champion in every sense of the word. We will so miss the sight of you gracing our courts, but all we can say for now is thank you, for the memories and joy you have given to so many

Wimbledon

What a career, Roger Federer. We fell in love with your brand of tennis. Slowly, your tennis became a habit. And habits never retire, they become a part of us. Thank you for all the wonderful memories

Sachin Tendulkar