

### Al Hakam wins Ministry's Golf Cup



Sultan Al Hakam, right, receives the champion's trophy from Ayman bin Tawfeeq Almoayyed in the presence of Lt Gen Diab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi

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Bahrain international golfer Sultan Al Hakam was crowned champion of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs Golf Cup.

Youth and Sports Affairs Minister Ayman bin Tawfeeq Almoayyed presented Al Hakam the winner's trophy, in the presence of Bahrain Golf

Association (BGA) vice-president Lt Gen Diab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, other officials and players.

Almoayyed praised the great role played by the BGA in promoting the game of golf in the Kingdom. He highlighted the wide participation of elite players from across Bahrain in the competition, and congratulated Al Hakam on his victory.

### Musiala nets twice as Bayern Munich go seven-points clear

AFP | Munich

Teenager Jamal Musiala netted twice yesterday as Bayern Munich sealed a 3-2 win at Wolfsburg to open a seven-point gap at the top of the Bundesliga table which leaves the holders on the verge of a ninth straight league title.

Bayern bounced back from their Champions League quarter-final exit on Tuesday by racing into a 2-0 lead with early goals by Musiala, 18, and

Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting. Wout Weghorst pulled a goal back for Wolfsburg, but Musiala made it 3-1 at half-time with a towering header to leave him on four Bundesliga goals this season.

Maximilian Philipp gave hosts Wolfsburg hope when he flicked home a cross just after the break.

The away win could have come at a price as Bayern defender Lucas Hernandez limped off late on.

# Bahrain book berth in FIBA Esports finals

Bahrainis defeat counterparts from Kuwait in best-of-three semi-finals to advance to championship series in online basketball tournament

● Bahrainis to face Saudi Arabia in championship round

● Bahrain win game three after clutch three-pointer with 2.7 seconds to go

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Bahrain scraped through to the championship round of the Middle East Conference in the FIBA Esports Open III last night, following a thrilling 71-70 victory over Kuwait in game three of their semi-finals series.

National team character "||-Rodman-||", controlled by Jassim Ali, buried the game-winning three-pointer in the dying seconds to help lift the Bahrainis to their triumph.

The result made it 2-1 for Bahrain in the best-of-three clash. It was a comeback in the series for the nationals, who lost the first game 68-74 before bouncing back 81-62 in game two to level the semis series 1-1.

Bahrain now move on to face



Action from Bahrain's game three victory over Kuwait last night

Saudi Arabia in the championship, which is scheduled to be held today.

The Saudis booked their tickets following a 2-1 win over Lebanon in their round of four head-to-head.

In Bahrain's game three win over Kuwait, it was an exciting finish with both teams exchanging big baskets over the final minute.

Bahrain's "Clutch69gmer", controlled by Hussain Albanna, made two free-throws to give the victors a slim 68-67 advan-

tage with 22.8 seconds on the game clock. But the Kuwaitis were able to reply with a triple to take a 70-68 lead with just 6.2 seconds remaining.

That set the stage for Bahrain's game-winner with just 2.7 seconds to go for the one-point lead. Kuwait had a chance to steal the game but turned the ball over on their ensuing inbounds pass.

The other players for Bahrain in the game were "BlackCobra\_Z" controlled by Salman Sharaf, "Kampoop" controlled

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The online tournament utilises the NBA 2K21 video game platform, which is one of the most popular brands in all of electronic sports

by Yaqoob Seyadi, "Bu\_Mohd19\_BH" controlled by Ahmed Shareeda and "LL\_Rodman\_LL\_Rodman" controlled by Ali Alshowaikh.

The FIBA Esports Open III features 60 national teams from around the world. The online tournament utilises the NBA 2K21 video game, and it comprises six regional conferences.

Six teams are battling it out in the South East Asia, Africa and Middle East Conferences; while North and Central America have eight sides apiece. South America have seven teams while 28 are playing in the Europe Conference.

### Tsitsipas, Rublev in Monte Carlo final with maiden Masters title at stake

AFP | Monte Carlo

Stefanos Tsitsipas and Andrey Rublev will clash in Sunday's Monte Carlo final with both men looking to confirm their top 10 credentials with a maiden Masters crown.

With world number one Novak Djokovic and 11-time champion Rafael Nadal already knocked out and world number two Daniil Medvedev forced to withdraw due to a positive Covid-19 test, it's a final few who would have predicted.

Greek fourth seed Tsitsipas defeated Dan Evans, the man who stunned Djokovic in the third round, 6-2, 6-1 in his semi-final yesterday.

Eighth-seed Rublev of Russia, having shocked Nadal in the quarter-finals, beat unseeded Norwegian Casper Ruud 6-3, 7-5.

Tsitsipas has yet to drop a set in Monte Carlo this week and is through to his third Masters 1000 championship match.

He finished runner-up in Canada in 2018 and Madrid the following year.

"A lot of beautiful things happened in Monaco, for my family and I would really like to carry on this tradition," Tsitsipas said enigmatically, simply specifying



Stefanos Tsitsipas reacts during the match



**A lot of beautiful things happened in Monaco, for my family and I would really like to carry on this tradition**

STEFANOS TSITSIPAS

that he would say more on Sunday and that these "things" concerned his mother in particular.

The 2020 ATP Finals champion added: "I know I'll have to raise my level of play to the

limits.

"It's more about how much I want the victory. It's a question of pure determination, of willingness to surpass myself to get what I want."

The 23-year-old Rublev will now look to record his second straight win over Tsitsipas in Sunday's final.

Rublev beat the 22-year-old Greek en route to the Rotterdam title last month to tie their head-to-head series at 3-3.

On clay, they are 1-1 with Tsitsipas winning their most recent clash on the surface in straight sets in the Roland Garros quarter-finals last year.

### Bahrain Club through to Khalid bin Hamad Handball Cup semis



Action from Bahrain Club's win over Samaheej

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Bahrain Club advanced to the semi-finals of the Khalid bin Hamad Handball Cup last night following a 23-18 victory over Samaheej.

The winners led 13-8 at the half and did enough over the final 30 minutes of the contest to seal the result.

They now move on to face the victors of the other quarter-final between back-to-back league champions Al Najma and Al Ettihad.

The other two quarter-finals pit Al Ahli against Al Ettifaq and Al Shabab playing Barbar.

The final four will be held on Wednesday and Thursday. The date of the final has yet to be determined.

### East Riffa beat Ahli to keep title hopes alive

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East Riffa maintained the pressure on leaders Riffa in the 2020/2021 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League last night following a 2-0 victory over Al Ahli in their Week 15 clash.

East Riffa needed a win to keep their hopes of stealing away the season's title from their neighbours. Their triumph helped them close the gap to the top to just seven points with three matches still to play for each team.

Scoring for East Riffa in their win yesterday were Brazilian Yuri Jesus Messias and Pole Lukasz Szymon Gkiewicz, both in the second half.

Messias opened the scoring in the 70th minute with a strike from close range. Af-

ter Mohammed Al Rumaihi missed out on a cross from the right wing supplied by Luiz Fernando Correa Sales, who is also from Brazil, the ball found its way to Messias, who was just inches from the goal line. All he needed to do was tap the ball in past Ahli goalkeeper Abdulla Aldawadi.

Then, in the 82nd minute, Gkiewicz added East Riffa's second goal with a turning shot from inside the penalty box, that floated over the head of the opposing keeper and into the net.

With the result, East Riffa claimed their 10th win in 15 games and they improved to 31 points. Riffa continue to lead with 38 markers. Ahli suffered their sixth loss and stayed on 17 points in the bottom half of the standings.

#### Standings

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Riffa	15	12	2	1	15	38
East Riffa	15	10	1	4	12	31
Manama	15	9	2	4	10	29
Hidd	15	6	3	6	1	21
Muharraq	15	5	5	5	5	20
Al Ahli	15	4	5	6	-8	17
Al Najma	15	3	5	7	-9	14
Malkiya	15	2	6	7	-11	12
Budaiya	15	2	6	7	-11	12
Busaiteen	15	1	7	7	-4	1