

## Bahrain to face UAE in Davis Cup action



Bahrain's Abdulkarim Abdulnabi in action during their first match-up against Saudi Arabia on Monday

TDT | Manama

Bahrain take on the UAE today in their second meeting in Pool A of the Asia/Oceania Group IV event in the Davis Cup 2021, being hosted by the Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) at their hard courts in Isa Town.

The Bahrainis will be looking to bounce back from their opening day loss in straight sets to Saudi Arabia.

Set to take the court for the nationals are Yusuf Qaed, Elias Abdulnabi, Hasan Abdulnabi and Abdulkarim Abdulnabi. They are coached by Hesham Malalla.

For the Emiratis, Abdulrahman Al Janahi, Omar Alawadh, Hamad Abbas Janahi and Mahmoud Nader Al Blooshi

will be in action.

The UAE were winners of their first game, 3-0, against Guam.

Saudi and Guam faced off in yesterday's action, with the Saudis sweeping all three matches from their rivals to maintain their winning form.

Also yesterday, Iraq beat Oman 3-0 in Pool B and Cambodia edged Kyrgyzstan in Pool C.

In today's other matches, Turkmenistan and Mongolia go head-to-head in Pool B and Iran take on Yemen in Pool C.

Following the ongoing round-robin in each group, the top two nations in each will play off to determine the three national teams that will be promoted to Asia/Oceania Group III for 2022.

# Bahrain set up Morocco, Kyrgyzstan friendlies

Senior men's national team to take on pair of tough opponents in mid-November as part of their final preparations for the FIFA Arab Cup 2021

● Bahrainis first play Morocco on November 12 and then go against Kyrgyzstan on November 16

● National football team scheduled to hold latest training gathering from November 8 to 16

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Bahrain's senior men's national football team will play two international friendly matches in the middle of next month as part of their final preparations for the FIFA Arab Cup 2021.

The Bahrainis will first take on Morocco on November 12 and then go up against Kyrgyzstan on November 16. Both fixtures will be played at the National Stadium in Riffa.

The tune-up games will be a part of their next training gathering under head coach Helio Sousa, which will be held from November 8 to 16.

The nationals will then reas-



Head coach Helio Sousa...set for final preparations for FIFA Arab Cup 2021 (File photo)

semble on November 22 for the final lead-up to the Arab Cup, which will be held in Doha with a November 30 kick-off date.

The Bahrainis fly to the Qatari capital on November 26.

Morocco and Kyrgyzstan will give the national team a solid test ahead of their Arab Cup campaign.

Morocco are the 33rd-ranked

team in the world and are fourth-best in the Confederation of African football. Kyrgyzstan, on the other hand, are just a few places behind Bahrain on the FIFA World Ranking in 98th position and 15th in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

Coach Sousa is expected to announce his squad list for training soon.

The Portuguese tactician noted recently the importance of the upcoming Arab Cup to Bahrain's preparations for the start of the next round of qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup 2023. That will be early next year, just a little over a month after their campaign in Doha.

The FIFA Arab Cup 2021 will see the participation of 16 national teams. It will continue until December 18. Bahrain are in Group A alongside hosts Qatar, Iraq and Oman.

After the tournament's opening stage, which comprises four groups of four teams each, the top two from each group move on to the knockout quarter-finals.

For the Asian Cup qualifiers, Bahrain will be one of 24 teams from across Asia that will be



The upcoming FIFA Arab Cup 2021 will help Bahrain prepare for the start of the next round of qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup 2023, which will be early next year

competing in what will be the third round of the process.

The nationals have yet to learn of their qualification group. The draw is scheduled to be held in the coming weeks.

The competing teams will be divided into six groups of four to play home-and-away matches. The group winners and the best five runners-up across all groups will qualify for the Asian Cup, where they are joined by tournament hosts China and by the 12 teams which have already qualified directly from the second round.

## Muharraq set for AFC Cup Zonal Final against Kuwait SC

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Bahrain's Muharraq Club are set to take on Kuwait SC of Kuwait tonight in the Zonal Final of the AFC Cup 2021.

The match is scheduled for a 7pm kick-off and it will be played at the Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium in Arad.

The winner of tonight's game will play for the title in the AFC Cup 2021 Final, currently set for November 5.

Muharraq head coach Isa Sadoon Al Hamdani named a 22-player squad for the tie. The team list includes goalkeepers Sayed Mohammed Jaafar, Ashraf Waheed and Omar Sa-



Muharraq players warm up during training earlier this week

lem; defenders Husain Jameel, Waleed Al Hayam, Amine Binedi, Hasan Alkarani, Hamza Ahmed, Mohamed Albanaa and Rashed Alhooti; midfielders Abdulrahman Ahmedi, Abdulwahab Ali, Mahmoud Almaridi, Noor Alrawabdeh, Moses Atede, Abdulwahab Al Malood, Ahmed Sanad, Abdulla Al Hayki and Ahmed Al Sherooqi; and forwards Flavio Cheveresan, Ali Meftah and Khalifa Alkoos.

Muharraq qualified for the Zonal Final with an emphatic 3-0 victory over Al Ahd of Lebanon last month. The Bahraini representatives scored all three of their goals in the second half of the semi-final contest, with Atede, Ahmed Al Sherooqi and

Al Hayki all on target.

The AFC Cup Final will be played over one leg, between the winners of the West Asia Zonal Final and the winners of the Inter-Zone Play-off Final, which is also set to be held today between FC Nasaf Qarshi of Uzbekistan and Lee Man FC of Hong Kong.

Should Muharraq make it through to the title match, the game will be played in Bahrain.

Muharraq have won the AFC Cup title once in the past—in 2008 when they defeated Safa of Lebanon 10-5 on aggregate. They had also finished runners-up in 2006, losing to Al Faisaly of Jordan 4-5 in the final.

## Berrington's 70 helps Scotland beat PNG at T20 World Cup

AFP | Muscat

Richie Berrington smashed 70 to set up Scotland's second successive win at the Twenty20 World Cup as they beat Papua New Guinea by 17 runs yesterday.

Scotland, who shocked Bangladesh in their tournament opener on Sunday, are now on the verge of making the Super 12 stage.

Scotland rode on a crucial 92-run third-wicket stand between Berrington and Matthew Cross, who hit 45, to post 165 for nine after electing to bat first in the round-one match.

Fast bowler Josh Davey returned career-best figures of 4-18 to help bowl out Papua New Guinea, who have lost two in two, for 148 in 19.3 overs despite a valiant 37-ball 47 from Norman Vanua.

"You need to try and find one or two partnerships in a T20 to really give yourself a chance to post a decent score. Richie Berrington and Matt Cross played outstandingly well today," Scotland skipper Kyle Coetzer told reporters.

"Richie was obviously the man of the match and he has been doing that consistently for us over the last month or so."

The seventh-wicket partnership between Vanua and Kiplin Doriga, who hit 18, of 53 off 29 balls gave Scotland a scare in the last few overs, but Davey sent back Vanua to dim PNG's chances of a chase.

"Getting exposure, playing



Scotland's Richie Berrington bats during the match

**“We got just over par (total) on that wicket. At first, we didn't have a target in mind, and just wanted to get used to the wicket. Thankfully, we managed to get that big partnership which was quite key in the end”**

RICHEL BARRINGTON

more games and testing ourselves against quality opposition would be good. If we can get more exposure we might be able to express ourselves better," PNG skipper Assad Vala said.

"Scotland are a really good bowling team and they put us under pressure and we crum-

bled. The lower order brought us back into it."

Berrington stood out with his attacking batting to lift Scotland from 26-2 and a stunning one-handed catch off Davey to get rid of Simon Atai.

Berrington hit three sixes including one which was measured at 97 metres -- the longest in the tournament so far -- and six fours in his 49-ball knock.

He raised his sixth T20 half-century with a boundary straight down the ground after he lost wicketkeeper-batsman Cross, playing his 50th T20 international.

Papua New Guinea took six wickets in the last two overs including Berrington's key scalp and gave away just 15 runs but Scotland posted their highest total in the T20 World Cup, surpassing their previous best of 156 v Afghanistan in 2016.

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The winners of tonight's match will take on the winners of the Inter-Zone Play-off Final, which is also set to be held today between FC Nasaf Qarshi of Uzbekistan and Lee Man FC of Hong Kong