

SPORTS
sports

Bahrain set for tough India challenge

● Bahrain to face India today in Fiba Asia Cup qualifiers

TDT | Manama

Bahrain take on India tonight in their opening qualifying game for the 2021 Fiba Asia Cup.

The contest is scheduled for a 7pm tip-off at the Khalifa Sports City arena in Isa Town.

All are welcome to attend. Entrance will be free.

Bahrain and India are both in Group D of the qualification process along with Lebanon and Iraq. Following this evening's opener, the Bahrainis travel directly to Beirut where they will face off with their Lebanese counterparts on Monday.

Bahrain head coach Sam Vincent from the USA has finalised his 12-man roster for the upcoming pair of fixtures. He has dropped power forward Ali Shukrallah from national league champions Muharraq and point guard Ahmed Aziz of Manama.



Coach Vincent, right, gives instructions as he conducts practice alongside his coaching staff

The players who will be suiting up are Mohammed Hussain, Ahmed Aldurazi, Mohammed Buallay, Subah Hussain, Mohammed Salman, Mohammed Qurban, Maytham Jameel, Hesham Sarhan, Mohammed Ameer, Muzamel Ameer, Ahmed Najaf and CJ Giles.

The visiting Indian team includes two seven-footers in Amritpal Singh and Jagdeep Singh, both of whom are a towering seven feet, two inches tall. The rest of the squad features captain

Vishesh Bhriguvanshi, Muin Bek Hafeez, Joginder Singh, Prasanna Vankatesh Sivakumar, Sahil, Prashant Singh Rawat, Aravind Annadurai, Princepal Singh, Amaan Sandhu and Arvind Arumugam.

India are coached by renowned Serbian tactician Veselin Matic, who also formerly in charge of the national teams of Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Iran and Poland before signing with India.

Following their first two

games, there will be a long break before the Bahrainis next take to the court on November 26, which will be away against Iraq. They then play away once again against India on November 29. Their final two qualifiers will be held in February of next year, both at home against Lebanon and then Iraq.

In the rest of qualifying, Group A features the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea; Group B includes Tai-



Bahrain big man Giles with a two-handed dunk during the team's practice yesterday at the game venue

pei, Japan, Malaysia and China; Group C consists of Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Guam; Group E features Saudi Arabia, Syria, Qatar and Iran; and Group F is composed of Jordan, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka and Palestine.

Only the top two teams from each of the six qualification groups book their tickets to the Fiba Asia Cup, while the third-placed teams go to another stage of qualification, where another four final spots will be up for grabs.

BIC teams compete in 24-hour endurance race

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) fielded a pair of teams last weekend in the 24-hour final round of the 2019/2020 Bahrain Karting Enduro Championship (BKEC) at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC).

The squads, made up of BIC staff, competed in both the Nations and Corporate classes of the event, which featured a total of 14 competing entries. They raced on identical 390cc Honda-powered Sodikart RT8s.

The Nation team included Sara Kanian, Jassim Marhoon, Mohamed Juma, Ali AbuAlnabi, and Ahmed Falmarzi. They completed 1,067 laps in the race.

BIC Corporate featured Faten Amin, Royden Giles, Nigel Dias, Riyanna D'Souza, Amal Moosa, Sunil Chadhuray, Phani Shanker, Mecwyn Castelino and Donald Castelino. They finished the event with a total of 1,009 laps.



BIC team members celebrate their win

All the action took place along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre Commission Internationale de Karting

(CIK) Track. The action flagged off on Friday afternoon and concluded at the same time the very next day.

The 24-hour event was the

culmination of a hugely exciting season in the BKEC, which also featured three, six and 12-hour races in the opening three rounds.

The 24-hour event was the

Silva races to recover from injury in time for Real clash

AFP | London

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola hopes David Silva will be fit for next week's Champions League clash against Real Madrid after the midfielder was injured during the 2-0 win against West Ham.

Silva limped off in the closing moments at the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday after being caught by a crunching tackle from West Ham's Angelo Ogbonna.

Guardiola immediately asked Silva about the extent of the injury on the touchline and, while he does not think the problem is especially serious, there is still some doubt about his availability for the last 16 first leg in Spain next Wednesday.

"He told me that he felt

something. But I don't think it was a big issue," Guardiola said.

"I will know (on Thursday) exactly. He played really well and we will see in the next days.

"He told me he had more caution after what happened near the goal. We will see with the doctors."

City's trip to the Bernabeu has taken on added focus in the wake of UEFA handing the club a two-year ban from European competitions for "serious breaches" of Financial Fair Play regulations.

Unless City win their appeal, this season will be Guardiola's last chance to win the Champions League until the 2022-23 campaign.

David Silva

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Muharraq win semi-final first-leg against Manama

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Muharraq hold a one-goal advantage over Manama in their semi-finals of His Majesty the King's Cup in football, following a narrow 2-1 first-leg victory last night at the Khalifa Sports City stadium in Isa Town.

An own goal by Manama's Kumaal Abdulla gifted Muharraq the lead in just the third minute of the match.

Brazilian professional Everton de Mendonca then doubled his team's advantage in the 31st minute. He scored from close range following a fine cross by Nigerian teammate Prince Agreh from the right of the box.



Muharraq's Brazilian professional Thiago Augusto looks to make a pass as he is hounded by Manama's defence

Manama tried hard to fight back and they trimmed the deficit to one goal after Brazilian striker Vitor Gabriel tapped in a cross from teammate Issa Mousa in the 80th minute.

Despite their best efforts to find a late equaliser, Manama had to settle for their lone goal as they head into the return leg on the back foot.

Muharraq and Manama return to the pitch in two weeks' time on March 4, which will decide who punches their tickets to the tournament final.

The other final four clash is between His Majesty the King's Cup holders Riffa and Al Hidd.