

## Manama to compete in Arab clubs basketball in Egypt

● Bahraini representatives drawn yesterday in Group D of preliminary round along with Beirut of Lebanon, Al Bataeh of the UAE, Kuwait Club of Kuwait and Al Gharafa of Qatar

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Manama Club is set to take part in the 33rd Arab Clubs Basketball Championship, which will be taking place in Alexandria, Egypt from September 29 to October 9.

The draw for the tournament's preliminary round was held yesterday, and the Bahraini representatives were placed in Group D.

They are alongside Beirut of Lebanon, Al Bataeh of the UAE, Kuwait Club of Kuwait and Al Gharafa of Qatar.

There are 18 teams in all in the competition, divided into four groups for the opening stage. The top two teams from each group following a single round-robin will move on to the quarter-finals.

Group A features defending champions Al Ittihad Alexandria of Egypt, Blida of Algeria, and teams from Yemen and Morocco.

Group B includes Sharjah of the UAE, Al Yarmouk of Kuwait, Al Wakrah of Qatar, Ez-zahra from Tunisia and a team from Sudan.

Group C comprises Al Ahly of Egypt, Widad Adabi Boufarik of Algeria, Al Shaab Had-



Manama skipper Mohammed Hussain will be looking to lead his team in the Arab clubs championship (File photo)

ramaut of Yemen and Al Fateh of Saudi Arabia.

Manama have a formidable line-up featuring a number of top Bahraini players including skipper Mohammed Hussain, Ahmed Salman, Hassan Nowrooz and Mohammed Ameer, to name a few. They are expected to be bolstered by the professional pairing of Devin Ebanks from the US and former Serbian national team player Vladimir Stimac.

The schedule of the tournament will be announced soon by the Arab Basketball Confederation.

# Muharraq power into AFC Cup zonal final

Bahraini representatives fire in three goals past Al Ahed of Lebanon to advance to AFC Cup 2021 West Asia Zonal Final

● All three of Muharraq's goals were scored in second half by Nigerian Moses Atede, Ahmed Al Sherooqi and Abdulla Al Hayki

● Muharraq to next take on the winner of the other West Asia Zonal Semi-final between Kuwait Club of Kuwait and Al Salt of Jordan

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Bahrain's Muharraq Club barged into the West Asia Zonal Final of the AFC Cup 2021 last night following an emphatic 3-0 victory over Al Ahed of Lebanon.

The Bahraini representatives scored all three of their goals in the second half of the semi-final contest, which was a one-off affair played at Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium in Arad.

Nigerian Moses Atede, Ahmed Al Sherooqi and Abdulla Al Hayki were all on target for Muharraq.

The Kingdom's side now



Muharraq's Abdulwahab Al Malood in action against Al Ahed last night

march through to the regional finale, where they will take on the winner of the other West Asia Zonal Semi-final between Kuwait Club of Kuwait and Al Salt of Jordan.

That game is scheduled to be held today in Kuwait with a 7.30pm kick-off, Bahrain time.

The zonal final is scheduled for October 20, and the winner of that game will play for the title in the AFC Cup 2021 Final, currently set for November 5.

Atede opened the scoring for Muharraq in the 67th minute with a stunning goal. Influential midfielder Abdulwahab Al Malood supplied a brilliant

pass that released Atede and put him in a one-on-one with Ahed goalkeeper Mostafa Matar, who came charging out of the penalty box in an effort to make a clearance.

But Atede beat him to the ball and the Muharraq forward was able to flick it above Matar's head, allowing it to crawl into the goal unopposed.

The home team then made it 2-0 in the 87th minute and it was Al Malood who once again supplied the assist. He found enough space between two Ahed defenders to find Al Sherooqi in a dangerous position in the area, and Al Sheroo-

qi made no mistake with his low effort, slotting the ball past Matar.

Al Hayki then applied the final nail in the coffin in the second minute of stoppage time. Substitute Sanad Saleh made an impressive solo charge into the box before passing on to Al Hayki just metres from goal. His initial effort was stopped by Matar but Al Hayki was able to get to the rebound and tap the ball in.

Muharraq are now two wins away from claiming the AFC Cup title for the second time in the competition's history. The only time they won it was in 2008.

## Bahrain junior squad all set for World U21 Volleyball Championship



Bahrain national team players and staff with their counterparts from Brazil following an international friendly match played in preparation for the under-21 worlds

● Bahrainis to get campaign underway in Pool B of preliminary round against co-hosts Bulgaria on Thursday

● National team coached by Brazilian Issanaye Ramires features 19 players

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's under-21 national volleyball team are all set to get their campaign underway in the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship 2021.

In their first game on the

opening day on Thursday, they will be going up against tournament co-hosts Bulgaria.

The Bahraini squad, coached by Brazilian Issanaye Ramires, are taking part in the premier global junior competition for only the fifth time. The event is scheduled to continue until October 3, co-hosted by Italy.

The national team's squad competing in the event includes Husain Ehsan, Hasan Alaiwi, Mohamed Ali, Hasan Warqa, Sayed Hashem Ali, Mohamed Ahmed, Abdulla Ebrahim, Ahmed Mohamed, Hasan Abdulla, Jaafar Alhayki, Ramadhan Husain, Mujtaba Alshakhoori, Isa Yaqoob, Husain Ahmed, Ali Yusuf, Sayed Amin Ebrahim, Bader Husain, Ismaeel Almansoori and Mohamed Alali.

The Bahrainis have played a number of international friendly matches ahead of the competition. The nationals are in Pool B of the tournament's preliminary round alongside Cuba, Poland and the Bulgarians.

Following their game against Bulgaria, the Bahrainis take on Poland on Friday, before facing off with Cuba on Saturday.

There are a total of 16 nations taking part in the competition. The teams in Pool A include Italy, Egypt, the Czech Republic, and Thailand; Pool C consists of Iran, Argentina, Morocco and Belgium; while Pool D features Russia, Brazil, Cameroon and Canada.

Following the first stage, the top two teams from each pool move on to the final eight in

Pools E and F in the second round. The bottom two will play for the ninth to 16th places in Pools G and H.

That will set the stage for the last four, and then the bronze and gold medal games, plus the final classification matches.

Bahrain qualified for the under-21 worlds based on their FIVB U21 World Ranking. They were one of four teams to book their slots this way, with the others being Poland, the Czech Republic and Morocco.

The previous under-21 worlds was held in Bahrain in 2019. Iran won the gold medals then, while Italy claimed the silver and Brazil clinched bronze. The Bahrainis put on a spirited fight at home and took an impressive eighth place overall.

## Chelsea's Tuchel says Pulisic doubtful for Villa clash

Reuters | London

Chelsea's American forward Christian Pulisic is still recovering from an ankle injury sustained on international duty this month and Wednesday's League Cup game against Aston Villa will likely come too soon for him, manager Thomas Tuchel said.

The 23-year-old picked up the problem in the United States' 4-1 win over Honduras and missed Chelsea's 1-0 Champions League win over Zenit St Petersburg and Sunday's 3-0 victory over Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League.

"I think for Christian the game against Villa is maybe a bit too close. I hope I'm wrong but this is my impression," Tuchel, whose side did not have a shot on target in the opening half against Tottenham, told reporters on Sunday.

"He's not in training so far but let's see tomorrow. Maybe if he had a good progression today ... it's possible. It would be super nice for us to have him but for me it's a bit doubtful."

Chelsea improved in the second half against Tottenham after the introduction of French



Chelsea's Christian Pulisic warms up for a match (file photo)



He's not in training so far but let's see tomorrow. Maybe if he had a good progression today ... it's possible. It would be super nice for us to have him but for me it's a bit doubtful

THOMAS TUCHEL

midfielder N'Golo Kante to seal all three points.

The early pace-setters have 13 points from five games, the same as Liverpool and Manchester United.