

# Borges reaches Tennis Challenger quarters

Unseeded Portuguese stuns second seed Cem Ilkel of Turkey in straight sets to reach Men's Singles quarter-finals of Bahrain Ministry of International Tennis Challenger

● Nuno Borges teams up with compatriot Francisco Cabral to score a come-from-behind win over second seeds in Men's Doubles and reach round of eight

● Action continues today, the fifth day of play, with the quarter-finals of both the singles and doubles events, with the semis scheduled for Saturday

TDT | Manama

Nuno Borges pulled off one of the biggest upsets in the Kingdom's ATP Tennis Challenger being held at the Public Security's Officers Club courts in Gudaibiya.

The 24-year-old unseeded Portuguese defeated the tournament's second seed Cem Ilkel 6-3, 6-1 in stunning fashion in their round of 16 match yesterday.

Late on, Borges teamed up with compatriot Francisco Cabral to score a come-from-behind win over second seeds Indian Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan



Britain's Ryan Peniston with a backhand return against Geoffrey Blancaneaux



Turkey's Yanki Erel hits back to Japan's HJiroki Moriya

and Portugal's Goncalo Oliveira 3-6, 6-2, 10-6.

In the remaining singles matches, Turkey's Yanki Erel, Evgeny Karlovskiy of Russia, Ryan Peniston of Great Britain lived up to their billings to reach the competition's quarter-finals.

Erel then halted a late comeback from Japanese opponent Hiroki Moriya to emerge winner 2-1 in a closely-contested battle. Sets scores were 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.

Karlovskiy, aged 27, faced less challenge from Germany's Johannes Haerteis before picking up a convincing 6-3, 6-1 victory and a spot in the tournament's last eight.

The third match of the day

saw 26-year-old Briton Peniston edge Geoffrey Blancaneaux of France, also in straight sets 6-3, 6-4, to join others in the quarter-finals.

Five matches were held yesterday in the doubles round of 16 as Austria's Alexander Erlner and Lucas Miedler defeated Duje Ajdukovic of Croatia and Bosnia's Neriman Fatic 2-0 (7-6 [4], 6-1).

Saudi Arabia's Omar Ahmed and Saud Alhogbani retired as they went behind 1-3 in the second set of their match against India's pair of Arjun Kadhe and Ramkumar Ramanathan, who also took the first set 6-0.

Austria's Maximilian Neu-

christ and Michail Pervolarakis of Greece teamed up to win their match against Johannes Haerteis of Germany and Patrik Niklas-Salminen of Finland 6-3, 6-4, while France's Geoffrey Blancaneaux and Artem Sitak of Australia made progress with a tough 7-5, 7-6 [5] win over Turkey's Altug Celikbilek and Yanki Erel.

Action continues today, the fifth day of play, with the quarter-finals of the singles and doubles events. The semi-finals of the singles and doubles events are scheduled for Saturday, while the finals will take place the following day, the concluding day of the championship.

On his part, Bahrain Tennis Federation president Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa admired the steps undertaken by the Public Security Sports Association in bringing this world-class tournament to Bahrain for the second time.

"Everything here is running very well at the Officers Club courts and I would like to thank the Public Security Sports Association for the outstanding work they have done in organizing this international championship despite the challenges they had," said Shaikh Abdulaziz.

"All the facilities have been provided to the players, referees and even spectators, and I am so



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SHAIKH ABDULAZIZ BIN MUBARAK AL KHALIFA

proud for what the association has accomplished in making this event possible in all areas," added the BTF president.

"Such events also encourage national Bahraini players to put on more efforts and develop their skills at such world tennis competitions to bring their nation's flag high," further explained Shaikh Abdulaziz.

On her part, physiotherapy department head Sara Bahar said: "Here at the physiotherapy department we work on recovering minor court injuries of the players before and after the matches, in addition to using our facility for certain warm-up exercises".

"We also welcome 10 to 15 players every day for match preparation, in addition to some injury cases during the previous days of the tournament," said Sara.

## Joy to defend title in King Hamad Trophy golf championship

● Defending champion to be among field of 90 golfers from around the world, including 35 professionals

● Tournament to be played over 54 holes in three rounds at The Royal Golf Club's Montgomerie championship course

TDT | Manama

British golfer Luke Joy will be defending his title in the King Hamad Trophy golf championship, which is scheduled to tee off today at The Royal Golf Club (RGC).

Joy is set to spearhead a field of 90 golfers, including 35 professionals and 55 amateurs, who will be vying for the title in the tournament's 13th edition.

Joy has won the competition twice—first in 2017—and will be joined by a number of notable players, including former champion Jamie Elson, former European Tour player and holder of the all-time winning record on the MENA Tour Zane Scotland, and a number of leading names from Bahrain and across the region.

The competing field includes golfers from England, Scotland,



Luke Joy with the King Hamad Trophy after winning the 2019 tournament

Ireland, Italy, France, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, India, Morocco, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman.

The championship will be played over 54 holes in three rounds along RGC's 18-hole championship course.

There will be a cut after two rounds for the leading 45 players and ties.

Today's action is scheduled to tee off with the first group of competitors at 7am.

The previous edition of the King Hamad Trophy was played in December of 2019.

Joy clinched the title after storming back from six shots behind countryman Sean Towndrow to force a dramatic play-off. He then beat Towndrow by just one stroke to clinch the coveted title after re-playing the par-four 18th.

The tournament is organised and run by the Bahrain Golf Association.

## Fakhroo emerges overall winner in Tatweer golf event

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Abdul Elah Fakhroo emerged as the overall winner in the Tatweer Petroleum Medal competition at Awali Golf Club.

Fakhroo played a 77 gross and 63 net to clinch first place.

Aside from the overall top two finishers, there were also prizes for the first two in each of the three divisions, as well as for the best lady and the medal.

Finishing as overall runner-up with a gross 80 and 66 net was Vidhu Mittal.

The Best Lady award was claimed by Susan Scott with a gross 93 and net 72.

Meanwhile, the winner in division one was Saad Ali Al Binkhalil with a 71 gross and net 68, but a better back nine than runner-up Abdulrahman Abdulwahed Al Shaikh, who had the same scores.

In division two, the top two places were heavily fought. Nick Davis eventually claimed



Overall winner Abdul Elah Fakhroo with Awali Golf Club captain Susan Scott at the awarding ceremony

first place with a 67, nearly breaking 80. In second was Ateeq Yacoob Mujali on a gross 78 and net 67.

In division three, Zuzar Madarwala won with a gross 88 and net 66, while Roger James was the runner-up on a gross 87 and net 69.

Finally, the medal was won by Hamad Fares Al Qutamiw, who finished as the only player scoring under par. He played one bogey, two birdies and 15 pars in the event.

A total of 89 golfers took part in the competition, which was held in favourable conditions.

## Serbia motivated by 2019 Davis Cup heartbreak, says Djokovic

Reuters | London

World number one Novak Djokovic says Serbia will use the bitter memory of their Davis Cup Finals defeat in 2019 as motivation to lift the trophy for a second time this year.

At the inaugural Davis Cup Finals in Madrid two years ago Serbia were knocked out in the quarter-finals after Viktor Tro-



Novak Djokovic

icki and Djokovic lost a deciding doubles rubber to Russia. They actually had three

match points and on the last one Troicki poked a routine volley out as he succumbed to nerves and in the post-match news conference he broke down.

Serbia are drawn in Group F with Austria and Germany -- both of whom are missing their top players -- and will be fancied to reach the knockout phase.