

Al Malkiya Deal Blow to Al Najma's Relegation Fight

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Matchweek 19 of the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League continued yesterday with Al Malkiya producing a strong second-half display to beat Al Najma 3-0, while Al Shabab secured a 1-0 win over Bahrain Club at Bahrain National Stadium.

Al Malkiya 3-0 Al Najma

Al Najma controlled possession in the opening half and looked the more composed side on the ball, but they struggled to turn dominance into clear chances as the match went into the break level at 0-0. Al Malkiya, however, remained dangerous on the counter and grew into the game.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 61st minute through Ahmed Muslim, finishing off a well-constructed team move. Talal Al Sherooqi sparked the move with a well-weighted pass into Hassan Madan on the byline. Madan reacted quickly to cut the ball back across goal,



Al Malkiya's Madan celebrates after capping the scoring against Al Najma

allowing Ahmed Muslim to take a controlled touch inside the box

before finishing calmly to give his side the lead.

Just six minutes later, Al Malkiya doubled their advantage



in spectacular fashion. Hassan Isa intercepted possession in midfield before unleashing a powerful low strike from nearly 30 yards, beating goalkeeper Ammar Mohammed into the bottom corner.

Al Najma's frustration continued, and in the 84th minute Al Malkiya sealed the win. Abdulla Al Hayki delivered a cross from the right side of the box, and Hassan Madan controlled well with his chest before finishing to make it 3-0.

The result strengthens Al Malkiya's hold on fourth place, moving them five points clear of the chasing pack. Al Najma drop to 10th on 19 points and remain in the relegation playoff zone.

Al Shabab 1-0 Bahrain Club

At Bahrain National Stadium, Al Shabab edged a closely contested encounter against Bahrain Club, with both sides showing early intent in a balanced first half that ended goalless.

Al Shabab made the decisive breakthrough almost immediately after the restart, as a corner delivered by Nigerian winger Daniel Etor led to an own goal from Sultan Al Salatme. He inadvertently headed the ball into his own net while attempting to clear.

Bahrain Club responded with pressure but were unable to find an equaliser, as Al Shabab managed the game well to protect their narrow lead.

The victory keeps Al Shabab in 11th place on 14 points, while Bahrain Club remain bottom of the table in 12th on 7 points and continue to face relegation concerns.

Bruno Fernandes sets sights on Premier League assist record

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Bruno Fernandes is closing in on Premier League history after moving within one assist of the single-season record in Manchester United's 2-1 win over Brentford.

The Portuguese midfielder registered his 19th assist of the campaign on Monday, leaving him just one short of the all-time mark of 20, jointly held by Thierry Henry (2002-03) and Kevin De Bruyne (2019-20).

Fernandes, who has been in outstanding form, has now recorded assists in six of his last seven matches, underlining his influence as United's main creative force. Against Brentford, he was once again decisive, officially assisting the second goal in a victory that showcased both his vision and consistency in the final third. He also played a key role in the opening goal. His corner delivery to the far post found Harry Maguire, with Casemiro reacting quickest to finish from close range and score his ninth goal of the season, the highest-scoring campaign of his career.

The match itself was far from straightforward for United. Brentford created several chances after falling behind, while a possible handball incident involving Ayden Heaven was waved away by the referee. United, however, struck decisively on the counterattack.

Fernandes carried the ball



Fernandes in action during Manchester United's latest outing

forward before slipping a precise pass into Benjamin Šeško, who beat Nathan Collins with a sharp feint before finishing clinically to seal the win. The move further highlighted Fernandes' all-round influence, combining progression, vision, and final delivery.

With four matches remaining, Fernandes now has a genuine chance to set a new Premier League assist record. His consistency and creative output have been central to United's season, with his leadership continuing to define their attacking play.

At Old Trafford, there is growing expectation that Fernandes could finish the campaign with a landmark achievement that places him firmly in Premier League history.

Sharipov leads Bahrain beach wrestling run in Sanya

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Bahrain's beach wrestling campaign at the sixth Asian Beach Games in Sanya got underway yesterday, with strong performances across multiple weight categories, highlighted by Shamil Sharipov's run to the semi-finals in the men's +90KG division.

Sharipov's +90KG campaign began with a difficult opening bout, falling 0-4 to Iran's Amirhossein Kavousi by VFA (victory by fall, meaning the opponent secured a pin) in just 32 seconds. He recovered strongly in his second match, defeating Pakistan's Muhammad Gulzar 1-0 by VPO (victory by points after a full three-minute bout). He then secured another key win over Mongolia's Altangerel Chinbat 1-0 by VPO to progress in the group stage.

He continued his momentum with a 2-0 win over Nepal's Triloki Prasad Yadav by VSU (victory by technical superiority) in 1:04 to complete the group stage. In the quarter-finals, Sharipov delivered one of Bahrain's standout performances of the day, edging India's Jaspooan Singh 1-0 by VPO after a full three-minute contest to book his place in the semi-finals. His run ended there, however, as he was defeated 0-4 by Iran's



Shamil Sharipov in action during the group stage

Syedamirreza Sahraeimahali by VFA in 1:44.

In the 90KG division, Magomed Sharipov produced a competitive group-stage showing. He opened with a difficult 0-4 loss to Iran's Amirhossein Kavousi by VFA in 32 seconds,

before recovering with a 2-1 win over Singapore's Chow Weng Luen Gary by VSU1 in 1:08. He then secured a 1-0 win over Vietnam's Ngo Van Lam by VPO in a full three-minute bout. In the quarter-finals, however, he was eliminated after a 0-1 defeat to

Pakistan's Muhammad Inam by VPO.

In the 80KG division, Magomedrasul Asluev produced a strong group-stage showing. He opened with a dominant 2-0 win over Qatar's Saad Al Hammadi by VSU in 1:08, before narrowly losing 0-1 to India's Sachin Mor by VPO in a full three-minute bout. He bounced back with another 2-0 win over Sri Lanka's Wijesooriya Muddianselage M by VSU in 1:37 to advance to the quarter-finals, where he was defeated 0-2 by Iran's Ali Gholami by VSU in 1:53.

Elsewhere, Bahrain's wrestlers faced stiff competition across multiple categories. In the 70KG division, Alibeg Alibegov had a challenging campaign. He opened with a 0-1 loss to Afghanistan's Shahram Mehraban by VPO, followed by another 0-1 defeat to Japan's Yoshiki Yamada by VPO, both full-duration bouts. His final match ended in a 0-1 injury defeat to Saudi Arabia's Abdullatif Albakri (VIN - victory by injury), ending his participation.

Despite mixed results across the squad, Bahrain's campaign has been highlighted by Shamil Sharipov's run to the semi-finals in the +90KG category, alongside competitive performances from Magomedrasul Asluev.