

Manama aim to bounce back vs Kuwait SC



Action from Manama's opener

Bahrain's representatives seek first win in Dubai

- Heavy defeat exposes defensive frailties
- Daniel Hamilton must carry load
- Kuwait SC a dangerous test

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Manama Club face an important match today against Kuwait SC in the 37th Arab Basketball Championship for Men's Clubs, currently unfolding in Dubai. After opening the tournament with back-to-back defeats, Manama are desperate to avoid an early exit from the preliminary round. The tip-off is scheduled for 3pm Bahrain time at Shaikh Rashid Bin Hamdan Indoor Hall.

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Hamilton posted tri-ple-double last time out

over seven times. Hasan Now-rooz's 17 points, including five triples, and Subah Hussain's 13 offered glimpses of resistance.

Kuwait challenge

Kuwait SC have yet to face Manama in this edition, but the Bahrainis cannot afford another sluggish start. Defensive cohesion and execution on transition will be critical if they hope to reverse their fortunes. Hamilton's ability to orchestrate and limit mistakes will likely define Manama's chances.

Road to the knockouts

Only a win will give Manama a shot at advancing from the preliminary phase. The top eight match-ups for the knockout stage are already taking shape, with quarter-finals set for Saturday. For the Bahrainis, today's result could determine whether they fight for progression or face an early elimination.

Arab Cup 2025 set for Doha

Al Bayt Stadium hosts glittering December opener



- Four groups confirmed for draw
- Tickets priced for every fan
- Playoff ties decide final spots

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The cheapest tickets cost just 1.5 dinars

Doha will take centre stage when the 2025 Arab Cup begins on 1 December, with Al Bayt Stadium confirmed as the host of the opening ceremony and first match. Qatar will launch the competition against either Palestine or Libya, before Tunisia face Syria or South Sudan later that evening in Group A.

Before then, a qualifying round on 25 November will decide the final entrants. Bahrain meet Djibouti, while others include Palestine v Libya, Syria v South Sudan, Oman v Somalia, and Yemen v Comoros. The winners will complete the 16-nation lineup.

Group A features hosts Qatar, Tunisia, and two playoff winners. Group B contains Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and the victors of Oman/Somalia and Yemen/Comoros. Group

C boasts Egypt, Jordan, UAE, and Kuwait/Mauritania, while Group D is headlined by Algeria and Iraq alongside Bahrain/Djibouti and Lebanon/Sudan.

Organisers have confirmed an accessible ticketing structure. Group and quarter-final matches start from just 1.5 dinars, rising to 6 dinars for the top category. Semi-finals range from 4 to 10 dinars, while the opening match and final are priced at 4 to 20 dinars. Packages are also on offer: the "Support Your Team" bundle runs between 7.5 and 18 dinars, while a semi-final-final pass tops out at 30 dinars. Sales open tomorrow at 3pm.

The top two sides from each group advance to the quarter-finals, leading to the final on 18 December.

Riffa bow out in Shanghai semi-finals

Hangzhou capitalise as Riffa stumble under pressure

- Foul trouble proves decisive
- Donkor drives Riffa forward
- Hosts seal it late

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Riffa's impressive run at the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Shanghai Masters ended yesterday with a 20-16 semi-final loss to hosts Hangzhou.

Strong start, costly fouls

Having knocked out Raudondvaris Hoptrans of Lithuania 21-18 in the quarter-finals, Riffa entered the last four brimming with belief. That confidence showed early as Jonas Foerts drilled a pair of outside shots and Milos Antic controlled the glass, helping them trade blows with the Chinese side.

But as the game tightened, foul trouble shifted the balance. Riffa committed 11 team fouls, sending Hangzhou to the line repeatedly down the stretch. Miloš Jovanovic made them pay, scoring eight points including six from the stripe, while Filip Kaluderovic added another eight to push the hosts through.



Riffa's Foerts (L) goes for a jump shot

Quarter-final brilliance

Donkor once again led Riffa with six points, Antic added five with a bruising inside display, Foerts chipped in four, and Van Oosterwyck scored one. Yet every time Riffa threatened to seize momentum — Donkor's driving finish to cut it to 17-16 with

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Hangzhou scored 12 points from free throws

23 seconds left, for example — Hangzhou responded. Kaluderovic iced the contest with three straight free throws in the final seconds.

Earlier in the day, Riffa had displayed their best basketball in the win over Raudondvaris. Donkor poured in eight points, Antic dominated the boards with five rebounds, and Foerts scored five including a key two-pointer late. A 6-2 run in the closing minutes sealed their place in the semi-finals, marking one of the club's finest performances on the World Tour stage.

Though their Shanghai campaign ended short of the final, Riffa leave with renewed credibility, proving they can compete with Europe's elite and Asia's best. With the World Tour finale set for Manama in November, the Bahrainis will have another chance to test themselves, and this time on home soil.

Pogacar defends cycling world title with solo run

AFP | Kigali

Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar won an epic men's road race at the cycling world championships yesterday going solo from 66km out in the 267km slog over the hills around Kigali.

Defending his 2024 title the 27-year-old finished 1min 28sec ahead of the Olympic champion Belgian Remco Evenepoel, who crossed the line with his head down after a mid-race mechanical.

Ireland's 2025 breakout star Ben Healy took bronze over the balmy, 1500m altitude course leading the chase to catch Pogacar over the 33 hills and earning a place on the podium at 2min



Tadej Pogacar celebrates as he crosses the finish line

16sec.

Just as impressive was Paul Seixas, the 19-year-old French-

man tipped as a future he Tour de France winner, who came in 13th on a day where officials said crowds of around one million turned out for the final day of the week long worlds, the first ever on African soil.

The course was made up of 15 loops around the city with two climbs and one longer, even harder loop with an extra cobbled climb.

Pogacar broke away with Mexican Isaac del Toro and Spain's Juan Ayuso, who were both on the books of Team UAE this season.

Pogacar was a man transformed just a week after a humiliation in the time-trial where he was overtaken by Evenepoel who started 2min 30sec later than him.