

## Mominul, Das build Bangladesh lead before Boult fights back



Bangladesh's captain Mominul Haque, right, with team mate Liton Das walk onto the field after tea

AFP | Wellington

Mominul Haque and Liton Das led Bangladesh to a historic first innings lead over New Zealand in the first Test on Monday before both fell to Trent Boult in a dramatic final session at Mount Maunganui.

At stumps on day three Bangladesh were 401 for six in reply to New Zealand's 328, a lead of 73 with four wickets in hand.

They had reached 361 for four before Boult ended a 158-run stand with the wicket of Mominul for 88, followed 11 deliveries later by Das for 86.

"It looks like it might go down to the wire," Boult said as the Bangladesh players left the field talking of extending their innings towards 500.

"The game's pretty well poised. Test matches which have been played here have gone late into day five ... and probably we'll be bowling last," Boult said.

"I presume Bangladesh want to bat once and bat big and put a lot of pressure on us."

**”**  
The boys really got stuck in. We had a good day yesterday but we had to follow it up with another good day and the guys did exactly that

BANGLADESH BATTING COACH ASHWELL PRINCE

It is the first time Bangladesh have taken a first-innings lead batting second outside of Asia.

They led New Zealand at Wellington four years ago when batting first, although a disastrous second innings saw them lose that Test by seven wickets.

It has been an exceptional Test for Mominul, a part-time spinning option who dismissed New Zealand's top two run-scorers Devon Conway and Henry Nicholls and then batted through 244 deliveries as he notched his 15th Test half-century.

## Manama reclaim league top spot

Mohamed Yahya Al Hallak scores brace, Mahdi Abduljabbar adds third in resounding 3-0 victory over AFC Cup champions Muharraq in Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League

● Manama claim fifth win in eight matches to improve to 18 points for first place

● Hidd and Al Ahli play to goalless stalemate in last night's other match

TDI | Manama

Manama returned to the top of the table in the 2021/2022 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League last night following a resounding 3-0 victory over AFC Cup champions Muharraq at the National Stadium in Riffa.

Mohamed Yahya Al Hallak fired in a brace in a three-goal first half while also supplying the assist for teammate Mahdi Abduljabbar who scored their third.

The match was part of the first day of the league's eighth week of action.

Manama's win was their fifth of the season as they improved to 18 points, leapfrogging former leaders and defending back-to-back champions Riffa to the top spot. Riffa, however, have a game in hand and are in action tomorrow.

For Muharraq, it was their third loss in seven games as they stayed on eight markers.

Al Hallak opened Manama's account with a brilliant solo



Manama's Mahdi Abduljabbar, left, battles for possession with Muharraq's Mohamed Ali Husain

effort in the 33rd minute. He rounded Muharraq's Noor Aldeen Al Rawabdeh in the box and then fired in with a low effort from an acute angle.

Ten minutes later, Manama made it two. Muharraq failed to clear Abduljabbar's lob pass

to Al Hallak into the box, with Amine Binedi mistiming his kick. Al Hallak took full advantage in his one-on-one with Muharraq goalkeeper Sayed Mohammed Jaafar, and sent the ball home from close range.

Then in the third minute of

### Standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Manama	8	5	3	0	8	18
Riffa	7	5	2	0	8	17
East Riffa	7	2	3	2	1	9
Al Khaldiya	7	2	3	2	1	9
Muharraq	7	2	2	3	1	8
Hidd	8	1	5	2	-1	8
Al Hala	6	2	2	2	-2	8
Al Najma	7	1	3	3	-5	6
Budaiya	7	1	2	4	-4	5
Al Ahli	8	0	5	3	-7	5

**BETTER YOU KNOW**  
Mohamed Yahya Al Hallak scored two goals for Manama against Muharraq last night and also provided the assist that led to their third goal

first-half stoppage time, Abduljabbar gave Manama the 3-0 lead, with Al Hallak this time providing the assist. His precision cross from the edge of the area found an unmarked Abduljabbar, who needed only to tap the ball home in the face of goal.

In yesterday's other match at the same venue, Hidd and Al Ahli played to a goalless draw.

The two clubs took a share of the points but remained in the bottom half of the standings. Hidd went to eight points following their fifth draw in sixth place, while Ahli stayed last overall following their fifth draw, earning them five points.

League action continues tonight with Al Khaldiya playing Al Hala at 5.45pm, followed by Al Najma taking on East Riffa at 8.20pm. Tomorrow, defending champions Riffa go head-to-head with Budaiya.

## Bahrain handball team in Hungary camp

● Eighteen-player squad currently training for 2022 Asian Men's Handball Championship later this month

TDI | Manama

An 18-player Bahrain senior men's national handball team are currently in Hungary for an overseas training camp being held as part of their preparations for the 2022 Asian Men's Handball Championship.

The squad is coached by Icelandic tactician Aron Kristjansson, and it is spearheaded by skipper Hussain Al Sayyad. The other players include Mohammed Abdulhussain, Mohammed Mirza, Bilal Basham, Ali Eid, Mahdi Saad, Mohammed Habib Nasser, Hassan Al Samahiji, Mohammed Ali Abdulredha, Abdulla Ali, Hussain Mahfouz, Mohammed Habib, Ahmed Al Maqabi, Ali Mirza, Ali Abdulqader, Ahmed Jalal, Qasim Qambar (Barbar) and Hisham Ahmed Issa.

The Bahrainis are in Group D for the continental championship alongside Uzbekistan, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Japan. There are 17 national teams in all in the fray, and games will be played in the Saudi cities of Dammam and Qatif.

The competition also acts as a continental qualifying event for the world championship



Bahrain players during training in Hungary

**BETTER YOU KNOW**

2022 Asian Men's Handball Championship also acts as a continental qualifying event for the world championship in 2023

in 2023.

Bahrain open their campaign against the Uzbeks on January 18. They then face their counterparts from Hong Kong on January 19, before taking on Vietnam the next day. They then have a rest day on January 21

and then play their last group match against Japan the following evening.

Bahrain must finish in the top two in their group to make it through to the main round. The bottom three squads face off in the consolation bracket for the Martyr Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah Cup.

Group A comprises South Korea, Kuwait, Jordan and Singapore; Group B features hosts Saudi, Iran, Australia and India; and Group C consists of defending champions Qatar, the UAE, Iraq and Oman.

In the previous Asian championship held in January of 2020, the Bahrainis finished fourth overall. Bahrain have never won the title, but were runners-up four times in the last six editions and bronze-medalists once.

## Sakkari battles past Zidasek to open WTA season in Adelaide



Maria Sakkari  
AFP | Adelaide

World number six Maria Sakkari battled past Slovenia's Tamara Zidasek in three sets to reach the second round of the Adelaide International on Monday and kick off the new WTA season.

The 26-year-old Greek was kept on court for just over two hours before seeing off Zidasek 6-2, 0-6, 6-4.

Third seed Sakkari, who broke into the top 10 in November, admitted she had been well below her best as she warms up for the Australian Open later this month.

"I didn't feel great to be perfectly honest," she said.

"It wasn't a good match from my side but I found a way through it, which sometimes is enough, and I'm excited to be in the second round."

Sakkari looked to be in complete control when she won the first set, only for Zidasek to storm back and win the second to love.

## Jansen grabs four as India struggle on first day of second Test

AFP | Cape Town

Four years after impressing Indian captain Virat Kohli as a net bowler, Marco Jansen produced a destructive spell of bowling for South Africa on the first day of the second Test at the Wanderers Stadium on Monday.

Jansen, 21, a tall left-arm fast bowler, took four for 31 as India were bowled out for 202 after winning the toss.

South Africa were 35 for one at the close.

Kohli was one of Jansen's five wickets on debut in the first Test in Centurion, which India won by 113 runs but was



Marco Jansen celebrates a wicket absent on Monday because of an upper back spasm.

Stand-in captain KL Rahul top-scored with a patient 50, while Ravichandran Ashwin made a hard-hit 46.

Jansen, who towers above most of his teammates at 2.03 metres, made the most of the steep bounce on offer at the Wanderers, troubling most of the batsmen with his pace and bounce.

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