

# Riffa capture last-gasp win

Ali Hassan Saeed scores in 87th minute in victory over Manama in 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League

● **Ebrahim Al Khattal misses first-half penalty for Manama**

● **Busaiteen and Al Shabab play to a 1-1 stalemate**

TDI | Manama

Leaders Riffa escaped with a last-gasp 1-0 victory over Manama last night in the 11th week of action in the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Bahrain national team player Ali Hassan Saeed scored the winner three minutes from full-time after it appeared that the two title hopefuls were headed for a share of the points.

Also yesterday, Al Shabab and Busaiteen played to a 1-1 stalemate in a game between two of



Jassim Al Shaikh of Riffa, left, defends fellow-Bahrain national team player Ebrahim Al Khattal of Manama during their match last night

the bottom three clubs on the table.

The two matches were played at separate venues.

In Riffa's win, Saeed saved his team from losing out on crucial points and took all three from their rivals with his late decider.

Earlier in the contest, Ebra-

him Al Khattal missed an opportunity to give Manama the lead in the first half after they were awarded a penalty kick. But Al Khattal misfired on his shot and hit the crossbar. The match thus headed into the interval goalless, setting the stage for Saeed's late heroics.



The 11th week of league action concludes tonight with two more matches on schedule. Defending champions Al Khaldiya take on East Riffa while Muharraq face off with Sitra. Both matches games are scheduled for simultaneous 7pm kick-offs at separate venues

Riffa extended their lead atop the standings as they improved to 22 points following their seventh win in 10 matches. Manama, on the other hand, suffered

## Standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Riffa	10	7	1	2	8	22
Al Ahli	11	5	3	3	-1	18
Al Khaldiya	10	4	5	1	10	17
Muharraq	10	4	4	2	3	16
Al Najma	11	4	3	4	4	15
East Riffa	10	4	3	3	1	15
Al Hala	11	5	0	6	-7	15
Manama	11	4	2	5	1	14
Sitra	9	3	4	2	0	13
Al Shabab	11	2	4	5	-5	10
Busaiteen	11	1	5	5	-6	8
Hidd	11	2	2	7	-8	8

their fifth loss in 11 games and remained on 14 points in the bottom half of the table.

Meanwhile, in last night's other fixture, Busaiteen took the lead against Shabab four minutes from the break when Abdulmalek Bendalal tapped the ball in from the face of goal.

His effort came following a corner-kick and Shabab failed to clear. Bendalal was in the right place at the right time as the ball

fall to his path and he needed only to guide it in to give Busaiteen the advantage at the half.

After the re-start, Shabab drew level in the 65th minute through Alyson Romeu Dantas De Andrade, who scored with a deflected shot from inside the box. Busaiteen had given the ball away too easily, which led to the Shabab equaliser.

Following the result, Shabab salvaged a point and improved to 10 following their fourth draw in 11 matches. Previously bottom-of-the table Busaiteen registered their fifth draw and went to eight points, level with Hidd but they were able to move up a spot on the standings with a better goal difference.

League action continues tonight with the final two games of week 11. Defending champions Al Khaldiya take on East Riffa while Muharraq face off with Sitra. Both matches games are scheduled for simultaneous 7pm kick-offs at separate venues.

## Australia take just 6.5 overs to destroy woeful West Indies in 3rd ODI

AFP | Canberra

Australia needed just 6.5 overs to thrash a woeful West Indies by eight wickets in an embarrassing end to their one-day international series in Canberra yesterday, with Jake Fraser-McGurk slamming 41 off 18 balls.

The hosts won the first game in Melbourne by eight wickets and the second in Sydney by 83 runs to clinch the series, with the West Indies playing for pride.

But after Australia skipper Steve Smith won the toss and sent them in on a humid day, they crumbled to 86 all out in the 25th over against an attack missing Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc.

In reply, Australia recorded their shortest successful run chase in the format with 259 balls remaining to cap a stunning capitulation by the Caribbean side.

"It was a good performance, the bowlers put it in the right areas and everything seemed



Australia's Xavier Bartlett (C) appeals successfully for a leg-before-wicket decision against West Indies' batsman Kjorn Ottley

### Scorecard

**Australia 87 for 2 (Fraser-McGurk 41, Inglis 35\*) beat West Indies 86 (Bartlett 4-21) by eight wickets**

to work out. One of those days where everything came off," said Smith.

"It's been good opportunity to expose a few players to interna-

tional cricket and they've shown that they can play at this level."

Explosive 21-year-old opener Fraser-McGurk showed his immense talent in only his second match with five fours and three sixes in an electric 41 before he was caught going for another big hit off Alzarri Joseph.

Aaron Hardie was the only other wicket to fall, caught be-

hind for two off Oshane Thomas. Josh Inglis blasted an unbeaten 35 while Smith was not out six. Earlier, paceman Xavier Bartlett took 4-21 to go with the 4-17 he bagged on his debut in Melbourne. Fellow fast bowler Lance Morris grabbed 2-13 before leaving the field with a side strain.

STEVE SMITH

## Second century for Williamson as New Zealand extend lead past 500

AFP | Mount Maunganui

Kane Williamson crafted his second century of the match yesterday as New Zealand took complete command of the first Test on day three against understrength South Africa.

Run machine Williamson was out for a rapid 109 as the home side reached 179-4 in their second innings at Mount Maunganui, extending their overall lead to 528 runs by stumps.

Daryl Mitchell was at the crease on 11 and Tom Blundell on five, with the Black Caps looking to declare early on Wednesday with South Africa facing a mammoth target on a deteriorating Bay Oval pitch.

The depleted Proteas were dismissed for 162 soon before tea in response to New Zea-



New Zealand's Mitchell Santner takes a catch to dismiss South Africa's David Bedingham

land's first innings 511.

The follow-on wasn't enforced, allowing the world's top-ranked batsman Williamson to craft another big score to follow

his 118 in the first innings.

It was the former skipper's 31st Test century but the first time he has reached three figures twice in the same match.

## Foden praises Man City resilience as Premier League race heats up



Manchester City's Phil Foden scores the team's third goal

AFP | London

Manchester City hat-trick hero Phil Foden praised the team's resilience after they moved just two points behind Premier League leaders Liverpool with a 3-1 win at Brentford.

City fell behind against the run of play when Neal Maupay fired the London side into the lead on Monday but Foden levelled just before the interval.

The 23-year-old England international headed City in front early in the second half from Kevin De Bruyne's cross, and then completed a stylish treble.

The English champions have made a habit of coming back to win games after falling behind.

"Resilience -- we keep proving it season after season," Foden told the City website.

"We keep surprising everyone by keeping our standards high and it's down to the manager and this fantastic group of players.

**Manchester City became the first Premier League side to win four consecutive away games despite falling behind in all of them**

**Resilience -- we keep proving it season after season. We keep surprising everyone by keeping our standards high and it's down to the manager and this fantastic group of players. It's the togetherness, when things aren't going right, to bounce back**

PHIL FODEN

"It's the togetherness, when things aren't going right, to bounce back."

City's victory lifted Pep Guardiola's men above Arsenal into second place on goal difference, two points behind leaders Liverpool with a game in hand.

They have now won nine consecutive games in all competitions but Foden believes the Premier League title race will go to the wire.

"It's going to be a tight one. Liverpool and Arsenal are two top teams doing really well," he said.

"They are going to push us until the end so we have to try and not drop points and try to win all of our games really."