



Gabriel Jose da Silva Candido in action (file)

Ahli bolster roster for Asian clubs volleyball

Bahraini representatives sign top professional players for continental competition

● **Ahli boost line-up with Gabriel Jose da Silva Candido from Brazil, Yosvany Hernandez from Cuba and Davide Saitta from Italy**

● **Team's top Bahraini stars include Naser Anan, Mohammed Anan, Abbas Al Khabbaz, Ali Alsairafi, Sayed Mohammed Alabbar, Mahmood Abdulhussain**



Yosvany Hernandez



Davide Saitta

Korea in their second assignment the following evening, before completing their Pool A preliminary round campaign Tuesday against Canberra Heat from Australia.

Eight matches will be held per day between two arenas at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

Following the group stage, a rest day will be held on Wednesday next week, after which action will begin in the play-offs and placement pools.

The top two teams from each preliminary round pool move on to the round of eight play-offs, where they will again be divided into two further pools to determine the semi-finalists. The head-to-head games from the opening stage will carry over.

The bottom two teams from each preliminary round pool will move on to the consolation bracket for the tournament's final classification.

Pool B in the preliminary round features Shahdab Yazd from Iran, South Gas Sports Club from Iraq, Taichung Bank from Chinese-Taipei and Kam Air from Afghanistan. Pool C comprises Suntory Sunbirds from Japan, Diamond Food Fine Chef-Air Force from Thailand, Bayankhongor Crownd Geo VC from Mongolia and Khaypil Sports Club from Yemen. Pool D features Atyrau VC from Kazakhstan, Police Sports Team from Qatar, Aspiring Volleyball Team from Hong Kong and Kuwait Sporting Club from Kuwait.

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Bahrain's Al Ahli Club have bolstered their line-up for the upcoming 2023 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, which is set to be hosted by the Kingdom from Sunday next week.

The Bahraini hosts have signed three top professional players for the 16-team competition, including Gabriel Jose da Silva Candido from Brazil, Yosvany Hernandez from Cuba and Davide Saitta from Italy.

All three players have years of experience competing with clubs in leagues around the world, and will be welcome additions to Ahli's formidable line-up of top Bahraini stars who include Naser Anan, Mohammed Anan, Abbas Al Khabbaz, Ali Alsairafi, Sayed Mohammed Alabbar and Mahmood Abdul-

hussain, among others.

The Asian clubs championship is set to be held under the patronage of Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, General Sports Authority (GSA) president and Bahrain Olympic Committee chief His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa. It is being organised by the BVA in cooperation with the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC).

AVC president Rita Subowo is set to be a guest of Bahrain during the tournament, the BVA

announced yesterday. It will be the first visit for the continental volleyball chief in the Kingdom since she took office in 2020.

Ahli have stepped up their preparations for the competition under Tunisian head coach Nezar Al Shakili, a former Bahrain national team tactician.

They begin their tournament campaign against Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi from Indonesia on opening night. They then take on Korean Air Jumbos Pro-Volleyball Club from South



Asian volleyball chief Rita Subowo from Indonesia is set to be a guest of Bahrain during the tournament, marking her first visit to the Kingdom since taking office in 2020

Muharraq, Riffa end season with big wins

● **Muharraq outclass Hidd 3-1 while Riffa, last year's title winners, rout lowly Budaiya 7-0**

● **Muharraq end their season with 40 points**

● **Riffa finish their season with 39 points**

TDT | Manama

Muharraq and Riffa both claimed big wins last night as they wrapped up their respective campaigns in the 2022/2023 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Muharraq outclassed Hidd 3-1 while Riffa, last year's title winners, routed lowly Budaiya 7-0.

The results kicked off the concluding week of action and they ensured that both teams finish in the top five on the standings. They are also, however, already out of title contention.

In Muharraq's triumph, Su-fyan Mahrouq opened their ac-



Hidd's Abdulwahab Ali battles to keep possession with Muharraq's Abdulwahab Al Malood

count in the 22nd minute with a short stab from inside the six-yard box following a scramble for the ball. Abdulwahab Al Malood then doubled their advantage on the half-hour mark with a fine left-footed effort from inside the area.

Muharraq made it 3-0 in the opening minute of first-half stoppage time with an Abdulla Al Khalasi effort that was de-

flected into the net off of Hidd's Sayed Mohammed Adnan. Thiago Augusto got a goal back for Hidd on a quick counter-attack in the 80th minute.

Muharraq end their season with 40 points following their 10th win, while Hidd finish on 27.

For Riffa, Amin Al Shanaina scored a brace. He opened their scoring in the seventh minute

and then added a second in the 29th, both from close range. Ali Hassan made it 3-0 in the 41st minute after rounding the opposing goalkeeper and sending the ball home into an empty net.

Komail Al Aswad then scored in the 55th minute for a commanding 4-0 advantage for Riffa, before Adnan Fawaz added their fifth in the 75th.

Saud Hussain Ramadan and

Standings

| | P | W | D | L | +/- | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Al Khaldiya | 21 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 22 | 41 |
| Muharraq | 22 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 22 | 40 |
| Manama | 21 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 19 | 40 |
| Riffa | 22 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 18 | 39 |
| Sitra | 21 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 37 |
| Al Ahli | 21 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 30 |
| Hidd | 22 | 7 | 6 | 9 | -9 | 27 |
| Al Shabab | 21 | 7 | 5 | 9 | -4 | 26 |
| East Riffa | 21 | 4 | 9 | 8 | -6 | 21 |
| Al Hala | 21 | 5 | 6 | 10 | -10 | 21 |
| Bahrain Club | 21 | 4 | 6 | 11 | -10 | 18 |
| Budaiya* | 22 | 1 | 2 | 19 | -53 | -1 |

(*Budaiya deducted six points due to a decision by the Bahrain Football Association)

substitute Mauro Bravo Fernandez completed the demolition of their rivals.

Riffa finished their season with 39 points after claiming their 11th win, while Budaiya will be going down to the second division for next season.

The final week of league action continues tonight with one match on the cards between Al Shabab and Sitra.

Meanwhile, the final title-deciding clashes are still to be de-

termined by the Bahrain Football Association. Only current leaders Al Khaldiya and Manama are still in contention, with only a point separating the two.

Khaldiya take on Bahrain Club while Manama face off with Al Ahli in two yet-to-be-scheduled contests.

The other remaining game is between East Riffa and Al Hala, both of whom, along with Bahrain Club, are trying to stave off relegation.