

Bahrain outclass Kyrgyzstan in friendly

Mohammed Abdulwahab, Abdulla Al Hashash on target for senior men's national team in victory

● Both goals scored in second half after missed opportunity with penalty before break

● Bahrainis to return to the pitch on Tuesday next week against the Philippines

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national football team defeated their counterparts from Kyrgyzstan 2-0 last night in an international friendly match played at the Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium at Muharraq Club in Arad.

Mohammed Abdulwahab and substitute Abdulla Al Hashash scored the game's goals in the second half after a goalless opening 45 minutes, during which they could not convert a penalty.

The tune-up was the first of two friendlies scheduled in the coming week for the nationals. They are also set to face the Philippines on Tuesday next week at the same venue. That game is scheduled for a 7pm kick-off.

Tomorrow, the visiting Kyrgyzstan and Philippine teams are also set to meet in a friendly game at Al Ahli Club Stadium in Zinj.

Bahrain are using these friendlies as part of their preparations for next month's start to their continental qual-



Komail Al Aswad competes against Kyrgyzstan

Bahrain are preparing for next month's start to their continental qualification campaign for the FIFA World Cup 2026. They will also be competing in the next edition of the AFC Asian Cup in Doha in January of next year

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Bahrain head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi has called up 33 players for the two friendlies.

In last night's match, he fielded a starting 11 of Sayed Mohammed Jaafar, Mohammed Adel, Waleed Al Hayyam, Amine Hasan, Abdulla Al Khalasi, Mohammed Al Hardan, Abdulwahab, Komail Al Aswad, Ali Madan, Mahdi Humaidan and Abdulla Yusuf.

The Bahrainis opened the scoring in the 59th minute through Abdulwahab, while Al Hashash came on after the break and secured the victory five minutes from full time.

The rest of the team features Moham-



Bahrain's Ali Madan looks to make a play against Kyrgyzstan last night

med Marhoon, Moses Atede, Ahmed Bughammar, Sayed Dhiya Saeed, Hussain Al Ekri, Hazza Ali, Mohammed Abdulqayoom, Jassim Al Shaikh, Ali Hassan Saeed, Abdulaziz Khaled, Salem Omar, Hamza Al Juban, Mubarak Mohammed, Ahmed Al Sherooqi, Ebrahim Al Khattal, Ebrahim Luthfallah, Hussain Abdulkareem, Hamad Al Doseri, Salem Hussain, Ebrahim Al Wali and Jassim Khelaif.

Aside from these upcoming tune-ups, Bahrain are also set to play an international friendly against Asian powerhouses Australia in January, as

part of their final lead-up to the Asian Cup. The game will be played in Dubai on 6 January, just a few days before the continental showcase kicks off in Doha on 12 January.

For the upcoming FIFA World Cup qualifiers, Bahrain will play directly in the second of five qualification rounds. They are in a competitive Group H along with the UAE, and either Yemen or Sri Lanka and Nepal or Laos.

For the AFC Asian Cup, Bahrain are in Group E in the tournament's preliminary round along with South Korea, Malaysia and Jordan.

Last chance for BIC's Early Bird discount on F1 2024 tickets

● Fantastic Early Bird promotion offering up to 15 per cent off on F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024 tickets to end at 11pm on Sunday

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The F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix...motorsport spectacle

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is calling on Formula 1 fans to act now and take advantage of the last chance to get up to 15 per cent off on tickets to the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024.

BIC is currently running the second phase of its Summer Early Bird offer for next year's mega race, and only a few days remain until the end of this promotion period at 11pm on Sunday.

The region's biggest sporting

and social spectacle is scheduled to take place 29 February to 2 March at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East". It will be the season-opening round of the 2024 FIA F1 World Championship.

Bahrain is hosting its first-ever F1 Saturday night race while marking the 20th anniversary celebrations of the top flight in the Kingdom.

The response to the late-sum-

mer Early Bird offer has been tremendous since its launch. The discount will not be repeated, so fans are advised to act quickly and book their tickets at the circuit's official website, bahraingp.com, or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Following the complete sell-out of Bahrain's historic 2023 race at BIC, it is never too early to secure your F1 seats for the 2024 event.

Rooney targets Premier League return with Birmingham

AFP | London

Wayne Rooney said he was targeting promotion to the Premier League "in the near future" after being unveiled as Birmingham's new manager on Thursday.

The former Manchester United star agreed a three-and-a-half year contract with the Championship club on Wednesday after leaving Major



Wayne Rooney

League Soccer side DC United at the weekend.

He replaces John Eustace, who was sacked despite guiding

Birmingham to sixth place in the early weeks of the season.

Rooney, who was previously in charge at Derby from 2020 to 2022, told a press conference at St Andrew's: "The goal, for the club, for myself, is to get this club back to the Premier League, of course."

"I think there's a lot of work to be done throughout the football club. The Premier League is where we want to get to."

Attieh goes atop leaderboard

● Khalid Attieh cards seven-under-par 65 over first 18 holes to lead countryman Ali Sakha by three shots

● Yousif Al Janahi ends first day as top-ranked Bahraini participant

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Golfers prior to teeing off yesterday

Khalid Attieh from Saudi Arabia ascended to the top of the leaderboard yesterday after a sensational first round of play in the fifth Bahrain Amateur Open golf championship, currently taking place at the Royal Golf Club.

Attieh carded a seven-under-par 65 over the opening 18 holes to take a three-shot lead into day two today.

Countryman Ali Sakha followed in second place with a four-under 68 score, while a further shot back on three-under-par 69 was Saleh Al Kaabi of Qatar.

Attieh's round yesterday featured seven birdies, including four on the back nine, with no bogeys. Sakha had six birdies but bogeyed the 15th and 18th holes to drop him back.

Al Kaabi registered four successive birdies from the 10th to 13th holes but couldn't finish his day strong as he played a bogey on the 18th.

A field of 100 amateur players from all over the world are

competing in the 54-hole, individual stroke play event, including top names from across the region and the Kingdom's leading national team golfers.

In tied-fourth place were Ali Al Shahrani and Mousa Shana'ah of Jordan on one-under-par 71 scores, while in sixth was Jake Wiltshire from the UK with an even par 72.

Four players were tied-seventh with a one-shot-over 73, including Britain's Marcus Dutton, the UAE's Dan Byrne and Jay Mullane, and Yousif Al Janahi, Bahrain's top-ranked golfer after day one.

Four other Bahrainis were tied-12th, three shots over par, including Yaseen Le Falher, Fahad Al Hakam, Nasser Yaqoob Saleh and Khalifa Al Kaabi.

Former champion Khalifa Al Meraisi was amongst five players in tied-19th, and defending champion Ahmed Al Zayed was amongst another five in tied-24th.

Day two is scheduled to be held today, with the first group teeing off at 7am. A cut will be

made at the end of the second round's action for the leading 45 gross scores and ties.

The competition, which is a World Amateur Golf Rankings (WAGR) event, also acts as a qualifier for the 2023 King Hamad Trophy, set to take place 23 to 25 November at the same Colin Montgomerie-designed 18-hole championship course.

This year—following the mega announcement of the first-ever Bahrain Championship on the 2024 DP World Tour, also known as the PGA European Tour—the Bahrain Amateur Open offers an additional bonus.

The tournament's overall winner plus the leading Bahraini amateur will come away with spots at the Bahrain Championship, scheduled to take place 1 to 4 February next year with a US\$2.5million prize fund. The winner of the King Hamad Trophy as well as the leading Bahraini player will tee it up alongside DP World Tour Professionals in the much-anticipated tournament.