

HH Shaikh Abdulla honours King's Endurance Festival sponsors

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HM the King's Personal Representative, His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, honoured the sponsors of HM the King's Endurance Festival for this season.

HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, BREF Honorary Chairman, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic President, His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, attended.

On the occasion, HH Shaikh



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Nasser expressed thanks and appreciation to the sponsors of HM the King's Endurance Festival and this season's endurance championships, noting that their support affirms their

keenness to boost the endurance sport in the kingdom.

HM the King's Endurance Festival was sponsored by various companies and institutions, namely: the Labour Fund (Tammen), the Bahrain Telecommunication Company (Batelco), Al Namal Group, Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), Al Sharif Group, Huawei, Al Salam Bank, Kuwait Finance House, GFH Financial Group, Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, Ithmaar Bank, Bahrain Development Bank, Hashim Al-Wedaei Legal Consultancy, SARA Group, Petro World and Ascon. The Economic Development Board (EDB) was also honoured for its constant support for youth and sports sectors.

Shabab force semi-final decider in handball league



Action from Al Shabab's win over Al Ahli last night

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Al Shabab forced a winner-take-all third game in their best-of-three Golden Square semi-finals against Al Ahli in the 2022/2023 Khalid bin Hamad Bahrain Handball League.

Shabab set up the decisive clash after staying alive in the series with a hard-earned 25-23 win over Ahli in game two held last night at the Bahrain Handball Association Arena in Um Al Hassam.

Shabab did well to fight back in the final 30 minutes of the contest after trailing by a slim 12-14 margin at the half.

The result followed Ahli's thrilling 30-29 penalty shootout victory in their first meeting. Game three is scheduled to take place on Thursday.

The winner of the Shabab-Ahli match-up will face the victor of the other Golden Square series between defending champions Al Najma and Al Ettifaq.

Najma won game one of their best-of-three encounter 30-28 and will be looking to close things out in the second game tonight. A win for Ettifaq would send their series into a decisive third game, which would take place on Friday, if needed.

England thrash New Zealand with Bazball and Broad-side

AFP | Mount Maunganui, New Zealand

England "Bazball" revolution continued apace yesterday when the tourists wrapped up a thumping 267-run victory over New Zealand in the first test yesterday with the best part of two days to spare at Bay Oval.

It was a first test victory for England in New Zealand since 2008 and a 10th win in 11 matches since former Black Caps skipper Brendon "Baz" McCullum and Christchurch-born Ben Stokes took over as coach and captain.

The Black caps were perhaps still shellshocked after Stuart Broad's brilliant spell with the pink ball on Saturday evening and only Daryl Mitchell offered any real resistance as they slumped to 126 all out in the opening session of the fourth day.

"Another great performance," said Stokes. "Very clinical with the bat and very clinical with the ball. We executed as well as

we wanted to."

"It was entertaining cricket and that's what we want to do. We're just trying to put on a show."

Broad (4-49) laboured in vain on Sunday to get his 20th five-wicket haul in tests, but his strike partner James Anderson (4-18) stepped up to lead the mopping up of the New Zealand tail.

The pair on Saturday supplanted Australia's Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne as the most prolific test bowling partnership and now have a combined 1,009 wickets from 113 matches together.

ENGLAND STRATEGY

England's strategy of batting aggressively during the day and doing their best to expose New Zealand's top order to the vagaries of the evening sessions

paid huge dividends.

Stokes declared on 325-9 after England were sent in to bat on day one and although New Zealand responded with a first-innings tally of 306, the tourists always appeared to be in control of the game.

After another "Bazball"

onslaught at the start of day three, the England batsmen slowed the pace to extend the innings and ensure New Zealand started their second knock under the floodlights.

England's 374 gave them a healthy lead but they barely needed it as Broad bowled Devon Conway, Kane Williamson and Tom Latham through the gate in short order before returning to remove first innings centurion Tom Blundell in the same style.

Promising young England batsman Harry Brook was named Man of the Match for his half centuries in each innings.



England's Stuart Broad

Sitra stun Manama in football league

Hamza Al Hamami, Seydina Laye Dabo both on target in week 13 win in Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League

● **Sitra claim sixth win to rise to 23 points on league table**

● **Ahli, Hidd settle for share of the points in 1-1 stalemate**

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Sitra stunned Manama 2-0 last night while Al Ahli and Hidd played to a 1-1 deadlock in their week 13 matches on the 2022/2023 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Hamza Al Hamami and Seydina Laye Dabo were both on target for Sitra in their fine win.

Sitra scored their first goal after only three minutes when Al Hamami fired in from the inside edge of the penalty box.

Standings	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Manama	13	7	3	3	13	24
Muharraq	12	6	5	1	11	23
Sitra	13	6	5	2	6	23
Riffa	12	7	1	4	7	22
Al Khaldiya	12	6	3	3	8	21
Al Ahli	13	5	4	4	0	19
Al Hala	13	4	6	3	1	18
Hidd	13	5	3	5	-6	18
East Riffa	13	3	5	5	-4	14
Bahrain Club	13	3	4	6	-4	13
Al Shabab	12	3	1	8	-5	10
Budaiya	13	0	2	11	-27	2

After intercepting a Manama pass, Al Hamami hit a right-footed attempt under pressure that flew past Manama goaleer Ammar Mohammed Jaafar into the bottom-right corner of goal.

Sitra then continued their dream start to the contest and doubled their advantage only 11 minutes later with a brilliant volley by Dabo from several metres outside the area.



Sitra's Vincent Emmanuel Ani looks to make a pass as he is defended closely by Manama's Mohammed Hallaq

Dabo was on the receiving end of a Manama attempt to clear the ball and with one touch sent the ball into the net from long range.

Both teams tried hard to add to the score line from there, but neither could find the finishing touch.

Sitra came away with their sixth win in 13 matches and they improved to 23 points on the league standings. Manama, on the other hand, suffered their fourth loss and stayed on 24 points. They headed into the contest as solo leaders, but may lose their place atop the table by the end of week 13.

Meanwhile, in Ahli's draw with Hidd, Abdulla Al Subaie opened the scoring in the 30th minute to give Hidd the lead heading into the half-time break. After the restart, Ahli were quick to equalise as Marcolino Neto Silva struck in the 58th minute.

The match remained level over the final half-hour and Ahli and Hidd came away with a share of the points. Ahli went to 19 markers on the standings after their fourth stalemate, while Hidd improved to 18 with their third draw.