

# HH Shaikh Khalid crowns East Riffa juniors

East Riffa beat Muharraq 2-1 to win title in first edition of Khalid bin Hamad Golden Generation League

● **HH Shaikh Khalid presented the shield and gold medals**

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First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, General Sports Authority (GSA) Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President, His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, has crowned East Riffa as champions of the first edition of the Khalid bin Hamad Golden Generation League, organised by the GSA in cooperation with the Bahrain Football Association (BFA).



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa with East Riffa players and officials at the awarding ceremony

HH Shaikh Khalid presented the shield and gold medals of

the first edition of the League to East Riffa, the winners of the

final against Muharraq 2-1.

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Ham-

ad also presented silver medals to runners-up Muharraq and

bronze medals to third-placed Al Shabab. On the occasion, HH

Shaikh Khalid asserted that the GSA will continue implementing and adopting programmes and initiatives aimed at creating qualitative opportunities for Bahraini athletes to showcase their capabilities and talent, noting that the Khalid bin Hamad Golden Generation League will contribute to honing youngsters' skills and building a solid base of athletes who are capable of competing at the highest levels in the coming period.

HH Shaikh Khalid congratulated East Riffa on winning the Khalid bin Hamad Golden Generation League, and praised the performance of Muharraq, wishing the best of luck in the upcoming matches.

HH Shaikh Khalid commended the efforts exerted by BFA, alongside GSA, to ensure the success of the competition.

# Al Najma, Dar Kulaib set for title showdown

● **Bahrain volleyball giants set for exciting best-of-three clash for Isa bin Rashid league title**

● **Best-of-three championship series gets underway tomorrow night**

● **Al Ahli-Muharraq to battle for bronze in single game on Saturday**

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An exciting showdown between Al Najma and Dar Kulaib gets underway tomorrow night for the coveted title in the 2022/2023 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

The Kingdom's two volleyball gi-

Dar Kulaib superstar Mohammed Yaqoob

ants will be battling it out in a best-of-three series.

The schedule for the championship round was released yesterday by the Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA).

Game one is scheduled for tomorrow, followed by game two on Tuesday next week. Game three, if needed, will be played on April 12.

All three matches are set for 9.30pm starts and will be played at Isa bin Rashid Arena at the BVA headquarters at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

Also set to be held will be a game for third place on Saturday between losing

semi-finalists Al Ahli and Muharraq.

The bronze-medallists will be determined in a single contest, also starting at 9.30pm at the same venue.

Najma will be looking to win the league title for the first time since the 2016/2017 season, while Dar Kulaib are hoping to take the crown again since they last won it in the 2018/2019 campaign.

Ahli are the two-time defending champions.

Ahli won last season's title after defeating Al Nasser in two games in the championship series. The previous season, they defeated Muharraq in the title round, also with a two-game sweep.

Ahli were not able to make it through to the championship this time, however, having been defeated by Dar Kulaib in two games in their best-of-three semi-final clash. Dar Kulaib claimed a dominant 3-0 (25-22, 25-20, 25-17) victory in game two last week to secure their berth in the finals.

Najma, meanwhile, ousted Muharraq in their final-four encounter, held over just one game. Najma had a twice-to-beat advantage against Muharraq, but defeated them 3-0 (25-21, 25-20, 25-18) in their meet-

ing.

Najma, who finished the preliminary round and round-of-six playoffs in first place, are set to be spearheaded by their key players including Estoni-

an professional Kevin Saar and Bahraini stars Ali Ebrahim, Fadel Abbas, Hassan Dhahi, Mirza Abdulla and Mohammed Habib, to name a few.

For Dar Kulaib, they will be

relying heavily on Argentinian professional Juan Barrera, along with top local talents Mohammed Yaqoob, Ali Habib, Hassan Abbas, Hassan Alaiwi and libero Hussain Sultan, among others.



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