

# Bahrain hit double digits in U17 qualifiers finale

Aljazzaf leads 10-0 rout in Chongqing

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's U17 national team closed their AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026 Qualifiers campaign in emphatic fashion yesterday, sweeping past Brunei Darussalam 10-0 in Chongqing to finish third in Group A with nine points.

With both sides already eliminated before kickoff, the match carried pride rather than qualification stakes, but Bahrain approached it with full competitive intent.

Captain Mohamed Rashed Aljazzaf was the driving force from the outset, opening the scoring in the 7th minute and going on to complete a remarkable four-goal performance with strikes in first-half stoppage time, the 51st minute, and again deep into added time at 90+2.

Forward Husain Zuhair Ebrahim added a quick-fire brace with goals in the 31st and 36th minutes, capitalising on Bahrain's relentless pressure in the attacking third.

Jassem Kacem Benjemia delivered two late goals of his own from the penalty spot in the 86th and 89th minutes, extending Bahrain's margin as Brunei faded defensively.

Head coach Mohammed Al Shamlan also saw immediate impact from his substitutes. Omran Adel Omran struck in the 76th minute, followed by Abdulrahman Majed seven minutes later, rounding off Bahrain's biggest win of the group stage and one of the largest scorelines of the entire qualifying campaign.

The result leaves Bahrain third in the standings, behind China PR and Bangladesh, as the group concluded later in the evening.

In the other match of the day, Timor-Leste defeated Sri Lanka 2-1 to secure fourth place. Elton Da Conceicao gave Timor-Leste the lead midway through the first half, with Jyzeus Gabriel Lay doubling the advantage in the 63rd minute. Sri Lanka's Ishaq pulled one back in stoppage time, but it came too late to change the outcome.



Skipper Aljazzaf drives forward en route to his super-hatrick display

## Kohli stars as India beat South Africa in first ODI



India's Harshit Rana (L) celebrates with teammate Virat Kohli (R) after taking the wicket of South Africa's Quinton de Kock (C)

AFP | Ranchi

Star batsman Virat Kohli hit a record-extending 52nd one-day century to set up India's 17-run win over a spirited South Africa in the first match yesterday.

Kohli's 135 came off 120 balls and he shared a second-wicket partnership of 136 with fellow stalwart Rohit Sharma to set India on course for 349-8 in the eastern city of Ranchi.

Number eight Corbin Bosch made a valiant 67 off 51 balls as South Africa fought until almost the end. Entering the 50th over, the visitors needed 18 for victory with one wicket left. Bosch fell on the second ball and South Africa were 332 all out.

Matthew Breetzke, who made 72, and Marco Jansen, with 70, put on a fighting stand of 97 for the sixth wicket to revived the chase after South Africa slipped to 11-3 and then 77-4.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav stood out with figures of 4-68 in the high-scoring contest.

His double strike to remove Jansen and Breetzke in the space of three balls was the turning point for India who took 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The 37-year-old Kohli re-

mained the hero with his 83rd ton across the three international formats after he raised his hundred with a boundary off Jansen and lifted his bat to a raucous home crowd.

"If you've played 300-odd games and so much cricket, you know when you're hitting balls in practice, you know the reflexes are there and the physical ability is there to bat long," player of the match Kohli said.

"As long as you're hitting the ball well and playing good cricket, it's about physically fit, mentally ready and excited."

### Kohli mania

An Indian fan breached security and raced to the pitch to touch Kohli's feet before he was dragged away.

Kohli has the most ODI hundreds, with Indian great Sachin Tendulkar second with 49.

The Indian cricket star tops the list of hundreds in a single format with Tendulkar's count in Tests being 51.

Kohli and 38-year-old Rohit, who made 57, only play the 50-over format after they retired from T20 and Test cricket.

Their presence boosted India, led by KL Rahul in the absence of the injured Shubman Gill, after a 2-0 Test whitewash against South Africa.

## Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights offers action-packed double header today at BIC



Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', hosts the latest edition of its widely popular Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights today.

Just days removed from the season-opening round of the 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship, BIC's world-class, quarter-mile drag strip will be coming alive once again as will the circuit's vast vehicles dynamics area.

Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights is a fan-favourite experience that features two of the most popular and adrena-

line-pumping forms of motorsport today, and participants will be able to take part in their very own cars or motorbikes.

Speed enthusiasts can push their vehicles to their limit either down the BIC strip or around the vehicle dynamics area. There is also the option to do both, making for a fantastic double-header over a single evening's activity.

Today's Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights is scheduled to take place from 5pm to 11pm.

Both the drag racing and the drifting can be done for a single fee of BD11. Participation in just the drag racing or just the drifting costs BD8. Bookings can



be made online at BIC's official website bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Those who would like to experience the drag or drift as a passenger can get into a participant's car for an additional fee of BD4,500. Registration for those wishing to join can be done on site. Spectators who would like to attend and watch the action in the Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights can also purchase their tickets online at BD2 apiece at bahraingp.com. Tickets for children aged 12 and below are BD1 each.

The BIC drag strip is highly regarded as one of the best in the world, and it is a part of

the prestigious NHRA Worldwide Network of the U.S.-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

BIC's vehicle dynamics area features a specially configured layout for drifters. It is surrounded by safety barriers and is one of the largest open tarmac areas in Bahrain, ideal for an amazing display of power sliding within a secure environment.

For more information on today's Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights or other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or follow the circuit's official social media accounts.

## McIlear Sweeps Awali Golf Club Medal With Dominant Seven-Shot Win

TDT | Manama

Lee McIlear stormed to a commanding victory at the Awali Golf Club Medal, firing a superb four-under-par 68 in calm morning conditions to claim both the gross and overall titles. McIlear's round featured four birdies and a string of comfortable pars, highlighted by a key up-and-down at the fifth that set the tone for a faultless performance. His net 66 left him seven shots clear of the field, edging Kern Wales on count-back for the overall prize.

Prizegiving duties were handled by tournament director



TD Nathan Sundaresan and Captain Steve Newall with a winner

Nathan Sundaresan and club captain Steve Newall. In Division Three, Benedikt Schwerm continued his steady run with a winning net 69, ahead of runner-up Peter Burns on 71. Division Two saw Bader Al Dosari finish second with a net 70, while Wales posted an impressive 66 to secure the win.

In Division One, Mohamed Ali Al Kowari produced a hole-out eagle on the 10th on his way to a net 74 and runner-up honours, while Saleh Hamad Al Shaer topped the division with a net 73. The club now turns its attention to next week's Airmech Stableford.