

Bahrain Olympic team rout Saudi club in friendly



Bahrain players celebrate during their match against Al Faisaly

● **Hussain Abdulkarim scores brace, Ahmed Abdulhameed and Bashir Fouad supply other goals in 4-1 win over Al Faisaly Club**

● **Match was fifth and final exhibition game for Bahrainis at Turkey camp, finishing with four wins while drawing the other**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's under-23 Olympic football team defeated Al Faisaly Club of Saudi Arabia 4-1 in a friendly match played at their overseas training camp in Turkey.

Hussain Abdulkarim scored a brace for the Bahrainis while Ahmed Abdulhameed and Bashir Fouad supplied the two other goals.

The contest was the fifth and final exhibition game for the nationals at their camp. They had won four of those tune-ups while drawing the other.

At the end of the friendly, Olympic team manager Mohammed Salman presented a memorial shield to Al Faisaly management as a token of appreciation for the match.

Bahrain's training camp in Turkey is scheduled to wrap up today.

The nationals have a 26-player squad practising under the supervision of head coach Dario Basic.

Aside from Abdulkarim, Abdulhamid and Fouad, the other talents include Ammar Mirza, Khalifa Al Kous, Ahmed Rabia, Omar Saber, Nasser Ibrahim, Sayed Mahdi Sharaf, Sayed Jawad Haider, Salem Hussain, Ahmed Musalam, Ali Mohammed, Hussain Haroona, Adel Al Rumaihi, Mustafa Salem, Saleh Al Zubaidi, Mohammed Faris, Vincent Emmanuel, Hassan Issa, Hussain Al Ekri, Hassan Abdunabi, Abdulrahman Al Kooheji, Hassan Taha, Salman Adel and Khalil Ibrahim.

The Olympic football are using the camp to prepare for their upcoming competitions, including the qualifiers for the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2024, which will be held from September 4 to 12 next year.

The qualifiers will determine the teams that will compete in the tournament finals, which will take place in January of 2024.

The AFC U23 Asian Cup is one of the premier continental events for Olympic teams.

Bahrain have qualified for the event just once in the past, in 2020 when they did not make it past the group stage

Abbas bags World Athletics U20 bronze

Nineteen-year-old Bahraini sprinter captures men's 400m bronze medal at World Athletics U20 Championships in Cali, Colombia

● **Yusuf Ali Abbas clinches third place with blistering new personal best time of 45.80 seconds**

● **Bronze is the first medal for Bahrain in Cali, 13th overall in history of under-20 worlds**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's Yusuf Ali Abbas captured the men's 400 metres bronze medal early yesterday morning at the World Athletics U20 Championships being held in Cali, Colombia.

Abbas was in the lead midway through the race but fell marginally behind as the field of seven made it down the final straight. The 19-year-old still managed to do enough to the finish to claim third place and his place on the podium.

Abbas had additional reason to celebrate at the end of the run, as he had also clocked a new personal best.

Abbas's bronze was the first and only medal won so far by Bahrain at this year's world under-20s.

It was the 13th medal won by Bahrain at the meeting, which was previously known as the IAAF World Junior Championships in Athletics and the IAAF World U20 Championships,



Bahrain's Yusuf Ali Abbas, right, takes a bite of his bronze medal on the men's 400m podium alongside gold-medallist Lythe Pillay, centre, and Steven McElroy

before the current name was adopted in 2019.

The national team had previously won two gold, three silver and seven bronze medals in past editions.

The golds were claimed by Edidiong Odiong in the women's 200m at the 2016 meeting in Bydgoszcz, Poland, and Ruth Jebet in the women's 3,000m steeplechase in 2014 in Eugene, Oregon in the US.

Bahrain is one of 145 nations participating in this year's under-20 worlds, which features more than 1,500 of the best up-and-coming young athletes from across the globe.

Running on the inside lane, Abbas came charging out of the blocks and could quickly be seen gaining on his rivals to his right.

Determined

He continued to make a strong

push but appeared to fade a bit as the competitors went round the final bend. Abbas was determined, however, and he put in a strong finishing stride to complete the race in 45.80 seconds—the fastest mark of his young career so far.

The bronze medal was also his first major international accolade.

Winning the gold was Lythe Pillay of South Africa in 45.28s, while marginally in front of Abbas was Steven McElroy of the US in 45.65s.

Tyler Floyd of Canada finished fourth in 46.01s, while Joshua Atkinson of Thailand was fifth in 46.31s and Shaemar Uter of Jamaica sixth in 46.36s.

Busang Collen Kebinatshipi of Botswana and Delano Kennedy of Jamaica were both disqualified from the final classification, with Kennedy being shown a

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Bahrain have one last chance to win another medal at this year's under-20 worlds, when Hamse Dhabar competes in the men's 3,000m steeplechase final early tomorrow morning at 1am, Bahrain time

red card after a false start and not being able to compete in the race.

Meanwhile, Bahrain have one last chance to go for another medal at this year's under-20 worlds, when Hamse Dhabar competed in the men's 3,000m steeplechase final early tomorrow morning at 1am, Bahrain time.

The 18-year-old secured an automatic berth in the medal round after finishing third in the first of three first round heats on Wednesday. To add to his ticket to the next stage, Dhabar posted a new personal best of eight minutes 51.25 seconds in the race.

Dhabar's time was the 10th fastest of the first round. He will be one of 15 athletes competing for the podium places in tomorrow's final.

Bahrain bow out of Gulf junior basketball title contention

● **Nationals suffer heavy defeat to Qatar 48-85 in semi-finals of FIBA Asia U18 Championship-Gulf Basketball Association Qualifier in Dubai**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain bowed out of title contention yesterday in the FIBA Asia U18 Championship-Gulf Basketball Association (GBA) Qualifier in Dubai following a 48-85 loss to Qatar in their semi-final clash at the Al Wasl Club arena.

The nationals fell behind 0-14 to start the game and needed nearly five minutes to get their first basket. They trailed 7-27 at the end of the first quarter and never recovered, facing deficits as big as 39 points the rest of the way.

With the result, the Bahrainis will have to settle for playing



Bahrain's Ali Khaled Alajmi and Abdulrazaq Saif Al Malki try to stop Qatar's Moustapha Ndao during their game yesterday

in the game for third place today, where they will take on the losers of the other final four contest between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Omran Abdulla Akbar was their lone player in double figures against the Qataris last night. He finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Mahdi Ali Al-

musalli chipped in with eight, while Abbas Albasri and Ali Jawad Hasan had five points apiece.

Mohammed Hashim Abbasher led five Qataris with 10 points or more after pouring in 28. He also had 14 rebounds in their big win.

The game marked the fourth straight loss for Bahrain in the competition. They had opened with resounding back-to-back victories over hosts UAE and Oman, but could not keep up their winning ways and lost to the Qataris, Kuwait and Saudi to end their preliminary round campaign. That set the stage for their semis match-up with Qatar yesterday.

The regional tournament is also being played to determine the GBA teams that will compete in the FIBA U18 Asian Championship 2022, which will take place in Tehran from August 21 to 28. Qatar have qualified as only the two finalists will book their tickets to the continental showcase.

Nadal withdraws from Montreal hardcourt event

Reuters | Montreal

Rafael Nadal has withdrawn from next week's U.S. Open tune-up event in Montreal, Canada due to the same abdominal strain which forced him to miss his Wimbledon semi-final last month, he said yesterday.

World number three Nadal's quest for a calendar Grand Slam ended after he pulled out of his highly anticipated showdown against Australia's Nick Kyrgios less than 24 hours before the match.

The 26-year-old Nadal, who has won 22 major titles, is a five-time champion at the ATP 1000 event in Montreal, which begins on Monday.

"I have been practicing for a while now without serving and started with serves four days ago. Everything has been going well, however yesterday, after my normal practice, I felt a slight bother on my abdomi-



Rafael Nadal

Novak Djokovic also withdrew from the event on Thursday as he cannot enter the country without being fully vaccinated against COVID-19

nal and today it was still there," Nadal said in a statement.

"After speaking with my doctor we prefer to take things in a conservative way and give a few more days before starting to compete.