

Iran outplay Bahrain in classification round

Abdulkadir's 20 Points Not Enough as Bahrain lose again in U16 Asia Cup

● Bahrain outplayed in 5-8 classification match

● Iran dominate across all metrics

● Bahrain now play Chinese Taipei for 7th place

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's run at the FIBA U16 Asia Cup 2025 suffered another setback yesterday in Ulaanbaatar, with a heavy 95-62 defeat to Iran in the 5-8 classification stage. The result dropped Bahrain into today's 7th-8th place play-off against Chinese Taipei at 6:30 AM (BH time), while Iran advanced to contest 5th place against Korea.

Iran Dictates from the Outset

Iran seized control early, outscoring Bahrain 20-18 in the first quarter and 23-14 in the second. By halftime, the gap had widened to 43-32, as Bahrain struggled to match Iran's pace and rebounding. The third frame offered little respite, and Iran's dominant 30-11 fourth quarter sealed the 33-point victory.

Yasin MorovatHalabi led Iran with 23 points and 9 rebounds, ably supported by Alireza Rashidi's playmaking and defensive presence. Bahrain leaned heavily on Hassan Abdulkadir once more, who posted 20 points, 13 rebounds, and



Iran's talisman Yasin MorovatHalabi in possession



This was Abdulkadir's third straight game carrying Bahrain's scoring load without talisman Somto Patrick

5 assists, but lacked consistent support from teammates. The Iranis will now play for 5th place against Korea at 9am today.

Bahrain Overwhelmed

Without the injured Somto Patrick, Bahrain again leaned almost entirely on Abdulkadir's two-way production. Hussain Ghuloom added 3 assists, but Iran outperformed across nearly every statistical category.



Bahrain's Abdulkadir slams home an emphatic dunk

INSIDE THE GAME

Sistani's Iran leave Bahrain in their wake

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Iran ran out comfortable 95-62 winners against Bahrain in the U16 Asia Cup 5-8 classification, impressing with both their composure and relentless intensity throughout the game. At the M Bank Arena in Ulaanbaatar, Mohammad Sistani Badouei's side imposed defensive intensity, converted turnovers into fast-break points, and punished Bahrain's lack of depth without Somto Patrick.

Q1: Rashidi Sets the Tone

The opening frame showed glimpses of balance, with Bahrain tying the game 6-6 off Hassan Abdulkadir's

early baskets. But Iran, through Alireza Rashidi's steals and transition play, closed the quarter ahead 20-18. Already, the contrast was clear: Bahrain laboring through half-court sets, Iran thriving in transition.

Q2: Iran Capitalizes on Errors

Bahrain briefly pulled within one at 23-22 after Hassan Abdulkadir and Ali AlHaddad scored inside. Yet Iran answered with an 11-0 run fueled by consecutive turnovers, capped by a Khosravi dunk. By halftime, Iran led 43-32, having forced Bahrain into rushed possessions and poor spacing.

Q3: MorovatHalabi Extends Control

The third quarter saw Yasin MorovatHalabi seize the spotlight. His perimeter shooting and drives inside extended Iran's cushion to 57-42. Bahrain found some relief through Mohamed Adel Abdulla's late three-pointer, but Iran's ability to punish every defensive lapse



Iran's coach, Mohammad Sistani Badouei

ensured a 65-51 lead heading into the final frame.

Q4: Iran Closes Ruthlessly

Iran's fourth quarter was a masterclass in transition dominance. Back-to-back scores from Khosravi and MorovatHalabi stretched the margin past 20. Bahrain collapsed under turnovers and fatigue, as Iran ran out 30-11 winners in the final quarter, sealing a 95-62 triumph.

Key Numbers

Top Scorer (Bahrain): Hassan Abdulkadir - 20 pts, 13 reb, 5 ast, 2 blk

Top Scorer (Iran): Yasin MorovatHalabi - 23 pts, 9 reb, 3 ast

Playmaker: Alireza Rashidi - 6 ast (Iran) vs. Hussain Ghuloom - 3 ast (Bahrain)

Quarter Scores:

Q1: Iran 20-18 Bahrain

Q2: Iran 23-14 Bahrain

Q3: Iran 22-19 Bahrain

Q4: Iran 30-11 Bahrain

Tactical Breakdown

- Iran dictated momentum: Biggest lead stretched to 35 points, while Bahrain never led

- Possession control: Iran led for 36:49 of game time; Bahrain 0:00

- Turnover pressure: 36 Iranian points came off Bahrain's 23 turnovers

- Paint and boards: Iran outscored Bahrain 48-40 inside and won the rebounding battle 44-32.

- Second-chance edge: Iran 24-9 in second chance points, fueled by 21 offensive rebounds

- Bench depth: Iran's reserves added 35 points, dwarfing Bahrain's 17

- Fast-break parity: Both sides scored 21 in transition, Bahrain's only equal footing

Verstappen pips McLaren pair to pole at Italian GP

AFP | Monza

Max Verstappen took pole position for the Italian Grand Prix yesterday, the reigning Formula One champion giving himself a chance at Monza of slowing McLaren's domination.

Dutchman Verstappen, who has won the last four world titles, will start in the front row alongside Lando Norris who was just ahead of his McLaren teammate and championship leader Oscar Piastri.

Having led for much of Q3, Verstappen snatched back first place in the final seconds of qualifying from Norris, who has been strong this weekend and



Less than one second separated all 20 cars in Q1 - the closest first qualifying session in Formula 1 history

seemed to have pipped the Red Bull man.

Verstappen completed his rapid last lap in one minute and 18.792 seconds, 0.077sec ahead of Norris and 0.190sec faster

than Piastri, who leads Norris by 34 points at the top of the drivers' standings.

Norris almost missed a top 10 spot on the grid as he sat 11th before his final lap of Q2 sent him through with time already run out.

Ferrari pair Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton were fourth and fifth, although seven-time champion Hamilton has a five-place grid penalty and will struggle to bring any joy to what has been a difficult first season with the Scuderia.

Another home hope, Kimi Antonelli, will start in seventh, one place behind his Mercedes teammate George Russell.

The Bologna-born teenag-

er, who was announced as a Mercedes driver at Monza last year, gave himself a good chance of turning around a rotten recent run.

French pair Pierre Gasly and Isack Hadjar are at the rear of the grid after failing to get past an extremely tight Q1 in which less than a second separated all 20 cars.

Gasly, who yesterday extended his contract with Alpine until 2028, is on the back row alongside Hadjar's Racing Bulls teammate Liam Lawson.

Hadjar, a 20-year-old F1 rookie, is unlikely to repeat last weekend's feat of a podium finish after only securing 16th spot on the grid.



Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen jumps from his car as he celebrates his pole position

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