

Chinese Taipei snatch win over Bahrain

Bahrain seal first-ever top-eight Asia finish



Somto Onoduenyi throws down a dunk on his return to action

- Bahrain finish 8th out of 44 Asian nations
- Hassan Oshobuge Abdulkadir stars again

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's historic run at the FIBA U16 Asia Cup came to conclusion yesterday, as they narrowly lost 105-103 to Chinese Taipei in the 7th-8th place classification game at the MBank Arena. Despite the heartbreak, the result confirmed Bahrain's first-ever top-eight continental finish, capping an extraordinary year for the young team.

Hassan Oshobuge Abdulkadir once again carried Bahrain, posting 24 points, 18 rebounds, 5 assists, and 3 steals in another all-around display. He was matched against Chinese Taipei's I-Le Wang, who top-scored for his team with 18 points and hit the game-winning three-pointer in the final seconds.

Somto Patrick Onoduenyi, returning after three games out,

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Bahrain's 2025 journey was still extraordinary: Gulf champions, Arab champions, and now a confirmed top-eight team in Asia

Quarter Scores	
Q1: Chinese Taipei 27-23 Bahrain	
Q2: Chinese Taipei 29-24 Bahrain	
Q3: Bahrain 34-25 Chinese Taipei	
Q4: Chinese Taipei 24-22 Bahrain	

added 2 blocks and provided interior presence that nearly swung momentum Bahrain's way.

The game saw wild swings of momentum — Chinese Taipei led by as many as 14 points, while Bahrain held an 11-point advantage during their furious third-quarter rally. Ultimately,

eight lead changes and a clutch final possession decided the outcome.

The match was witnessed by a modest crowd of 35 fans in Ulaanbaatar.

Tournament Journey

Bahrain's 8th-place finish represents their best FIBA Asia Cup campaign in over a decade. Their journey included:

- Group phase: 141-47 loss to Australia; 70-68 win vs Lebanon; 111-80 win vs India
- Quarterfinal Qualifier: 79-66 win vs Philippines (clinching a top-eight spot)
- Quarterfinal: 84-69 loss vs three-time champions China
- Classification Round: 95-62 loss vs Iran; 105-103 loss vs Chinese Taipei

Despite the final two defeats, Bahrain's progress was undeniable. They finished 8th out of 44 countries, alongside their regional titles in 2025 — winning both the Gulf Championship (undefeated) and the Arab Championship



Chinese Taipei rejoice after their win

Late three by Wang frustrates Bahrain

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's U16 Asia Cup ended in heartbreak as Chinese Taipei stole a 105-103 win in the 7th-8th place classification round, thanks to a game-winning three-pointer from I-Le Wang with just seconds remaining.

For Bahrain, the result was a cruel blow after they had fought back from a nine-point halftime deficit to level the game at 81-81 heading into the final quarter. Once again, it was Hassan Oshobuge Abdulkadir who carried the load. The 6'8 forward posted a dominant 24 points, 18 rebounds, and 5 assists, producing his fourth standout performance in as many games. He was ably supported by Yousif Yaqoob Meshaei's perimeter shooting and the return of Somto Onoduenyi,

whose energy and shot-blocking gave Bahrain a much-needed boost.

The fourth quarter was a rollercoaster. Bahrain surged ahead 97-90 midway through the period and looked poised to secure seventh place. But turnovers proved costly. Chinese Taipei forced mistakes, converted second-chance opportunities, and slowly clawed their way back. With the scores tied, it was Wang who delivered the dagger with a three-pointer that sank Bahrain's hopes of finishing on a high.

Momentum Shifts

What made the contest so gripping was its constant swings. Chinese Taipei led by as many as 14 in the first half, only for Bahrain to rally and even hold an 11-point cushion in the second. In total, there were eight lead changes and four ties, with both teams enjoying scoring runs of double figures. It was a game decided by inches, and ultimately by one shot.

Where it Was Won

While Bahrain were more efficient overall — shooting 55% from the field and 50% from beyond the arc compared to Taipei's 46% and 27% — their mistakes proved decisive. Nineteen turnovers led to 27 Chinese Taipei points, while the bench battle was one-sided, with Taipei's reserves contributing 52 points to Bahrain's 36.

The rebounding battle was evenly contested, but Taipei thrived in the scrappy areas: 27 second-chance points versus Bahrain's 15, and 36 points off turnovers compared to Bahrain's 18. In the end, those "extra possessions" tilted the balance against a Bahrain side that looked stronger in set plays and transition.

The scoreboard read defeat, but Bahrain's legacy from Ulaanbaatar is one of progress; their unity was again underlined by the heartfelt tribute to late teammate Hussein Al Hayki, honoring his memory and impact.

Standout performances

- Bahrain: Abdulkadir (24 pts, 18 reb, 5 ast, 3 stl), Onoduenyi (10 pts, 2 blks), Meshaei (timely threes)
- Chinese Taipei: Wang (18 pts, game-winning three), Yu-Chen Chou (6 ast, 6 stl, all-action guard play), Cheng-Che Hsiao (17 pts, consistent scoring)

Pakistan to host Afghanistan, Sri Lanka for T20I tri-series

AFP | Karachi

Pakistan's cricket board announced yesterday it will host a Twenty20 international tri-series with Afghanistan and Sri Lanka in November, as teams get ready for next year's World Cup.

"The series has been organised to provide all teams with valuable preparation ahead of next year's Men's T20 World Cup, to be staged in India and Sri Lanka," the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said in a statement.

The tri-series will begin on November 17 with Pakistan taking on Afghanistan at the Rawalpindi stadium.

This will be the first time Pakistan play neighbours Afghanistan in a T20I match on home soil, the PCB said.

Afghanistan have played two one-day internationals in the Asia Cup 2023 and three in this year's Champions Trophy in Pakistan, but they involved opponents other than the home team.



Team Lidl-Trek's Danish rider Mads Pedersen celebrates crossing the finish line

Pedersen wins Vuelta stage 15 as protests keep impacting race

AFP | Monforte de Lemos

Mads Pedersen sprinted to Vuelta stage 15 victory yesterday as pro-Palestinian protestors continued making an impact on the race.

Spanish cyclist Javier Romo fell amid a disturbance caused by a protestor who slipped on the side of the road, with the rider then appearing to run after the person before continuing riding and catching back up to the chase group.

Protestors waved Palestine flags en masse at the start and

end of the stage.

Danish Lidl-Trek rider Pedersen scored his first victory of this year's race with a blistering burst past Marco Frigo on the home straight of the medium mountains stage, running 167.8 kilometres from A Veiga to Monforte de Lemos.

Frigo, riding for Israel-Premier Tech, the team targeted by the protests, came in third behind Orluis Aular.

After a rest day on Monday the race resumes with stage 16 on Tuesday, running 167.9km from Poio to Castro de Herville.