

Bahrain Outclasses Kuwait

Bahrain's U16 squad continues its impressive GBA Qualifiers run with another big win

● **2 wins out of 2 for Bahrain**

● **Mohammed Adel lights it up**

● **Saudi test comes tonight**

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

After opening the 2025 GBA U16 Basketball Qualifiers with a 96-45 rout of Oman, Bahrain followed it up with another brilliant performance against Kuwait last night, winning 93-52 at Umm Alhassam Sports Hall.

Kuwait looked set to close the first quarter with a narrow lead before Bahrain executed a swift 8-0 run to take a 25-22 edge by the buzzer. From there, it was Bahrain's tempo and composure that controlled the rest of the contest.

By halftime, the game had cracked open: Bahrain surged ahead 58-31, with defensive rebounding and three-point precision suffocating Kuwait's rhythm. The third quarter con-

tinued in dominant fashion, with Bahrain stretching the score to 80-43 before easing into a controlled finish.

Key Contributors

Manama Club's Mohammed Adel Abdulla poured in 20 points, including four three-pointers, once again leading Bahrain's scoring and orchestrating the offense with ease. His shot selection and court awareness turned several broken possessions into momentum-swinging moments.

Somto Patrick Onoduenyi added 14 points, 14 rebounds, and 4 assists, dominating both ends of the court and throwing down several highlight-reel dunks that deflated Kuwait's defensive morale. His transition leadership was vital in Bahrain's fast-break success.

Hassan Oshobuge Abdulkadir was immense on the glass with 17 rebounds and 16 points, creating second-chance opportunities and setting the tone in the paint.

Ali Khalil Habib grabbed 8 rebounds and dished 3 assists, while Mohamed Mahmood Farhan contributed 5 boards and 3 assists off the bench.

Kuwait's AbdulAziz AlMutawa was again their top scorer



Yousif Yaqoob goes for a stylish layup

with 13 points, but was held in check through physical defense and tight switching.

Depth Tells the Story

Bahrain's bench once again

delivered. Yousif Ali Alsama-heji brought calm and experience from his time with Al Ahli's Premier League title run, while Ali Alhaddad, Hussain Fuad Ghuloom, and Hasan Ruyan



Bahrain's Somto Patrick Onoduenyi has thrown down multiple dunks in both games, asserting himself as the team's most explosive finisher.

(12 points) all played important minutes.

Captain Ali Husain Mohamed kept the team focused and vocal from the sideline, providing leadership throughout.

Altogether, Bahrain's depth translated into 21 assists, 63 rebounds, and 21 steals, while forcing 30 turnovers from Kuwait. It was a statistical and stylistic show of effort and discipline.

Strong Foundation From Coaching Staff

Head Coach Rassem Al-Marzooqi and Assistant Hani Alam have implemented a sys-

tem rooted in team discipline, switching defense, and fast-paced transition play. Their influence was evident in Bahrain's ability to respond to Kuwait's early challenge and in their clinical dismantling of Oman just a day earlier.

"I'm proud of the boys," said AlMarzooqi after the win. "To come out with this kind of performance less than 24 hours after our last game shows real focus and maturity. But we know tomorrow will be another tough test—Saudi looked very strong today."

The team is clearly targeting improvement from its third-place finish in the 2023 edition, and so far, the signs point upward.

Next Up: Saudi Arabia

Bahrain will face a tougher test tonight at 7:30 PM, when they meet Saudi Arabia, who are coming off a 73-30 demolition of the UAE.

The qualifiers are being played in league format, with five of the six GCC countries participating in this year's Gulf Basketball Association (GBA) event. The tournament serves as a qualifier for the FIBA U16 Asia Championship, to be held this September.

Injured Shadab and Rauf out of Pakistan's squad for Bangladesh T20Is



Pakistan's Haris Rauf (L) celebrates with teammate Shadab Khan (file photo)

AFP | Karachi

Pakistan yesterday left out injured allrounder Shadab Khan and fast bowler Haris Rauf from the fitness-hit squad for the Twenty20 international series in Bangladesh this month.

Shadab, vice-captain of the team during their 3-0 home win over Bangladesh last month, has undergone a shoulder operation and is recuperating in England.

Rauf injured his hamstring during a T20 League game in the United States on Sunday while another pacer, Hasan Ali, is out due to his commitment in county cricket in England.

Pakistan continues to leave out former captains Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, and spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi as selectors said they want to try some new players in the build-up to the World Cup.

India and Sri Lanka will co-host the Twenty20 World Cup in February-March next year.

Azam and Rizwan were last

The 31-year-old Salman Mirza could become Pakistan's oldest T20I debutant if selected, having waited over a decade since his first-class debut in 2013 for his international chance

part of the T20I squad in South Africa last year, while Shaheen featured on the New Zealand tour in March this year.

Salman Agha will lead the side in Bangladesh where the matches will be played in Dhaka on July 20, 22 and 24.

Also left out are pacers Naseem Shah and Mohammad Wasim who both continue to regain full fitness after injuries.

It left the selectors to choose uncapped pacers in 31-year-old Salman Mirza and Ahmed Daniyal, 28, who both performed well in the Pakistan Super League this year.

Spinning allrounder Mohammad Nawaz returns to the squad after last playing for Pakistan in January 2024.

India expect England's Archer to pose 'challenge'

AFP | London

Jofra Archer will pose a fresh "challenge" for India should the England fast bowler make his long-awaited return to Test cricket at Lord's this week, the tourists' batting coach said yesterday.

The 30-year-old is poised to end four years of injury-induced exile in the third Test starting Thursday, after India levelled the five-match series at 1-1 after thrashing England by 336 runs at Edgbaston.

England could refresh their pace attack at Lord's by recalling both Archer and Gus Atkinson, with Brydon Carse and Josh Tongue possibly making way.

Archer burst onto the international scene in 2019 but played the last of his 13 Tests in February 2021 and this season has bowled just 18 first-class overs for county side Sussex.

"It will be a challenge, Jofra coming in," India batting coach

Sitanshu Kotak told reporters.

"There might be a couple of bowling changes in the England team, but that we don't know,"

England captain Ben Stokes said the pitch at Edgbaston was more of a sub-continental than typically English surface, with the hosts making it clear they would like the rest of the series played on pitches with more pace and bounce.

Two days out from the game, a green

pitch at Lord's offered the promise of assistance for pacemen on both sides, with India recalling Jasprit Bumrah after resting him in Birmingham.

"The wicket also will be a little more challenging, it seems," said Kotak. "And after the last two games, if as a host, England think that they want a little bit more challenging wicket, it is fair enough..."

"You bat well, it is fine. If you don't bat well, any wicket can be challenging."

"It looks as if there's a little



Archer has bowled just 18 first-class overs since his last Test appearance 42 months ago, making his potential return one of the most remarkable comebacks in recent cricket history

green in the wicket... But, tomorrow (Wednesday), when they will do the final cut (of the pitch), after that we can say."

India's batsmen have posted seven hundreds so far this series, with captain Shubman Gill already having three to his credit after scoring 269 and 161 at Edgbaston.

Jofra Archer

Sinner cancels Wimbledon practice hit after elbow injury

AFP | London

World number one Jannik Sinner cancelled a practice session yesterday, fuelling fears his bid for a first Wimbledon title could be undone by an elbow injury.

The Italian suffered the problem after falling in the first game of his fourth-round clash with Grigor Dimitrov on Monday.

Sinner trailed the Bulgarian by two sets when Dimitrov was dramatically forced to retire after injuring a pectoral muscle.



Grigor Dimitrov (R) speaks with Jannik Sinner (L) after getting injured (file photo)

However, the US and Australian Open champion's reprieve could be short-lived.

Sinner said after the match he would have an MRI scan on his elbow to assess the damage. "It was quite an unfortunate fall," said Sinner.

"I could feel it. So let's see. Tomorrow (Tuesday) we are going to check to see how it is, and then we see."

The three-time Grand Slam champion is due to play American 10th seed Ben Shelton in the second match on Court One on Wednesday.