

# Bahrain Cruises Past Saudi Arabia

Bahrain's U16 squad remains unbeaten in GBA Qualifiers with comfortable win

● **3 wins out of 3 for Bahrain**

● **Hassan and Somto dominate the paint**

● **UAE test comes tomorrow after today's rest**

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's U16 squad continued its unbeaten run in the 2025 GBA U16 Basketball Qualifiers with an 82-62 win over Saudi Arabia last night at Umm Alhassam Sports Hall. While the win keeps Bahrain perfect at 3-0, the 82-point output is their lowest scoring performance of the tournament so far.

Saudi Arabia brought energy early, trailing just 26-21 after the first quarter. But Bahrain's deep rotation and relentless rebound-

ing wore them down over time. By halftime, Bahrain led 44-34. Saudi rallied briefly in the third quarter, drawing within eight, but Bahrain held steady and then closed strong, outscoring their opponents 23-11 in the final period to seal a 20-point win.

## Key Contributors

Hassan Oshobuge Abdulkadir was the anchor of Bahrain's frontcourt, delivering a strong two-way performance with 18 points and a game-high 22 rebounds, capped off with a two-handed putback that ended the match in style. Mohamed Adel Abdulla played all 40 minutes and led Bahrain in scoring with 19 points, hitting tough shots and crashing the boards for 6 rebounds. Somto Patrick Onoduenyi added another elite showing, recording 11 points, 17 rebounds, and 6 assists, controlling the glass and fueling Bahrain's transition offense with pinpoint outlet passes.

Hussain Fuad Ghuloom contributed 6 points and 2 rebounds in just under 14 minutes, mak-



Hassan Oshobuge Abdulkadir drives home the finishing layup

ing the most of his time on the floor. Playmakers Ali Husain Mohamed and Yousif Yaqoob Meshaei were steady in the

backcourt, combining for 8 assists and keeping the offense moving with strong ball rotation and composure under pressure.

On the Saudi side, Ayman Mawadah Alshinkite had a solid outing with 14 points and 14 rebounds, while Abdulrahman Adel Elmouassarani pitched in with 10 points and 8 boards. Despite their efforts, Saudi couldn't match Bahrain's presence in the paint or second-chance production.

## Depth Tells the Story

Bahrain's bench and hustle stats told the real story. They dominated the boards 72-53, forced 18 Saudi turnovers, and exploded in transition with 34 fast break points to Saudi's 6.

Despite shooting just 34% from the field and an ice-cold 14% from three-point range (4/28), Bahrain's effort plays and second-chance points (56 in the paint) carried them through. Their defensive rotations also produced 8 blocks and 7 steals, a testament to their system.

## Strong Foundation From Coaching Staff

Head Coach Rassem AlMarzooqi and Assistant Hani Alam

have built a team identity on defensive discipline, aggressive rebounding, and selfless ball movement. Their players executed the plan even on an off-shooting night, showing maturity and poise in the face of Saudi Arabia's physicality.

"Even though it wasn't our best shooting night, we found ways to win," said AlMarzooqi. "Hassan and Somto were huge for us. Now we reset and prepare for the UAE."

## Next Up: UAE

Bahrain enjoys a rest day today before facing the United Arab Emirates tomorrow in their fourth game of the GBA Qualifiers. Earlier yesterday, Kuwait defeated Oman 64-55, keeping the standings competitive.

The top finishers from this round-robin tournament will qualify for the FIBA U16 Asia Championship, set for September in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Fans are encouraged to attend the games at Umm Alhassam Sports Hall. Entry is free throughout the tournament.

## Pant says keeping to Bumrah even tougher than facing the India star

AFP | London

Rishabh Pant reckons the only thing harder than batting against India's Jasprit Bumrah is keeping wicket to the fast bowler.

Bumrah is set to return in the third Test against England at Lord's on Thursday after being rested from India's crushing 336-run win at Edgbaston last week.

Blessed with the ability to generate sharp pace off a short run, Bumrah's extraordinary action also means he is capable of late movement as well.

And with the ball often moving significantly after passing the bat in English conditions, Bumrah's skill can make life tough for India wicketkeeper Pant -- especially at Lord's where an eight-foot (2.5-metre) slope runs across the ground.

Bumrah's career figures of 210 wickets in 46 Tests at an average of under 20 stand comparison with cricket's greatest

quicks.

Pant, asked during a pre-match press conference at Lord's yesterday what makes Bumrah so special, replied: "I think everything.

I think how accurate he is, the way his mind works. I think it's just amazing."

He added: "I think it's more difficult for the wicketkeeper behind the wicket than for a batsman, I guess, especially in England."

India have yet to confirm their side for Lord's, although captain Shubman Gill has said Bumrah will play, with Prasad Krishna in line to make way.

At Edgbaston, India deployed three pacemen,

with Akash Deep and Mohammed Siraj doing most of the damage, and two spin-bowling all-rounders in Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar.

Pant, asked if India would field a similar attack at Lord's, said: "Discussions are still going on. But we will get to know by tomorrow (Thursday). Sometimes the wicket changes colour, the moisture will become less also."

"I think everything. I think how accurate he is, the way his mind works. I think it's just amazing. I think it's more difficult for the wicketkeeper behind the wicket than for a batsman, I guess, especially in England"

RISHABH PANT



Jasprit Bumrah

## Ex-Real Madrid coach Ancelotti gets year's jail for tax fraud

AFP | Madrid

A Spanish court yesterday sentenced former Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti to a year in jail for tax fraud committed in 2014, a punishment that will not oblige the Brazil coach to serve prison time.

Prosecutors alleged the Italian created a system of shell companies to hide extra earnings during his first spell as Real Madrid manager in 2014 and 2015, notably through image rights.

They said the 66-year-old, one of the most successful managers in football history, failed to pay more than one million euros due to undeclared earnings in those years, seeking four years and nine months in jail against him.

Ancelotti denied having intentionally committed fraud at his highly publicised trial in April, saying he never re-



Carlo Ancelotti

alised a scheme allowing him to collect some of his salary in image rights would see him pay less tax.

A Madrid court announced in a ruling it had convicted Ancelotti for "an offence against the treasury... to the punishment of one year in prison" and a fine of 386,361 euros (\$452,821).

But the former Chelsea, Bayern Munich and Paris Saint-Germain boss, who no longer lives in Spain, will not serve jail time because the sentence is less than two years and he has no criminal record.

## Bahrain Boxers Head to Portugal for international tournament

● **Bahrain joins Braga boxing tournament**

● **Nine boxers compete across weights**

● **Part of 2025 competition calendar**

AFP | London

The Bahrain national boxing team is participating in the Braga International Boxing Tournament in Portugal. The delegation is led by Bahrain Boxing Federation President Rashid Isa Flifel.

## Technical Team and Line-Up



Bahrain's boxers and coaches at the airport

The coaching staff includes English head coach Tony Da-

vis, national teams coach Fathi Al-Misawi, and Bahraini coach

Mohammed Naseem.

Nine boxers are representing



Bahrain is fielding nine boxers in six weight classes in Portugal

Bahrain.

## Backed at the Top

Rashid Flifel thanked His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his continued support of combat sports, and also praised the backing of Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khali-

## Squad

Salman Mohammed (38kg)  
Jayden Price (44kg)  
Abdulrahman Rashid (60kg)  
Ahmed Atiya (60kg)  
Fahad Al-Abdullah (60kg)  
Mohammed Atiya (75kg)  
Hassan Jamshir (75kg)  
Youssef Khaled (71kg)  
Mohammed Fakher (71kg)  
Sayed Hashim Habib

fa for national combat sports federations.

## A Key Stop in 2025 Plans

This tournament is part of Bahrain's 2025 competition calendar, aimed at improving national team performance and achieving further sporting success.