



Ali Ferdousi rises for a layup during yesterday's match

Bahrain dominate Kuwait to stay top

Bahrain make it three wins out of three for flawless Arab U16 Championship start

- Bahrain three wins from three games
- Second quarter decisive against Kuwait side
- Bahrain face Tunisia tomorrow
- Patrick leads with twenty-point showing

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's U16 national basketball team outclassed Kuwait 81-57 at Cairo Stadium's Indoor Halls Complex, securing their third straight win in the 22nd Arab U16 Championship, following victories over Qatar (90-50) and Algeria (80-54). The opening quarter was competitive, with Kuwait briefly leading by



Bahrain have outscored opponents by an average of over 24 points per game so far in the tournament

five through efficient inside play. But Bahrain's defence tightened, forcing turnovers and creating transition chances to edge the period 14-12.

Second-Quarter Surge

In the second quarter, Bahrain took control. Accurate three-point shooting from Hussein Fouad, Mohamed Adel and Yousif Yaqoob stretched the floor, opening lanes and extending the lead to 16 by halftime at 44-28. The combination of perimeter ac-

curacy and disciplined defence left Kuwait struggling to find answers.

Kuwait Rally, Bahrain Respond

Kuwait outscored Bahrain 23-21 in the third period, but any hopes of a comeback were quickly shut down. The final quarter saw Bahrain lock in defensively, allowing just six points while adding 16 of their own to seal a 24-point victory.

Scoring leaders and Rotation

Somto Patrick led Bahrain with 20 points, Fouad added 14, and Hassan Abdelqader chipped in 12. Head coach Rassem Marzooqi rotated his squad heavily, giving all players minutes to maintain fitness and avoid fatigue ahead of tougher fixtures to come.

Next Up

Bahrain sit atop the standings with six points from three games. After today's rest day, they return to action on Thursday at 3 pm against Tunisia, aiming to protect their lead and strengthen their push for the title.

Palace blast UEFA's 'meaningless' sporting merit

- UEFA demotes Palace to Conference League
- CAS rejects appeal on ownership conflict
- Forest take Europa League spot instead

AFP | London

Premier League side Crystal Palace said yesterday that sporting merit had been "rendered meaningless" by UEFA's decision to demote them from the Europa League.

The FA Cup winners have been forced to play in this season's Conference League after European football's governing body UEFA ruled in July that American businessman John Textor had control or influence at both Palace and French club Lyon.

Palace tried to have the punishment overturned, but on Monday the Lausanne-based Court of Arbitration for Sport announced the Premier League club had lost their appeal.

Nottingham Forest are set to take Palace's spot in the Europa League.

Palace chairman Steve Parish had already been vocal in his criticism after the initial demotion and, with their fate sealed, the south London club again blasted the decision.

"At a time when we should be celebrating our victory in the Community Shield at Wembley, the decision by UEFA and followed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport shows that sporting merit is rendered meaningless," Palace said in a statement.

"When we won the FA Cup against Manchester City on



Crystal Palace's players look on during a match

that momentous day in May, our manager and players earned the right to play Europa League football.

"We have been denied that opportunity. It appears that certain clubs, organisations and individuals have a unique privilege and power.

"This growing and unhealthy influence has shattered the hopes and dreams of Crystal Palace supporters, and does not bode well for aspirational teams all over Europe competing to progress when rules and sanctions are unevenly applied in the most flagrant way."

UEFA regulations state that where one or more clubs are found to have shared ownership, they cannot play in the same competition, and Lyon held on to the Europa League spot by virtue of their higher league position.

Palace missed a March 1 UEFA



Despite Textor selling his Palace shares to Woody Johnson in July, UEFA ruled the March 1 deadline for ownership changes had already passed - sealing Palace's fate

deadline for team in multi-club groups to change their ownership structure.

Textor has since sold his shares to New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, a takeover

completed in late July.

"Multi-club structures hide behind the charade of a 'blind trust' while clubs such as ours, who have no connection to another club whatsoever, are prevented from playing in the same competition," the Palace statement added.

"To compound the injustice, clubs that appear to have huge informal arrangements with each other are also allowed to participate and even possibly play against each other.

Palace added that the process was "designed to severely restrict and, in our case, make it almost impossible to receive a fair hearing".

Palace beat Premier League champions Liverpool in the Community Shield at the weekend, winning a penalty shootout after the match finished 2-2 in 90 minutes.

PSG sign Ukrainian defender Illia Zabarnyi from Bournemouth

- £57m transfer from Bournemouth
- First Ukrainian to play for PSG

AFP | Paris

European champions Paris Saint-Germain said yesterday they have signed Ukrainian centre-back Illia Zabarnyi from Premier League club Bournemouth.

British media reports said the deal was worth around £57 million (\$76.7 million, 66 million euros).

"Paris Saint-Germain are excited to welcome Illia Zabarnyi," PSG said in a statement, adding he would be the first Ukrainian ever to play for the club.

The arrival of Zabarnyi, 22, could jeopardise the place of Brazilian stalwart Marquinhos in the starting lineup.

Zabarnyi had an impressive 2024-2025 season in England when Bournemouth finished ninth and the club's supporters voted him their player of the season in the previous campaign.

Bournemouth have now sold three of their first-choice defensive lineup from last season after Milos Kerkez moved to Premier League champions Liverpool and Dean



Zabarnyi was voted Bournemouth's player of the season before sealing his record-breaking move to the French champions

Huijsen was transferred to Real Madrid.

Qatar-owned PSG, who thrashed Inter Milan 5-0 to win the Champions League for the first time in May, also

signed highly-rated Lille goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier

last Saturday, a move that appears to herald the possible departure of Gianluigi Donnarumma.

The Italian international 'keeper has reportedly not been selected in the squad for Wednesday's European Super Cup final against Europa League winners Tottenham in Italy.



Illia Zabarnyi