

Young Reds sink Lebanon in Asia Cup Opener

Long-limbed Hassan Abdulkadir marches forward

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The young Reds hit Lebanon hard from the off and held off a late charge to win 74-68 in Ahmedabad on Thursday, giving Bahrain a winning start to their FIBA Under-18 Asia Cup campaign. Bahrain tore into Lebanon from the opening buzzer, taking the first quarter 22-11 before heading into half-time 37-25 up. They kept the pressure on after the break. A 21-18 third quarter sent Bahrain into the last 10 minutes with a 58-43 lead and Lebanon with a mountain to climb. Then came the fightback. Lebanon piled on 25 points in the fourth and held Bahrain to 16, but the young Reds had done enough early on. They held on through the closing minutes to seal a six-point win. Hot-shooting duo Hassan Abdulkadir and Mahdi Habib led Bahrain with 19 points each, while all five starters reached double figures. Abdulkadir was a force at both ends. He played all 40 minutes, pulled down 14 rebounds, made four steals and blocked three shots. He hit six of 13 from the floor and seven of 11 from the free-throw line. Habib ran the show alongside him, shooting six of 10 from the field and handing out eight assists. He also made two steals and sank six of nine free throws. Somto Patrick ruled the boards with 18 rebounds, including six offensive rebounds, and added 14 points in 39 minutes. Muftaba Ismael and Mohammed Adel chipped in with 10 points each, leaving Bahrain's starting five with 72 of the team's 74 points. The win gives Bahrain a flying start in Group B, where they will also face New Zealand and Syria. New Zealand beat Syria 67-58 in their opening game. Bahrain are playing in the Under-18 Asian championship for the first time since 2018, when they finished seventh. They earned their place in India after topping the Gulf qualifiers in Doha with four wins from four games. Thursday's result also continued Bahrain's recent success against Lebanon at youth level. Many of the same players featured when Bahrain beat Lebanon 70-68 at the FIBA Under-16 Asia Cup last year. Bahrain face New Zealand on Saturday before meeting Syria on Monday in their final Group B match. The group winners go straight into the quarter-finals, while the second and third-placed teams enter a play-off for a place in the last eight. The four semi-finalists will earn places at the 2027 FIBA Under-19 Basketball World Cup in the Czech Republic.



Yousif Yaqoob soars to the basket

Leicester's Thai owners put troubled club up for sale

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Former Premier League champions Leicester have been put up for sale by the club's Thai owners, according to reports on Thursday.

Just 10 years after their fairytale Premier League title triumph, Leicester will play in English football's third tier for only the second time in their history this season.

The Foxes, who won their first FA Cup in 2021, have endured a dire period featuring successive relegations from the Premier League in 2025 and the Championship in 2026.

Last season, they were docked six points after breaching the Football League's profit and sustainability rules, sparking their slump into League One.

A BBC report on Thursday said Leicester's Thai owners King Power -- run by the Srivaddhanaprabha family -- have commissioned a leading US investment bank to help find a buyer, with the club's assets said to be listed at more than £200 million (\$269 million).

King Power bought Leicester in a £35 million deal in 2010.

Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha took over as Leicester chairman following the death of his father Vichai in a helicopter crash outside the club's King Power stadium in 2019.

Following last season's relegation, Aiyawatt said he should shoulder the "blame" for the club's predicament but also stressed the "structure will change".

Russell Martin's side kick off their promotion bid with a trip to Notts County on Saturday.



Leicester City won the Premier League at odds of 5,000 to 1!

Rybakina beats Gauff to book Toronto title clash with Swiatek

Toronto, Canada

Australian Open champion Elena Rybakina battled back to beat Coco Gauff 5-7, 6-2, 6-2 on Wednesday and book a Toronto title clash with former world number one Iga Swiatek.

World number two Rybakina, whose Canadian run has her inching closer to No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the rankings, kept her title bid alive with another gutsy comeback, having rallied from a set down to beat Naomi Osaka in the quarter-finals.



Motorsport Team Prepares for Sepang F1 Race

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A national motorsport team has been sent to Malaysia to map out how Bahrain will help run the 2026 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit from October 2 to 4.

The Bahrain Motor Federation delegation inspected the track, garages, starting area and other key parts of the circuit as planning for the Formula One weekend moves into a more detailed stage.

The team also met Sepang International Circuit staff and representatives of Malaysia's motorsport federation to work through race control, staffing, scrutineering, transport and



National motorsport delegation in Malaysia

safety plans. Part of the visit focused on how many Bahraini marshals where they will be posted and circuit during the race weekend. Scrutineering staff reviewed and organisers will be needed, how work will be split across the

checks on the cars and the FIA rules that circuits must meet before staging a Formula One World Championship event.

Accommodation, local transport and other needs for the Bahraini contingent were also discussed with Malaysian counterparts and other parties involved in the race.

The trip is one of a series of visits to Sepang by the Bahrain Motor Federation, working with Bahrain International Circuit, as preparations gather pace for the October event.

The work is being carried out under the direction of Bahrain Motor Federation president Sheikh Abdullah bin Isa Al Khalifa, who is also FIA vice-president for sport for the Middle East and North Africa.