

# Bahrain stay unbeaten after pulling away late vs Malaysia

Third straight win for the Kingdom in their return to the William Jones Cup

● Bahrain win comfortably again

● Australia United up next

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Bahrain continued their unbeaten run in the 44th William Jones Cup with an 81-69 win over Malaysia on Monday morning in New Taipei City, improving their record to 3-0. The result follows back-to-back wins over Japan U25 (85-69) and Chinese Taipei White (71-63).

After a tight first half in which Bahrain trailed by three late in the second quarter, a 25-point third period shifted momentum decisively. Mustafa Rashed led Bahrain's scoresheet with 23 points on 7-of-12 shooting, including five threes, while Jakarr Sampson added 22 points and 7 rebounds.

#### Quarter-by-Quarter

Malaysia opened with a close first half, staying within striking distance. They trailed just 15-13 after the opening quarter and briefly took the lead before Bahrain responded.



Bahrain's players huddle for a rallying talk

The sides went into the break with Bahrain narrowly ahead, 35-38.

The third quarter, however, saw Bahrain turn the screws defensively, holding Malaysia to just 10 points while pouring in

25 of their own behind key buckets from Sampson and Ahmed Bindayneh.

Despite 21-point fourth-quarter effort from Malaysia, Bahrain closed the game out comfortably.



Mustafa Rashed (#11), Bahrain's top scorer, drives to the basket

#### Standouts and stats

Beyond Rashed and Sampson, Subah Azzam had a solid outing with 8 points and 2 threes in just 20 minutes. Devon Chism

contributed 8 points and 11 rebounds, while Ali Rashed provided playmaking off the bench with 4 assists and efficient minutes.

Defensively, Bahrain held Malaysia to 38.8% shooting, in-



Bahrain's 11 three-pointers against Malaysia were made by seven different players

cluding just 24.1% from three, and dominated the glass with 43 total rebounds. Bahrain's 22 team assists reflected strong ball movement and rhythm in half-court sets.

Malaysia were led by Yi Hou Wong, who scored 27 points, but received little support, with only Chun Hong Ting (18 points) also reaching double figures.

#### What's next?

Bahrain's next opponent is Australia United today at 8AM (Bahrain time), followed by matchups against the UAE, Qatar B, Chinese Taipei, and Strong Group Athletics across a packed week.

Their campaign, now off to a perfect 3-0 start, is rapidly picking up momentum and the squad appears more connected with each performance.

## Bahrain steps in, Arab Championship stays on

Tunisia withdrawal hands Bahrain hosting rights just days before tip-off

● Tournament tips off July 25

● Nine Arab nations expected to compete

● Bahrain enters on strong momentum

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Bahrain has officially been awarded hosting rights for the 26th edition of the Arab Men's National Basketball Championship, following Tunisia's withdrawal from organizing duties. The tournament will run from July 25 to August 2.

The Bahrain Basketball Association submitted an urgent request to host the event, which was swiftly approved by the Arab Basketball Federation. The move reflects Bahrain's readiness to take on major sporting

This will be the first time Bahrain hosts the Arab Men's Basketball Championship, taking over on less than two weeks' notice

events and step up when called upon, even at short notice.

That initiative supports the broader vision of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who continues to lead efforts in

positioning Bahrain as a trusted destination for regional competitions. Backed by world-class facilities and a growing résumé in sports event management, the Kingdom has steadily reinforced its standing across the Gulf and Arab world.

#### Riding Momentum from Taiwan

The announcement comes while Bahrain's national team is currently competing in the William Jones Cup in Chinese

Taipei. The squad opened the tournament with three straight wins, showing promising early form under head coach Georgios Vovoras.

That tournament wraps up on July 20, just six days before the Arab Championship tips off, leaving little room for recovery. But it also highlights Bahrain's deepening involvement in the regional basketball scene and its willingness to embrace tough schedules as both host and contender.



JaKarr Sampson in action at the William Jones Cup

## BRAVE TV wins BDCA 2025 award for Media and E-Information

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BRAVE TV was nationally recognized by the Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH) under the patronage of Ali Bin Saleh Al Saleh, receiving the Bahrain Digital Content Award (BDCA) for Excellence in the Media and E-Information sector.

With coverage in over 160 countries, BRAVE TV has more fans than most global broadcasters. BRAVE CF's broadcast



President of BRAVE Combat Federation, Mohammed Shahid receives the award

system allows fans to watch BRAVE fights live, follow ath-

letes through original series, documentaries, and exclusive

behind-the-scenes footage.

"I would like to thank HH

Sh.khalid bin Hamad al khalifa for his vision and leadership to develop mixed martial arts and sports in the kingdom. This national recognition highlights the role of Brave TV in digitization of sports industry and providing a place for all combat sports fans to be a part of," stated the President of BRAVE Combat Federation, Mohammed Shahid.

The BDCA Awards are among Bahrain's top awards for digital innovation. The judging and selection criteria include innova-

tion, scalability, local and global economic impact, and usability.

"Under the leadership of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Mohammed Shahid, BRAVE TV was created to digitally transform MMA from Bahrain to the world. Built to deliver a seamless and immersive viewing experience, it aims to connect fans globally and establish itself as the region's leading OTT platform for combat sports," stated Ibtisam Ali, head of IT.