

Relentless Bahrain put Australia to the sword

Vovoras' men post tournament-best 106 points to stay perfect in William Jones Cup

● **Bahrain score tournament-high 106**

● **Gulf rivals UAE, up next**

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's scorching form at the 44th William Jones Cup continued yesterday morning with a 106-91 win over Australia United, their fourth consecutive win in the tournament.

Led by head coach Georgios Vovoras, the Kingdom's national team posted their highest scoring total so far, and absorbed the highest total any opponent has put up past them. This was both teams' toughest defensive test yet.

The victory followed earlier wins against Japan U25 (85-69), Chinese Taipei White (71-63), and Malaysia (81-69). Now 4-0, Bahrain move into today's match against the UAE brimming with confidence.



Yesterday's topscorer, Jakarr Sampson, skies for a layup

Quarter scores

Q1: Australia United 17-32 Bahrain.
Q2: Australia United 25-24 Bahrain.. Q3: Australia United 21-27 Bahrain. Q4: Australia United 28-23 Bahrain

Fast Start

Bahrain wasted no time asserting themselves, exploding for 32 first-quarter points while holding Australia to just 17. The opening frame reflected Bahrain's interior dominance and ball movement — a theme that would run all night.

Despite a 25-24 second quarter in Australia's favor, Bahrain maintained control to take a 56-42 halftime lead.

The third quarter was equally impressive, with Bahrain outscoring Australia 27-21 thanks to smart cuts, second-chance points, and unselfish play. Though Australia fought back in the fourth, Bahrain stayed in control to close out a 15-point win.

Balanced Scoring

JaKarr Sampson led all scorers with 21 points on 56.3% shoot-



Bahrain's 106 points against Australia is the highest total they've scored this tournament, and the highest total any opponent has scored on them so far in Taipei

scoring 11 points and hitting two key threes.

In total, 10 different players scored for Bahrain.

Chemistry on Display

Bahrain shot 53% from the field, dished out 33 assists, and dominated the paint, scoring 44 two-point field goals — including 33-of-49 inside the arc (67.3%). Their ability to move the ball and exploit mismatches kept Australia scrambling defensively.

Defensively, Bahrain forced 11 turnovers and converted 13 offensive rebounds into second-chance points. They also edged the rebounding battle, 43-40.

What's Next?

Bahrain face the UAE today at 8AM (Bahrain time), continuing their grueling eight-game run in Taipei. Later this week, they'll take on Qatar B, Chinese Taipei's senior squad, and defending champions Strong Group Athletics.

With four wins in four games and their offense peaking, Bahrain's campaign is building serious momentum.

Jorge Jesus appointed coach of Saudi side Al Nassr

AFP | London

Portuguese coach Jorge Jesus was appointed yesterday by Al Nassr, where he will link up with Cristiano Ronaldo who signed a new two-year deal with the Saudi club last

month.

"It's official: Mr. Jorge Jesus is the new Head Coach of Al Nassr," the club wrote on X.

The 70-year-old Jesus was sacked by Saudi rivals Al Hilal in May following their Asian Champions League semi-final exit.

Jesus was in charge since 2023 in what was his second spell with Al Hilal.

A long managerial career has taken in his native Portugal, notably with Benfica and Sporting Lisbon, and he has also coached in Brazil and Turkey.



Jorge Jesus

Barca star Yamal faces probe into dwarf entertainers at 18th birthday



Spain and Barcelona winger Lamine Yamal reacts during a warm up session (file photo)

AFP | Barcelona

Barcelona star Lamine Yamal is facing an investigation regarding the presence of a group of people with dwarfism as entertainers at his 18th birthday party last weekend, Spain's Ministry of Social Rights said yesterday.

The winger celebrated with a private event in Olivella, around 50 kilometres west of Barcelona, which the ministry asked the prosecutor's office to probe, following a complaint from the Association for People with Achondroplasia and

Other Skeletal Dysplasias with Dwarfism (ADEE).

Yamal turned 18 on July 13, the day after his party on Saturday night, which many of his team-mates attended, along with celebrities from the music world including Bizarrap and Bad Gyal.

"The ADEE has filed a complaint, so this ministry has asked the prosecutor's office to investigate to see if the law has been violated and, therefore, the rights of people with disabilities (have been)," Spain's Ministry of Social Rights told AFP.

India's cricket stars consoled by King Charles after Lord's defeat

AFP | London

Britain's King Charles III commiserated with India's crestfallen cricket stars yesterday in the aftermath of their painful defeat against England at Lord's.

Charles consoled members of the Indian team when he hosted them at his Clarence House home less than 24 hours after the third Test ended in an agonising loss for the tourists.

India, chasing 193 to win, were beaten by 22 runs in the final session of the last day.

India's Mohammed Siraj was the last man out when he attempted to block a delivery from Shoaib Bashir, only to see the ball spin back onto the stumps and dislodge a bail.

The King told India captain Shubman Gill he had watched the crucial last wicket fall on television on Monday.



Britain's King Charles III meets members of the India men's Test cricket team

He said in sympathy about the dramatic spin on the ball that dismissed Siraj; "really annoying just to touch the bails".

India trail 2-1 in the five-match series, with the fourth Test scheduled for Old Trafford

next week before the finale at The Oval in London.

Gill added: "He did tell us that the way our last batsman got out was quite unfortunate - the ball rolling on the stumps, and he was just asking us how did we



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KING CHARLES III

feel after that.

"And we told him it was an unfortunate match for us, but it could have gone either way and hopefully we'll have better luck in both the next games."