



Match's top scorer, Bindayneh, shakes off defender

Bahrain thrash Qatar B to remain unbeaten

Bindayneh lights the fuse in sixth straight win

- **Bahrain's 6th win in as many games**
- **Bindayneh stars**
- **Bahrain face the hosts today at 2PM**

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's unbeaten run at the 44th William Jones Cup continued yesterday morning, with Vovoras' men outclassing Qatar B 81-47 at the Xinzhuang Gymnasium in New Taipei City. The Kingdom improved to 6-0 in the tournament, adding this dominant performance to earlier wins over Japan U25 (85-69), Chinese Taipei White (71-63), Malaysia

(81-29), Australia United (106-91), and the UAE (77-71). This latest win featured Bahrain's most disciplined defensive effort yet, holding Qatar to just 28.3% shooting from the field and forcing 25 turnovers. The game was close early, but Bahrain's 22-4 second quarter created a separation that Qatar never recovered from.

Second-quarter shutout

Both teams traded buckets early and were level 17-17 at the end of the first quarter, but Bahrain's pressure defense took over in the second frame. They outscored the Qataris 22-4 in a near-flawless stretch, creating transition chances off steals and converting high-percentage looks.

That gave Bahrain a 39-21 lead at halftime, and they stayed in control the rest of



Qatar managed just 4 points in the second quarter, which is Bahrain's best defensive period of the tournament so far

the way. Another 22-point third quarter stretched the gap even further, and a composed fourth quarter capped off the win.

Hamoda, Bindayneh lead

Mohamed Hamoda led the way again, scoring 11 points on 62.5% shooting while also pulling down four rebounds. Ahmed Bindayneh was clin-

ical as well, finishing with a team-high 19 points on 6-of-10 shooting, including 2 triples and 5-of-6 from the line. Mahmood Khalifa added 11 points in 20 minutes, and Subah Azzam posted 7 points, 7 rebounds, and 2 steals in an all-around performance. Devon Chism quietly grabbed 10 boards to go with his 8 points. Bahrain's defense tallied 16 steals, including 2 each from Azzam and Abdulqader Mohamed, while Jakarr Sampson added a block and 7 points.

All 11 players who saw court time scored, with Mustafa Rashed the only one left out of action (DNP).

Sterner Tests Ahead

Bahrain return to action today at 2PM, facing tournament hosts Chinese Taipei, who might present the Kingdom's toughest challenge yet.

Messi's multi-goal streak ends as Cincinnati beats Miami 3-0

AFP | Miami

Lionel Messi's Major League Soccer-record streak of multi-goal games ended at five on Wednesday as his Inter Miami squad was blanked 3-0 at FC Cincinnati.

The 38-year-old Argentine star forward had scored a brace, two goals, in five consecutive matches for Miami, giving him 16 goals on the season as Inter managed four wins and a draw in the run.

Not since 2012 when he played for Barcelona had Messi netted a brace or more in five consecutive matches.

But Cincinnati kept Miami to only two shots on goal in the contest.

"Clearly today we were outplayed from the beginning of the match," Inter Miami head coach Javier Mascherano said through



Lionel Messi #10 of Inter Miami CF controls the ball whilst under pressure from Brad Smith #14 and Corey Baird #11 of FC Cincinnati

a translator.

"It was very difficult for us to win the individual duels. Maybe one of the reasons is that physically we come with a very big

hustle and bustle and in the long run we end up paying.

"Leo suffered a knock at the end but it ended well."

US 20-year-old midfielder



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INTER MIAMI COACH JAVIER MASCHERANO

Gerardo Valenzuela opened the scoring for Cincinnati in the 16th minute.

Brazilian striker Evander followed with a goal in the 50th minute and struck again in the 70th to provide all the scoring the hosts needed.

Pogacar retakes Tour de France lead in crushing mountain win



UAE Team Emirates - XRG team's Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar cycles with the pack of riders

AFP | London

Tadej Pogacar reclaimed the leader's yellow jersey at the Tour de France with an imperious stage 12 triumph on the Hautacam mountain in the Pyrenees yesterday.

Pogacar skipped away on an 11km solo ascent of the fabled climb to finish 2min 10sec ahead of key rival Jonas Vingegaard while overnight leader Ben Healy wilted to a 13min deficit on the day.

French president Emmanuel Macron was on hand at the mountaintop finish to congratulate the Slovenian Team UAE rider.

Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel dug deep after being dropped on the first of three climbs to claw back level,

before eventually losing 3min 35sec on the day's 180.6km ride from Auch, finishing seventh.

In the overall standings Pogacar now leads the Tour de France by 3min 31sec over Denmark's Vingegaard while Evenepoel is third at a daunting 4min 45sec.

Worse for any pretenders hoping to stop the defending champion is that Friday's stage 13 comes in the shape of an uphill individual time-trial that the Slovenian said this week he was looking forward to.

Overnight leader Healy took a beating on his second day defending the yellow jersey as the EF rider slipped off the pace on the first climb, while doggedly trying to limit his losses.

He is now eleventh, over 13 minutes behind Pogacar.

'Proud' Litton lauds Bangladesh's T20 triumph in Sri Lanka

AFP | Colombo

Bangladesh skipper Litton Das says his team's first ever T20 series win in Sri Lanka has been "huge" for his leadership and made the cricket-crazy fans back home happy.

Bangladesh hammered Sri Lanka by eight wickets on Wednesday in Colombo to clinch the three-match series 2-1 and cap off their tour of the island nation on a high.

Chasing a modest 133 for victory, Bangladesh rode on opener Tanzid Hasan's unbeaten 73 to achieve their target with 21 balls to spare at the R. Premadasa Stadium.

Spinner Mahedi Hasan set up victory with figures of 4-11 to restrict Sri Lanka to 132-7 after



Bangladesh players pose with the trophy after winning

the hosts elected to bat first.

"It is a proud moment for me as a captain," Litton said.

"I am happy that the fans are

also happy seeing us win a T20 series in Sri Lanka."

Litton, who was named Bangladesh T20 skipper until next

year's World Cup in India, led the T20 team in the absence of Najmul Hossain Shanto last year in a 3-0 series sweep in the West Indies.

"Both series wins are huge for me," said Litton, who was named player of the series for his 114 runs in the three matches.

"Beating the West Indies in their back yard is massive. They are a strong team in their conditions. It is the same in Sri Lanka. They are a balanced team too."

Sri Lanka, led by Charith Asalanka, won the ODI series 2-1 followed by victory in the opening T20 before they lost two straight matches by big margins.

"We are bitterly disappointed," said Asalanka.