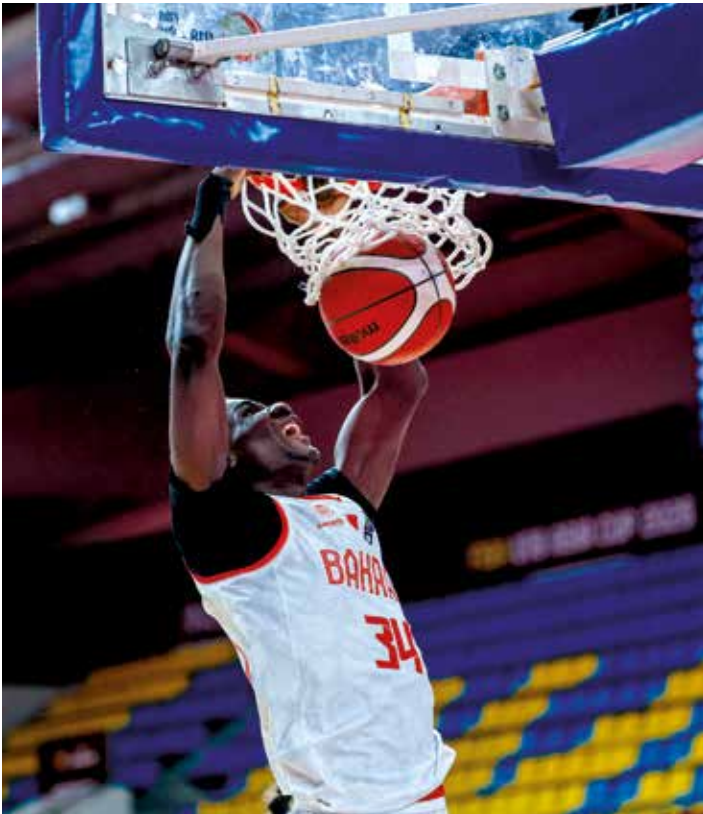


National U18 side beat Syria to seal Asia Cup play-off spot



Hassan Abdulkadir slams home a two-handed dunk

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The national Under-18 side produced a second-half-powered rout of Syria yesterday, turning a one-point lead into a 92-68 win to take second place in Group B and reach the FIBA Under-18 Asia Cup quarter-final play-offs in India.

The towering 16-year-old Somto Patrick Onoduenyi drove the win, scoring 26 points, pulling down 14 rebounds and blocking five shots in a domi-

nant 38-minute display. He also had four assists and two steals. Hassan Abdulkadir struck 21 points and finished with a game-high efficiency rating of 37, while Mujtaba Mahmood added 17 points, five rebounds and three assists.

Yet the Bahrain side had to fight its way through a wild first half.

It burst out to a 29-15 lead in the opening quarter, only for Syria to hit straight back. A 24-11 Syrian run in the second left the national side clinging to a 40-39 lead at the break.



Ali Husain goes up for a lay-up under Syrian pressure

Then came the breakaway. Bahrain won the third quarter 29-17 and kept their foot down in the fourth, taking it 23-12. Syria scored only 29 points across the whole second half as Bahrain piled on 52.

Ali Husain chipped in 10 points and handed out five assists, the most for Bahrain, while Mahdi Habib had four steals.

The trio of Onoduenyi, Abdulkadir and Mujtaba Mahmood accounted for 64 of Bahrain's 92 points as the team claimed its second win from three group

games.

Bahrain had beaten Lebanon 74-68 in their first match before suffering an 86-42 loss to New Zealand. New Zealand went on to top Group B with three wins from three.

Second place sends Bahrain into a quarter-final play-off against Chinese Taipei, who finished third in Group A. The sides meet on Thursday, August 20, with a place in the last eight at stake.

The Under-18 Asia Cup is being played in Ahmedabad from August 13 to 23.

Gulf Cup tickets go on sale

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Tickets have gone on sale for the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup, with Bahrain set to defend their title when the regional showpiece kicks off in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, next month.

The Gulf Cup Football Federation, in collaboration with the local organising committee, announced yesterday that supporters can now purchase tickets for the tournament, which will run from September 23 to October 6.

Eight Gulf teams will contest 15 matches across King Abdullah Sports City and Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Sports City, with Jeddah hosting the competition for the first time.

Bahrain will compete in Group B alongside Qatar, the UAE and Yemen, with all three of their preliminary-round matches scheduled to take place at Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Sports City.

The defending champions begin their campaign against Qatar on September 24 before facing the UAE on September 27 and concluding the group



stage against Yemen on September 30.

Tickets for group matches at Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Sports City have been divided into three categories, priced at 60 Saudi riyals for Category One, 37 riyals for Category Two and 22 riyals for Category Three.

Group-stage matches at King Abdullah Sports City have five categories, with prices starting at 93 riyals for Category One, followed by 67, 45 and 22 riyals for the remaining standard categories. Premium tickets start at 187 riyals.

Prices for the opening match, semi-finals and final start at 120 riyals for Category One, 97 for Category Two, 71 for Category Three and 45 for Category Four, while Premium tickets start at 243 riyals.

Gold and Silver tickets are priced at 355 and 315 riyals respectively across all matches.

Supporters can purchase tickets through the tournament's official ticketing website and the GFF Tickets application, with each fan permitted to buy a maximum of six tickets per match.

Bahrain head to Jeddah as reigning Gulf champions after capturing their second title at the previous edition in Kuwait.

The nationals defeated Oman 2-1 in the final in January last year, adding a second crown to their maiden Gulf Cup triumph in 2019.



Four Bahraini officials have been selected for the tournament: referee Ammar Mahfouz, assistant referees Mohammed Jaffar and Abdulla Saleh, and VAR official Ismail Habib

Riffa crowned bowling league champions

TDT | Manama

Riffa have been crowned champions of the 2026 Bahrain Bowling League after finishing six points clear at the top of the standings.

Riffa sealed the title in emphatic fashion in the 14th and final round, sweeping Al Ettifaq 8-0 to finish their campaign with 98 points, ahead of runners-up Bahrain Club on 92 and third-placed Umm Al Hassam on 86.

The champions knocked down a combined 2,370 pins in their closing victory, compared with Al Ettifaq's 1,952.

Fawaz Abdulla Ali Majdami led the way for Riffa with a 680 series, while Ahmed Abdulla Al Qaoud recorded 582 and Ahmed Al Khaja added 572.

Bahrain Club also ended their campaign with an 8-0 victory, overcoming Al Hala with a total of 2,371 pins to their opponents' 2,156.

Abdulla Abdulkarim was the standout performer with a 694 series as Bahrain Club secured second place, six points behind the champions.

Umm Al Hassam completed



the podium after an 8-0 victory over Sanad, recording 2,187 pins against 2,093.

Mohammed Muhannad Al

Ansari led Umm Al Hassam with 582, while Mohammed Juma Mohammed produced Sanad's best performance with

605.

Busaiteen also claimed maximum points in the final round, defeating Isa Town 8-0 after posting 2,158 pins to their opponents' 1,907.

Francis Medios Limbin was their leading performer with a 592 series.

The results meant all four winning teams recorded 8-0 victories in the final round as the 14-round championship drew to a close.

Riffa finished the season with a league-leading 98 points and an overall pinfall of 34,431, while Bahrain Club followed with 92 points and 34,071 pins.

Umm Al Hassam were third with 86 points and 32,134 pins, while Al Hala and Busaiteen both finished on 44 points, placing fourth and fifth respectively based on their overall pinfall.

Sanad ended the campaign sixth with 34 points, followed by Al Ettifaq on 26 and Isa Town on 24.

Riffa's triumph capped a successful campaign in which they held off the challenges of Bahrain Club and Umm Al Hassam to claim the 2026 league crown.

Coach says Australia 'let standards slip' in shock Bangladesh loss



Australian captain Pat Cummins (R) chats with coach Andrew McDonald (L)

AFF | Darwin

Coach Andrew McDonald admitted yesterday that Australia "let our standards slip" in a stinging first home Test loss to Bangladesh, but defended his ageing team saying they have "a fair bit of cricket left in them".

Bangladesh pulled off a massive upset in Darwin on Sunday when they crushed the world's top-ranked side, who were at full strength, by nine wickets.

Bangladesh had never won a Test in Australia before.

"We were poor this Test match," McDonald said. "Any time you score (fewer than) 500 runs over two innings on that surface, we've got to make some improvements.

"It's tough to accept. We let our standards slip."

The sides meet for the second Test in Mackay on Saturday, with McDonald and the selectors facing some tough decisions as pressure mounts for change.