

All to play for in play-off

Bahrain Face Chinese Taipei for Fiba U18 Asia Cup Last Eight

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain face Chinese Taipei today at 11am Bahrain time, with a place in the quarter-finals of the Fiba U18 Asia Cup 2026 on the line in Ahmedabad, India.

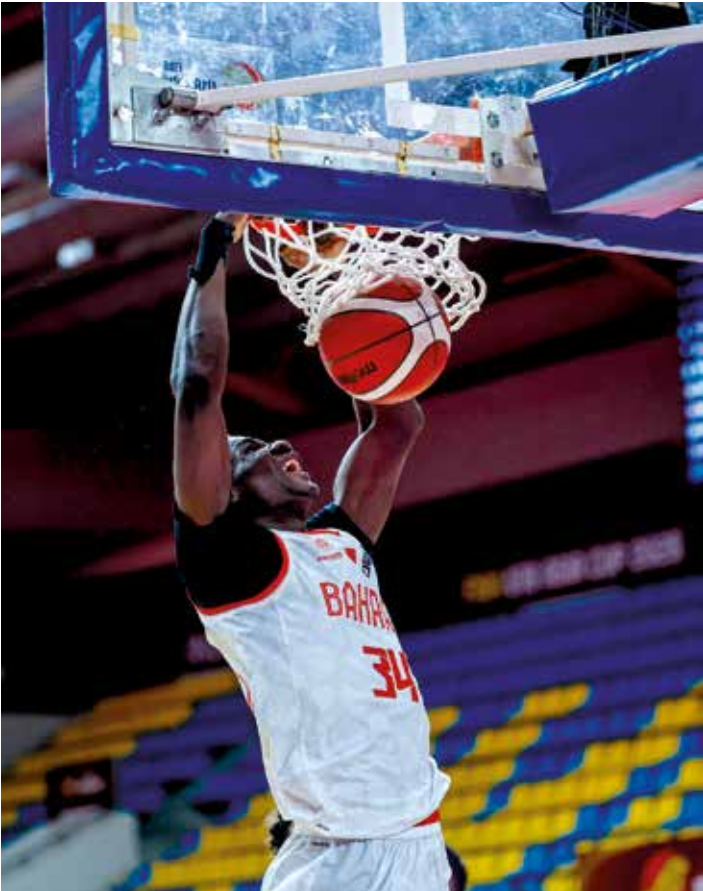
Salman Ramadhan's side head into the qualification play-off at the Veer Savarkar Indoor Stadium after finishing runners-up in Group B with two victories from three games.

The kingdom's youth men secured their passage to the play-offs with a commanding 92-68 win over Syria, bouncing back strongly from their heavy defeat to New Zealand in the previous round.

Bahrain had launched their campaign with a 74-68 victory over Lebanon before falling 86-42 to the Junior Tall Blacks, who went on to top the group with a perfect record.

Against Syria, the Bahrainis raced into a 29-15 lead after the opening quarter, only to see their advantage reduced to a single point, 40-39, at half-time.

They took complete control after the break, however, outscoring their opponents 52-29 across the final two quarters and stretching their lead to as many



Hassan Abdulkadir throws down a two-handed dunk in Bahrain's last outing

as 31 points.

Somto Patrick Onoduenyi and Hassan Abdulkadir were again at the heart of Bahrain's success,

with both big men posting double-doubles.

Onoduenyi finished with 26 points, 14 rebounds and five

blocks, while Abdulkadir contributed 21 points, 12 rebounds and two blocks.

Mujtaba Mahmood Rayyan provided further firepower with 17 points, including five three-pointers, while Ali Husain Mohamed chipped in with 10.

Standing between Bahrain and a place in the last eight are Chinese Taipei, who finished third in Group A with a 1-2 record.

The six-time Asian medalists closed their preliminary campaign with a 110-58 loss to defending champions Australia, who swept the group with three straight victories.

Carter Coleman was the standout performer for Chinese Taipei in that defeat, recording 18 points, five rebounds and two assists, and will be one of the main threats Bahrain must contain today.

Chinese Taipei are seeking to improve on their 12th-place finish at the 2024 edition, while Bahrain are bidding to extend their continental run and move within one victory of qualification for the Fiba U19 Basketball World Cup 2027.

The four teams reaching the semi-finals in Ahmedabad will earn Asia's berths at next year's global championship.

Suthar shines as India crush Sri Lanka in 600th Test



India's Manav Suthar (L) celebrates after taking the wicket of Sri Lanka's Prabath Jayasuriya

AFP | Galle

Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar finished with 10 wickets as India thrashed Sri Lanka by 165 runs in the first Test in Galle yesterday to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Playing only his second Test, Suthar impressed with his line and length to ensure India a memorable win in their 600th Test match.

Suthar, 24, took four wickets in the first innings and kept up the onslaught to take 6-55, helping bowl out the hosts for 206 shortly after lunch on the final day.

Set a target of 372, Sri Lanka's batters failed to apply themselves other than Sonal Dinusha, who top-scored in both innings.

India captain Shubman Gill called the victory "very satisfying".

"We were in a comfortable position but were not sure if the match would go on (be-

cause of weather), but the team responded well," he said.

Gill praised Suthar and the batsmen for their effort on a wicket that was not easy to score runs off.

"He has been bowling magnificently. Looks like a very promising guy and someone who can play for India for a long time," he said.

India claimed two wickets in the morning session after Sri Lanka resumed on 84-4 and then quickly ran through the tail.

Captain Dhananjaya de Silva (59) and first-innings centurion Dinusha tried to fight back, batting for over two hours to add 95 runs for the fifth wicket.

De Silva, dismissed off a no-ball early in his innings, looked set to make the most of the reprieve, posting his 20th half-century.

But his knock ended after he attempted a sweep shot off Ravindra Jadeja and was caught at short fine leg by Suthar.

Youth handball team begin Asian quest

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Bahrain begin their campaign at the 11th AHF Asian Men's Youth Handball Championship today when they take on India in Amman, Jordan.

The kingdom's U19 men face their Group A opponents at 6pm as they look to make a winning start to the continental tournament, which runs until August 31 and also serves as a qualifier for the 2027 IHF Men's Youth Handball World Championship.

Bahrain are competing alongside South Korea, hosts Jordan, India and Uzbekistan in Group A, while Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Qatar and Syria make up Group B.

The Bahrainis face a quick turnaround after today's opener, with hosts Jordan awaiting



Bahrain's under-19 handball team

them tomorrow at 8pm.

They then meet Uzbekistan on Sunday at noon before wrapping up their preliminary-round campaign against South Korea on August 26 at 4pm.

The top four teams from each group will advance to the quarter-finals on August 28, with

the four semi-finalists securing qualification for next year's world championship.

Head coach Mohamed Abdulrahman Soliman has travelled to Jordan with a 16-player squad featuring Ali Adel, Sayed Mahmoud, Shubnar Jaafar Al Zain, Wadih Hilal, Ahmed

Abdulla, Mohammed Al Marzooq, Sayed Ali Bashar, Mahmood Ali, Issa Al Babour, Hassan Saif, Hussain Qassim, Sayed Omran Almuhafehdha, Mahdi Jaafar, Sayed Majeed Almuhafehdha, Ali Almahroos and Ali Abdulelah.

The tournament marks Bahrain's 10th appearance at the Asian youth championship, where they have established a strong record over the years.

They lifted consecutive Asian titles in 2016 and 2018 and also secured bronze in 2010, while finishing inside the top five in each of their other six appearances.

With four places at next year's world championship on offer, Soliman's side will be aiming to continue that record and launch their campaign with a positive result today.

No.1 Sabalenka slams Wang to advance at Cincinnati

AFP | Cincinnati

Aryna Sabalenka unleashed her big game with devastating effect, hammering China's Wang Xinyu 6-1, 6-3 to reach the fourth round of the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters.

The world number one took only 20 minutes to blow through the first set against her 36th-ranked opponent and began the second set with a break of serve.

Sabalenka kept up the pressure in the second set with Wang double-faulting on the top seed's first match point after

54 minutes.

The victory marked the 45th in a row for Sabalenka at the Masters 1000 level.

"I cannot complain. She's a tough opponent," Sabalenka said. "To win in straight sets like this in under an hour is insane.

"I'm super happy to be through. I really trusted myself and went for my shots. I wasn't over-thinking. I was able to stay focused and be in every point."

Sabalenka next plays Czech Sara Bejlek, a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 winner over Ekaterina Alexandrova.



Aryna Sabalenka celebrates while playing Xinyu Wang of China

Fourth seed Coco Gauff needed to battle following a sizzling first set in a 6-1, 7-6 (7/3) victory over fellow American Ann Li.

The 2023 champion had it all her own way in the opening set against her 29th-ranked foe, winning in 30 minutes. The pair exchanged early breaks in the second on the way to a tie-breaker, in which Gauff seized a 4-1 lead and won on her third match point.

"She played better in the second set and I missed a couple of break opportunities," Gauff said. "I tried to forget about those."

Bayern's Musiala reveals 'neurological disorder' after on-field collapse



Bayern Munich midfielder Jamal Musiala receives treatment in a Champions League match in May

AFP | Munich

Bayern Munich midfielder Jamal Musiala said he is suffering from a neurological disorder after a second on-field collapse in three days.

The 23-year-old Germany international fell to the turf just minutes after coming on late in a pre-season friendly at Heidenheim. A similar incident took place on Saturday in Bayern's home win over RB Leipzig.

On Tuesday in Heidenheim, Musiala appeared dazed as he received medical treatment and was helped off the pitch.

Musiala later revealed on social media that he had a disorder which could lead to "temporary but treatable seizures".

"I have been diagnosed with brief, temporary episodes of absence that are easily treatable and are caused by a neurological dysfunction," Musiala said.

"These can lead to the moments that have occurred recently, such as against Leipzig and now in Heidenheim.

"I know that they may seem scary at first glance - but for me, they are currently simply part of my everyday life."