

## Bahrain beat Oman 94-49 to reach Asian Cup finals



Mujtaba Mahmood shoots over Oman

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's under-18 basketball team booked their place in the FIBA U18 Asia Cup finals after thrashing Oman 94-49 in Doha yesterday for a third straight win in the Gulf qualifiers.

The victory took Bahrain to six points and sealed qualification with one match still to play. They face hosts Qatar on Thursday, seeking a fourth win, a perfect record and the Gulf title.

Bahrain seized control early, leading 22-12 after the first quarter before outscoring Oman 30-10 in the second to take a 52-22 lead into half-time.

They stretched the gap to 77-31 by the end of the third quarter after winning the peri-

od 25-9. Oman edged the final quarter 18-17, but the contest had already been settled.

Somto Onoduenyi led Bahrain with 19 points and 15 rebounds. Mohamed Adel scored 14 points, supplied seven assists and made five steals, while Yosuf Yaqoob also finished with 14 points.

Hassan Abdulkadir added 13 points and six rebounds, Mohamed Farhan scored nine, and Mahdi Habib and Ali Khalil contributed seven each.

The 45-point win followed Bahrain's 62-54 victory over Saudi Arabia and 106-51 defeat of Kuwait, leaving the side unbeaten after three matches.

The qualifiers are being played in Doha under a single round-robin format, with Thursday's match against Qatar set to decide the title.

## 3x3 Basketball team face tough Asian test



Coach Murtadha Mohamed with his roster during Bahrain's GCC Games silver campaign

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's men's 3x3 basketball national team have learned their schedule for the 20th Asian Games in Aichi and Nagoya, Japan, following the release of the competition programme by the Bahrain Olympic Committee yesterday.

The kingdom's squad will compete in Pool C alongside Chinese Taipei, Qatar and Indonesia in the preliminary round of the tournament.

The Asian Games will take place from September 19 to October 4, with the 3x3 basketball competition forming part of the 43-sport programme.

Bahrain will open their campaign on Monday, September 21, against Chinese Taipei at 12.55pm before returning to the court later the same day to

face Indonesia at 2.35pm.

Bahrain will then complete their preliminary-round schedule on Wednesday, September 23, when they take on Gulf rivals Qatar at 8.30am. All match times are Bahrain time.

The kingdom will be aiming to build on the momentum gained from a successful outing at the fourth GCC Games in Doha last May, where they secured the silver medal.

Bahrain's squad for the Asiad is composed of Bogdan Dragovic, Mohammed Bualay, Austin Ajukwa and Wayne Chism.

The team will be looking to challenge some of Asia's strongest 3x3 nations as they bid for a place in the knock-out rounds and a chance to compete for the medals at the continental showpiece.

# Bahrain finish fourth at Asian Junior Handball Championship

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's junior men's handball team concluded their campaign at the 19th Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship with a fourth-place finish after falling 37-27 to Saudi Arabia in the bronze medal match yesterday in Chuzhou, China.

Despite missing out on a place on the podium, Bahrain's biggest achievement came earlier in the tournament after securing qualification for the 2027 IHF Men's U21 World Championship in North Macedonia by reaching the semi-finals.

The kingdom's junior side



Abdullah Almarhoon attacks for Saudi Arabia against Bahrain

enjoyed an impressive run throughout the continental championship, opening

their campaign with a victory over Chinese Taipei before suffering their only prelimi-

nary-round defeat against Saudi Arabia.

They responded in style with successive wins over Hong Kong, Oman and hosts China to advance to the quarter-finals, where they defeated Iran 31-24 to book their place in the last four.

Under the guidance of head coach Hussam Madan, Bahrain produced a spirited performance against South Korea in the semi-finals but were narrowly edged 32-31 in a thrilling encounter before suffering defeat to Saudi Arabia in the bronze medal match.

South Korea went on to claim the Asian title after defeating the UAE 25-24 in the final.

## Haider Maroom claims Billiards U21 9-Ball title

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

Haider Maroom produced a dominant display to claim the title at the 2026 Bahrain Billiards U21 9-Ball Ranking Championship, defeating national junior team player Faisal Al Malki 7-0 in the final.

The tournament was organised by the Bahrain Billiards and Darts Federation at its headquarters in Al Ahli Club in Al Mahooz, with 18 players competing for the top honours.

Al Malki finished as runner-up to secure the silver medal, while Yousif Bader and Mohammed Daabil claimed bronze.

Maroom enjoyed an outstanding run throughout the competition, winning all of his matches and dropping just one rack in his second match against Mohammed Rashid Hussain.

The champion continued his impressive form throughout the tournament, producing a series of strong performances that saw him overcome every challenge from his opponents.

In the final, Maroom immediately took control after breaking



Top four finishers Haider Maroom, Faisal Al Malki, Yousif Bader and Mohammed Daabil

and clearing the opening rack without allowing Al Malki an opportunity at the table. He also capitalised on his opponent's inability to pocket a ball from the break in the second and seventh racks.

Despite the different circumstances in each rack, Maroom maintained his composure and tactical advantage. In the final rack, he executed a precise safety shot, placing the cue ball in a position that blocked Al Malki's

direct view of the target ball before eventually sealing the victory.

Maroom's tactical approach played a key role throughout the final, as he won three racks through intelligent play, including the third and seventh racks using similar strategies. He also forced Al Malki into attempting a jump shot in the fifth rack, which the runner-up was unable to convert.

The champion consistently

applied pressure on his opponent and took advantage of mistakes, including a scratch from Al Malki in the fourth rack that allowed Maroom to extend his advantage.

Although Maroom made an error in the sixth rack by missing an easy shot, Al Malki was unable to capitalise and later missed an opportunity to claim a consolation rack after failing to sink the nine ball despite having a favourable position.

Bahrain Billiards and Darts Federation board member Mohammed Yousif praised the level of competition, highlighting that the participation of 18 players contributed to a strong tournament from the early rounds.

"Haider Maroom produced impressive victories despite facing strong opponents, which reflects his improvement and his ability to compete for the top positions in the men's national rankings," Yousif said.

He added that the final was highly competitive despite the 7-0 scoreline, noting that Maroom maintained a high level of concentration throughout the match.

## BRAVE CF 107 locks in fight card for blockbuster return to Bulgaria

Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation™ (BRAVE CF), the world's fastest-growing and most global mixed martial arts organization, has finalized the bout lineup for BRAVE CF 107, raising the stakes ahead of its highly anticipated return to Bulgaria on Saturday, August 1.

Hosted at the magnificent Burgas Arena in partnership with Bulgarian Fight Agency (BFA), the event represents another chapter in a flourishing collaboration that has helped elevate the country's combat sports scene. Now in its third consecutive year, the partnership continues to create meaningful opportunities for local athletes while bringing elite international competition to Bulgarian fans.

The evening will be headlined by a light heavyweight showdown featuring hometown hero Kaloyan Kolev against France's Salim "Bizon" El Ouassaidi. Competing before a passionate home crowd, Kolev has the



chance to make a defining statement against an opponent eager to silence the arena.

The co-main attraction shifts the focus to the flyweight division as Georgia's Bidzina Gavashelishvili takes on South Africa's Luthando "Shorty" Biko. Both men enter the contest with the opportunity to strengthen their standing in one of the promotion's deepest weight classes.

Depth has long been a hallmark of the organization, and this card is no exception. Muhammad Idrisov, Delyan Georgiev, Owais Yaqoob, Danylo Voievodkin, and Mohamed Alsamea are among the athletes scheduled to compete, adding further quality to a night that features promising prospects alongside proven contenders from across the globe.

Every visit has strengthened

the promotion's footprint in Eastern Europe, and this latest showcase is expected to continue that momentum.

With compelling matchups throughout the card and an atmosphere befitting one of the region's premier combat sports destinations, BRAVE CF 107 is poised to deliver another memorable spectacle while reinforcing Bulgaria's growing influence on the international MMA stage.