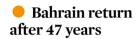
Bahrain set for William Jones Cup return

National team to face eight opponents in Chinese Taipei



Eight games in nine days

Vovoras leads new-look squad

Focus on Arab Championship prep

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ahrain's men's basketball team will compete in the 44th William Jones Cup from July 12 to 20, taking on a demanding schedule against some of Asia's top sides. The tournament, hosted in Chinese Taipei, is the team's second tions Championship later this appearance in the competition summer. and comes as part of their wider preparation for the Arab Na-



Vovoras Takes Charge

Newly appointed head coach brings top-level experience vs Australia Georgios Vovoras will make his from across Europe and the NBA Bahrain debut in the tourna- Summer League, with previous vs UAE ment. The 48-year-old Greek stints at the Milwaukee Bucks

and Minnesota Timberwolves.

Vovoras is currently working with an 18-player squad, which vs Chinese Taipei A includes a mix of local talent and international professionals such vs Philippines as Wayne Chism, Elijah Thomas, and Jakarr Sampson.

tional development team and nese Taipei. Malaysia, followed by back-toback games against teams from Australia, the UAE, Qatar, Chiteam, and the Philippines.

- vs Japan
- vs Chinese Taipei B
- July 14, 8AM Bahrain July 25. vs Malaysia
- - July 17, 10AM Bahrain across Asia.

- July 18, 2PM Bahrain
- July 19, 10AM Bahrain

The field features national teams, university sides, and Bahrain open their campaign clubs from Bahrain, Japan, Maagainst Japan on July 12. They'll laysia, Australia, the UAE, Qatar, then face Chinese Taipei's na- the Philippines, and hosts Chi-

Building Toward Tunisia

The Bahrain Basketball Assonese Taipei's senior national ciation sees the tournament as a key part of its strategy to ele-The full match schedule is as vate the national team through top level exposure. The expe-July 12, 8AM – Bahrain rience is expected to help with their preparations ahead of July 13, 12PM - Bahrain the Arab Nations Championship in Tunisia, which kicks off

Bahrain's return to the Wil-July 15, 8AM – Bahrain liam Jones Cup, nearly half a century since their last appear-July 16, 8AM - Bahrain ance, reflects the federation's serious intent to raise their game

Road to Asian Cup begins

Bahrain women kick off historic Asian Cup qualifying bid today

Bahrain face Bangladesh today at 3:30PM

Only group winners advance

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Bahrain's women's national football team begin their bid to reach the AFC Women's Asian Cup for the first time today at 3:30PM as they face Bangladesh in Yangon, Myanmar. The match is the opening fixture of Group C in the qualifiers, with Bahrain also drawn alongside Turkmenistan and the hosts Myanmar.

It's a short but important campaign, with only the group winner advancing to next year's tournament in Australia, which and we're going in with that goal senior players and up-and-comis Asia's premier women's foot- in mind." ball competition.

Tough Build-Up

head coach Mohammed Adnan positive, and we've seen real remains optimistic about the progress. The period was short, team's readiness.

"We hope to put in a strong want to get the most out of it." performance," said Adnan. "The er invited for another match we can do." against Saudi, which was also a helpful experience for the team. The group we're in offers a real

"Our preparation was good considering the time," said forward Hessa Al Isa. "We had two Bahrain's preparations have training camps and some tribeen constrained by time, but al matches. The results were but we tried not to rush, we just

"There's nothing impossible," preparation period went well added Al Isa. "We've had small overall. We played friendlies matches to build momentum. against the UAE and were lat- Now it's about showing what

Experience and Youth

pared sides.

"First of all, we're grateful we each other." even had some time to prepare, even if it wasn't much," she said. confidence: "Maybe we lack exdesh, Turkmenistan, and Myan- with the support of the whole mar all have more preparation team behind us, inshAllah, we than us. But with the experience can do something good." we have, and the training we've done, we believe qualification is One Spot, One Dream within reach."

experience and youthful energy into eight groups, with only the

Rawan Al Ali believes the back after years away. For us, it's sees all matches played at Thuopportunity for qualification, team's strength lies in its mix of about the older players sharing wunna Stadium. The team will



ing talents, despite the challenge their knowledge, and the young- face Turkmenistan on Wednes- campaign next Saturday against of competing against better-pre- er ones using their energy and day before concluding their Myanmar. speed. Together, they complete

She concluded with measured "Our group isn't easy. Bangla- perience. But as a squad, and

The AFC Women's Asian Cup Al Ali pointed to the balance of qualifiers feature 34 teams split as a defining feature of this team. group winners progressing. Bah-"Some teams are just coming rain's group, hosted in Yangon,



Bahrain has never qualified for the AFC Women's Asian Cup despite participating in qualifiers since 2007.



Elsewhere in the qualifiers, teams such as Jordan, Thailand, Vietnam, and North Korea are battling across other groups, but only one winner from each pool will join pre-qualified sides Australia, Japan, South Korea, and China at the main event next March.

This is the 21st edition of the AFC Women's Asian Cup, and Bahrain are determined to make it their first.

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