

# Bahrain name squad for African friendlies

Talajic selects 24 for Morocco and Egypt fixtures

● 2 tough African opponents

● Arab Cup prep continues

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain head coach Dragan Talajic has named a 24-man squad for the international friendlies against Morocco and Egypt, as preparations intensify ahead of December's FIFA Arab Cup in Doha.

The full squad features: Ebrahim Lutfalla (GK), Yousif Habib (GK), Mohammed Gharably (GK), Waleed Al Hayyam, Amine Bennadi, Hamad Shamsan, Ahmed Bughammar, AlSayed Mahmood AlMoosawi, Hazaa Ali, Abdulla Khalasi, Hussain Jameel, Mohammed Marhoon, Vincent Emmanuel, Sayed Mehdi Sharaf, Sayed Dhiyaa Saeed, Komail AlAswad, Jas-sim AlShaikh, Omar Saber, Mehdi Humaidan, Hussain Abdulkarim, Abdulla AlSubaiei, Ebrahim AlKhattal, Mehdi Abduljabbar, Mohammed Al Rumaihi.



Bahrain's national team line up before their latest friendly

### High-level opposition

The Bahrainis face Morocco in Rabat on 9 October before taking on Egypt three days later in the same city. Both matches will be played at the Prince Moulay Ab-

dellah Stadium, with the opener against Morocco kicking off at 10pm Bahrain time. Morocco are ranked 11th in the world, reached the semi-finals of the 2022 World Cup, and have already booked their ticket to the

2026 edition co-hosted by the US, Canada, and Mexico. The game also serves as part of the Atlas Lions' build-up to the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations on home soil.

Egypt, meanwhile, sit 35th in

the FIFA rankings and remain one of Africa's most decorated national teams.

The Bahrain Football Association confirmed the squad yesterday and earlier noted they had originally scheduled two home

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Morocco are ranked 11th in the world

friendlies against Egypt before accepting an invitation from the Royal Moroccan Football Federation.

### Arab Cup focus

These games will be important tune-ups before Bahrain's Arab Cup qualifying play-off in November against Djibouti. A win would place them in Group D alongside Algeria, Iraq, and either Lebanon or Sudan.

Bahrain are currently 88th in the world and 12th in Asia. Their most recent outings earlier this month saw them draw 2-2 with Qatar before a 0-1 defeat to the UAE. The national team were eliminated from the Asian qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup 2026 in June, but the Arab Cup offers a chance to reset.

## NBB secures bronze sponsorship for Third AYG

Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced its bronze sponsorship of the Third Asian Youth Games (AYG), which will take place in the Kingdom of Bahrain from October 22 to 31, 2025, under the gracious patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The sponsorship agreement was signed by Mr. Yusuf Duaij, Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Games, and Mr. Hesham Abualfateh, Chief Corporate Communications Officer at NBB.

On this occasion, Mr. Duaij stated, "This generous sponsorship embodies the effective community partnership embraced by the bank and underscores its leading national role and steadfast commitment to the sports sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain."



A glimpse of the contract signing ceremony between the Executive Committee and the National Bank of Bahrain

Through this collaboration, we aim to achieve the objectives of the Games, demonstrating Bahrain's capability to host major sporting events

with the highest standards of organization and excellence. We express our gratitude and appreciation to the National Bank of Bahrain for its un-

wavering support of our efforts to advance sports in the kingdom."

On his part, Mr. Abualfateh remarked, "It is a source of pride for us at the National Bank of Bahrain to announce our bronze sponsorship of the third Asian Youth Games hosted by the Kingdom. This sponsorship reflects our deep commitment to supporting and empowering youth, as well as our historical and ongoing commitment to major national initiatives that benefit the community. The Asian Youth Games represent an ideal platform to highlight Bahrain as a center of sporting excellence and a capable host for thousands of athletes and delegations from across Asia. We hope that our sponsorship will contribute to the success of the Games and provide an unforgettable experience for all participants."

## BBK joins line-up as bronze sponsorship for Asian Youth Games

Manama

Mr. Yusuf Duaij, Chairman of the Executive Committee for the third Asian Youth Games of the event, which will take place from October 22 to 31, 2025, under the gracious patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

This expression of gratitude occurred during a signing ceremony, where Mr. Duaij represented the Executive Committee, and Mr. Abdulrahman Danish, Senior Corporate Communications Officer at BBK, represented the bank.



The contract signing ceremony between the Executive Committee and BBK

On this occasion, Mr. Duaij stated, "We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait for its significant contribution and bronze sponsorship. The support from the Bank, a leading financial institution, represents a strong

boost to our organizational efforts. This sponsorship underscores the bank's steadfast corporate responsibility and its unwavering commitment to supporting major sporting events that enhance Bahrain's standing regionally, continen-

tally, and globally."

In response, Mr. Danish remarked, "We take pride at the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait to be part of this premier continental sporting event through our bronze sponsorship of the third Asian Youth Games. This support extends our long-standing commitment to promoting sports and youth activities in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Games present an exceptional opportunity to showcase the cultural and organizational excellence of our nation, and we are eager to contribute to its success. Our participation stems from our belief that investing in youth events directly contributes to building a conscious and competitive sports generation."

## Rooney says he has 'no faith' that Amorim can revive Man Utd

AFP | London

Wayne Rooney says Manchester United have lost their soul and he has no faith in the ability of beleaguered manager Ruben Amorim to turn things around.

Amorim has taken 34 points from his 33 Premier League games in charge following Saturday's 3-1 loss at Brentford and is yet to oversee consecutive top-flight wins.

United endured their worst league campaign for 51 years last season, finishing an embarrassing 15th in the Premier League.

They spent freely in the summer transfer window, bringing in Matheus Cunha, Bryan Mbeumo and Benjamin Sesko, but are languishing in 14th spot in the table after their latest defeat.

Rooney, United's all-time leading goalscorer, said he goes to games expecting the team to lose.

"I just don't know what's



Wayne Rooney

going on," the 39-year-old said on his BBC podcast.

"I have tried my hand in management and it didn't work out too well, so I get it. Ruben Amorim is my age, he's still a young manager and I'm sure he's got a massive future, but what's going on at Man Utd, this is not Man Utd."

"I honestly hope he can turn it around and he does. But... after everything I've seen, honestly, I've got no faith in it."

Rooney, who won five Premier League titles and the Champions League with United, said he did not recognise the club.

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