

Australia's national basketball team arrives for World Cup qualifier



Australian national basketball team delegation members upon their arrival at the airport

TDT | Manama

Australia's senior men's national basketball team have arrived in the Kingdom ahead of their game on Thursday against Bahrain in Asian qualification for the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023.

The visiting delegation were received upon touching down at Bahrain International Airport by officials from the Bahrain Basketball Association.

Australia have named a 12-player squad for their game against Bahrain, which will be

followed by another against Iran on August 29 in the city of Bendigo in Victoria, Australia.

Their roster features three names who were part of the team that won the gold medals in the FIBA Asia Cup last month. They are Mitchell McCarron, who was named to the tournament's All-Star Five, Rhys Anthony Vague and Samson James Froling.

The rest of the squad consists of Luke Travers, who was the

56th pick by the Cleveland Cavaliers in this year's NBA Draft, Nick Kay, Dejan Masiljevic,

Angus Brandt, Mitch Norton, Alex Mudronja, Todd Blanchfield, Alex Toohey and Rory Hawke.

The Bahrainis will face off with their heavily favoured Aussie counterparts at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town. The Group F fixture is scheduled for a 7pm tip-off.

The other teams in Bahrain's division are Kazakhstan, China, Iran and Japan.

Following their game on Thursday night, the Bahrainis travel to Astana in Kazakhstan to take on China on August 29.

Mendy howler sends Chelsea crashing to Leeds defeat

AFP | London

Chelsea suffered their first Premier League defeat this season as Edouard Mendy's embarrassing blunder put Leeds on course for a 3-0 win, while Brighton condemned West Ham to a third successive loss yesterday.

Mendy's costly mistake was the catalyst for Chelsea's shocking implosion at Elland Road as Brenden Aaronson netted after catching the goalkeeper taking too long in possession.

Rodrigo's fourth goal in three



Leeds' players celebrate a goal

games this season doubled Leeds' advantage before half-time.

Jack Harrison completed Leeds' first win over Chelsea since 2002 and their biggest against their old rivals since 1995.

Adding to Chelsea's misery, their Senegal defender Kalidou Koulibaly was sent off for a second booking after tripping Joe Gelhardt in the 84th minute.

"Everything that can go wrong, did go wrong. It started yesterday. We had no plane to arrive so we came on the bus. The players could fly but for the coaching staff it was a long ride on the bus. It continued today. We lost the game in the first 20 minutes, where we were clearly better and had huge chances," Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel said.

Bahrain volleyball chief welcomes Asian under-20 participants

● **Tournament action begins today with five matches on the cards from 2pm**

● **Entrance is free for spectators to both playing courts at Isa Sports City**

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Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa

The 21st Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship gets underway today at the Isa Sports City in Riffa.

Five matches will be taking place from 2pm, with Japan and Iran kicking off the action in Pool B.

Matches are being played at the Bahrain Volleyball Association's (BVA) Isa bin Rashid Arena and Bahrain Table Tennis Association Arena at Isa Sports City.

All are welcome to attend. Entrance is free of charge.

BVA president and chairman of the tournament's supreme organising committee, Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa,

welcomed all the participating nations to the Kingdom, along with all the volleyball officials and representatives from the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC).

Shaikh Ali expressed his hope for everyone to enjoy their stay and experience the best of Bahraini hospitality.

Shaikh Ali highlighted his great confidence in the championship's working committees to deliver a successful tournament along with the AVC.

A total of 17 nations are taking part in the competition. Hosts Bahrain are in Pool A along with Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia.

Pool B features India with Japan and Iran; Pool C includes

Today's matches

2pm: Japan v Iran
4.30pm: South Korea vs Qatar; Iraq vs Bangladesh
7pm: Hong Kong vs Saudi Arabia; China vs Pakistan

South Korea, Qatar and Kuwait; Pool D features Thailand and the UAE; Pool E includes Iraq, Australia and Bangladesh; and Pool F comprises China, Chinese-Taipei and Pakistan.

Following the preliminaries, a drawing of lots for classification one to 12 (top two teams from each pool) will be conducted.

The teams which have already played each other in the preliminaries will not meet again in the one-to-12 classification, while the third-ranked teams of each pool will be relegated to contest the 13-to-18 classification.

The last edition of the competition was held in 2018, also held in Bahrain. Iran were crowned champions after beating South Korea in the final.

Bahrain had an impressive campaign, finishing ninth overall amongst the 23 participating teams.



Members of Bahrain's national team with Bahraini official Nabeel Taha, front row centre, during a recent meeting

Bahrain suffer heavy defeat to South Korea

Hosts and two-time defending champions fall to top contenders 22-39 in Group A game of ninth Asian Men's Youth (U19) Handball Championship

● **South Koreans use game-changing 14-1 run in second half to turn a close game into a blowout**

● **Also victorious in yesterday's tournament action were Iran, Saudi Arabia, Japan and Kuwait**

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Two-time defending champions Bahrain were dealt a disheartening 22-39 defeat to contenders South Korea last night in the ninth Asian Men's Youth (U19) Handball Championship, currently being hosted in the Kingdom at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

The nationals trailed by just a single goal, 16-17, at the interval, but after Hussain Alhayki tied the contest with the first goal of the second half, the South Ko-

reans went on a game-changing 14-1 run.

That included 10 successive unanswered goals as the South Koreans took full control of the contest. The Bahrainis never recovered and slumped to their first loss of the competition following a resounding opening win over Uzbekistan the evening before.

South Korea, on the other hand, claimed their second straight victory and moved top of the Group A standings. Goalkeeper Hyeonmi Kim was named the best player of the match for the victors, registering nine saves.

Others to claim wins during yesterday's play were Iran in Group A; and Saudi Arabia, Japan and Kuwait in Group B.

Today is a rest day and action will resume tomorrow. Bahrain are only back on the playing court on Wednesday against India.

In yesterday's other Group A contest, Iran enjoyed a one-sided 64-14 win over their Indian counterparts. The Iranians led



Bahrain's Mohamed Abdulla is tightly defended during their match against South Korea

31-4 at the half and never looked back, rebounding from their opening day loss to South Korea. Iran's Amirhossein Masoudnia was named the best player in the contest.

In Group B, Saudi Arabia edged past Qatar 27-24 in a tight contest. The Saudis held a narrow 14-12 lead at the break and did enough to hold on late in the

game. Ahmed Al Saeed was their top performer in the Saudis' second straight win.

Japan also claimed back-to-back victories after overcoming Iraq 36-22. The Japanese led 17-11 before raising their level in the final 30 minutes, led by best player of the game Jun Fujikawa.

Kuwait defeated the UAE 37-23 in their Group B clash between

Standings

Group A	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
South Korea	2	2	0	0	22	4
Iran	2	1	0	1	45	2
Bahrain	2	1	0	1	-10	2
Uzbekistan	1	0	0	1	-7	0
India	1	0	0	1	-50	0
Group B	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Saudi Arabia	2	2	0	0	25	4
Japan	2	2	0	0	19	4
Qatar	2	1	0	1	11	2
Kuwait	2	1	0	1	9	2
UAE	2	0	0	2	-28	0
Iraq	2	0	0	2	-36	0

ans a slight edge.

In the second half, however, it was a completely different story, as the Bahrainis were held to just six goals, four of which came in the final 10 minutes of play with the victory already out

of reach. The South Koreans' decisive 14-1 rally was spurred by Hyeonmi Kim (another player sharing the same name as the goalkeeper) and Mingi Son, who had six and four goals, respectively, in that span. Both players finished the contest with seven goals apiece, as did Ryonhyun Kang, while Seungyong Lee added five goals.

Jaffar Farsan led Bahrain with six goals while Alhayki had five.