

# Bahrain advance after thriller

● **Japan dominates Chinese Taipei**

● **China stages comeback against Iran**

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**B**ahrain secured the final spot in the second round of the Asian Volleyball Championship after a thrilling victory over Australia.

The home team triumphed in a nail-biting five-set match, winning 3-2 with set scores of 17-25, 36-34, 16-25, 25-20, and 16-14.

The victory was hard-fought, with Bahrain playing a grueling 15 consecutive sets over three matches. Despite the physical toll, the Bahraini players displayed exceptional resilience and determination, showcasing their fighting spirit and solidifying their rightful place in the tournament's next stage.

After losing the first set and trailing in the second, Bahrain's players rallied to pull even in what became the tournament's longest set, finishing at 36-34. The team's high concentration and strategic substitutions made by coach Fouad Abdul Wahed played a crucial role in this comeback.

The third set saw Bahrain falter, but they regained their momentum in the fourth, thanks to effective plays by substitutes Hassan Al-Badil, Jassim Madan, and Ali Sultan.

In the decisive fifth set, Bahrain's defense was led by Hassan Mansour and Ali Abdul Amir,



Bahrain's players celebrate a point against Australia

who effectively organized the blocking. Ali Hussein anchored the backcourt defense, while Ali Thamer and Muhammad Abdul Nabi facilitated versatile plays, proving Bahrain's merit for qualification despite some tense moments throughout the match.

## Japan dominates Chinese Taipei

The Japanese team delivered a commanding performance against Chinese Taipei in the Asian U-18 Volleyball Championship, securing a 3-0 victory with set scores of 25-21, 25-16, and 25-20.

The Japanese players showcased their dominance from the outset, excelling in both offense and defense.

The first set saw a tight competition, but Japan gained momentum with strong leadership

from their player, "Truckee," who fortified their defensive walls. Players Mosques and Kashiwazaki scored decisively from both ends of the net. Despite a determined effort from Chinese Taipei, Japan maintained control through superior technical skill and teamwork.

## China edge out Iran

In Group C, China pulled off a thrilling comeback against Iran, clinching a 3-2 victory after trailing 2-1 in sets. The Chinese team now tops the group with 8 points, while Iran stands at 7 points, with both teams advancing to the next round.

The match was fiercely contested, with set scores of 22-25, 25-23, 14-25, 25-22, and 15-13. Iran initially led 6-3 in the final set, but China's resilience, led by Jiang, Li, and Dong, turned

the tide in favor of the "Chinese Dragon." Despite the efforts of Iran's Amir Naderi and Amin Rahimi, China's defensive walls and tactical plays secured their victory.

## Thailand top Group A

Thailand continues to dominate Group A in the Asian U-18 Volleyball Championship, securing their third consecutive win with a 3-0 sweep against Hong Kong. The set scores were 25-23, 25-17, and 25-19, elevating Thailand's points tally to eight.

Thailand imposed their technical rhythm throughout the match, capitalizing on Hong Kong's errors. Despite Hong Kong's competitive spirit in the first set, Thailand's offense and defense proved too strong.

Ko Shing of Hong Kong scored an impressive 21 points but couldn't turn the tide in favor of his team, which will now shift focus to the ranking matches.

The Thai community in Bahrain has been a significant support factor, boosting the team's morale with a remarkable presence at the matches.

## South Korea advance

South Korea secured their place in the second round of the Asian U-18 Volleyball Championship's Group D by defeating India 3-0, with set scores of 25-18, 25-23, and 25-17. South Korea's strong start set the pace, and their strategic play ensured victory despite India's resistance.

Seon Gul was a key contributor, scoring 19 points for South Korea, leading the team to a



China's players defend against a shot by Iran

comfortable win and qualification for the next round.

## Kazakhstan triumph

Kazakhstan celebrated a morale-boosting 3-0 victory against Saudi Arabia with set scores of 25-23, 25-19, and 25-19, concluding their preliminary round.

Both teams will now focus on ranking matches after missing out on the second-round qualification.

## Philippines secure first win

The Philippines achieved their first win in the tournament against Lebanon, ending their preliminary round with a 3-0 victory (25-13, 25-23, 25-21).

Although this win won't affect the standings significantly, both teams will compete in the 9th to 16th place rankings after Iran and China secured their spots in the next round.

Philippine player McTangai shone as the top scorer, amassing 16 points, including 11 from attacks, two from blocks, and three from serves.

## Pakistan Tops Group D

Pakistan maintained its dominance in Group D of the Asian U-18 Volleyball Championship, securing a third consecutive victory as the preliminary round concluded yesterday.

The Pakistani team overcame Kuwait in a convincing 3-0 win (25-19, 25-11, 25-19), boosting their tally to 8 points and solidifying their position at the top of the group. This victory ensures Pakistan's qualification for the second round of the championship.

Star player Mohamed Yahya continued his impressive form, leading the scoring with 16 points against Kuwait. Yahya has emerged as a key offensive force for the Pakistani team and is expected to play a crucial role in the upcoming second round of the championship.

Kuwait, on the other hand, suffered their third consecutive loss in the tournament, having previously fallen to India and South Korea. Despite their efforts to improve their performance, the team struggled against Pakistan's superior height and blocking ability.

## Bahraini champion Al-Harmi on top at World Jet Ski Championship

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

**B**ahraini jet ski champion Ahmed Hamad Al-Harmi has achieved a remarkable feat by winning first place in the opening round of the World Jet Ski Championship held in Poland. Competing against over 200 riders from around the globe, Al-Harmi's performance firmly put him on the map as a leading figure in the sport.

In a heartfelt Instagram post, Al-Harmi expressed his gratitude: "I achieved first place in the World Championship in Poland. I want to thank everyone who supported me during the competition, and a special thanks to His Highness Sheikh



Ahmed Hamad Al-Harmi with Bahrain's flag on the podium

Khalid bin Hamad, the General Sports Authority, the Bahraini Olympic Committee, Spartan Fitness, and Tamouh Company."

The event, renowned for its fierce competition and high level of expertise, saw participants from various countries vying for top positions. Al-Harmi's victory not only points to his dominance in the sport but also Bahrain's growing presence on the international jet ski scene.

With this win, Al-Harmi has set a high bar for the remaining rounds of the championship, solidifying his status as a formidable competitor on the world stage. Supporters eagerly anticipate his continued success throughout the season.

## Bahrain dominate Saudi in Gulf U-18 Basketball Championship



Action from the match

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**B**ahrain's U-18 national team beat Saudi Arabia 97-94 in the AFC Kuwait Asian Cup qualifying Gulf tournament from July 29 to August 2nd.

The match, which was held at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abd Allah Complex hall in Kuwait, witnessed remarkable brilliance from player Mohamed Khalil, who scored 26 points and added four rebounds. Khalil's outstanding performance was credited with snatching the precious victory, helping Bahrain make up for their first-round loss to Kuwait, where the match ended 66-85.

The match between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia was exciting and challenging, with both teams putting in strong performances, but Bahrain was able to settle the result in their favor thanks to a strong collective performance and high concentration at crucial moments.

The Bahraini national team is preparing to meet its Omani counterpart on Wednesday, in a match that will be decisive in determining their fate in the tournament, as the Bahraini team looks forward to continuing to perform well and qualify for the finals after this important victory.

## Suryakumar's bowling heroics help India to Super Over T20 win

AFP | Colombo

**S**kipper Suryakumar Yadav turned an unlikely hero with the ball as India beat Sri Lanka in a T20 thriller decided by a Super Over to sweep the series 3-0 on Tuesday.

Spinners Rinku Singh and Suryakumar bowled the 19th and 20th overs in Sri Lanka's chase of 137 and the match ended in a tie at Kandy's Pallekele International Stadium.



India's Shubman Gill in action

Washington Sundar then took two Sri Lankan wickets to end the Super Over quickly with the hosts scoring just two runs, which India overhauled in just one hit by Suryakumar -- in batting mode.

Sundar was elected man of the match after he picked up two wickets in the Sri Lankan chase. Ravi Bishnoi, Rinku and Suryakumar also took two each. India's new-age T20 team, led

by Suryakumar and coached by Gautam Gambhir, have started strongly after the retirements of stalwarts Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja following the team's T20 World Cup triumph last month.

Suryakumar led from the front with the bat in the first two wins to clinch the series.

He surprisingly bowled the final over when Sri Lanka needed six to win.