

# Arsenal must manage emotions of title race says Arteta

Gunners can go six clear but must juggle Champions League semi-final demands

● Arsenal chasing first title in 22 years

● Four games remain in season

● Form dip raises concerns

AFP | London

Mikel Arteta has urged Arsenal to manage their emotions as a gripping Premier League title race builds to a nerve-shredding climax.

Arteta's side can move six points clear of second-placed Manchester City if they beat Fulham at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

But the Gunners have been far from convincing in recent weeks, blowing a substantial lead at the top after damaging defeats against City and Bournemouth.

A tense 1-0 win against Newcastle last weekend hardly suggested Arsenal have conquered their anxiety.

But Arteta called on his players to embrace the positives of being potentially just four games away from a first league title in 22 years.

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MIKEL ARTETA

to manage in the right way. But I want to put more emphasis on showing that desire, that hunger that we have shown all season," he told reporters yesterday.

"We have only four games left and everything to play for, so it doesn't get better than that."

After facing Fulham, Arsenal will have played two more games than City, who are next in action at Everton on Monday.

City's games in hand could tip the balance in a desperately close race that may be decided on goal difference or goals scored.

Arsenal have the extra complication of balancing their Premier League efforts with a quest to win the Champions League for the first time.



Arsenal players celebrate the opening goal scored by Arsenal's Swedish forward #14 Viktor Gyokeres during Champions League match against Atletico Madrid

Arteta was furious as penalty decisions did not go his side's way in a 1-1 semi-final, first leg draw away to Atletico Madrid on Wednesday, meaning Arsenal still have plenty of work to do in Tuesday's second leg to reach the final.

"I think we have enough fuel in the tank, we are planning to

win the Premier League," he added.

"We are exactly where we wanted to be, four games to go, now let's go.

"We need to face each situation in any context to achieve our goal. What happened the other night was extremely disappointing, but we need to make

it at home now."

Arteta, though, stressed his players are fully focused on beating Fulham rather than the return leg against Atletico.

"Focus on Fulham and hunger. Hunger to compete, hunger to play, hunger to win. Hunger to be closer to achieve our dream," he said.



Despite being a vital attacking component for the team, Kai Havertz has been sidelined for nearly eight months, forcing Arteta to reinvent his forward line during the most critical juncture of the season

Kai Havertz and Jurrien Timber will again be missing through injury, but Arteta hailed his side's ability to overcome injury problems throughout the campaign.

"We are talking about one of the most important attacking players that we have and he has been out for seven or eight months," Arteta said of Germany forward Havertz.

"He hasn't been the only one, unfortunately, regarding players that we have missed through injury. We have shown an incredible capacity to overcome these scenarios."

## Bahrain Finish Strong at Arab Youth Meet



Action from Stade Olympique de Radts in Tunis, Tunisia.

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's national athletics team delivered an impressive performance at the 21st Arab Youth Athletics Championships in Tunisia, finishing third overall with five gold and three silver medals.

The competition ran from April 26 to 30 and brought together more than 200 athletes from 15 Arab nations. Bahrain remained competitive across multiple events throughout the meet as Morocco topped the standings and Egypt secured second place.

Rehana Ghroba stood out in the sprint events, first taking

gold in the women's 100m with a time of 11.55 seconds before winning the 200m shortly after, completing a sprint double that reflected both control and acceleration across both distances.

The women's 400m added further strength to Bahrain's track presence, with Aisha Abdullah running to gold in 53.69 seconds, closely followed by Soufiane Abdulghani in 53.85 seconds, resulting in a tightly matched one-two finish for the team.

That rhythm carried into the 4x400m relay, where Bahrain maintained composure throughout the exchanges and closed strongly to secure gold in 3:41.88.

## Gulf Champions Look to Defend Their Crown

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Bahrain will enter the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup as reigning champions, with the group-stage draw taking place on 19 May in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where the opening fixtures for the region's national teams will be confirmed.

The draw will be held at Culture Square in the Arts Centre building within the Red Sea International Film Festival complex. It marks the first step toward a tournament scheduled to be staged in Jeddah from 23 September to 6 October, with all Gulf nations expected to participate.

Bahrain's national team arrives as defending champions after winning the 26th edition. They beat Oman 2-1 in the final in Kuwait on 4 January 2025 to claim their second Arabian Gulf Cup title, following their first success in 2019. That triumph was built on disciplined performances throughout the tournament, with Croatian head coach Dragan Talaji overseeing a structured and consistent campaign.



Bahrain's national football team celebrate winning the Gulf Cup last year

Since then, his side have found results harder to come by on the international stage. In the FIFA World Cup 2026 Asian qualifiers, they were eliminated after a 2-0 home defeat to Saudi Arabia last June. They finished fifth in Group C behind Japan, Saudi Arabia and Australia,

missing out on a playoff spot despite a competitive showing.

Their struggles continued later in the year at the 2025 Arab Cup, where they exited at the group stage. Bahrain finished third in their group with three points, recording defeats to Algeria (5-1) and Iraq (2-1), along-

side a 3-1 win over Sudan.

In preparation for the upcoming Arabian Gulf Cup, Bahrain have since focused on a series of international friendlies aimed at building match sharpness, including an upcoming fixture against Georgia on 5 June in Tbilisi.