



Bahrain beat Egypt to win Arab Under-18 title



● **The national youth side, beaten 88-60 by Egypt in their last group match, hit back when it mattered at Al Raed Al Bejaoui Hall**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's under-18 basketball team retained the Arab title in Sfax on Saturday, beating Egypt 85-73

in the final to win the championship for the second year in a row.

The national youth side, beaten 88-60 by Egypt in their last group match, hit back when it mattered at Al Raed Al Bejaoui Hall, turning a one-point first-quarter deficit into a 12-point win.

Egypt edged the opening quarter 18-17, but Bahrain took charge before half-time to lead 38-35. They then pushed the gap to 58-48 by the end of the third quarter before closing out the final.

Sumto Patrick led Bahrain with 26 points, while Hassan Abdulqader added 22 and made his mark on the rebounds as Bahrain completed a strong campaign in Tunisia.

Bahrain reached the final after finishing second in the preliminary round with four wins and one defeat. They opened with a 60-51 win over Algeria before beating hosts Tunisia 78-66, then defeated Libya 73-58 and Morocco 73-46.

Their only loss came against Egypt in the final prelimi-

nary-round match, with qualification already sealed. The coaching staff used that game to rotate the squad and give more players time on court before the final.

The championship was played in a single round-robin format, with the top two sides advancing to the final.

Bahrain's title win also came as part of their build-up for the Gulf Championship, which serves as a qualifier for the Asian Cup and is due to be held in Qatar next month.

Aya Kamali becomes youngest Bahraini in NCAA basketball

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Bahraini basketball player Aya Kamali has become the youngest player from

Bahrain to compete in NCAA college basketball in the United States after joining Wingate University.

Kamali, who plays for Bahrain's basketball team, will take part in the American college game in North Carolina, adding a rare overseas chapter to the country's women's basketball ranks.

She had earlier become the first Bahraini to play AAU basketball in Atlanta during the 2025-26 season.

The spell gave her games against school-age players in the United States and a chance to test herself in a faster, harder setting.

Her move to Wingate marks a further step in a young career built between Bahrain and the United States.

It also places a Bahraini women's basketball player inside one of America's best-known college sports systems, while giving other young players in Bahrain and the Gulf a path to weigh up for sport and study abroad.

Bethell upstages Sooryavanshi as England beat India in 2nd T20

Manchester, United Kingdom

Teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi made his international debut for India on Saturday but England young gun Jacob Bethell ensured it was the hosts who won the second T20 at Old Trafford.

At just 15 years and 99 days old, Sooryavanshi replaced batting great Sachin Tendulkar as India's youngest men's player and marked his entrance onto the world stage with two stunning sixes as he scored 14

from 10 balls. Yet it was fellow left-handed batsman Bethell, a relative veteran at the age 22, who made the match-clinching contribution.

England were faltering at 51-3, chasing 191 for victory, when Bethell walked out to bat but he responded with an expertly-paced 76 not out to take his side to a four-wicket win over the T20 world champions.

Victory left England 1-0 up in a five-match series following Wednesday's wash-out in Durham.

Swiatek doesn't care about results after Wimbledon exit

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Iga Swiatek said she does not "care anymore about the results" and is just focused on regaining her best form after suffering a shock Wimbledon third-round loss to Alexandra Eala on Saturday.

The Polish third seed's title defence was halted by Eala at the All England Club, just weeks after the four-time French Open champion bowed out in the last 16 at Roland Garros.

But Swiatek insisted she was happier with her game in London than she was

in the French capital. "I don't think it's the same as in Paris," she told reporters after her 7-6 (11/9), 6-2 loss. "In Paris for sure it was completely about me not handling the pressure well. "For me, today was more about tennis. I'm also happy how I came back in the tiebreaker, and also after being a break down in the first set because I feel like in Paris I would just lose it straight."

Swiatek is yet to even reach a Tour-level final this season.

Antonelli takes pole position for British Grand Prix

● **Max Verstappen, the four-time world champion had to settle for seventh**

AFP | Silverstone, United Kingdom

Championship leader Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes will start Sunday's British Grand Prix from pole position after



Mercedes' Italian driver Kimi Antonelli (L) poses with Nigerian footballer Maduka Okoye (R) after taking pole position

again dominating qualifying on Saturday. The 19-year-old Italian, who won the sprint earlier in the day, secured his fifth pole from nine races this season by outpacing Ferrari's Charles Leclerc who will start alongside him on the front row.

His quickest lap of 1 minute 28.111 seconds was 0.175sec faster than Leclerc.

The other Ferrari, driven by home favourite Lewis Hamilton, locked out third and will start alongside his old Mercedes

teammate George Russell, who won the last race in Austria and is 43 points behind Antonelli.

Red Bull's junior driver Isack Hadjar was fifth, outperforming his senior partner Max Verstappen. The four-time world champion had to settle for seventh, one place behind the 2025 champion Lando Norris in his McLaren. Oscar Piastri, in the second McLaren, was eighth with the Racing Bulls of Arvid Lindblad and Liam Lawson closing out the top 10.

