

King's Cup last eight confirmed

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

HM The King's Cup round-of-16 continued on Thursday as A'ali and Al Ahli stormed into the quarter-finals, completing the line-up for Bahrain's premier domestic knockout tournament.

At Shaikh Ali Bin Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa Stadium, A'ali put on a clinical display to see off Al Najma 2-0. Yazid Abdul-Ilah broke the deadlock in the 31st minute, slotting home from close range after a blocked corner rebound. Minutes into the second half, Diego Cardoso doubled the lead with a crisp finish from a perfectly weighted pass by Englishman Lyton Ndukwu. Despite further chances at both ends, A'ali's defence held firm, though their upcoming clash with holders Al Khaldiya promises a stern test.



A'ali squad celebrate their qualification

Meanwhile, at Khalifa Sports City Stadium, Al Ahli survived a tense penalty shootout against

Budaiya after a goalless 90 minutes. Rodrigo Varanda calmly converted the opening spot-kick, and Hamed Junior Toure scored the decisive penalty, while goalkeeper Sayed Shubbar Alawi



Al Ahli applaud supporters after a tense win

saved Budaiya's final attempt to seal the win. Al Ahli now face First Division side Al Ettifaq, a fixture that will put their credentials to the test.

The quarter-final bracket is now complete, as Muharraq face

Al Shabab and Riffa take on Bahrain Club. With the illustrious competition nearing its climax, the mix of top-flight sides and one remaining First Division team ensures the final eight remain unpredictable.

Russian Players Dominate Junior ITF Last-16 in Bahrain



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Russian players dominated the round of 16 at the ITF junior tennis tournament in Bahrain, where local player Ahmed Al Sayed saw his campaign end after a straight-sets loss to Russia's sixth seed Nikita Davidovsky.

Top seed Javier Montes Jimenez of Spain continued his strong run, defeating Russia's Demyan Medvedev 6-3, 6-2 to reinforce his status among the title favourites. Russia's Andrey Li also advanced con-

vincingly with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Switzerland's Ben Neiveller, while Sergei Bankov beat Lebanon's seventh seed Rami Saouli 6-2, 7-5 in another closely contested match.

In the girls' singles, Turkey's Asya Ay cruised past Kristina Danko 6-0, 6-3 to reach the quarter-finals. Russia's Maria Kovaleva and Stefania Kadzova also progressed with solid wins, while Sofia Bizyanova completed a strong Russian showing by defeating compatriot Elena Titova 6-3, 6-3.

Ahli book quarter-final place with second straight win

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Bahrain's Al Ahli secured their place in the quarter-finals of the 4th WAVA Men's Clubs Volleyball Championship yesterday with a straight-sets victory over Lebanon's CJS Batroun in Kuwait City. The Group B contest, held at the Kuwaiti Volleyball Federation Hall, ended 3-0 in Al Ahli's favour, with set scores of 25-19, 25-21, 25-21. This result lifts the Bahraini side to six points from two matches, while Batroun remain without a point after suffering back-to-back defeats.

The opening set was finely balanced at 18-18 before Al Ahli asserted control with solid blocking, with Sayed Mohammed Al Abbar finishing it with a composed spike. The second set followed a similar script, as Al Ahli's defence forced errors from Batroun, allowing Al Abbar to close it out again. In the third set, Al Ahli raced to a 14-6 lead, and despite a late fightback to 22-20, two double-touch calls sealed the match.

The win guarantees Al Ahli



Al Ahli players rallying together mid-match

a spot in the last eight, with hosts Kuwait SC scheduled for their final group match against

will decide the top position in Group B. Coached by Renato Castro of Brazil, Al Ahli are competing in the tournament for the third consecutive edition, having claimed bronze in last year's championship hosted in Bahrain.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's other representative, Dar Kulaib, made a winning start in Group C on Thursday, coming back from a set down to beat Oman's Al Seeb 3-1 (31-33, 25-15, 25-20, 25-16).

The team, coached by Ivan Joksimovic and featuring stand-out performers Enock Mogeni, Mahmoud Abdulwahed, Ali Marhoon, and Ali Habib, dominated the last three sets after a closely contested opener. They return to action today at 4 PM against Kuwait's Burgan SC.

The championship features 11 clubs from across the region, with the top two from each group, plus the two best third-placed sides, advancing to the quarter-finals.

The tournament also serves as a qualifier for the 2026 Asian Volleyball Confederation Men's Champions League in Indonesia.

Hazlewood out of T20 World Cup in fresh blow to Australia

AFP | Sydney

Fast bowler Josh Hazlewood was yesterday ruled out of the T20 World Cup after failing to recover from hamstring and Achilles injuries in another setback for Australia.

The 35-year-old missed the entire Ashes series against England and has not played any cricket since November.

Earlier this week, Cricket Australia said he would miss the initial stages of the tournament with Sean Abbott called up as cover.

But yesterday they conceded Hazlewood had "run out of



Josh Hazlewood

time" to be fit for the event which begins in India and Sri Lanka on Saturday.

"We were hopeful Josh would be back to match fitness by the Super Eight stage," said selector Tony Dodemaide.

Top seeds set for finals at Asian U14 tennis event in Bahrain

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The first week of the Asian Tennis Federation Development Championship for under-14 players concludes on Saturday with highly anticipated singles and doubles finals, hosted by the Bahrain Tennis Federation at the Bahrain Tennis Club.

In the boys' singles final, top seed Hamza Al Mansouri of Saudi Arabia will face second seed Hassan Gharyari of Iraq after both advanced with straight-sets victories in the semi-finals. Al Mansouri dominated Jordan's fourth seed Rayan Kavar, while Gharyari overcame Omar



Istinbuli of Jordan, sealing the opener in a tiebreak before pulling clear.

The girls' singles final will



also feature the top two seeds, with Turkmenistan's Nazli Hodaykulieva meeting Jordan's Aya Sofia Ghoukashaw.

Hodaykulieva eased past Lebanon's Maria El Hachach, while Ghoukashaw secured a composed win over Maryam Kamaraldine to book her place in the title match.

In doubles action, the boys' final will pit the Saudi pair of Al Mansouri and Elias Al Ghaffi against Jordan's Istinbuli and Kavar, while the girls' doubles final will see Lebanon's El Hachach and Kamaraldine take on Turkmenistan's Hodaykulieva and Eshankulieva. The championship, featuring players from across West and Central Asia, wraps up its opening week with finals expected to showcase the region's leading young talent.