

# Sokolov surges ahead at Bahrain Amateur Open

100 Players Tee Off At Royal Golf Club

● Sokolov dominates opening round

● Top 10 qualify King Hamad Trophy

● Youth compete for AYG national spots

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TDT | Manama

Daniil Sokolov produced a masterclass over 54 holes to claim a strong lead at the seventh Bahrain Amateur Open, which kicked off at the Royal Golf Club. The Qatari carded rounds culminating in a seven-under-par total of 65-66-66, leaving runners-up Issa Abou El Ela of Egypt and Sweden's Adrian Larsson trailing by a single stroke at six under.

The three-day, 54-hole tournament, contested by over 100 players from Bahrain and across the Middle East, Europe, and beyond, also serves as a qualifying event for the King Hamad Trophy. The top 10 finishers, excluding Bahrain's national team members, will earn a berth in the November event, while the winner secures a place in the



2026 Bahrain Championship on the DP World Tour.

Among the Bahraini contingent, former champions Ali Al Kowari, Khalifa Al Meraisi, and Ahmed Alzayed performed solidly. Al Kowari finished tied eighth at two under, Al Meraisi in a share of 11th at one under, and Alzayed also tied 11th. Youth players are meanwhile competing for national team selection for the Asian Youth Games, which will be held later



**Winner earns DP World Tour 2026 entry**

this month on home soil. Sokolov's precision from tee

to green proved decisive. He avoided any bogeys over the final round and showed remarkable putting under pressure, contrasting with the minor errors that cost Larsson and Abou El Ela key strokes. Jonathan Selvaraj (UAE), Salehaleh Al Kaabi (Qatar), and Jay Mullane (United Kingdom) all finished four under, sharing fifth place.

Action continues today at the Royal Golf Club and will conclude tomorrow.

## Bahrain youth handball team prepares for AYG

Hedin's squad begins local and overseas training



● Training starts next week locally

● Bosnia camp scheduled ahead

● Islamic Solidarity Games in November

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Bahrain's national youth handball team is preparing for the third Asian Youth Games, to be held in the kingdom from October 22-31. The men's handball event will take place from October 19-30 at the Umm Al Hassam Sports Hall, starting before the official opening. The team is also preparing for the Islamic Solidarity Games in Saudi Arabia in November.

Local training will start next week at Umm Al Hassam Hall. After that, the squad will travel to Bosnia for an overseas camp.

Swedish coach Robert Hedin and national assistant Ali Husain will lead the sessions.

The Asian Handball Federation revised the Youth Games draw after India, Qatar, and Uzbekistan withdrew, reducing the number of participating teams from 14 to 11, and prompting a change in the competition format from four groups to two, in line with AHF COC Regulations. The revised draw took place on September 8 at the Gulf Hotel, with at-tendees including Ali Mohamed Isa Abdulla Eshaqi (AHF Vice President), Yousef Duaij (Chairman of Executive Committee for the Games), Ahmed Mohammed Abdulghaffar (Vice Chairman), and Ganesan Sundaram Moorthy (OCA Sports Director).

Group A includes Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Maldives, and Hong Kong-China. Group B includes Kuwait, I.R. Iran, P.R. China, United Arab Emirates, Thailand, and Kazakhstan.

## India's Gill out to avoid 'mental fatigue' from constant cricket



India's captain Shubman Gill (L) shakes hands with his West Indies' counterpart Roston Chase

AFP | New Delhi

Shubman Gill said yesterday that his biggest opponent could be "mental fatigue" after the India Test captain recently took over charge of the 50-over side.

Speaking ahead of Friday's second Test against the West Indies in New Delhi, Gill conceded that it was a challenge to play all three international formats, but that was what drove him.

"Physically most of the time I feel fine, but sometimes there is mental fatigue because when you are constantly playing," Gill told reporters.

"There is obviously a certain expectation that I have from myself."

India lead the two-match series 1-0 after they hammered the visitors by an innings and 140 runs inside three days in the first Test.

Immediately after play ended on day three, Gill was named to succeed Rohit Sharma as ODI captain, adding to the 26-year-old's workload.

"I think that is the challenge about being able to play all the formats for India," said Gill.

"And I want to play and succeed in all the formats for the country, and win ICC titles."

Gill, who made his Test debut in December 2020, took over as Test skipper in May from Rohit.

He was India's leading scorer in the drawn five-Test series in England with 754 runs.

## Bahraini players dominate Asian U-16 tennis semifinals



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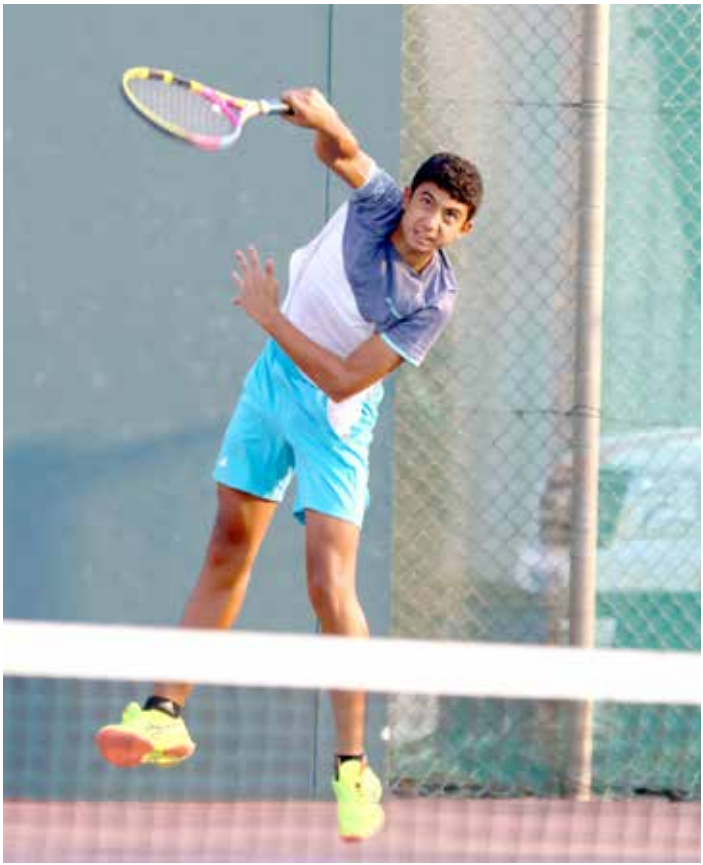
Bahraini players Ahmed Al Sayed and Hashem Al Tubli both advanced to the semi-finals of the Asian Championship Under-16 Tennis Championship, securing a strong presence for the host nation in the boys' singles draw. Meanwhile, the girls' singles event is guaranteed to feature at least one Bahraini finalist.

Top seed Ahmed Al Sayed continued his dominant run in the boys' singles, defeating Saudi opponent Abdulaziz Al Tamimi in a commanding quarter-final performance, 6-0, 6-4. Al Sayed will now face Ali Al

Ahmad in the semi-finals, after the Saudi player ended the tournament run of Ahmed's brother, Talal Al Sayed, defeating him 6-1, 6-2 in the quarter-finals.

National team player Hashem Al Tubli delivered another impressive result, halting the advance of Australia's Jayden Rebelo in a competitive quarter-final, 6-2, 6-3. Al Tubli is set to meet Saudi player Ahmed Sarouji, who upset fifth-seeded Indian Parth Sani 6-1, 6-2.

In the girls' singles, the semi-final draw ensures a Bahraini presence in the final. Sofia Bader earned her semi-final spot with a resounding victory over top seed Salma Farajal-



lah, 6-2, 6-3, and will face compatriot Mariam Al-Abbasi. In the other semi-final, Bahrain's Ghamar Issa will meet second seed Fatima Al-Baajri of Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain also excelled in the doubles competition, guaranteeing a team in the final. The duo of Ahmed Al Sayed and Talal Al Sayed advanced to the semi-finals after defeating

Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Al Nemer and Kazem Al Sairafi 6-2, 6-1. They are scheduled to face an all-Bahraini team, Hashem Al Tubli and Redha Hassan, who won their quarter-final match in a tie-break finish, 7-5, 7-6(5). The semi-final matches across all categories are scheduled for today, Saturday, at the Bahrain Tennis Federation courts.