

Bahrain Beat Kuwait for Third Straight Win

Mohammed Darwish

Bahrain's U17 volleyball team made it three wins from three without dropping a set after beating Kuwait 3-0 on Wednesday in the second Arab Men's U17 Volleyball Championship in Bahrain. The hosts won 25-14, 35-33, 25-10 at the Isa bin Rashid Volleyball Hall in Riffa, taking their tally to nine sets won and none lost across their opening three matches.

Bahrain took charge early and closed out the first set 25-14, but Kuwait hit back with a far stronger challenge in the second. The set stretched deep beyond 25 points before Bahrain held their nerve to take it 35-33. Kuwait's resistance then faded. Bahrain regained full control in the third and raced to a 25-10 win to seal another straight-sets victory.

Bahrain player Sayed Hassan Al Abbar said the team had imposed itself early before suffering a dip in the second set. 'Thank God for the win, and hard luck to Kuwait,' he said after the match. 'We put them under pressure in the first set and won it by a good margin. We had a drop in the second,



“We put them under pressure in the first set and won it by a good margin.”

— SAYED HASSAN AL ABBAR



Bahrain players celebrate during their 3-0 win over Kuwait

but thankfully we came back at the end.

'In the third set we put pressure on them from the start and won it comfortably. We thank all the players and the staff. We are one team.'

Al Abbar also called on Bahrain supporters to turn out for

the side's remaining matches, saying: 'We hope to see them there.'

Team manager Abdullah Al Mahroos said Bahrain had expected a difficult contest and praised the players for keeping calm when Kuwait threatened to level the match.

'It was a difficult match, like every match, and we expected this kind of scenario,' he said. 'We won the first set by a good margin, but we started the second shakily and they put us under pressure from the first ball. 'We managed to get back into the set and kept our composure.



“We managed to get back into the set and kept our composure. We kept telling the players to stay focused”

— ABDULLAH AL MAHROOS, TEAM MANAGER

We kept telling the players to stay focused, and thankfully we were able to finish the match.'

Al Mahroos said the third set showed what Bahrain could do once their focus returned, but warned that lapses could prove costly later in the championship.

'If we want to compete and become champions, we have to keep our concentration and cannot allow ourselves to go cold at any point in a match,' he said.

He added that all 14 players in the squad had been prepared to step in when needed, describing Bahrain as 'one team' rather than a side dependent on a small group of starters.

The result follows Bahrain's 3-0 wins over Jordan and Algeria earlier in the championship and keeps Yousuf Khalifa's side among the leading teams in the six-nation competition.

Bahrain opened their campaign by beating Jordan 25-14, 25-18, 25-9 before seeing off Algeria 25-13, 25-14, 25-19.

Kuwait, meanwhile, came into Wednesday's match after losing 3-0 to Egypt and then falling 3-2 to Saudi Arabia.

The championship brings together Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan and Algeria in a single round-robin phase, with the leading sides moving on to the semi-finals.

Bahrain are due to face Saudi Arabia on Friday before meeting Egypt on Sunday in their final two matches of the opening phase.

Tough Test Awaits Bahrain in Fukuoka

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain have been drawn alongside hosts Japan, Australia and China in Group A of the 2026 Asian Men's Volleyball Cup, which will be held in Fukuoka from September 4 to 13.

The draw hands Bahrain a demanding opening stage, with Japan and Australia among the continent's established sides and China adding further weight to the group.

The tournament will give Bahrain another chance to test themselves against leading Asian opposition after a run of continental appearances that has strengthened their standing in recent years.

Preparations are expected to gather pace in the coming weeks, with the coaching staff



Bahrain National Volleyball Team

working on fitness, match plans and analysis of Bahrain's three group rivals before the squad travels to Japan.

Each match will carry added weight as Bahrain seek a place

in the next round and aim to build on their recent progress in Asian volleyball.

Iran, India, Oman and New Zealand were drawn in Group B, while Group C contains Qatar,

South Korea, Chinese Taipei and Thailand.

The tournament will run for 10 days in Fukuoka, bringing together 12 teams from across Asia.

England captain Root tells players to be 'adults' as he ditches curfew



Joe Root reacts during a match (file photo)

AFP | London

Joe Root said yesterday there would be no curfew in place during his second spell as England Test captain.

Root will lead the England at his Headingley home ground on August 19 in their series opener against Pakistan for their first Test since former skipper Ben Stokes retired from international cricket and Brendon McCullum was sacked as red-ball coach.

McCullum, who remains in charge of England's white-ball teams, lost his job after a 2-1 home series loss to New Zealand in June, which followed a disastrous Ashes campaign in Australia.

One of the major controversies at the end of the 'Bazball' era was an incident at a London nightclub in June where Stokes and Gus Atkinson were out past a midnight curfew.

The pair missed the second Test against New Zealand at the Oval, with Root taking temporary charge of the team.

England managing director Rob Key established the curfew, which came about after white-ball captain Harry Brook was fined for an altercation with a bouncer in New Zealand last November.

But Root told Sky Sports cricket podcast: "There's not going to be a curfew. I don't think this needs to be a big deal, to be honest.

"My view on curfews is I don't think they work, and if you want guys to take responsibility on the field they've got to be able to feel they can be grown adults off it and make good strong decisions off it.

"That's for us as a team to manage well, and self-police well, for me and 'Flem' (new red-ball coach Stephen Fleming) to manage well in many ways but ultimately you're grown adults, you know what it takes to play for England, you know what your responsibilities are off the field and we need to make sure we don't find ourselves with any little situations off the field."

iCAUR Bahrain participates in Sports City 2026



Manama

iCAUR Bahrain, operating under The Bahraini-Asian Motors by Motorcity, is participating in Sports City 2026, with the all-new iCAUR 03T & V27 models on display and the brand present within the

event's dedicated esports zone.

Mr. Abdulrahman Burashed, Dealer Principal at iCAUR Bahrain, commented: "At iCAUR Bahrain, we believe meaningful experiences help inspire the next generation to explore their interests and develop new skills. Sports City reflects

the values behind our 'Born to Play' philosophy by bringing together sport, technology, and community in a way that encourages participation, creativity, and connection."

Through its participation in Sports City 2026, iCAUR Bahrain continues to strengthen its connection with Bahrain's

youth by contributing to initiatives that help young people explore new interests, develop their skills, and build meaningful experiences.

Visitors are also invited to discover the all-new iCAUR lineup by visiting the iCAUR Bahrain showroom in Sanad.

