

# Bahrain Rack Up Medals in Doha

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Bahrain continued its strong showing at the 4th GCC Games in Doha yesterday, collecting a full set of medals on Day 2: gold in women's 3x3 basketball, silver in men's 3x3 basketball and table tennis, and bronze in swimming.

The standout performance came from the women's 3x3 basketball team, who clinched gold with a 22-17 victory over Saudi Arabia in the final. Bahrain had reached the title match in dominant fashion, sweeping past Kuwait 21-7 in the semi-finals, powered by sharp shooting from Bayan Salman and strong all-round play from Aya Murtadha.

In the final, Saudi Arabia kept the opening stages tight, but Bahrain gradually asserted control. Salman broke a 5-5 tie with a long-range two-pointer before Murtadha added another outside shot to stretch the lead to 15-8. From there, Bahrain maintained momentum, with Murtadha adding a free throw and Salman helping close out a historic gold medal win.

After the match, Murtadha reflected on the support behind her success, saying: "He supports me, even at home, he helps



Gold medal joy for women's 3x3 team

me improve my game," referring to her father and coach, Murtadha Mohammed. Teammate Marian Sameer described the victory as redemption after last year's defeat to Saudi Arabia in the Gulf Basketball Association Championship final, adding: "Ever since that loss in November, we've been working hard to make amends — and now we're bringing gold back to Bahrain."

The men's 3x3 team also delivered a strong campaign, opening with a comfortable 21-10 pool win over the UAE, led by Devon Chism's playmaking, Bogdan Dragovic's perimeter scoring, and Austin Ajukwa's inside presence. They repeated their dominance in the semifinals, again defeating

the UAE 21-8 to reach the final. Bahrain ultimately took silver after falling to hosts Qatar in the championship match.

Elsewhere, Bahrain earned silver in the men's table tennis team event at the Aspire Dome, beginning with a 3-0 win over Oman before finishing second to Saudi Arabia overall.

In swimming at the Hamad Aquatics Centre, Bahrain added two bronze medals. Robert Bonsall placed third in the men's 400m freestyle in 3:57.97, while the men's 4x400m freestyle relay also secured bronze in 3:29.62.

In boxing, Bahrain moved closer to more medal success after Omar Ismail advanced to the men's 60kg final following a strong perfor-

mance against his UAE opponent, with Irish coach John Conlon in his corner. Ali Omar also progressed to the 75kg final after a dominant unanimous decision victory, controlling the bout with sharp head movement and effective body shots throughout. In taekwondo, Abdulla Aldoseri competed in the men's -68kg category but was eliminated by Oman's Shabib Al Wahaibi.

Bahrain will be back in action today across several sports, including shooting, billiards, and table tennis, while boxing reaches its finals with medals at stake. Athletics also gets underway, alongside continued swimming events, as the Kingdom's representatives look to add to their medal tally.

Medal Standings					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Qatar	11	10	8	29
2	Saudi Arabia	9	8	4	21
3	Bahrain	3	5	3	11
4	United Arab Emirates	2	2	6	10
5	Oman	2	0	5	7
6	Kuwait	0	2	11	13



Bonsall raises Bahrain flag after claiming swimming bronze



Coach Murtadha with men's 3x3 silver medallists



Bahrain's table tennis team celebrate silver medal win

## New era for Bahrain Volleyball begins under Joksimovic

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Bahrain's national men's volleyball team depart for Doha today chasing a third GCC Games gold medal, and the opportunity to begin a new era under coach Ivan Joksimovic with silverware.

The GCC Games, running until May 22, brings together the six Gulf nations across 19 sports, with volleyball expected to be one of the headline competitions. Played in a round-robin format, every match could prove decisive in the race for the podium.

Bahrain arrive in Qatar with one of the strongest records in the competition's history. The team claimed gold at the inaugural 2011 edition on home soil and again in Dammam in 2015, before settling for silver behind hosts Qatar in Kuwait City in 2022.

This year also marks the start



Bahrain men's national volleyball squad

of a new chapter under Montenegrin coach Ivan Joksimovic, who succeeds Frenchman

Arnaud Josserand. Josserand oversaw one of Bahrain's most successful periods, delivering

multiple regional and continental titles during his tenure. Joksimovic enters the tour-

namment in strong form after guiding Dar Kulaib to an unbeaten domestic league title, and now faces the challenge of sustaining Bahrain's regional dominance on the international stage.

The delegation is led by Abduljalil Fateel, chairman of the national teams committee, alongside team manager Ali Al Sayed. The technical staff includes assistant coach Mishal Turki, statistician Mustafa Abdullah, fitness coach Anis Al Shayeb, and physiotherapist Rami Al Murbati.

Bahrain have named a 17-player squad for the tournament in Doha. The setters are Ali Habib and Mahmood Abdulwahid. Outside hitters and opposites include Ali Ibrahim, Mohammed Al Khabbaz, Hussain Mansoor, Hassan Al Shakhouri, and Sayed Hashim Isa.

In the middle-blocking de-

partment are Hassan Ali Al Warqaa, Abbas Abdullah Sultan, Mahmood Al Affia, and Ahmed Sadiq, while Ayman Haroona is listed as libero. The remaining squad members — Hussain Abdullah Sultan, Hani Al Alawi, Mahmood Abdulhussain, Mohammed Jassim, and Abdullah Mohammed Jaafar — provide additional depth and rotation options.

The team opens its campaign on Saturday, May 16, against Oman, before facing the United Arab Emirates a day later. Fixtures against Kuwait, hosts Qatar, and Saudi Arabia will complete a demanding schedule that could ultimately decide the medal standings.

With defending champions Qatar and improving regional rivals in the mix, Bahrain's pursuit of another GCC Games title promises to be one of their toughest tests yet.