

Fourth Consecutive Win for Bahrain After Saudi Sweep

Mohammed Darwish

The kingdom's teenage volleyballers swept defending champions Saudi Arabia aside in straight sets on Friday, making it four wins from four and 12 sets without defeat as a title showdown with Egypt draws near.

Bahrain won 25-19, 25-23, 25-18 at the Isa bin Rashid Volleyball Arena in Riffa, brushing aside the side that beat them to the Arab under-17 crown two years ago.

It was a fourth 3-0 win in as many matches. Jordan, Algeria and Kuwait had already fallen without taking a set.

Saudi Arabia made Bahrain work hardest in the second. The hosts took the opener 25-19, but their Gulf rivals stayed close throughout the next before



Ali Hassan

Bahrain shut the door at 25-23. The third was far more clear-cut. Bahrain pulled away and finished the job 25-18.

Mohammed Abdulaziz said the strain had shown early, especially from the service line.

"The match was difficult and there was some pressure on us,



Ali Hassan powers through the Saudi block

but thankfully we won," he said. "At first our serves were not coming off, but in the third set I think we only missed two or three. Saudi Arabia are a very strong opponent, but thankfully we won. God willing, the championship will be ours."

Team-mate Ali Hassan was

already looking towards Egypt. "Thank God, the match was neither easy nor too difficult. It was a very good game and things went our way," he said.

"Egypt are a strong side, but we are capable of beating them. We do not want to let down the supporters who came today and,



Mohammed Abdulaziz

God willing, we will rise to the challenge."

Bahrain's record now reads four wins, 12 sets won and none lost. They began by beating Jordan 25-14, 25-18, 25-9, then saw off Algeria 25-13, 25-14, 25-19. Kuwait pushed them furthest, forcing a 35-33 second set, but

Bahrain still won 25-14, 35-33, 25-10.

Sunday brings the match that will decide the Arab crown.

Bahrain face Egypt at 7pm with both sides unbeaten after four outings and neither having lost a set.

The six-team championship is being played as a single round-robin, meaning the last meeting between the two perfect sides will decide who finishes top.

Egypt have beaten Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Algeria, all by 3-0 margins.

Saudi Arabia came to Riffa as champions after winning the 2024 Arab under-17 title in Amman, where Bahrain finished second.

Coach Yusuf Khalifa and assistant Mohammed Salman now have one match left to turn that silver into gold.

Four Bahrain teams reach West Asia semi-finals

TDT | Manama

Four Bahrain table tennis teams stormed into the West Asia Championship semi-finals in Amman after finishing top of their groups across four age classes.

The senior side led the charge, finishing first in its

pool to book a place in the last four and keep its title hopes alive at the tournament, which runs in the Jordanian capital from August 12 to 19.

The under-15 team followed suit, winning its group to send another Bahrain side into the medal hunt.

Then came the younger

ranks. Bahrain's under-13 players also finished first, while the under-11s matched them to complete a four-team sweep into the semi-finals.

The results leave Bahrain with teams in the last four of four categories as the championship heads toward its medal matches.



Shelton does the double in Canada



Ben Shelton of the United States holds up the trophy

AFP | Montreal

Ben Shelton backed up an ATP title for the first time in his career, defeating Brandon Nakashima 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) to win a second consecutive Masters 1000 trophy in Canada.

Last year's title in Toronto was matched by a 2026 winning performance in Montreal, with the American taking the honours without dropping a set on the way to his seventh career title.

Shelton joins Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal in winning back-to-back in Canada during this century.

It was the first Masters final between Americans since Andy Roddick and Mardy Fish at Cincinnati 23 years ago.

"To play the way that I have here, going through without dropping a set... it speaks to the work that I've put in and my mental toughness," said Shelton, who will rise from 10th to sixth in the rankings.

Lopez takes two silvers and bronze

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Teenage weightlifting hope Jhon Esteban Lopez stormed to three medals for Bahrain in Tashkent, taking two silvers and a bronze in the men's junior 110kg class at the 2026 Asian Youth and Junior Championships.

The 18-year-old lifted 170kg in the snatch for silver, then made 193kg in the clean and jerk to take bronze. His 363kg total brought him a second silver.

Lopez went toe to toe with some of Asia's strongest young lifters in the 110kg A group, which drew rivals from Iran, South Korea, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan.

He opened the snatch with 165kg, missed his first try at 170kg, then came back to make the weight on his third lift.

Iran's Farhad Gholizadeh edged him in the snatch with 172kg, leaving Lopez second heading into the clean and jerk.

Lopez then opened at 193kg. The live scoreboard showed that making the lift would put him first, for the time being, in both the clean and jerk and



Lopez powers through in Tashkent

the total.

His three-medal haul adds to a fast-growing record for Bahrain. At last year's Asian Youth Games in Manama, Lopez won gold in both lifts in the 94kg class, including a 160kg snatch and 186kg clean and jerk.

His 363kg total in Tashkent was 17kg above the 346kg he made in Bahrain last year, even after moving up to the 110kg class.

The championships ran from August 7 to 14 in the Uzbek capital.



Novak Djokovic waves to fans (file photo)