

Unbeaten Bahrain chase Arab U17 crown

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TDT | Manama

Bahrain will bid to capture their first Arab U17 Men's Volleyball Championship title when they face Egypt in a winner-takes-all showdown tonight at the Isa bin Rashid Volleyball Arena.

The hosts enter the 7pm contest with a perfect record, having won all four of their matches without dropping a set.

Their Egyptian opponents have matched that feat, leaving both sides with four wins and a flawless 12-0 record in sets heading into the final match of the six-team competition.

Bahrain opened their campaign with a 3-0 victory over Jordan before recording straight-set wins against Algeria and Kuwait.

Their latest victory came against defending champions Saudi Arabia on Friday, with Yusuf Khalifa's side prevailing 25-19, 25-23, 25-18 to move within one win of the crown.

The North Africans have been equally convincing, sweeping Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia before beating Algeria 25-14, 25-14, 25-17 on Friday.

Tonight's clash gives the nationals an opportunity to go one step further than they achieved



Bahrain's youth volleyball team celebrate after their previous win



Kuwait secured bronze with a straight-sets win over Algeria yesterday

at the inaugural championship in Amman in 2024.

The Bahrainis won five of their six matches in that edition but finished with silver behind an unbeaten Saudi Arabia.

Two years later, Bahrain have already beaten the defending champions and now have the chance to secure the Arab crown on home soil.

Saudi Arabia and Jordan will meet at 3pm in the other fixture on the championship's concluding day.

World Cup winner Ferran Torres signs for Paris Saint-Germain

AFP | Paris

Spain international Ferran Torres, who scored the only goal in last month's World Cup final, signed for reigning European champions Paris Saint-Germain from Barcelona yesterday.

The 26-year-old forward cost the Ligue 1 title-holders a reported 50 million euros (\$58 million).

"Paris Saint-Germain is delighted to announce it has secured the services of Ferran Torres. The Spanish World Cup-winning forward has signed with the Club until 2031," read the club statement.

The former Valencia and Manchester City star is reunited with PSG coach Luis Enrique, who as Spain coach



PSG's Spanish forward #09 Ferran Torres (R) kicks the ball as he takes part in a PSG training session

gave him his international debut in a Nations League match against Germany in 2020.

"Ferran is a top-class international player, who we know really well," Luis Enrique told the media yesterday.

New Zealand overpower Bahrain in Asia Cup



Onoduenyi looks for an option as Hopoi closes in

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Bahrain suffered their first defeat of the Fiba U18 Asia Cup yesterday after going down 86-42 to New Zealand in their second Group B game in Ahmedabad, India.

The kingdom's youth men's basketball team struggled from the outset at the Veer Savarkar Indoor Stadium, with New Zealand racing into a 25-9 lead at the end of the first quarter before stretching their advantage to 43-15 by half-time.

The Junior Tall Blacks remained firmly in control after the break, outscoring Bahrain 23-13 in the third period before completing the victory with a 20-14 fourth quarter.

Somto Patrick Onoduenyi was Bahrain's standout performer despite the defeat, producing a double-double of 16 points and 17 rebounds while also registering six blocks and a steal.

Cole Hopoi led New Zealand with 16 points, five rebounds

and two assists, while Jackson Ball also played a key role in helping the Kiwis establish control during the opening quarter.

New Zealand never trailed and led for almost the entire contest, with their advantage reaching as many as 46 points late in the fourth quarter.

The result leaves Bahrain with one win and one defeat following their impressive 74-68 victory over Lebanon in Thursday's opener.

The nationals will now look to regroup ahead of their final Group B game against Syria tomorrow at 5pm Bahrain time.

The four group winners advance directly to the quarter-finals, while the second and third-placed teams enter the qualification round for the last eight.

The 16-team championship also serves as a qualifier for the Fiba U19 Basketball World Cup 2027, with the top four finishers earning places at the global tournament.



Coach Ramadhan directs play as Ali Habib guards Ratana

Seef stay alive in Singapore Challenger

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Seef advanced to the quarter-finals of the FIBA 3x3 Singapore Challenger after finishing second in Pool A yesterday.

The Bahraini side recovered from an opening defeat to Amsterdam Rabobank to secure a crucial victory over hosts Singapore and keep their campaign alive.

Seef began their tournament with a 21-13 loss to the Dutch outfit before bouncing back with a hard-fought 17-16 win over Singapore.

The result secured second place in the three-team group and a spot in the knockout stage, continuing Seef's run against some of the leading 3x3 teams on the international circuit.

They will now face China's Shanghai in the quarter-finals today at 12.50pm Bahrain time, with a place in the last four at stake.

Shanghai entered the main draw through the qualifying



Dragovic stretches for a layup against the hosts

stage and are ranked third at the tournament, setting up another difficult test for the Bahraini representatives.

Victory would also move Seef to within one win of securing

Seef are competing in Singapore with Bogdan Dragovic, Uros Ilic, Austin Ajukwa and Isa Jasim, having entered the Challenger fresh from winning the overall Bahrain Summer Tour 2026 title last weekend.

The Singapore Challenger also features a \$60,000 prize pool, with prize money awarded to the top five teams.

Should Seef overcome Shanghai, they will advance to the semi-finals at 1.30pm Bahrain time today, with the final scheduled for 3pm.

Seef have competed on the FIBA 3x3 international circuit over the past two campaigns, while Bahrain has also established itself as a regular host of major World Tour events.

The Kingdom staged the Manama Masters in 2023 and 2024 before hosting the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Final for the first time last year.

The Manama Masters is set to return for its third edition on November 20 and 21.

India's Padikkal, Rahul hit half-centuries in Sri Lanka Test

AFP | Galle

KL Rahul and Devdutt Padikkal struck unbeaten half-centuries as a steady India reached 197-1 at tea on the first day of the first Test against Sri

Lanka in Galle yesterday.

India elected to bat but lost Yashasvi Jaiswal (32) when the opener was run out after a mix-up. However, Rahul and Padikkal put the tourists back in control with an unbroken 150-run stand.

At tea, Padikkal was batting on 84 and Rahul on 77.

Padikkal, playing his third Test after being called in to replace the injured Sai Sudharsan, was the first to reach

his half-century off 81 deliveries, surpassing his career-best score of 65.

He last played a Test in November 2024 but looked solid, putting loose balls away to frustrate Sri Lanka's bowlers.