

# Talajic names 30-man squad

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain head coach Dragan Talajic has announced a 30-man national team squad as preparations intensify for international commitments, including a training camp in Georgia next month.

The squad includes goalkeepers Omar Salem, Mohammed Al Gharabli and Goodwill Chia.

Defenders selected are Abdulla Ahmed, Sayed Mahmood Al Moosawi, Hassan Al Karani, Abdulla Al Khalasi, Waleed Al Hayyam, Amine Benaddi, Ahmed Bughamar, Ahmed Rabeea, Ahmed Dhiya, Hamad Al Shamsan and Vincent Emmanuel.

The midfield options are Ibrahim Al Khatal, Mohammed Abdulqayoom, Abbas Al Asfoor, Sayed Dhiya Saeed and Komail Al Aswad.

Forwards named in the squad are Ali Madan, Al Sayed Hashim Isa, Saleh Al Zubaidi, Ali Al Doseri, Hussain Abdulkarim, Sayed Mahdi Sharaf, Mohammed Marhoon, Mohammed Al Rumaihi, Mahdi Abduljabbar, Mahdi Humaidan and Omar Saber.

According to the schedule announced by the Bahrain Football Association, the local camp will begin on Thursday, with a training match scheduled for 25 May. Players involved with their clubs in the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League play-offs will join the squad on 31 May.

Bahrain's overseas-based players will join the national team on 1 June, before



Sayed Hashim Isa on the ball during training drills

the squad travels to Georgia the following day for a training camp ahead of the



Bahrain head coach Dragan Talajic during a training scrimmage

27th Arabian Gulf Cup (Khaleeji 27). The official draw for the tournament will take place today, with the competition to be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 23 September to 6 October.

## Arsenal Grind Out Vital Burnley Win

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Arsenal secured a crucial 1-0 victory over Burnley at the Emirates Stadium yesterday, collecting three vital points that keep their title hopes alive heading into the final stretch of the season.

Mikel Arteta's side knew that anything less than a win could prove costly in the title race, and the pressure was evident from the outset. Burnley,

already relegated but playing with freedom, made the contest scrappy and difficult, limiting Arsenal's ability to carve out clear chances against a compact defensive block.

The breakthrough arrived in the 37th minute through Kai Havertz. Bukayo Saka delivered a perfectly weighted corner from the right, with the ball hanging invitingly in the air. Burnley defenders hesitated and failed to challenge, allowing Havertz to rise highest and

guide his header into the net. The Emirates erupted, stirring memories of the Invincibles era, 22 years on from the iconic 2003-04 season.

The German's goal ultimately proved enough to decide the match.

The result carries significant implications for the title race, with Arsenal moving five points clear of Manchester City, who still have a game in hand. City face AFC Bournemouth away today at 9:30 PM (Bahrain time),

a result that could bring them back within touching distance depending on the outcome.

With one match remaining against Crystal Palace on Sunday, Arsenal remain firmly in contention for long-awaited Premier League glory, although the pressure at the top is far from over. Palace also have a UEFA Conference League final just three days later, which could lead them to field a more rotated and rested side for the league fixture.



Kai Havertz celebrates Arsenal's winning goal

## Carvajal to leave Real Madrid at end of season

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid captain Dani Carvajal will leave the club at the end of the season, Los Blancos said yesterday.

The Spain international, who has played 450 times for Madrid, has won 27 trophies including six Champions Leagues and four La Liga titles.

"Real Madrid wishes to express its gratitude and affection to one of the greatest legends of our club and world football," said the Spanish giants in a statement.

Carvajal, 34, came through Real Madrid's La Fabrica youth academy and after signing for Bayer Leverkusen in 2012, Los Blancos bought him back the following summer.

"Carvajal is a legend and a symbol of Real Madrid and its academy," said Real Madrid president Florentino Perez.

The defender was hoping to play for Spain at the World Cup



this summer but has struggled with various injuries through a disappointing campaign and will not be called up by coach Luis de la Fuente according to Spanish media.

Carvajal will play his last match for the club at the Santiago Bernabeu this weekend against Athletic Bilbao in La Liga, at the end of a second straight season without a major trophy for Madrid.

## Mourinho set for shock Madrid return

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José Mourinho is reportedly close to a return to Real Madrid more than a decade after leaving the club, with discussions said to be at an advanced stage over a potential managerial comeback.

The 63-year-old Portuguese coach, currently at Benfica, is being lined up to take charge following a disappointing season by Madrid's standards. Although second in La Liga, Los Blancos trail FC Barcelona by 11 points with one match remaining. They have also suffered consecutive quarter-final exits in the UEFA Champions League, raising concerns over their performance during the business end of the season.

Club president Florentino Pérez is understood to be central to the push for change, with Mourinho viewed internally as a figure capable of restoring authority and competitive discipline.

There is a growing belief within the club that the current squad has lacked control



José Mourinho (R) with club president Florentino Perez at his unveiling in 2010

in crucial moments and requires stronger tactical and psychological direction.

Mourinho previously managed Real Madrid from 2010 to 2013, winning La Liga with a record of 100 points and lifting the Copa del Rey. His tenure defined one of the most intense periods in modern Spanish football, shaped by a fierce rivalry with Pep Guardiola's FC Barcelona.

Since departing Madrid, Mourinho has overseen spells at several of Europe's leading clubs.

At Chelsea, he won the Premier League and League Cup in his second stint, reaffirming his ability to deliver immediate results.

At Manchester United, he added the Europa League, League Cup, and Community Shield, maintaining a steady

flow of trophies despite inconsistent league form.

At Tottenham Hotspur, he improved competitiveness and stability, though his tenure ended shortly before a domestic cup final.

At AS Roma, he secured the inaugural UEFA Europa Conference League in 2022 and reached the Europa League final the following season, before leaving amid mixed domestic results.

His brief spell at Fenerbahçe ended after the club failed to secure Champions League qualification.

A return to the Spanish giants would likely be supported by significant transfer backing as the club looks to reassert itself domestically and in Europe. If completed, the move would mark one of the most notable managerial returns in recent football history.

For Real Madrid, it signals a possible shift toward a more structured, hard-edged identity. For Mourinho, it represents another opportunity at the elite level of European football.