

# Bahrain Breaks Through with Historic Silver on Home Soil

Handball Team Maintains Strong Form at the Asian Youth Games

- **Abdulla Qassim makes history**
- **Handball team make it 2 in-a-row**
- **Teqball athletes show strong potential**
- **Other team sports struggle early**

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

The second day of competition at the 3rd Asian Youth Games took place yesterday, with Bahrain's athletes already making their mark ahead of Wednesday's opening. The Games will continue daily until the end of the month, giving Bahrain's youngsters the chance to build on these early performances.

Bahrain's first medal of the tournament, and the nation's first-ever silver at the Asian Youth Games, came in Pencak Silat, a Southeast Asian martial art where competitors use a combination of striking, grap-

pling, and defensive techniques to score points. Abdulla Qassim lost to Indonesia's Winata Furgon Habbil in the 51-55kg gold medal contest, by a score of 81-10, at Exhibition World.

Reflecting his humility, Qassim said he hopes to see Bahraini competitors bring home gold in other sports. The feeling of representing your country at Games of this size and standing on the podium is indescribable, Alhamdulillah," he said, admitting he had not been familiar with Pencak Silat before participating but was proud to take it on.

"Coming out of it with a silver medal makes the experience even more special," he added.

The result carries historic significance for the host nation, which had previously only achieved bronze medals in athletics at Singapore 2009 and Nanjing 2013. Winning this silver on home soil makes the achieve-

ment all the more meaningful and sets a positive tone for Bahrain's campaign as the Games officially kick off tomorrow.

### Handball Team on Fire

Elsewhere at the games, in boys' handball at Umm Alhassam Hall A, Bahrain built on Sunday's victory over Hong Kong with an emphatic 74-13

win against the Maldives. Ahmed Karrar led the charge with 24 goals from 26 attempts, while Yateem Abuthar contributed 14, dominating in fast breaks, breakthroughs, and penalties. Goalkeepers Nabeel Ahmed and Ahmed Mohamed made key saves throughout, ensuring Bahrain maintained control at every stage. Handball remains a fan favorite in Bahrain, and the team's strong performances make them genuine contenders for a medal, and arguably the nation's best hope for a gold at these Games.

### Teqball Shows Promising Form

Bahrain's Teqball athletes also competed in the hybrid sport combining table tennis and football. In boys' singles, Sharif Ahmed won all three of his group-stage matches against Mongolia, Indonesia, and the Philippines before losing 2-0 to his Kuwaiti opponent in the quarterfinals. Girls' singles competitor Rawan Abdulaziz had a similar run, defeating players from the Philippines, Lebanon, and India in the group stage but losing 2-0 to her Iraqi opponent in the quarter-

finals. In mixed doubles, Sharif Ahmed and Albanna Fatima did not advance past the group stage, losing all three matches.

### Team Sports Face Challenges

Other Bahraini teams experienced more difficult days on the court. In beach volleyball, the men's pair lost 2-0 to Sri Lanka, while the women's duo lost 2-0 to the Maldives at Sama Bay, with both sides struggling to find consistency in attack and defense. Volleyball at Isa Sports City mirrored this pattern: the boys were defeated 3-0 by Pakistan, with two sets extending to 26-24, highlighting competitive potential despite the scoreline, and the girls lost 3-0 to a dominant Iranian side. In kabaddi, a fast-paced South Asian sport where teams take turns sending a "raider" to tag opponents while holding their breath and avoiding being tackled, Bahrain's boys couldn't contain their opponents, losing 90-23.

### Bahrain's Competitions Today

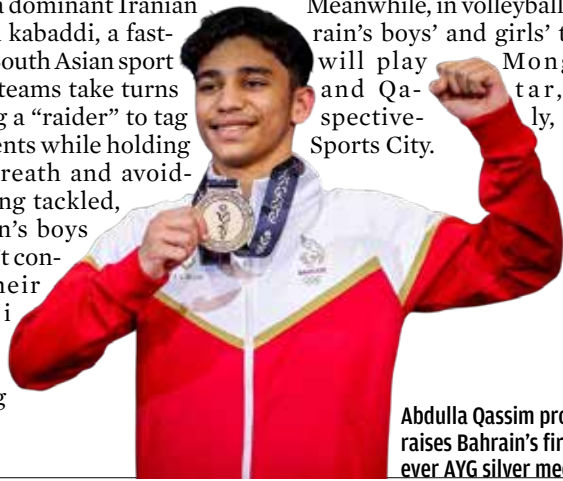
Bahrain's athletes take to the field today across multiple sports at the Asian Youth Games. In beach volleyball at Sama Bay, boys' doubles Karrar Yaqoob and Hussain Warqaa face Indonesia and later Thailand, while girls' doubles Layan Majed and Maya Falah take on Jordan and Thailand.

The kabaddi boys' team meets Iran in Group A at Isa Sports City. In teqball, boys' doubles Hussain Isa and Ali Hasan face a tough series of matches against the Philippines, Thailand, India, Iraq, and Cambodia, while girls' doubles Rawan Abdulaziz and Fatima Albanna begin their campaign against India.

Meanwhile, in volleyball, Bahrain's boys' and girls' teams will play Mongolia and Qatar, respectively, in Isa Sports City.



Ali Jadeed in action during boys' handball versus Maldives



Abdulla Qassim proudly raises Bahrain's first-ever AYG silver medal

## Pakistan punish sloppy South Africa to reach 259-5 in second Test



Pakistan's captain Shan Masood plays a shot  
AFP | Rawalpindi

Pakistan punished poor catching from South Africa to accumulate 259-5 on the opening day of the second and final Test in Rawalpindi on Monday.

Had the tourists not dropped five catches on a turning pitch they would have been in a better position after Pakistan won the toss and batted.

Skipper Shan Masood, dropped on 71 off a luckless Keshav Maharaj, top-scored with 87 while Abdullah Shafique -- dropped four times -- made 57.

Saud Shakeel and Salman Agha will resume on Tuesday unbeaten on 42 and 10

### Scorecard

Pakistan 259 for 5 (Masood 87, Shafique 57, Maharaj 2-63, Harmer 2-75) vs South Africa

respectively, with the home team seeking a 2-0 series win against the world Test champions.

South African pacer Kagiso Rabada trapped Mohammad Rizwan with the fifth delivery with the second new ball for 19 to give some respite to his team.

Maharaj, who missed the first Test in Lahore through injury, took 2-63 and fellow spinner Simon Harmer 2-75.

## Dembele returns for PSG after six weeks out

AFP | Leverkusen

Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele was on Monday included in Paris Saint-Germain's squad to face Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League after a six-week injury layoff.

Dembele's return for Tuesday's league stage game will come as a welcome boost for coach Luis Enrique, whose side has been struggling with injuries this season.



Ousmane Dembele

Dembele, 28, has been out since injuring a hamstring while on international duty with

France in early September. He had been recuperating at a specialist clinic in Qatar and returned to training last week.

He missed out on PSG's entertaining 3-3 draw against Strasbourg on Friday but could play some role in Germany as the European champions seek to make it three wins out of three in the Champions League so far this season.

Leverkusen centre-back Loic Bade, Dembele's teammate in

the France squad, told reporters Monday there was "no secret recipe" to stopping the PSG forward, calling him "a complete player with several qualities".

"He won the Ballon d'Or -- of course he's got a lot of quality. He's good with both feet. I don't think he's got a weak side," Bade said.

"You need to think as a team, defend as a team and be as compact with your teammates as possible."

## Bahrain to Host 2026 World Para Powerlifting Championships

TDT | Manama

Shaikh Mohammed bin Duaij Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Paralympic Committee, officially received the hosting flag for the 2026 World Para Powerlifting Championships at the conclusion of this year's event in Cairo. The handover from Egyptian Paralympic Committee President Dr. Hossam El Din Mustafa confirms Bahrain as the next host of the premier international competition.

Shaikh Mohammed described the hosting rights as a recognition of Bahrain's proven organizational capabilities and the trust placed in it by the International Paralympic Committee and World Para Powerlifting.



He noted that the opportunity builds on the kingdom's successful record of staging continental and international para-sport events in recent years.

The committee has already begun preparations to ensure the championships meet the highest standards of professionalism and logistical execution. Shaikh Mohammed emphasized that hosting such prominent events supports the development of para-sports and expands participation, aligning with Bahrain's commitment to athletic inclusion and excellence. The 2026 championships are expected to draw hundreds of athletes from around the world.