

Bahrain Crowned AVC Nations Cup Champions

Hosts recover from slow start to beat Pakistan 3-1 in Manama final.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain were crowned champions of the 2025 AVC Men's Volleyball Nations Cup after a 3-1 comeback win over Pakistan in Tuesday night's final at Isa Town Sport City Hall in Manama.

The home side dropped the opening set 23-25 but found their rhythm quickly, controlling the rest of the match with scores of 25-15, 25-17, and 25-18 to seal the title in front of a home crowd. Mohamed Anan was top scorer with 27 points - 26 coming from attack, and 1 from an ace serve.

Momentum Shift

Pakistan entered the final with confidence, having swept Qatar in straight sets in the semi-final. Their strong start saw them edge the first set, but Bahrain's response was immediate and emphatic. The hosts tightened their block, found efficiency in transition, and dictated the tem-



Bahraini squad celebrate with the trophy

Individual Honours

At the conclusion of the final, the AVC awarded the tournament's top individual performers:

- Most Valuable Player: Abdulla Mohammed (Bahrain)
- Best Setter: AlAfiah Mahmood (Bahrain)
- Best Outside Hitter: Abdulla Mohammed (Bahrain)
- Best Outside Hitter: Jehan Murad (Pakistan)
- Best Middle Blocker: Khan Musawer (Pakistan)
- Best Middle Blocker: Abunabot Belal Nabel (Qatar)
- Best Opposite: Khamis Ali (Bahrain)
- Best Libero: Haroon Ayman (Bahrain)



Anan and Ibrahim pose with the trophy and their individual awards

they could not sustain their level against a surging Bahrain team buoyed by home support.

Tournament Impact

The Nations Cup doubled as a key stepping stone toward future major events. With world ranking points and qualification implications for the 2026 Asian Championship, the 2027 FIVB World Championships, and the 2028 Olympic Games, performances in Manama will carry weight well beyond this summer.

Final Standings

- Bahrain
- Pakistan
- Qatar
- North Korea
- Australia



Bahrain dominating the player awards

po across the next three sets.

It was Bahrain's second straight knockout win, following their five-set thriller against South Korea in the semi-finals. This time, though, they made no such drama of the finish.

Pakistan Impress

Pakistan leave the tournament with credit, having impressed throughout the competition. Wins over Chinese Taipei and the Philippines in the group stage laid the foundation for

Bahrain push Serbia close in spirited showing

Despite falling short, Bahrain deliver best display yet at Junior World Championship

● Bahrain's best showing so far

● Serbia withstand second-half surge

● Abdulla shines in defeat

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Bahrain put in their strongest performance yet at the 2025 IHF Men's Junior World Championship but lost to Serbia 36-32 in their final group game of the President's Cup in Poland.

With both teams out of contention for the main round, Serbia were eyeing a clean sweep in the group to book a spot in the 17-20 placement matches. Bahrain, however, had other plans. After a disappointing showing against Tunisia earlier in the week, the Asian side came out with renewed intensity.

Early Fightback Not Enough

Serbia's experience showed



Action from the match

in the opening minutes, but Bahrain responded with a 5:1 run to take an early 8-6 lead. However, they couldn't hold it. Serbia's 6:1 surge swung momentum back their way as they built a 21-15 cushion by half-time—the biggest lead of the match.

Vukašin Antonijevic and Radan Kovacevic combined for 14 goals for Serbia, but Bahrain refused to fade.

Abdulla Stands Out

Mohamed Abdulla, later named Player of the Match, led Bahrain's charge with nine goals, supported by Elias Ali's 10. A 6:1 Bahrain run midway through the second half brought them within two goals at 27-25, setting up a tense final quarter-hour.

But Serbia's depth told in the end, as they held firm to secure

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Bahrain scored 32 goals—their highest total at Poland 2025—against Serbia's experienced lineup

a four-goal victory and top the group.

Elsewhere in President's Cup

In the other group match, Tunisia beat Saudi Arabia 35-31 to seal second place and move on to the 21-24 placement bracket.

After trailing early, Tunisia's superior shooting accuracy—84% up to the 53rd minute—proved decisive. Iskander Jafali led the scoring, while Koussay Ben Fraj earned Player of the Match honours.

Saudi Arabia, still winless, will now head to the 25-28 placement matches.

Wimbledon plan to honour Murray with statue

AFP | London

Wimbledon organisers are planning to honour two-time champion Andy Murray with a statue at the All England Club.

Murray, who ended a 77-year wait for a British winner of the men's singles title in 2013 before winning again in 2016, retired after the Paris Olympics last year.

Wimbledon hope the statue will be revealed in 2027 during the championship's 150th anniversary.

"We are looking to have a statue of Andy Murray here (Wimbledon) and we're working



closely with him and his team," All England Club chair Debbie Jevans told the ainslie + ainslie Performance People podcast.

"The ambition is that we would unveil that at the 150th anniversary of our first Championship, which was 1877.

"He's got to rightly be very involved in that and him and his team will be."

A bronze statue of Fred Perry, the last British men's champion before Murray, was erected at Wimbledon in 1984 to mark the 50th anniversary of his first singles championship.

Tennis greats John McEnroe and Billie Jean King are among those that have previously called for Murray to be honoured in similar fashion at Wimbledon.