

# Bahrain spikers win GCC Games silver

Kingdom's national volleyball team defeat Kuwait in five-set thriller to finish as overall runners-up in men's volleyball tournament at third GCC Games in Kuwait

● **Bahrain lose to Kuwait 0-3 in men's team event in tennis**

● **Kingdom's men's, women's padel teams suffer defeats**

TDT | Manama

**B**ahrain captured the silver medals in men's volleyball last night at the third GCC Games in Kuwait.

The Bahrainis finished as overall runners-up following a hard-earned 3-2 (25-20, 27-25, 22-25, 15-25, 15-13) victory against the host Kuwaitis in their final match of the competition, which was held in league format.

It was the fifth fixture for the nationals at the Games and they finished with four wins and just one loss, which earned them their silver medals. Qatar clinched gold while Oman won bronze.

The Bahrainis were the two-time defending champions heading into the GCC Games, but lost out their chance on an unprecedented "three-peat" after losing to the Qataris in their penultimate assignment.

The men's volleyball team's silver was Bahrain's lone medal from the Games yesterday.

They improved their overall tally to 56, which includes 20 gold medals, 21 silver and 15 bronze.



Bahrain's national volleyball team celebrate alongside officials with their silver medals

The Bahrainis maintained their position in second place on the six-nation medal table.

Hosts Kuwait continue to lead, while behind Bahrain ranked third through sixth are the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

In last night's concluding match of the men's volleyball tournament, the Bahrainis got off to a hot start and took a commanding two-set lead following a double-block between Mohamed Aldwairi and Mohamed Yaqoob.

The nationals appeared to be cruising to an easy win, but the home team had some fight left in them and convincingly took the next two sets, sending the game

into the tie-break.

There, Bahrain took a 7-4 lead but the Kuwaitis scored the next three points to tie the proceedings and regain the momentum.

But the Bahrainis managed to pull away for an 11-9 advantage on a service ace by Ali Marhoon, and then later a Naser Anan spike put them on the verge of the win at 14-12.

After Kuwait scored the next point, the home team eventually gifted the win to Bahrain with a service error to end the match, which lasted over two hours.

Yaqoob and Anan top scored for the Bahrainis with 15 points apiece, all of which came on

offence. Ali Ebrahim added 12 for the nationals.

Abbas Al Khabbaz and Aldwairi were impressive defensively at the net, finishing with four and two blocks, respectively.

Following the match, the medal-winning teams were awarded their respective accolades.

Meanwhile, in the GCC Games' tennis tournament, Bahrain bowed to hosts Kuwait 0-3 in their group

clash last night in the men's team event.

In the first match, Hasan Abdulreda lost to Kuwait's Abdulhamid Mubarak 2-6, 0-6; and then Yusef Qaed fell to Essa Qabazard 4-6, 2-6.

The pairing of Youssef Ashraf and Jaber Abdula'al then suffered a 1-6, 2-6 defeat to Qabazard and Bader Antar to close out the affair.

The Bahrainis will look to bounce back today when they play Saudi Arabia in their next match, scheduled for a 4.30pm start, Bahrain time.

In yesterday's action in padel, both Bahrain's men's and women's teams suffered losses in their respective competitions.

In the men's team event, the Bahrainis lost to Saudi Arabia 1-2.

Rashed Alobaidli and Khaled Althawadi went down fighting to Fahaad Al Saad and Omar Al Thagib 3-6, 6-0, 3-6 in the first match.

Bahrainis Ali Dawani and Husain Dawani then posted a 6-3, 6-0 win over Sattam Alshahrani and Abdulrahman Alazzam. But then Abdulla Mohamed and Ali

Alasfoor lost the decisive match to Musaeed Alazzam and Omar Abdo 6-7, 4-6.

On the distaff, Bahrain lost 1-2 to Oman in the women's team competition.

Maryam Alammadi and Maryam Isa opened the head-to-head with a 1-6, 3-6 loss to Fatma Al Nabhani and Maryam Al Balushi.

Bahrainis Safa Safar and Esra Nuruddin then fell to Azza Al Hinai and Sarah Al Balushi 1-6, 2-6; before Sara Khonj and Fatima Jassim closed the contest with a 6-0, 6-0 win over Eathar Al Buloooshi and Quote Al Nabhani.



**The men's volleyball silver medal won yesterday brought Bahrain's overall tally at the third GCC Games to 56, including 20 gold medals, 21 silver and 15 bronze—maintaining their position in second place on the six-nation medal table**



Bahraini Hasan Abdulreda in action during his match yesterday

## Leclerc tops both practice sessions for Monaco Grand Prix

AP | Monaco

**C**harles Leclerc topped both of Friday's practice sessions at the Monaco Grand Prix, where the Ferrari driver could use a victory on his home track to return to the top of the Formula One standings.

Ferrari had a solid close to the day as Carlos Sainz Jr. was second-fastest behind teammate Leclerc.

Red Bull was right behind the Ferrari drivers as Sergio Perez and Max Verstappen were third and fourth fastest but lacked



Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz of Spain steers his car during the first free practice the one-lap speed of Ferrari.

Leclerc lost the F1 points lead last week in Spain. F1's reigning champion Verstappen has won three consecutive races to knock Leclerc from the top of the standings. Leclerc won two of the first three races to build a 46-point lead in the standings, but Verstappen has four wins and now leads Leclerc by six points.

But Leclerc is motivated at Monaco; he's never finished an F1 race on his hometown streets. He's so comfortable with the circuit that he cycles to the track from his apartment, and although he won the pole

last year, he never even started the race because of damage to his Ferrari.

Mercedes, meanwhile, had a disappointing pair of practice sessions with George Russell and seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton. The duo both trail Ferrari and Red Bull in speed and the new Mercedes has struggled with what's called "porpoising" - an aerodynamic issue where cars hop and bounce on the track.

Hamilton struggled in Friday's second practice and was 12th on the speed chart, a whopping 1.61-seconds behind Leclerc.

## Bahrain down Myanmar in international friendly held in Bangkok

● **Mahdi Abduljabbar, Mahdi Humaidan score Bahrain's goals within two-minute span in second-half stoppage time**

● **Bahrainis to return to pitch on Tuesday for another international friendly against home team Thailand**

TDT | Manama

**B**ahrain's senior men's national football team scored a late 2-0 victory over their counterparts from Myanmar last night in an international friendly match played in Bangkok.

Two quick goals from Mahdi Abduljabbar and Mahdi Humaidan, scored within a two-minute span in second-half stoppage time, spelled the difference between the two sides.

Abduljabbar was first to find the net from the penalty spot in the 91st minute.

He was earlier brought down in the box by the Myanmar goalkeeper as he was about to receive a fine through-pass.



Bahrain's Mahdi Humaidan controls the ball as he competes yesterday against Myanmar

After picking himself up, Abduljabbar stepped forward to take the penalty, and the Bahrain league's top scorer made no mistake with his effort, which he sent to the bottom-left corner of the net.

Then, just a few moments after the re-start, Bahrain were able to regain possession and Humaidan received the ball on the left flank. He then made his move towards goal and fired in from an acute angle, which virtually sealed the win.

Yesterday's friendly was part of the national team's ongoing

overseas training camp in the Thailand capital.

They are scheduled to remain there until Tuesday, which is when they will play another international friendly against the host Thais.

The national team is conducting their Bangkok camp in preparation for their AFC Asian Cup 2023 qualifiers, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur next month.

Bahrain are in Group E of qualification, which includes hosts Malaysia, in addition to Bangladesh and Turkmenistan.



**The session was red-flagged for a few minutes because Daniel Ricciardo slid sideways into the crash barriers. The Australian driver's damaged McLaren was lifted off the track by a crane**