

Spikers ready for Arab Youth Challenge

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's U17 men's volleyball national team will begin their Arab title quest against Algeria after the Bahrain Volleyball Association announced the championship schedule yesterday.

The Kingdom will host the tournament from August 7 to 17, with all matches taking place at Isa bin Rashid Volleyball Arena at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

Six teams will compete in the championship, with Bahrain joined by Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Algeria in a single round-robin preliminary stage.

Bahrain open their campaign on Sunday, August 9, against Algeria at 7pm before facing Jordan the following day at the same time.

After a rest day on August 11, the hosts return to action against Kuwait on August 12 at 7pm. They will then face Saudi Arabia on August 14 and Egypt on Au-



Bahrain's U17 volleyball team during the inaugural Arab Championship

gust 16, with both matches also scheduled for 7pm.

All times are Bahrain time.

Bahrain will be aiming to go one better than their silver medal finish at the inaugural Arab Men's U17 Volleyball Championship, held in Amman, Jordan, in July 2024.

The Bahrainis enjoyed an impressive run in the first edition, winning five of their six matches before finishing behind unbeaten champions Saudi Arabia. Libya completed the podium with the bronze medals.

The team was guided by head coach Fouad Abdulwahed, who

led a 12-player squad featuring Ali Abdulla, Ali Talaq, Mohammed Al Haiki, Jassim Madan, Sayed Hassan Al Abbar, Ammar Youssef, Elias Sadeq, Ali Abdullameer, Hassan Sadeq, Ali Abbas, Mohammed Abdulnabi and Mohammed Qassim.

After finishing runners-up

Full Match Schedule	
Bahrain August 7-17 Isa bin Rashid Volleyball Arena	
Date	Fixtures
Aug 9	3pm: Jordan vs Egypt
	5pm: Kuwait vs Saudi Arabia
	7pm: Algeria vs Bahrain
Aug 10	3pm: Egypt vs Kuwait
	5pm: Saudi Arabia vs Algeria
	7pm: Jordan vs Bahrain
Aug 11	Rest day
Aug 12	3pm: Jordan vs Algeria
	5pm: Saudi Arabia vs Egypt
	7pm: Bahrain vs Kuwait
Aug 13	Rest day
Aug 14	3pm: Algeria vs Egypt
	5pm: Jordan vs Kuwait
	7pm: Bahrain vs Saudi Arabia
Aug 15	Rest day
Aug 16	3pm: Jordan vs Saudi Arabia
	5pm: Kuwait vs Algeria
	7pm: Egypt vs Bahrain

(All games in Bahrain time)

in the inaugural tournament, Bahrain will now aim to make their first Arab U17 title.

Bahrain meet Qatar in Gulf title decider



Action from Bahrain's latest fixture in Doha

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Bahrain's U18 men's national team will take on hosts Qatar tomorrow in a clash expected to decide the Gulf Basketball Association (GBA) U18 Championship title in Doha.

Tip-off is scheduled for 6pm Bahrain time.

Both teams head into the tournament finale unbeaten and have already secured qualification for the Fiba U18 Asia Cup 2026 in Ahmedabad, India, after claiming the top two places in the Gulf qualifying event.

Bahrain have been in outstanding form throughout the championship. The kingdom opened with a 106-51 victory over Kuwait before defeating Saudi Arabia 62-54 and routing Oman 94-49 in their latest outing.

Arab Youth Championship Most Valuable Player Somto Patrick Onoduenyi has led Bahrain's charge. He starred against Oman with 19 points and 15 rebounds, while Mohamed Adel Abdulla and Yousif Yaqoob Meshaei added

14 points apiece.

Head coach Salman Ramadhan will now be hoping his side can cap an impressive week by lifting the Gulf title before turning their attention to the continental championship, which will be held from August 13 to 23.

Qatar have also impressed on home court, matching Bahrain's unbeaten record to set up what promises to be a thrilling contest.

While qualification for the Fiba U18 Asia Cup has already been secured, tomorrow's encounter offers Bahrain the chance to add another trophy to an already successful year after winning the 23rd Arab Youth Men's Basketball Championship earlier this month.

With Bahrain confirming their place at this year's Fiba U18 Asia Cup, 15 of the 16 spots have now been filled. The kingdom joins defending champions Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, hosts India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Lebanon, New Zealand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Syria and Thailand. One place remains to be decided.

Women's Tennis Team Complete Camp

Manama

The Bahrain Tennis Association's women's committee has concluded its first summer training camp for women in Istanbul, Turkey, as part of its ongoing efforts to develop and promote women's tennis in the Kingdom.

Held from July 17 to 26 in collaboration with Turkish tennis academy Soul Academy, the camp featured a number of female players alongside youth players from the Bahrain Tennis Association.

The camp was attended by Bahrain Tennis Association board member Mohammed Salman, while women's committee chairwoman and association board member Jameela Al Nashaba highlighted the importance of the programme in developing players and preparing them for future competitions.

Al Nashaba said the camp received the support and encouragement of Bahrain Tennis Association president Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, who welcomed the initiative and encouraged players to participate and benefit from the training programme.

She added that the camp forms part of the association's strategy to expand the reach of tennis in Bahrain, attract more female players and improve their technical and physical abilities ahead of upcoming tournaments.

Public relations and market-



Bahrain tennis players during their summer training camp in Istanbul



ing committee chairwoman and association board member Naila Al Meer also praised Shaikh Abdulaziz's continued support for the association's programmes and his efforts to encourage players to develop their skills.

The training programme was designed to provide a comprehensive experience combining technical, physical and mental preparation. Players took part in daily intensive sessions under the supervision of specialised coaches from Soul Academy, focusing on serving, receiving, forehand and backhand techniques, movement on court,

fitness, endurance, speed and match preparation.

The camp also included daily practice matches, allowing players to apply their skills in competitive conditions, experience different playing styles and gain confidence on court.

Due to the strong interest in the programme, the camp also included youth players from the Bahrain Tennis Association across the under-8, under-12 and under-18 categories. The young players trained alongside participants from different countries, providing valuable opportunities for competition

and knowledge exchange.

The initiative forms part of the association's summer programmes aimed at investing in the development of female players and youth talents while building a wider base for the sport in Bahrain. Al Nashaba added that the women's committee's programmes are dedicated to players who continue training under its umbrella and participate in the committee's evening sessions, ensuring their progress is monitored through structured training plans and regular activities inside and outside the association.

Al Ettihad sign eight after unbeaten promotion run

Mohammed Darwish
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Al Ettihad has signed or renewed deals with eight players as they prepare for their return to the top flight after winning every league match last season.

The club earned promotion by finishing first in the Second Division with 12 wins from 12 games and is now keeping much

of that side together for the new campaign.

Nader Sajjad, Hussain Salman, Mohammed Ghazwan, Ali Jassim, Ahmed Abdul Aal, Sayed Mustafa Diaa, Firas Ali and Ali Ghadeer have either joined the club or agreed to new contracts.

The deals give Al Ettihad greater depth as they step up to a higher level.

Sayed Kadhim will stay as head

coach for a second season after leading the team to promotion in his first year in charge.

Jalal Jahrami remains assistant coach, while Ali Ramadan heads the administrative staff. Jalal Groof is basketball director and Jassim Mohammed will work as team administrator.

The squad has already begun fitness and court training, with full pre-season work due to start in early August.



Ali Ghadeer