

# Bahrain bow to China in U18 Volleyball

India, Iran, and Japan secure victories in Asian Under-18 Volleyball Championship

● **Australia overpowers Lebanon**

● **Pakistan defeats Chinese Taipei**

● **Philippines clinches first win over Hong Kong**

TDT | Manama

China's under-18 volleyball team asserted their dominance in the second round of the Asian Championship, overpowering Bahrain in a straight-sets victory.

The scores were 25-8, 25-22, 25-20, showcasing China's technical superiority and cohesion on the court.

The Chinese team quickly adjusted after the first set, demonstrating a noticeable improvement in both offensive and defensive strategies.

Their tall players created a formidable barrier at the net, making it challenging for Bahrain to execute successful attacks.

Bahrain's coach, Fouad Abdel Wahed, attempted to turn the tide with strategic substitutions, but China maintained control with diverse play styles and precise serves.

With this victory, China has accrued five points, bringing them closer to a semi-final berth,



Action during the match between Bahrain and China

while Bahrain remains at one point. Chinese player Yu Jian was a standout performer, scoring 14 points in the match.

India's regained their momentum defeating Saudi Arabia with a commanding straight-sets victory. The scores were 25-13, 25-11, 25-18, reflecting India's return to form after recent setbacks.

Indian player Harnor was instrumental in securing the win, contributing 20 points in the third set alone. The Indian team showcased a solid performance, dominating the court with aggressive plays and strategic serves.

This victory marks an essential step for India as they aim to secure a higher ranking in the championship, currently competing for positions 9 to 16.



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Off the court, the Lebanese Volleyball Federation delegation visited the Bahrain Volleyball Association, exchanging views on Arab and Asian volleyball.

Lebanese Federation Vice President Ali Haider presented

a commemorative gift to Shaikh Ali bin Mohamed bin Rashid Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Volleyball Association and the Higher Organizing Committee, marking Lebanon's first continental presence in this age group.

In other matches, Iran secured a clean sweep against Thailand (25-16, 25-23, 25-20), boosting their chances of reaching the semi-finals. Amir Naderi led the scoring with 21 points, all from attacks.

Pakistan also had a strong showing, defeating Chinese Taipei in four sets (25-20, 24-26, 25-18, 25-23). Mohamed Yahya continued his stellar performance, scoring 29 points despite facing strong defensive walls from Taipei.

Australia defeated Lebanon 3-1 in the 9-18 ranking positions, with Vimatahio scoring 15 points for the winning side.

The Philippines celebrated their first victory in the championship, overcoming Hong Kong in a thrilling four-set match (18-25, 25-20, 28-26, 26-24).

Japan overcame Korea 3-1 in a riveting Asian volleyball championship match, securing a semi-final berth alongside Pakistan. The intense encounter saw Japan triumph 28-30, 25-21, 25-17, 25-18.

The first set was a nail-biter, with Korea clinching it after a crucial error by Japan's Crane Masjedi. However, Japan



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India's players block a shot during the match against Saudi Arabia

bounced back, with Masjedi rebounding himself in the second set to level the score.

In another match, Kazakhstan swept Kuwait 3-0 (25-20, 25-20, 25-23) in the rankings round, with Mstakhin leading the scoring with 15 points.

## Nadal says he may not return to Roland Garros after Olympic exit

AFP | Paris

Rafael Nadal admitted he may have played at Roland Garros for the final time after he and Carlos Alcaraz were dumped out of the Olympics men's doubles on Wednesday.

The Spanish dream team lost their quarter-final in Paris 6-2, 6-4 to the US fourth seeds Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram.

Nadal and Alcaraz, dubbed "Nadalcaraz", have been one of the main talking points at the Paris Games tennis tournament, wowing the crowds in their first two matches.

But they came unstuck in the last eight against doubles specialists Krajicek and Ram, who

both have Grand Slam-winning pedigree.



Nadal, a 14-time French Open champion, is immortalised with a statue at Roland Garros.

But the 38-year-old has slumped to 161 in the world after a succession of injuries and faces relentless questions over his future.

He said after his painful defeat to Novak Djokovic in the singles competition in Paris that he would make a decision on his future after the Olympics.

The Spaniard -- second on the all-time list in men's tennis with 22 Grand Slams --

Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz embrace after their loss

walked off Court Philippe Chatrier on Wednesday applauding all four sides of the stadium.

He was later asked whether he had played at Roland Garros for the final time.

"Maybe, I don't know," he said. "If that's the last time, for me it's an unforgettable feeling and emotions."

"They give me the love and the support every single second that I have been on court."

"For me, it's super, super special to feel that, particularly in this place. I can't really thank enough all of them for giving me the feelings that I have inside myself and the emotions that they make me feel."

## Bahrain's Jiu-Jitsu contenders take on JJAU Regional Championship in Jordan

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

The JJAU Regional Championship West Asia, taking place from August 1-2 in Amman, Jordan, features a robust lineup of athletes from Bahrain,

competing alongside top jiu-jitsu talents from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and other nations.

The Bahrain Jiu-Jitsu Federation has sent a competitive team to represent the kingdom at this prestigious event.

Bahraini athletes have un-

dergone rigorous training to prepare for this championship. Their dedication and skill are expected to showcase the high standards of Bahraini jiu-jitsu on an international stage.

With strong support from the Bahrain Jiu-Jitsu Federation,

the team aims to excel and secure impressive results.

As the championship progresses, all eyes will be on Bahrain's competitors, who are anticipated to contribute to Bahrain's growing reputation in the sport.

## Salah scores as Liverpool beat Arsenal 2-1 while Chelsea, Man Utd win

AFP | Washington

Mohamed Salah and Fabio Carvalho scored first-half goals to give Liverpool a 2-1 victory over Arsenal in a pre-season friendly on Wednesday while Chelsea cruised to a 3-0 victory against Club America.

Kai Havertz scored Arsenal's goal in front of a crowd of 69,879 at the home stadium of the NFL's



Mohamed Salah (C) scores a goal

Philadelphia Eagles.

Egyptian Salah opened the

scoring for Liverpool in the 13th minute, outpacing the defenders to latch onto Harvey Elliott's defence-splitting pass.

The striker shrugged off the attentions of Arsenal centre-back Gabriel and fired a low left-footed shot past Arsenal goalkeeper Karl Hein.

Carvalho doubled Liverpool's lead in the 34th minute, with Elliott again the provider.

The 21-year-old Portuguese winger ran onto a perfectly lofted Elliott pass into the box and fired home a crisp right-foot volley through Hein's legs.

Arsenal reduced the deficit in the 40th minute when Havertz scored past Liverpool goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher from point-blank range after Martin Odegaard found him in the six-yard box.

## India buoyant but not in Sri Lanka to 'chill': Rohit



India skipper Rohit Sharma during nets

AFP | Colombo

India are still buoyant after their T20 World Cup triumph but skipper Rohit Sharma said yesterday his men were keeping focused ahead of their next engagement with Sri Lanka.

Rohit and star batsman Virat Kohli both sat out this week's 3-0 series sweep by the tourists, both having announced their 20-over retirement after snagging India's first international trophy in more than a decade.

Both are back on tour for the first time since the Barbados final in June, for the first of three ODIs in Colombo on Friday.

"It was a great feeling," Rohit told reporters. "We have to move on. It is time to move on now as well and think of what lies ahead of us."

"We are not here to chill in Colombo. At the end of the day, the standard of Indian cricket is more important."

Rohit said he was agonis-

**"We are not here to chill in Colombo. At the end of the day, the standard of Indian cricket is more important"**

ROHIT SHARMA

ing over the choice of wicket-keeping mainstay K.L. Rahul or Rishabh Pant, who returned to internationals for the World Cup after a horror car crash and a long injury absence.

"You know the ability of both players. They are match winners in their own way," he said.

"It is nice to have problems picking teams. That means we have quality."

Injuries have bedevilled Sri Lanka, with fast bowlers Dushmantha Chameera and Nuwan Thushara both forced to withdraw ahead of the T20 series.