

# Bahraini women capture table tennis gold

● **Maryam Al Aali, Fatima Al Aali, Phadke Amruta and Rayan Rashed win all four of their matches en route to securing title**

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Bahrain's women's national table tennis team captured the gold medal in the teams' event at the 15th Arab Games in Algeria.

The Bahrainis consist of Maryam Al A'ali, Fatima Al A'ali, Phadke Amruta and Rayan Rashed.

They captured the title after winning all four of their matches, capping their unbeaten run with a 3-0 result against Syria. They had earlier also triumphed against Iraq, Tunisia, and Jordan

to secure first place.

The nationals were awarded their gold medals at the podium ceremony by Bahrain Olympic Committee member and Bahrain Table Tennis Association (BTTA) president Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa. Also on hand was Bahrain's director at the Arab Games Noman Al Hassan, and BTTA vice-president Ali Al Madeh.

The women's team's gold medal was Bahrain's first in the sport at the Arab Games, and it brought the delegation's tally to 36 in all sports so far. These include 17 gold medals, 10 silver medals and nine bronze medals.

Two of the medals Bahrain have won were in athletics for people of determination. These were gold by Elias Alyassi and silver by Amal Fardan. The medals won in this sport are not counted on the overall table for the nations' final classification.



Bahrain players and officials celebrate on the podium with their gold medals

# Pizzi named new Bahrain coach

Argentinian tactician takes over helm of senior men's national football team

● **Juan Antonio Pizzi to arrive later this month to officially sign contract**

● **BFA to sign national team technical staff based on Pizzi recommendations**

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Bahrain has named Argentinian tactician Juan Antonio Pizzi as the new head coach of the Kingdom's senior men's national football team.

This was announced yesterday by the Bahrain Football Association (BFA) in a statement issued by BFA secretary general Rashid Al Zoubi.

Al Zoubi said that the BFA's executive management, under the guidance of BFA president Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and BFA vice-president His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali

bin Isa Al Khalifa, prepared the contract with the Argentinian coach as per the terms agreed upon.

Al Zoubi added that Pizzi will arrive in Bahrain later this month to officially sign his deal and to work on all arrangements necessary for the national team's preparations in the coming period.

Al Zoubi noted that the rest of the squad's coaching staff, who will be working under Pizzi, will be selected based on his recommendations.

Al Zoubi expressed his best wishes to Pizzi for success in his upcoming mission with the national team.

The BFA began its discussion with Pizzi after talks broke down with his countryman Ricardo Gareca, who was the first

choice to be the replacement of departed Portuguese coach Helio Sousa. Negotiations were in the advanced stages with Gareca, but he eventually turned down the BFA's offer.

The BFA then turned its focus to Pizzi.

The 55-year-old is a former player, born in Argentina but represented Spain at the international level. He began his coaching career in 2005.

Prior to joining Bahrain, Pizzi was the manager of UAE Pro League club Al Wasl. He was also in charge of the national teams of Chile and Saudi Arabia in the past, during which he guided the Chileans to the final of the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. During his stint with Saudi, he was in charge of the team at the 2018 FIFA World Cup and the



**Juan Antonio Pizzi will have big shoes to fill in Bahrain, with former coach Helio Sousa being one of the most successful head coaches in the history of the national football team. Sousa's four-year stint with the senior squad was highlighted by their victory in the 24th Gulf Cup in 2019**

2019 AFC Asian Cup.

The BFA had also announced that the board of directors has approved the appointment of Rashid Al Zayani as the new national team manager. He will be assisted by Adel Al Saadoun and Yahya Buallay as administrators.

Pizzi will have big shoes to fill in Bahrain, with Sousa being one of the most successful head coaches in the history of the national football team.

The highlight of Sousa's four-year stint with the senior squad was their victory in the 24th Gulf Cup in 2019—the first time Bahrain ever claimed the coveted trophy, ending a wait of nearly 50 years.

Sousa's contract with Bahrain ended in June and was not renewed by the BFA.



Juan Antonio Pizzi during his time with Al Wasl

# Bahrain Victorious' Bauhaus claims Tour de France stage podium

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Team Bahrain Victorious rider Phil Bauhaus returned to the podium yesterday in the 2023 Tour de France.

The German claimed third overall at the end of the 179.3-kilometre 11th stage.

He was amongst the leaders on the furious sprint to the finish, but had to settle for his final classification behind winner Jasper Philipsen of Alpecin-Deceuninck and runner-up Dylan

Groenewegen of Team Jayco AlUla.

Bauhaus claimed his third podium on this year's tour. He was the only Bahrain Victorious rider to finish in the top 20 yesterday.

His closest teammate was Mikel Landa in 31st, while Nikias Arndt came 35th overall.

Pello Bilbao was classified 38th, Fred Wright 58th, and Jack Haig 101st, while completing the team's riders were Wout Poels and Matej Mohoric in 140th and 141st,

respectively.

Following yesterday's stage, Bilbao was fifth on the individual general classification. Bahrain Victorious, meanwhile, stayed first overall on the team's leaderboard with 1,971.7km complete.

The Tour de France continues today with stage 12, covering

168.8km over a generally hilly terrain.

This year's Tour de France features a total of 3,404km and over 55,000 vertical meters of climbing across 21 stages. The race is the second of three Grand Tour events on this year's Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) World Tour. A Grand Tour

event is a road cycling race that is one of the three major European professional stage races. The first of the season was the Giro d'Italia held in May, and the third, following the Tour de France 2022, will be the Vuelta a Espana from August 26 to September 17.

Phil Bauhaus competes amongst the leaders down the final sprint during yesterday's stage

