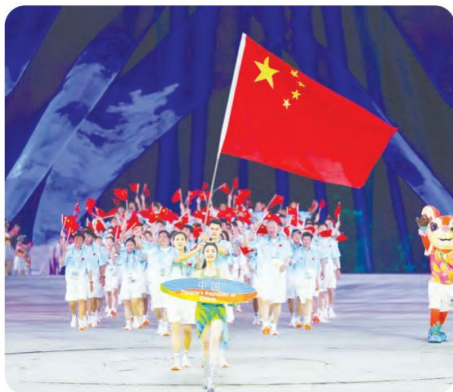




Flag handover ceremony



Host China's flag is paraded around Yasha Park Ring Theater



Flags of participating nations displayed during the closing ceremony

Bahrain signs off Sanya Games with grit, glow and a bronze

● The standout result came in beach wrestling, where Shamil Sharipov secured Bahrain's only medal

● There was near success in beach handball as well

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's campaign at the sixth Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China, concluded yesterday as the Kingdom's athletes and officials attended the closing ceremony after nine days of competition.

The Olympic Council of Asia President Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani declared the Games closed as fireworks lit up the sky above Sanya Bay, marking the end of a multi-sport event that brought together more than 1,600 athletes from 45 OCA member countries. Competing across 14 sports, 15 disciplines and 62 events, the Games celebrated continental unity. In his closing remarks, Sheikh Joaan said: "Together, as one Asia, we have made history. United by our love of sport and a shared dream, we showed the very best of our continent."



Bahrain's delegation carries the national flag during the parade

For Bahrain, the Games delivered moments of promise. Adam Alnasheet of the national beach handball team carried the national flag at the closing ceremony, symbolising a delegation that competed across multiple disciplines with steady commitment.

The standout result came in beach wrestling, where Shamil Sharipov secured Bahrain's only medal. Competing in the men's over-90kg category, he delivered a 2-0 victory over Kyrgyzstan's Muzafar Alimovich Zhappuev to claim bronze, adding another achievement to his decorated career that already includes world and continental honours.

That result ultimately defined Bahrain's standing, with the team finishing tied-26th overall.

There was near success in beach handball as well, where Bahrain narrowly missed out on a podium finish after a 0-2 defeat to Thailand in the bronze medal match. Despite taking an early lead and starting strongly, they were gradually edged out in a closely fought contest.

Elsewhere, Bahraini athletes competed in open water swimming and additional beach wrestling events, with several progressing into the later rounds, underlining a steady rise in performance across beach sports in Asia.

Officials from the Bahrain Olympic Committee remained present throughout the Games, supporting athletes on site. This steady backing helped the delegation conclude its Sanya campaign with a sense of progress, even if further medals remained out of reach.

Kingdom line up Georgia test as preparations intensify

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The Bahrain national football team will step up preparations for a stretch of international fixtures when they face Georgia in a friendly on June 5 in Tbilisi.

The match, confirmed by the Bahrain Football Association, will be played at the Mikheil Meskhi Stadium, with kick-off set for 9 PM Bahrain time. It represents an important test against higher-ranked European opposition as the national side continues refining squad depth and tactical approach.

Ranked 91st in the FIFA rankings, Bahrain will take on a



Georgia side placed 72nd, offering a valuable benchmark in a different tactical setting from their usual regional opponents. The fixture also marks Bahrain's return to facing European opposition for the first time since 2022, when they faced Serbia.

Elsewhere in the June window, an expected friendly against Tanzania is scheduled in Turkey.

Looking further ahead, Bahrain are set to defend their title at the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup

Bahrain's senior men's football national team

in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from September 23 to October 6. They will then turn attention to the AFC Asian Cup 2027, which will also take place in Saudi Arabia.

Head coach Dragan Talaji has been overseeing preparations following the conclusion of domestic competition, including the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League, as he continues to evaluate squad options.

A proposed training camp in Slovenia remains under discussion, but focus is now firmly on this month's friendlies as Bahrain builds momentum ahead of a significant international period.