



Beach Handball Team prepares in Sanya

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Bahrain's beach handball and swimming teams have arrived in Sanya and officially settled into the athletes' village ahead of the 6th Asian Beach Games, scheduled from April 22 to 30.

The Bahraini delegation was welcomed on arrival by Head of Delegation Ahmed Mohamed Abdulghaffar and Deputy Head Maryam Mardana, who supervised entry procedures and ensured a smooth check-in process. Abdulghaffar also inspected the village facilities early, expressing confidence in the overall readiness of the accommodation and support services.

Once settled, the focus quickly shifted toward preparation. Athletes moved into pre-arranged rooms, with equipment and logistical support already in place. Administrative briefings followed, covering training schedules, competition regulations, and daily operational planning.

On the sporting side, preparations began almost immediately.



The beach handball team took to the Tianya Haijiao venue for their first training sessions, combining physical conditioning with technical and tactical drills. Recovery work was also incorporated to manage training load in the early phase of acclimatisation.

As part of their build-up, Bahrain also played two friendly matches against Oman,

with the 10-player roster featuring Adam Al-Nasheet, Sayed Ahmed Faeg, Komail Ali, Mahdi Ali, Komail Mahfoodh, Ali Al Mawlani, Ali Al Hayki, Bilal Askani, Abdulla Al Zaimoor, and Ali Ghassan.

Al Qaidoum described the preparation phase as encouraging despite limited time due to domestic league commitments. He noted that consistency in local competition and prior international experience have

helped maintain the team's readiness.

Looking ahead to the Games in Sanya, he acknowledged the strength of the opposition but stressed Bahrain's determination to compete strongly.

He also extended his appreciation to the Bahrain Olympic Committee for its continued support and to the Bahrain Handball Federation for facilitating the team's participation in the event.

The squad continues its daily programme under head coach Hussein Al Qaidoum, assisted by Jaafar Abbas, with Fahad Jassim serving as team admin-



Al Malkiya Leave It Late as Al Khaldiya Go Top



Al Khaldiya celebrate their opener as Sitra goalkeeper Yousif Habib reacts in frustration

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Matchweek 18 of the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League ended in late drama at both ends of the table, with Al Malkiya beating Al Shabab 1-0 and Al Khaldiya defeating Sitra 3-1 to go top.

In the early kickoff at the Bahrain National Stadium, Al Malkiya needed a late breakthrough to overcome a stubborn Al Shabab side. With the match defined by fine margins and few clear chances, the decisive moment arrived in the 88th minute.

Before that, tensions had already risen. Samuel Sarfo's sliding challenge on Daniel Omokhoa in the 76th minute was reviewed for a possible red card but ultimately judged to be a foul only. Minutes later, Isa Al Bari was booked for simulation after going down inside the area, further frustrating Al Malkiya's search for a winner.

When the breakthrough finally came, it was worth the wait. Cyril Olisema slipped a short pass into Abdulhalim Abdo on the edge of the box, and the Moroccan unleashed a powerful strike into the top corner, leaving goalkeeper Rashid Aldoseri helpless.

The result lifts Al Malkiya to fourth place on 27 points, while Al Shabab remain stuck in 11th on 11 points, still inside the relegation zone and struggling for hope.

Later at Khalifa Sports City,

Al Khaldiya produced a controlled yet eventful 3-1 victory over Sitra to return to the summit.

Sitra started brightly and nearly struck early when Othman Al Hajj latched onto a long ball, forcing an important save from Ricardo Silva. However, Al Khaldiya gradually settled and struck just before halftime. Joel Beya converted from the penalty spot after Dominique Mendy was fouled during a cross from Mohammed Adel, marking his 10th goal of the season.

After the break, Sitra pushed for an equaliser, but Lassaad Al Chabbi's side remained disciplined and dangerous on the break. Their second goal arrived in the 80th minute when Nizar El Otmani drove forward and unleashed a powerful long-range strike beyond Yousif Habib.

Sitra briefly responded through Bruno Bezerra, who finished calmly in the 86th minute after a loose ball fell behind the defence. But their comeback ended in stoppage time when Abdulrahman Omar was sent off for a last-man foul.

Moments later, Al Khaldiya were awarded a penalty, and Mohammed Al Romaihi converted to seal a 3-1 win.

The victory moves Al Khaldiya back to the top of the table on 45 points, two clear of Muharraq, while Sitra remain in the relegation play-off zone on 18 points.



Action from Al Malkiya's victory at Bahrain National Stadium