

Bahrain's Asiad basketball team named

Twelve-man roster set for gold medal bid in men's hoops at 19th Asian Games

● **Bahrainis to be spearheaded by Maitham Jameel, Mustafa Hussain, Muzamil Ameer and Wayne Chism**

● **Kingdom's nationals in tough Group C for preliminary round alongside the Philippines, Jordan, Thailand**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's final 12-man team has been named to compete in the men's basketball tournament at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) announced yesterday the senior men's national team roster that will be taking to the hardwood at the multi-sport event.

The squad includes a majori-

MEN'S BASKETBALL ASIAN GAMES GROUPS

Group A: Iran, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, UAE

Group B: China, Lebanon, Chinese-Taipei, Mongolia

Group C: Philippines, Jordan, Bahrain, Thailand

Group D: Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Qatar

ty of the players who flew the Kingdom's flag and claimed an historic, five-game sweep of the FIBA Asia pre-qualifiers for the Paris Olympic Games in 2024.



Bahrain's Muzamil Ameer...top talent

They booked their tickets to the Kingdom's first-ever participation in the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournaments, which will also be held next year.

The 11 holdovers include Maitham Jameel, Mustafa Hussain, Ali Hussain, Ali Jaber, Ali Shukrallah, Wayne Chism, Alwethaq Ali, Muzamil Ameer, Sayed Mohammed Hameed, Ali Aqeel and Mohammed Buallay. The lone addition to the roster is Mohammed Ameer.

The Bahrainis are coached by Spaniard Ricardo Casas.

Bahrain are in a tough Group C of the preliminary round.



Coach Casas

They will be going up against continental powerhouses the Philippines, Jordan and Thailand.

The nationals tip off their campaign against the Philippines on 26 September at 8.30am, Bahrain time. They then face off with Jordan on 28 September at 6am, Bahrain time; and then complete group play against Thailand on 30 September at 12.30pm, Bahrain time.

There are 16 nations in all



Bahrain has not participated in the men's basketball tournament at the Asian Games since Doha in 2006, when they were ranked 12th overall on the final classification amongst 20 competing nations

competing in men's basketball at Hangzhou. Group A features Iran, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Group B consists of defending Asian Games champions China, Lebanon, Chinese-Taipei and Mongolia. Group D comprises Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and Qatar.

After a single round-robin, the top teams in each group will qualify directly for the quar-

ter-finals on 4 October.

Meanwhile, the second and third-ranked sides will play each other in a play-off round on 2 October for the right to determine the four other quarter-finalists. Second in Group A will play third in Group B, second in Group B will play third in Group A, second in Group C will play third in Group D, and second in Group D will play third in Group C.

The semi-finals and fifth-to-eighth ranking games are then scheduled for 5 October; and then the gold and bronze medal games, plus the final classification contests, will be held on 7 October.

Bahrain did not participate in men's basketball in the previous three editions of the Asian Games. Their last appearance on the hardwood was at the 2006 Asiad in Doha, where they were ranked 12th overall on the final classification amongst 20 participating nations.

China defeated Iran in the final of the previous Asiad in 2018 in Jakarta. South Korea were the bronze-medallists. Thirteen teams were in the fray that year.

Bahrainis lose to South Korea in U16 Asian basketball

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Bahrain's youth national basketball team suffered a second successive defeat yesterday at the FIBA Asia U16 Championship 2023 in Doha.

The Bahrainis fell to continental powerhouses South Korea 62-89 in their Group C clash. It was yet another big loss for the nationals, who bowed to Jordan in their opening fixture 44-85 on Sunday.

Bahrain went behind by as many as 33 points against the Koreans. They had a strong start and trailed just 20-21 at the end of the first quarter, but were then outscored 7-23 in the second and faced a 27-44 deficit at the half.

They never recovered, and the Koreans ran away with their maiden win of the tournament after losing to New Zealand in



Bahrain's Jameela goes for a lay-up as Korea's Mingi Kim attempts to make the block

their first assignment.

The Kiwis dismantled their Jordanian counterparts 119-45 in yesterday's other Group C

contest.

Bahrain wrap up their preliminary round campaign when they play the Kiwis today morn-

ing at 11.30am, Bahrain time.

Husain Alsamaheji and Ali Altoq shared game-high honours for the Bahrainis yesterday against Korea with 17 points apiece. Hasan Jameela added 10 points in the losing effort.

Geonwoo Heo and Jihoon Yoon paced five Korean players in double figures with 12 points apiece.

There are 16 nations in all competing in the tournament. Group A features Australia, India, Lebanon and Sri Lanka; Group B comprises Iran, Japan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia; and Group D consists of the Philippines, China, Malaysia and Kazakhstan.

At the end of the preliminary stage, the top team from each group moves directly to the quarter-finals, while the second and third-ranked squads go to round two.

Riffa outclass Lebanon's Nejmeh in AFC Cup

● **Jassim Al Shaikh, Ali Hasan Isa both on target for Bahrainis in winning start to continental clubs competition**

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Bahrain's Riffa Club registered a winning start last night to their campaign in the 2023/2024 AFC Cup.

The Kingdom's representatives outclassed Nejmeh SC of Lebanon 2-0 in both teams' opening Group C game played at Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Isa Town.

Jassim Al Shaikh and Ali Hasan Isa were both on target for the Bahrainis, with each scoring in the first half.

Al Shaikh opened Riffa's account in the 35th minute with a



Al Shaikh celebrates with teammate Al Aswad after scoring Riffa's first goal against Nejmeh last night

brilliant curling shot from just inside the penalty area. He received a short pass from Isa and had teammate Komail Al Aswad unmarked to his right. But Al Shaikh opted to take the shot himself from the edge of the box and he hit the ball into the top-left corner of goal, past Nejmeh

goalkeeper Mohamad Bechara.

Isa then added Riffa's second in the 41st minute after persistent play from his teammates. Nejmeh failed to clear a throw-in from the right wing and the ball made its way to Vinicius Vargas on the left. The Brazilian controlled the ball and turned to

make a low pass towards the face of goal, and Isa was in the right place at the right time, needing to simply tap the ball home.

Riffa head coach Hisham Mahozi started a first 11 that included Mahmood Al Ajmi in goal, Lazar Dordevic, Sayed Mahdi Baqer, Sayed Redha Issa, Hazza Ali, Ali Haram, Al Shaikh, Mohammed Anz, Al Aswad, Vargas and Isa.

In last night's other Group C encounter, Al Arabi of Kuwait defeated Al Zawraa SC of Iraq 2-1 in Basra.

Riffa's next AFC Cup match will be at home once again against Zawraa on 2 October, before they fly to Kuwait City to take on Arabi on 23 October. The Bahrainis are then set to go against Arabi on 6 November in Bahrain before facing Nejmeh on 27 November. They complete their group campaign on 12 December away at Zawraa.

Bahrain set up Australia friendly



Bahrain's senior men's national football team

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Bahrain's senior men's national football team will play an international friendly match against continental giants Australia in January of next year, as part of their final lead-up to the next edition of the AFC Asian Cup.

This was announced last night by the Bahrain Football Association (BFA).

The tune-up will be played in Dubai on 6 January, just a few days before the Asian football showcase kicks off in Doha on 12 January. Bahrain and Australia are among the 24 teams

competing at the Qatari capital.

The tune-up with the Aussies, nicknamed the Socceroos, is the first announced by the BFA in what is expected to be a series of exhibition matches in preparation for the Asian Cup.

According to reports, the BFA also attempted to schedule a game with Iraq, but their national federation apologised.

Bahrain's friendly with Australia will pit them against one of the highest-ranked teams in the world, with the Aussies currently being 27th and third-best in Asia. The Bahrainis are currently 86th in the world and 13th in the AFC.

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