

Bahrain name full-strength handball squad



Bahrain stars Hussain Al Sayyad and Ali Mirza share a laugh during training

Head coach Aron Kristjansson directs a local practice session

Kingdom's senior men's national team eye handball gold at 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China

● **Bahrainis in Group C for preliminary round alongside Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan**

● **Nationals depart for Hangzhou where they will play opening game on Sunday**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain have named a full-strength, 16-player team that will be going for gold in the men's handball competi-

tion at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

The Kingdom's senior men's national handball squad was announced yesterday by the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC).

The roster includes Bahrain's top stars in the game who have multiple years' experience and have competed at the highest levels, including at the Olympics and the world championships, as well as in previous editions of the Asiad.

The Bahrainis will be spearheaded by skipper Hussain Al Sayyad, goalkeeper Mohammed Abdullhussain, Ali Eid, Mohammed Habib Nasser, Mohammed Habib Ahmed, Ali Mirza and

Mohammed Mirza.

The rest of the team includes Ahmed Fadhel, Qassim Qambar, Hassan Madan, Mohammed Hameed Rabia, Hasan Mirza, Mahdi Saad, Mohammed Ali Abdulredha, Hesham Issa and Hassam Al Samaheji.

The nationals are being coached by Aron Kristjansson from Iceland. Kristjansson guided Bahrain to the silver medals at the 2018 edition of the Asian Games held in Indonesia, and also steered the Bahrainis to their historic first-ever Olympic appearance at the Tokyo Games, to name a few of his achievements.

The nationals departed the

Kingdom yesterday for Hangzhou. The men's handball tournament is scheduled to get underway on Sunday. The Bahrainis are in Group C for the preliminary round, which features 13 nations divided into four groups. Bahrain are in the same pool as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Group A features China, Kuwait and Thailand; Group B comprises Qatar, South Korea and Hong Kong; and Group D includes Saudi Arabia, Iran, Mongolia and Japan.

Bahrain play the Kazakhs in their maiden assignment on opening day and then battle with Uzbekistan three days later on 27 September. Following



Bahrain's senior men's national handball team have medalled in both previous editions of the Asian Games. In 2014, they clinched bronze in Incheon, South Korea, and then in 2018 in Indonesia, they came away with silver. They are now focused on capturing their first Asiad gold

the group phase, the top two teams from each pool move on to the main round, where the eight squads will once again be divided into two pools for another single round-robin from 29 September to 1 October.

That will determine the four semi-finalists, who will clash on 3 October; which will in turn set up the bronze and gold medal games on 5 October.

The nationals claimed the silver medals in 2018 after losing to their counterparts from Qatar 27-32 in extra-time in the final.

It was the second medal for Bahrain handball at the Asian Games, having claimed bronze in 2014.

Rowers make historic Asiad debut

● **Bahrainis Maryam Abdulhameed, Fahad Albanki and Omar Alhasan to take part in repechage round of respective rowing competitions**

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The Kingdom's top international rowers made their historic debut yesterday at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

The trio of Maryam Abdulhameed, Fahad Albanki and Omar Alhasan flew the Bahrain flag high at the Fuyang Water Sports Centre but came up short in their bids for direct qualification to the ensuing rounds of their respective competitions. Despite this, they still have another shot today of

going through.

Maryam did not advance to the women's single sculls semi-finals but will have a second chance in her event's repechage.

She was competing in the first of three heats yesterday and finished fifth overall. She had a time of 11 minutes 30.96 seconds, nearly four minutes from winner Anna Prakaten from Uzbekistan. Joanie Delgado from the Philippines was second and Wing Wun Leung from Hong Kong third.

In her repechage today, Maryam will be up against Haya Almamy from Saudi Arabia, Sehyeon Chae from South Korea, and Thi Duy Ho from Vietnam. The first three advance to the semi-finals.

On the distaff, Bahrainis Albanki and Alhasan also could not make it past the first stage of the men's doubles skulls, but today will have another shot in

their repechage.

Competing in the second of two heats yesterday, Albanki and Alhasan were sixth in their race, which they finished in a time of 8:14.76. They were nearly two minutes behind the winners from Uzbekistan, while Iran and Iraq completed the top three.

In their repechage, Albanki and Alhasan will be going up against two-man crews from Thailand, Iran, Indonesia and South Korea. The first two in each of the two repechage races today will advance to Final A, while the remaining crews go to Final B.

Rowing is one of the five sports Bahrain is competing in that begin their events before the Asian Games' official opening ceremony on Saturday.

Action in both volleyball and football have also gotten underway, while sailing begins today and table tennis tomorrow.

Albanki and Alhasan compete during their men's doubles skulls heat yesterday



New York, Florida and Texas to host T20 World Cup matches

London, United Kingdom

New York, Florida and Texas will host matches at next year's men's Twenty20 World Cup, the International Cricket Council announced on Wednesday.

The ICC awarded the hosting of the event, to be held in June 2024, to the Caribbean and the United States in November 2021.

A 34,000-seat temporary, or modular, stadium will be built

in Eisenhower Park in Nassau County, New York, while existing venues in Grand Prairie, Texas, and Broward County, Florida, will be increased in size.

"We're delighted to announce the three USA venues that will host part of the biggest ICC Men's T20 World Cup ever staged, with 20 teams competing for the trophy," said ICC chief executive Geoff Allardice.

"The USA is a strategically

important market and these venues give us an excellent opportunity to make a statement in the world's biggest sport market."

The United States launched its own T20 competition -- Major League Cricket -- in July, with Grand Prairie Stadium hosting the final.

England are the current T20 world champions, winning their second title when they beat Pakistan in the final in Melbourne last year.

Heart condition forces Belgian cyclist Van Hooydonck to retire aged 27

Paris, France

Belgian cyclist Nathan Van Hooydonck has been forced to retire aged 27 due to a heart condition discovered after losing control of his car, his team announced on Wednesday.

"After a series of tests we've diagnosed a heart irregularity," Jumbo-Visma reported.



"It provoked the problem that almost cost him his life last week.

"This discovery means the end of his professional career," the team's statement added.

Van Hooydonck raced the Tour de France in July, helping his teammate Jonas Vingegaard win the overall title.

Nathan Van Hooydonck