

HH Shaikh Isa arrives in Kuwait to attend GCC Games

● **HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Bahrain's delegation head at the third GCC Games, arrives ahead of the official opening ceremony, scheduled for today**

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Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president and head of the Kingdom's delegation at the third GCC Games, His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin

Khalifa Al Khalifa, arrived in Kuwait yesterday to attend the multi-sport event.

The Games' official opening ceremony is scheduled to be held today.

HH. Shaikh Isa was accompanied by BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, BOC board member and Bahrain Handball Association president Ali Issa, Bahrain Basketball Association president Captain Waleed Al Alawi, and a number of administrative team members of the Bahrain delegation.

HH Shaikh Isa was received upon his arrival in Kuwait by Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC) president Sheikh Fahad



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa is received upon his arrival in Kuwait

Nasser Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah and other high-ranking officials. HH Shaikh Isa expressed his

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HH Shaikh Isa was received upon his arrival in Kuwait by Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC) president Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah

appreciation for being in Kuwait to attend the Games, which is

being held under the patronage of the Amir of Kuwait, HH Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah.

HH Shaikh Isa praised the efforts of the KOC in hosting the multi-sport event. He also lauded the strong fraternal relations between both countries, mainly in the sport field, and stressed the need to further consolidate them to serve common interests.

HH Shaikh Isa expressed confidence in the ability of Kuwait to host one of the most successful Gulf tournaments, thanks to its status and organisational capabilities. He wished the Bahraini teams and the other Gulf sides every success.

Bahrain to play for women's futsal gold medals

Women's national futsal team barge into tournament final with come-from-behind 5-3 victory over the UAE at third GCC Games in Kuwait

● **Hessa Alisa scores twice for Bahraini women in futsal semi-final, while Shaikha Alanood Al Khalifa and Yasmeen Tobellah also on target, with the UAE scoring an own goal**

● **Bahrain set up exciting clash with Emiratis in final four of men's basketball tournament following 63-51 win over Saudi Arabia in their game yesterday**

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Bahrain barged into the gold medal game of the women's futsal tournament at the third GCC Games yesterday.

The Bahrainis secured their place in the final following a hard-earned, come-from-behind 5-3 victory over the UAE in their last-four clash.

Star striker Hessa Alisa scored a brace, while Shaikha Alanood Al Khalifa and skipper Yasmeen Tobellah also fired in for Bahrain. The victors' fifth goal was supplied by the UAE's Nouf Aladwan, who sent the ball into her own net.

Shaikha Alanood's goal, her first of the tournament, gave the Bahrainis the lead for good after falling behind twice early in the con-



Bahrain's women's futsal team players celebrate after scoring one of their goals against the UAE

The Bahrainis are next set to face off with Kuwait for the gold medals.

The Kuwaitis claimed their place in the title contest with a penalty-shootout triumph over Saudi Arabia in last night's other semi-final.

The gold medal match is scheduled to be held tomorrow. It will be played at 7.30pm, Bahrain time, and it will be preceded by the bronze medal affair between the UAE and Saudi at 5pm.

The Emiratis were the first to light up the scoreboard through Aladwan's opener in the fourth minute of action. But the Bahrainis replied three minutes later with Hessa's first strike.

Afra Almeiri was then on target for the UAE in the 14th minute to give them a 2-1 advantage, but Yas-

meen equalised once more the very next minute.

Hessa put Bahrain ahead with her second goal in the 15th minute, but the Emiratis were able to level the proceedings two minutes before the half through Afra.

Shaikha Alanood then provided her heroics just two minutes after the re-start, and then Nouf had her own goal a minute before full time.

The win maintained the Bahraini women's undefeated record in the tournament.

They are coached by Brazilian Marcelino Gomes Da Silva, who is also at the helm of the men's national futsal team.

Exciting clash

Meanwhile, Bahrain's senior men's national basketball team set up an exciting clash with the UAE in the semi-finals of their tournament at the third GCC Games in Kuwait. The Bahrainis defeated Saudi Arabia 63-51 yesterday to wrap up their prelim-

inary round campaign and set up their final four clash. The other semi-final will be between Saudi and hosts Kuwait.

Both games are scheduled to be held tomorrow, with today being a rest day. The winners move on to the gold medal game on Tuesday, with the losers facing off in the bronze medal match.

Bahrain enjoyed a strong start against the Saudis last night as they went ahead 18-6 at the end of the first quarter.

Saudi were able to cut the deficit to 22-27 heading into the interval, but the Bahrainis stayed in control with a strong third quarter, which ended in their favour at 45-33.

The two teams then matched each other point for point in the final canto, earning the nationals their second successive win in the competition.

Four players scored in double-figures in Bahrain's balanced attack. Muzamil Ameer led the way with 15 points, while Wayne Chism added 13 to go with 13 rebounds. Mohammed Ameer chipped in with 11 markers and Mustafa Hussain had 10 for the victors.

Bahrain's semi-final assignment with the UAE is a re-match of their first game of the tournament's preliminary round, which the nationals lost.

Point guard Ahmed Salman calls out a play during Bahrain's game against Saudi Arabia last night

Bahrain spikers claim second successive victory



Bahrain's national volleyball team celebrate after their win last night

● **Senior men's national volleyball team sweep past Emirati counterparts in straight sets**

● **Bahraini cyclists Mariam Almoayyed and May Alhaji narrowly miss out on medals in women's individual time trial**

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Bahrain's senior men's national volleyball team won their second straight contest at the GCC Games yesterday, sweeping past the UAE 3-0 (25-20, 25-19, 25-23).

The Bahrainis started the match off strong and never wavered.

They closed out the match in just an hour-and-a-half, continuing from where they left off in their opening victory against Saudi Arabia, which they took in four sets.

Ali Ebrahim was once again the national team's top scorer, finishing with 16 points, including 12 in attack.

Naser Anan added 13 for the national team, while Mohamed Aldwairi scored six.

Aldwairi was Bahrain's best blocker with three, while Ebrahim had two service aces.

The Bahrainis made the most of their opponents'

errors in the game, which amounted to 20, while they committed only 17.

Today is a rest day for the men's volleyball tournament and Bahrain return to the playing court tomorrow against Oman at 3pm, Bahrain time.

They then face off with Qatar on Tuesday at 5pm, before playing their last game against hosts Kuwait on Thursday which will also determine the final order of medallists.

Narrow miss

Meanwhile, also yesterday at the GCC Games, Bahrain's cyclists came close to capturing a medal in the women's individual time trial.

Mariam Almoayyed and May Alhaji were competing for Bahrain in the event, and they finished fifth and sixth, respectively.

Mariam completed her ride in 20 minutes 17.05 seconds, 40.74 seconds behind gold-medallist Safia Alsayagh from the UAE.

May took sixth in 20:30.81. A total of 10 riders took part in the event, representing the UAE, Saudi, Qatar and hosts Kuwait.

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Bahrain have three more matches to play in the men's volleyball tournament at the third GCC Games. The competition is being held in league format