

# Bahrain outclass Kuwait in Asian handball

Kingdom's senior men's national team defeats Gulf rivals by 14 goals to make winning start in main round of 2022 Asian Men's Handball Championship in Saudi Arabia

● Mahdi Saad continues impressive form to finish as Bahrain's leading scorer with six goals in the match

● Bahrainis rise to first place on Group II standings following result, ahead of Iran who beat Iraq in yesterday's other game

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Bahrain outclassed Kuwait 29-15 last night to make a winning start to their main round campaign in the 2022 Asian Men's Handball Championship, being held in Saudi Arabia.

The Bahrainis and Kuwaitis are in Group II in this stage of the competition alongside Iran and Iraq. The Iranians won yesterday's other group fixture, 28-25 against their Iraq counterparts.

Both games were played at the Ministry of Sports Hall in Dammam.

Bahrain led 17-8 at the half



Bahrain's Ahmed Fadhl celebrates after scoring a goal against Kuwait

#### Group II standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Bahrain	1	1	0	0	14	2
Iran	1	1	0	0	3	2
Iraq	1	0	0	1	-3	0
Kuwait	1	0	0	1	-14	0

against Kuwait and continued their final play over the final 30 minutes.

Mahdi Saad continued impressive form in the tournament, top scoring for Bahrain with six goals. He was the team's lead-

ing scorer from the preliminary round.

Ahmed Fadhl added five goals and was perfect from the field, as was Ali Eid who finished with four goals. Mohammed Habib also contributed four, while skipper Hussain Al Sayyad chipped in three and Ali Abdulqader had two.

Bahrain goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain was a rock for the Bahrainis, finishing with 16 saves in the contest.

The Kingdom's senior men's



Mohammed Habib in action for Bahrain during their match last night

national team will look to extend their fine start when they play Iraq tomorrow in their second game of this phase. Last night's win was also their fourth in a row of the competition, having previously swept all three of their games in the preliminary round.

Following their match with

Iraq tomorrow, they play Iran in their last main round game on Wednesday.

The Bahrainis must finish amongst the top two in their group to advance to the semi-finals. Should they finish third, they will play for fifth place overall, and if they finish last in the group, they will contend for



Olympian and national team goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain was a rock for Bahrain in yesterday's contest, finishing with 16 saves

seventh place overall.

The teams in Group I are South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Uzbekistan.

The tournament also acts as the continental qualifying event for the 2023 IHF World Men's Handball Championship. The top five-ranked teams earn an automatic berth to the worlds.

The nationals are gunning for their first title in the Asian championship.

In the previous Asian championship held in January of 2020, the Bahrainis finished fourth overall. Bahrain have been runners-up four times in the last six editions and bronze-medallists once.

## Manama, Hala play to goalless draw



Manama skipper Isa Moussa dribbles past his Al Hala marker

● Manama retain position in second place on league standings following fourth draw in 10 matches

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Manama were held to a goalless draw by Al Hala in the final game of week 10 in the 2021/2022 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Both teams had chances to score in the contest, but neither could find the finishing touches.

This included Manama's

Mahdi Abduljabbar, who is currently the league's top scorer with nine goals and who also won last season's Golden Boot.

Following the share of the points, Manama improved to 19 points on the league standings, where they retained their position at the beginning of the week in second place, seven points behind table-toppers and back-to-back defending champions Riffa. The result was their fourth draw in 10 games.

Hala, on the other hand, also had their fourth draw, and they went to 10 points in sixth place. League action continues early next month following an international break.

## Al Rumaihi takes home grand prize in showjumping round

● HH Shaikh Nasser's media office director and BREEF PR and media committee head Tawfiq Al Salehi crowns winners

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Mayoof Al Rumaihi emerged as the grand prize winner of the sixth showjumping championship, held in Sakhir.

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa's Media Office and Information Centre director and Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF) PR and media committee head Tawfiq Al Salehi was on hand to crown the Ministry of Interior team member as the winner.

Al Salehi congratulated the top three finishers in the main race of the event. He praised the efforts exerted by the stables to achieve the best results and top places, and stated that such efforts are contributing to the development of showjumping in Bahrain.

Al Salehi added: "The showjumping sport is witnessing tangible improvement in the Kingdom, thanks to the support



An awarding ceremony from one of the categories



One of the participants in action



The showjumping sport is witnessing tangible improvement in the Kingdom, thanks to the support and backing of HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, President of BREEF

TAWFIQ AL SALEHI

and backing of HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, President of BREEF."

He also hailed the endeavours of the BREEF showjumping committee.

Al Rumaihi defeated his competitors over 140cm fences, clocking 57.62 seconds. He was followed by Hussain Dadaallah, who posted a time of 58.73s. Both the first-place winner and runner-up committed eight faults each. Meanwhile, Al Rumaihi also occupied third place as he participated on two different horses. He finished in 66.05 seconds in his second

attempt.

Also, Al Rumaihi jumped to victory in the third competition for senior participants, which featured 110cm fences. He completed it in 22.15 seconds, leaving second place to his brother Sultan, whose time was 23.82 seconds. Third place went to Abdulla Al Awadhi, who crossed the finish line in 25.09 seconds.

In the fourth competition for seniors (120cm fences), Ahmed Al Hasheli topped the podium, while Haytham Al Bastaki triumphed in the joker event which featured 130cm fences.