

Bahrain's golden generation targets Asian Games glory

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Hussain Al Maskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's men's national handball team have been drawn in Group B for the 20th Asian Games, following the draw held yesterday ahead of the continental multi-sport event in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. The Bahrainis will face Kuwait, South Korea, Iran and Kazakhstan in the group stage, while Group A features hosts Japan, Qatar, China and Hong Kong. The handball competi-



Captain Hussain Al Sayyad lifts Bahrain's maiden Asian title in January

tion will take place from September 19 to October 4, with Bahrain aiming to build on their historic rise and challenge for a place on the podium. Under Swedish head coach Robert Hedin, Bahrain enter the tournament with growing confidence after a landmark year that saw them secure three major gold medals, including their first-ever Asian Men's Handball Championship title. That historic triumph represented a breakthrough moment for Bahraini handball, while also booking the team's place at the 2027 IHF Men's World Championship in Germany, which will be held from January 13 to 31, 2027. The national team also claimed gold at the Islamic Solidarity Games and the Gulf Games, further cementing their status among the region's leading handball nations.

Carapaz climbs unopposed to Tour de France 18th stage win

Orcières-Merlette, France

Ecuador's Richard Carapaz emerged from a six-man group to climb to victory on the Alpine 18th stage of the Tour de France yesterday. The former Giro d'Italia winner attacked his breakaway companions with just over three kilometres to ride and cruised to his second Tour stage victory, with Swiss Mauro Schmid beating American Matteo Jorgenson to second place. Carapaz also closed in on the polkadot jersey for the King of the Mountains competition -- which he won in 2024 when he earned his first stage win. Frenchman Valentin Paret-Peintre came close to stripping race leader Tadej Pogacar of the polkadot jersey, but fell one place and one point short as he came home in fourth. Carapaz is now just seven points behind the Slovenian.



UAE Team Emirates - XRG's Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar celebrates on the podium with the overall leader's yellow jersey



Bahrain's U21 handball team celebrate a successful preliminary round campaign

Iran stands between Bahrain and World Cup dream

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Salman Al Showaikh in action during Bahrain's Asian championship campaign

Bahrain's junior national handball team will face Iran today in a quarter-final clash at the 19th Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship, with a place in the semi-finals and qualification for the World Championship on the line. The match will be played at 7am Bahrain time, with victory securing Bahrain a place in the last four and guaranteeing qualification for the 26th IHF Men's U21 Handball

World Championship, scheduled to be held in North Macedonia from June 23 to July 4 next year. All four semi-finalists of the Asian championship will earn their places at the global tournament, adding further significance to the knockout stage. The quarter-finals will be followed by the semi-finals on Saturday, which will determine the match-ups for the gold and bronze medal games on Monday, the championship's closing day. Classification matches will also take place during the final two days of the knockout rounds. Bahrain enter the knockout stage full of confidence after an impressive preliminary round campaign, finishing second in Group A with four wins from five matches. The young Bahrainis defeated Chinese Taipei (39-27), Hong Kong (43-15), Oman (33-23) and hosts China (35-27), with their only defeat coming against group winners Saudi Arabia. Iran advanced after finishing third in Group B with three wins, one draw and two defeats. Under head coach Husam Madan, Bahrain will now aim to continue their strong run by overcoming Iran, reaching the semi-finals and securing their place on the world stage.

Arsenal sign Greece winger Tzolis from Brugge

London, United Kingdom

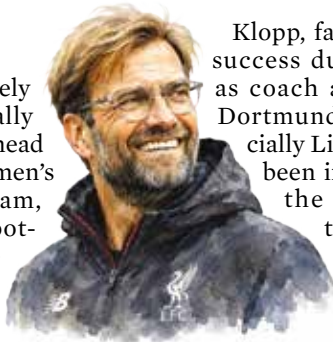
Arsenal have signed Greece winger Christos Tzolis on "a long-term contract", the Premier League champions announced on Thursday. No fee was disclosed but British media reports said the 24-year-old had arrived from Club Brugge for £34 million (\$45 million), with Tzolis effectively a replacement for Leandro Trossard following his move to Besiktas. Arsenal's third permanent transfer of the current window arrives 48 hours after the Gunners missed out on Morgan Rogers to city rivals Chelsea for a reported £117 million (\$157 million) -- a record for a British player. England midfielder Rogers called Chelsea the "biggest club in London". Tzolis scored 43 goals in 108 appearances for Brugge and featured in the Belgian side's 3-0 Champions League loss to Arsenal last season.



Klopp expected to be named new Germany coach today

AFP | Berlin, Germany

Jurgen Klopp is widely expected to formally take over as the new head coach of the German men's national football team, with the German Football Association (DFB) calling a press conference today.



Klopp, famed for his success during stints as coach at Borussia Dortmund and especially Liverpool, has been in talks with the DFB about trying to lead Germany -- long a football

powerhouse -- back to prominence. On Thursday, the DFB invited the media to a press conference on Friday morning at 11am (0900GMT) at its Frankfurt headquarters, without specifying the topic. That is because the DFB's governing bodies have not yet met to formally approve the deal with

Klopp, according to reports from AFP's sports subsidiary SID. According to German media reports Red Bull will release Klopp from his deal without a transfer fee, instead accepting a million-euro (\$1.1 million) donation to Red Bull's Wings for Life charity foundation, which supports research into spinal cord injuries. The DFB dismissed for-

mer head coach Julian Nagels-

mann after Germany crashed out of this summer's World Cup in disappointing fashion.



Klopp, 59, is among the most decorated football coaches of his generation and is expected to sign a contract with Germany that runs until 2030, the date of the next World Cup.