

## Bahrain Announces GCC Games Basketball Fixtures



Bahrain's men's national basketball team during training drills

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The Bahrain Basketball Association yesterday announced Bahrain's fixtures for the 4th GCC Games, set to take place in Doha, Qatar from May 15 to 20.

Bahrain's men's national basketball team will open their campaign on May 15 against Saudi Arabia at 4pm, before facing the UAE on May 16 at the same time. They will then

take on hosts Qatar on May 17 at 6pm.

In 3x3 competition, Bahrain's men's team will be in action on May 12, opening against Oman at 3:50pm before facing the UAE later that day at 7:10pm.

Bahrain's women's 3x3 team will also compete on May 12, starting against the UAE at 5:05pm and later facing Saudi Arabia at 6:45pm.

All matches will take place at the Al Gharafah Sports Hall.

## Qatar edge Bahrain in Beach handball semi-final

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Bahrain's men's beach handball team saw their Asian Beach Games campaign end in the semi-finals after a 2-0 defeat (13-8, 20-18) to Qatar yesterday at Tianya Haijiao. The result sends Bahrain into the bronze medal match against Thailand today at 3pm, while Qatar advances to face Iran in the gold medal final at 4pm.

Qatar took early control of the opening period with sharp finishing and quick transitions, driven by Amir Denguir and Abdulrazaq Murad. Bahrain stayed within reach early on, with Bilal Askani opening their account, but struggled to maintain efficiency in attack as the tempo increased. After briefly staying level at 4-4, Bahrain began to lose rhythm; missed opportunities were compounded by several key saves from Qatar goalkeeper Zarko Markovic. Qatar capitalised on the momentum to pull away and closed the period 13-8 ahead.

The second period saw a more composed and aggressive Bahrain side emerge. Askani and Mahdi Ali led the response, repeatedly converting spin shots



Bahrain and Qatar beach handball teams during pre-match introduction

to keep their team in contention, while Komail Mahfoodh provided valuable link-up play in attack. Bahrain's defensive intensity also improved significantly, disrupting Qatar's flow and forcing errors.

Midway through the period, Bahrain clawed their way back to level the score at 14-14 and again at 16-16, turning the contest into an end-to-end battle. Their transition play sharpened, and they briefly looked capable of overturning the deficit.

However, the decisive mo-

ments swung Qatar's way. Crucial saves including a stopped six-metre penalty denied Bahrain the chance to take the lead. Denguir and Murad then stepped up in the closing stages, converting key chances to restore control for Qatar.

Despite Bahrain's strong fightback, Qatar held firm to edge the second period 20-18 and secure a 2-0 victory.

Top performers included Amir Denguir leading Qatar with 13 points, while Abdulrazaq Murad delivered a perfect

scoring display. For Bahrain, Mahdi Mahdi top-scored with 12 points, with Bilal Askani and Komail Mahfoodh also key contributors in a determined team effort.

Even in defeat, coach Hussain Al Qaidoom's side showed consistency and competitiveness. Bahrain opened with three straight wins before losing to unbeaten Iran and beating Hong Kong to finish second in their pool. They will now look to end on a high in tomorrow's bronze medal match.

## Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club signs Partnership Agreement with Harve



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In line with the directives and ongoing efforts of the High Committee of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC), chaired by His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister's Court, to establish diverse partnerships with companies and institutions, and as part of the continued development of the equestrian and horseracing sector, REHC has signed a partnership agreement with Harve, a company specializing in the development and operation of world-class food and beverage and hospitality experiences.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Yusuf Osama Buheji, Member of the High Committee of REHC and Acting Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Abdulaziz Tawfiqi, Managing Director of Harve. Under the agreement, Harve will manage and operate

a new fully integrated restaurant within REHC's facilities, providing high-quality hospitality services to visitors and patrons during the racing season.

On this occasion, Mr. Yusuf Osama Buheji stated that the agreement aligns with the Club's strategy to diversify partnerships across various sectors, including the development of logistics and facilities, as well as the provision of premium hospitality services to visitors and patrons, particularly as REHC continues to host numerous international championships, races, and events. He noted that such initiatives further strengthen the Kingdom of Bahrain's position as a destination for horseracing enthusiasts from around the world.

Mr. Buheji also welcomed Harve as a partner for the upcoming seasons, expressing his appreciation to the company's management for this collaboration. He added that the partner-

ship represents a valuable addition that will enhance the level of services within REHC, with the aim of delivering a comprehensive experience that elevates event standards, meets visitors' expectations, and supports ongoing development efforts in the Kingdom of Bahrain's horseracing sector.

For his part, Mr. Abdulaziz Tawfiqi expressed his pride in signing this partnership with Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club, noting that it represents an important step in Harve's efforts to expand its presence in the hospitality sector. He added that through this collaboration, the company aims to deliver an operational model that reflects its expertise in managing hospitality destinations, contributing to the development of the visitor experience and adding a qualitative dimension to the services offered within the Club.

He further noted that the

company is focused on adopting best operational practices and modern solutions to deliver flexible and diverse services that support the development of events and further strengthen the Club's position as a leading horseracing destination in the region.

This partnership between REHC and Harve reflects the company's commitment to strengthening its position as a key operator in the hospitality sector by developing and managing innovative concepts across a range of destinations. It also supports the growth of this vital industry and keeps pace with evolving audience preferences.

Harve is one of the most prominent entertainment ventures within Infracorp's portfolio, aligning with the Group's vision to elevate regional destinations and drive economic growth through innovation and world-class offerings.

## Bahrain bow out of 3x3 tournament in Sanya



Mohamed Kowayed attempts a difficult lay-up

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Bahrain's run at the sixth Asian Beach Games in Sanya came to an end yesterday after a 15-12 defeat to Mongolia in the play-off round, denying them a place in the quarter-finals.

In a closely contested encounter at the Sanya Sports Centre Gymnasium, Bahrain struggled to replicate the scoring rhythm that had carried them into the knockout stage. Mongolia proved more clinical, edging ahead in the closing stages to seal victory.

Bogdan Dragovic, who starred in Bahrain's win over Kazakhstan, was again among the key contributors with three points. Naser Al Musawi, Kelechi Ajukwa, and Mohamed Kowayed also added three points apiece, with

Al Musawi hitting Bahrain's only two-pointer of the game. Despite contributions from multiple players, the nationals fell short in a balanced but ultimately unsuccessful effort.

The defeat brought the curtain down on a mixed campaign for the Bahrainis. After opening losses to Qatar and India, they kept their hopes alive with an impressive win over Kazakhstan to reach the play-offs. However, they were unable to build on that momentum against a disciplined Mongolian side.

Despite the early exit, coach Ahmed Elias' side showed flashes of promise. Dragovic emerged as a standout performer, while the team demonstrated growing chemistry as the tournament progressed, offering encouragement for future competitions.