

Bahrain bow to favourites Denmark

Men’s national handball team suffer third straight loss in Tokyo after double-digit defeat to reigning world and Olympic champions

- Denmark take control of contest from opening throw, lead by as many as 13 goals in second half
- Despite still scoring zero points on Group B standings, Bahrainis still have a chance at qualifying for quarters
- Bahrain have two matches remaining, first against hosts Japan tomorrow and then with Egypt on Sunday

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Bahrain lost to reigning world and Olympic champions Denmark 21-31 yesterday in their Group B game in men’s handball at the Tokyo Games.

The Danes lived up to their tag as the heavy favourites and were in control from the opening throw. They were ahead 12-7 at the half and enjoyed leads big as 13 goals in the final 30-minute period.

The result was the third straight loss for the Bahrainis at the Olympics, following their narrow setbacks against Sweden and Portugal. Despite this, they still have an outside chance of advancing to the quarter-fi-



Bahrain's Mahdi Saad looks to score from the wings against Denmark during their match yesterday

Group B standings						
(*qualified for quarter-finals)						
	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Denmark*	3	3	0	0	+32	6
Sweden*	3	3	0	0	+4	6
Egypt	3	2	0	1	+5	4
Portugal	3	1	0	2	-6	2
Bahrain	3	0	0	3	-12	0
Japan	3	0	0	3	-23	0

nals but must win their last two games, first against hosts Japan tomorrow and then against Egypt on Sunday.

Both games are scheduled to

get underway at 5am, Bahrain time.

Denmark registered their third successive victory and sit atop Group B.

Four players scored four goals apiece for Bahrain in the loss, including Ahmed Fadhul, Mohammed Mirza, Mahdi Saad and Ahmed Almaqabi. Hasan Ali and Ali Mirza added two goals apiece, while Ali Eid, Mohammed Abdulredha, Mohammed Habib, Mohamed Mohamed and Hussain Al Sayyad all finished with one each.

Johan Hansen top scored for Denmark with six goals whereas Mikkel Hansen had five.

In yesterday’s other Group B matches, Sweden edged past Portugal 29-28 and Egypt defeat-



Bahrain players watch from the bench while action takes place

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Group B leaders Denmark and Sweden are still undefeated in Tokyo following yesterday’s results and have already secured their berths in the ensuing knockout quarter-finals

secured their berths in the ensuing knockout quarter-final stage. They are followed by Egypt, Portugal, Bahrain and Japan on the table.

Group A features Spain, France, Norway, Germany, Brazil and Argentina. Only the top four teams from each group following a single round-robin move on to the last eight.

Yesterday’s match was attended by Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president and the Kingdom’s delegation head at the Tokyo Olympics His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

HH Shaikh Isa was joined by BOC secretary general and deputy head of the Bahrain mission in Tokyo Mohammed Al Nusuf and Bahrain’s Chef de Mission at the Olympics and former national table tennis star Hamad Buhijji.

Bahrain delegation chief visits Olympic Museum

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Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president and the Kingdom’s delegation head at the Tokyo Games His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa visited yesterday the Olympic Museum..

He was accompanied by BOC secretary general and deputy head of the Bahrain mission in Tokyo Mohammed Al Nusuf, as well as other delegation members.

HH Shaikh Isa expressed his admiration for all the was on display at the Olympic Museum, which documents a long history of the Olympic movement.



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa is accompanied by other Bahrain delegation officials as they tour the Olympic Museum in Tokyo



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa with other officials and the Olympic rings

Swimmer Abdulla Isa looks to set new national record

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Bahrain’s 18-year-old swimmer Abdulla Isa will be getting into the pool today to compete in the heats of the Men’s 100m Butterfly at the Tokyo Olympics.

Abdulla is the national record holder for all the distances in the Butterfly, and today will be looking to improve on his best of 58.44 in the 100m.

Abdulla said that is one of his main goals, particularly as it will be a source of motivation as he will also be competing in the GCC Swimming Championship in Doha next month.

There are two other swimmers in Abdulla’s heat, namely Salvador Gordo of Angola who has an entry time for the Olympics of 55.57s and Yousif Bu Arish of Saudi Arabia, whose entry time is 56.58s.

There are a total of 59 entries in the Men’s 100m Butterfly, set



Bahrain's Abdulla Isa in Tokyo

to compete over eight heats for one of 16 places in the semi-finals.

In preparing for his participation today, Abdulla has been training daily since arriving in Tokyo under the supervision of head coach Dhaen Yusuf Alamer

and fellow-swimmer Noor Yusuf Taha, who will be competing tomorrow in the Women’s 50m Freestyle.

This year’s Games marks the sixth straight Olympics where Bahraini swimmers are competing, and seventh overall.