

Team Bahrain



Bahrain's Abdulla unlucky in Butterfly heats

Kingdom's 18-year-old swimming sensation makes Olympic debut in Tokyo, teammate Noor Yusuf Taha to follow today in Women's 50m Freestyle

● Bahrain's Abdulla Isa gets DSQ in final classification of Men's 100m Butterfly heat at Tokyo Aquatics Centre

● Noor Yusuf Taha set to compete among field of eight swimmers in fourth of 11 heats in Women's 50m Freestyle preliminary round



Bahrain's Abdulla Isa in action in the Men's 100m Butterfly yesterday

was close to beating the national record which he owns, but he was later disqualified and his time disregarded on the final classification.

Salvador Gordo of Angola finished first in their heat in a time of 55.96s, while Yousif Bu Arish of Saudi Arabia came second in 56.29s.

A total of 59 swimmers were entered in the event. They were divided into eight heats and vying for just 16 places in the next round. Caeleb Dressel of the US was the top qualifier with a time of 50.39s, which tied the Olympic Record set by Singapore's Joseph Schooling in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. The last qualifier

was Jiajun Sun of China with a time of 51.74s.

Following his race, Abdulla said that he gave his best performance and was proud to participate in the Olympics and represent Bahrain.

The Kingdom's foray in the pool at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre continues today with Noor

Yusuf Taha set to compete in the Women's 50m Freestyle.

The 15-year-old is set to race in the fourth of 11 heats. She heads into the event with an entry time of 29.42s, and will be competing against seven other swimmers.

Aleka Persaud of Guyana has the best entry time of 28.10s

amongst the swimmers in their heat.

There are a total of 83 entrants in the Women's 50m Freestyle, but only the best 16 progress to the semi-finals.

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



Following his race, Abdulla said that he gave his best performance and was proud to participate in the Olympics and represent Bahrain



Bahraini Noor Yusuf Taha in Tokyo

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Abdulla Isa was unlucky yesterday in the heats of the Men's 100m Butterfly at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

The 18-year-old completed his race in 58.83 seconds, which

HH Shaikh Isa meets former Japanese Ambassador



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa with former Japanese Ambassador to the Kingdom Kiyoshi Asako during their meeting

TDT | Manama

In a pleasant coincidence, one of the volunteers working with Bahrain's delegation at the Tokyo Olympics is former Japanese Ambassador to the Kingdom Kiyoshi Asako.

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president and delegation head in Tokyo His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa met yesterday with Asako and praised his efforts during his tenure

in Bahrain to strengthen relations between the two countries.

HH Shaikh Isa also thanked him for his role in facilitating the Bahrain mission at the Olympics.

On his part, Asako expressed his pride in the time he spent in the Kingdom as Ambassador and was thankful for the generous hospitality and warm welcome he received. He wished Bahrain further success in the future.

Koech begins Bahrain's athletics medal bid in Steeplechase

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's star-studded athletics team at the Tokyo Olympic Games kick off their bid for medals today with John Koech in the Men's 3,000m Steeplechase.

Koech will be running in the first of three heats at Tokyo's Olympic Stadium. He is one of 15 athletes entered in the race and will need to finish in the top three or be at least one of the six fastest losers in order to advance to the final.

The 25-year-old Bahraini heads into his event with a season's best time of eight minutes 45.75 seconds, which is far from his personal best of 8:09.62.

Lamecha Girma of Ethiopia has the best time this year amongst the heat's competitors of 8:07.75 and he also has the fastest individual mark of 8:01.36.

Koech's heat is scheduled for a 3.30am start, Bahrain time.

He is one of a 13-member athletes team flying the Kingdom's flag in Tokyo.



John Koech

The other men are Abdelrahman Mahmoud in the Shot Put, Al Siddique Mikho in the 1,500m, Dawit Fikadu and Birhanu Balew in the 5,000m, and the trio of Elhassan Elabbasi, Alemu Bekele and Shumi Dechasa are in the Marathon, all of whom are set to be in action on later days.

The five women competing at the Olympics for Bahrain are Aminat Jamal in 400m Hurdles, Winfred Yavi in the 3,000m Steeplechase, Kalkidan Gezahegne in the 10,000m, and the pair of Eunice Chebichii Chumba and Tejitu Daba in the Marathon.

Meanwhile, Bahrain Olympic



HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, standing third from right, with athletics team athletes and officials during their meeting yesterday

Committee (BOC) vice-president and delegation head in Tokyo His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa met yesterday with members of the Kingdom's athletics team.

A number of the participating athletes and officials were on hand, as well as BOC secretary general and Bahrain delegation deputy head in Tokyo Mohammed Al Nusuf.

HH Shaikh Isa conveyed the greetings of Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, General Sports Authority president and BOC president His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa to the athletics team, and added

that they are a source of pride for all they have achieved at all levels in the sport.

Athletics is where Bahrain is most hopeful of clinching an Olympic medal this year.

The Kingdom has claimed three Olympic medals in the past, including two gold and one silver—all in athletics.

The gold medals were captured by Maryam Yusuf Jamal at the London Olympics in 2012 for the Women's 1,500m and Ruth Jebet at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016 for the Women's 3,000m Steeplechase. That same year, Eunice Kirwa claimed the Women's Marathon silver medal.

Bahrain in must-win to keep quarters hopes alive

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Bahrain face a must-win situation today when they take on hosts Japan in their penultimate Group B game of the men's handball preliminary round at the Tokyo Olympics.

The Bahrainis have yet to score a point on the group standings following their three losses previously to Sweden, Portugal and Denmark. They must now win their final two contests—first against the Japanese and then against Egypt on Sunday—to have any chance of advancing

to the knockout quarter-finals.

Japan also have yet to win at these Games and will be out in full force against their Asian counterparts. The Japanese's first three losses came against Denmark, Sweden and Egypt.

Bahrain are currently ahead of the home side on the group table with a superior goal difference.

Today's contest is scheduled for a 5am throw-off, Bahrain time. The Bahrainis will be wearing the red kits while Japan will sport white shirts and black shorts.

Meanwhile, the Bahrain dele-

Men's Handball 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

gation announced yesterday that handball star Kumail Mahfoodh has sustained an injury during training that will prevent him from suiting up for the national team.

According to the medical reports, Mahfoodh has suffered a muscle tear in his hand, which had prevented him from taking part in any of Bahrain's games so far.



Bahrain's Ahmed Almaqabi in action against Denmark in the national team's previous game