



His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Bahrain's distinguished sports achievements outcome of royal care: HH Shaikh Nasser

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, has extended deepest congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime

Minister, on the kingdom's historic achievement at the 19th Asian Games, which concluded today in the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

HH Shaikh Nasser praised the kingdom's success in ranking ninth in the 45-nation Games, the best in the kingdom's history, after bagging a total of 20 medals, including 12 golds, three silvers and five

bronzes.

HH Shaikh Nasser also congratulated His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sport First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President.

His Highness hailed the kingdom's success in clinch-

ing 12 gold medals, which is its biggest-ever haul at a single edition, attributing the historic exploit to the constant care of HM the King, support of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and follow-up of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad.

HH Shaikh Nasser paid tribute to Bahrain athletics team's champions for winning 16

medals during the 19th Asian Games, 10 of which were gold, which placed them second in the Asian Games.

He also congratulated Bahraini wrestling and weightlifting champions for winning two gold medals, in addition to the national handball and jujitsu teams for clinching a silver medal each at the same games.

Bahrain book qualification berth

Kingdom's senior national futsal team beat Brunei to secure place in AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024

● Ahmed Abdulnabi, Falah Abbas on target for nationals in first half

● Saleh Sankar, Mohammed Al Sandi, Salman Al Mulla, Jassam Anan score after break

● Bahrain improve to six points from two wins, tie with Kuwait who they face tomorrow

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Bahrain punched their tickets last night to the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024.

The Kingdom's national futsal team earned their berth with a resounding 6-1 victory over their counterparts from Brunei at Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

Ahmed Abdulnabi and Falah Abbas were the first goal scorers for the Bahrainis in the first half and they took a slim 2-1 lead into the break.



Bahrain's Mohammed Al Sandi looks to make a play during their game against Brunei yesterday

But in the final 20-minute period, goals from Saleh Sankar, Mohammed Al Sandi, Salman Al Mulla and Jassam Anan helped them secure the big win.

The result was Bahrain's sec-

ond successive win in Group F of the qualification competition. They improved to a maximum six points from their two games played so far and have one last fixture tomorrow against Kuwait.

The clash will decide the Group F winners, who will earn a direct berth in next year's AFC Futsal Asian Cup.

Bahrain and Brunei are in the same pool as Kuwait and Timor-Leste. The qualifiers fea-



Bahrain's concluding qualifier against Kuwait tomorrow will determine the Group F winners, who earn a direct berth for next year's AFC Futsal Asian Cup. The losers also qualify as one of the seven best runners-up

ture 31 countries in all, divided into eight groups, with each group being hosted at a centralised venue.

In yesterday's other Group F fixture, the Kuwaitis routed Timor-Leste 8-1.

Bahrain's game tomorrow against Kuwait is scheduled for a 6.30pm kick-off at the same venue, with Brunei and Timor-Leste facing off in the earlier game at 4pm.

Tomorrow is the final match day of the qualifiers. The Bahrain Football Association confirmed last night the national teams qualification regardless of tomorrow's results.

After a single round-robin, the eight group winners earn automatic berths in next year's AFC Futsal Asian Cup along with the seven best-ranked runners-up and the host national team.

Bahrain's Brazilian head coach Rafael Fogageiro has a 14-player squad competing.

Bahrain have qualified for the AFC Futsal Asian Cup for only the fourth time in the tournament's history. The hosts of next year's event have yet to be determined.

The nationals previously also played in the 2002, 2018 and 2022 tournaments, with their best finish in the 2018 event in Taiwan where they reached the quarter-finals.

The competition also acts as the qualification for the FIFA Futsal World Cup, with five teams from the AFC booking a berth in the global competition, also to be held next year in September

Cricket proposed for inclusion in 2028 Los Angeles Olympics

AFP | Los Angeles

Cricket could feature in the Olympics for the first time since 1900 after organisers of the 2028 Los Angeles Games yesterday recommended its inclusion.

In a statement, LA28 listed the Twenty20 version of cricket as one of the proposed 'new' sports alongside baseball/softball, flag football -- a non-contact version of American football -- lacrosse and squash.

There is no room though for breakdancing, which will make its Olympic debut at the 2024 Paris Games.

The choice of the sports still needs approval from the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Cricket last featured at the 1900 Paris Olympics, when a team from Britain beat a side representing France.

The final choice of which sports are retained for 2028 will be voted on at the IOC Session next Monday in Mumbai, one of the hotbeds of the sport, as India hosts the men's 50-



A general view shows a cricket match at a stadium

over Cricket World Cup.

The International Cricket Council welcomed the decision to propose cricket.

ICC Chairman Greg Barclay said: "We are delighted that LA28 have recommended cricket for inclusion in the Olympics.

"Whilst this is not the final decision, it is a very significant landmark towards seeing cricket at the Olympics for the first time in more than a century."

The ICC's proposal is for men's and women's Twenty20 competitions -- the shortest form of the international game at 20 overs per side.

Muharraq bow out of Arab clubs basketball

● Bahrain representatives lose 95-108 to AS Sale of Morocco in quarter-finals

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Bahrain's Muharraq were yesterday eliminated from the 35th Arab Clubs Basketball Championship in Doha following a 95-108 loss to AS Sale of Morocco in the quarter-finals.

The Bahraini representatives trailed for a majority of the game and tried valiantly to stay in the fight, but their opponents were too good on the day.

Sale now move on to the final four, where will face off with the winner of the all-Egyptian quarter-final clash between Al Ahly and Al Ittihad Alexandria.

The semis are scheduled to be held tomorrow, to be followed by the gold and bronze medal games on Thursday.

Today is a rest day. Muharraq trailed 21-22 at the end of the first period yesterday



Muharraq's Ali Rabeea is stopped by the Sale defence as he goes for a basket

as American professional Julius Coles Jr was able to bury a baseline three-pointer right before the quarter buzzer.

The Bahrainis then went briefly ahead in the second before Sale fought back and built a double-digit lead, 48-37. Mu-

harraq faced a 41-53 deficit at the half.

Muharraq tried to get back into contention but Sale extended their advantage, going ahead 80-66 heading into the final canto. Coles was able to reduce the gap to 14 prior to the end of the third with a long triple to beat the clock.

In the fourth, Sale closed things out to end Muharraq's hopes of being the first Bahraini club to win the tournament crown.

With yesterday's result, Muharraq's three-game winning streak in the competition was snapped. They had opened their campaign with a loss to defending champions Kuwait Sports Club, but they then had back-to-back wins against Bureij Services of Palestine and Qatar Sports Club to complete the preliminary stage.

Muharraq then defeated Dynamo from Lebanon in the round of 16, setting up their match-up against Sale.

The tournament is being held under the auspices of the Arab Basketball Confederation.