

## Minasyan clinches medal double at weightlifting worlds

● Bahraini weightlifting superstar wins silver medal for snatch, bronze for total in men's +109kg category

● Zainab Ali Abdulla makes history as Bahrain's first woman weightlifter to compete in world championships

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's superstar weightlifter Gor Minasyan came away with a superb medal double at the World Weightlifting Championships 2023, held in Riyadh.

Competing in the men's +109kg category, Minasyan clinched silver in the snatch and a bronze medal for his total lifts.

In the snatch, Minasyan posted a lift of 213kg, earning him second place. Lasha Talakhadze of Georgia claimed the gold medal with a 220kg snatch, while Varazdat Lalayan of Armenia took bronze at 212kg.

Minasyan then took his bronze medal for his overall total of 459kg. He had registered a clean and weight of 246kg, which put him in fifth in that



Minasyan shows off his medals as he celebrates with Bahrain officials

ranking, which added to his 213kg snatch for the third-best aggregate.

Talakhadze won gold for the total at 473kg, while Lalayan clinched the silver at 460kg.

On the occasion of Minasyan's achievements, Bahrain Weightlifting Association (BWA) chairman Ishaq Ibrahim Ishaq congratulated His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Ishaq also extended congratulations to His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al

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

Furthermore, Ishaq expressed his pride in the historic participation of Bahrain's Zainab Ali Abdulla as the Kingdom's first woman weightlifter to participate in the prestigious world championships, which are organised and run by the International Weightlifting Federation.

Zainab was amongst a field of more than 20 competitors in

the women's 76kg category. She placed 17th overall with a snatch of 81kg and a clean and jerk of 107kg, for a total of 188kg.

At the end of the worlds, Bahrain finished as the top GCC nation on the ranking of countries to win total medals.

The World Weightlifting Championships 2023 served as a mandatory event to qualify for the Paris Olympic Games 2024.



Minasyan competes at the world championships

## Kohli, Sharma rested as India tests bench for Australia ODIs

AFP | New Delhi

Indian selectors yesterday rested captain Rohit Sharma and batting superstar Virat Kohli from the 15-member squad for the first two ODIs against visitors Australia.

Veteran R Ashwin and Washington Sundar, both off-spinners and handy lower-order batters, have been included in the squad in a sign that they may be back in contention for the home World Cup in October.

India have



India's captain Rohit Sharma (L) talks with teammate Virat Kohli during a practice session

also rested left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav and all-rounder Axar Patel, who is recovering after an injury scare in the recently concluded Asia Cup tournament in Sri Lanka.

Both Patel and Yadav, who are part of the Indian squad for the World Cup, will return along with all other regulars for the third and final ODI against Australia.

Sharma told journalists that it was important to test their bench strength in the bilateral series starting this Friday before the all-important World Cup when they will have to travel extensively across India.

# Bahrain begin Asian Games campaign

Kingdom's senior men's volleyball team, under-23 Olympic football team get medal bids underway today in Hangzhou Asiad

● Spikers to face Nepal at 9.30am, Bahrain time, in opening Pool B encounter

● Football team to take on Thai opponents at 11am, Bahrain time, in Group E

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The Kingdom of Bahrain gets its medal bid underway at the 19th Asian Games today with the volleyball and football teams starting their respective competitions in Hangzhou, China.

Bahrain's senior men's volleyball squad take on their counterparts from Nepal at 9.30am, Bahrain time, at China Textile City Sports Centre Gymnasium; while the Kingdom's under-23 Olympic football team face off with Thailand starting at 11am, also Bahrain time, at Jinhua Sports Centre Stadium.

Volleyball and football are among the 17 sports Bahrain are taking part in at this year's Asiad. The others are athletics, handball, basketball, boxing, judo, weightlifting, wrestling, jiu-jitsu, rowing, shooting, cycling, table tennis, taekwondo, sailing, and e-sports.

Both volleyball and football are among the sports that begin before the Asian Games' official opening ceremony, which is scheduled for Saturday. The



Bahrain's national volleyball team with officials upon their arrival in Hangzhou

rowing team start their medal quest tomorrow, the sailing squad on Thursday, and the table tennis team on Friday.

In men's volleyball, Bahrain are competing in Pool B of the preliminary round with a 12-player squad, coached by Ruben Adrian Wolochin from Argentina. The team is spearheaded by the Kingdom's top volleyball stars, including Mohammed Yaqoob, skipper Nasser Anan, Ali Ebrahim, Ayman Haroona and Mahmood Al Afia.

The Bahrainis also feature senior men's team mainstays Abbas Sultan, Ali Habib, Abbas Al Khabbaz and Hussain Mahdi; along with two of the national game's rising stars in Hussain Ehsan and Sayed Hashem Issa.

"We enter our game with Nepal with high morale and with great ambitions to go far in this competition," said Anan. "We

want to raise the Bahrain flag high at the Asian Games, which requires us to focus on each match and give our best effort.

"The first match is always important in any competition. The Nepalese team will not be an easy opponent, and we need to play a great game to come out with a victory, which would give us an advantage to qualify for the next round."

Following their opener against Nepal today, the nationals return to the court on Thursday to face Iran, also at 9.30am.

There are six groups in the preliminaries for men's volleyball. Pool A includes China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan; Pool C features South Korea, India and Cambodia; Pool D consists of Chinese-Taipei, Pakistan and Mongolia; Pool E includes Qatar, Thailand and Hong Kong; and Pool F features Japan, Indonesia,

the Philippines and Afghanistan.

The top two teams from each of the six pools move on to the Round of 12, where a unique format will be followed. There, the victors of the match between the Pool A winners and Pool F runners-up, as well as the victors of the game between the Pool B winners and Pool E runners-up, get a bye in the quarter-finals and go directly to the semis.

The other winners in the Round of 12 will compete in the quarters for the remaining two berths in the last four.

### Importance

In men's football, Bahrain's under-23 Olympic team assistant coach Ali Sanqoor stressed the importance of their contest today against Thailand, which would provide a boost for the rest of their campaign.

"We have a group of distin-

"We enter our game with Nepal with high morale and with great ambitions to go far in this competition. We want to raise the Bahrain flag high at the Asian Games, which requires us to focus on each match and give our best effort

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guished youngsters, and our roster has been reinforced with a pair of experienced players; we have great confidence in them to appear strong as we begin our Asian Games journey," Sanqoor added.

"We are aware of the potential and technical abilities of the Thai team and their players, and we hope to succeed in achieving a positive result and earning points in our match against them."

Bahrain are in Group E for the first stage of the tournament. They have a 22-player squad, coached by Dario Basic from Croatia. They include youngsters Khalil Ebrahim Ahmed, Hasan Isa Juma, Ali Mohamed Redha, Ahmed Abdulhameed Hasan, Hussain Ali Aleker, Hassan Abdalnabi Ali, Sayed Jawad Alawi, Hani Taha Alharobi, Mahmood Mohamed Ali, Hussain Abdulkarim, Hussain Jaafar Haroona, Abdulla Nemer Almesaeed, Ahmed Dheyaa Ali, Abdulla Ali Alahmed, Abdulla



Ali Alsubaiei, Mubarak Mohammed, Abdulla Al Khalasi, Salman Abdulla Qadhaib, Mohammed Abdulkayoom and Salman Adel Al Isa. Their two veterans over the age of 23, as permitted by Asiad rules, are Sayed Mohammed Adnan and Ali Adnan Dhaif.

Joining Bahrain and Thailand in Group E are South Korea and Kuwait. The Bahrainis face their Kuwaiti counterparts on Thursday at 11am, then wrap up the preliminary phase against the South Koreans on Sunday.

There are 23 nations competing in men's football, divided into six groups. Group A features hosts China, Bangladesh, Myanmar and India; Group B comprises Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Mongolia; Group C includes Uzbekistan, Syria, Hong Kong and Afghanistan; Group D consists of Japan, Palestine and Qatar; and Group F features North Korea, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan and Chinese-Taipei.

At the end of a single round-robin, the top two teams from each group along with four best third-placers advance to the round of 16.