

Abdulqader wins first event of showjumping season

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Mahmood Abdulqader won the grand prize in the first round of Bahrain's 2023 showjumping season, held at the Military Federation Arena in Riffa.

The primary event of the meeting featured fierce competition, with Abdulqader clocking 35.40 seconds to emerge as the victor comfortably.

Mayoof Al Rumaihi of the Ministry of Interior, who battled it out with Abdulqader for first place, finished second after finishing one second behind. Hamad Fakhrawi came third. The class included 125cm/135cm hurdles.

Shaikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Vice Head of the Show-



Winners from the round with their trophies

jumping Committee at Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF) crowned Abdulqader after the event.

Commenting on this, Shaikh Abdul-

lah praised the strong displays showcased by the participants in the main contest, valuing the support of HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of BREEF, to showjumping.

The first round consisted of various other competitions.

Fadel Al Haddad won the third contest which was for first-level amateurs. The event included 100cm/105cm hurdles and Al Haddad posted a time of 36.15s to win the event flawlessly.

Mayoof Al Rumaihi was second again after completing his round in 38.53s, while third place went to Hassan Al Boosta who crossed the finish in 39.98s.

Al Rumaihi also jumped to victory in the fourth competition after clocking 51.20s, while veteran showjumper Sami Ghazwan was the winner of the fifth event, posting a time of 43.58s.

The fourth competition featured 105cm/115cm hurdles, while the fifth included 115cm/125cm hurdles.



A contestant in action during the round

Bahrain drawn in tough group for beach soccer Asian Cup



Bahrain's beach soccer team in their previous tournament (file photo)

● Bahrainis set to play Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and hosts Thailand in preliminary stage

● Tournament set to take place in Pattaya, Thailand from 16 to 26 March with 16 teams

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Bahrain's national beach soccer team have been drawn in a tough group for the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup 2023.

The sport's leading continental event is scheduled to take place in Pattaya, Thailand from 16 to 26 March.

The draw was held virtually from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) House in Kuala Lumpur. The nationals were represented by Bahrain Football Association officials Mohammed Al Ajmi and Bader Shamsan.

A total of 16 nations from across Asia are taking part. They have been divided into

four groups of four teams apiece. Aside from regional glory, the top three teams will qualify for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup UAE 2023.

Bahrain have been drawn in Group A alongside hosts Thailand, Afghanistan and fellow-Gulf side Saudi Arabia.

The nationals are scheduled to open their campaign on the tournament's first day against the Afghans. They will then take on their Saudi counterparts on 18 March, after which they play the Thais on 20 March.

The top two teams from each of the four pools move on to the quarter-finals.

This year's competition marks the 10th edition of the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup. Bahrain were the tournament's first-ever champions in 2006, but have not won again since. They were the silver-medallists in the 2009 event.

The nationals have appeared in all but one of the previous championships. After Japan won the last time the cup was held in 2019, the 2021 edition was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Groups

Group A: Thailand, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia

Group B: UAE, IR Iran, Malaysia, Uzbekistan

Group C: Japan, Lebanon, China PR, Indonesia

Group D: Oman, Palestine, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic

Bahrain bow to Egypt in handball worlds

Kingdom's senior men's national handball team put up spirited fight against African giants in penultimate main round fixture of 28th IHF Men's Handball World Championship

● Ali Mirza finishes as Bahrain's leading scorer in game with six goals

● Bahrainis return to playing court tomorrow to face Croatia at 8pm

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Bahrain went down fighting 22-26 to Egypt last night at the 28th International Handball Federation (IHF) Men's Handball World Championship, currently being co-hosted by Poland and Sweden.

The game was played at Malmö Arena in the Swedish city of Malmö. It was the Bahrainis' penultimate fixture in Group IV of the tournament's main round.

The nationals were handed their second loss on the standings to go with two wins, but they have virtually been eliminated from contention for the quarter-finals. Their fate also depends on the scores from the



Bahrain's Mohammed Habib Mohammed tries to battle past Egypt's Hassan Kaddah during last night's clash



Bahrain skipper Hussain Al Sayyad looks to evade his defenders as he goes for goal against Egypt last night

other divisional fixtures last night.

Egypt claimed their fourth win and remained in first place on the Group IV table.

The Bahrainis were the heavy underdogs heading into their clash with the African giants, but put in a spirited fight late in the contest as they battled until the final buzzer.

Bahrain did well to stand toe-to-toe with their rivals for the game's opening minutes and even took an 8-7 lead with a Qassim Qambar penalty shot. But the Egyptians replied with four unanswered goals and the nationals made only one more conversion before the interval to head into the locker rooms down 9-13.

In the second half, Egypt were the aggressors and went ahead by as many as seven, including after a Mohammad Sanad effort that made it 23-16 with less than 10 minutes to play.

But Bahrain had one last push left in them and went on a furious 5-1 rally with goals from Ali Mirza, Mohammed Mirza, three straight from skipper Hussain Al Sayyad, and then another

Group IV standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Egypt	4	4	0	0	37	8
Denmark	3	2	1	0	30	5
Bahrain	4	2	0	2	-8	4
Croatia	3	1	1	1	9	3
Belgium	3	0	0	3	-22	0
US	3	0	0	3	-42	0

(table not including last night's results of Croatia vs Belgium and US vs Denmark)



Bahrain fell behind by as many as seven goals in the second half against Egypt, but fought back in the closing minutes and got to within three, although no closer

from Mohammed Mirza to get to within 21-24 with over four minutes still remaining.

The Egyptians, however, were able to maintain their poise and a penalty shot from Sanad pegged the final score and to seal their four-goal winning margin.

Ali Mirza finished as the team's leading scorer with six goals, while Ali Sayyad and Mohammed Habib Mohammed finished with four goals apiece.

Qambar contributed three goals in the loss while Ali Eid scored two. Mohammed Mirza, Hassan Mirza and Mujtaba Alzaimoor rounded off Bahrain's scorers with a goal apiece.

Egypt's Yehia Elderaa paced their team with five goals, while Sanad, Akram Saad and Ali Mohamed all finished with four. Goalkeeper Karim Henawy made 16 saves against the Bahrainis, which earned him the Player of the Match award.

Bahrain return to the playing court tomorrow for their final main round contest. They will be taking on Croatia in a game scheduled for an 8pm start, Bahrain time.

The nationals are hoping to finish in the top two of Group IV to advance to the round of eight, but their chances have reduced following their loss yesterday.