



Bahrain delegation head to the 19th Asian Games and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa visited the Kingdom's sports heroes at the Athletes' Village in Hangzhou yesterday. He was accompanied by BOC secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, Bahrain Handball Association President Ali Issa, the national delegation's Chef de Mission Ahmed Abdulghaffar, and other officials. Above, HH Shaikh Isa and other officials with the Bahrain athletes during his visit

# Gerbekov nearly medals in judo

Bahraini judoka bows to Japanese opponent in bronze medal contest at Hangzhou Asiad

● **Biaslan Hajali loses round of 16 contest in men's judo under-73kg class**

● **Azat Makhmetov bows out in round of 32 bout of men's boxing 46-51kg**

● **Moaz Ebrahim Ahmed defeated in round of 32 men's taekwondo under-58kg**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain narrowly missed out on securing its first medal at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, yesterday.

Judoka Askerbii Gerbekov came up just short in his men's under-81kg bronze medal B contest against Yuhei Oino of

Japan. Gerbekov lost by ippon, the highest score a fighter can achieve in the martial art, to place fifth overall while preventing him from making an appearance on the podium.

Somon Makhmadbekov of Tajikistan took the category's gold medal, while Joonhwan Lee of South Korea was the silver-medallist and both Abylaikhan Zhubanazar of Kazakhstan and Oino the two bronze-medallists.

Earlier in the competition, Gerbekov had a bye in the round of 32 before winning by ippon against Mehdi Fathipoorardal of Iran in the round of 16, to set up a quarter-final showdown with Zhubanazar. The Bahraini lost that contest but had another chance to medal in the repechage.

There, he first beat Asad Masabirov of Kyrgyzstan by waza-ari, the second-highest score awarded in judo, to advance to his bronze medal B tie with Oino.

Meanwhile, in the men's under-73kg category, Bahrain's Biaslan Hajali lost his

round of 16 contest to Murodjon Yuldoshev of Uzbekistan by ippon.

The judo competitions in Hangzhou continue today, and three Bahrainis are set to take to the mat.

Sulim Maraev will be going up against Davlat Bobonov of Uzbekistan in the men's under-90kg round of 16, Zelimkhan Yakub will be facing Nurlykhan Sharkhan of Kazakhstan in the men's under-100kg round of 16, and Azamat Chotchaev will be taking on China's Ruixuan Li in the men's over-100kg round of 16.

Should any of the Bahraini judokas advance, their ensuing elimination rounds will also take place today.

In other combat sports yesterday at the Hangzhou Asiad, Bahrain's Azat Makhmetov lost his round of 32 bout in men's boxing, and Moaz Ebrahim Ahmed also suffered defeat in the same stage



**Bahraini Olympian Danis Latypov will be getting into the boxing ring today for his men's over-92kg round of 16 bout against Mohammad Mlaibes of Syria**



Azat Makhmetov looks to land a blow against Chonryong So



Askerbii Gerbekov in action during his contest with Mehdi Fathipoorardal

## Janahi powers into top three twice in sailing

● **Veteran Bahraini sailor ranks third, second in men's dinghy races eight, nine**

● **Bahrain's shooters have solid performance in men's 10m air rifle competitions**

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Bahrain's Abdulla Janahi had a pair of impressive results yesterday in his men's dinghy competition at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

The veteran sailor was classified third and second, respectively, in races eight and nine in his fleet, propelling him to eighth place on the overall rankings, with his concluding races to go.

Janahi led the fleet's eighth event briefly yesterday before finishing behind only Nicholas Bezy of Hong Kong and Jun Han Ryan Lo of Singapore. He then fought back from mid-fleet in race nine to contend for the win with Jeemin Ha of South Korea, finishing marginally behind as the runner-up.

Janahi's results yesterday at Ningbo Xiangshan Sailing Centre allowed him to climb to eighth in his fleet with 53 net points with the 10th and 11th races remaining today, plus the medal round tomorrow.

Lo is the fleet leader with 19 net points, followed by Ha on 26.

Also on the water yesterday, Bahrain's Khalifa Al Doseri finished eighth in the boys' dinghy ninth race but did not start race 10. He remained ninth overall in his fleet with 80 net points. Weka Bhanubandh of Thailand leads with 11 net, with one more race to sail in the competition today.

### Shooters

Elsewhere yesterday at the Hangzhou Asiad, Bahrainis Mahmood Haji, Khalid Al Doseri and Husain Abduljabbar Ali were in action in shooting.

In the men's 10m air rifle qualification round, Haji finished 33rd from 54 competitors with a score of 622.4, while Al Doseri was 39th on a 620.5 score. Ali ranked 45th with a score of 616.7. All three national team members did not advance to the final.

In the men's teams' 10m air rifle competition, the Bahraini trio were 11th overall with a total score of 1,859.6. They were the top-ranked Arab side, finishing ahead of Saudi Arabia in 12th and Kuwait in 14th.

Meanwhile, in table tennis, Bahrain's pairs of Alyas Alyassi and Amruta Phadke, along with Rashed Rashed and Maryam Alaali, were given byes yesterday in the round of 64, and will today compete in the round of 32.

Alyassi and Amruta will play Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha of China, while Rashed and Maryam will face Ho Kwan Kit and Lee Ho Ching of Hong Kong.

## Bahrainis rank 12th in Asiad men's volleyball

● **Kingdom's spikers bow to Chinese-Taipei 1-3 in final classification contest**

● **Bahrain begin men's basketball medal bid today against the Philippines**

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Bahrain's senior men's national volleyball team signed off from the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China yesterday with a 1-3 (20-25, 18-25, 25-22, 19-25) loss to Chinese-Taipei.

The result placed the Bahrainis 12th overall on the final classification of the 19-nation men's volleyball competition.

Mohammed Yaqoob was Bahrain's top scorer in the game with 18 points, including three blocks, while Sayed Hashem Issa added 14 markers. Hussain Ehsan chipped in with seven, while Mohammed Jassim



Bahrain's Mohammed Jassim hits a smash against Chinese-Taipei

had six and Hussain Mahdi four.

For Chinese-Taipei, Yu-Sheng Chang paced his side with 20 points, while Hsiang-Ming Tseng added 18.

It was a tough result for the Bahrainis, who began their campaign in Hangzhou with a Pool B win over Nepal, but then fell in three straight games to Iran, Qatar, South Korea and lastly Chinese Taipei.

The nationals were coached by Ruben Adrian Wolochin from Argentina.

They had a 12-player squad at the Asian Games, including Yaqoob, Issa, Ehsan, Jassim, Mahdi, Naser Anan, Ali Ebrahim, Ayman Haroona, Mahmood Alafyah, Abbas Sultan, Ali Habib and Abbas Al Khabbaz.

### Basketball

Meanwhile, Bahrain tip off their medal bid today in the men's basketball tournament at the Hangzhou Asiad.

The nationals take on the Philippines in their opening Group C fixture of the pre-

liminary round. The contest is scheduled for an 8.30am start, Bahrain time.

The Bahrainis are coached by Spaniard Ricard Casas. The team includes Maitham Jameel, Mustafa Hussain, Ali Hussain, Ali Jaber, Ali Shukrallah, Wayne Chism, Alwethaq Ali, Muzamil Ameer, Sayed Mohammed Hameed, Ali Aqeel, Mohammed Buallay and Mohammed Ameer.

Bahrain and the Philippines are in Group C along with Jordan and Thailand. Following the nationals' opener today, they take on Jordan on Thursday at 6am, Bahrain time; and then complete group play against Thailand on Saturday at 12.30pm, Bahrain time.

There are 16 nations in all competing in men's basketball at Hangzhou. After a single round-robin, the top teams in each group will qualify directly for the quarter-finals on 4 October. Meanwhile, the second and third-ranked sides will play each other in a play-off round on 2 October for the right to determine the four other quarter-finalists.