Al-Haydos calls for calm ahead of ‘most important match’

Qatar’s head coach, the former Japan player, has urged his team to make footballing history on Tuesday night.

The Samurai Blue may have the home crowd on their side, but the tournament has been set up in such a way that anything can happen. "What will make the difference is the physical and mental quality of our players," he said. "Japan may be excited, but remaining calm is crucial. Everyone must keep their cool." Japan had previously progressed beyond the quarter-finals. They have confidence in their own abilities, but this will make no difference to the Qatar players. "The Qatari captain is a player with a good sense of tactical awareness," Al-Haydos said. "His calm is crucial. Everyone must keep their cool." Japan’s fans have been unable to travel across the Gulf to support their team, so the entire burden of support will fall on the shoulders of a nation that has never tasted AFC Champions League glory in all 130 games for the country’s senior team.

Al-Haydos is full of respect for his side’s opponents. "Japan may have had some luck on the day," he said, "but they will do everything to create chances. We will be excited, but remaining calm is crucial. Everyone must keep their cool." Al-Haydos is a former Japanese player and has a long history of playing in AFC Asian Cup finals. However, hopefully we can put in a performance that will make clear to us what we are already behind in the tournament. As much as Osako and fellow forwards have been coached by Sanchez up until this point, the team because of the current suspension of Bassam al-Rawri. The pair held firm in the face of a barrage of missiles from the irate UAE fans in the tournament. "We are here as we already knew we came here with the hope that come here with the hope that we can challenge everyone in Asia, and it is not a surprise to me that we have reached the final," said the former Japan player. "We came here with the hope that we can challenge everyone in Asia, and it is not a surprise to me that we have reached the final," said the former Japan player. "We have had six games and six good performances. One of the key things for us is that there is a good sense of tactical awareness," he said.

Qatar’s allocations in the tournament have been set up in such a way that anything can happen. "This is definitely the most important game in Qatar’s football history," said the former Japan player. "It’s a memory that will last forever. As much as our fans have been unable to travel across the Gulf to support our team, we will be excited, but remaining calm is crucial. Everyone must keep their cool."

While Qatar’s allocation in the tournament has been set up in such a way that anything can happen, the Qatari defence and midfield showed how they had learned from the experience of playing in the tournament. "The Qatari defence and midfield showed how they had learned from the experience of playing in the tournament," said the former Japan player. "This is definitely the most important game in Qatar’s football history. It’s a memory that will last forever. As much as our fans have been unable to travel across the Gulf to support our team, we will be excited, but remaining calm is crucial. Everyone must keep their cool."
Qatar can be champions, says legendary coach Milutinovic

By Robert Cottrell

With an impressive run at Asian Cup, the 2022 hosts have shown they need to be taken seriously

Qatar’s transformation from a Gulf Cup Final loser and has been known to the making – and thus has finally Qatar’s extreme or against their process this. The World Cup. The Qatar have proven themselves as a national scourge and promptly finalised. The United Arab Emirates host another tournament, a Group B away from the opponent. It is a far cry from 2015, when the new-look South Korean team and left with us at the group stage. The Qatari players are 22, 23. This is all today’s clash with the opponents. The Qatar players seem wary during a press conference at AFC Asian Cup Final against Japan in Abu Dhabi post-match (AFP)

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Klopp takes Liverpool's title setback in his stride

Preacher-turned-Leicester City striker Jamie Vardy scored a hat-trick as Manchester United were thrashed 4-0 at Old Trafford in the Premier League on Saturday, January 26th. Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp will be hoping for a repeat of his side's impressive 3-0 win over United in the reverse fixture earlier this season. The Reds are currently top of the Premier League table, three points clear of Arsenal with three games in hand.

The Redmen's victory over United was a historic one, as it was their fastest league goal in nearly three years, coming just 24 seconds into the match when Sadio Mane scored from close range. Mane's goal was followed by another from Trent Alexander-Arnold, who headed home from a deep cross from Andrew Robertson. The third goal came just before the half-hour mark when Roberto Firmino headed in from a corner kick taken by Robertson.

But the Reds were forced to defend hard in the second half as United pushed for an equalizer. However, Liverpool held firm and maintained their lead to secure the three points. The result means that Liverpool are now 16 points clear of second-placed Manchester City, who have a game in hand. The Reds will now face Chelsea in the FA Cup on Wednesday, January 30th.

FOCUS

Zaha faces extended ban as FA probe red card

Crystal Palace striker Zaha has been banned for three matches by the Football Association after being sent off against West Ham United on Saturday. The FA have launched an investigation into the incident, which saw Zaha receive a straight red card for a foul on West Ham'sDeclan Rice.

Arsenal sign Barcelona's Denis Suarez on loan

Arsenal manager Unai Emery has signed a new contract that will keep him at the club until 2021. Emery, who took over in November 2017, had previously expressed interest in managing in Europe and has been linked with a move to Arsenal. The Gunners have struggled in recent seasons, finishing 15th in the Premier League last season and 12th in the 2018-19 campaign.

Martial signs new long-term United contract

Anthony Martial has signed a new contract that will keep him at Manchester United until 2022. The 23-year-old forward has scored eight goals in 19 Premier League appearances for the Red Devils this season. Martial's new deal includes the option to extend it for a further year.

Barca's Umtiti remains training after knee injury

Sergi Roberto says that Barcelona's Samuel Umtiti remains training despite suffering a knee injury. The defender was substituted off in the 40th minute after a collision with Manchester United's Anthony Martial. Despite this, Umtiti has continued to train with the first team and is expected to return to action soon.

Cristiano Ronaldo returns to Juventus

Cristiano Ronaldo has returned to Juventus from a five-month suspension following an internal investigation into his tax affairs. The forward was banned for five months after failing to meet his tax obligations in Italy. Ronaldo will now return to the side that he helped win the Serie A title last season.

FOOTBALL

PREMIER LEAGUE

Draw against Leicester saw Liverpool extend their lead at the top of the table to five points

Premier League title rivals Manchester City and Liverpool will clash for the first time this season at Anfield on Tuesday, January 22nd. The Reds are currently top of the table, three points clear of City with two games in hand. The match will be a crucial one in the title race, with both sides hoping to secure a win to take command of the league table.
Sevilla thrashing shows Barca want to win three titles, says Messi

Sevilla had won the first leg 2-0 but their lead was wiped out within 31 minutes at the Camp Nou

FOOTBALL

| SEVILLE CONTESTS | SHANNON STAPLETON | AFP

Lionel Messi believes Barcelona will always target winning three titles after seeing his side crash out of the Copa del Rey with a 2-0 defeat to Sevilla in the quarter-finals on Thursday night.

Messi, who scored his 17th goal in 10 matches, believes his side are still in a position to secure three titles and will continue to target victory in La Liga and the Champions League.

Sevilla stunned Barca with an impressive 2-0 win at the Camp Nou, which was the first time the Catalans have been knocked out of the Copa del Rey since 2010.

‘I said from the start that we wanted to win three titles, which is always the target of Barca every year,’ Messi said.

‘In the end, Barca are the team that always has to be top. Now let’s put this out of our minds.’

Sevilla showed their appetite for the three titles when they defeated Barca 2-0 in the last 16 of the Copa del Rey earlier this month.

But this time the Catalans were no match for Sevilla, who took full advantage of their semi-final berth.

Messi was left frustrated as his side were unable to turn a two-goal lead into three.

‘I thought the chances were there, but it was too late to do anything,’ he added.

‘Sevilla were the better side and they showed it tonight.’

Sevilla’s win was their first in the competition, after being knocked out by Barcelona in the semi-finals last season.

‘I think we played a good game,’ said Sevilla’s head coach, Julen Lopetegui. ‘We were the better team and we deserve to win.’

‘We showed our desire to win titles and we are happy with this win.’

Sevilla will now face Atletico Madrid in the semi-finals, with the draw being held on Friday.

‘We are looking forward to the semi-final against Atletico,’ Lopetegui added.

‘We are a team that always believes in winning titles and we will fight for them.’
Towns lifts Wolves to overtime victory; Celtics rout Hornets

NBA

I am glad that when my team needed me the most, I made the shot.

Kaepernick deserves to be in NFL, says Boldin

Opinion

Because Boldin, one of Kaepernick’s favorite targets when they played together for the 49ers, said he didn’t think the 31-year-old would play in the NFL again.

“On paper, yes, he’s two years younger than me, but in every other aspect of his life, he’s older than me.”

While player protests against the anthem have subsided in recent years, the issue is set to come up Wednesday when Commission Roger Goodell said Kaepernick was not the victim of a “coordinated effort” to keep him out of the league by owners.

“On the one hand, it’s a tragedy that they made it more difficult for him to play than for others,” he told reporters.

But Boldin, who added that many owners “in good conscience” are not on the same page as Kaepernick, said he was looking forward to a meeting Friday when the Super Bowl-winning quarterback is set to meet with NFL owners.

The Super Bowl will be held on Sunday in Atlanta.

Devils, Wild swap deep of defense

The New Jersey Devils expanded their defense corps Thursday by acquiring Michael Merk from the Minnesota Wild in exchange for Ben Hutton, both defensemen.

Merk, 25, has 40 points in 99 career NHL games but has spent the past two seasons with the Colorado Avalanche after being dealt to the Avalanche in exchange for Hutton last season.

Hutton, 23, has had limited playing time with the Devils, appearing in 30 games this season.

Benn and Bishop help Stars edge Sabres

NHL

Benn scored a go-ahead goal in the third period and Bishop stopped 16 shots to help the Dallas Stars defeat the Buffalo Sabres 2-1.

Benn had an assist in the second period as the Stars (32-21-7) continued their stretch of three straight road games.

The Sabres (23-31-8) have lost three straight and four of their past five.

PENGUINS GOALIE THOMAS

John Tortorella praised the performance of Matt Murray in his return to the crease after missing 10 games with a lower body injury.

The Penguins won their seventh straight game, but they need to improve their overall performance to sustain their playoff hopes.

The Sabres have struggled to score in recent games, but they have shown flashes of offense when they get opportunities.

The Penguins will look to continue their win streak as they face another tough opponent in the next few games.

The Sabres will aim to get their season back on track with a promising performance against the Penguins.
“No one thinks we can win”, says England boss Jones ahead of Ireland clash

With Edinburgh resurgent under coach Gregor Townsend and a promising young forward pack, the Scotland spring is in full flower and a 600-strong crowd will be cheering on the home team when they take on Italy in Rome tomorrow, with Townsend indicating that the next two games will be part of his long-term plan. Townsend will again provide an opportunity for new-look, uncapped and emerging talent to come through, with the experienced Greig Laidlaw and Stuart McInally announcing their presence in midfield, while flanker Willem Nel, centre Huw Jones, flanker Blair Kinghorn and prop WP Nel have all received their first caps. Townsend will also hand a Test debut to Sam Johnson, who has been called up alongside Huw Jones in midfield.

Townsend will provide a much-needed injection of youth and energy into his side, with many of his players still feeling their way into international rugby. Townsend will hand a Test debut to Sam Johnson, who has been called up alongside Huw Jones in midfield.

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No room for complacency: Australia skipper

CRICKET

Boult blitz gives Kiwis comfortable victory over India

‘One of our worst performances with the bat in a long, long time’

New Zealand’s Trent Boult (left) and James Neesham celebrated after taking the wicket of India’s Shahan Zaidi during the fourth day of their one-day international against South Africa at Eden Park yesterday. (AFP)

SECOND TEST

England make sticky start in Antigua

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FOURTH ODI

Fourth Test

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AL GHAZALI's victory in Qatar's Super Cup yesterday was not their usual selves.

**SPORT**

**Weiss strike helps Gharafa beat Duhail and retain QSL Cup**

Ali Duhail, for whom Moroccan Medhi Benatia made his debut after he joining from Juventus, were not their usual selves.

By Sports Reporter

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Coe expects ‘full house’ atV beat Duhail and retain QSL Cup

*AFP*

Coe words that he has been planning to speak at the Sport Business Forum in early 2019. It is not clear why.

Coe added: “I’m not going to announce a full house at our world championships until the September-October fixture. We have spoken to all those federations, and I think it’s very important that we actually act upon that. Our sport is going to globalise, and we must keep on those conversations that have been going on for years. We are developing new markets. “We’re talking about the possibility of Al Gharafa making a move to Doha or at next year’s Tokyo Olympics. “We have open dialogues with all those federations, and we are very happy to win today. It’s not just about innovation, it’s about creating an exciting experience, or, more fundamentally, a feeling of being part of our sport. That’s the fun bit, so clearly I would like to be part of it.”

The German (left) and the Hungarian Davis Cup players pose after the draw for the first round of the 2020 Davis Cup finals.

Weiss strike helps Gharafa beat Duhail and retain QSL Cup

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**FOCUS**

**La Liga to sponsor new Davis Cup finals**

Spain’s football top flight LaLiga will sponsor the Davis Cup finals next year, the government’s sports agency, the RFEF, said on Tuesday.

By Sports Reporter

LaLiga has traditionally been structured around the September-October fixture. It is not clear why.

By Sports Reporter

LaLiga, which has been in the news for its plans to launch a league in the Middle East and Africa has confirmed that Qatar Airways will take over from LGD as the tournament’s new title sponsor. The deal will run through the 2022 Qatar World Cup.

**ATHLETICS**

**Coe expects ‘full house’ at IAAF world Championships**

Sebastian Coe said he expects “full house” at Doha’s world championships in September-October.

He added: “I’m not going to announce a full house at our world championships until the September-October fixture. We have spoken to all those federations, and I think it’s very important that we actually act upon that. Our sport is going to globalise, and we must keep on those conversations that have been going on for years. We are developing new markets. “We’re talking about the possibility of Al Gharafa making a move to Doha or at next year’s Tokyo Olympics. “We have open dialogues with all those federations, and we are very happy to win today. It’s not just about innovation, it’s about creating an exciting experience, or, more fundamentally, a feeling of being part of our sport. That’s the fun bit, so clearly I would like to be part of it.”

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**TENNIS ROUND-UP**

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