Asian win just one step in team’s development: coach

While the Ali-Afif combination is always a threat, it was the compact defence that laid the foundation for the title win just one step in of a decade in July, 2017.

More than 350mn fans watch Asian Cup on beIN

Qatar set to overtake Saudi, UAE in FIFA rankings after continental victory

Asian Cup champions Qatar are set to twist Gulf rivals in FIFA world rankings.

While the Ali-Afif combination is always a threat, it was the compact defence that laid the foundation for the title win just one step in of a decade in July, 2017.

The longevity of the Ali-Afif combination is always a threat, it was the compact defence that laid the foundation for the title win just one step in of a decade in July, 2017.

By Sports Reporter

Qatar are set to rise 38 places to 55th in the world from 93rd on the back of their AFC Asian Cup triumph, with the team’s strong performance at the continental tournament earning them a significant boost in the world rankings.

The QFA has lined up appearances in the World Cup qualifiers, for the first time after seven years, and the team’s performance at the Asian Cup has added to its overall FIFA ranking points, which is adapted from the Elo rating system first used on 16 August 2018, to a new level.

Almoez Ali, who appeared for Qatar in the 2015 Asian Cup and scored a goal in their Round of 16 win against Uzbekistan, was one of the main contributors to Qatar’s success in the tournament, scoring five goals in their six matches to lead the top scorers chart.

Qatar finished the tournament as the highest-placed side in Asia, ranking second in the Asian confederation, with Saudi Arabia in third place.

The team’s strong performance also earned them the highest FIFA rankings in the Gulf region, with Saudi Arabia in fourth place, followed by the United Arab Emirates in fifth.

The QFA’s efforts to develop the national team and improve its performance have paid off, with the team’s strong showing at the Asian Cup earning them a significant boost in the world rankings.

While the Ali-Afif combination is always a threat, it was the compact defence that laid the foundation for the title win just one step in of a decade in July, 2017.
**QFA hosts reception for Asian Cup winners**

By Sports Reporter

Qatar Football Federation president Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani hosted a reception and luncheon yesterday in honour of the Asian Cup-winning team. The president said the event was to show appreciation to Qatar Football Federation officials, players and support staff at the reception and luncheon that followed the 2019 FIFA World Cup in Japan.

The QFA president and the development of youth football in Qatar is patting the way to get quality players for the national side. “I am confident we will do well at the 2019 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Poland this year,” the QFA President noted. “We now will look at our team competition while the AFC Asian Cup in June. That tournament will also help us prepare the team to get the right kind of exposure for the World Cup.”

Qatar football team captain Ihsan al-Suwaidi was also there and he said they are really happy with what has happened. “We have brought it to everyone. I would like to stress that this achievement was possible because of the support from QFA. We hope our Asian Cup triumphs will serve as an example for our young generations to pave the way to get quality players for the national side.”

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**ESG, Kashiwa play out draw, Aspire lose**

By Sports Reporter

Barcelona and Cameroon legend Samuel Eto'o performed the ceremonial kick off at the opening match of the under-17 Alkass International Cup yesterday. Raja Casablanca and Raja Casablanca edged out hosts Aspire Academy yesterday.

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**Man City back in title hunt, says Guardiola**

Manchester City manager Jose Mourinho has lifted the Old Trafford lid of his Premier League title rivals Manchester United, saying his side are “way out” of the title race. The 28-year-old said: “A lot can happen. “How we’re two points and that’s why we don’t have to look too much at the table. I couldn’t deny we would prefer West Ham to beat Liverpool, but Liverpool were out of the race for the title.”

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**PREMIER LEAGUE**

Man City back in title hunt...

Manchester City are no longer in the title hunt, says Guardiola. Manchester United has restored the Premier League table and is yet to lose as Red Devils boss.

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**ALKASS INTERNATIONAL CUP**

Premier League

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**FOOTBALL**

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Dembele stars as Lyon end PSG's unbeaten run

Reigning champions remain 10 points clear of second-placed Lille

Ligue 1

Ben Zhang on target again as Real Close gap at the top

Real Madrid regain title chase as Dembele shines for Lyon

Lyon 1-0 PSG

Lyon striker Moussa Dembele (left) celebrates scoring the only goal of the game against Paris St-Germain. Lyon are top of the table after the win. (AFP)

Bayern face tough Hertha Berlin test in German cup

Bayern Munich vs Hertha Berlin

Bundesliga

Bundesliga title race heat up as Borussia Dortmund meet Hertha Berlin

Borussia Dortmund 4-1 Hertha Berlin

Herthas coach Egon Farnerud says his side will take their chance against "the favourite". (AFP)

Santander’s second-half penalty sends Inter packing

Sassuolo 2-1 Inter

Inter were eliminated from the Coppa Italia at the hands of Sassuolo. (AFP)

Ferrari’s driver Charles Leclerc punches the air after finishing second in the Austrian Grand Prix. (Reuters)

Formula 1

Austrian Grand Prix

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen celebrates winning in Austria. (AP Photo)

Formula 1
Golf

**Fowler banishes demons to capture first Phoenix Open**

*By Michael Kolster, Special to the Times*

It has been long time to get a win here. There have been plenty of good finishes, but too many second-place finishes.

This year, it finally has all come together for the former Masters winner as he won the Phoenix Open on Sunday.

Garcia was thrown out of the tournament after a poor 14th-hole tee shot hurled his driver into bushes following a poor shot. The Spaniard was accused of scuffing up six holes during the WGC-CA Championship.

"I saw only one hole when he was over there and I kicked in a metal panel of the bunkers," said Fowler. "I think he would not play in the next event."

Garcia's third-round playing partner, Renato Paratore of Italy, immediately behind didn't know what to do and thought there was a penalty stroke. He would eventually sink a bunker shot on No. 11.

Fowler, meanwhile, played his frustration by damaging the greens.

Playing in a driving rain, Fowler had to serve a penalty stroke on the 5th hole as he attacked a bunker following a poor shot. He chipped his third shot into the water after his penalty shot, but he rolled back into the water needing in another penalty stroke. It would eventually take a six-foot putt to a switched seven on the 5th hole.

"I knew I was in trouble," said Fowler. "But I was happy to get this one out of the way."

"I have known people who have come back to win when they were down to two strokes," said Fowler. "But this is different."

He was in his game zone, but he knew what to do and thought there was a penalty stroke. He would eventually sink a bunker shot on No. 11.

"I have been holding on for a long time to get a win here. There have been plenty of good finishes, but too many second-place finishes," said Fowler.

"It's the best I have felt in Phoenix, and it is something very unusual to happen. I was getting a little nervous, but I knew what to do when it was getting something. I didn't know what to do when it was getting something."

Fowler has a long history of "misconduct" in history of the European Tour to win his first Six Nations title, head coach Schmidt said the panic but there was a need to get a performance like that again. "We couldn't assume we could just flip it back to "roll our sleeves up, show some personality, stand up to the moment and they are there."

"We are going to be have to be a bit of the art of taking the Wallabies back to Grand Slam and fastesters that have spoken to me, " said Schmidt. "We have had some difficult experiences and it is nice to have the chance to take to the full team and develop coaches and junior teams."
Irving scores 30 as Celtics snap Thunder winning streak

'We have great continuity, great rhythm. Playing the best we can every single day.'

Irving scored 30 points and 12 rebounds from Congo-born Spaniard Kanon Diallo.

Boston Celtics guard Kyrie Irving (left) drives to the basket while Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook defends during the second-half of their NBA game at TD Garden.

NBA

Pujols expected to be ready for spring training

Los Angeles Angels are expecting Albert Pujols to be ready for the start of spring training, general manager Billy Eppler said Tuesday.

Albert Pujols is expected to be ready for spring training.

MLB

Florida Times

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Pujols, who turned 39 on Jan. 16, stands sixth in major league history with 433 career home runs. He also has 1,964 RBIs, 629 doubles and 3,114 hits.

The 30-time All-Star has three seasons remaining on a $265 million, 10-year contract that he signed with the Los Angeles Angels in 2012.

Pujols batted .246 with 25 homers and hit for a .277 last season at age 38, seventh overall in the majors.

When asked if there was any change in his hitting this spring, he declined to answer but did mention that he’s hitting with more authority this season.

Angels manager Mike Scioscia said he’s been told he’s hitting with more authority this season.

"I think he’s getting ready to be ready," Scioscia said Tuesday. "I think he’s getting ready to hit with authority, which is something we’ve been looking for."
T

on Brady wrote his name into the record books Sunday night, when he led the New England Patriots to their sixth Super Bowl victory. Brady outshone the Los Angeles Rams 13-3—the lowest scoring Super Bowl by far—in 1973. The attribution essentials were entirely fulﬁlled by the von’s social media.

“We’ve been far too long that last sack of really tough,” a jubilant Brady said.

“Just had a lot of resilience with the defense when it’s tough. We had to play a little better on offense to allow our defense to shine, especially with those long plays,” Brady said.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick meanwhile said his team had been determined to dispel any thoughts of a dynasty ending.

“We’ve been this far and lost before, and try to win ball games and help the team, and that’s what we did,” Brady said.

“It’s an incredible story. He played the game with an intensity that was hard to describe that was big,” Edelman said. “It’s pretty ﬂ attering comment to preach that, and I guess you have to do it. But that was as good as it gets.”

Edelman, 32, is a 14-year veteran who gained eight yards on one rushing attempt.

Edelman caught 10 passes for 141 yards and a 141-yard touchdown catch.

“I’m pretty numb right now, but deﬁ nitely, I get out of there,” McCourty said afterward.

McCourty had another interception, but the Patriots had to settle for a 45-yard ﬁ eld goal attempt near the end of the game.

The Rams were in no mood to waste the hard-fought opportunity. They had been determined to dispel any thoughts of a dynasty ending.

“We’ve been this far and lost before, and try to win ball games and help the team, and that’s what we did,” Brady said.

“That’s what we believe. I go back to the ﬁ rst year that I started, we didn’t have a lot of talent and we had to work our way back in, and that’s where we are now,” Brady said.

“Edelman’s 115 career postseason receptions rank second in NFL history. Pro Football Hall of Famer Jerry Rice holds the record with 151 catches.

“MVP Edelman hardest worker I’ve coached: Belichick

**LAST 10 MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MVP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Tom Brady (New England)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Tom Brady (New England)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Malcolm Smith (Seattle Seahawks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Tom Brady (New England)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Von Miller (Denver)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Tom Brady (New England)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Julian Edelman (New England)</td>
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The Rams looked to have it in the bag as the fourth quarter began, with quarterback Jared Goff losing a fumble that Edelman returned for a touchdown in the ﬁ rst half.

Rob Gronkowski for a 29-yard touchdown at the end of the ﬁ rst half.

The total of 16 points scored in the game was the lowest since the 1973 Super Bowl, which the Rams won 14-7 over Washington.

Brady, 41, became the ﬁ rst quarterback to win six Super Bowls, joining NFL Hall of Famers Terry Bradshaw and Tom Brady, who won his fourth Super Bowl ring in 2015.

Brady won the sixth Super Bowl title of his career, setting a record for the most Super Bowl wins by any player, surpassing Tom Brady, who won his fourth Super Bowl ring in 2015.

Brady, 41, became the ﬁ rst quarterback to win six Super Bowls, joining NFL Hall of Famers Terry Bradshaw and Tom Brady, who won his fourth Super Bowl ring in 2015.
Kovalev regains WBO title by winning rematch with Alvarez

Los Angeles

S ergey Kovalev made good on his reputation as the “Maddie” but on Sat urday in a rematch with Eleider Alvarez, the Russian champ regained his light-heavyweight title by using his hissing tactics.

Kovalev, 16-0-1 (10 KOs), stopped Alvarez, 15-1-1 (11 KOs), in the eleventh round of their 175-pound battle.

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**Sports**

Red Bull, Mercedes to launch 2019 F1 cars on same day

**Motor Sport**

Before Toro Rosso on February 11th, the fourth round of the Pearl Miami Sprint will take place at the Miami Grand Prix Circuit. The race will be held on March 17th.

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**Alpine Skiing**

Innsbruck

Kaspersky’s win for the third straight time

Lincoln Vonn of the US action during the downhill training at Are, Sweden, yesterday. (Reuters)

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**Boxing**

Kovalev regains WBO title by winning rematch with Alvarez

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Lincoln Vonn of the US action during the downhill training at Are, Sweden, yesterday. (Reuters)
Starc on fire as Australia romp to series victory

Australia's Tim Paine said winning the Test against Sri Lanka will be a huge boost for the team.

"One of the things we've been talking about certainly for a while is the importance of winning the two Tests against Sri Lanka, especially the one in Canberra," Paine said.

"We've got quite a bit of work to do with the ball and our batting in the domestic season. It's a great opportunity for us to try and get on top of those things before we go to England and start our Test series there.

"It's been a long time since we've won a Test series, and to do that in this country will be a big boost for the team and certainly for the country."