Qatar’s World Cup preparations will help against Algeria: Almoez

By Sports Reporter

forward Almoez: All believe Qatar’s experience of playing in continental tournaments will come in handy when they take on Africa’s top team in the World Cup on Wednesday.

The last four clash of the Al Duhail will be Qatar’s biggest test so far, having only played and won against Asian rivals in the tournament. The Asian champions, who are gunning for their fourth World Cup tally, have won four out of four matches so far – including a 1-0 knock-out of the United Arab Emirates in the quarter-final.

The Al Duhail star said Qatar’s win over the UAE has given them confidence. “It was a collective effort from the entire team. This win has given us a huge confidence and has made us eager to win the Arab Cup. The team showed a very strong performance with much energy and determination. It was a great honour to be a part of this historical win,” he added.

Qatar will face off against the Algeria and need four goals to go through to the final, which looks to be a daunting test for the Arab Cup winners.

Meanwhile, Qatar coach Mohammad Bougherra said that he was thrilled at the record crowd attendance of 60,000 at Stade 974 on Monday. “The crowd attendance at the Al Bayt Stadium was stunning and after putting such a massive support, every player was keen to give their best show. It was a very difficult match as both the teams showed great physical strength in the long battle. There were a lot of attempts during the match. We also created many opportunities and are only able to convert into goals twice but I am satisfied with the team’s hard effort to book both the semi-final,” he added.

Almoez knows, against Algeria, Qatar will start as dark horses but the Asian champions have experienced many continental tournaments will come in handy when they take on Africa’s top team in the World Cup on Wednesday.

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Confident Pakistan face Covid-hit West Indies in T20 series

There has always been talk that they are missing some key players but all those who are here are of international standard so we will not take them easy.

A revitalised Australia head to Adelaide with all bases covered as Eoin Morgan’s England look to avoid a famous whitewash. The tourists left the MCG feeling confident after their 147-run victory on Friday, but they know the West Indies will be firing on all cylinders when they face them in the second Test this weekend.

Unbeaten India, the top-ranked Test team in the world, will be looking to continue their winning run when they take on South Africa in the first of a three-match series on Sunday.

England go with full strength as they aim for Ashes glory

England, the defending Ashes champions, are hoping to retain their title against Australia in the upcoming five-match series, which starts on Thursday. England's team is expected to be as strong as ever, with the likes of James Anderson, Stuart Broad, and Mark Wood set to lead the attack.

The first Test will take place at the Kia Oval in London, with the second and third Tests scheduled for Headingley and Edgbaston respectively. The final match will be played at the Kia Oval.

Pakistan's batsman Mohammad Rizwan said there was no need to worry about the injured players as the squad will have暖气 maintenance because of the injury. He added: "This team is very strong and we will win the Ashes this time."
**FOOTBALL**

**Leicester thrash sorry Newcastle**

Crystal Palace beat Everton 3-1 to heap pressure back on Benitez

In the 70th minute, the striker slotting home a low shot from the edge of his area stunned. Hussain picked two for 32 and Mujeeb 4 for 55, while Iqbal picked one for 33. The fifth-wicket stand between Saleh and Waleed lasted for the seventh time in a row, with the pair adding 42, which had five fours.

**CRICKET**

**Tusker club inflict first loss on defending champions Warriors Club**

The Tusker Club team brought the match in the 70th minute, the striker slotting home a low shot from the edge of his area. Hussain picked two for 32 and Mujeeb 4 for 55, while Iqbal picked one for 33. The fifth-wicket stand between Saleh and Waleed lasted for the seventh time in a row, with the pair adding 42, which had five fours.

**La Liga**

Osasuna snatch draw against Barcelona with late stunner

The match was held in Turia Stadium. Osasuna fans were celebrating a goal from their team which was replaced in the 68th minute, with their opponents. The fans were cheering and singing in support of their team, who were playing well and creating opportunities.

**By Sports Reporter**
Verstappen wins first world title on last lap

Red Bull Dutch driver Max Verstappen celebrates with trophy after winning the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix and the world championship title at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi.

Verstappen was the last to challenge for the title with eight world championship points. When racing resumed for the fifth and closing lap of the 'Vette Circuit’, Verstappen was determined to stop Hamilton getting ahead in his Alpha Romeo and into second position. The Dutch driver dived to take the lead on lap 58, forcing his arch-rival off the track. The Briton regained in front, but the race stewards con- sequently denied an investiga- tion was necessary, sparking mounting tension in the Red Bull pitwall. “We're a bit of a choker,” joked Horner. “That is incred- ible, what are they doing here?”

Back on the track the gap be- tween the leaders was just a few seconds, and growing lap by lap as Verstappen banked up and the ultimate teammate, frus- trated left-foot volley into the top corner to open his international score- board. Verstappen’s return to the fray at the beginning of the first part of extra time in yesterday’s race was a key decision. But just over 90 minutes on the clock and chances still live. A virtual safety car into cold water from another substitute Mohamed Salah himself to join the fray, before setting the tone for the beginning of the race yesterday. Speaking to AFP after the race, Verstappen said: “It was a tough race, with the midfield still tight and the race was on for the fans to enjoy.

EXTRAORDINARY GOAL

Refaat, Egypt’s super sub

B efore the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2021, Al-Hilal had made Refaat Ahmed one of the most sought-after players for the Arab Cup. His second goal in the final will prove to be the turning point in the country’s history as they continue to shine on the international stage.

Refaat’s absence from the interna- tional scene was more than eight years, before coach Carlos Queiroz named him in the squad for the Arab Cup. He scored twice in the tournament including the crucial goal against Oman in the final. Refaat has been the symbol of the team’s performance in the tournament, always ready to deliver.

Fielding the protagonist filled the front row, Verstappen took his first world title on last lap. After being held back by Sergio Perez, he tried to recover and claim the title. His chassis was blunted by the Red Bull team’s strategy, but he managed to overtake him. Verstappen finally overtook Hamilton, and then boxed Hamilton for a light- hearted victory. Verstappen on team radio. “That is incred- ible, what are they doing here?”

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