Qatar punch quarter-final ticket with dramatic win

By Fahim Almeidade

Qatar’s and Japan’s 2-2 draw in their FIFA Arab Cup Group B clash on Wednesday was a dramatic finish to the group stage. The two teams finished level on points in Group B, with Qatar securing the top two spot and automatic qualification for the knockout stage.

Qatar’s star man Talal Almohammad scoring a goal to secure the win against Japan

Despite the draw, Qatar’s and Japan’s performances were impressive. The Gulf state’s young and dynamic squad showed great determination and skill, especially in the second half where they put on a show of passion and skill.

The win also ensured Qatar’s progression to the quarter-finals, where they will face the challenge of the next round. For Japan, the result was not enough to secure their place in the next round, but they still showed their potential and will be looking forward to their next match in the tournament.

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SAUDI ARABIAN GRAND PRIX

Hamilton sets the pace in practice

L
ow Hamilton set the pace of the high-speed circuit as he completed a one-two for Mercedes on the opening day of practice for the inaugural Saudi Arabian Grand Prix practice session at the Jeddah Corniche Circuit yesterday.(Wired)

Monday's first Saudi Arabia Grand Prix practice session on the Jeddah Corniche Circuit yesterday.(Wired)

CRICKET

Agarwal cracks a ton as India reach 221 for 4

Spinner Ajas Patels take all four wickets for New Zealand

The after the first session war wound out due to a wet outfield. Agarwal and Sharma Gill gave India a solid start with an opening stand of 88 following England'sValueous dismissal of KL Rahul for 16. England bowled with pace and control and still struggled to get wickets. Kohli said they were happy with the start Agarwal and Dinesh Karthik had set. Kohli said they were not far behind the 200 mark and had a chance to score.

The 30-year-old Kohli said they had a strong start and it was a matter of getting runs on the board. The India skipper said they were happy with the start they had made.

"We could not have started any better. We had a strong start and the team was looking good. We have a chance to score over 200 and we have a chance to score over 200," Kohli said.


Al-Ayad in action in Oman

Sri Lanka win 2nd Test as West Indies collapse

SHANAYA SUNDARAM

Sri Lanka all their wickets to win the series against West Indies in Galle

Chaminda Vaas moved on impact for the first time in 20 years as West Indies collapsed to 255 all out in their first innings on the second day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle on Tuesday.

Chandrimal Samaraweera scored 54 in Sri Lanka to lead his team to 230 for two in their second innings on the second day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle on Tuesday.

"We played a good game in the first Test and we were happy with our performance," said Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal after his side defeated West Indies in Galle.

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SIGHTS FROM THE ARAB CUP

The future is now: FIFA bringing performance analytics to a whole new level

A team of experts are analyzing every player for every second of every game of the FIFA Arab Cup 2021, a ground-breaking initiative in football. The new performance analytics is the first of its kind to leverage global performance insights through technology.

Analysts use the new FIFA Football Language, which has been fine-tuned during the past year. The language reflects how coaches and players all around the world speak to each other, applying technical expertise and developing all levels of the game. These insights will also be used at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 to better understand tactical play and the way teams and the way they interact on the field.

For each match at the FIFA Arab Cup 2021, one member of a team of analysts, based in Newport, Wales, is assigned to one player on the field to monitor, track and note their individual performance. Analysts use a central system to collect and process data on the players' movement, with each tracking the ball, how many times they touch it, through ball possession, and how much pressure they put on opposition ball carriers.

This biometric analysis means that over 15,000 data points are collected from every game, giving the team analysts, coaches, players, media and supporters new insights to help them better understand and enjoy the game.

The information is used to build a detailed picture of each player's game, allowing FIFA to understand the status quo of football, both on and off the pitch.

"The FIFA Football Language is the alphabet of data collection and it helps us to make conclusions (about) what's happening on the football pitch and to better understand what's happening on the football pitch," said Steen Gregersen, Head of Global Football Development at FIFA. Gregersen added that the data is used to understand the status quo of football, both on and off the pitch.

"We want to provide technical direction, coaches and performance analysts with the most critical insights to help them understand the status quo of football," said Gregersen. "This information is used to build a detailed picture of each player's game, allowing FIFA to understand the status quo of football, both on and off the pitch."

"The FIFA Football Language is the alphabet of data collection and it helps us to make conclusions (about) what's happening on the football pitch and to better understand what's happening on the football pitch," said Steen Gregersen, Head of Global Football Development at FIFA.
Former champs Iraq share points with Bahrain

By Rohan Baweja

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cup champions Iraq yesterday played out a goalless draw with Bahrain on day four of the competition. This came after the former had made an unsuccessful bid to win Group A.

Iraq’s coach Queiroz was pleased with the result and said the team had put in a strong performance. “We wanted to win, but the game was not easy,” he said. “We had chances but couldn’t score, and we had to do our best to defend our lead. The result is a step forward for us.”

Iraq, who were in Group A, have now just one point from their three matches. They will face Saudi Arabia in their next match.

**FOCUS**

**Egypt coach Queiroz wary of Sudan’s counter-attacks**

Egypt coach Queiroz was cautious about his team’s performance against Sudan.

“Sudan is a very good team and it’s going to be a tough match,” he said. “We have to be prepared for their counter-attacks.”

Queiroz added that Sudan was a good side and that he expected them to be tough in the match.

Queiroz said: “We need to be careful with their counter-attacks. They have good players and they can score from anywhere. We need to be alert and make sure we don’t make mistakes.”

Sudan coach Mele holds out hope

Sudan coach Mele said he was happy with the result and praised his team.

“Overall, it was a good game and we played well,” he said. “We had chances but we couldn’t score. We need to work on our finishing and be more clinical.”

Mele added that Sudan had shown their potential and that they would continue to work hard to improve.

Despite the result, both teams will now focus on their next matches in the competition.

**Spotlight**

**UAE inch towards quarters as al-Hamadi stoppage-time strike sinks Mauritania**

By Sports Reporter

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) inch closer to their goal of qualifying for the quarter-finals as they recorded a stoppage-time win against Mauritania.

Despite the win, the UAE faced a tough challenge from their opponents. Mauritania had been a hard nut to crack, but the UAE managed to break through in the dying minutes.

In the 89th minute, a cross from the UAE’s left flank found its way into the Mauritania box. The ball was met by UAE’s forward who dispatched it into the net, giving the UAE the lead.

The result is a boost for the UAE as they move closer to their goal. Mauritania, on the other hand, are out of contention for the quarter-finals.