Qatar coach Sanchez lauds his players for showing fighting spirit

Qatar will face the second-place in Group B in the quarter-final, according to their opening result against Iraq in the final group game tomorrow. While Group A leaders with four points but four games are not assured of the quarter-final, the second-place teams in both groups are guaranteed to reach the quarter-finals. Omani goalkeeper Yasser Alshibli 

Sanchez hailed the team’s performance today as I was expecting a tough match. We created many opportunities and scored a goal in the final minutes of the match, which I am delighted with the big win, but he played down the talk his side are hot favourites to reach the quarter-finals are elusive for them.

Sanchez sounded optimistic. “Our chances to enter the quarter-finals are 50-50, and we are clear between the two teams. I am not surprised by the level of the Moroccan team, but I was not expecting such a strong team, but in the end we managed to achieve a crucial victory,” sound familiar. “After this result, we are the first in the group, which is amazing for us, but we have one more game. We have to work hard to make people believe in us and to win the last game to finish top in our group,” he added.

Sanchez said his team would take it step by step, “Amota said. “We've made no mistake for the last three games, and we are at the top of our league and they are at the top of their league, but I think the coach is responsible for the result and that the fans are happy today. The two teams have excellent teams, who went off in the first half against Oman after putting in a backline. We've been carried away with the easy wins. I am not surprised by the level of the Moroccan team, but I was not expecting such a strong team, but in the end we managed to achieve a crucial victory,” sound familiar. “After this result, we are the first in the group, which is amazing for us, but we have one more game. We have to work hard to make people believe in us and to win the last game to finish top in our group,” he added.

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Hamilton grabs pole position in Jeddah

The New Zealand spinner only bowled to take all 10 wickets but India still ahead by 332 runs

FOOTBALL

SECOND TEST

The world number two

DAVIS CUP

DAVIS CUP

Russia set final date with Croatia

TheCroats’taskiscertain-

The Russians, like the
croats, will be bidding for a

FIRST TEST

Babar’s half-century lifts Pakistan in Dhaka

Al-Alya impresses at Oman Rally

Qatar’s Nasser al-Khelaifi and Oman’s Al-Suwaidi clinched the relay title in the second leg of the Oman Rally in the country’s International Rally 2022. Al-Khelaifi, who won the last leg, won the third leg too.”

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Next week, the India-Cr""
Bernardo Silva scored twice as Manchester City cruised to the top of the Premier League with a 3-1 win at Watford yesterday.

The Portuguese international was described by manager Pep Guardiola as the best player in the English top flight this week and showed why with two sumptuous finishes to back up his cushioned volley against Aston Villa in midweek.

In stark contrast to Manchester United’s 4-1 humiliation at Vicarage Road a fortnight ago that ended Ole Gunnar Solskjaer’s reign, City virtually killed the match as a contest within four minutes. Phil Foden picked out Raheem Sterling at the back post for the simplest of headers to open the scoring.

Silva slotted home from a narrow angle to double the visitors’ lead and produced a stunning strike into the top corner after the break.

But the scoreline barely did justice to the dominance of Guardiola’s men, who took advantage of Chelsea’s 3-2 defeat to West Ham earlier in the day to go one point clear. Liverpool are five points back in second place after drawing with Manchester United.

For Silva, it was his 12th goal of the season and meant he has scored in 10 of City’s 11 Premier League matches this campaign – the only game he failed to find the net was against Liverpool.

Manchester City have now won 10 straight league matches and 16 of their 17 Premier League games this season, but Silva’s future at the club is still uncertain.

The 27-year-old has made it clear that he wants to leave City in the summer, but the Portuguese international is playing some of the best football of his career.

Guardiola also has a clean bill of health for his squad heading into the hectic festive period as Foden and record signing Jack Grealish returned to the starting line-up, while Kevin De Bruyne made his comeback from coronavirus as a second-half substitute.

Foden made an immediate impact by picking out Sterling, who was given an incredible amount of space to head in his 49th Premier League goal.

The connection of Dhergham Bu Thaila celebrate after Sabhea Awad Ibrahim’s six-year-old gelding won the Ras Al Noof Cup, the feature event of the 4th Race Meeting at Al Uqda Racecourse, yesterday. Alberto Sanna gave the Mohamed K. Elahmed-trained gelding a confident ride to win by impressive four lengths. Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club’s Racing Manager Abdulla Rashid al-Kubaisi (second right) presented the trophies to the winners. PICTURES: Ashwari

FOOTBALL

Silva shines as City stroll to top spot in Premier League

Guards Silva (centre) as Man-chester City cruised to the top of the Premier League with a 3-1 win at Watford yesterday.

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Al-Semaitt and al-Boinin star at Hathab

Winners of the dressage events of the Qatar Equestrian Tour were: Maryam Ahmed al-Semaitt and Michelle Grimes in the final round of the dressage competition.

Maryam Ahmed al-Semaitt claimed the top honours with her mount Rock On Top 2 in the Medium (Level 1) Test (B) category. Michelle Grimes, also riding the same horse, finished second while Jessica Waldon came third.

In the Preliminary (Level 2) Test (B) category, Maryam Ahmad al-Boinin won with Vol De Nuit Tardonne, with Jassim Al Jaham al-Kuwari (Leslie Ann 2) finishing second and Maya Charlie Crocco (Guinness) coming third.

Al-Semaitt and al-Boinin star at Hathab

SIGHTS FROM THE ARAB CUP

The connection of Dhergham Bu Thaila celebrated after Sabhea Awad Ibrahim’s horse won the Ras Al Noof Cup, the feature event of the 4th Race Meeting at Al Uqda Racecourse, yesterday. Alberto Sanna gave the Mohamed K. Elahmed-trained gelding a confident ride to win by impressive four lengths. Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club Racing Manager Abdulla Rashid al-Kubaisi (second right) presented the trophies to the winners. PICTURES: Ashwari
Five-star Egypt thump Sudan to cruise into last eight

By Sports Reporter

Ahmed Mahmoud, Egypt’s goalkeeper, faced the question of how much more he can give for his country. The 33-year-old kept a clean sheet as his side thumped Sudan 7-0 on Friday to book their place in the semi-finals of the FIFA Arab Cup.

“Unfortunately, I lost my father and my mother in 2019 and 2020 respectively. I want to dedicate this goal to them,” Mahmoud said after the match.

The Pharaohs, who lead Group D with 13 points, will face either Syria, who are second with 10 points, or Jordan, who have nine points, in the semi-finals.

“We are happy with the victory, we scored seven goals and kept a clean sheet. That’s what we were looking for,” said coach Queiroz.

In the other Group D match, Algeria beat Lebanon 4-3 to stay on course for qualification.

Algeria are third with seven points and play Mauritania in their final group match, while Lebanon will face Jordan.

The North African side, who already have a six-point lead over Sudan, cruised to victory with a ruthless performance to put them in the last four.

Coach Queiroz, whose side are unbeaten in 20 matches in all competitions, was pleased with his line-up, fielding some experienced players in unfamiliar positions, such as Al-Sa’s natural defender Ayman Ashraf, who played in the heart of midfield.

“Egypt was handed a surprise start, but then changed its line-up and brought in some new players in unfamiliar positions,” he said.

In the second half, a penalty from Amr El-Sulaya put Egypt ahead, but they continued to dominate.

“Egypt doubled their lead in the 13th minute when Eldor Hussein dribbled past a couple of defenders before pulling the ball back to El-Sulaya, who drilled it into the net. Sudan’s misery piled on in just before halftime when Yusef Masoudi was sent off for a foul on Ayman Ashraf. Adel Youssef put away the penalty to make it 3-0 within three minutes of the restart.

Egypt cruised to victory with a ruthless performance as they cruised past Sudan, where Mohamed Al-Ahmad’s early goal on 31 minutes sealed their place in the semi-finals.

After a couple of close chances, late in the 79th minute, Youssef Masoudi’s shot by an Algerian defender.

The victory was a much-needed morale booster for Egypt, who had failed to qualify for the World Cup last year.

“We are a team that plays in the name of Egypt, no matter which players participate, everyone will show their best,” Bougherra said.

The North Africans will now face the winner of the other Group D game between Sudan and Lebanon in the semi-finals.

“I had to make a change in the 79th minute when Babacar was removed because of an injury. It was a difficult decision, and I will have to be ruled out by VAR. When the decision comes down, I will take full responsibility. If it doesn’t go my way, it’s football,” he added.

Bougherra also praised his goalkeeper, Ndiaye, who made some crucial saves.

“Ndiaye was outstanding. He didn’t concede a goal. He made some fantastic saves. He thanked God, but unfortunately, his efforts were in vain. He had to be ruled out by VAR,” Bougherra said.

The victory was a much-needed morale booster for Mauritania, who had lost their previous two matches.

“This is football, though, and sometimes it’s not your day. Today we held our heads high. Perhaps we couldn’t get a result, but we did hold our heads high,” Ndiaye said.

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