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Morocco edge Saudi Arabia to reach quarters

Oman eliminated despite win over Comoros

FAWAD HUSSAIN
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Karim El Berkaoui's early strike proved decisive as Morocco edged already-qualified Saudi Arabia 1-0 in a thrilling FIFA Arab Cup clash at Lusail Stadium yesterday to secure a place in the quarter-finals.

El Berkaoui's goal came in the 11th minute, and Saudi Arabia's substitute Abdullah Alhamddan squandered a golden opportunity to equalise when he missed a penalty in the 69th minute, sending his Panenka-style attempt over the bar.

"I apologise for the missed penalty but I am happy to qualify for the quarter-finals" said Alhamddan.

Morocco withstood relentless pressure from the Green Falcons in the second half to finish top of Group B with seven points, with over 78,000 in attendance witnessing the action. Saudi Arabia ended second with six points after victories in their opening two matches.

Morocco coach Tarik Sektioui expressed delight on the victory.

"We faced a well-organised team and took advantage of their defensive mistakes. We're pleased to have secured a spot in the quarter-finals, especially



Morocco players celebrate after defeating Saudi Arabia.

given the tough calculations in our group."

In a simultaneous Group B clash, Carlos Queiroz's Oman bowed out of the tournament despite a 2-1 victory over Comoros, finishing with four points.

Saudi Arabia entered the pitch under the guidance of coach Herve Renard, who rejoined the squad in Qatar after attending the FIFA World Cup 2026 draw in Washington. However, star player Salem Al Dawsari remained on the bench.

The match began with Saudi Arabia pressing for an early advantage. They came close in the sixth minute when Murad Al Hawsawi met a long ball with a looping header over El Mehdi Benabid, only for it to rattle the crossbar.



FROM LEFT: Morocco's Karim El Berkaoui, Tarik Tissoudali and Marouane Louadni celebrate with teammates.

Morocco struck with their first meaningful attack. El Berkaoui capitalised on a precise back pass from Tarik

Tissoudali from the right and finished cleanly from close range. Saudi Arabia struggled to find space following the goal and failed to create clear chances before halftime.

In the second half, El Berkaoui went close with a low strike from outside the box.

Saudi Arabia responded through several attempts: Saleh Al Shehri fired a powerful shot wide, headed over from a corner, and saw another effort deflected by a defender. The Green Falcons earned a penalty after a VAR review for a foul on Alhamddan, but he failed to convert.

Morocco's goalkeeper Abdulrahman Al Sanbi made a key save from Tissoudali, while Al Hawsawi and substitute Aiman Ahmed missed their chances, allowing

Morocco to hold on for victory. "We played well despite the loss," said Renard.

"Our goal was to qualify, and we achieved that. We didn't show enough respect against Morocco, which cost us a chance to at least draw. The priority was to prepare and secure quarter-final qualification, and the result reflects that."

At Stadium 974, Issam Al Sabhi starred for Oman, scoring a brace to give his side a 2-0 lead by halftime. Comoros pulled one back through Nassuir Hamidou in the 68th minute, but Oman's win was not enough to see them advance, ending their tournament campaign on a high note.

"The win wasn't enough to advance, but we leave the tournament with our heads held high," said Queiroz.

Egypt face Jordan in crucial Group C clash

CHINTHANA WASALA
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Egypt will take on Jordan in a decisive Group C clash today at Al Bayt Stadium as The Pharaohs battle for a slot in the quarter-finals of the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025.

Head coach Helmy Toulain said his squad understands the weight of the task as they seek the win that will secure a place in the knockout stage. On the other hand, Jordan have already made it through to the quarters.

"This match will not be easy," Toulain said.

"Jordan have played two strong games and already qualified, but we must be fully focused, technically and mentally, to win and reach the next round. They are strong in defence, midfield and attack, yet we have full confidence in our squad," Toulain said.

In Group C, Jordan are leading with six points, Egypt have two points while UAE and Kuwait have one point each. Egypt will qualify with a win, and a draw could also



Egypt players during a training session.

take them through if UAE and Kuwait share points at Stadium 974. If Egypt lose, their only route depends on a draw between UAE and Kuwait and goal difference in a three-way tie.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Jordan head coach Jamal Salami said he will make some changes and give rest to certain players.

"We are focused

only on our group. I do not want to choose who we face in the quarter-finals. We qualified as group leaders. The opponent will be whoever comes. We will wait to see who qualifies and we will try to beat them."

Meanwhile, the UAE and Kuwait prepare for a high-stakes meeting at Stadium 974.

UAE coach Cosmin Olaroiu said he hopes his side can

extend their stay in the tournament.

"We hope to continue our journey in this Arab Cup," Olaroiu said.

"We must be ready for the third match. After two games we are trying to recover, and we are looking to win tomorrow, then wait to see what happens in the other group match and whether its result will allow us to qualify."

Olaroiu also said the

World Cup exit still hurts the squad.

"Everyone was disappointed about not reaching the World Cup finals, the staff and the players," he said.

"We wanted better results, but things are not always in our hands. Many factors play a role. We played good matches but did not win because of mistakes and wrong decisions that affected our results."

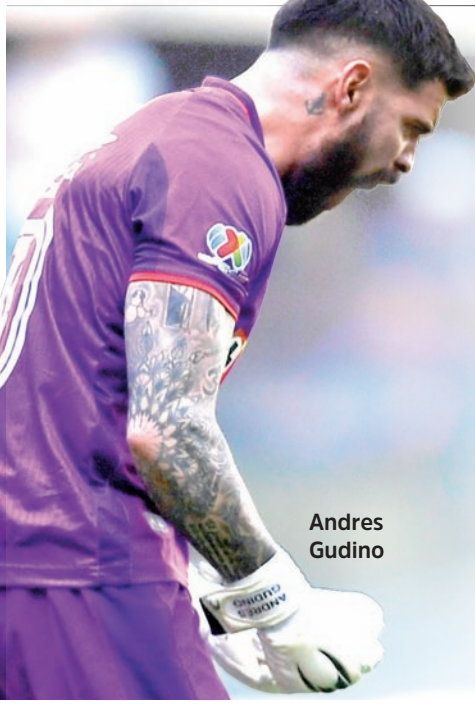
Kuwait coach Helio Sousa said he is expecting a tight battle.

"The match is another big challenge for us. We will continue to give everything, just as we have done since the start of the tournament," Sousa said.

"Tomorrow's game will be difficult, but our chances of qualifying are still alive. We will give our all to win, and we hope Egypt slip against Jordan so that we can reach the next round," Sousa said.

"The UAE are a strong team and in good form, but we are ready for this contest and we will fight until the end."

GROUP A											
Rk	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts		
1	Palestine	3	1	2	0	3	2	+1	5		
2	Syria	3	1	2	0	2	1	+1	5		
3	Tunisia	3	1	1	1	5	3	+2	4		
4	Qatar	3	0	1	2	1	5	-4	1		
GROUP B											
1	Morocco	3	2	1	0	4	1	+3	7		
2	Saudi Arabia	3	2	0	1	5	3	+2	6		
3	Oman	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4		
4	Comoros	3	0	0	3	3	8	-5	0		
GROUP C											
1	Jordan	2	2	0	0	5	2	+3	6		
2	Egypt	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	2		
3	UAE	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1		
4	Kuwait	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1		
GROUP D											
1	Iraq	2	2	0	0	4	1	+3	6		
2	Algeria	2	1	1	0	5	1	+4	4		
3	Sudan	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	1		
4	Bahrain	2	0	0	2	2	7	-5	0		
Legend: ■ Advanced ■ Eliminated											
RESULTS											
Morocco 1-0 Saudi Arabia											
Oman 2-1 Comoros											
TODAY											
Egypt vs Jordan											
Al Bayt Stadium (17:30)											
United Arab Emirates vs Kuwait											
Stadium 974 (17:30)											
Algeria vs Iraq											
Khalifa International Stadium (20:00)											
Bahrain vs Sudan											
Education City Stadium (20:00)											



Andres Gudino

Gudino eyes 'incredible' PSG final at Intercontinental Cup

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Cruz Azul goalkeeper Andres Gudino says the prospect of meeting Paris Saint-Germain in the final of the FIFA Intercontinental Cup Qatar 2025 would be "incredible," as the Mexican giants prepare for their long-awaited return to a FIFA club tournament.

Speaking to FIFA, the veteran goalkeeper outlined the team's ambitions and the motivation driving La Máquina toward global success.

For the first time since 2014, Cruz Azul are back on the international stage after capturing the 2025 Concacaf Champions Cup - their record-extending seventh continental crown. Their path in Qatar begins with a blockbuster showdown against 2025 CONMEBOL Copa Libertadores

champions Flamengo in the FIFA Derby of the Americas tomorrow, with the winner advancing to face Pyramids FC in the FIFA Challenger Cup. Victories in both matches would set up a dream Intercontinental Cup final against European champions PSG.

Gudino, who has guarded Cruz Azul's net since 2019 and remains their first-choice goalkeeper during the ongoing Liga MX play-offs, believes the team's packed schedule is an advantage. "Being in action is always good, especially when the matches are important and difficult," he told FIFA. "It keeps us sharp and ready."

He described the upcoming tournament as a major source of motivation. "It's an international competition, a FIFA competition. The biggest,



It's (Intercontinental Cup) an international competition, a FIFA competition. The biggest, high-profile teams are there, so it fills us with enthusiasm and determination.
Andres Gudino
Cruz Azul goalkeeper

high-profile teams are there, so it fills us with enthusiasm and determination," he said.

Representing a club of Cruz Azul's stature, he added, comes with an obligation to compete for every trophy

available. On their opening clash, Gudino acknowledged the challenge Flamengo pose.

"We know their stature. They just won the Copa Libertadores and are a great team. But we are prepared and will play with full desire," he said.

Last year's impressive run by Pachuca, who reached the final, serves as added inspiration.

"Much respect to Pachuca, but we're going to play our own tournament with confidence and high spirits."

As for the possibility of facing PSG, Gudino did not hesitate: "Just knowing such prestigious teams are in the tournament inspires us. The chance of playing PSG in a final would be incredible."



Algeria target quarters spot with win over Iraq

FAWAD HUSSAIN
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Defending champions Algeria will be aiming for a victory against Iraq tonight in their final Group D match, seeking a smooth progression to the quarter-finals of the FIFA Arab Cup.

With Iraq already through to the next stage, Algeria need just a point to confirm their place in the last eight. The Desert Foxes sit on four points after a 5-1 win over Bahrain, which followed a goalless draw against Sudan. Sudan, with one point, face Bahrain in a simultaneous fixture.

Algeria can still advance even if Sudan draw level with them on points, as they currently enjoy a six-goal advantage in goal difference.

Coach Madjid Bougherra is calling for another strong showing after the emphatic win over Bahrain.

“Our focus is on reaching the quarter-finals, and we are looking to continue delivering a strong performance after the Bahrain match,” Bougherra said on the eve of the match at Khalifa International Stadium.

“The match will be difficult against an organised Iraqi team with good players who performed at a top level in their first two games against Bahrain and Sudan,” he added, noting that the pressure on the squad serves as strong motivation.

Algerian star Yacine Brahimi



Algerian players during a training session.

also expressed confidence ahead of the clash.

“I am fully ready for the match. I played against Bahrain, and I will keep working to be ready to serve the coach and the national team,” he said.

“It is important for me to share the experience I’ve gained throughout my career with the new players, and our goal is to build harmony within the national team.”

Iraq, who edged Bahrain 2-1 before defeating Sudan 2-0, are aiming to maintain their perfect run.

“Our preparations have gone well, and we look



I am fully ready for the match. I played against Bahrain, and I will keep working to be ready to serve the coach and the national team.

Algeria's Yacine Brahimi

forward to performing at our best and achieving victory, even though we have already secured qualification for the quarter-finals,” said Iraq coach Graham Arnold.

“We have no injuries, and striker Ayman Hussein will be available after recovering from the

minor injury he suffered in the first match against Bahrain.”



Yacine Brahimi

Sudan must convert chances into goals: Appiah

Meanwhile, Sudan coach Kwesi Appiah is hoping his side can finally find the net in their match against Bahrain at Education City Stadium.

Sudan have shown promise but remain without a goal in the tournament.

“We are still facing a problem of scoring goals, as we have unfortunately not scored any goals so far despite creating multiple chances,” Appiah said.

“Under our current circumstances, it’s difficult, especially since some of our players have suffered injuries and are now recovering.”

“It might be difficult to get everything you want right away, but ultimately the main objective of any team is to score goals. We are working on that, and I believe that sooner or later the problem will be solved and our scoring ability from various positions will return,” he added.

“The problem lies in the final touch, and I am convinced that a solution will appear on the horizon with the arrival of new players.”

Bahrain coach Dragan



It might be difficult to get everything you want right away, but ultimately the main objective of any team is to score goals. We are working on that, and I believe that sooner or later the problem will be solved and our scoring ability from various positions will return.

**Kwesi Appiah
Sudan coach**

Talajic, whose side has already been eliminated after back-to-back defeats, hopes to end the campaign on a positive note.

“We are ready for the match, our final game in the tournament, after losing hope of competing. The result is important to us so we can make our fans happy,” he said.

Militao could miss four months with hamstring tear

MADRID: Real Madrid defender Eder Militao is set for a long spell out injured after the club diagnosed him with a torn hamstring yesterday, ahead of a key Champions League clash against Manchester City.

The Brazilian centre-back pulled up injured during the 2-0 La Liga defeat by Celta Vigo on Sunday, which left his team four points behind leaders Barcelona.

“He has been diagnosed with a rupture of the biceps femoris tendon in the left leg, specifically affecting the proximal tendon,” said Madrid.

Spanish reports said Militao is set to miss between three and four months, continuing his injury-hit spell at the club since joining from Porto in 2019.

The 27-year-old has suffered two severe knee injuries during his time at Madrid, playing fewer than 20 times in each of the past two seasons.

They host Man City and superstar striker Erling Haaland tomorrow as they bid to improve on a run of two wins in their last seven games across all competitions. — **AFP**

MSDF launches ‘Family of Match’ contest to mark Arab Family Day

DOHA: To mark the Arab Family Day concomitantly with the launch of the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025, the Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF) has launched the Family of the Match contest in collaboration with the local committee organizing this tournament.

The move intends to foster familial values and a positive spirit, as well as encourage familial interaction within the thrilling atmosphere of the matches.

The competition is primarily devoted to all family members, including fathers, mothers, as well as sons and daughters, with the most interactive, enthusiastic, and entangled in the sport, and committed to the collective spirit, being selected.

The would-be selected families also include those who respect others cordially, demonstrating the true image of a tight-knit and socially interactive family.

The contest also gives families the opportunity to innovate their cheering styles through coordinated group cheers and collective fan displays that bring an atmosphere of incredible joy and positive interaction in the stands.

This can turn every match into a lively, communal



experience, reflecting concrete values of family unity and social cohesion at major sporting events.

Assistant Director of the MSDF’s Family Development Department, Nouf Ibrahim Al Abdullah, highlighted that the contest covers group-stage matches of FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025, with cameras capturing the best family moments in terms of joy and interaction in the stands.

She added that winners are subsequently announced and awarded valuable prizes, in

recognition of their participation and sportsmanship.

The initiative, she explained, honours their efforts in promoting a positive image of the Arab family during major sporting events, as part of MSDF’s diligent efforts to enhance familial cohesion and encourage effective communal engagement, in addition to cementing sports values and the spirit of one team among all community members.

Al Abdullah further elaborated that the competition shines a spotlight on the tremendous

role families play in building a tight-knit society capable of effectively engaging in national and global activities.

As such, the ministry urged all families to actively participate in future initiatives, making matches an opportunity to strengthen familial ties rather than merely a sporting moment, with particular emphasis on social interaction and shared joy, thereby manifesting a bright image of the Arab family, alongside its positive values in all sporting and cultural events. — **QNA**



Barca defence on ‘another level’ now, says Flick

BARCELONA: Barcelona coach Hansi Flick (pictured) claimed yesterday his team’s defending is now on “another level” after a run of good results.

The Catalans have won three matches in a row after a 3-0 defeat by Chelsea in the Champions League near the end of November.

Barca face Eintracht Frankfurt today in Europe as they fight for a top eight finish in the league phase.

With several players back from injury last week Barca beat Atletico Madrid 3-1 and Real Betis 5-3.

“Everyone knows what happened in the last three months, a lot of injuries, very important players out, the last weeks we have to manage the minutes, the load of every player,” Flick told a news conference.

The coach said although his team shipped three against Betis, the use of his high defensive line system was good and the players were tired in the final stages, when two of those goals were scored.

“The last 10 minutes, they were exhausted,” reasoned Flick, whose side also let in three at Club Brugge in a 3-3 draw earlier in November.

“I said this morning to them, the (back) line is doing really good, we’re getting pressure on the ball, we are connected. This is what we need.

“And the (high) line, they play it on another level than maybe one month, five weeks ago.”

The win over Betis left Barca four points clear at the top of La Liga, with attention turning to the clash against Frankfurt. — **AFP**

Qatar edge Bahrain to reach U-23 Gulf Cup semis



Action during the match between Qatar and Bahrain at U-23 Gulf Cup.

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar yesterday sealed their place in the semi-finals of the Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation (AGCFF) U-23 Gulf Cup with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Bahrain at Aspire Stadium No. 2 in the second round of Group A matches.

Mustafa Al Sayed struck the decisive goal in the 90+3rd minute, lifting Qatar to six points and securing their second win of the campaign. The hosts had opened their tournament with an impressive 3-0 victory over Kuwait, and now trail only Saudi Arabia on goal difference in the group standings.

Qatar dominated the opening half and came close to breaking the deadlock when Yazan Mohammed’s effort rattled the post in the 34th minute. Despite sustained pressure, the breakthrough eluded them before the interval.

Bahrain responded strongly in the

second half and nearly took the lead themselves. Abdulrahman Al-Khayyat unleashed a strike in the 79th minute that crashed against the crossbar, keeping Qatar under pressure as the clock wound down.

But just when the match seemed destined for a stalemate, Al Sayed rose highest to head home the winner from inside the box deep into stoppage time, securing Qatar’s passage to the last four.

In the group’s other fixture, Saudi Arabia also booked their semi-final place with a 1-0 victory over Kuwait at Aspire Stadium No. 1. Abdullah Radif scored the lone goal in the 61st minute, firing a powerful strike into the top corner to continue Saudi Arabia’s impressive run after their opening 5-1 win over Bahrain.

With two defeats each, Kuwait and Bahrain were eliminated from the tournament at the group stage, leaving Qatar and Saudi Arabia to advance from Group A.



Palestine still dreaming at FIFA Arab Cup

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Rami Hamada knew that the odds were stacked against Palestine. Sitting well outside the top ten nations heading to the FIFA Arab Cup on the FIFA World Ranking, the Lions of Canaan were forced to navigate the qualification phase just to join the main table.

There they were pushed all the way to penalties by Libya in a match that Hamada, the team's goalkeeper and occasional captain, starred in. Off the back of a pre-tournament camp in Spain where the team's belief began to take root, the dramatic nature of the play-off victory saw it blossom.

Having grabbed a 95th minute winner against hosts Qatar first up in the group stage and then rallying from two goals down to draw 2-2 with 2021 runners-up Tunisia, the belief was exploding.

A scoreless draw against Syria in the section settler means that the Lions of Canaan finished, remarkably, as group winners and are through to the quarter-finals for the first time in their history. As Hamada told FIFA post-match, there is now no limit to the extent of their

dreams at the regional show-piece. "First of all this is like a dream, until now we have been living the dream and we need that dream to continue.

"I didn't want to wait for anyone to give us a chance so we had to show everything on the field. Before we didn't talk, we were like a small team but now we have showed with our

actions that we are a big team."

Having come within a couple of minutes of reaching the decisive fourth round of qualification for the FIFA World Cup and with a ticket to the next edition of the Asian Cup already secured, there has been real positivity building around Palestinian football in recent years.

Translating that positivity into performance and results was the target of the side ahead of the Arab Cup and Hamada is thrilled that they've been able to do that.

"It's amazing to think that we have finished as the top team in the group and now we just continue to look ahead, to go step-by-step.

"I'm just so proud and praise must go to God for everything. God gave us something like this and it means so much to us. We see our people happy now. After everything we have lived through we are so proud."

Those are thoughts echoed by defender Yaser Hamed, who told FIFA post-match that delivering joy

to the Palestinian people is the team's main motivation.

"We achieved something special and unique for Palestine and this is for all the Palestinians who have been suffering in the last few years, especially in Gaza.

"It doesn't matter who we face after this because we will keep trying to win. Playing for this flag and this country is so special and in 90 minutes we can beat anyone. For sure our target is to win the Arab Cup and continue to make our people happy."

Another who has been reveling in the unexpected progression to the quarter-finals, where one of Saudi Arabia, Morocco or Oman await, is right-back Emilio Saba. The 24-year-old is in camp with the national team for the first time and is, to continue the theme, living a dream that he doesn't want to end.

"It just feels so amazing to be part of this group and to make history with Palestine. We have been together for one month, firstly in Spain and now here, to prepare."

The next challenge for the Lions of Canaan will come in the last eight, with that match to be played on Thursday in Lusail. (FIFA)



Palestine finished as group winners and are through to the quarter-finals of the FIFA Arab Cup for the first time in their history.

'Aim Beyond' project launched to empower youth through sport

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC), in partnership with World Athletics and the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), has officially launched "Aim Beyond" project that aims to empower youth and underserved communities through the transformative power of sport.

The announcement of the project came pursuant to the agreement signed by the QOC Secretary General Jassim bin Rashid Al Buenaïn and the QFFD Director General Fahad Hamad Al-Sulaiti on the sidelines of the Doha Forum, held from 6 to 8 December 2025 under the theme 'Diplomacy, Dialogue and Diversity'. The signing ceremony was attended by the World Athletics CEO Jon Ridgeon.

As part of the project, 11 state-of-the-art, eco-friendly, and inclusive running tracks will be constructed across 11 countries around the world including, Palestine, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Cook Islands, Panama, Anguilla, Dominica, Burundi, Tanzania, and Ukraine.

The project reflects Qatar's deep belief in the power of sport to promote sustainable development, peace, and social cohesion. It also underscores the country's determination to transform



FROM LEFT: QFFD Director General Fahad Hamad Al-Sulaiti, QOC Secretary General Jassim bin Rashid Al Buenaïn and Athletics CEO Jon Ridgeon after the project launch.

sporting legacy into a tangible tool for positive change in the lives of youth and communities.

The tracks to be built are distinguished by their inclusivity, accommodating the needs of athletes with disabilities, and by their sustainability, using eco-friendly materials. The new tracks will also serve as a community hub that promotes the values of sporting excellence and strengthens young athletes' sense of belonging to their communities.

Al Buenaïn said: "Aim Beyond is an ambitious project to create a world where every aspiring athlete has access

to facilities to aim beyond their limits. Just as Doha 2019 allowed Qatar to aim beyond its limits in pursuit of its ultimate dream, so too will this project create opportunities for young athletes to reach their full potential"

He added: "We are proud that through this ambitious project, the legacy of the Doha 2019 World Athletics Championships will continue to shape the future of athletics – transcending borders and serving as a symbol of commitment, hope and opportunity."

QFFD Director General Fahad Hamad Al-Sulaiti stated, "At Qatar Fund for Development, we firmly believe that

sport is a transformative catalyst for human development and social progress and our partnership today with the Qatar Olympic Committee project reflects this commitment. By establishing inclusive and sustainable athletics tracks in underserved communities, we are creating pathways for young people to develop their talents, strengthen their capabilities, and realize their full potential. This initiative is not merely about constructing facilities, it is about laying the foundations for brighter, more prosperous futures."

"In many communities around the world, athletic talent is abundant, but facilities are not – and that's where Aim Beyond makes its mark," said World Athletics CEO Jon Ridgeon.

"My sincere thank you to His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, whose vision and commitment to athletics are helping to shape the future of our sport. Our sport owes you an enormous debt of gratitude."

The signing ceremony during Doha Forum – a premier global platform for dialogue and diplomacy – highlights how sport can drive sustainable development, peace, and human development. The forum brings together global leaders, policymakers, and innovators to discuss critical challenges and shape action-driven solutions.



QSL and ICSS join forces to promote sports integrity

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: In a move reflecting its unwavering commitment to protect the integrity of football and promote principles of fair play, the Qatar Stars League (QSL), in collaboration with International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), organized a series of four awareness programmes in October and November, engaging 400 individuals from the football community, including club officials, football integrity officers, players, technical staff, referees and match commissioners.

The programme was launched by QSL CEO Hani Taleb Ballan and ICSS CSE Massimiliano Montanari who both emphasised the importance of this initiative as a comprehensive system for protecting football from the dangers of manipulation and corruption.

Hani remarked, "Integrity is the foundation on which sports competition is built. At QSL, we consider prevention and awareness as a shared responsibility and fundamental component of our governance system. Training this large number of participants reflects our commitment to provide a safe and competitive environment that adheres to the highest international standards."

The programmes focused on four main areas:

- A workshop for football integrity officers at clubs, focusing on governance principles, and detection and reporting mechanisms.

- Two seminars for players and technical staff, addressing modern manipulation methods and digital platforms, supported by international certifications and case studies.

- A seminar for referees and match officials on potential pressures and how to handle suspected cases.

QSL affirms that this initiative is a key part of a sustainable annual plan to strengthen the integrity and governance framework within the football system through extensive awareness programmes and strategic collaboration with relevant authorities. These efforts aim to build a culture based on awareness and responsibility, and enhance the preparedness of all aspects of the game to counter any illegal influence on competitions.

With more than 400 participants being trained in two months, QSL continues to solidify its position as a regional leader in protecting the integrity of football, and ensuring a safe and transparent professional environment.

Salah dropped by Liverpool for Inter clash after outburst

LONDON: Mohamed Salah has been dropped from Liverpool's squad for their Champions League tie at Inter Milan after the Egypt star's extraordinary criticism of his treatment by boss Arne Slot.

Salah was not included in the squad announced by Liverpool yesterday despite being seen smiling when he trained with the first team earlier in the day.

Salah said on Saturday he felt like he had been "thrown under the bus" by Liverpool and that he no longer had a relationship with Slot after he was left on the bench for the third consecutive game in a 3-3 draw against Leeds.

In the midst of a dismal season by his highest standards, the 33-year-old was not even used as a substitute at Elland Road.

"I said many times before that I had a good relationship with the manager, and all of a sudden we don't have any relationship," Salah told reporters at the weekend in response to being left on the bench again.

"I don't know why but it seems to me, how I see it, that someone doesn't want me in the club.

"It seems like the club has thrown me under the bus. That is how I am feeling. I think it is very clear that

someone wanted me to get all of the blame." It was reported that Salah's removal from the squad for the trip to Italy was taken with the full support of Slot, but it is believed no formal disciplinary action has been taken against him by the club.

Salah's exile is said to be in the best interests of all parties involved, with a brief period away from selection seen as the correct response given the nature and timing of his comments.

Salah's incendiary blast has sparked speculation that Liverpool will consider selling him in the January transfer window.

The forward has repeatedly been linked with a move to the Saudi Pro League over the last two years.

After next weekend's home match against Brighton in the Premier League, Salah is set to depart for the Africa Cup of Nations.

Salah, who signed from Roma in 2017, is Liverpool's third-highest goalscorer of all time with 250 goals in 420 appearances for the club.

He is the club's highest-paid player in history, having signed a new contract in April, and played a key role in Liverpool's two Premier League titles and one Champions



Liverpool's Dominik Szoboszlai (left) and Mohamed Salah (right) attend a team training session.

League triumph during his iconic spell on Merseyside.

But Salah has been a shadow of his former self during Liverpool's struggles this season -- the Premier League champions are now ninth in the table -- with just four goals in 13 top-flight appearances.

He was dropped from the starting line-up for Champions League games against Galatasaray and Eintracht Frankfurt earlier this season in the first indication that Slot

was growing frustrated with his poor form and lack of defensive effort.

Salah's last Liverpool start was in a 4-1 defeat by PSV Eindhoven on November 26, while he is without a goal since netting against Aston Villa at the start of November.

His astonishing outburst risked undermining Slot's authority at a time when he is trying to drag the team out of a slump which has seen them win just four of the last 15 matches.



TODAY'S FIXTURES

6:30pm

Kairat vs Olympiakos

8:45pm

Bayern Munich vs Sporting CP

11:00pm

Atalanta vs Chelsea

Barcelona vs Eintracht Frankfurt

Inter Milan vs Liverpool

Monaco vs Galatasaray

PSV vs Atletico Madrid

Tottenham Hotspur vs Slavia Prague

Union Saint-Gilloise vs Marseille