By Sports Reporter

Qatar's Almoez Ali scores against Afghanistan during the Group A World Cup 2026 and AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifiers at the Khalifa International Stadium yesterday. The reigning Asian Champions will offer the 26-year-old his first opportunity to win the 2026 World Cup final as a genuine hero.

The home team opened the scoring just 11 minutes from time to earn India a 1-0 win over Afghanistan in the Indians victory at the end of a keenly contested clash at the Jaber Al Ahmad International Stadium yesterday. The Pramac rider has already assured a head-to-head. "I'm already second in the championship. So we need to be fast, but there's also a good chance to lose a lot of points! So, it will be important to be calm, work well and try to do the maximum. We take all the risk I can and maybe take some rounds. So I'm already in second and I can round 6 points! So this is my target, " Martin said after winning his fourth race of the season, the simplest of finishes for the fourth.

Afghanistan were awarded a third penalty in the 34th minute, al-Amin made it a hat-trick within less than 120 seconds, the Afghan forward tucking it low into the back of the net. Qatar's response was even faster as Meshaal who collected it and finished with ruthlessness to finish off a lightning quick counter-attack. Al-Amin was again the creator in the 32nd minute, powering in from the penalty spot picking up Afi f's pass before finding Ali at the top of the box. Ali completed his hat-trick in the 32nd minute, al-Amin made it a hat-trick within less than 120 seconds, the Afghan forward tucking it low into the back of the net.

Ali is a striker and I will be the best of the opportunities. "We should be at our best to defeat India," this Portuguese said.

Almoez added: "India will be a stubborn opponent and they've improved a lot. It's going to be important to be calm, and try to be competitive. We have to work well and try to do the maximum. We need to be fast, but there's also a good chance to lose a lot of points! So, it will be important to be calm, work well and try to do the maximum. We need to be fast, but there's also a good chance to lose a lot of points! So, it will be important to be calm, work well and try to do the maximum. We need to be fast, but there's also a good chance to lose a lot of points! So, it will be important to be calm, work well and try to do the maximum.

Meanwhile, Martin vowed to give his best to win the MotoGP crown, said he has noth-
Fury to fight Usyk for heavyweight crown on Feb 17

'This is a historic event. The whole world has been waiting for it.'

**BOXTING**

Tyson Fury and Oleksandr Usyk will clash in a ‘Hollywood-style’ fight for the undisputed heavyweight title in London’s Wembley Stadium on February 17. The fight is being billed as the ‘show of the century’. Fury, 34, and Usyk, 36, were originally expected to clash on December 23. However, Usyk pulled out after injuring his left eye in training last month. Fury is confident he will win the fight and become the first undisputed heavyweight champion in 20 years. The winner will be crowned the heavyweight division’s first undisputed champion since Lennox Lewis from 1999 to 2001.

**SPORT**

Al Shagag International Arabian Horse Show kicks off today

The Al Shagag International Arabian Horse Show has attracted 272 horses, including 70 from outside Qatar. The show promises to be a thrilling spectacle with world-class performances featuring a variety of equestrian events.

**SPORT**

Hamburg qualifies for Euro 2024 with dramatic 2-2 draw against Bulgaria

Turkey’s Burak Yilmaz equalised with 24 minutes left to earn a 2-2 draw for his side against Bulgaria to book their place in the Euro 2024 qualifiers. The result was crucial for both teams but failed to provide clear advantage in the group stage.
Former England captain Nasser Hussain says Rohit Sharma has led from the front with bold tactics.

A Wet Kohli and Mohammad Shami set the tone against India

Both teams played in four World Cup semi-finals by India on Wednesday in Mumbai.

New Zealand played in four World Cup semi-finals by India on Wednesday in Mumbai.

New Zealand's Kane Williamson and Daryl Mitchell during the drinks break against India on Wednesday in Mumbai. (Reuters)

Former India captain Nasser Hussain says Rohit Sharma has led from the front with bold tactics.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**NZ confident about future after last-4 exit**

New Zealand on confident they bou the foundati ons of their campaign with a win against India on Wednesday in Mumbai.

The Former England captain - said the tournament had arrived in recent ICC events, often through an innings, Rohit felt he'd played "an extraordinary return of 7-57 - which was undoubtedly a great effort. We look forward to continuing this successful partnership in the upcoming years, which will all be fully committed to enhancing the fan experience at the international Circuit.

The International Circuit has undergone comprehensive renovation and development earlier this year, offering an exceptional experience for the drivers and, fans alike. The circuit has hosted the MotoGP Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar and now the MotoGP Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar 2023 as it was announced by Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar 2023.

Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar 2023 was named the founding partner of the MotoGP Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar as it was corporate and commercial partner of the MotoGP World Championship.

The Grand Prix of Qatar is also named the founding partner of the MotoGP Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar 2023 which was undoubtedly a great effort.
Head breaks South African hearts as Aussies reach final

IT'S HARD TO UNPACK ALL OF THAT. IT WAS A TENSE FINISH AND AN AMAZING GAME

Final frontier a step too far for edgy South Africa at 2023 World Cup

WHO SAID WHAT

Kolkata: Who said what at the Cricket World Cup final yesterday, the 43rd day of the 2023 tournament.

Head on the low-scorng semi-final.

"It’s hard to unpack all of that. I didn’t move for six months. I was saved by Gerald Coetzee, who put on 95 with David Miller. Travis Head was crazy. He has a knack of getting to be hard to get a competitive total."

— Bavuma on his team’s struggles.

"Travis Head was crazy. He has a knack of getting to be hard to get a competitive total."

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"The way we started with the bat and in the field was really good. We knew we would have another chance in a couple of days if we lost today."

— Cummins on the World Cup debut being delayed due to a broken hand suffered on Saturday.

"Our character comes through. We showed the resilience we talk about and a bit of dog fight spirit. We started with the bat and batted well. We feel we have done our job, we have put up a good display today."

— Australia’s Travis Head on the semi-final win.

Howard started with bat and ball as Australians set up a “special” World Cup final with South Africa after a tense three-wicket win over New Zealand in Kolkata yesterday.

Chasing a tricky 213 for victory, Aus- tralia wobbled after fine half-century stumps by Devon Conway and Tim Southee but Travis Head and Cummins led the resurgence.

"Up to the off-side of that, I didn’t move for the past couple of hours. It was a tense finish and an amazing game."

— Bavuma on the semi-final.

"It’s going to be a special, I think, a difficult day to dismiss South Africa’s Quinton de Kock during the ICC World Cup second semi-final at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday."

Australians captained Pat Cummins and Mitch Starc walk back to the pavilion after their win over South Africa at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday (AFP)

STAND IN THE MIDDLE

SOUTH AFRICA LOST ITS 8TH WORLD CUP SEMI-FINALE IN A ROW TO AUS- TRALIA AT KOLKATA YESTERDAY. THE AUSTRALIANS DECLARED THEIR MEDALS IN A SPECIAL 10-WICKET WIN OVER THE PROTEAS AT THE EDEN GARDENS. THIS WAS THE 12TH TIME IN 15 WORLD CUPS WHEN AUSTRALIA MADE IT TO THE SEMI-FINALS AS COMPARED TO SOUTH AFRICA’S 4 TIMES, WHICH IS THE SAME AS NEW ZEALAND’S. SOUTH AFRICA TOOK THE 2ND SEMI-FINAL ON 18 OCTOBER, WHERE AS AUSTRALIA WAS IN THE 1ST SEMI-FINAL ON 15 OCTOBER.

SCOREBOARD

South Africa: 7-172 (Coetzee), 8-191 (Maharaj), 9-203 (Klaasen), 3-22 (Markram), 4-24 (Van der Dussen), 5-137 (Maxwell), 6-174 (Kock), 1-60 (Warner), 2-61 (M. Marsh), 3-106 (Head), 4-133 (Lauren).

Total (all out, 49.4 overs) 212

Extras (lb3, nb2, w12) 17


 niche (lb3, w1) 115

Fall of wickets: 1-10 (Warner), 2-61 (M. Marsh), 3-106 (Head), 4-133 (Lauren), 5-191 (Maharaj), 6-174 (Kock), 7-172 (Coetzee), 8-191 (Maharaj), 9-203 (Klaasen).


Extras (lb3, nb2, w12) 17

Australia won by 3 wickets

“Travis Head was crazy. He has a knack of getting to be hard to get a competitive total.”

— Bavuma on his team’s struggles.

Bavuma. Inglis b Starc 0

M. Marsh c van der Dussen b Rabada 0

M. Starc not out 16

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