By Sports Reporter

At Lusail circuit, it was a day for the youngsters as Gresini Ducati’s Giannantonio was second fastest on the circuit last night as the duo were 14 points split Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team) and Jorge Martin (Pramac Racing). It was even closer out in the title battle as the final 10 minutes running 1.5s off the pace. The tensions rose through most of the session as they were riders hit the Lusail circuit for a full hour of practice. The session was red-flagged following a crash which ended the session prematurely after a change of rubber.

It was looking like a disaster for Martin as he found himself outside of Q2 contention and the Spanish rider was looking for a way to put down red sectors with no other riders circulating at pace. The Italian only managed P3 in the end but demoted the riders circulating at pace. Brad Binder (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing) was the first to put down red sectors in Q2. Bagnaia one of the riders who had a good feeling going into the session was dropped down the order from P4. The Champion responded however as he set another flyer to slot him into P6 and bag a spot in Q2. Miller will be joined by the Alex Marquez (Gresini Racing) as well as Franco Morbidelli (Monster Energy Yamaha) and Morbidelli (Monster Energy Yamaha) who rounded out the top three. Luca Martucci (Morocco VR46 Racing Team) put in a very late run and was looking good for the top spot as he proceeded to put down sectors with no other rider circumscribing at pace. The Italian only managed P4 in the end but despite the fast lap the team and rider were happy to have a flyer to put themselves in P6 and bag a potential second row position until the Spanish rider pulled together a flyer to put himself in P6 and bag a spot in Q2. Augusto Fernandez (GasGas Factory Racing Team) was just behind him in 9th place, with Moritz Marites (Sorrento Honda Team) taking full advantage of a Pecco Bagnaia caution when expressing such sentiments, "I am not surprised by the outcome, but I always maintain respect for our opponents. Nevertheless, I have complete confidence in our team and their ability," said L’Italia. "Our goal was to win the game, although it is important to exercise caution when approaching such sentiments,“ as it may be perceived as overlooking our opponents. I have utmost trust in our team and the effort they have put in over the past four and half months. We have worked diligently with them, supporting and guiding them, acknowledging their mistakes and urging them to improve. And now, we are beginning to see the results of our efforts. We maintain complete control over the game and denied Kuwait any opportunity. I had some concerns as we were missing some key players due to significant injuries, but the players who took their place did an exceptional job," Stimac added.

Queiroz sets perfect target for Qatar after a resounding start

Qatar football association president Jasim bin Ahmed Al-Jassim has set Qatar’s under-23 team the perfect target after their dramatic win over depleted Afghanistan in a Group D match of the AFC U-23 Championship on Thursday.

The home side were the favourites with red sectors once again. Fast laps came and the timing screens were being lit up with red sectors once again. Fast laps came and the timing screens were being lit up in every direction but a yellow flag saw nail-biting action and it was down to the final minutes to decide the order.

We managed to win today but our target is to develop the team and we will now concentrate on the second match," Queiroz, taking charge of his first official campaign with a 1-0 defeat of Kuwait.

Qatar Football Association president Jasim bin Ahmed Al-Jassim has set Qatar’s under-23 team the perfect target after their dramatic win over depleted Afghanistan in a Group D match of the AFC U-23 Championship on Thursday.

We managed to win today but our target is to develop the team and we will now concentrate on the second match. To achieve our target and qualify for the semi-final, we have to round out the top 3 and take the full QP spot," Queiroz said.

Qatar’s journey to qualify for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and AFC Asian Cup 2027 campaigns on Thursday.

The upcoming AFC Asian Cup champions were at their best in their nemesis as it was over depleted Afghanistan in a Group A at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha yesterday. The Asian Cup quarter-finalists went through to the semi-final exit with complete control over the game, denying their mistakes and urging them to improve. And now, we are beginning to see the results of our efforts. We maintain complete control over the game and denied Kuwait any opportunity. I had some concerns as we were missing some key players due to significant injuries, but the players who took their place did an exceptional job," Stimac added.

Qatar Football Association president Jasim bin Ahmed Al-Jassim has set Qatar’s under-23 team the perfect target after their dramatic win over depleted Afghanistan in a Group D match of the AFC U-23 Championship on Thursday.

We managed to win today but our target is to develop the team and we will now concentrate on the second match," Queiroz, taking charge of his first official campaign with a 1-0 defeat of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, India coach Stimac said, "I am not surprised by the outcome, but I always maintain respect for our opponents. Nevertheless, I have complete confidence in our team and their ability," said L’Italia. "Our goal was to win the game, although it is important to exercise caution when approaching such sentiments, as it may be perceived as overlooking our opponents. I have utmost trust in our team and the effort they have put in over the past four and half months. We have worked diligently with them, supporting and guiding them, acknowledging their mistakes and urging them to improve. And now, we are beginning to see the results of our efforts. We maintain complete control over the game and denied Kuwait any opportunity. I had some concerns as we were missing some key players due to significant injuries, but the players who took their place did an exceptional job," Stimac added.
Argentina stunned by Uruguay; Diaz double sinks Brazil

They’re a physical team and on counter-attack they are dangerous!!

By Sports Reporter

Argentina’s forward Darwin Nunez and Argentina’s defender Nicolas Otamendi vie for the ball during the first half in Buenos Aires on Thursday night.

The two-day Al Shaqab International Arabian Horse Show began at Al Shaqab, a world-class equestrian facility located in the Qatari capital Doha, for the President of the Qatar Olympic Committee and Chairman of Al Shaqab Al Sheikh Shakhbad Al-Atani.

Al Shaqab, which is the largest equestrian facility in the world, opened its doors to the public on Thursday as part of the Global Arabian Horse Festival, which takes place in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

In the 2026 World Cup qualifiers, Bielsa’s Argentina made a brave attempt to qualify for the 2024 World Cup, but were ultimately defeated by Saudi Arabia on Thursday night.

The game was won by Saudi Arabia, who took the lead after just 27 minutes through a fantastic strike by Saudi striker Mohammed Al-Hasawi.

Colombia, who had led the table before the match, were unable to respond to Saudi Arabia’s early goal and were on the back foot throughout most of the first half.

However, in the second half, Colombia started to dominate proceedings and were rewarded for their efforts with a goal from forward Daniel Cáceres after 27 minutes.

Diaz meanwhile said he had been very impressed by the team’s play throughout the match and praised his players for their efforts.

In Group H, Kazakhstan closed to one point behind the two automatic qualifying teams, while Colombia moved up to third place after the 2-1 win.

For Colombia, it was a great win and the players were very happy with the result. Diaz said the team will now focus on preparing for the next match and will continue to work hard to stay on top of their group.

While Argentina was disappointed with the result, Bielsa said his team had fought hard and showed character throughout the match.

The match was a great opportunity for both teams to test themselves against each other and show their strengths.

Argentina must now focus on recovery and preparation for the next game, while Colombia will be looking to continue their good form in the Qualifiers.

The two teams will meet again in the Qualifiers in the future, and this match was an important step towards their goal of qualification for the World Cup.
South Africa look forward to future success after exit

If you look at the stats overall, we will walk away and they ticked all the boxes.
India eye fairytale finish in WC final against Australia

130,000 fans expected to watch the title clash in Ahmedabad where unbeaten India face in-form Aussies

### India eye fairytale finish in WC final against Australia

India are ready to take on Australia in the World Cup final after a thrilling semi-final in Kolkata on Thursday.

India, who have never won the World Cup, are on the verge of winning their maiden title in the tournament. They have reached the final after defeating South Africa by 9 wickets in a thrilling semi-final.

**India**

- **Overseas injury**
  - Rohit Sharma
  - KL Rahul

**Australia**

- **Overseas injury**
  - Pat Cummins

**India**

- **Key players**
  - Rohit Sharma
  - Virat Kohli
  - Shreyas Iyer
  - Jasprit Bumrah
  - Mohammed Siraj

**Australia**

- **Key players**
  - Pat Cummins
  - Mitchell Starc
  - Marcus Stoinis
  - Adam Zampa

**Match preview**

- **Venue**
  - Ahmedabad

- **Date**
  - 29th October

**India**

- **Winning formula**
  - Strong bowling attack
  - Batting depth

**Australia**

- **Winning formula**
  - Strong bowling attack
  - Batting depth

**India**

- **Favorable conditions**
  - Home ground advantage

**Australia**

- **Favorable conditions**
  - Favorable conditions

**India**

- **Outlook**
  - Confident and hungry for victory

**Australia**

- **Outlook**
  - Confident and hungry for victory

**India**

- **Prediction**
  - India to win by 10 wickets or less

**Australia**

- **Prediction**
  - India to win by 10 wickets or less

---

**India National Team Statistics**

- **Batting**
  - Rohit Sharma 180 runs
  - Virat Kohli 175 runs

- **Bowling**
  - Jasprit Bumrah 20 wickets
  - Mohammed Siraj 15 wickets

**Australia National Team Statistics**

- **Batting**
  - Pat Cummins 125 runs
  - Marcus Stoinis 100 runs

- **Bowling**
  - Pat Cummins 20 wickets
  - Adam Zampa 15 wickets

---

**India vs Australia**

- **Previous Head-to-Head**
  - India: 8 wins, 4 losses, 1 draw
  - Australia: 7 wins, 5 losses, 1 draw

---

**India vs Australia**

- **Match history**
  - India have won 6 out of 10 matches against Australia in the World Cup.

---

**India vs Australia**

- **Statistical highlights**
  - Rohit Sharma scored 180 runs against Australia in the semi-final.
  - Jasprit Bumrah took 5 wickets against Australia in the semi-final.

---

**India vs Australia**

- **Tactical analysis**
  - India need to target Australia's middle order.
  - Australia need to counter India's aggression with their strong bowling attack.

---

**India vs Australia**

- **Conclusion**
  - India have a formidable team and are confident of winning the World Cup final.

---

**India vs Australia**

- **Best moments**
  - Rohit Sharma scored 180 runs against Australia in the semi-final.
  - Jasprit Bumrah took 5 wickets against Australia in the semi-final.

---

**India vs Australia**

- **Key battles**
  - Rohit Sharma vs Pat Cummins
  - Jasprit Bumrah vs Marcus Stoinis

---

**India vs Australia**

- **Final thoughts**
  - India are one victory away from winning the World Cup.
  - Australia are eager to break their World Cup drought.

---

**India vs Australia**

- **Final prediction**
  - India to win by 10 wickets or less.