A sian champions Qatar proved their reinforce-
ment with a 3-0 win against India in Group A of the Preliminary Joint Qualification – Round 2 for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 at the Khalifa Stadium in Doha on Wednesday.

The winning goal came from a surprise source in the fourth minute. Qatar’s Almoez Ali opened the scoring with an easy goal following a poor clearance from the goalkeeper.

India’s best chance of the match came in the opening minutes when they were denied an equalizer by a brilliant save from goalkeeper Ali. The goalkeeper made another impressive save to deny Anirudh Thapa before the half.

India continued to press after the break and came close to equalizing through Akram Afif, but his shot was deflected off the goal line.

Qatar’s Mustafa Mashal celebrated after scoring the opening goal yesterday.

Israel’s contribution continued as the ball fell to Wael Youssef Labbad, who equalized with an opportunity to score against the visiting team.

A cross in from the left by Mohammad Mohamad found Thapa, who was able to head his header into the roof of the net.

Defender Harry Souttar’s 18th-minute goal was all that separated the two sides, as Qatar continued to dominate the proceedings.

“Palestine is in our hearts. We came to the stadium, old and young, to support,” said Anfal al-Azmi, a 40-year-old Kuwaiti woman.

“Palestine is our cause. We came to the stadium, old and young, to support,” said Almoez Al-Ali, a 40-year-old Kuwaiti man.

“It’s a big deal for us to play in front of our fans since the start of the war,” said Muhammad Al-Ali, a 30-year-old Kuwaiti man.

Palestinians by flag in association World Cup qualifier Palestinian flags and the black-white keffiyeh scarf flew high in Kuwait’s Jaber Al Abdullah International national Stadium as football fans voiced their sentiments in a World Cup qualifier yesterday.

Thousands of Palestinians and their sympathizers turned out at the 60,000-seat venue for the game against Australia, Palestinian’s first in front of more than the start of the war.

“Palestine is our cause. We came to the stadium, old and young, to support,” said Anfal Al-Azmi, a 40-year-old Kuwaiti woman.

“This is a big game for us. We came to support our brothers. We are one,” said Wael Youssef Labbad, a 40-year-old Kuwaiti man.

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Suryakumar Yadav to captain India for Australia series

The five-match series begins tomorrow in Vishakapatnam

India's T20I squad for the five-match series against Australia is announced and will be captained by Suryakumar Yadav.

**Team Composition:**
- **Opening:** Yashasvi Jaiswal (c), Marcus Stoinis
- **Middle Order:** Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav (vc), Dinesh Karthik, Suryakumar Yadav (vc), Prithvi Shaw, Hardik Pandya, Washington Sundar, Rishabh Pant, Deepak Chahar, T Natarajan
- **Spinners:** Chetan Sakariya, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav

**Key Points:**
- Yadav is set to lead the team to the final. He sat out the first four matches of the 2023 World Cup but will captain the team for the five-match series against Australia.
- The squad has been selected for the T20 series, which will be played in November.
- India will face Australia in the first T20I in Vishakapatnam on November 23, followed by matches in Guwahati, Ranchi, Ahmedabad, and Mumbai.
- Yadav will also captain India during the 2023-24 Australia A tour, which starts on December 5.

**Australia:**
- The Australian team will be captained by Aaron Finch.
- The squad includes Australia opener David Warner, Mitchell Starc, Hazlewood, and Mitchell Marsh.
- The T20 series opens tomorrow in Vishakapatnam, with Australia leading the series.

**India vs Australia T20I Series:**
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**Raonic quick off the blocks but Finland hit back**

BIG-SERVING CANADIAN WINS THE OPENER IN STRAIGHT SETS

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**GOLF**

Australia’s Smith eyeing Paris Olympics amid rankings doubt

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**SPOTLIGHT**

Tiger and McIlroy’s golf-tech series sells out to 2025

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**NBA**

HorNETS work overtime to snap Celtics’ streak as Heat Beat Bulls with ease

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**TENNIS**

City of Stockholm on board for 2030 Winter Olympics bid

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**Agency**

Reuters

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**Nuggets vs. Pistons (103-96)**

Jae’Sean Tate had 23 points and 10 rebounds for the losing Pistons. The Nuggets took the last nine points in regulation to beat the Pistons.

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**Celtics vs. Kings (113-107)**

De’Aaron Fox had 30 points for the losing Kings, who trailed by 28 at one point.

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**Jazz vs. Nuggets (120-118)**

Jared Butler scored 31 points for the Jazz, who won their 11th consecutive game as they clinched their ninth straight win over the Nuggets.

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**Heat vs. Wizards (118-100)**

Heat guard Gabe Vincent said: “It was a great night for him.”

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**Bucks vs. Heat (125-107)**

Jimmy Butler scored 40 points for the Heat, who won their fourth straight game.

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**Tigers vs. Cubs (4-1)**

Tigers starting pitcher Matthew Boyd allowed just one run in seven innings.

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**Fire vs. Sounders (2-1)**

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored a goal and provided an assist for the L.A. Galaxy in their win over Seattle Sounders.

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**Celtics vs. Bulls (103-96)**

Jayson Tatum had 27 points and 12 rebounds for the winning Celtics.

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**FOOTBALL**

### Italy promise to ‘repeat something fantastic’ at Euro

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**SPORT**

### Son scores twice as South Korea outclass China 3-0

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### ADVANI WINS IBSF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR RECORD 26TH TIME

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### Walter and Xue claim 10m air pistol titles

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