

Egypt edge Australia on penalties to reach **World Cup last 16**

Hossam Abdelmaguid scored the winning penalty as Egypt made history by beating a dogged Australia 4-2 on penalties to reach the World Cup last 16 on Friday.

A tense affair in which Egypt and their off-colour captain Mohamed Salah wasted the better chances, ended 1-1 after 120 minutes in Texas.

Lionel Messi's Argentina loom next for Egypt, as long as the reigning champions avoid a massive upset against tournament debutants Cape Verde in their last-32 encounter.

The Pharaohs will celebrate anyway having reached this stage of a World Cup for the first time ever.

Australia coach Tony Popovic threw on experienced goalkeeper Mathew Ryan for the penalty shootout in a last-gasp gamble.

Shooting towards the Egypt fans and with whistles raining down, defender Harry Souttar blazed the first penalty over to put the Socceroos on the immediate backfoot.

The next five players all scored, including Salah with the coolest of penalties, before 18-year-old Australia defender Lucas Herrington hit the bar.

Abdelmaguid kept his nerve to send Egypt through, leaving Salah in tears of joy and breaking Australia hearts.

Emam Ashour had given seven-time African champions Egypt the lead from a header after 13 minutes at the air-con-



Egypt's players celebrate after winning the match



Egypt's goalkeeper #23 Mostafa Shoubir (L) and Egypt's midfielder #08 Emam Ashour celebrate after winning the match

70,000.

With Salah mostly ineffective following injury in Egypt's last game, the Socceroos equalised 10 minutes after half-time when Mohamed Hany headed into his own net.

Both sides sensed history, neither having won a knockout game before at a men's World Cup, and they went to extra time after some late Egypt pressure.

With nothing to divide them they went to penalties.

Egypt finished normal time the stronger and Salah fired well over early in extra time on his weaker right foot, with penalties looking increasingly inevitable.

Salah, though, proved more reliable in the shootout as Egypt triumphed.

Neymar unhappy with World Cup role but 'respectful', says Ancelotti



Brazil's forward #10 Neymar warms up
AFP | Basking Ridge

Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti said Neymar is unhappy he has had such a limited role at the World Cup but has handled the situation professionally and remains a positive influence within the squad.

The country's all-time leading goalscorer has made just one substitute appearance at his fourth World Cup, playing the final 14 minutes of Brazil's 3-0 win over Scotland in the group stage.

Neymar, 34, is again likely to be on the bench for Sunday's last-16 match against Norway at MetLife Stadium.

"He's not satisfied, but he's behaving very well. He's training very well. Neymar is very respectful, kind, and loved by his teammates," Ancelotti told Brazilian newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo in an interview published yesterday.

"He's an important figure

in the team because he has quality and he's a very humble person. I'm very happy with him. And, obviously, he wants to play, like he always has."

Neymar arrived at the tournament with a right calf injury.

Ancelotti insisted that Neymar is now capable of playing a full match, easing doubts over the fitness of the former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain star.

"The important thing is that he can play. No one knows how long he will play. He has the experience to manage his minutes in the game and the tempo. When I see that the team needs him, I'll put him on (the pitch)," said the Italian.

Brazil have never beaten Norway, drawing two and losing two of their four previous meetings. They have also not defeated a European side in a World Cup knockout match since winning the tournament in 2002.

Allegri replaces Conte as Napoli manager



Massimiliano Allegri (L) and Antonio Conte

AFP | Rome

Massimiliano Allegri will replace Antonio Conte as Napoli manager, the Serie A club announced on yesterday.

"Napoli welcomes Massimiliano Allegri as manager of the first team," it said in a statement, adding that the 58-year-old had signed a three-year contract lasting until 2029.

Allegri previously coached Juventus (2014-19, 2021-24) and AC Milan (2010-14, 2025-26). Milan sacked him after the team missed out on next season's Champions League.

Since the end of the season,

nine of the 20 Serie A teams have changed coaches, including Napoli, AC Milan, which hired the Portuguese Ruben Amorim, Atalanta Bergamo (Maurizio Sarri), and Fiorentina (Fabio Grosso).

Conte, who guided Napoli to the Serie A title in the 2024/25 campaign, has been touted as the favourite to take over as Italy coach.

The former Italy international previously coached the national side between 2014 and 2016, taking them to the Euro 2016 quarterfinals where they lost on penalties to Germany.

Hamilton edges Antonelli for Silverstone sprint pole

● Antonelli finishes close behind

● Verstappen places third in qualifying

AFP | Silverstone

Lewis Hamilton seized pole position for Saturday's Sprint at the British Grand Prix, edging rookie Mercedes driver Kimi Antonelli by just 0.011 seconds in a tense qualifying shootout at Silverstone yesterday.

Briton Lewis Hamilton, driving for Ferrari, clocked a best lap of 1 minute 28.376 seconds in SQ3 to secure top spot on home soil, narrowly beating Antonelli's 1:28.387 as Red Bull's Max Verstappen took third ahead of Charles Leclerc's Ferrari. George Russell lined up fifth, just ahead of McLaren pair Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri, with Isack Hadjar, Liam Lawson and Arvid Lindblad completing the top 10 for Saturday's 17-lap Sprint.

Hamilton had signalled his



Ferrari's British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates his pole position after the sprint qualifying session

intentions early, topping the lone practice session and then leading SQ1 and SQ2 before delivering under pressure in the final one-lap dash on soft tyres. Norris and Piastri brief-

ly held provisional pole in SQ3 before Antonelli moved ahead, only for Hamilton to electrify the home crowd by finding the decisive margin on his final effort. Russell, struggling for

0.011

seconds was the incredibly narrow margin by which Lewis Hamilton edged out rookie Kimi Antonelli to secure the top spot on the grid

pace throughout the afternoon, salvaged fifth but ended more than three tenths off his teammate's benchmark.

Alpine's Pierre Gasly missed out on SQ3 by less than a tenth, heading the Audi duo Gabriel Bortoleto and Nico Hulkenberg, while Franco Colapinto took 14th ahead of Williams drivers Carlos Sainz and Alex Albon. Haas's Oliver Bearman was the first to be eliminated in SQ1, falling short of progression by just 0.010 seconds, as Esteban Ocon, Sergio Perez, Valtteri Bottas, Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll also dropped out, the Aston Martins more than 3.6 seconds off Hamilton's early pace.