

Suriname stun El Salvador

Allege racist chants in WC qualifying

AFP | Miami, United States

Dhoraso Klas scored in the 81st minute as Suriname stunned El Salvador 2-1 away on Monday in a 2026 World Cup qualifying match marred by alleged racist chanting.

Suriname, who have never qualified for the World Cup, toppled El Salvador from the Group A lead in the final round of CONCACAF (North American) qualifying.

It was Suriname's first victory over the Salvadorans since 1968.

Afterwards head coach Stanley Menzo and captain Shaquille Pinas hit out at some home fans over racist chanting while his team celebrated their victory.

"You have to ask why your fans are shouting to my players, 'negro'," Menzo said to reporters.

Pinas suggested that the same thing happened in a previous World Cup qualifier, again in San Salvador, in June, but said that the team had chosen not to speak out then.

"If you say negro, monkey, this kind of things, I think that's not fun," said Pinas.



El Salvador's forward #09 Brayan Gil, Suriname's midfielder #14 Jean-Paul Boetius and midfielder #08 Justin Lonwijk fight for the ball during the 2026 FIFA World Cup Concacaf qualifier football match between El Salvador and Suriname at the Cuscatlan Stadium in San Salvador

Suriname, who opened with a goalless home draw against Panama, snapped an eight-match winless streak against El Salvador and moved to four points with the hosts on three.

In the night's other Group A match, hosts Panama and Guatemala played out a 1-1 draw, leaving both winless after two out of six group matches.

Suriname's only prior victory over El Salvador came in

December 1968 in a qualifying match for the 1970 Mexico World Cup.

Suriname grabbed a 1-0 lead in the 12th minute on Monday with a header by Radinio Balker, a Dutch-born defender playing for England's Huddersfield Town.

Brayan Gil looked to have netted an equalizer for El Salvador in the 29th minute but that was overturned after a video review.

The Salvadorans finally made it 1-1 through Suriname defender Anfernee Dijksteel's own goal.

But Klas fired in a right-footed shot from the right side to win the game.

CONCACAF final round qualifying was changed this year because regional powers Mexico, Canada and the United States will serve as next year's World Cup co-hosts.

The last 12 teams were drawn into three groups of four with group winners from round-robin matches through to November advancing to the World Cup and two second-place teams advancing to playoffs with nations from other confederations.

At Panama City, Guatemala grabbed the lead in the 35th minute on a right-footed blast by Oscar Santis from the heart of the box.

Carlos Harvey, however, netted the equalizer for Panama in the 37th minute with a header off an Eric Davis assist.

Panama stretched an unbeaten streak against Guatemala to 15 matches in all competitions since 2005, with a fourth draw to go alongside 11 triumphs.

Bahrain Futsal Eye Bounce Back After Iraq Defeat

Final friendly set before AFC Asian Cup qualifiers in Thailand



TDI | Manama

Bahrain's national futsal team will look to finish their preparations on a stronger note when they meet Iraq again on Wednesday night at 7:30pm at the Bahrain Football Association Arena.

The fixture follows Monday's 3-1 defeat to the same opponents in Manama. Abdulla Hantoush scored Bahrain's only goal, but Iraq proved too strong on the night.

Attention now shifts to Thailand, where the squad departs on September 15, for Group B of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers. Bahrain have been drawn alongside hosts Thailand, South Korea, and Brunei Darussalam.

The qualifiers run from 20 to 24 September. Bahrain open against South Korea on the 20th, face Thailand two days later, and conclude against Brunei on the 24th.

Barca's Camp Nou not ready to host Valencia game



Barcelona, Spain

Barcelona will use the tiny Johan Cruyff stadium at their training ground to host Valencia in La Liga on Sunday, with the Spotify Camp Nou not yet licensed to reopen amid a rebuild.

The Spanish champions had hoped to play before a reduced crowd at their Camp Nou home, as construction continues, but have not acquired the correct permits to do so.

"The club is working intensively to obtain the necessary administrative permits to open Spotify Camp Nou in the coming weeks," said the club in a statement.

"Barcelona thanks its members, fans, and supporters for their understanding and support during such a complex and exciting process as the return to the new Spotify Camp

Nou." The Johan Cruyff stadium, where Barca's women's team regularly plays, holds around 6,000 spectators.

Barcelona closed the Camp Nou for building work at the end of the 2022/23 season, aiming to partially reopen the stadium in November 2024.

They played their home matches at the Olympic stadium on the city's Montjuic hill until the end of last season, as the return date was repeatedly pushed back because of delays in construction and problems obtaining licenses.

A concert from American Rapper Post Malone on Friday at the Olympic stadium means Barcelona cannot return there this weekend.

Barcelona are estimated to be paying 1.5 billion euros (\$1.75 billion) for the Camp Nou rebuild, which is due to be completed in 2026.

Quiet Tebogo's legs to 'do the talking' in Lyles 200m worlds battle

Tokyo, Japan

Olympic 200m champion Letsile Tebogo said Tuesday he would let his "legs do the talking" in his battle with brash American Noah Lyles at the world championships in Tokyo.

The softly spoken Botswanan won his country's first Olympic gold medal in any sport in Paris last year, where Lyles finished third.

Tebogo labelled his flamboyant American rival "arrogant" after the race, and Lyles's out-sized character is likely to command the global spotlight again when the world championships



Olympic 200m champion and a global ambassador for the Kids Athletics development programme, Letsile Tebogo of Botswana (L), plays a drum during a visit to a primary school gymnasium ahead of the start of the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo

begin on Saturday.

Tebogo said he was comfortable with having "different personalities" in the sport, as he took part in an event with children at a primary school in Tokyo.

"I'm one person who always shies away from the media, but the sport forces me to step up, up my game into becoming a sports personality," said the 22-year-old.

"At the end of the day, it's all about what do you want to see: to be on the spotlight or off the

spotlight.

"For me, I choose off the spotlight and then just my legs do the talking."

Lyles got the better of Tebogo in the 200m in the Diamond League finals in Zurich two weeks ago, edging the Botswanan by two-hundredths of a second.

The pair are also set to square off in the 100m in Tokyo.

Tebogo is looking to win his first world title after picking up silver in the 100m and bronze in the 200m in Budapest two

years ago.

He said he felt like "a hero" to Botswanans after his historic Olympic success but vowed not to change his approach in Tokyo.

"Once you invite pressure inside yourself, then it means you are not doing it for yourself, you are doing it for the people," he said.

"Yes, you should do it for the people but it's you first and then the people later.

"Once you put pressure inside yourself, it means you have done something wrong."

Tebogo has said that athletics saved him from a life of crime and he is a global ambassador for the Kids Athletics development programme.

He was all smiles during his school visit, banging a traditional Japanese drum to start a race that saw about 100 children scramble under nets and tip-toe over balance beams.

He said he felt a responsibility to "inspire kids all over the world".

"I'm so excited to see how the Japanese relay culture works and I really can't wait to work with these kids because we had a fun time in Botswana," said Tebogo.

"I believe we're also going to have fun here."



Tebogo became Botswana's very first Olympic gold medalist when he clinched the men's 200 m title at the 2024 Paris Games, setting a new African record of 19.46 seconds and becoming the first African ever to win that event. This historic win not only secured the top spot on the podium, but also marked Botswana's inaugural gold medal in any sport.