

# Qatar Seal World Cup Berth, UAE Left Waiting

Doha delight as Emirati hopes delayed again

- Qatar qualify with 2-1 win
- UAE drop to second place
- Late goal sparks anxious finale
- Afif impresses with two assists

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Qatar have secured their place at the 2026 FIFA World Cup after a marginally 2-1 win over the UAE in Doha last night. The result ended Emirati hopes of direct qualification and sent the defending Asian champions to next year's global showpiece in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

For the UAE, the loss means their path to a first World Cup appearance since 1990 now runs through the play-offs. They finish second in Group A and will face the Group B runners-up,



Qatar's flag flies high as 2022 hosts return to the world stage

either Saudi Arabia or Iraq, in the fifth round of Asian qualifying. The winner of that tie will move on to the intercontinental play-offs for a final shot at qualification.

At the Jassim bin Hamad Sta-

dium, the UAE began brightly. Cosmin Olariu's side dominated possession in the first half, creating the better chances through Nicolas Giménez and Ali Saleh, but failed to find the breakthrough.

Qatar, led by the influential Akram Afif, struck early after the restart when Boualem Khoukhi rose highest to head home Afif's free kick in the 49th minute. The UAE pushed for a response, but defensive gaps began to show,

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UAE held 60% possession despite falling short

and in the 74th minute Pedro Miguel doubled Qatar's lead from another Afif delivery.

Substitute Sultan Adel pulled one back for the UAE deep into stoppage time with a brilliant strike, sparking a late surge of pressure after Qatar's Tarek Salman was sent off in the 87th minute. Yet Mahmoud Abunada's late saves preserved Qatar's lead and sealed their ticket to North America.

The result brought joy to the home crowd in Doha and disappointment for the travelling fans. Qatar celebrated qualification on home soil, while the UAE's World Cup dream continues - alive, but hanging by a thread.

## Rain stops Sri Lanka's momentum in New Zealand washout at World Cup



Groundsmen cover the field  
AFP | Colombo

Sri Lanka and New Zealand were forced to share points in their Women's World Cup fixture after heavy rain had the final say in Colombo on Tuesday, washing out play after the innings break.

The hosts had done the hard yards, posting a competitive 258-6 and fancying their chances with a spin heavy attack on a pitch tailor made for the slow bowlers. The total was also the highest in the Colombo leg of the competition so far.

The innings belonged to lower order dynamo Nilakshika Silva, who threw caution to the wind to smash the fastest half-century of this World Cup.

Coming in at number six, she turned the tide with a whirlwind knock, reaching her fifty in just 26 balls, bettering the previous mark of 34 deliveries set by Bangladesh's Shorna Akter earlier in the week.

It was also a new Sri Lankan record, eclipsing Nilakshika's own milestone of 28 balls.

## BRAVE CF 101 Follows Historic Milestone With Kombat Kingdom Return

Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation (BRAVE CF), the world's fastest-growing and most global mixed martial arts organization, proudly announces the long-awaited return of its iconic Kombat Kingdom series with BRAVE CF 101, set to ignite the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town, Bahrain, on Sunday, November 9.

Only two days after the monumental BRAVE 100, the promotion refuses to slow down, charging forward with another world-class spectacle that cements Bahrain's position on the sport's landscape.

Mohammed Shahid, President of BRAVE Combat Federation, stated: "BRAVE 100 represents a defining milestone for



the organization and the sport itself. But what makes BRAVE CF truly different is our ability to sustain momentum — to carry the energy from one historic moment straight into the next. BRAVE CF 101 marks the continuation, a statement of our commitment to the sport, and the beginning of a new chapter for the company. We're not just celebrating our legacy; we're

immediately writing the next line of our story."

The premium live event promises a breathtaking card featuring the best of Bahrain's homegrown talent and elite international warriors converging under one roof to create another unforgettable night of MMA excellence.

In the headliner, Bahrain's own Magomed Idrisov will

take center stage as he looks to storm up the flyweight ladder and solidify his place among the division's elite. Standing across from him is Brazil's Marciano Ferreira, a mixed martial artist whose explosive style guarantees a high-octane clash from the opening bell.

Meanwhile, the co-main event promises no less drama, as No. 3-ranked lightweight contender and Bahraini stand-out Ramazan Gitinov, one of the most technically gifted athletes on the roster, will square off against an equally skilled Turkish newcomer in Nursultan Asker.

Additional event details, including the complete bout lineup, will be announced in the coming weeks.

## Gill wins first series as India captain with 2-0 West Indies sweep



India's players celebrate with the trophy after their win against West Indies

- India win second Test by seven wickets

AFP | New Delhi

Shubman Gill yesterday won his first Test series since becoming India captain as his side beat the West Indies by seven wickets at Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium for a 2-0 sweep.

Chasing 121 for victory in the second Test, India resumed on day five at 63-1 and reached their target in the first session with KL Rahul unbeaten on 58.

West Indies captain Roston Chase struck twice with his off-spin to send back Sai Sudharsan for 39 and Gill, who made 13.

Rahul hit the winning four as India reached 124-3 after a spirited fightback from the West Indies, who made 390 in their second innings with centuries from John Campbell and Shai Hope after being forced to

follow on.

India are a team in transition under 26-year-old Gill, after the retirements of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

They won the opening Test by an innings and 140 runs after a thrilling 2-2 draw in their five-Test series in England from June to August, Gill's first in charge.

"It's a really big honour and I would say I'm getting used to it," Gill said at the post-match presentation.

"Managing all the players and leading this team is a great honour."

India head coach Gautam Gambhir said the young leader was marching on after having passed his "toughest test as a Test captain" in England.

"No one has done him a favour by appointing him the Test and one-day captain," the former batsman told reporters.

"I think he deserves every bit of it. I think he's worked hard, and he ticks all the boxes."

## Bahrain Finalizes Media Strategy for 2025 Asian Youth Games

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's National Communication Centre (NCC) has finalized a comprehensive communication strategy for the 3rd Asian Youth Games, scheduled to take place from October 22-31, 2025, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

NCC CEO Ahmed Al Araifi confirmed the kingdom's readiness to host media delegations

and ensure extensive coverage of the event.

The strategic framework, developed in coordination with relevant authorities, aims to highlight Bahrain's integrated national efforts in hosting the Games. Al Araifi stated the plan aligns with the vision of the kingdom's leadership to establish Bahrain as a premier destination for major international events. The NCC will leverage its full logistical resources and ex-



NCC CEO Ahmed Al Araifi

pertise to facilitate media operations and ensure a high-quality experience for all journalists.

The initiative falls under the directives of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, reflecting a coordinated national effort to present a successful edition of the Games. The event is poised to reinforce Bahrain's growing profile as a capable host for international sporting competitions.