

# Bahrain crash out

Son Heung-min's South Korea seal win over Bahrain and place in Asian Cup quarter-finals

● **Kim Jin-su header in first period of extra time gives South Koreans a 2-1 win in Dubai**

AFP | Dubai

Son Heung-min's South Korea needed an extra-time winner to beat Bahrain 2-1 as they stumbled into the Asian Cup quarter-finals in unconvincing fashion yesterday.

Kim Jin-su's diving header at the end of the first extra period proved the difference as the two-time champions met unexpected resistance before winning in Dubai.

But Paulo Bento's side, runners-up in 2015 and one of the favourites for the title, survived to reach the last eight.

Tottenham star Son took a boot to the head as he weathered some robust challenges in a first half which South Korea dominated with 73 percent of possession.

Bahrain nearly stunned the Koreans with Mohamed Marhoon's stinging early shot as South Korea took time to settle into their rhythm.



Jung Woo-young of South Korea and Mohamed Al Romaihi of Bahrain battle for the ball

But from the half-hour Son started to make his presence felt with some typically direct running which caused panic in the Bahrain defence.

South Korea broke the deadlock two minutes from half-time, when Son laid off to Lee Yong whose cross was parried by the goalkeeper to Hwang

Hee-chan, who snaffled the easy chance.

South Korea threatened to run riot after the break before Bahrain hit back and it took a magnificent flying stop from Kim Seung-gyu to keep out Jamal Rashed's thumping effort.

And against all expectations, Bahrain were suddenly lev-

el with 13 minutes remaining when Mohamed Al Romaihi smashed in the rebound from Mahdi Al-Humaidan's shot.

The goal stunned South Korea,

who had only conceded twice at an Asian Cup game since 2011 -- the 2015 final, which they lost 2-1 to Australia after extra time.

Hwang Ui-jo nearly snatched the victory in injury time, when a defensive mix-up put him one-on-one with Sayed Shubbar Alawi, but he spooned his shot wide to set up the additional 30 minutes of play.

South Korea's first goal had been their only shot on target but they looked determined to put that right and substitute Lee Seung-woo should have done better when he was set up in the box by Son's strong run.

Bahrain goalkeeper Alawi withdrew with an apparent hamstring injury but one of the first tasks for his replacement, Abdulkarim Fardan, was to pick the ball out of the net.

Substitute Kim Jin-su found time and space to steady himself and drive home a header from Lee Yong's cross, a goal which the team celebrated by holding up the 16 shirt of injured Newcastle United midfielder Ki Sung-yueng.

## Asian Cup

South Korea	2	-	1	Bahrain
Qatar	1	-	0	Iraq

\*Scores as of closing

## Indian selectors get cash bonus for historic Australia tour

AFP | New Delhi

The selectors who chose the Indian cricketers to tour Australia recently have been awarded almost \$30,000 each as a bonus for picking the history-making squad.

India clinched their first Test series in Australia in 71 years before claiming another historic first with a 2-1 win in the one-day internationals. The Twenty20 series ended in a draw.

The squad captained by Virat Kohli -- who won three top International Cricket Council awards on Tuesday, the first player ever to do so -- ended the tour without losing a series, a first on Australian soil.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India awarded the players and coaches cash bonuses after the historic win, but followed up with a two million rupee (\$28,000) reward for each selector.

"The five men have played a crucial role in picking a balanced Indian squad and offering the team management enough options to work around different combinations," Indian cricket administrator Vinod Rai said in a statement.

## 'Very very happy' Kohli sweeps top ICC awards

AFP | New Delhi

India captain Virat Kohli said yesterday he was "very very happy" after becoming the first-ever player to clinch all three top honours, including cricketer of the year, in the International Cricket Council awards.

Kohli, who recently led India to their maiden Test and one-day series triumph in Australia, was also voted the Test and ODI men's player of the year as the cricket's world governing body announced its annual honours, chosen by former players and veteran journalists.

"It feels amazing. It's a reward for all the hard work that you do throughout the calendar year. I feel really grateful and very, very happy with the team doing well at the same time myself performing," Kohli said in a statement.

"Having recognition at the global level from the ICC is something you feel proud of as a cricketer because you understand that there are many players playing the game."

The 30-year-old Kohli, who is married to Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma, has reached superstar status in cricket-mad India, after first coming into the limelight when he led the South Asian nation to victory in the 2008 Under-19 World Cup.

He was the top Test and ODI batsman in 2018, scoring 1,322 Test runs at an average of 55.08 -- including five centuries -- and 1,202 runs at 133.55 in ODIs, with six centuries.

He also scored 211 runs in 10 Twenty20 matches.



India's captain Virat Kohli (R) gestures as the India team celebrates their series win on the fifth day of the fourth and final cricket Test against Australia

Kohli was picked to skipper the ICC Test and ODI teams of the year for the second year running.

### Ponting's footsteps

Kohli became only the second player after Australian great Ricky Ponting to retain the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy -- given to the cricketer of the year.

He was the unanimous choice for the award, with South African fast bowler Kagiso Rabada coming second in both the cricketer of the year category and the Test player of the year.

"This is well deserved recognition for an extraordinary talent," ICC chief executive David Richardson said of Kohli.

"His regard for the game and particularly for Test cricket is also recognised and appreciated. He is passionate in his support of the longest form of the game and its continued importance."

Australia opener Aaron Finch won the T20 performance of the year award for the second time for his 172 -- the highest-ever individual T20 score -- against Zimbabwe in Harare last July.

India's Rishabh Pant was named emerging player of the year, while Scotland batsman Callum MacLeod took home the associate cricketer of the year trophy.

The 21-year-old Pant became the first Indian wicketkeeper to score a Test century in England, and equalled the record for the most catches taken in a Test, with 11 in Adelaide in December.

# 1,322

Test runs were scored by Virat Kohli, at an average of 55.08 -- including five centuries, to become the top Test batsman in 2018

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