



AFC  
**ASIAN CUP**  
QATAR 2023™

# TECHNICAL REPORT









# STORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

























## FINAL

### JORDAN 1-3 QATAR

Akram Afif scored a hat-trick of penalties as Qatar emerged as AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023™ champions, lifting the coveted trophy for the second successive edition.

Though Yazan Al Naimat's equaliser gave first-time finalists Jordan a flicker of hope, Afif's coolness and Qatar's overall superiority took them over the finishing line comfortably.

Afif's hat-trick, the first in an AFC Asian Cup™ Final, took his tally to eight as he was named the Most Valuable Player and won the Yili Top Scorer Award while teammate Meshaal Barsham took the Best Goalkeeper honour.

With the majority of the 86,492 fans in the Lusail Stadium urging them on, Qatar were quick to settle with Jordan goalkeeper Yazeed Abulaila having to rush off his line to deny Afif in the fifth minute.

Afif had another crack at goal two minutes later when Lucas Mendes sent a cross into the six-yard-box but the Al Sadd forward fired his low drive straight into the arms of Abulaila.

Qatar continued to pressure the Jordanian defence with Hassan Al Haydos threading a delightful through ball to Almoez Ali, who was stopped in his tracks by an alert Mahmoud Al Mardi.

Limited to just counter-attacks, Jordan's Nizar Al Rashdan whipped a long ball for Ali Olwan, with the forward setting up Yazan Al Naimat, who forced goalkeeper Barsham to parry his powerful drive from above the box.



Jordan struggled to match Qatar's intensity and paid the price in the 22nd minute following Abdallah Nasib's clumsy challenge on Afif, who coolly slotted home the ensuing penalty to take his tournament tally to six goals.

The goal forced Jordan into action and after coming close several times, they drew level in the 67th minute when an unmarked Al Naimat showed excellent ball control inside the six-yard-box before riffling his effort into the bottom corner.

Jordan, however, were on level terms for just six minutes as Afif restored Qatar's lead from the penalty spot after Al Mardi's foul on Ismaeel Mohammad.

There was no respite for Jordan as they conceded their third penalty after goalkeeper Abulaila was judged to have brought down Afif after a VAR review, with the forward stepping up once more to convert from the spot to complete his hat-trick in the fifth minute of added time and hand Qatar their second AFC Asian Cup™ title.





# WINNING COACH







# TECHNICAL TOPICS



“he positioned himself well to create overloads in midfield, rotating into pockets on either side of the opposition’s defensive midfielders. He used individual skills to create spaces, control the tempo and pose problems to the opponent’s defence”.

Trevor Morgan added “it was interesting to see how many of the top eight teams didn’t rely on a single individual, but rather had partnerships – two men who played well off each other”. Qatar relied heavily on the understanding between Afif and Ali which dates back to youth development teams. Jordan played to the combined strengths of Mousa Al Tamari and Yazan Al Naimat.

However, the topic is not so much about listing the individuals and duos that made the difference as about reviewing where they played. Al Tamari and, on occasions, Afif were mobile roaming wingers who, rather than making vertical runs, liked to cut inside on to their favourite foot. So was Korea Republic’s playmaking Lee Kang-in while, in the opinion of the technical observers, Son Heung-min was at his most influential when deployed in a wider position on the left. IR Iran’s Alireza Jahanbakhsh generated danger on the right side of the final third. Uzbekistan’s attacking catalyst Abbosbek Fayzullayev also operated from a left-side position. Australia’s Jackson Irvine played a slightly more central role but, like the others, darted into gaps and generated quick combination moves, cutting in from pockets near the touchlines. In Qatar, the players responsible for making things happen tended to be middle-to-front players often starting in wide areas. The traditional midfielder schemer was rarely visible.

## THE EMPTY CENTRE-CIRCLE

In other words, it was a tournament where the ‘midfield general’ was conspicuous by his absence. Instead, the central areas were frequently territories



occupied by hard-working ‘soldiers’, as one technical observer liked to call them. The ‘empty centre-circle’ scenario was illustrated by the technical analysis of one game where “it could often be seen that there was a back line of five protected by two holding midfielders, leaving the attacking midfielder and two forwards separate and disconnected”. This scenario was conducive to the use of direct back-to-front supply with second-ball support. Direct attacking which bypassed the midfield emerged as one of the standout features of the tournament. Hong Kong, China offered the clearest example, attempting to loft the ball behind the opponents’ back line on 50% of the occasions when they had controlled possession. Of the top teams, Jordan made the most frequent use of the ball over the top whereas, at the other end of the scale, Japan, Korea Republic, and Saudi Arabia consolidated their reputations

for non-aerial attacking and showed themselves to be the most adept at progressing beyond their opponents’ back line without resorting to the more direct approach. They were not alone. Statistics confirmed that Thailand and Uzbekistan, for example, were technically equipped to advance with the ball on the ground, even when subjected to intense pressure.

While on the subject of aerial play, one in six (17%) of the tournament’s goals were headers: 13 in open play and nine from dead-ball situations. If we exclude penalties and direct free kicks and include the three own goals derived from aerial play, the slice is enlarged to 23%. Five of Iraq’s 10 goals were headers, with six other teams converting two apiece.

Use of the long ball (or the long pass if received by a team-mate) varied considerably from team to team and from game to game. No less than 36% of the passes by Hong Kong, China were long; almost one-quarter (23% to be exact) of Lebanon’s passing exceeded 30 metres, while, at the other end of the scale, Saudi Arabia posted 7%; Japan 8% and Korea Republic 9%. Among the top teams, only 7% of Jordan’s passing was long in the game against Bahrain (which they lost), but the average in the silver-medallists’ other six fixtures was 20%. This discrepancy was echoed by other teams – not least the champions. Whereas Qatar’s long passing in previous games had been very much in line with the tournament average, usage shot up to 32% in the Semi-final against IR Iran and 29% in the Final. Defending a slender lead contributed to figures of 61 recoveries and 57 clearances in the Semi-final; 37 and 32 respectively against Jordan. The overall statistics for the tournament, however, suggested that many coaches tailored use of the long ball according to analysis of opponents and individual game plans.















# GOALSCORING ANALYSIS











## BEST GOALS

Jordan's two goals in the Semi-final against Korea Republic are high in the ranking, with the second by Mousa Al Tamari taking pride of place as one of three individual actions in the top five, while long-range shooting dominates the lower half of the table. The scarcity of combination successes was illustrated by the presence of only one example, although the Vietnam move rounded-off by Nguyen Quang Hai in added time against Iraq was also rated highly by the AFC Technical Observers.

In the set play category, Qatar's Hassan Al Haydos takes gold and bronze with two conversions from corners – the breathtaking volley from Akram Afif's delivery taking top spot ahead of the direct free-kick beautifully executed by Son Heung-min which clinched Korea Republic's 2-1 Quarter-final victory over Australia.



### OPEN PLAY

RANKING	NO.	SCORER	Match	TIME	Type
1	10	Mousa Al Tamari	<b>Jordan</b> v Korea Republic	66'	Solo Action
2	7	Supachok Sarachat	Uzbekistan v <b>Thailand</b>	58'	Combination Play
3	11	Akram Afif	IR Iran v <b>Qatar</b>	43'	Solo Action
4	11	Yazan Al Naimat	<b>Jordan</b> v Korea Republic	53'	Through Pass
5	18	Abdulrahman Ghareeb	<b>Saudi Arabia</b> v Oman	78'	Solo Action
6	11	Akram Afif	Tajikistan v <b>Qatar</b>	17'	Through Pass
7	13	Mahmoud Al Mardi	Malaysia v <b>Jordan</b>	12'	Long-Range Shot
8	18	Lee Kang-in	<b>Korea Republic</b> v Bahrain	56'	Long-Range Shot
9	13	Keito Nakamura	<b>Japan</b> v Vietnam	45+4'	Long-Range Shot
10	22	Bassel Jradi	Tajikistan v <b>Lebanon</b>	47'	Long-Range Shot

### SET PLAYS

RANKING	NO.	SCORER	Match	TIME	Type
1	10	Hassan Al Haydos	<b>Qatar</b> v China PR	66'	Corner
2	7	Son Heung-min	Australia v <b>Korea Republic</b>	104'	Direct Free Kick
3	10	Hassan Al Haydos	<b>Qatar</b> v Palestine	45+6'	Corner
4	4	Shoja Khalilzadeh	<b>IR Iran</b> v Palestine	12'	Indirect Free Kick
5	18	Lee Kang-in	<b>Korea Republic</b> v Malaysia	83'	Direct Free Kick
6	6	Wataru Endo	Iraq v <b>Japan</b>	90+3'	Corner
7	12	Khalifa Al Hammadi	Tajikistan v <b>UAE</b>	90+5'	Indirect Free Kick
8	20	Bui Hoang Viet Anh	Iraq v <b>Vietnam</b>	42'	Indirect Free Kick
9	15	Nguyen Dinh Bac	Japan v <b>Vietnam</b>	15'	Corner
10	20	Sardar Azmoun	<b>IR Iran</b> v Qatar	4'	Throw-In

(The player's team is in **bold** letters)



# TALKING POINTS



This evolution in the role of the head coach also raises broader questions. At a final tournament, rest-and-recovery procedures for players are an important issue. Given the need to drive two buses and cope with increasing workloads, how does the head coach cope with demands, fatigue and his own rest-and-recovery mechanisms?

## STRETCHED GAMES AND STRETCHED LEGS

The second 24-team final tournament was the first to feature VAR at each of the 51 matches – and reviews undeniably contributed many minutes to the duration of a large number of the fixtures in Qatar. The first talking point is to ask whether a time-limit should be imposed on VAR reviews and whether the on-pitch referee's decision should be respected if no decision can be reached within that time?

The following question is about what other elements underlie the amounts of additional time. The AFC's technical observers in Qatar mentioned injuries, the feigning of injuries, deliberate time-wasting by teams holding a narrow lead and the time spent by referees in choreographing set plays – notably the routine lectures delivered during man-marking scenarios in the penalty area. What can be done to minimise interruptions and keep the game flowing?

An interlocking feature was the number of players falling to the ground with cramp - even a goalkeeper. In one match, three players were simultaneously on their backs with team-mates or opponents stretching an upraised leg to ease the muscle spasms. Is the modern game, with its increasing demands for intensity, allied with extended periods of added-time, moving the goalposts in terms of fitness requirements? Is there a need for physical preparation to be adjusted to cope with, for example, a second half that can easily last a full hour?



## TIME WILL TELL?

Having said that, the post-tournament statistics rather surprisingly indicate that physical demands were not always particularly daunting. The subject of actual playing time has become a perennial talking point in AFC club and national team competitions – the latter all the way from the U17s to senior level. Referees certainly deserve credit for being unafraid to signal significant chunks of added time, especially at the end of the 90 minutes.

But the talking point has not gone away. In Qatar, the overall duration of games may have been extended. Yet, this was not always reflected by real playing times. Curiously, the Final between Jordan and Qatar provided the most striking example. The referee indicated a six-minute supplement to the first half and, at the end of the second period, signalled 13 minutes of added time which were then supplemented by additional stoppages in that period,



including the VAR review which led to the game's third penalty and the subsequent celebrations. So the match had a duration of around 114 minutes. The post-match surprise was to see that the ball had actually been in play for 42 minutes and 12 seconds. It doesn't require a calculator to work out that for just over 70 minutes the clock had been running but the ball hadn't.

The overall tournament statistics reveal that in 9 matches, the real playing time was less than 50 minutes while, at the other end of the scale, eight registered more than 60. Pride of place went to the six-goal spectacle between Japan and Vietnam when the actual playing time was 69'10. The other 34 fixtures posted figures between 50 and 60 minutes to produce a tournament average of 54'40. The debating point is whether this is sufficient when it comes to competing on the world stage where tempo, intensity and real playing times can be expected to be higher?



# FIFA COLLABORATION





# TEAM PROFILES

## AUSTRALIA

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	MATHEW RYAN	08-04-1992
12	LAWRENCE THOMAS	09-05-1992
18	JOE GAUCI	04-07-2000
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	THOMAS DENG	27-03-1997
3	NATHANIEL ATKINSON	13-06-1999
4	KYE ROWLES	24-06-1998
5	JORDAN BOS	29-10-2002
16	AZIZ BEHICH	16-12-1990
19	HARRY SOUTTAR	22-10-1998
20	LEWIS MILLER	24-08-2000
21	CAMERON BURGESS	21-10-1995
25	GETHIN JONES	13-10-1995
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
8	CONNOR METCALFE	05-11-1999
13	AIDEN O'NEILL	04-07-1998
14	RILEY MCGREE	02-11-1998
17	KEANU BACCU	07-06-1998
22	JACKSON IRVINE	07-03-1993
24	PATRICK YAZBEK	05-04-2002
<b>FORWARD</b>		
6	MARTIN BOYLE	25-04-1993
7	SAMUEL SILVERA	25-10-2000
9	BRUNO FORNAROLI	07-09-1987
10	KUSINI YENGI	15-01-1999
11	MARCO TILIO	23-08-2001
15	MITCHELL DUKE	18-01-1991
23	CRAIG GOODWIN	16-12-1991
26	JOHN IREDALE	01-08-1999



### FORMATION:



(v KOREA REP Q-Final)

### HEAD COACH

**GRAHAM ARNOLD**

Graham Arnold led the Socceroos to the Knockout Stage of the FIFA World Cup for only the second time in Qatar 2022, before suffering a narrow 2-1 loss to eventual champions Argentina in the Round of 16.

Arnold returned to the AFC Asian Cup™ as one of the most experienced tacticians after leading Australia to the Quarter-finals in both 2007 and 2019, but the former Sydney FC head coach was unable to improve the Socceroos' record as they exited at the same stage in Qatar, succumbing to a 2-1 extra-time defeat at the hands of Korea Republic.



### KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3; fast transitions to 1-4-4-2 defence with aggressive pressure on ball
- Preference for possession-based game; neat combinations through thirds
- Varied attacking options with both full-backs very active in support
- Also used long passes from goalkeeper; midfielders grouping for second ball
- Excellent positional play, aerial power in back four led by Souttar (No. 19)
- Occasional quick counters; mostly retaining ball to assure build-up
- Well-structured unit; excellent mechanisms; equipped for power play

### STATISTICS

<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>3</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



CRAIG GOODWIN, JACKSON IRVINE, MARTIN BOYLE  
NUMBER OF GOALS

2



## BAHRAIN

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	ABDULKARIM FARDAN	25-04-1992
21	SAYED JAAFAR	25-08-1985
22	EBRAHIM LUTFALLA	24-09-1992
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	AMINE BENADDI	09-05-1993
3	WALEED ALHAYAM	03-02-1991
4	SAYED BAQER	14-04-1994
17	SALEM HUSAIN SALEM	13-02-2001
18	MOHAMED ADEL	20-09-1996
19	HAZZA ALI	09-06-1995
23	ABDULLA ALKHALASI	02-09-2003
26	HUSAIN ALEKER	30-09-2001
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
5	MOHAMED ABDULWAHAB	13-11-1989
6	MOHAMED ALHARDAN	06-10-1997
7	ALI MADAN	30-11-1995
8	MOHAMED MARHOON	12-02-1998
10	KOMAIL ALASWAD	08-04-1994
11	EBRAHIM ALKHATAL	11-05-2000
12	ALI HASAN	17-08-1996
13	MOSES ATEDE	17-12-1997
15	JASIM ALSHAIKH	01-02-1996
16	MOHAMMED A.QAYOOM	04-06-2001
20	MAHDI HUMAIDAN	19-05-1993
24	JASIM KHLAIF	22-02-1998
25	IBRAHIM ALWALI	12-06-1997
<b>FORWARD</b>		
9	ABDULLA YUSUF	12-06-1993
14	ABDULLA ALHASHASH	17-08-1992



### FORMATION:



(v JAPAN R16)

### HEAD COACH

**JUAN ANTONIO PIZZI**



Taking charge only five months ahead of the AFC Asian Cup™, the 2023 edition marked a second appearance for Juan Antonio Pizzi in the competition, having led Saudi Arabia in 2019, where they were eliminated by eventual runners-up Japan in the Round of 16.

The former FC Barcelona striker helped Bahrain finish the Group Stage in pole position before being ousted in the Round of 16 once again by Japan and stepped down from his role soon after.

### KEY FEATURES

- Generally 1-4-2-3-1 with retreat into 1-4-4-2 or 1-4-1-4-1 defence after ball loss
- Direct attacking through wide areas or vertical / diagonal supply to target striker
- Wide midfielders cutting in to receive in pockets, create central overloads
- Compact, disciplined, energetic defending in mid/low block; pressure on ball
- Al Hardan (No. 6) in key role, shielding back four, proactive in building from back
- Goalkeeper with ability to bypass press via accurate long passing with either foot
- Committed, disciplined team play based on work ethic, collective spirit

### STATISTICS

<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



ABDULLA ALHASHASH, ABDULLA YUSUF, ALI MADAN  
NUMBER OF GOALS

1

## CHINA PR

SQUAD	DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>	
1 YAN JUNLING	28-01-1991
12 JIAN TAO	01-06-2001
14 WANG DALEI	10-01-1989
25 LIU DIANZUO	26-06-1990
<b>DEFENDER</b>	
2 JIANG GUANGTAI	27-05-1994
3 ZHU CHENJIE	23-08-2000
4 LI LEI	30-05-1992
5 ZHANG LINPENG	09-05-1989
13 XU HAOFENG	27-01-1999
19 LIU YANG	17-06-1995
22 WU SHAOCONG	20-03-2000
23 LIN LIANGMING	04-06-1997
24 JIANG SHENGLONG	24-12-2000
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>	
6 WANG SHANGYUAN	02-06-1993
8 XU XIN	19-04-1994
10 XIE PENGFEI	29-06-1993
15 WU XI	19-02-1989
16 GAO TIANYI	01-07-1998
17 CHEN PU	15-01-1997
18 DAI WEIJUN	25-07-1999
20 WEI SHIHAO	08-04-1995
21 LIU BINBIN	16-06-1993
26 WANG QIUMING	09-01-1993
<b>FORWARD</b>	
7 WU LEI	19-11-1991
9 ZHANG YUNING	05-01-1997
11 TAN LONG	01-04-1988



### FORMATION:



(v TAJIKISTAN Group A)

## HEAD COACH

**ALEKSANDAR JANKOVIC**

Aleksandar Jankovic's first coaching assignment came in 2007 when he was appointed to helm Red Star Belgrade. He would go on to coach the Serbia U21 side from 2010 to 2013 and managed clubs such as Lokeren, Mechelen and Standard Liege in Belgium before landing a job in China PR.

He took charge of their U19 B team in 2018 before being elevated to the senior team in February 2023, but draws with Tajikistan and Lebanon and defeat to hosts Qatar led to his departure as China PR exited at the Group Stage for the first time since 2011.



## KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-5-2 or 1-5-4-1 attacking; one or two strikers, support from full-backs
- Set up to build through thirds; but long-ball response to high press by opponents
- Flat back four initially (v TJK); then switch to compact 1-5-4-1 defence
- Defensive transitions with pressure on ball, rapid retreat into midfield block
- Equipped for counters, quickly spreading length and width; individuals with pace
- Wang Shangyuan (No. 6), a tireless pivotal midfielder supporting defence and attack
- Compact unit with speed, strength, motivation; lacking only a cutting edge

## STATISTICS

<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>2</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

## HONG KONG, CHINA

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	YAPP HUNG FAI	21-03-1990
18	NG WAI HIM	30-06-2002
19	TSE KA WING	04-09-1999
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	SEAN TSE KA KEUNG	03-05-1992
3	OLIVER BENJAMIN GERBIG	12-12-1998
4	DAS LILLEY NUNEZ	22-11-1995
5	HELIO GONCALVES	31-01-1986
13	LI NGAI HOI	15-10-1994
17	SHINICHI CHAN	05-09-2002
21	YUE TZE NAM	12-05-1998
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
6	WU CHUN MING	21-11-1997
8	TAN CHUN LOK	15-01-1996
10	WONG WAI	17-09-1992
12	LAM HIN TING	09-12-1999
15	CHANG HEI YIN	06-04-2000
16	PHILIP CHAN SIU KWAN	01-08-1992
22	JESSE YU JOY YIN	08-10-2001
24	JU YINGZHI	24-07-1987
<b>FORWARD</b>		
7	LAW TSZ CHUN	02-03-1997
9	MATT ORR	01-01-1997
11	EVERTON CAMARGO	25-05-1991
14	POON PUI HIN	03-10-2004
20	MICHAEL UDEBULUZOR	01-04-2004
23	SUN MING HIM	19-06-2000
25	STEFAN FIGUEIREDO PEREIRA	16-04-1988
26	WALTER SOARES JUNIOR	11-12-1990



### FORMATION:



(v IR IRAN Group C)

### HEAD COACH

JØRN ANDERSEN

Six months into his role, Jørn Andersen masterminded a return to Asia's crown jewel for Hong Kong, China by achieving qualification in June 2022. The Norwegian had arrived at this juncture after head coaching spells with clubs in Germany, Greece, Austria and Korea Republic, along with a two-year spell in charge of DPR Korea.

Andersen - who, in 1990, was the first foreign top scorer of the Bundesliga - could only get his side to find the back of the net once at their first AFC Asian Cup™ in 56 years, which ended with three defeats in the Group Stage.



### KEY FEATURES

- Generally 1-4-2-1-3 in attack with fast switch to high 1-4-3-3 defending
- Emphasis on direct attacking with long deliveries behind opponents' back line
- Good use of second ball, switching play to wings and delivering crosses
- Aggressive counter-pressing with midfielders overloading on ball side
- Long-range shooting, early crosses, long throws with six players in box
- Dangerous inswinging set plays, counters launched to three front-runners
- Fully-committed, well-organised unit with great mobility and team ethic

### STATISTICS

<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>0</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



PHILIP CHAN SIU KWAN  
NUMBER OF GOALS

1



SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	GURPREET SINGH SANDHU	03-02-1992
13	VISHAL KAITH	22-07-1996
23	AMRINDER SINGH	27-05-1993
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	RAHUL BHEKE	06-12-1990
3	SUBHASISH BOSE	18-08-1995
4	LALCHUNGUNGA	25-12-2000
5	SANDESH JHINGAN	21-07-1993
6	AKASH MISHRA	27-11-2001
20	PRITAM KOTAL	08-09-1993
21	NIKHIL CHANDRASHEKHAR POOJARY	03-09-1995
22	MEHTAB SINGH	05-06-1998
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
7	ANIRUDH THAPA	15-01-1998
8	SURESH SINGH WANGJAM	07-08-2000
10	BRANDON FERNANDES	20-09-1994
12	LISTON COLACO	12-11-1998
14	MAHESH SINGH NAOREM	03-03-1999
15	UDANTA SINGH KUMAM	14-06-1996
16	RAHUL KANNOLY PRAVEEN	16-03-2000
17	LALLIANZUALA CHHANGTE	08-06-1997
18	SAHAL ABDUL SAMAD	01-04-1997
19	LALENGMAWIA APUIA	17-10-2000
25	DEEPAK TANGRI	01-02-1999
<b>FORWARD</b>		
9	MANVIR SINGH	06-11-1995
11	SUNIL CHHETRI	03-08-1984
24	VIKRAM PARTAP	16-01-2002
26	ISHAN PANDITA	26-05-1998



## FORMATION:



(v AUSTRALIA Group B)

## HEAD COACH

IGOR STIMAC

Igor Stimac was an integral part of the Croatian national team that finished third at the 1998 FIFA World Cup and enjoyed similar success as coach in 2013 when Croatia climbed to fourth in the FIFA World Ranking.

He managed clubs in Croatia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Qatar before taking over from Stephen Constantine who stepped down as India's head coach after their AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019™ campaign, but the former West Ham central defender was unable to turn their fortunes around in Qatar as the Blue Tigers exited the Group Stage.



## KEY FEATURES

- Variations on 1-4-3-3 with one or two holding midfielders; 1-4-4-2 defending
- Counterattacking style based on direct supply to the front or solo runs through midfield
- Set out to build from the back, switching to long-ball strategy when under pressure
- After losses of possession, individual press on ball, rapid retreat into deep defence
- Compact defence led by Jhingana (No. 5); goalkeeper dealing efficiently with crosses
- Attacks seeking to exploit the aerial abilities of experienced striker Chhetri (No. 11)
- Skilful, mobile team preferring short-passing combinations to build through thirds

## STATISTICS

<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

## INDONESIA

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	MUHAMAD RIYANDI	03-01-2000
21	ERNANDO ARI SUTARYADI	27-02-2002
26	NADEO ARGAWINATA	09-03-1997
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
3	ELKAN BAGGOTT	23-10-2002
4	JORDI AMAT	21-03-1992
5	RIZKY RIDHO RAMADHANI	21-11-2001
6	SANDY WALSH	14-03-1995
12	PRATAMA ARHAN ALIF	21-12-2001
13	MOH EDO FEBRIANSAH	25-07-1997
14	ASNAWI MANGKUALAM BAHAR	04-10-1999
19	WAHYU PRASETYO	21-03-1998
20	SHAYNE PATTYNAMA	11-08-1998
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
7	MARSELINO FERDINAN	09-09-2004
15	RICKY KAMBUAYA	05-05-1996
23	MARC ANTHONY KLOK	20-04-1993
24	IVAR JENNER	10-01-2004
<b>FORWARD</b>		
2	YAKOB SAYURI	22-09-1997
8	WITAN SULAEMAN	08-10-2001
9	MUHAMAD DIMAS DRAJAD	30-03-1997
10	EGY MAULANA VIKRI	07-07-2000
11	RAFAEL WILLIAM STRUICK	27-03-2003
16	HOKKY CARAKA BRILLIANT	21-08-2004
17	ADAM ALIS SETYANO	19-12-1993
18	RAMADHAN SANANTA	27-11-2002
22	DENDY SULISTYAWAN	12-10-1996
25	JUSTIN HUBNER	14-09-2003



### FORMATION:



(v AUSTRALIA R16)

### HEAD COACH

SHIN TAE-YONG

Helping one of the youngest squads in the tournament, the Garuda took the game to their more illustrious opponents under Shin Tae-yong and was rewarded with a maiden qualification to the Knockout Stage.

Having spent his entire coaching career in his homeland, the Korean took charge of Indonesia in December 2019 and secured their first AFC Asian Cup™ appearance since 2007. Shin, who also coached Indonesia's U20 and U23 sides to qualification for their respective AFC Asian Cup™ Finals, can remain optimistic about the talented senior team's future despite a Round of 16 exit.



### KEY FEATURES

- Variations on 1-3-4-3 with transitions to 1-5-4-1 midfield defensive block
- Fast vertical attacks with six players; forwards sprinting into space behind defence
- Dynamic relationships between wingers and overlapping wing-backs
- Compact, well-organised structure at all restarts in attack and defence
- Intense pressure on ball after loss of possession; sporadic collective high press
- Tight marking by back five, pushing out to control pockets between lines
- Mobile, athletic team with high levels of tempo, work ethic, spirit

### STATISTICS

<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER

ASNAWI MANGKUALAM BAHAR, MARSELINO FERDINAN, SANDY WALSH | NUMBER OF GOALS **1**



## IRAQ

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	FAHAD TALIB RAHEEM	21-10-1994
12	JALAL HASSAN	18-05-1991
22	AHMED BASIL FADHILI	19-08-1996
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	REBIN GHAREEB ADHAMAT	12-04-1992
3	HUSSEIN HAYDAR ALI	01-03-2002
4	SUAD NATIQ NAJI	19-03-1994
5	FRANS DHIA HADDAD	14-07-1993
6	ALI ADNAN AL-TAMEEMI	19-12-1993
14	AKAM HASHIM RAHMAN	16-08-1998
15	ALLAN KAWA OMEER	11-11-1993
23	MERCHAS GHAZI SALIH	07-12-1999
24	ZAID TAHSEEN HANTOOSH	29-01-2001
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
7	YOUSSEF WALI AMYN	21-08-2003
8	IBRAHIM BAYESH AL-KAABAWI	01-05-2000
11	ZIDANE AAMAR IQBAL	27-04-2003
13	BASHAR RESAN BONYAN	22-12-1996
16	AMIR FOUAD	27-07-1997
17	ALI JASIM ELAIBI	20-01-2004
19	DANILO BURKAN AL-SAED	24-02-1999
20	OSAMAH JABBAR RASHID	17-01-1992
21	AHMED ADIL ABAS	29-04-1996
25	AHMED YAHYA AL-HAJJAJ	01-07-1995
26	MONTADER MADJED	24-04-2005
<b>FORWARD</b>		
9	ALI IBRAHIM ALZUBAIDI	01-03-2002
10	MOHANAD ALI KADHIM	20-06-2000
18	AYMEN HUSSEIN	22-03-1996



### FORMATION:



(v JORDAN R16)

### HEAD COACH

JESÚS CASAS

Hired in December 2022, former Spain assistant Jesús Casas built an Iraq side that captivated everyone after winning all three group matches for the first time in their tournament history - including a stunning victory against Japan.

Born in Madrid, Casas started coaching at 29 and worked his way to assistant coach at Premier League side Watford in 2018. He spent four years in the Spain setup before taking his first head coaching position outside of Europe with Iraq and despite elimination in the Round of 16, Casas has been trusted to continue in his role.



### KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1; transitions to 1-4-4-2 defence with wide midfielders quickly back
- High-tempo passing game; efficient out-of-possession play in win v Japan
- Emphasis on wing play with full-backs up; delivery of crosses to target striker
- Aggressive pressure on ball; compact, narrow defence often with high line
- Strong centre-backs with aerial power shielded by well-balanced midfield screen
- Good diagonal passes, switches of play, notably for penetration on left flank
- Well-organised unit with physicality, work ethic and team spirit

### STATISTICS

<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



AYMEN HUSSEIN  
NUMBER OF GOALS

6



## ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

SQUAD	DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>	
1 ALI REZA SAFARBEIRANVAND	21-09-1992
12 PAYAM NIAZMAND	06-04-1995
22 SEYED HOSSEIN HOSSEINI	30-06-1992
<b>DEFENDER</b>	
2 SADEGH MOHARRAMI	01-03-1996
4 SHOJAE KHALILZADEH	14-05-1989
5 MILAD MOHAMMADIKESHMARZI	29-09-1993
13 HOSSEIN KANANI	23-03-1994
19 MAJID HOSSEINI	20-06-1996
25 SAMAN FALLAH	12-05-2001
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>	
3 EHSAN HAJI SAFI	25-02-1990
6 SAEID EZATOLAH	01-10-1996
7 ALIREZA JAHAN BAKHSH	11-08-1993
8 OMID EBRAHIMI	16-09-1987
15 ROOZBEH CHESMI	24-07-1993
17 ALI GHOLI ZADEH	10-03-1996
23 RAMIN REZAEIAN	21-03-1990
24 ARYA YOUSEFI	22-04-2002
<b>FORWARD</b>	
9 MEHDI TAREMI	18-07-1992
10 KARIM ANSARI FARD	03-04-1990
11 REZA ASADI	17-01-1996
14 SAMAN GHODDOS	06-09-1993
16 MAHDI TORABI	10-09-1994
18 MEHDI GHAYEDI	05-12-1998
20 SARDAR AZMOUN	01-01-1995
21 MOHAMMAD MOHEBBI	20-12-1998
26 SHAHRIYAR MOGHANLOO	21-12-1994



### FORMATION:



(v QATAR S-Final)

### HEAD COACH

AMIR GHALENOEI



Sixteen years after leaving Team Melli following their 2007 AFC Asian Cup™ Quarter-final exit, Amir Ghalenoei was handed the opportunity to end their 48-year title drought after succeeding Carlos Queiroz in March 2023. Having established himself as the most successful head coach in domestic league history with five titles, the former international steered IR Iran to the last four in his second stint.

Amid heightened expectations and off the back of an 18-game unbeaten streak, they fell to eventual champions Qatar, although Ghalenoei has since received a contract extension until the end of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

### KEY FEATURES

- Mostly 1-4-2-3-1 with fast transitions to compact 1-4-4-2 defensive block
- Frequent long passing to target striker Azmoun (No. 20) with second-ball support
- High-tempo wing play; wide attackers combining with adventurous full-backs
- Combinations through middle with Ghoddos (No. 14) in key linking role
- Strong, compact defending with immediate intense high pressure on the ball
- Dangerous, well-delivered set plays including long throws from both flanks
- Solid power-play with clear roles, collective spirit, work ethic, physicality

### STATISTICS

6	5	0	1	12	7	5	2.0	1.2	1
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



MEHDI TAREMI  
NUMBER OF GOALS

3



## JAPAN

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	DAIYA MAEKAWA	08-09-1994
12	TAISHI BRANDON NOZAWA	25-12-2002
23	ZION SUZUKI	21-08-2002
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	YUKINARI SUGAWARA	28-06-2000
3	SHOGO TANIGUCHI	15-07-1991
4	KOU ITAKURA	27-01-1997
15	KOKI MACHIDA	25-08-1997
16	SEIYA MAIKUMA	16-10-1997
19	YUTA NAKAYAMA	16-02-1997
21	HIROKI ITO	12-05-1999
22	TAKEHIRO TOMIYASU	05-11-1998
24	TSUYOSHI WATANABE	05-02-1997
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
5	HIDEMASA MORITA	10-05-1995
6	WATARU ENDO	09-02-1993
7	KAORU MITOMA	20-05-1997
8	TAKUMI MINAMINO	16-01-1995
10	RITSU DOAN	16-06-1998
13	KEITO NAKAMURA	28-07-2000
14	JUNYA ITO	09-03-1993
17	REO HATATE	21-11-1997
20	TAKEFUSA KUBO	04-06-2001
26	KAISHU SANO	30-12-2000
<b>FORWARD</b>		
9	AYASE UEDA	28-08-1998
11	MAO HOSOYA	07-09-2001
18	TAKUMA ASANO	10-11-1994
25	DAIZEN MAEDA	20-10-1997



### FORMATION:



(v IR IRAN Q-Final)

### HEAD COACH

**HAJIME MORIYASU**

A key member of the Japan side that lifted the AFC Asian Cup™ for the first time in 1992, Hajime Moriyasu had high hopes of becoming the first man to win it as both a player and coach. The former midfielder, who won two J1 League crowns as Sanfrecce Hiroshima head coach, took the hotseat in August 2018 after serving as Samurai Blue assistant.

Hopes of bettering their 2019 runners-up finish were dashed, however, as Moriyasu failed to guide the four-time champions past IR Iran in the Quarter-finals.



### KEY FEATURES

- Mostly 1-4-3-3 with very fast transitions to 1-4-4-2 or 1-5-4-1 defence
- Dynamic possession game based on skilful high-tempo combinations
- Wingers mostly staying wide; full-backs supporting often with underlapping runs
- Collective high pressing; front three attacking ball-carrier at high speed
- Well-balanced midfield; creative distribution, incisive forward runs with ball
- High defence line shielded by single holding midfielder; keeper covering behind
- Athletic squad with strength in depth, exceptional technical ability at high speed

### STATISTICS

<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



**AYASE UEDA**  
NUMBER OF GOALS

**4**





## JORDAN

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	YAZEED ABULAILA	08-01-1993
12	ABDALLAH ALFAKHORI	22-01-2000
22	AHMAD JUAIDI	09-04-2001
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	MOHAMMAD ABUHASHEESH	09-05-1995
3	ABDALLAH NASIB	25-02-1994
4	BARA MARIE	13-04-1994
5	YAZAN ALARAB	31-01-1996
16	FERAS SHILBAYA	27-11-1993
17	SALEM AL AJALIN	18-02-1988
19	ANAS BANI-YASEEN	29-11-1988
23	EHSAN HADDAD	05-02-1994
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
6	MOHANNAD ABU TAHA	02-02-2003
7	MOHAMMAD ABU ZRAIQ	30-12-1997
8	NOOR AL-DEEN AL RAWABDEH	24-02-1997
10	MOUSA ALTAMARI	10-06-1997
13	MAHMOUD ALMARDI	06-10-1993
14	RAJA'EI AYED	25-07-1993
15	IBRAHIM SADEH	27-04-2000
18	SALEH RATIB	18-12-1994
21	NIZAR ALRASHDAN	23-03-1999
24	YOUSEF ABU JALBOUSH	15-06-1998
25	ANAS HAMMAD	29-05-1998
26	FADI AWAD	26-03-1993
<b>FORWARD</b>		
9	ALI OLWAN	26-03-2000
11	YAZAN ALNAIMAT	04-06-1999
20	HAMZA ALDARADREH	12-05-1991



### FORMATION:



(v QATAR Final)

### HEAD COACH

**HUSSEIN AMMOUTA**

Morocco's Hussein Ammouta took charge of the Jordanian side with the hope of bettering their best finishes of reaching the Quarter-finals in 2004 and 2011. Prior to that, Ammouta had guided his home country to glory at the African Cup of Nations in 2020.

The former Al Saad player and coach went on to cement his place in AFC Asian Cup™ history as he engineered Jordan's fairy-tale run to the Final, beating teams such as Iraq and Korea Republic on the way, before being handed a 3-1 loss by hosts Qatar in the Final.



### KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-3 with swift transitions to 1-5-3-2 or 1-5-4-1 mid/low defensive block
- Dynamic attacking with rapid switches of play, supply to front-runners
- Al Naimat (No. 11) a striker with speed, technique, readiness to defend from front
- Combinations with creative soloist Tamari (No. 10), a left-footed right-side attacker
- Committed back line of five led by commanding centre-back Al Arab (No. 5)
- Two controlling midfielders tirelessly maintaining balance, linking with attack
- Well-organised disciplined unit with outstanding work ethic, motivation

### STATISTICS

<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



**YAZAN ALNAIMAT**  
NUMBER OF GOALS

**4**



## KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	ERZHAN TOKOTAEV	17-07-2000
13	SULTAN CHOMOEV	20-01-2003
16	MARSEL ISLAMKULOV	18-04-1994
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	KHRISTIIAN BRAUZMAN	15-08-2003
3	TAMIRLAN KOZUBAEV	01-07-1994
5	AIZAR AKMATOV	24-08-1998
6	AMANTUR SHAMURZAEV	25-01-2000
11	BEKZHAN SAGYNBAEV	11-09-1994
14	ALEKSANDR MISHCHENKO	30-07-1997
17	SUIUNTBEK MAMYRALIEV	07-01-1998
18	KAIRAT ZHYRGALBEK UULU	13-06-1993
20	BAKTYIAR DUISHOBEKOV	03-06-1995
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
4	ADIL KADYRZHANOV	14-07-2000
8	AZIM AZAROV	20-09-1996
10	GULZHIGIT ALYKULOV	25-11-2000
12	ODILZHON ABDURAKHMANOV	18-03-1996
15	KAI MERK	28-08-1998
19	BEKNAZ ALMAZBEKOV	23-06-2005
21	FARKHAT MUSABEKOV	03-01-1994
22	ALIMARDON SHUKUROV	28-09-1999
23	NURDOOLOT STALBEKOV	13-09-2001
24	KIMI MERK	06-07-2004
26	ATAI DZHUMASHEV	15-09-1998
<b>FORWARD</b>		
7	JOEL KOJO	21-08-1998
9	ERNIST BATYRKANOV	21-02-1998
25	DASTANBEK TOKTOSUNOV	02-09-2002



### FORMATION:



(v OMAN Group F)

### HEAD COACH

STEFAN TARKOVIC

Kyrgyz Republic's campaign at the competition marked Stefan Tarkovic's first brush with Asian football. The former Slovakia manager stepped into the shoes of Aleksandr Krestinin, who was in charge when the Central Asian side made their AFC Asian Cup™ debut in 2019.

However, under Tarkovic's watch, the Kyrgyz side failed to match their Round of 16 finish from the previous edition and finished in fourth position in Group F, earning only a single point from a 1-1 draw against Oman.



### KEY FEATURES

- Flexible structure switching between 1-4-2 and 1-3-4-3 with back line of five
- Set out to build from goalkeeper via pivotal midfielders dropping close to centre-backs
- Attacking based on supply to fast, skilful central striker No7 Kojo + second-ball support
- Immediate pressure on ball after losses of possession; fast retreat into deep defence
- Full-backs supporting wing play; crosses aimed at skilful attacker Batyrkanov (No. 9)
- Central midfielders focused on neat combinations, switches of play to wide areas
- Resolute defending, often with back line of six protected by two central midfielders

### STATISTICS

<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



JOEL KOJO  
NUMBER OF GOALS

1

## **LEBANON**

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	MEHDI KHALIL	19-09-1991
21	MOSTAFA MATAR	10-09-1995
23	ALI SABEH	24-06-1994
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
3	MAHER SABRA	14-01-1992
4	NOUR MANSOUR	22-10-1989
5	NASSAR NASSAR	01-01-1992
6	HUSSEIN ZEIN	27-01-1995
12	ROBERT ALEXANDER MELKI	14-11-1992
13	KHALIL KHAMIS	12-01-1995
18	KASSEM EL ZEIN	02-12-1990
26	HASSAN CHAITOU	16-06-1991
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
2	YAHYA EL HINDI	24-09-1998
7	HASSAN MAATOUK	10-08-1987
8	HASSAN SAAD	17-08-1992
10	MOHAMAD HAIDAR	08-11-1989
14	MOUHAMMED ALI DHAINI	01-03-1994
15	JIHAD AYOUB	30-03-1995
16	WALID SHOUR	10-06-1996
17	ALI AL HAJ	02-02-2001
20	ALI TNEICH	16-07-1992
22	BASSEL JRADI	06-07-1993
24	GABRIEL BITAR	23-08-1998
25	HASAN SROUR	18-12-2001
<b>FORWARD</b>		
9	HILAL ALHELWE	24-11-1994
11	OMAR BUGIEL	03-01-1994
19	DANIEL KURI	22-01-1999



### FORMATION:



(v QATAR Group A)

### HEAD COACH

**MIODRAG RADULOVIC**

Miodrag Radulovic enjoyed managerial spells in Portugal, Russia, Uzbekistan and Kuwait and was an assistant coach when Serbia & Montenegro were runners-up at the 2004 UEFA Under-21 Championship.

Radulovic, who was head coach of Lebanon between 2015 and 2019, reprised the role in December 2023 but the Montenegro native was unable to steer the Cedars into the Knockout Stage after falling to debutants Tajikistan in their final Group A encounter.



### KEY FEATURES

- Generally 1-5-3-2; 1-4-3-3 in final game with narrow attacking trio
- Frequent use of direct supply to strong, pacy target striker, Bugiel (No. 11)
- Good second-ball support, combinations with mobile interchanging forwards
- Fast transitions with dangerous counterattacks via attacking trio
- Front three also first line of defence; once breached, retreat to deep block
- Solid back line led by Melki (No. 12), a strong defender with good anticipation skills
- Deep goalkeeping focused on shot-stopping, launching counters to front men

### STATISTICS

<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



**BASSEL JRADI**  
NUMBER OF GOALS **1**

## MALAYSIA

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	AZRI GHANI	30-04-1999
16	AHMAD SYIHAN HAZMI	22-02-1996
23	SIKH IZHAN NAZREL	23-03-2002
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	MATTHEW DAVIES	07-02-1995
3	SHAHROL SAAD	08-07-1993
4	DANIEL TING	01-12-1992
5	SYAHMI SAFARI	05-02-1998
6	DOMINIC TAN	12-03-1997
15	JUNIOR ELDESTAL	16-09-1991
21	DION COOLS	04-06-1996
22	CORBIN ONG	22-04-1991
25	AHMAD KHUZAIMI PIEE	09-11-1993
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
8	STUART WILKIN	12-03-1998
10	ENDRICK DOS SANTOS	07-03-1995
14	SYAMER KUTTY ABBA	01-10-1997
18	BRENDAN GAN	03-06-1988
20	AFIQ FAZAIL	29-09-1994
24	NATXO INSA	09-06-1986
<b>FORWARD</b>		
7	FAISAL HALIM	07-01-1998
9	DARREN LOK	14-12-1990
11	SAFAWI RASID	05-03-1997
12	ARIF AIMAN HANAPI	04-05-2002
13	MOHAMADOU SUMAREH	20-09-1994
17	PAULO JOSUE	13-03-1989
19	AKHYAR RASHID	01-05-1999
26	ROMEL MORALES	23-08-1997



### FORMATION:



(v JORDAN Group E)

### HEAD COACH

**KIM PAN-GON**

A former winger for Korea Republic, Kim Pan-gon left his position as Technical Director at the Korea Football Association to take over as Malaysia's head coach in January 2022 and helped Malaysia qualify for the AFC Asian Cup™ on merit for the first time in 43 years.

While qualification to the Knockout Stage eluded the Harimau Malaya, the Southeast Asian side finished their campaign with a thrilling 3-3 draw against powerhouses Korea Republic.



### KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-3 with fast transitions to mid or low block with back line of five
- Varied attacking, reaching final third with short or long passes, switches of play
- Fluid middle-to-front movement; wingmen in, opening space for overlapping wing-backs
- Immediate counter-press after ball-loss; aggressive individual pressure on ball-carrier
- Man-to-man pursuit of opponents sometimes risking loss of defensive shape
- Deep defending with wing-backs quickly into back five; all outfielders in own half
- Positive contribution by goalkeeper to high-tempo game played with fighting spirit

### STATISTICS

<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



ARIF AIMAN, FAISAL HALIM, ROMEL MORALES  
NUMBER OF GOALS

1



## OMAN

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	IBRAHIM AL-MUKHAINI	20-06-1997
18	FAIYZ ISSA AL RUSHEIDI	19-07-1988
22	AHMED FARAJ AL RAWAHI	05-05-1994
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	GHANIM RAMADHAN AL- HABASHI	04-08-1998
5	JUMA MARHOON AL-HABSI	28-01-1996
6	AHMED AL-KHAMISI	26-11-1991
14	AHMED AL KAABI	15-09-1996
16	KHALID NASSER AL BRAIKI	03-07-1993
17	ALI SULAIMAN AL-BUSAIDI	21-01-1991
21	ABDUL AZIZ AL-GHEILANI	14-05-1995
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
3	FAHMI SAID BAIT DURBIN	10-10-1993
4	ARSHAD SAID AL-ALAWI	12-04-2000
9	OMER MOHAMMED AL MALKI	04-01-1994
10	JAMEEL AL YAHMADI	27-07-1996
12	ABDULLAH FAWAZ	03-10-1996
13	MATAZ SALEH ABD RABOH	28-05-1996
15	MUSAAB HAMED AL-MAMARI	22-01-2000
19	MAHMOOD MABROOK AL MUSHAIFRI	14-01-1993
20	SALAAH SAID AL YAHYAEI	17-08-1998
23	HARIB AL SAADI	01-02-1990
24	TAMEEM HAITHAM AL BALUSHI	03-11-1999
<b>FORWARD</b>		
7	ISSAM ABDALLAH ALSABHI	01-05-1997
8	ZAHIR SULAIMAN AL AGHBARI	28-05-1999
11	MUHSEN SALEH AL GHASSANI	27-03-1997
25	ABDALLAH SALIM	17-11-2001
26	ABDUL RAHMAN AL MUSHAIFRI	16-08-1998



### FORMATION:



(v SAUDI ARABIA Group F)

### HEAD COACH

**BRANKO IVANKOVIC**

With managerial spells across Asia spanning over 20 years, Branko Ivankovic had previously led the Islamic Republic of Iran to a third-place finish at the AFC Asian Cup™ in 2004. Since then, he has enjoyed coaching stints in clubs such as Al Ettifaq, Persepolis FC and Shandong Luneng.

Ivankovic replaced Dutchman Erwin Koeman as Oman head coach in 2020 but the Croatian parted ways with the national team following a disappointing Group Stage exit without a single win.



### KEY FEATURES

- Tactically flexible using 1-3-5-2 or variations on 1-4-4-2 with midfield diamond
- Patient build-up play, seeking routes to two strikers, three attacking midfielders
- Full-backs supporting rather than overlapping – especially in midfield diamond format
- Good use of width: diagonals to wingers, solo skills, crosses, infield running
- Dangerous counters with four players ready for solo runs from pockets between lines
- Back line shielded by Al Saadi (No. 23); ball-winning, key linking role in build-up play
- Mid or deep narrow defensive block organised by team-leader Al Khamisi (No. 6)

### STATISTICS

<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



MUHSEN SALEH AL GHASSANI, SALAAH AL YAHYEI  
NUMBER OF GOALS

1

## PALESTINE

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	AMR KADDURA	01-07-1994
16	NAIM ABUAKER	20-01-1995
22	RAMI HAMADA	24-03-1994
26	BARAA KHAROUB	22-12-1997
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	MOHAMMED KHALIL	05-04-1998
4	YASER HAMED	09-12-1997
5	MOHAMMED SALEH	18-07-1993
7	MUSAB BATTAT	12-11-1993
12	CAMILIO SALDANA	13-07-1999
15	MICHAEL TERMANINI	08-05-1998
17	MOUSA FARAWI	22-03-1998
18	AMEED MAHAJNEH	11-10-1996
24	ALMAHDI ISSA	03-11-1998
25	SAMER JONDI	27-09-1996
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
3	MOHAMMED RASHID	03-07-1995
6	ODAY KHAROUB	05-02-1993
9	TAMER SEYAM	25-11-1992
10	MAHMOUD ABUWARDA	31-05-1995
14	SAMER ZUBAIDA	26-04-2001
21	ISLAM BATRAN	01-10-1994
23	ATTAA JABER	03-10-1994
<b>FORWARD</b>		
8	ALAAEDDIN HASAN	31-01-2000
11	ODAY DABBAGH	03-12-1998
13	SHEHAB QUMBOR	10-08-1997
19	MAHMOUD WADI	19-12-1994
20	ZEID QUNBAR	04-09-2002



### FORMATION:



(v QATAR R16)

### HEAD COACH

**MAKRAM DABOUB**

Tunisian tactician Makram Daboub managed to fire up his charges and pulled off a breakthrough campaign. Involved in the Palestine set-up since 2010, Daboub's experience and tactical nous came to the fore after stepping up to the main role in 2021.

At their third AFC Asian Cup™, Palestine claimed a first ever victory in their final group match to seal an unprecedented Knockout Stage berth. They would eventually fall to a narrow defeat to eventual winners Qatar, but Daboub and his side would exit with their heads held high.



### KEY FEATURES

- Generally 1-4-4-2 in attack and defence with two tall target strikers
- Wide attackers slightly narrow, encouraging full-backs to push forward
- Midfielders in supporting / covering roles, rarely see ahead of the ball
- Mix of direct counters, patient build with good diagonal switches of play
- Goalkeeper sweeping behind back line; launching direct passes to strikers
- Emphasis on retreat to midfield block; intermittent use of high press
- Uninhibited high-energy approach; team unity, discipline, mental strength

### STATISTICS

<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



**ODAY DABBAGH**  
NUMBER OF GOALS

**3**

## QATAR

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	SAAD AL SHEEB	19-02-1990
21	SALAH ZAKARIA	24-04-1999
22	MESHAAL BARSHAM	14-02-1998
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	PEDRO CORREIA	06-08-1990
3	ALMAHDI ALI MUKHTAR	02-03-1992
5	TAREK SALMAN	05-12-1997
12	LUCAS MENDES	03-07-1990
14	HOMAM AHMED	25-08-1999
15	BASSAM HUSHAM ALRAWI	16-12-1997
16	BOUALEM KHOUKHI	09-07-1990
18	SULTAN AL-BRAKE	07-04-1996
24	JASSEM GABER ABDULSALLAM	20-02-2002
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
4	MOHAMMED WAAD ALBAYATI	18-09-1999
6	ABDEL AZIZ HATIM	01-01-1990
8	ALI ASAD	19-01-1993
10	HASSAN AL HAYDOS	11-12-1990
17	ISMAIL MOHAMAD	05-04-1990
20	AHMED FATHY ABDOULLA	25-01-1993
23	MOUSTAFA TAREK MASHAL	28-03-2001
26	KHALED MOHAMMED M SALEH	07-06-2000
<b>FORWARD</b>		
7	AHMED ALAADIN	31-01-1993
9	YUSUF ABDURISAG	06-08-1999
11	AKRAM AFIF	18-11-1996
13	KHALID MAZEED	24-02-1998
19	ALMOEZ ALI	19-08-1996
25	AHMED ALGANEHI	22-09-2000



### FORMATION:



(v JORDAN Final)

## HEAD COACH

**MARQUEZ LOPEZ**

Marquez Lopez took the reins of the host nation on an interim basis from Qatar Stars League club Al-Wakrah in late December, following the departure of Carlos Queiroz. Despite having limited time with the squad, Lopez coaxed the best out of his players as Qatar remained unbeaten en route to lifting the AFC Asian Cup™ trophy for the second consecutive time. In light of his success, the former Espanyol coach was handed a contract extension on a full-time basis until 2026.



## KEY FEATURES

- 1-5-3-2 or 1-4-4-2 setting out to dominate possession, control tempo of play
- Full use of attacking partnership between striker, Almoez Ali (No. 19) and free spirit Afif (No. 11)
- Midfield with good understanding of overloads, backing Afif's free role
- Aggressive pressing from centre-circle, trying to lock opponents on one side
- Mendes (12), a key distributor as attacking wing-back or as centre-back
- Well-rehearsed set plays based on excellent deliveries by Afif
- Well-structured athletic team with tactical versatility, self-belief, mental strength

## STATISTICS

<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>3</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

## TOP SCORER



**AKRAM AFIF**  
NUMBER OF GOALS

**8**





## SAUDI ARABIA

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	MOHAMMED FARAJ AL YAMI	14-08-1997
21	RAGHID NAJJAR	20-09-1996
22	AHMED ALKASSAR	08-05-1991
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	FAWAZ AL YAMI	23-04-1996
3	AWN ALSALULI	02-09-1998
4	ALI LAJAMI	24-04-1996
5	ALI AL BULAYHI	21-11-1989
12	SAUD ABDULHAMID	18-07-1999
13	HASSAN KADISH	26-09-1992
17	HASSAN AL TAMBAKTI	09-02-1999
19	RAYAN MOHAMMED HAMED	13-04-2002
25	MOHAMMED AL BURAYK	15-09-1992
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
6	EID ALMUWALLAD	14-12-2001
7	MUKHTAR ALI	30-10-1997
8	ABDULELAH AL MALKI	11-10-1994
15	ABDULLAH AL KHAIBARI	16-08-1996
16	SAMI ALNAJI	07-02-1997
23	MOHAMMED KANNO	22-09-1994
24	NASSER AL DAWSARI	19-12-1998
26	FAISAL ALGHAMDI	13-08-2001
<b>FORWARD</b>		
9	FERAS ALBRIKAN	14-05-2000
10	SALEM AL DAWSARI	19-08-1991
11	SALEH AL SHEHRI	01-11-1993
14	TALAL ABUBAKR HAJI	16-09-2007
18	ABDULRAHMAN GHAREEB	31-03-1997
20	ABDULLAH RADIF	20-01-2003



### FORMATION:



(v KOREA REP R16)

### HEAD COACH

**ROBERTO MANCINI**

With a managerial career boasting names such as Manchester City and Inter Milan, former Italy forward Roberto Mancini was appointed as head coach by Saudi Arabia with their sights set on a record-equalling fourth title.

However, the three-time Serie A winner, who took his home nation to a UEFA Euro 2020 triumph, saw his second stint at a premier Continental championship come to a halt when the Green Falcons succumbed to a narrow defeat on penalties against Korea Republic in the Round of 16.



### KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-5-2 attacking with very fast transitions to 1-5-4-1 or 1-4-4-2 defence
- Possession-based game based on short-passing combinations from back to front
- Wing-backs proactive in extensive use of wide areas, prolific supply of crosses
- Intensive counter-pressing producing high regains within seconds of ball-loss
- Al Bulayhi (No. 5) leading a secure back line; tackles, interceptions, creative build-up
- High-tempo combinations, skilful solo runs by middle-to-front players
- Excellent technique in all departments of a team that went home undefeated

### STATISTICS

<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



ABDULLAH RADIF, ABDULRAHMAN GHAREEB, ALI AL BULAYHI, FAISAL AL GHAMDI, MOHAMMED KANNO | NUMBER OF GOALS

1



## SYRIA

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	IBRAHIM ALMA	18-10-1991
22	AHMAD MADANIEH	01-01-1990
23	TAHA MOUSA	30-05-1987
26	MAKSIM SARRAF	15-03-2005
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	AIHAM HANZ OUSOU	09-01-2000
3	MOUAIAD ALAJAAN	01-01-1993
5	AMR ALMIDANI	26-01-1994
6	AMRO JENIAT	15-01-1993
13	THAER KROUMA	02-02-1990
15	KHALED KOURDOGHLI	01-01-1997
19	MOAIAD ALKHOULI	01-01-1993
24	AMPNTOUL RACHMAN OUES	14-06-1998
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
4	EZEQUIEL HAM	10-03-1994
8	KAMEL HMEISHEH	01-01-1998
10	MOHAMMAD ALMARMOUR	04-01-1995
12	AMAR RAMADAN	05-01-2001
14	MOHAMMAD ANEZ	14-05-1995
16	ELMAR ABRAHAM	01-03-1999
17	FAHAD YOUSSEF	15-05-1987
18	JALIL ELIAS	25-04-1996
21	IBRAHIM HESAR	15-03-1993
<b>FORWARD</b>		
7	OMAR KHRBIN	15-01-1994
9	ALAA ALDIN YASIN DALI	01-01-1997
11	PABLO SABBAG	11-06-1997
20	ANTONIO YAKOUB	12-06-2002
25	MAHMOOD ALASWAD	18-01-2003



### FORMATION:



(v IR IRAN R16)

### HEAD COACH

HECTOR CUPER

In two seasons at Valencia, Hector Cuper led the La Liga club to the 2000 and 2001 UEFA Champions League Finals. Subsequently, he coached the national teams of Georgia (2008-2009) and Egypt (2015-2018), taking the latter to the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations Final where they lost to Cameroon.

He was in charge of Uzbekistan at the last AFC Asian Cup™ and the vastly-experienced Argentinian guided Syria to their first-ever appearance in the Knockout Stage before bowing out to the Islamic Republic of Iran on penalties in the Round of 16.



### KEY FEATURES

- Mostly 1-4-4-2 in attack and defence with fast transitions in both directions
- Frequent long supply to aerially strong strikers; second-ball support from midfield
- Also equipped for combinations in wide areas with full-backs pushing forward
- Individual pressure after ball-loss with rapid retreat into midfield defensive block
- All outfielders active in compact resolute defending with zonal back four
- Morale-boosting shot-stopping, passing by goalkeeper Madanieh (No. 22)
- Well-organised, disciplined unit: strong work ethic, motivation, collective spirit

### STATISTICS

4	1	1	1	2	2	0	0.5	0.5	2
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



OMAR KHRBIN  
NUMBER OF GOALS **2**

## TAJIKISTAN

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	RUSTAM YATIMOV	13-07-1998
16	DALERJON BAROTOV	29-01-1999
23	MUHRIDDIN HASANOV	23-09-2002
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	ZOIR DZHURABOEV	16-09-1998
3	TABREZ ISLOMOV	06-06-1998
4	KHOLMUROD NAZAROV	04-02-1994
5	MANUCHEHR SAFAROV	31-05-2001
6	VAHDAT HANONOV	25-07-2000
12	SODIQJON QURBONOV	19-01-2003
19	AKHTAM NAZAROV	29-09-1992
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
7	PARVIZDZHON UMARBAEV	01-11-1994
8	KOMRON TURSUNOV	24-04-1996
10	ALISHER DZHALILOV	29-08-1993
11	MUHAMMADJON RAHIMOV	15-10-1998
13	AMADONI KAMOLOV	16-01-2003
14	ALISHER SHUKUROV	30-03-2002
15	SHERVONI MABATSHOEV	04-12-2000
17	EHSON PANSCHANBE	12-05-1999
18	RUSLAN KHAILOEV	29-10-2003
20	BURIZOD ALIJONI	06-08-2004
21	VAYSIDDIN SAFAROV	15-04-1996
24	DALER IMOMNAZAROV	31-05-1995
<b>FORWARD</b>		
9	RUSTAM SOIROV	12-09-2002
22	SHAHROM SAMIEV	08-02-2001
25	NURIDDIN KHAMROKULOV	19-04-1999
26	MUHAMMADALI AZIZBOEV	04-01-2003



### FORMATION:



(v JORDAN Q-Final)

### HEAD COACH

PETAR SEGRT

Petar Segrt, who assumed the post in March 2022, took Tajikistan to historic highs by qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup™ for the first time and breaking into the top 100 of the FIFA World Ranking.

Under the charismatic Segrt, Tajikistan lifted the 2022 King's Cup in Thailand and the 2023 Merdeka Cup in Malaysia. The Central Asians continued their historic run in Qatar by advancing to the Quarter-finals before losing to eventual finalists Jordan but despite their success, the former Afghanistan and Maldives head coach departed shortly after the tournament.



### KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 in attack and defence; mix of elaborate build, direct supply to front
- Good use of width; wingers cutting in to attack goal; full-backs pushing forward
- Abundant supply of well-delivered crosses; readiness to shoot from long range
- Two screening midfielders covering well, distributing play to wide areas
- Individual pressure after ball loss; retreat into mid block led by Hanonov (No. 6)
- Secure, focused keeper Yatimov (No. 1), excellent on high balls, reflex saves
- Neat combinations by disciplined team with strong work ethic, collective spirit

### STATISTICS

<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



NURIDDIN KHAMROKULOV, PARVIZDZHON UMARBAEV, VAHDAT HANONOV | NUMBER OF GOALS

1

## THAILAND

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	SIWARAK TEDSUNGNOEN	20-04-1984
20	SARANON ANUIN	24-03-1994
23	PATIWAT KHAMMAI	24-12-1994
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	SANTIPHARP CHANNGOM	23-09-1996
3	THEERATHON BUNMATHAN	06-02-1990
4	ELIAS DOLAH	24-04-1993
12	NICHOLAS MICKELSON	24-07-1999
16	JAKKAPAN PRAISUWAN	16-08-1994
17	PANSA HEMVIBOON	08-07-1990
21	SUPHANAN BUREERAT	10-12-1993
26	SUPHAN THONGSONG	26-08-1994
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
5	KRITSADA KAMAN	18-03-1999
6	SARACH YOoyEN	30-05-1992
7	SUPACHOK SARACHAT	22-05-1998
8	PICHA AUTRA	07-01-1996
11	BORDIN PHALA	18-12-1994
13	JAROENSAK WONGGORN	18-05-1997
14	RUNGRAT PHUMICHANTUK	05-01-1992
18	WEERATHEP POMPHUN	19-09-1996
19	PATHOMPON CHAROENRATTANAPIROM	21-04-1994
22	CHANNARONG PROMSRIKAEW	17-04-2001
24	WORACHIT KANITSRIBUMPHEN	24-08-1997
25	PEERADOL CHAMRASAMEE	15-09-1992
<b>FORWARD</b>		
9	SUPACHAI CHAIDED	01-12-1998
10	SUPHANAT MUEANTA	02-08-2002
15	TEERASAK POEIPHIMAI	21-09-2002



### FORMATION:



(v UZBEKISTAN R16)

### HEAD COACH

MASATADA ISHII

Japan's Masatada Ishii replaced Alexander Polking as Thailand head coach only two months before the AFC Asian Cup™ commenced.

Ishii's many achievements include leading Kashima Antlers to win the J.League Cup in 2015 and the J1 League in 2016, which earned him the J.League Manager of the Year award that year.

Having also managed Thai clubs such as Samut Prakan City and Buriram United, his wealth of experience with Thai football served him well as he steered the War Elephants to the Knockout Stage for the second consecutive edition where they were defeated 2-1 by Uzbekistan.



### KEY FEATURES

- Variations on 1-4-4-2 with two controlling midfielders initiating build-up play
- Fast counterattacking game with slick combinations, good spread to wide areas
- Attackers adept at creating spaces, wingers supported by adventurous full-backs
- Rapid transitions to midfield defensive block; quick movements to ball-side
- Defensive midfielders ready to drop deep into back line of six
- Excellent reaction saves, decision-making by the two goalkeepers used
- High-energy game by players with technical ability, pace and team spirit

### STATISTICS

<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>3</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



SUPACHAI CHAIDED  
NUMBER OF GOALS

2



## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

SQUAD	DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>	
1 ALI KHASEIF ALHOSANI	09-06-1987
17 KHALID EISA ALMESMARI	15-09-1989
22 HASSAN HAMZA ALMAAZMI	10-11-1994
<b>DEFENDER</b>	
3 ZAYED SULTAN ALZAABI	11-04-2001
4 KHALID AL HASHMI	18-03-1997
12 KHALIFA MUBARAK ALHAMMADI	07-11-1998
13 MOHAMAD OMAR ALATTAS	05-08-1997
19 KHALED EBRAHEIM ALDHANHANI	17-01-1997
24 AHMAD JAMIL	16-01-1999
25 ABDELRAHMAN SALEH KHAMIS	03-06-1999
26 BADER NASSER MOHAMMAD	16-09-2001
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>	
5 ALI HASSAN SALMIN	04-02-1995
6 MAJID RASHID ALMEHRZI	16-05-2000
8 TAHNOON HAMDAN ALZAABI	10-04-1999
14 ABDULLA HAMAD ALMENHALI	18-09-2001
15 YAHIA NADER	11-09-1998
16 MOHAMMED ABBAS ALBLOOSHI	30-09-2002
18 ABDALLA RAMADAN BEKHEET	07-03-1998
<b>FORWARD</b>	
2 ABDULLA IDREES ALHAMMADI	16-08-1999
7 ALI AHMED MABKHOUT	05-10-1990
9 ALI SALEH AMRO	22-01-2000
10 FABIO VIRGINIO DE LIMA	30-06-1993
11 CAIO CANEDO CORREA	09-08-1990
20 YAHYA ALI ALGHASSANI	18-04-1998
21 HARIB ABDALLA ALMUSHARRKH	26-11-2002
23 SULTAN ADIL ALAMEERI	04-05-2004



### FORMATION:



(v TAJIKISTAN R16)

### HEAD COACH

PAULO BENTO

Hoping to build on a Semi-final finish from 2019, along with securing a berth at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the UAE appointed Paulo Bento in July 2023. The former Portugal boss, who won plaudits for a four-year spell with Korea Republic where he led them to the Knockout Stage for the first time in 12 years at the 2022 FIFA World Cup, won his first six internationals to get off to a good start.

However, the UAE scraped through the Group Stage at Qatar 2023 and the Portuguese saw his team upset by debutants Tajikistan in the Round of 16.



### KEY FEATURES

- Tactically flexible: variations on 1-4-3-3 with switch to five-man defence v IR Iran
- Fluent approach work with accurate passing, diagonal switches of play
- Mobile, skilful midfielders helping to create overloads in wide areas
- Fast transitions to aggressive mid/low defending with zonal back four
- Minimal counterattacking; emphasis on retaining possession, patient build
- Centre-back Al Hammadi (No. 12) a key element; forward passing, up field runs
- Central midfielder Al Zaabi (No. 8) working hard to link middle-to-front play

### STATISTICS

<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



SULTAN ADIL ALAMEERI, YAHYA ALI ALGHASSANI  
NUMBER OF GOALS

2



## UZBEKISTAN

SQUAD		DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>		
1	UTKIR YUSUPOV	04-01-1991
12	ABDUVAKHID NEMATOV	20-03-2001
16	BOTIRALI ERGASHEV	23-06-1995
<b>DEFENDER</b>		
2	MUHAMMADKODIR HAMRALIEV	06-07-2001
3	KHOJIAKBAR ALIJONOV	19-04-1997
4	FARRUKH SAYFIEV	17-01-1991
5	RUSTAMJON ASHURMATOV	07-07-1996
13	SHERZOD NASRULLAEV	23-07-1998
15	UMARBEK ESHMURODOV	30-11-1992
18	ABDULLA ABDULLAEV	01-09-1997
25	ABDUKODIR KHUSANOV	29-02-2004
26	ZAFARMUROD ABDIRAKHMATOV	28-04-2003
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>		
6	DIYOR KHOLMATOV	22-07-2002
7	OTABEK SHUKUROV	22-06-1996
8	JAMSHID ISKANDEROV	16-10-1993
9	ODILJON XAMROBEKOV	13-02-1996
10	JALOLIDDIN MASHARIPOV	01-09-1993
11	OSTON URUNOV	19-12-2000
14	JAMSHID BOLTABOEV	03-10-1996
19	AZIZBEK TURGUNBOEV	01-10-1994
20	HOJIMAT ERKINOV	29-05-2001
22	ABBOSBEK FAYZULLAEV	03-10-2003
23	SHOKHBOZ UMAROV	09-03-1999
<b>FORWARD</b>		
17	BOBIR ABDIXOLIKOV	23-04-1997
21	IGOR SERGEEV	30-04-1993
24	AZIZBEK AMONOV	30-10-1997



### FORMATION:



(v QATAR Q-Final)

### HEAD COACH

**SRECKO KATANEC**

Srecko Katanec made a name for himself when he led his native Slovenia to breakthrough qualifications for UEFA Euro 2000, and the 2002 FIFA World Cup in Korea Republic and Japan.

His first role in Asia came when he took the reins of the United Arab Emirates in 2009, while his most recent role was a near three-year spell in charge of Iraq, whom he guided to the Round of 16 at the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019™. The former Partizan Belgrade and Sampdoria defender led Uzbekistan to the Quarter-finals before losing to eventual champions and hosts Qatar in a dramatic penalty shoot-out.



### KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-3; 1-5-2-3 defence with three attackers staying high as first line
- Others retreat into mid third; back five ready to step out to challenge, intercept
- Rapid build-up; diagonals to wide areas, wing-backs delivering back-post crosses
- 1v1 runs by wingers attacking spaces on either side of screening midfielders
- Industrious central midfielders covering, supplying creative forward passing
- Fayzullayev (No. 22), clever, dynamic winger; attacking spark with 1v1 skills, finishing
- Well-organised unit blending combination moves with long passing to front three

### STATISTICS

<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



**ABBOSBEK FAYZULLAEV, AZIZBEK TURGUNBOEV**  
NUMBER OF GOALS

2

## VIETNAM

SQUAD	DATE OF BIRTH
<b>GOALKEEPER</b>	
1 NGUYEN FILIP	14-09-1992
21 NGUYEN DINH TRIEU	04-11-1991
23 NGUYEN VAN VIET	12-07-2002
<b>DEFENDER</b>	
2 DO DUY MANH	29-09-1996
3 VO MINH TRONG	24-10-2001
4 HO TAN TAI	06-11-1997
5 GIAP TUAN DUONG	07-09-2002
6 NGUYEN THANH BINH	02-11-2000
7 PHAM XUAN MANH	09-02-1996
12 PHAN TUAN TAI	07-01-2001
17 VU VAN THANH	14-04-1996
20 BUI HOANG VIET ANH	01-01-1999
26 LE NGOC BAO	29-03-1998
<b>MIDFIELDER</b>	
8 DO HUNG DUNG	08-09-1993
11 NGUYEN TUAN ANH	16-05-1995
13 TRUONG TIEN ANH	25-04-1999
14 NGUYEN VAN TRUONG	10-09-2003
16 NGUYEN THAI SON	13-07-2003
18 NGUYEN HAI LONG	27-08-2000
19 NGUYEN QUANG HAI	12-04-1997
25 LE PHAM THANH LONG	05-06-1996
<b>FORWARD</b>	
9 NGUYEN VAN TOAN	12-04-1996
10 PHAM TUAN HAI	19-05-1998
15 NGUYEN DINH BAC	19-08-2004
22 KHUAT VAN KHANG	11-05-2003
24 NGUYEN VAN TUNG	02-06-2001



### FORMATION:



(v INDONESIA Group D)

### HEAD COACH

**PHILIPPE TROUSSIER**

Famed for his 2000 title-winning exploits with Japan, which saw him named AFC Coach of the Year, Philippe Troussier returned to international management in March 2023 with Vietnam.

The Frenchman kicked off an extensive coaching career in 1983 in the French lower leagues, before managing Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and South Africa. Troussier spent time at Qatar, Marseille, Morocco and clubs in China PR prior to venturing to Southeast Asia for the first time with Vietnam.



But he presided over a disappointing campaign, as Vietnam exited in the Group Stage for the first time in their AFC Asian Cup™ history.

### KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-3 the default setting with fast transitions to mid/low 1-5-4-1 defensive block
- Emphasis on passing game through thirds using technical ability in tight spaces
- Passing interchanges in own half to draw opponents forward, open spaces for long ball
- Wing-backs pushing forward; wingers cutting in; runs from midfield into box
- Speed of attackers exploited via minimal-touch counters lasting less than 10 seconds
- Well-organised defending based on pressing the ball + rapid retreat into compact block
- Dangerous corners, free-kicks: good deliveries, well-rehearsed movement

### STATISTICS

<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0</b>
PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS	GOALS CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE	AVERAGE GOALS/GAME	AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED/GAME	CLEAN SHEETS

### TOP SCORER



BUI HOANG VIET ANH, NGUYEN DINH BAC, NGUYEN QUANG HAI, PHAM TUAN HAI | NUMBER OF GOALS

1



# TOURNAMENT RESULTS



# TOURNAMENT RESULTS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

## GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
QATAR	3	3	0	0	5	0	5	9
TAJIKISTAN	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
CHINA PR	3	0	2	1	0	1	-1	2
LEBANON	3	0	1	2	1	5	-4	1

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
12 Jan,24	QATAR	3-0 (1-0)	LEBANON
13 Jan,24	CHINA PR	0-0 (0-0)	TAJIKISTAN
17 Jan,24	LEBANON	0-0 (0-0)	CHINA PR
17 Jan,24	TAJIKISTAN	0-1 (0-1)	QATAR
22 Jan,24	QATAR	1-0 (0-0)	CHINA PR
22 Jan,24	TAJIKISTAN	2-1 (0-0)	LEBANON

## GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AUSTRALIA	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7
UZBEKISTAN	3	1	2	0	4	1	3	5
SYRIA	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	4
INDIA	3	0	0	3	0	6	-6	0

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
13 Jan,24	AUSTRALIA	2-0 (0-0)	INDIA
13 Jan,24	UZBEKISTAN	0-0 (0-0)	SYRIA
18 Jan,24	SYRIA	0-1 (0-0)	AUSTRALIA
18 Jan,24	INDIA	0-3 (0-3)	UZBEKISTAN
23 Jan,24	AUSTRALIA	1-1 (1-0)	UZBEKISTAN
23 Jan,24	SYRIA	1-0 (0-0)	INDIA

## GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	3	3	0	0	7	2	5	9
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3	1	1	1	5	4	1	4
PALESTINE	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4
HONG KONG, CHINA	3	0	0	3	1	7	-6	0

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
14 Jan,24	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3-1 (1-0)	HONG KONG, CHINA
14 Jan,24	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	4-1 (3-1)	PALESTINE
18 Jan,24	PALESTINE	1-1 (0-1)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
19 Jan,24	HONG KONG, CHINA	0-1 (0-1)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
23 Jan,24	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	2-1 (1-0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
23 Jan,24	HONG KONG, CHINA	0-3 (0-1)	PALESTINE

## GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
IRAQ	3	3	0	0	8	4	4	9
JAPAN	3	2	0	1	8	5	3	6
INDONESIA	3	1	0	2	3	6	-3	3
VIETNAM	3	0	0	3	4	8	-4	0

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
14 Jan,24	JAPAN	4-2 (3-2)	VIETNAM
15 Jan,24	INDONESIA	1-3 (1-2)	IRAQ
19 Jan,24	IRAQ	2-1 (2-0)	JAPAN
19 Jan,24	VIETNAM	0-1 (0-1)	INDONESIA
24 Jan,24	JAPAN	3-1 (1-0)	INDONESIA
24 Jan,24	IRAQ	3-2 (0-1)	VIETNAM

# TOURNAMENT RESULTS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

## GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
BAHRAIN	3	2	0	1	3	3	0	6
KOREA REPUBLIC	3	1	2	0	8	6	2	5
JORDAN	3	1	1	1	6	3	3	4
MALAYSIA	3	0	1	2	3	8	-5	1

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
15 Jan,24	KOREA REPUBLIC	3-1 (1-0)	BAHRAIN
15 Jan,24	MALAYSIA	0-4 (0-3)	JORDAN
20 Jan,24	JORDAN	2-2 (2-1)	KOREA REPUBLIC
20 Jan,24	BAHRAIN	1-0 (0-0)	MALAYSIA
25 Jan,24	KOREA REPUBLIC	3-3 (1-0)	MALAYSIA
25 Jan,24	JORDAN	0-1 (0-1)	BAHRAIN

## GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
SAUDI ARABIA	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7
THAILAND	3	1	2	0	2	0	2	5
OMAN	3	0	2	1	2	3	-1	2
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	3	0	1	2	1	5	-4	1

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
16 Jan,24	THAILAND	2-0 (1-0)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
16 Jan,24	SAUDI ARABIA	2-1 (0-1)	OMAN
21 Jan,24	OMAN	0-0 (0-0)	THAILAND
21 Jan,24	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	0-2 (0-1)	SAUDI ARABIA
25 Jan,24	SAUDI ARABIA	0-0 (0-0)	THAILAND
25 Jan,24	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	1-1 (0-1)	OMAN

## ROUND OF 16

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
28 Jan,24	AUSTRALIA	4-0 (2-0)	INDONESIA
28 Jan,24	TAJIKISTAN	1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,1-0) 5-3 PSO	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
29 Jan,24	IRAQ	2-3 (0-1)	JORDAN
29 Jan,24	QATAR	2-1 (1-1)	PALESTINE
30 Jan,24	UZBEKISTAN	2-1 (1-0)	THAILAND
30 Jan,24	SAUDI ARABIA	1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,0-0) 2-4 PSO	KOREA REPUBLIC
31 Jan,24	BAHRAIN	1-3 (0-1)	JAPAN
31 Jan,24	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,1-0) 5-3 PSO	SYRIA

## QUARTER FINALS

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
02 Feb,24	TAJIKISTAN	0-1 (0-0)	JORDAN
02 Feb,24	AUSTRALIA	1-2 a.e.t. (1-1,1-0)	KOREA REPUBLIC
03 Feb,24	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	2-1 (0-1)	JAPAN
03 Feb,24	QATAR	1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,1-0) 3-2 PSO	UZBEKISTAN

## SEMI FINALS

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
06 Feb,24	JORDAN	2-0 (0-0)	KOREA REPUBLIC
07 Feb,24	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	2-3 (1-2)	QATAR

## FINAL

Date	Team A	Score	Team B
10 Feb,24	JORDAN	1-3 (0-1)	QATAR



ASIAN CUP • QATAR 2023

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AFC ASIAN CUP • QATAR 2023™

The Final



Qatar

AWARDS





# STAR SELECTION













# REFEREES

## 1. SUMMARY

A record 74 match officials, comprising 35 referees and 39 assistant referees, including two Standby Referees and Standby Assistant Referees each, were appointed to the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023™. The largest ever contingent saw a diverse range of nationalities, with 18 Member Associations represented across the five AFC zones.

### 1.1. AFC MATCH OFFICIALS

#### REFEREES

NAME	MA
Shaun Robert Evans	AUS
Ms Katherine Margaret Jacewicz	AUS
Fu Ming	CHN
Ma Ning	CHN
Alireza Faghani	IRN
Mooud Bonyadifard	IRN
Mohanad Qasim Eesee Sarray	IRQ
Adham Mohammad Tumah Makhadmeh	JOR
Yusuke Araki	JPN
Jumpei Iida	JPN
Hiroyuki Kimura	JPN
Ms Yoshimi Yamashita	JPN
Kim Hee-gon	KOR
Kim Jong-hyeok	KOR
Ko Hyung-jin	KOR



NAME	MA
Khalid Saleh H Alturais	KSA
Mohammed Khled S Al Hoish	KSA
Abdullah M M H M H Jamali	KUW
Ahmad Kh Y Y A Alali	KUW
Muhammad Nazmi Bin Nasaruddin	MAS
Ahmed Abu Bakar Said Al Kaf	OMA
Abdulla Ali A A Al-Marri	QAT
Abdulrahman Ibrahim Y J Al-Jassim	QAT
Khamis Mohammed S A Al-Marri	QAT

NAME	MA
Salman Ahmad Falahi	QAT
Muhammad Taqi Aljaafari Bin Jahari	SGP
Hanna Hattab	SYR
Sivakorn Pu-Udom	THA
Sadullo Gulmurodi	TJK
Adel Ali Ahmed Khamis Alnaqbi	UAE
Mohammed Abdulla Hassan Mohamed	UAE
Omar Mohamed Ahmed Hassan Alali	UAE
Ilgiz Tantashev	UZB



## STANDBY REFEREES

NAME	MA
Majed Mohammed H Alshamrani	KSA
Akhrol Riskullaev	UZB

## STANDBY ASSISTANT REFEREES

NAME	MA
Mohammed Maki A Alabakry	KSA
Cao Yi	CHN

## TECHNICAL EXPERTS

NAME	MA
Cheung Yim Yau	HKG
Ismail Adnan Ismail Alhafi	JOR
Toru Kamikawa	JPN
Saad K M Alfadhli	KUW
Altraifi Ali Ahmed I	KSA
Subkhiddin Bin Mohd Salleh	MAS
Abdulrahman Mohammed A M Hussain	QAT
Chia Eng Wah John	SGP
Farkhad Abdullaev	UZB
Narayanan Nair Sivaji	SGP

## FITNESS INSTRUCTORS

NAME	MA
Ravichandran Chappanimutu	MAS
Banjar Mohammed B J Al-Dosari	QAT
Ganesan S/O Maniam	SGP
Rustam Abdulloev	TJK

## 1.2. SUPPORT TEAM

**Referees' Liaison Officers by the Local Organising Committee:** A team of Liaison Officers (LOs) supported the coordination of all logistic requirements.

**Players' Team:** Local teams took part in the referees' practical training sessions.

**Medical Team:** Aspetar supplied medical personnel for the Referees' delegation. A medical doctor was stationed at the Referees' hotel throughout the competition, while a team of physiotherapists and masseurs ensured the referees' physical conditioning was taken care of. Additionally, an ambulance and paramedics were stationed at the training venue daily to provide emergency and first aid treatment as needed.

## 2. PRE-COMPETITION

### 2.1. MATCH OFFICIALS' SELECTION PROCESS

The Continent's best referees and assistant referees were selected for the tournament based on the following criteria:

1. Be a member of the AFC Elite Panel and possess officiating experience in top AFC competitions
2. Hold a REF (VAR) or VAR licence
3. Has displayed a high level of refereeing performance and competency with regards to:
  - a. Consistent application and interpretation of the Laws of the Game
  - b. Football understanding
  - c. Management skills
  - d. Communication skills
  - e. Physical fitness

### 2.2. MATCH OFFICIALS' PREPARATION

A five-day seminar was organised in Kuala Lumpur from 16 to 20 October 2023, with the primary objective of preparing the selected referees for officiating at the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023™.

## 3. PREPARATORY COURSE

The referees and assistant referees participated in a seven-day preparatory course from 5 to 11 January 2024 that consisted of theoretical sessions, VAR simulator sessions, fitness checks and practical training sessions with the Mobile VAR (MVAR) set-up.

### 3.1. FITNESS CHECK

All match officials were declared physically qualified to cope with the match demands upon the successful completion of:

- Yo-Yo Intermittent Test for referees (target: 18-8)
- Assistant Referee Intermittent Endurance Test (ARIET) for assistant referees (target: 15-5.3)

### 3.2. PRACTICAL SESSIONS

Preparatory practical sessions took place daily at the Qatar Sports Club. Two teams and a coach assisted to simulate match incidents based on the instructors' training plan. Fitness training was conducted alongside MVAR and Instant Feedback sessions to ensure Match Officials were suitably prepared for their upcoming appointments.

### 3.3. THEORETICAL SESSIONS

The theoretical sessions were designed to further enhance the technical knowledge of the match officials and optimise the level of consistency in their application of the Laws of the Game. Numerous match incident videos were reviewed and discussed in order to facilitate the match officials' participation, analysis and consensus. To round off the preparations, relevant information on fitness and administration was also shared.



### 3.4. PREPARATION IN NON-REFEREEING TECHNICAL TOPICS

A few non-refereeing topics were covered in the preparatory course, including the Prevention of Match Fixing, Understanding Severe Injuries and Competition Operations at the Stadiums. These sessions aimed to enhance referees' awareness of the crucial roles and discipline required both on and off the pitch during the competition.

## 4. COMPETITION

### 4.1. TEAM ARRIVAL MEETINGS

Referee technical instructors attended every Team Arrival Meeting to ensure that all 24 teams gained the optimum level of awareness on the standard of refereeing that would be applied throughout the competition.

### 4.2. PRACTICAL SESSIONS

Daily practical training sessions were conducted, with an emphasis on fitness conditioning and maintenance. Referees and assistant referees appointed for matches performed customised exercises planned for matchday minus 2 (MD -2) and minus 1 (MD -1). Gymnasium and pool recovery sessions were also delivered as part of their post-match programme.

### 4.3. MATCH ASSESSMENT

All match footages were analysed "live" by a video referee assessor at the Remote Monitoring Room located in the Referees' Hotel. The video referee assessor tracked the match situations and compiled all relevant details, such as the time and nature of incidents, decisions and sanctions, officials involved and other inputs for discussion.

Referee assessors were also assigned to observe the match officials' in-game performances at the venues. The referee assessors closely monitored the team's officiating capabilities and decisions made throughout the match, and provided first-hand feedback.

#### 4.4. MATCH DEBRIEFING SESSIONS

The group match debriefings gathered all the referees and assistant referees, excluding those away on match assignments. Significant incidents from the previous day's matches were analysed to prepare the officials for upcoming challenges.

Through dialogue, the instructors highlighted areas for improvement and provided advice to ensure

consistency and uniformity in foul recognition and Laws of the Game interpretation.

#### 4.5. MATCH PREPARATION SESSIONS

A dedicated coach analyst, P N Sivaji (SGP), was appointed to the competition for the first time. Specific information on team tactics was shared to the appointed match officials prior to each match.

## 5. VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE (VAR) SYSTEM

Having been implemented from the Quarter-final stage onwards at the competition's previous edition

in the UAE in 2019, the VAR system made its full debut as it was implemented for all 51 matches.

#### 5.1. MATCH OFFICIALS' PREPARATION

A five-day seminar was organised in Kuala Lumpur from 16 to 20 October 2023, for shortlisted Match Officials in order to improve and refresh their knowledge and understanding of the VAR system, as well as evaluate their abilities. The seminar involved VAR Simulator as well as Mobile VAR Training sessions, allowing the participants to gain sufficient practice with VAR procedures and protocols.

The appointed Match Officials also took part in VAR-specific training during the preparatory course from 5 to 11 January 2024. Furthermore, such training continued throughout the duration of the competition to ensure that all Match Officials were well prepared and ready to perform to the highest standard.

#### 5.2. TECHNICAL SETUP

A decentralised system was implemented for the competition, which featured a Video Operations Room (VOR) located at each venue from where the VMOs operated. Each VOR was situated in a cabin next to the broadcast compound to allow camera feeds to be easily provided to the VAR System.

##### Technology Provider

- Hawk-Eye Innovations Ltd was chosen as the technology provider for the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023™, having also been appointed for the last edition of the competition in 2019.



## Video Operation Room (VOR)

- Located at each stadium
- Reception of all camera feeds from the Host Broadcaster (HB)
- Personnel setup:
  - VAR, AVAR
  - One Replay Operator (RO)
  - One Assistant Replay Operator (ARO)
  - One Quality Control Manager (QCM)
  - One Football Technology Officer (FTO)

## Referee Review Area (RRA)

- Pyramid Monitor
- Located next to or behind the fourth official's bench at each venue
- VAR output screen displayed for Referees to review incidents in the case of an On-field Review (OFR)

## 5.3. COMMUNICATION PROCESS

Communication channels were put in place to facilitate the smooth operation of the VAR system.

In each VOR, a Quality Control Manager (QCM) operated a tablet to send the relevant VAR information to both the broadcast and infotainment teams. The relevant graphics were then displayed on the giant

screen and on the TV broadcast feed during VAR checks or reviews in order to relay the information to the spectators.

## 5.4. VAR IMPLEMENTATION STATISTICS

VAR REVIEWS	TOTAL	DECISIONS CHANGED	DECISIONS CONFIRMED
<b>TOTAL REVIEWS</b>	44	41	3
On Field Reviews	35	32	3
Only VAR Reviews	9	9	/
<b>Penalty area incidents</b> reviewed	23	22	1
<b>Goals</b> reviewed	13	12	1
<b>Encroachment by GK</b> in PK reviewed	0	0	/
Potential <b>red card incidents</b> reviewed	8	7	1
<b>Mistaken identity</b> situations reviewed	0	0	/
Average reviews per match	0.86		
1 Review every # matches	1.16		

## 6. TECHNICAL SUMMARY

### 6.1. GENERAL PERFORMANCE

The team of referee assessors and instructors, through their match reports and close monitoring, rated the match officials' performance as "good". The daily training, match debriefings and other activities and resources that were organised to raise the refereeing standards contributed significantly to decision-making as the tournament progressed.

### 6.2. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

A total of 185 disciplinary sanctions were issued at the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023™, of which 173 were cautions (yellow cards). Five sending-offs took place after a second caution and seven (7) direct red cards were shown. There was a match average of 3.49 yellow cards and 0.14 red cards.





# EXTRA-TIME

























# COMMITTEES







