



ALKASS®
INTERNATIONAL CUP 
DAY 01 | Monday, January 19, 2026

ALKASS U17



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ALKASS Cup U17
Opening Day

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MATCH 1



1 | 0



GAME REPORT

The 11th edition of the Al-Kass International Cup kicked off today at Aspire Pitch no. 07 with a match between Aspire Academy and Mohammed VI Academy. The game kicked off at 3:30 PM, with Qatari national team captain Hassan Al-Haydos officially starting the match. Aspire Academy took the lead early in the 8th minute through player number 9, Mohsain Abdulla Alhajri, following an assist from player number 26, Dhiaeddine Larbi Benyatla.

Mohammed VI later made a change in goal, with Al-Barae El Jerari (No. 1) replacing Iyad Hamzi (No. 16). The first half ended with six minutes of added time. Aspire Academy committed 12 fouls, while Mohammed VI recorded 6. Both teams earned five corner kicks each. The host team, Aspire Academy, secured a 1-0 victory and successfully kept a clean sheet, starting their Al-Kass International Cup tournament on a positive note.



"We really hope to see our players in the official National Team of Qatar in the Future"

Alvaro Mejia Perez
Aspire Academy, Head Coach

"This generation is younger than the previous one we had last year, This is the main achievement for us"

Khalid Sekkat
Mohammed VI Head Coach



MAN OF THE MATCH
DHIAEDDINE LARBI BENYATIA





P R E S S C O N F E R E N C E

ASPIRE ACADEMY VS MOHAMMED VI

In the Press conference, Aspire Academy head coach Álvaro Mejía expressed his satisfaction with his team's performance and the opening victory, praising the players' control of the match and their ability to secure an early goal. He also acknowledged the strength of Mohammed VI Academy and emphasized that Aspire continues to work on improving each new generation of players.

On the other side, Mohammed VI Academy coach Khaled Al-Saqat praised the tournament for providing young players with the opportunity to compete against strong international teams. Despite the defeat, he commended his players' effort, noting their improvement after a slow start and highlighting the importance of gaining experience in high-level competitions, especially for a younger squad.

Both coaches agreed that the Al-Kass International Cup plays a key role in preparing young talents for future challenges and helping them grow in competitive football environments.



MATCH 2



0 | 0



GAME REPORT

Rangers FC and Etoile Sportive settled for a goalless draw, with both sides showing discipline and organisation throughout a closely fought contest. Rangers enjoyed extended spells of possession and appeared comfortable dictating the rhythm of play, especially during the opening half. They circulated the ball effectively in midfield and pushed forward with intent, but were unable to turn their territorial advantage into clear scoring chances. Etoile Sportive stayed compact at the

back and defended resolutely, limiting space and dealing well with pressure. Rangers also held the edge from set pieces, earning more corners and looking to create openings from wide areas. Etoile responded with measured counter-attacks and managed to test the goalkeeper despite seeing less of the ball. The intensity increased after the break, with fouls becoming more frequent. Etoile's Amen Allah Zergui received a yellow card as both teams pushed for winning.



"They must grab the challenge. So I think you'll see, hopefully in the next game, more hunger and more desire,"

Malcom Thomson
Rangers FC, Head Coach

"The match against Rangers was highly competitive, and both teams performed well, but we were unable to score,"

Said Mohamed Jihed
Etoile Sportive, Head Coach





P R E S S C O N F E R E N C E

RANGERS FC VS ETOILE SPORTIVE

Malcom Thomson, head coach of Rangers FC, described the match against Etoile Sportive as intense and competitive, with some tension caused by both teams' desire to secure an early win. He said the draw was a positive start and confirmed that the team will push for victories in the next matches. Thomson added that the upcoming match against Aspire Academy will be challenging, praising the tournament's organisation, facilities, and media coverage, while stressing his team's ambition to progress as far as possible.

On the other hand, Mohamed Jihad, head coach of Etoile Sportive, said the match against Rangers FC was strong and highly competitive, with both teams delivering solid performances but failing to score. He noted that the club's ambition is to reach at least the semi-finals, stressing that the team is approaching the tournament step by step. Jihad added that with two group-stage matches remaining, the focus is on giving maximum effort, improving attacking aspects, and making better use of scoring opportunities in the upcoming games.



Exclusive Interview

Khalid Sekkat - Coach of Mohammed VI



Can you tell us about today's match outcome and your overall satisfaction of the match?

Alhamdulillah, today's match showcased a high level of performance from our players. They demonstrated strong physical play and good intensity throughout the game, which was particularly impressive given the age differences between our squad and some of the other teams. As this was the opening match of the competition, our players faced extra pressure and excitement – yet they rose to the occasion and competed well from start to finish. Overall, we executed our game plan as we had prepared, and despite the challenges that naturally come in a tournament setting, I'm proud of how they represented the Mohammed VI Academy on the field.

How are you preparing the team for the upcoming match?

The first match of any competition

is always one of the toughest, especially for young players who are experiencing this kind of international stage and media attention.

We expected a certain level of nerves, and of course we saw some technical errors – but that's entirely normal in a player's development. We will go back to the training ground and work on those specific aspects, correcting what needs improving while also reinforcing the positive parts of today's performance. We'll continue to emphasize tactical discipline and confidence so that the team is mentally and physically ready for the next challenge. The international exposure is valuable, and we want to make sure the players learn from it without feeling overwhelmed.

Do you make any changes in your style of play according to the opponent?

In general, our approach to each match follows a consistent philosophy. We remain true to the style and identity we build in training; however, there are moments where we adjust certain elements of our play based on the characteristics of the opponent. For example, we may emphasize different tactical movements or slightly adapt our positioning to exploit specific spaces or disrupt key players. But at the heart of it, we maintain the same core principles and tactical discipline across all games.



Tournament Begins with Hasan Al-Haydos' Opening Kick

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A		GROUP B	
	ASPIRE ACADEMY		FC BARCELONA
	MOHAMMED VI FA		PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN
	RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB		KASHIWA REYSOL
	ÉTOILE SPORTIVE DU SAHEL		PVF ACADEMY

DATE	NO.	TEAMS	KICK-OFF
Monday 19. Jan	1	Aspire Academy vs Mohd VI	15:30
	2	Rangers FC vs Étoile Sportive	17:50
Tuesday 20. Jan	3	FC Barcelona vs PSG	15:30
	4	Kashiwa Reysol vs PVF Academy	17:50
Wednesday 21. Jan	5	Aspire Academy vs Rangers FC	15:30
	6	Mohd VI vs Étoile Sportive	17:50
Thursday 22. Jan	7	FC Barcelona vs Kashiwa Reysol	15:30
	8	PSG vs PVF Academy	17:50
Friday 23. Jan	9	Aspire Academy vs Étoile Sportive	15:30
	10	Mohd VI vs Rangers FC	17:50
Saturday 24. Jan	11	FC Barcelona vs PVF Academy	15:30
	12	PSG vs Kashiwa Reysol	17:50

POSITION PLAYOFF (8-5 Pos.)

Sunday 25. Jan	13	Group A Pos. 3 vs Group B Pos. 4	15:30
	14	Group A Pos. 4 vs Group B Pos. 3	18:00

POSITION PLAYOFF (8-5 Pos.)

Monday 26. Jan	15	Group A Pos. 1 vs Group B Pos. 2	15:30
	16	Group B Pos. 1 vs Group A Pos. 2	18:00

POSITION 8-7 & 6-5

Tuesday 27. Jan	17	Winner Game no. 13 vs Winner Game no. 14	15:30
	18	Loser Game no. 13 vs Loser Game no. 14	18:00

POSITION 4 & 3

Thursday 29. Jan	19	Loser Game no. 15 vs Loser Game no. 16	14:15
	20	Winner Game no. 15 vs Winner Game no. 16	16:35

FINAL

Thursday 29. Jan	20	Winner Game no. 15 vs Winner Game no. 16	16:35
	21	Final Match	18:00

All matches will be played at Aspire - Pitch 7



ALKASS® INTERNATIONAL CUP

11th Edition 2026



MOHAMMED VI FA



FC BARCELONA



PVF FOOTBALL
ACADEMY



RANGERS
FOOTBALL CLUB



PARIS
SAINT-GERMAIN
F.C.



ÉTOILE SPORTIVE
DU SAHEL



ASPIRE
ACADEMY



KASHIWA
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