



**ALKASS**<sup>®</sup>  
INTERNATIONAL CUP



**DAY 3 | Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

**ALKASS U17**  
**UPDATE**



**Aspire Ignite  
Stunning Win  
Over Rangers**

ORGANIZERS



الاتحاد القطري لكرة القدم  
QATAR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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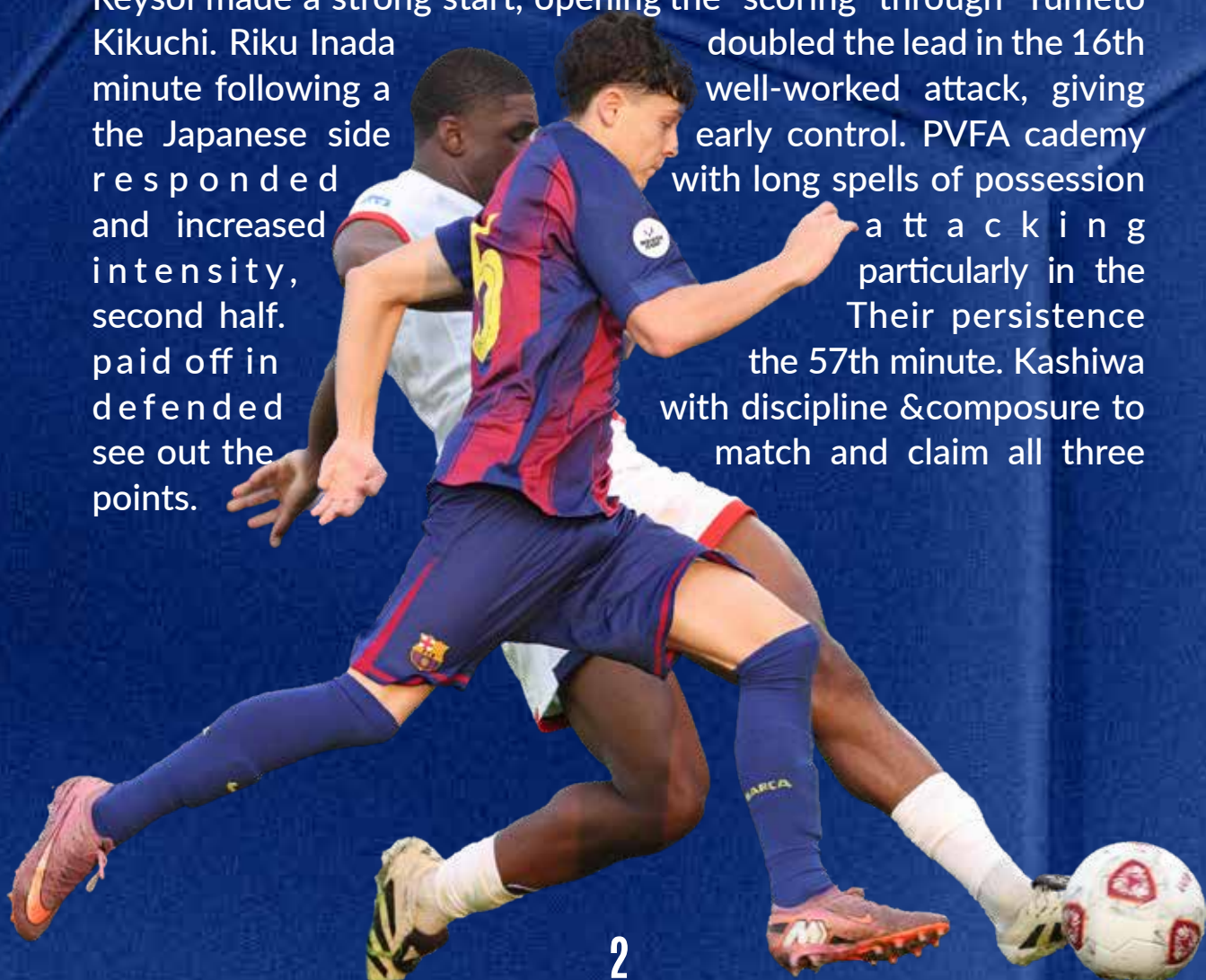
# RECAP

DAY 2 : 20.02.2026

## Rising stars clashed in a showcase of elite youth football during the second day

FC Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain delivered one of the most thrilling encounters of the tournament, sharing the points in a dramatic 3-3 draw. PSG struck first in the 2nd minute through Jouhayni Abdoun before Barcelona captain Hugo Garces Laguns equalised in the 29th minute. With the score level at halftime, PSG regained control in the second half as Ewan Polter restored their lead in the 59th minute and Maoula Nikate extended the advantage ten minutes later. Barcelona refused to back down, pulling a goal back in the 79th minute through Alex Arasa Ventaja before completing a remarkable comeback deep into added time with a converted penalty in the 87th minute.

Kashiwa Reysol secured a hard-fought 2-1 victory over PVF Academy in an intense U-17 Alkass International Cup encounter. Reysol made a strong start, opening the scoring through Yumeto Kikuchi. Riku Inada doubled the lead in the 16th minute following a well-worked attack, giving the Japanese side early control. PVFA academy responded with long spells of possession and increased attacking intensity, particularly in the second half. Their persistence paid off in the 57th minute. Kashiwa defended with discipline & composure to see out the match and claim all three points.





# MATCH 1



2 | 1



## GAME REPORT

Aspire Academy continued their strong start in the group stage with a convincing performance against Rangers FC. From early on, Aspire controlled the tempo, but the game took a dramatic turn in the 11th minute when Ashton Scally, was shown a red card, reducing Rangers to 10 players for the remainder of the match. Despite being a man down, Rangers defended resolutely in the opening stages. However, in the 27th minute, Aspire broke the deadlock when Hadi Jad Khalil found the net with an assist from Ayokunle Samuel Tokode, putting the

hosts ahead 1-0. Added time of 5 minutes was played at the end of the first half, and Aspire made their advantage more secure. In the 40th minute, Aspire were awarded a penalty, which Hadi JadKhalil confidently converted into a goal, extending the lead to 2-0. Rangers fought back in the second half and scored in the 69th minute through Charlie Miller finishing an assist from Cody Mensing, pulling the score to 2-1. The result keeps Aspire Academy leading their group and heading towards the semifinals of the tournament.



*"Of course we seek winning, but what is even more important is to enjoy football and the learning process."*

**Alvaro Mejia Perez**  
ASPIRE Academy, Head Coach

*"I'm extremely proud of my team and their mindset at their very young age."*

**Malcolm Thomson**  
RANGERS FC, Head Coach





## MAN OF THE MATCH HADI JAD KHALIL







# PRESS CONFERENCE

## ASPIRE ACADEMY VS RANGERS FC

Aspire Academy head coach Alvaro Mejia Perez expressed satisfaction with the three points earned, emphasizing his players' strong start and dominant first half. While noting a drop in intensity after halftime, he highlighted the team's determination and continuous improvement, underscoring the importance of focusing on growth, and enjoying the learning process. Perez praised the squad's fighting spirit and stressed that they will aim for victory in their next match.

On the other side, Rangers FC head coach Malcolm Thomson spoke with pride about his young team's performance despite the result. He applauded their mentality, improvement, and resilience, particularly their ability to fight back and create scoring opportunities even when down. Thomson reaffirmed that his squad's youth is a key factor and emphasized the value of gaining experience against strong international opponents. He confirmed that Rangers will continue to compete with determination and strive for positive results to keep their tournament hopes alive.





# MATCH 2



0 | 0



## GAME REPORT

Mohammed VI Academy and Etoile Sportive played out a goalless draw in their U-17 Alkass International Cup encounter, as both sides showed discipline and organisation in a competitive match that remained balanced throughout. Mohammed VI Academy enjoyed greater possession during the opening stages and applied early pressure in the attacking third. They created several promising attacks but were unable to convert their chances, while an apparent opening goal was ruled out for offside. Etoile Sportive responded with a compact defensive shape and relied on counter attacking

moments. Both goalkeepers were tested in the first half, with Mohammed VI's goalkeeper producing a notable save to keep the score level. Etoile's Al Mahdi Chikhaoui received a yellow card as the intensity increased before the break. The second half saw Mohammed VI continue to control possession, while Etoile remained disciplined despite committing more fouls. A turning point came when Etoile's Amen Allah Zergui was shown a red card, forcing his side to play the remainder of the match with ten men. Mohammed VI pushed forward and earned several corners, but Etoile defended resolutely. Despite late pressure, neither team found a breakthrough, and the match ended in a draw.



*The match was highly competitive, and the players showed commitment and discipline throughout."*

**Khalid Sekkat**  
MOHAMMED, Head Coach

*"We showed strong character in difficult moments, and the team remained fully committed until the end."*

**Mohamed Jihed Sboui**  
ETOILE SPORTIVE, Head Coach





## MAN OF THE MATCH ILYASS EL BAYANE







# PRESS CONFERENCE

## MOHAMMED VI VS ÉTOILE SPORTIVE

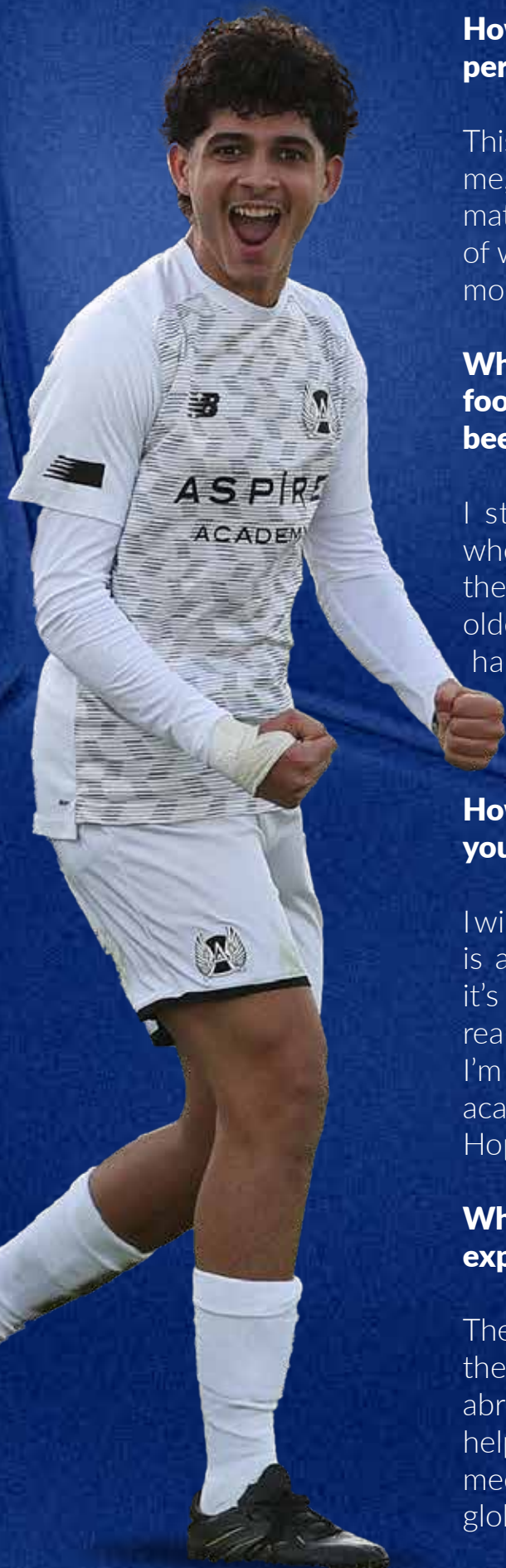
The two coaches shared similar views on a highly competitive encounter that reflected the strong technical level of the tournament. Mohammed VI Academy head coach Khalid Sekkat underlined his team's positive reaction after their previous result, praising the players' mentality, intensity, and control, particularly in the first half where several chances were created without being converted. He stressed that competing in such a demanding group offers valuable experience for young players and reaffirmed his team's intention to maintain the same level of performance in the decisive final match while monitoring qualification scenarios. On the other hand, Étoile Sportive coach Mohamed Jihad Sboui highlighted his players' fighting spirit and resilience against a strong opponent, noting that the team continued to create opportunities despite being reduced to ten men. He emphasized that the draw keeps qualification hopes alive and confirmed that the team will approach the upcoming match with full focus and determination, while also acknowledging the important support received from the fans.





# Exclusive Interview

## HADI JAD KHALIL - ASPIRE ACADEMY MIDFIELDER



### **How do you feel about your performance in today's match?**

This was an important moment for me, and it helps prepare me for big matches in the future. I'm so proud of what I have fulfilled and I'm even more happy to be man of the match.

### **When did you start playing football and how has your journey been?**

I started playing with my father when I was about five years old in the backyard of our house. As I got older, I joined the academy. I've also had try-outs in France. Currently, I am with Al-Duhail club and the Qatar U17 national team.




### **How old are you and What are your goals for the future?**

I will turn 17 in November. Barcelona is a club I hope to reach one day, it's my ambition in football. But I'm really happy and proud of where I'm right now standing with Aspire academy and giving them my all. Hopefully we will win this one."

### **What has this tournament experience taught you?**

The experience has helped me see the level of players and academies abroad. It's a great opportunity that helps us grow internationally and meet the other players coming from global academies.



GROUP A						
TEAM		P	W	L	D	POINTS
1		2	2	0	0	6
2		2	0	0	2	2
3		2	0	1	1	1
4		2	0	1	1	1



ASPIRE A CADEMY

VS

RANGERS FC



MOHAMMED VI

VS

Étoile Sportive



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 	15:30
	2	Rangers FC 	vs 	17:50
Tuesday 20. Jan	3	FC Barcelona 	vs 	15:30
	4	Kashiwa Reysol 	vs 	17:50
Wednesday 21. Jan	5	Aspire Academy 	vs 	15:30
	6	Mohd VI 	vs 	17:50
Thursday 22. Jan	7	FC Barcelona 	vs 	15:30
	8	PSG 	vs 	17:50
Friday 23. Jan	9	Aspire Academy 	vs 	15:30
	10	Mohd VI 	vs 	17:50
Saturday 24. Jan	11	FC Barcelona 	vs 	15:30
	12	PSG 	vs 	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

SEMI-FINAL					
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

FINAL					
Thursday 29. Jan	20	Winner Game no. 15	vs	Winner Game no. 16	16:35

All matches will be played at Aspire - Pitch 7









# ALKASS<sup>®</sup>

## 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

ASPIRE ACADEMY



KASHIWA REYSOL

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