



ALKASS[®]
INTERNATIONAL CUP



DAY 5 | Friday, January 23, 2026

ALKASS 17
UPDATES



**ASPIRE ACADEMY & MOHAMMED VI
STORM INTO
THE SEMI-FINALS!**

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RECAP

DAY 4 : 22.02.2026

Barcelona dazzles, PSG held by determined PVF on fourth matchday

The tournament's fourth day saw Barcelona continue their commanding form, while Paris Saint-Germain's resilience was once again put to the test. In the day's opening match, Barcelona secured a second consecutive emphatic victory, defeating Kashiwashi Reysol 5–1. A breakthrough from Unai Balmon Ungueti and goals from Alex Arasa Ventaja, Oscar Medina Villén, and Ruslan Mba Hernando sealed a dominant performance, with Kashiwa's only reply coming through Riku Inada shortly after halftime.

Later, Paris Saint-Germain were held to a second straight draw, this time 1–1 against PVF. PVF took an early lead in the 9th minute through captain Pham Tuan Kiet, but PSG equalized in the 20th minute following an own goal by PVF defender Phung Manh Dong. Despite both sides pressing for a winner in a tightly contested second half, the match ultimately ended level, leaving PSG with two points from two draws as the group stage intensifies ahead of the semi-finals.



MATCH 1



4 | 2



GAME REPORT

Aspire Academy overcame Etoile Sportive 4-2 in a match that came alive after halftime. The first half was competitive but ended goalless, with both sides showing discipline and trading fouls. Aspire's Saad Gamaledin Mohamed was cautioned midway through, yet neither team could find a breakthrough before the interval.

The second half shifted decisively. In the 43rd minute, Osama Ibrahim Mohamed opened the scoring from Ayokunle Samuel Tokode's assist, and 3 minutes later Mohsain Abdulla Al Hajri doubled the lead.

Etoile responded in the 57th minute through Mazen Gazzeh, but Aspire quickly regained control when an own goal restored their cushion. Al Hajri later received a booking, while Gazzeh converted a penalty in the 79th to narrow the gap. Aspire sealed the win in stoppage time as Taha Nassir struck in the 88th minute, after Tariq Mohid Yaghmour had also been shown a yellow card.

Aspire's attacking quality and resilience carried them to a 4-2 victory, with Osama Ibrahim Mohamed named man of the match.



"Injuries and match pressure affected us, but the experience gained is invaluable"

MOHAMED JIHED SBOUI
ETOILE SPORTIVE, Head Coach

"We will try to push ourselves to the maximum, because the semi-finals requires it"

ALVARO MEJIA PEREZ
ASPIRE ACADEMY, Head Coach



MAN OF THE MATCH OSAMA IBRAHIM MOHAMED





PRESS CONFERENCE

ASPIRE ACADEMY VS ETOILE SPORTIVE

The two coaches offered contrasting reflections yet agreed the tournament provided valuable lessons for their squads.

Aspire Academy head coach Álvaro Mejía expressed delight at securing a third consecutive victory. He praised his players for overcoming a difficult opponent who worked hard to close spaces, noting Aspire's clinical finishing proved decisive. Mejía emphasized that while the match was tough, his team showed resilience and attacking quality, and the win will boost confidence heading into the semifinal. He underlined the importance of recovery and preparation, stressing the competition's role as a platform to discover and nurture emerging talent, with several players already standing out.

Etoile Sportive coach Mohamed Jihed reflected on the impact of injuries and fixture congestion, explaining that four injuries in three matches disrupted rhythm and limited their push for a semifinal spot. He highlighted the mental growth of his players and reiterated the value of participation in building experience for future editions.



MATCH 2



2 | 0



GAME REPORT

Mohammed VI Academy defeated Rangers FC 2-0 in a match shaped by discipline and decisive finishing. The first half was competitive, with Mohammed VI edging possession and creating more chances. Rangers were reduced to ten men in the 24th minute when Ethan Molloy received a red card, and despite their efforts, they struggled to contain the Moroccan side. The half ended goalless, though Mohammed VI registered four shots on target compared to none from Rangers.

The breakthrough came immediately after the restart, as Imrane Dakech scored in the 45th minute. Mohammed VI continued to press and sealed the win late on when Omar Allaoui converted in the 85th minute, assisted by Ilyass ElBayane. Rangers collected three yellow cards in the second half, reflecting their defensive strain. Mohammed VI's composure and attacking quality carried them through to the semifinals with a deserved 2-0 victory.



"We came to this tournament for various reasons, one to try and win, the second one was to gain valuable experience"

MALCOLM THOMSON
RANGERS FC, Head Coach

"We came here to compete strongly and to grow, and qualifying for the semifinals shows our progress." Khalid Sekkat.

KHALID SIKKAT
MOHAMMED VI, Head Coach



MAN OF THE MATCH ADAM SOUNA





PRESS CONFERENCE

MOHAMMED VI VS RANGERS FC

Mohammed VI secured its place in the semi-finals of the U 17 International Cup after a 2-0 victory over Scotland's Rangers. The win, coupled with earlier results, ensured the team finished second in Group A behind Aspire Academy. Coach Khalid Al-Sakkat praised his squad's performance: "We played an excellent match against a strong Rangers side. It was physically and mentally demanding, but the players responded positively, and we achieved our goal of qualifying for the semi-finals. The next stage will be even more challenging, and we will prepare thoroughly, whether we face Barcelona or Paris Saint-Germain." Rangers coach Malcolm Thompson expressed his disappointment but highlighted the learning experience for his young squad: "We're disappointed with the start of the match and feel the players could have done better. Football is different across continents, and with VAR in play, every challenge has consequences. We'll continue to learn from both wins and defeats as we develop these young players." The semi-finals promise to be a high-level contest as teams vie for a spot in the final, with Mohammed VI Academy ready to take on their next challenge.



Exclusive Interview

David Sanchez Domene Head Coach OF FC Barcelona



How has the team been preparing this week matches?

We are not used to prepare matches differently. We use the same mythology and play in the same tactics and use the same style, regardless of the opponent, since we are fixed with our tactics and seek an equal play to all opponents.

What are the key areas you've focused on in training for this tournament?





We are excited to explore their qualities in such tournaments and we want them to understand how to play in such big atmospheres, we try to explore their little talents, and we seek to develop these qualities and skills on ground and better in defence, or midfield or attack, depends on their skills.

what are you hoping from your players to learn from this tournament?

In our domestic league, we play in the same level as ours, this is a test for our skills, they will start experiencing playing against all these world-class teams–level competing with Alpha. They will become more professional and they will compete with international teams. Sometimes they win big wins in Barcelona thinking they are stars however, they realize in such tournaments they are still learning and figuring their status out.



FC BARCELONA

| GROUP A | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|--------|
| TEAM | | P | W | L | D | POINTS |
| 1 |  | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| 2 |  | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 3 |  | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 4 |  | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |



ASPIRE ACADEMY

VS

ÉTOILE SPORTIVE



RANGERS FC

VS

MOHAMMED VI

From Matchday to Camels: Barcelona and PVF Vietnamese Team by the Sea



Leaving the pitch behind for a day, Barcelona and the Vietnamese team enjoyed a refreshing seaside escape. Trading drills for desert trails and beach views, the players went camel riding and embraced a laid-back off-field moment that showcased friendship, cultural exchange, and unity beyond football.



| 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 | 1 vs 0 Mohd VI | 15:30 |
| | 2 | Rangers FC | 0 vs 0 Étoile Sportive | 17:50 |
| Tuesday 20. Jan | 3 | FC Barcelona | 3 vs 3 PSG | 15:30 |
| | 4 | Kashiwa Reysol | 2 vs 1 PVF Academy | 17:50 |
| Wednesday 21. Jan | 5 | Aspire Academy | 2 vs 1 Rangers FC | 15:30 |
| | 6 | Mohd VI | 0 vs 0 Étoile Sportive | 17:50 |
| Thursday 22. Jan | 7 | FC Barcelona | 5 vs 1 Kashiwa Reysol | 15:30 |
| | 8 | PSG | 1 vs 1 PVF Academy | 17:50 |
| Friday 23. Jan | 9 | Aspire Academy | 4 vs 2 Étoile Sportive | 15:30 |
| | 10 | Mohd VI | 2 vs 0 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 |

| 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

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11th Edition 2026



MOHAMMED VI FA



FC BARCELONA



PVF FOOTBALL
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RANGERS
FOOTBALL CLUB



PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN
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ÉTOILE SPORTIVE
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ASPIRE
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