



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



**DAY 8 | Monday, January 26, 2026**

**ALKASS U17**



**Barcelona and PSG**  
Complete the Circle  
with Alkass Final Showdown

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# RECAP

DAY 7 : 25.01.2026

## Clean Sheets and Red Cards Highlight Day 7 of Alkass International Cup

This week's football action continues. In the first fixture, Étoile Sportive secured a dramatic 1-0 win over PVF in a match heavily influenced by poor visibility. The contest took a pivotal turn just before halftime when Étoile's captain, Alahdi Chikhaoui, was shown a red card, forcing his team to play the entire second half with only ten men. Despite the numerical disadvantage, Mohamed Amine Beacom found the net on the 70th minute. PVF pushed relentlessly for an equalizer, but the ten men of Étoile held firm to clinch a victory.

In the second game, Kashiwa Reysol delivered a controlled 2-0 performance against Rangers FC. Setting the tone early, Riku Yamada scored in the 9th minute. Despite Rangers responding with sustained possession and creating several promising openings, they were repeatedly stopped by Kashiwa's goalkeeper, Yoshiguchi, who produced a string of vital saves to maintain the lead. The Japanese side solidified their advantage in the 71st minute through Yumeto Kikuchi, and even a late penalty for Rangers could not change the outcome, as Yoshiguchi stood tall once more in the 84th minute to preserve a well-earned clean sheet and a victory defined by tactical execution.





**TO THE FINALS**



**PSG**

**VS**

**ASPIRE ACADEMY**



**FC BARCELONA**

**VS**

**MOHAMMED VI**

# MATCH 1



2 | 2  
(5-4)



## GAME REPORT

Paris Saint-Germain booked their place in the final of the 11th edition of the AlKass International Cup after defeating Aspire Academy on penalties, following an intense 2-2 draw in regular time under gloomy and rainy conditions. PSG opened the scoring in the 15th minute through Elie Karim, assisted by Jebril Doukkali. The match took a dramatic turn shortly after, as Harryl Mboma received a red card in the 19th minute, leaving PSG to play with 10 men for most of the match.

Aspire Academy equalized in the 63rd minute after an own goal by Josue Da Silva, but PSG quickly restored their lead three minutes later when Da Silva redeemed himself with a goal assisted by Nathan Mboumba. Aspire showed great resilience and equalized again in the 82nd minute of extra time through Dhiaeddine Larbi Benyatla, forcing the match into penalties. In the shootout, PSG held their nerve to win 5-4 and secure a place in the tournament final.



*"It was an exciting semi-final, and we played and dominated the pitch."*

**ALVARO MEJIA PEREZ**  
ASPIRE ACADEMY, Head Coach

*"This is PSG's strategy, not only to attend tournaments but to score and gain trophies."*

**VINCENT EHOUMAN**  
PSG, Head Coach



## MAN OF THE MATCH HADI JAD KHALIL





# PRESS CONFERENCE

## ASPIRE ACADEMY VS PSG

Both coaches reflected positively on a high-intensity semifinal that showcased strong character and development on both sides. Aspire Academy head coach Álvaro Perez described the match as an excellent test for his players, highlighting their early attacking intent, control of play, and resilience in coming back late in the game, including a goal in the final minutes and extra time. He noted that the red card in the match boosted his team's belief and underlined the value of competing in a tournament that exposes young players to different footballing styles from Asian and European academies. Perez emphasized Aspire's mission to develop future generations for Qatar, stating that the experience will make his players stronger and better prepared for future challenges. On the other side, Paris Saint-Germain head coach Vincent Ehouman acknowledged the difficulty of the match but expressed pride in reaching the final. He described the encounter as one of PSG's toughest challenges in the tournament, especially after being reduced to ten players. Ehouman praised his squad's mental and physical resilience, adaptability under pressure, and collective support. He concluded by reaffirming PSG's philosophy of not only competing, but leaving a distinct mark at every tournament they participate in.



# MATCH 2



3 | 1



## GAME REPORT

FC Barcelona advanced to the final with a 3–1 victory over Mohamed VI Academy in a semi-final that swung after halftime. The opening period was lively, with Hugo Graces Lagunas striking in the 8th minute before being booked six minutes later. Mohamed VI responded swiftly as Ilyass El Bayane equalized in the 15th minute, and the half closed level at 1–1 despite Barcelona edging possession and chances. The second half proved decisive. Ruslan Mba Hernando restored Barcelona's lead in the 59th minute, assisted by Artem

Rybak, and just a minute later Lagunas added his second goal to make it 3–1. Mohamed VI's hopes faded when Wadie Ezzenz was sent off in the 80th minute, leaving them unable to mount a comeback. Barcelona controlled possession and created numerous opportunities, while Mohamed VI showed resilience but struggled to cope with the pace and finishing quality. Barcelona's attacking duo of Lagunas and Hernando proved the difference, sealing a place in the final against Paris Saint-Germain.



*"My players fought bravely, and the experience gained will serve them in the future."*

**KHALID SEKKAT**  
MOHAMED VI , Head Coach

*"The goal was fantastic, we still won the match with that iconic goal."*

**DAVID SANCHEZ DOMENE**  
FC BARCELONA , Head Coach



## MAN OF THE MATCH RUSLAN MBA HERNANDO





# PRESS CONFERENCE

## FC BARCELONA VS MOHAMMED VI

Barcelona coach David Sanchez expressed delight at reaching the final, praising his players' ability to dominate possession and create chances against a tough opponent. He acknowledged Mohammed VI's counterattacking quality but emphasized Barcelona's pressing and finishing as the keys to victory. Looking ahead, Sanchez underlined the challenge of facing PSG, stressing the need to maintain control and deny their opponent space, while highlighting recovery before the final. Mohammed VI coach Khalid Sekkat commended his squad despite the defeat, noting the balanced first half where his team matched Barcelona's intensity. He explained that the tournament offered invaluable exposure to high-level opposition, with matches against Barcelona and Aspire providing opportunities for growth. Sekkat emphasized that every game was a learning experience, reinforcing the importance of building resilience and developing talent for future editions.



# Exclusive Interview

## ALVARO MEJIA PEREZ | ASPIRE ACADEMY HEAD COACH

**How does your experience as a professional player influence your approach to coaching Aspire Academy U17?**

Spending nearly ten years at Real Madrid shaped my entire understanding of football. The club taught me essential values, discipline, and a clear football philosophy that I continue to carry with me every day. That experience has become the foundation of my coaching approach, and I focus on instilling those same principles.

**What have been the biggest challenges and lessons in transitioning from a player to a head coach?**

I ended my playing career in Qatar, where I already developed a strong interest in coaching. Throughout my career, I maintained close relationships with my coaches and was always eager to understand their perspectives. My first opportunity came at Al Shahaniya SC, where I worked as an assistant coach, an experience I'm truly proud of. I'm thankful for that opportunity, and it helped me commit to this new chapter.

**How does coaching in Qatar differ from your experiences in Europe?**

Working with young players presents a completely different challenge compared to coaching professionals. I believe Aspire Academy is unique and an inspiring environment, and I'm happy to be part of this family.



Our responsibility goes beyond football results, focusing on creating a healthy and supportive environment that helps players grow both on and off the pitch.

**What qualities do you most want your players to take from this experience and you believe is the most important to keep in football?**

Mental strength is essential in football, and young players as young as 14 must learn to accept both victory and defeat as part of the game. Above all, I want them to remain committed, disciplined, and passionate about football.

# Behind the Scenes of Alkass International Cup's Media Operation



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	Mohammed 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	Mohammed 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	Mohammed VI	2 vs 0	Rangers FC 17:50
Saturday 24. Jan	11	FC Barcelona	3 vs 1	PVF Academy 15:30
	12	PSG	3 vs 1	Kashiwa Reysol 17:50

POSITION PLAYOFF (8-5 Pos.)					
Sunday 25. Jan	13	Étoile Sportive	1 vs 0	PVF Academy	15:30
	14	Rangers FC	0 vs 2	Kashiwa Reysol	18:00

SEMI-FINAL					
Monday 26. Jan	15	Aspire Academy	2 (4-5)	2	PSG 15:30
	16	FC Barcelona	3 vs 1	Mohammed VI	18:00

POSITION 8-7 & 6-5					
Tuesday 27. Jan	17	Étoile Sportive	vs	Kashiwa Reysol	15:30
	18	PVF Academy	vs	Rangers FC	18:00

POSITION 4 & 3					
Thursday 29. Jan	19	Aspire Academy	vs	Mohammed VI	14:15

FINAL					
Thursday 29. Jan	20	PSG	vs	FC Barcelona	16:35

All matches will be played at Aspire - Pitch 7

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# 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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