DAY 9 | Tuesday, January 27, 2026

ALKASS UPDATES U17

Rankings Locked, Ultimate Final Thursday

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ALKASS INTERNATIONAL CUP

RECAP DAY 8 : 26.01.2026

Two Battles, One Final: PSG and Barcelona Advance

Day 8 of the Al Kass International Cup delivered two high-quality semi-finals filled with intensity, resilience, and decisive moments.

In Match 1, Paris Saint-Germain edged Aspire Academy after a dramatic 2–2 draw, prevailing 5–4 on penalties. PSG struck first but were reduced to ten men early on, forcing them to dig deep for much of the match. Aspire twice found the equalizer, pushing the game into penalties, where PSG kept their composure to secure their place in the final.

Match 2 featured a strong second-half performance from FC Barcelona, who defeated Mohamed VI Academy 3–1. After an evenly contested opening half, Barcelona raised the tempo, controlling possession and creating chances. Their attacking efficiency proved decisive as they pulled away late to book a final showdown with PSG. Two contrasting semi-finals set the stage for a highly anticipated final.

ALKASS INTERNATIONAL CUP

RANKING

KASHIWA REYSOL VS ETOILE SPORTIVE

5TH KASHIWA REYSOL

6TH ÉTOILE SPORTIVE DU SAHEL

7TH RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB

8TH PVF FOOTBALL ACADEMY

RANGERS FC VS PFV ACADEMY

MATCH 1

4 | 1

GAME REPORT

Kashiwa Reysol claimed an important victory over Étoile Sportive in a competitive AlKass International Cup encounter, as both teams fought to improve their positions in the standings. Kashiwa made a lightning start, opening the scoring in the 2nd minute when Haru Kimbara converted a quick hand-throw from the touchline to make it 1–0. The Japanese side doubled their lead in the 34th minute through Riku Inada, who netted his fifth goal of the tournament, sending Kashiwa into halftime 2–0 up, with one minute of added time played. Kashiwa continued to press after the break, adding a third goal in the 43rd minute when Joeosaro Okano finished a move assisted by Inada. In the 70th minute, Inada converted a penalty, extending the lead to 4–0. Despite being reduced to ten players following a red card for Haru Kimbara, Kashiwa remained organized. Four minutes of stoppage time were added, during which Étoile pulled one back with a last-minute penalty, converted by Amen Allah Zergui closing the match at 4–1.

"I had a pleasant experience at this tournament and I'd like my young players to experience it too"

IBUKI TODA
KASHIWA REYSOL, Head Coach

"We did our best, and accommodated to all the injuries we have."

BIN AZIZA SADDAM
ETOILE SPORTIVE, Assistant Coach

MAN OF THE MATCH
RIKU INADA

PRESS CONFERENCE

ETOILE SPORTIVE VS KASHIWA REYSOL

Étoile Sportive head coach Bin Aziza Saddam expressed gratitude for the experience, stating that his players gained significant exposure despite the challenges. He acknowledged that Étoile usually performs at a higher level, but injuries to key players made it difficult to compete as desired. Al-Saddam praised the tournament's organization and emphasized the importance of facing some of the world's best young talents, noting the clear gap between clubs. He highlighted that finishing sixth was a respectable outcome, even though the team aimed for more. On the other side, Kashiwa Reysol head coach Ibuki Toda said he was generally satisfied with his team's fifth-place finish, describing their participation as positive despite higher expectations. He explained that the tournament was crucial for assessing player development, particularly as his squad continues to grow physically and mentally. Toda acknowledged the difficulty of competing against elite academies like PSG and Barcelona, but stressed that the experience itself is invaluable. A former participant in the tournament as a player, Toda reaffirmed his commitment to developing both his players and his own coaching career.

MATCH 2

4 | 0

GAME REPORT

Rangers FC claimed 7th place with a decisive 4–0 victory over PVF Academy. The Scottish side controlled the match from the outset, striking three times before halftime. Ethan Molloy opened the scoring, followed by Coben Fergusson and Jackson Barr, giving Rangers a commanding lead. PVF's challenge grew steeper when Ngo Tung Lam was sent off just before the break, leaving them a man down. The second half saw PVF attempt to regroup, but Rangers maintained their dominance. Daniel added a fourth goal late on, sealing the result and ensuring Rangers finished their campaign on a high. PVF fought hard but struggled to create clear chances, while Rangers' attacking depth and defensive discipline proved too strong. The final whistle confirmed Rangers in 7th place and PVF in 8th, with the Scottish side's clinical finishing and control marking the difference.

"We played with full commitment, created many chances, and I'm proud of the team's effort."

MALCOM THOMSON
RANGERS , Head Coach

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

DINH TUMG
PVF ACADEMY , Head Coach

MAN OF THE MATCH

COBEN FERGUSSON

PRESS CONFERENCE

RANGERS FC VS PVF ACADEMY

Rangers head coach Malcom Thomson praised his players for ending the tournament with intensity and focus. He highlighted the four goals as evidence of their attacking quality and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to compete in Qatar, describing the event as one of the best experiences of the season. Thomson underlined that the match was not only about securing 7th place but also about showing the team's commitment and pride, noting that the players gained confidence and valuable lessons from the competition.

PVF Academy assistant coach Dinh Tumg acknowledged Rangers' superiority, noting their organization and variety in attack as decisive factors. He explained that PVF tried to respond after halftime but could not contain the opponent's pressure. Despite the defeat, Tumg emphasized the positives, pointing to the growth of his players and thanking the organizers for providing a valuable platform against strong international teams. He added that the exposure to different styles of play will help PVF's young talents mature and prepare better for future editions of the tournament.

Exclusive Interview

IBUKI TODA | HEAD COACH OF KASHIWA RESYOL

You once played in this tournament yourself, how special is it to return now?

As a player, my focus was mainly on my own performance and on becoming a better footballer. Returning now as a head coach is very different. Winning is still important, but it is no longer the only priority. My role today is to adapt to my players, understand them, and help them improve individually and collectively. I played in this tournament in 2018 and 2019, and coming back now as a coach gives me a deeper appreciation of its value for young players.

What feelings did this tournament bring back for you?

I focus a lot on respecting each player. I don't treat them as fully professional players, but I also don't treat them like children. I believe young players understand more than we sometimes think, and I never underestimate them. Respect and trust are essential for their development.

Why is this tournament important for young players?

This tournament allows young players to face different footballing styles and very strong academies. It helps coaches assess players under pressure and gives the players a clear understanding of the level required internationally. The experience itself is extre mely valuable for their growth.

What qualities from your playing days do you most want your players to carry forward?

There isn't one single skill that keeps you in football. The most important things are believing in yourself, creating your own opportunities, staying positive, and trusting your abilities. Commitment is key, if players truly believe in their potential and work for it, they can build a strong career.

What advice would you give to your team?

There must be more willing to take away opportunities and use them for our own benefit and perform better when it comes to chances of scoring a goal. These opportunities are rare, and they can't be lost.

Beyond the Trophy:
The Final Standings

ALKASS INTERNATIONAL CUP

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	1	vs	4	Kashiwa Reysol	15:30
	18	PVF Academy	0	vs	4	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® INTERNATIONAL CUP

11th Edition 2026

FINALS FEVER

ASPIRE ACADEMY

ASPIRE ACADEMY

THURSDAY JAN. 29

14:15

MOHAMMED VI FA

FCB

FC BARCELONA

THURSDAY JAN. 29

16:45

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN F.C.

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