

Al-Ittihad FIFA Club World Cup hopes dashed by Al-Ahly



Al-Ittihad's FIFA Club World Cup campaign ended on Friday with a 3-1 defeat at the hands of Al-Ahly in their second-round clash in Jeddah.

Thousands of the Egyptian side's supporters were on their feet for much of the 90 minutes at the King Abdullah Sports City stadium, as their team ultimately proved to be too clinical for the reigning Saudi champions to cope with.

Al-Ittihad fans might point to Karim Benzema's missed penalty in the first half as a turning point but the empty seats in the home section of the stadium when the final whistle sounded told their own story.

The reward for the African champions is a semi-final showdown with South American champions Fluminense of Brazil on Monday. Al-Ittihad, who defeated Auckland City from New Zealand 3-0 in the first round of the competition on Tuesday, return to league action on Dec. 23 with a home game against Al-Raed.

For the first hour on Friday the match hung in the balance, amid an atmosphere worthy of a meeting between the champions of Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Given the passionate level of support from the Al-Ahly fans, at times their players must have felt like they were playing at home.

The first half was played at a fast pace as both teams looked to get forward, even if they struggled to create clear chances. Romarinho had one of the best early on, from inside the area, forcing a good save from Mohammed El-Shenawy.

Al-Ahly were awarded a penalty in the 19th minute when Hassan Kadesh handled a long pass while under pressure from two Egyptian attackers. Despite the wall of yellow behind the goal, Ali Maaloul kept his cool and sent the ball straight down the middle past the diving Abdullah Al-Mayouf.

Seven minutes before the break, Benzema got sight of goal when a fine cross from Muhannad Al-Shanqiti found him on the left side of the area, but his low shot was straight at El-Shenawy.

As Al-Ittihad continued to push for an equalizer they left themselves open to a counterattack and were almost caught out, with Zakaria Al-Hawsawi forced to put the ball behind for a corner.

Before it could be taken, however, the referee was called to the monitor to check a possible earlier handball by Mohammed Abdelmonem and, after a review, he awarded a penalty to Al-Ittihad. Up stepped Benzema in front of a wall of red — and green laser beams shining into his eyes — but El-Shenawy went the right way to make a comfortable diving save.

Near the end of a dramatic first half, Al-Ahly almost scored a second when Kahraba latched onto a poor pass-back from Ahmed Hegazi, but Al-Mayouf was there to make the save.

Al-Ittihad effectively started the second half with two new full-backs. First, coach Marcelo Gallardo replaced Hawsawi with Ahmed Bamsaud at half time. Then, moments after the restart, right-back Al-Shanqiti seemed to pick up a hamstring injury and Madallah Al-Olayan took over.

Within minutes, the two-time Asian champions almost leveled the game. Igor Coronado slipped the ball through to Faisal Al-Ghamdi on the left side of the area, whose low shot squirmed through the legs of El-Shenawy but hit the post and rebounded into the grateful arms of the veteran goalkeeper.

Instead of 1-1, the score became 2-0 just before the hour mark. Hussein El-Shahat, who was making a record 13th appearance at the Club World Cup, had possession of the ball just inside the left corner of the area, made a little room for himself and then curled a delightful shot past the diving Al-Mayouf, sending the Egyptian fans wild.

The game was effectively over just two minutes later when Al-Ahly found huge gaps in the Al-Ittihad defense and Kharaba pulled the ball back from the byline for Emam Ashour to roll the ball home. There was a check for a possible foul in the build-up but the goal stood and that was that.

Al-Ahly took their foot off the gas at that point, their thoughts no doubt turning to their semi-final, but Anthony Modeste's last-minute red card for an elbow on Hegazi might come back to haunt the team.

Soon after that, Benzema got Al-Ittihad's consolation as he fired home from close range to claim his sixth Club World Cup goal.

The game will live long in the memories of Al-Ahly fans, as will the celebrations that followed. Al-Ittihad now need to regroup and bounce back on the domestic front, with three games coming up in the space of a week before the end of the year.

Guardiola uncertain over Haaland fitness for Club World Cup in Saudi Arabia



LONDON: Pep Guardiola says Erling Haaland is a doubt for the Club World Cup, with the striker set to miss Manchester City's home game against Crystal Palace on Saturday.

City's top scorer, who has scored 19 goals this season, missed last weekend's win at Luton and the midweek victory over Red Star Belgrade with a foot injury, and has been receiving treatment in Marbella, in southern Spain.

Haaland reported back at City on Friday and manager Guardiola said he would be assessed by club doctors before a decision was made on his availability.

Reigning European and English champions City are due to travel to Saudi Arabia after Saturday's match as they seek to add the Club World Cup to last season's trophy treble.

They face a semifinal against Mexico's Leon or Japan's Urawa Red Diamonds on Tuesday before either a final or third place play-off match three days later.

"Haaland arrived today (Friday) and the doctors will see him and we will see how he feels," Guardiola said on Friday.

"He had treatment away. Hopefully he can travel to Saudi and we will see if he is able to play in the first game or the second game, or when we come back. I don't think he will play (against Palace) but maybe he surprises me.

"It is not a fracture, just stress. Sometimes players recover quickly, some longer. Day by day, week by week, we see how he feels. The moment he doesn't have pain he will play."

Palace travel to the Etihad without a win in five Premier League games, a sequence including four defeats, but Guardiola said the London side were always tough.

"How they defend is brilliant and they don't need much at set-pieces with (Joachim) Andersen and the other guys," he said. "I don't remember easy games against Roy Hodgson teams."

Palace's veteran former England manager is 76 and Guardiola, asked if he could imagine still holding a senior position in football at the same age, laughingly replied: "I don't think so, but you never know. To have the fire and passion inside to still be there, and the team is really good.

"They played incredibly well against Liverpool (a 2-1 defeat last week). Unfortunately they had a player sent off and with 10 against 11 against Liverpool it is almost impossible. But 11 against 11, I don't know what would have happened."

Mighty Mitrovic strikes again as Al-Hilal go 10 points clear



RIYADH: Al-Hilal moved 10 points clear at the top of the Roshn Saudi League on Friday with a 2-0 win over Al-Wehda.

The victory stretched the team's winning streak to an incredible 18 games in all competitions. It was a hard-fought and hard-won three points with Aleksandar Mitrovic heading home late in the game after a rare goal from Saud Abdulhamid put the hosts ahead.

If the Blues keep winning then there is little that anyone else can do about it and while this was not a vintage performance, it was a case of job done for Jorge Jesus and his men.

The 18-time champions moved ahead after 20 minutes with one of the assists of the season. Ruben Neves chested the ball in midfield, took another touch on the run and then lofted the perfect pass over the defence for Abdulhamid on the right side of the area. Despite a tight angle, the defender volleyed the bouncing ball into the roof of the net for his first of the season.

Al-Wehda, who would have gone into sixth place with a win, had their chances, the ball bouncing off former Al-Hilal striker Odion Ighalo to clip the top of the crossbar. The first half ended with Yassine Bounou, who was acclaimed by the home fans for winning the award for Africa's best goalkeeper earlier in the week, diving to his left to beat away a curling shot from Waleed Bakshween.

Al-Hilal came within centimeters of extending their lead just two minutes after the restart with Malcom's left shot from the edge of the area hitting the bar with the goalkeeper Munir Mohamedi nowhere.

The Brazilian was involved with the goal that sealed the win and another three points. He floated over a fine cross from the left that hung in the air at the far post for Mitrovic to do what he does best and send a powerful header beyond the reach of the 'keeper. It was the 15th league goal of the season for the Serbian striker and he now moves to one behind Cristiano Ronaldo in the goalscoring standings. With Al-Nassr in second sitting this round out as they were due to take on Al-Ittihad who are otherside engaged in the FIFA Club World Cup, Al-Hilal's double digit advantage is going to last for a few days at least.

Riyadh 2023 Global Esports Games set for decisive last 2 nights



RIYADH: The Riyadh 2023 Global Esports Games are set for some decisive match-ups on Friday night that will decide who advances to Saturday's finals.

Hosted by the Saudi Esports Federation and presented by the Global Esports Federation, day three of the five-day flagship multi-title competition saw countries' quests for glory and global supremacy edge closer to gripping conclusions.

The SEF Arena on Thursday saw action across three tournaments, including the long-awaited PUBG MOBILE competition.

After an impressive performance, Thailand leads the way heading into today's finale on 90 points, followed closely by Kazakhstan and Ukraine — tied second with 88 — and Vietnam (71). Host Saudi Arabia (64) is also in contention.

"Anticipation surrounding the PUBG MOBILE tournament has been huge — and understandably so," said Abdullah Al-Nasser, head of professional esports at the Saudi Esports Federation, in the immediate aftermath of day three.

“PUBG MOBILE has been downloaded over 1 billion times and is the most-watched mobile esports game on the planet — so it’s obviously thrilling to watch 16 of the world’s elite teams go head to head in a round-robin shootout. The tournament certainly lived up to the hype and we can’t wait for more on Friday. Another dramatic day awaits with the latter stages of other tournaments also scheduled.”

The Dota 2 women’s competition also entered the fray with eight nations beginning their campaigns in the high-stakes single-elimination event. Facing off in best-of-three matchups, Malaysia beat Thailand 2-0 to set up a semifinal with Argentina, who beat Turkey 2-0.

The other side of the draw also witnessed two straight-set victories as Peru and Chile set up a last-four clash after overcoming New Zealand and Kenya, respectively. The Dota 2 women’s event continues today with the final locked in for tomorrow.

Elsewhere at GEG23, the eFootball 2024 last 16 lineup was completed as the last chance qualifiers stage took place. After 12 teams booked their place in the knockout rounds on Wednesday alongside Spain, Mexico and host Saudi Arabia, one more spot was up for grabs.

Panama beat Japan, Malaysia and Luxembourg in best-of-three match-ups to top the group and progress. eFootball 2024 continues today with the last 16, quarterfinals and semifinals all taking place before tomorrow’s final. In Friday’s opening round of fixtures, Saudi Arabia faces the UAE in an exciting last-16 clash.

Saudi Aramco becomes sole title sponsor of Aston Martin F1 team



LONDON: Saudi Aramco has signed a new five-year agreement to become the exclusive sponsor of the Aston Martin Formula One team starting from the 2024 season, it was announced on Thursday.

The team will be known officially as Aston Martin Aramco from January onwards, a joint statement said.

The Saudi energy giant had been co-main sponsors with American IT company Cognizant, which will remain as a strategic partner.

Canadian billionaire Lawrence Stroll owns the Formula One team, and is also chair and top shareholder in the separate car company.

“We already enjoy an important strategic relationship (with Aramco) and their support as our title partner for the next five years is a clear demonstration of our shared ambition,” Stroll said in a statement.

“Since 2022, they have played a key role in Aston Martin’s F1 journey and their contribution will only become more significant in the years ahead.”

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund recently increased its stake in British luxury carmaker Aston Martin to 20.5 percent.

Arab MMA icon Jarrah Al-Silawi relishes 'new beginning' at Brave CF 80



AMMAN: Jarrah Al-Silawi, "The Jordanian Lion," is returning to Brave CF after a stint with the Professional Fighters League in the US.

Al-Silawi, considered a pioneer of Arab mixed martial arts, was a double-division world champion with Brave CF before his departure for the PFL.

After three wins and three losses during his PFL stint, the 31-year-old is now returning at Brave CF 80 to face Nenad Avramovic in the co-main event on Dec. 15 at Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town, Bahrain.

In an interview with Arab News, Al-Silawi said: "It's a long time in-between bouts with the PFL, and I have a great relationship with Brave CF. I thought it'd be a good opportunity to compete again in front of my people and my crowd, and it's something I look forward to."

The fighter initially had a meteoric rise through the rankings in Brave, but is now experiencing, for the first time, a substantial period of adversity. He believes he has made the adjustments to embark on another successful title run.

"I've spent a lot of time looking at the things that I did wrong in the last few bouts. I've been working on getting better," Al-Silawi explained. "I've worked on improving my technique, and I feel like I'm on a different level. At this point, I feel like I've improved significantly, and I look forward to showing that and this coming up."

Reflecting on his missed opportunity against undefeated UFC star Khamzat Chimaev in 2020, Al-Silawi remains confident in his abilities. "I still feel that my game is bad for wrestlers. They typically don't like to fight me. I'm very good at defending takedowns and I like to pressure with my striking. I still believe that I would have beaten him in that fight."

Known for his spectacular performances, Al-Silawi has won 40 percent of his bouts by knockout. Looking ahead to his clash with Avramovic, who is on a five-fight winning streak, Al-Silawi predicts a second-round knockout: "One of us has got to go to sleep in this one, and I'm pretty sure it's him. I plan on really defending the takedown, and I predict a second-round KO."

"I feel like I've gotten better experience. I plan on using all of this for what's to come. It's a new beginning, and there's a lot of fight left in me," he said.

As a fighter born, trained and residing in the Middle East, Al-Silawi sees himself as an example for the new generation of Arab fighters.

“I remind myself that there are always younger athletes who are watching, and it’s great for them to see what an Arab can achieve coming out of the region,” Al-Silawi said. “When I finish, I want to be able to really show what Arabs can achieve and show the younger generation that someone from a place like Amman, Jordan, was able to compete against some major names on the international stage.”

First Muslim cricketer to represent Australia to challenge pro-Palestine shoe ban



LONDON: Australian cricketer Usman Khawaja has vowed to challenge an International Cricket Council directive that prohibits him from wearing shoes with messages deemed “political” during the upcoming first Test against Pakistan, The Telegraph reported.

During training in Perth on Tuesday, Khawaja was seen wearing spikes featuring the phrases “all lives are equal” and “freedom is a human right,” in solidarity with the Palestinians suffering under Israel’s war on Gaza.

The two-month-long campaign of airstrikes and ground assaults in Gaza has killed more than 18,500 Palestinians, many of them women and children, according to Palestinian officials.

Khawaja, who was the first Muslim cricketer to represent Australia, had planned to wear these shoes in the first Test starting on Thursday. However, ICC rules allow the match referee to bar players from the field for wearing attire that violates regulations.

He took to social media to voice his opinion, stating, “The ICC have told me I can’t wear my shoes on field because they believe it’s a political statement under their guidelines,” Khawaja said on social media. “I don’t believe it is so, it’s a humanitarian appeal. I will respect their view and decision, but I will fight it and seek to gain approval. Freedom is a human right, and all lives are equal. I will never stop believing that, whether you agree with me or not.”

He further elaborated on the motivation behind his shoes, emphasizing his view that the message is not political but a stand for equality and human rights.

“Let’s be honest about it, if me saying all lives are equal has resulted in people being offended to the point where they’re calling me up and telling me off, well isn’t that the bigger problem? These people obviously don’t believe in what I’ve written. It’s not just a handful of people. You’d be shocked at how many feel this way.

“What I’ve written on my shoes isn’t political, I’m not taking sides, human life to me is equal. One Jewish life is equal to one Muslim life, is equal to one Hindu life, and so on. I’m just speaking up for those who don’t have a

voice. This is close to my heart. When I see thousands of innocent children dying without any repercussions or remorse, I imagine my two girls.

“What if this was them. No one chooses where they’re born. Then I see the world turn their backs on them, my heart can’t take it. I already feel my life wasn’t equal to others when I was growing up. Luckily for me I never lived in a world where a lack of equality was life or death.”

The ICC has previously stepped in to prevent players from carrying what it deems to be political messages. In 2014, England’s Moeen Ali was banned from wearing “Save Gaza” and “Free Palestine” wristbands in a Test against India.

Khawaja’s stance has garnered support from his teammates. Travis Head, Australia’s vice-captain, showed solidarity on X, formerly Twitter, posting: “We stand with Usman Khawaja! All lives are Equal.”

Captain Pat Cummins had earlier said: “Uzzie doesn’t want to make too big of a fuss. On his shoes, he had, ‘All lives are equal.’ I think that’s not very divisive. I don’t think anyone can really have too many complaints about that.”

Football’s growth takes center stage at world summit in Jeddah



JEDDAH: The growth of the sport worldwide, and Saudi Arabia’s emergence as a key player, were among the issues on the agenda of the World Football Summit Asia which kicked off in Jeddah on Tuesday.

The second edition of the WFSA features 1,200 delegates from over 70 countries, encompassing clubs, leagues, federations and brands.

Hosting this event “aligns with Saudi Arabia’s strategic vision to enhance its presence on the global sports stage and showcases its current influence in global football,” a statement by the organizers said.

Speakers included Adwa Al-Arifi, the Kingdom’s deputy sports minister; Prof. Muhammad Yunus, Nobel peace laureate; and Datuk Seri Windsor Paul John, general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation.

Al-Arifi and John set the tone at the opening ceremony, outlining the objective of fostering international cooperation and growth within the sport.

“Football is played on our streets and lives in our hearts. It unites us,” said Al-Arifi. John added: “We’re here to engage in constructive dialogues on the future of the beautiful game.”

In a panel discussion on the Kingdom’s bid for the 2034 World Cup, Lamia Bahaian, deputy president of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, said: “In Saudi Arabia, we’re excited to connect with the football community and industry.

Through conferences, events and digital platforms, the WFSA provides opportunities for stakeholders to network, discuss trends, and collaborate to shape the future of football.

TMG partners with Hungarian Veszprém KC to launch handball academy in Egypt



Talaat Moustafa Group (TMG) announced a partnership with the Hungarian handball club Veszprém KC to establish a handball academy in Al-Rehab and Madinaty clubs. The academy aims to discover and develop handball talents in Egypt.

The partnership was revealed during a press conference held on Wednesday evening at Madinaty Sports Club, attended by Amr El Adl, member of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Handball Federation, the Hungarian Ambassador to Cairo, Omar Hisham Talaat, CEO of Business Development at TMG, and several leaders of the Egyptian Handball Federation, TMG, and Hungarian Veszprém. The academy will be the first international handball academy in the world for the Hungarian club Veszprém.

Omar expressed his delight in collaborating with Hungarian Veszprém to launch the first international handball academy in Al-Rehab and Madinaty clubs. He said that the academy will provide an opportunity for players living in Al-Rehab and Madinaty to interact with professional players through camps and international tournaments. It will also help promote outstanding players to the top handball clubs in Europe.

Omar emphasized that the partnership with the Hungarian Veszprém Club is part of the group's strategy to partner with prestigious international institutions in various fields. He added that the new handball academy is a continuation of the local and international academies existing in both Al-Rehab and Madinaty Club. The two clubs include many sports academies for various individual and team games that have discovered many sporting talents, such as the Liverpool International Football Academy, the Captain Mahmoud Al-Khatib Football Academy, and others.

Omar also expressed his hope that the Veszprém Academy will contribute to developing handball in Egypt, as the Veszprém Club is one of the biggest handball clubs in Hungary and Europe. He noted that there is an ambitious plan to expand and open new branches of the Veszprém Academy across the country.

Omar confirmed that TMG has been creating self-contained integrated urban communities that meet the needs of their residents and provide services to more than a million people for over 50 years. He pointed out that the group pays great attention to providing sports services in its projects, through more than 30 diverse sports facilities, in recognition of their role in enhancing physical and psychological health in residential communities. Therefore, the group was keen on establishing sports and social clubs in its urban projects that are comparable to international clubs, such as Madinaty Club, which covers an area of 200 feddan, and the Al-Rehab Club on an area of 109 feddans.

They are two of the largest clubs in Egypt and the Middle East, providing services to more than 70,000 families and hosting many local and international tournaments, thanks to the sports facilities and stadiums they have that were implemented according to the latest international standards.

Omar pointed out that the group has recently succeeded in hosting and organizing international tournaments with the participation of some of the world's most famous players, which received high praise from both the public and sports experts. The most prominent of these were the 2022 Women's Squash World Cup at Madinaty Club and the Qadi International Martial Arts Championship.

Nader Shaaban, Head of the Clubs Sector at TMG, explained that handball is one of the major sports in Egypt, as the national team has a long record of international achievements. He pointed out that Egypt's sporting superiority in handball and the great popularity of the game motivated TMG clubs to partner with Hungarian Veszprem Club.

Youssef Qadri, head of the commercial sector of TMG clubs, said that opening Veszprem Handball Academy is a great addition to the sports academies in both Al-Rehab Club and Madinaty Club. He explained that Veszprem aims to teach the basics of handball, develop players physically and technically, and refine their skills through advanced training programs according to the latest international training methods.

Hossam Gharib, the sports advisor for handball at TMG clubs, said that Veszprém club contributed to the great technical and physical development of Yehia Khaled, an Egyptian national team star who joined the Hungarian club. He said that Khaled gave his best performance with the national team after joining Veszprém club. Then his colleague Yehia Al-Daraa joined him. Gharib pointed out that the partnership between TMG clubs and the Hungarian Veszprém Club will bear fruit soon after camps and training courses are held for players and coaches in coordination with the Hungarian club. This will provide greater opportunities for distinguished players to go global.

Meanwhile, András Kovacs, Hungarian ambassador to Cairo, expressed his happiness at participating in the conference signing a partnership between TMG and Veszprém Club to establish a handball academy in Al-Rehab and Madinaty clubs. He said that this will give opportunity to thousands of Egyptians and Hungarians to discover their talent in handball and develop it.

Cesek Zoltan, Executive Director of Hungarian Veszprém Club, said that the club had sensed, since its first meeting with TMG, its commitment to developing sports. He said that the club appreciated the group's achievements in establishing major clubs for the benefit of developing sports. He added that Veszprém International Academy represents the first cooperation of its kind between the club and one of the largest real estate developers. He said that it is a real opportunity for players who want to play professional handball, especially in light of the group's distinguished facilities that will help them achieve their dreams.

In the same context, Laszlo Nagy, sports director of Hungarian Veszprém Club, expressed his happiness with the opening of Veszprém Club Academy in Egypt. He expressed his hope that the academy will succeed in discovering the talents of children and youth.

In a related context, Omar El-Adl, a member of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Handball Federation, affirmed his confidence in the contribution of Veszprem International Academy in discovering Egyptian talent. He said that the academy is part of TMG, the largest real estate developer in Egypt and the Middle East.

Youth Ministry sign protocol with cred to support medal-winning champions at Paris 2024 Olympics



Minister of Youth and Sports Ashraf Sobhy attended the signing of a protocol between the Ministry and cred, a real estate development company, on Thursday. The protocol aims to support the Egyptian champions who will win medals at the Paris 2024 Olympics, in the presence of Ahmed Mansour, the CEO of cred, as well as senior officials from the ministry and cred, and journalists and media personalities.

According to the protocol, cred agrees to reward the gold, silver, and bronze medalists with financial prizes during the tournament, in coordination with the ministry. The gold medalists will receive EGP 1m, the silver medalists will get EGP 500,000, and the bronze medalists will earn EGP 250,000. The champions will also be honoured at another press conference in Egypt after their return from the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The Minister of Youth and Sports emphasised the importance of following the directives of President Abdel Fatah Al-Sisi to support the Egyptian sports heroes, saying: “The sports system is achieving many successes thanks to the support of the political leadership and the determination of the Egyptian players to give their best performance, which results in winning various titles.”

He added: “The importance of cooperation between the government and the private sector and the unification of all efforts to support the players financially and morally through programs and camps is essential. Egypt has a national program that serves the players and discovers new talents across the country. These players represent Egypt and our goal is to always be represented by the best.”

Ashraf Sobhy explained that the Ministry continuously provides direct financial support to the sports federations to cover the costs of preparing the players technically for all international, regional, continental, and Arab sports events, as well as sponsorship programs offered in cooperation with private sector entities.

Ahmed Mansour, CEO of cred, also expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and for the practical participation in supporting the sports talents in the country, saying: “Encouraging and supporting the youth in their pursuits is a responsibility for all of us. This collaboration is part of cred’s social goal that aims to support the efforts of the Egyptian state to create a generation of heroes who can compete globally.”

The protocol was signed by Mohamed Al Kurdi, Head of the Central Sports Performance Department, on behalf of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and by Mohamed Maher, the vice of cred’s CEO, on behalf of cred.

The signing ceremony was attended by the members of parliament Mohammed Al-Jarhi, Deputy Nasser Hidayat, Mohamed Al-Slab, and a group of leaders of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Egypt's street workout team wins 3 gold medals at world championship



Egypt's Street Workout team won three gold medals at the 2023 Street Workout and Calisthenics World Championship held in Riga, Latvia.

Ahmed Helmy took first place in the freestyle medium weight category, Hassan Badran won the strength medium weight category, and Ahmed Essam topped the freestyle over-30 years category.

Minister of Youth and Sports Ashraf Sobhy congratulated the team on their achievement, saying he is "proud of their hard work and dedication."

Sobhy also pointed to the government's support for the team, saying it is committed to "promoting the sport of Street Workout and helping to develop the skills of Egyptian athletes."

Islam Kortam, president of the Egyptian Street Workout and Calisthenics Federation, also congratulated the team and promised them "rewarding incentives" to motivate them to continue their success.

Islam Kortam, President of the Egyptian Street Workout and Calisthenics Federation, also congratulated the team on their victory.

Kortam also promised the team rewarding incentives to motivate them to achieve more accomplishments in the future.

"We will continue to support our athletes so that they can continue to raise Egypt's name in international forums," he said.

The 2023 Street Workout and Calisthenics World Championship was held from Aug. 22-26 in Riga, Latvia. The event featured 100 athletes from over 30 countries competing in a variety of events, including freestyle, strength, and pairs.

Shell Egypt hosts local Shell Eco-Marathon for Egyptian student teams to showcase energy-efficient vehicles



Nine teams of Egyptian Engineering students representing seven universities participated today in the Shell Eco-Marathon Egypt local showcase to present and test self-built energy-efficient vehicles which they designed and manufactured, competing for prizes amounting to almost USD 30,000. Shell Eco-Marathon supports the development of future engineers' skills and fosters innovation. The local showcase is part of Shell Egypt's social investment initiatives which align with the country's target for cleaner and more sustainable mobility solutions.

The global Shell Eco-marathon competition challenges student teams from around the world to design, build and test ultra-energy-efficient vehicles. Engines can be powered by various forms and types of fuel, including hydrogen cells or lithium batteries. The ultimate aim is to construct a vehicle that goes furthest with the least amount of energy. During the local showcase, nine teams representing seven Egyptian universities introduced nine energy-efficient automobiles to Shell executives and staff, as well as partners and relevant stakeholders.

The judging panel included Alaa ElDabaa, Head of Corporate Relations and government Relations at Shell Egypt, Paul Johnson, Global Technical Director of the Shell Eco-marathon, and Ahmed Hamada, Head of Contracts and Procurement at Shell Egypt and professional racing driver.

The GUC Innovators team, representing the German University in Cairo, won first place in the Car Inspection Awards, followed by the Higher Technology Institute's 'APEX Racing Team' in second place, and the Cairo University's Urban Concept team in third place.

For the teams pitching competition, the 'E-Rally Team' representing Helwan University won first place, while the 'GUC Innovators' team came in second place, and the ASU Racing Team representing Ain Shams University ranked third.

Khaled Kacem, Vice President and Country Chair of Shell Egypt said: "As part of our commitment to Egypt's energy transition outlined in Egypt Vision 2030, Shell Egypt is honoured to be hosting a showcase built around energy efficiency and sustainability directly from the bright minds of the country's future engineers. We are committed to investing in building the capacity of future engineers, who are the key to a greener and more prosperous future, powered by clean energy mobility solutions."

Nashwa Saleh, Social Investment Manager at Shell Egypt, said: "It gives us great pleasure to be hosting this competition for the first time in Egypt.

Zamalek shocked, Gouna wins in Egyptian Premier League



CAIRO – Al-Masry of Port Said and El-Gouna claimed wins in their matches in the 9th week of the Egyptian Premier League 2023-2024 season as Zamalek and Pyramids FC dropped points.

At Borg el-Arab Stadium in Alexandria, Al-Masry of Port Said stunned Zamalek 1-0.

El-Masry took the lead in the 45+6' minutes through Algerian left-winger Ghiles Guenaoui with a brilliant curling effort inside a crowded penalty area as they went into the break ahead.

In the 33rd minutes, El-Masry failed to score from the penalty spot as Zamalek's goalkeeper Mohamed Awad saved Tunisian midfielder Elyes Jelassi's spot-kick.

Zamalek controlled the early minutes of the second-half in an attempt to claim the equaliser, but without any danger.

The White Knights had the better chances as Al-Masry's keeper Mahmoud Gad kept the Port Said side on terms with outstanding saves.

The result is the White Knights' third loss in eight league games.

The victory left Al-Masry of Port Said into second place with 15 points from eight games as Zamalek dropped into 11th place with 11 points from eight matches.

At Arab Contractors Stadium, El-Gouna FC snatched a 3-2 win over NBE Club.

Striker Hossam Ghanem scored a hat-trick to hand El-Gouna three valuable points.

El-Gouna seemed on course for victory when forward Ghanem gave them the lead in the 46th minutes.

Right winger Mohamed Grendo netted the equalizer in the 52nd minutes as NBE's forward Karim Bambo added the third in the 58th minutes.

Ghanem claimed an equalizer in the 62nd minutes before scoring the game-winner in the 64th minutes.

The win left El-Gouna FC in sixth place with 13 points from eight matches as NBE Club remained in 18th place with three points from nine games.

At Cairo's Al-Salam Stadium, Modern Future FC and Ceramica Cleopatra played out a 1-1 draw.

Striker Marwan Mohsen opened the scoring for Future in the 17th minutes as Ceramica's left-back player Mohamed Shokry equalized in the 90+4 minutes.

The draw left Ceramica Cleopatra to 4th place with 14 points from nine matches as Future FC stayed in 8th place with 13 points from eight games.

At Cairo's Air Defence Stadium, Pyramids FC and Baladeyet el-Mahalla shared the spoils in a thrilling 2-2 draw.

Congolese forward Fiston Mayele opened the scoring for Pyramids in the 22nd minutes of the game.

Baladeyet el-Mahalla striker Hossam Ashraf succeeded in scoring his side's first goal 10 minutes before the end of the first-half.

South Africa international Fakhri Lakay sealed Pyramids' second goal in the 47th minutes.

Baladeyet el-Mahalla left-back player Ahmed Reda knocked in a second from a smart pass from team-mate Hossam Ashraf and unleashed a quite stunning strike in the 75th minutes.

Pyramids FC remained on top of the domestic table with 17 points from eight matches as Baladeyet el-Mahalla dropped into 12th place with 10 points from eight games.