

Sports

Minnows Equatorial Guinea win a shoot-out to set up Senegal clash

Equatorial Guinea now face Sadio Mane-inspired Senegal

LIMBE: Santiago Eneme scored the decisive penalty as minnows Equatorial Guinea edged Mali 6-5 in a shoot-out after a drab 0-0 draw following extra time in Limbe on Wednesday to reach the Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals. After France-based Eneme converted, Malian Falaye Sacko had a kick saved by Jesus Owono and his country bowed out in the first knockout stage for the second successive Cup of Nations. An ultra-cagey last-16 match produced minimal excitement for the crowd with both teams managing just one shot on target in 120 minutes. Equatorial Guinea now face Sadio Mane-inspired Senegal, one of the title favourites, in Yaounde on Sunday for a place in the semi-finals of the flagship African tournament.

While Senegal will be hot favorites to advance, Equatorial Guinea beat them in the only previous Cup of Nations clash 10 years ago. Ranked 114th in the world, the Equatoguineans have impressed throughout the tournament in their first appearance after qualifying, having previously competed as co-hosts and hosts. Unlucky losers to the Ivory Coast, the National Thunder then ended the 35-match unbeaten run of Algeria before defeating Sierra Leone to finish group runners-up.

It was the second 0-0 draw on Wednesday with Egypt defeating the Ivory Coast 5-4 on penalties in Douala just before the Limbe match kicked off. The players and match officials wore black armbands and observed a moment of silence before the kick-off in memory of the eight people who died in a stampede on Monday before Cameroon beat Comoros in Yaounde. Mali had two Premier League players available and Brighton midfielder Yves Bissouma started while Southampton winger Moussa Djenepo sat on the

bench and was introduced after 70 minutes.

Foul-riddled

Ibrahima Kone, who scored three of the four Mali goals in the group stage, fired just wide on seven minutes at the 20,000-seat Stade Omnisport, which overlooks the Gulf of Guinea. Equatorial Guinea had a penalty appeal rejected after the referee checked the VAR monitor as a foul-riddled first half progressed. The Equatoguineans were overly physical and Ivan Edu and Jose Miranda were yellow-carded before Mali wasted a half chance to end the deadlock. A free-kick fell favourably for Amadou Haidara inside the box, but his timid shot was comfortably saved by Owono.

Veteran Mali coach Mohamed Magassouba looked on anxiously when Kone was injured, but the Norway-based forward was able to continue after lengthy treatment. It was then the turn of Mali to appeal for a penalty when Moussa Doumbia fell as half-time approached, but the referee changed his decision to initially award a spot-kick after reviewing the incident. A goalless opening half ended with a third yellow card to an Equatoguinean with Pablo Ganet the offender. His team committed 15 fouls during the half, but failed to get a single shot on target.

The best scoring chance so far came on 58 minutes when the perseverance of Bissouma set up Haidara, but he blazed over from close range. As the match entered the final quarter of regular time, Mali continued to dominate possession, pass more accurately and concede far fewer fouls, but Equatorial Guinea held firm under pressure. Djenepo enlivened the Mali attack, but could not force a breakthrough and after 95 goalless minutes, the final last-16 match went to extra time. —AFP



LIMBE: Mali's defender Falaye Sacko (left) jumps for the ball during the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) 2021 round of 16 football match between Mali and Equatorial Guinea on January 26, 2022. —AFP

Premier League clubs agree to postponement rules over COVID-19

LONDON: Premier League clubs must have at least four positive coronavirus cases in their squad before a match can be called off under new guidance issued Wednesday following a number of controversial postponements. The change comes after criticism of the way some clubs were perceived to be exploiting the previous rules.

If a club could not field 13 outfield players and a goalkeeper either from their squad list or appropriately experienced under-21 players, the match would be postponed. But

that rule included absences unrelated to COVID-19, such as injury or international duty. There was a growing belief that teams hit by absences of key players were using the flexibility in the rules to have matches called off. There have been 22 postponements in the Premier League under the COVID criteria since the Omicron variant led to a surge in cases among players and staff in December.

Aston Villa chief executive Christian Purslow recently said the rules were not fit for purpose, while Tottenham were furious at the league's decision to grant a postponement request to Arsenal for the north London derby. "Following a club meeting today, the Premier League's COVID-19 match postponement guidance has been updated to include a COVID-19 impact threshold," a Premier League statement said.

"From now on, if a club applies to postpone a match on the grounds of insufficient players due to COVID-19, they

must have a minimum of four positive cases within their squad." The league said the new rules would take effect before the next Premier League fixture, the rearranged match between Burnley and Watford on February 5. Some top-flight managers had complained that changing the rules mid-season could force them to play weakened teams if four players had COVID, while other sides had benefited from postponements.

But it was reported that no clubs spoke out against the change at Wednesday's meeting. "Throughout the pandemic, the Premier League has adapted its guidance in response to the wider public health situation. The guidance was last updated in December in response to the emergence of the Omicron variant," the statement added. "Club applications will continue to be assessed on a case-by-case basis." —AFP

Celtic withstand Hearts attack to keep pressure on Rangers

GLASGOW: Celtic survived a second-half onslaught to beat Hearts 2-1 and remain four points behind Rangers at the top of the Scottish Premiership ahead of next week's Old Firm clash. Rangers were also victorious on Wednesday as they labored to a 1-0 home win over Livingston. Celtic were dominant in the first half at Tynecastle as Reo Hatate's long-range strike to net his first goal for the club and Giorgos Giakoumakis' inventive finish put the visitors 2-0 up at the break.

The Hoops were without a number of key players due to injury and international duty and it showed as they tired in the second period. Liam Boyce pulled a goal back just after the hour mark and third-placed Hearts looked set for at least a point when Matt O'Riley handled inside the area on his Celtic debut. Boyce sent Joe Hart the wrong way from the penalty spot, but the ball came back off the inside of the post and behind for a goal kick.

Ange Postecoglou's men were camped in their own half in the closing stages but held out for a vital three points in their quest to chase down Rangers at the top of the table. "It was a cracking game," said Postecoglou. "I'm super pleased and very proud of the players. "We had some challenges in terms of personnel but credit to the players, they were fantastic. We played well, created a lot of opportunities and probably should have killed the game off a bit earlier."

There are still three Old Firm clashes to come this season, the first of which is at Celtic Park next Wednesday. Rangers looked like they might drop points for the second consecutive league game for long spells at Ibrox. However, Scott Arfield came off the bench to score the only goal of the game 15 minutes from time with an exquisite lob over Max Stryjek into the far corner.

"Tonight was about getting the win," said Rangers manager Giovanni van Bronckhorst, who was also missing a number of first-team regulars due to injury, suspension and international duty. At the bottom of the table, St Johnstone snapped a 10-game losing streak, but remain two points behind Dundee after a 0-0 draw at Dens Park. Ross County remain just four points further in front after blowing the lead to lose 2-1 at Dundee United. Motherwell retain a two-point cushion over Hibs in the battle for fourth after they drew 0-0 at Fir Park. —AFP

Super Bowl guests to be given KN95 masks

LOS ANGELES: All attendees at next month's Super Bowl will be provided with KN95 masks and reminded to wear face coverings at all times unless eating or drinking, Los Angeles health officials have said. Los Angeles County public health director Barbara Ferrer said masks would be given to all spectators and guests at SoFi Stadium for the NFL championship game on February 13, the biggest event on the US sporting calendar.

"At the Super Bowl, every fan will receive a KN95 mask, and safety team members will be reminding fans ... to keep their masks on unless they're actively eating or drinking," Ferrer said. "Masks are required at all times to enter all of the events, to be in common areas, to purchase at concession stands and at indoor shops," she added. The distribution of KN95 masks is part of a range of COVID-19 measures being implemented for the Super Bowl.

Ferrer said Los Angeles County was working with the NFL to offer free rapid tests and vaccinations at the Super Bowl Experience, a fan zone at the Los Angeles Convention Center which opens on February 5. Ferrer said individuals who got vaccinated at the site would gain free admission to the Convention Center. All attendees will also receive a free take-home rapid-test kit. Public health staff will be on duty at all Super Bowl-related events to ensure compliance of COVID-19 rules, Ferrer added.



CALIFORNIA: In this file photo, Los Angeles Rams fans get ready for the game between the Los Angeles Rams and the Arizona Cardinals in the NFC Wild Card Playoff game. All attendees at next month's Super Bowl will be provided with KN95 masks and reminded to wear face coverings at all times unless eating or drinking. —AFP

"All of these events will comply with vaccination and testing requirements for mega-events, and for some of the smaller events, they will comply with LA city's requirements for people to be fully vaccinated to enter into those venues," Ferrer said. "Staff will be assigned to be at all event locations that will ensure compliance with the require-

ments." Long-standing regulations in Los Angeles already require attendees at large sporting events to show proof of vaccination or evidence of a negative COVID-19 test. Los Angeles has seen an explosion of COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant, although health officials said Tuesday cases were trending downward. —AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000	Kaizen center	25716707
Amiri Hospital	22450005	Rawda	22517733
Maternity Hospital	24843100	Adaliya	22517144
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700	Khalidiya	24848075
Chest Hospital	24849400	Kaifan	24849807
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010	Shamiya	24848913
Adan Hospital	23940620	Shuwaikh	24814507
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300	Abdullah Salem	22549134
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000	Nuzha	22526804
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9	Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
		Qadsiya	22515088
		Dasmah	22532265
		Bneid Al-Gar	22531908

Clinics

Kuwait Times
Stay Connected

- Read Kuwait Times now on your phone for **FREE**
- Send Subscribe to **+965 944 88888**
- Enjoy the first daily paper in Kuwait on your phone

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait
Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616 / 7 Fax: 24835620 - 24835621
E: info@kuwaittimes.net

CHANGE OF NAME

Rajaraman Sundarraj Son of Sundarraj and Janaki bearing an Indian passport number: Z5185102 and having an address No- 4A-1 Moongikollai street, Kumbakonam (po) Tanjore Dt., Tamilnadu 612001 had embraced Islam and changed the name as **RAJA MOHAMMED** is duly authenticated by AL-IFTA and Islamic Research sector AL-IFTA dept. Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kuwait, under reference no. F2091979. **(C 1416)** 27-1-2022

I, Kapil Mohan holder of passport number V9364954, do declare adding surname George along with given name Kapil Mohan. Full name to be **Kapil Mohan George**. **(C1415)**

I, Ramachandran Rajesh Mappilatharayil, Mappilatharayil House, Thiruvanchoor P.O., Kottayam, holder of Indian Passport No 6 P0378133 issued at Kuwait, do hereby change of my name as **Rajesh Mappilatharayil Ramachandran** with immediate effect. **(C1414)**

I have changed my name from **Steven Jaorawala** to **Mustaali Muzaffar Hussain** as per affidavit. **(C1413)** 26-1-2022

I, Alba Rodrigues, r/o H.No. 114/1, Padriguellem Dramapur South Goa 403725, would like to change my name from **Alba Kadam** to **Alba Rodrigues**. Hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name **Alba Rodrigues**. **(C 1412)** 25-1-2022