



DAMMAM: Kuwait National Futsal team players celebrate after beating Mauritania 7-2 on Tuesday in the Arab Cup in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait pound Mauritania 7-2

2022 Arab Futsal Cup: Palestine beat Saudi Arabia

DAMMAM: Kuwait National Futsal team on Tuesday regained the tone of victories in the Arab Cup held in Dammam, Saudi Arabia as they beat their Mauritanian counterparts 7-2 in the second round of Group A. Kuwait's Abdul Rahman Al-Taweel scored three goals; Abdul Latif Al-Abbasi (2) while Saleh Al-Fadil and Sultan Al-Majed scored one goal each. On the other hand, Mauritania's Ibrahim Al-Abed scored the two goals for his team.

Saudi Arabia kicked off their 2022 Arab Futsal Cup campaign with 6-4 defeat to Palestine in Dammam on Monday night. The result leaves the Green Falcons bottom of the three-team Group 3,

with Palestine leading with three points. Libya will face Saudi Arabia in the group's last match on Wednesday.

In Group 1, Morocco overcame Kuwait 6-4 on Monday, while Mauritania comprehensively beat Somalia 8-1 to take an early lead in the table. Meanwhile in Group 2's only match on the opening night, Egypt and Iraq played to a 3-3 draw.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia reached the semifinals of the 2022 WAFF Women's Futsal Championship after beating Oman 5-0 at King Abdullah Sports City Hall in Jeddah on Monday night. The result ensured the Green Falcons ended second in Group E with three points, having lost their first match 3-1

to Kuwait, who finished top with a maximum of six points. Oman were last in the group having lost both their matches.

Saudi's goals came from a brace each by Raghad Mukhayzin and Lana Abdelrazek, and a strike from Leen Mohammed, to set a date with Group A winners Bahrain in the semifinals of the tournament on Wednesday. The other last-four clash will see Kuwait take on Iraq on the same day. Meanwhile Palestine and Oman will meet earlier on Wednesday in the fifth-place playoff. The tournament, organized by the West Asia Football Federation, concludes on Friday, June 24, with the final and the third-place playoffs.



TAMPA: Andrei Vasilevskiy #88 of the Tampa Bay Lightning makes a save during the second period against the Colorado Avalanche in Game Three of the 2022 NHL Stanley Cup Final on June 20, 2022. —AFP

Stanley Cup: Lightning thrash Avalanche 6-2

MIAMI: The defending champion Tampa Bay Lightning roared back into Stanley Cup final contention on Monday, battering the Colorado Avalanche to claim their first win of the series. Humiliated 7-0 by the Avalanche on Saturday to go 2-0 down in the best-of-seven finals, the Lightning signalled their determination to go down fighting with a battling performance in game three in Florida.

"People can say whatever we want but we know what we have in our dressing room," Lightning captain Steven Stamkos said after the win. "We knew coming back home we'd play well in front of our fans and that was a great comeback tonight. "Colorado is a tough place to play—they come out strong and come out fast. But we can do that too. We've got a series now."

Another clinical Colorado display appeared to be on the cards in the first period as the Avs peppered the Tampa Bay goal only to be denied by some superb saves from Bolts goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy. Colorado looked to have taken an early lead when right wing Valeri Nichushkin finally beat Vasilevskiy with a deft flicked shot, only for the goal to be chalked off for offside after a lengthy review. But Colorado did finally take the lead through skipper Gabriel Landeskog after eight minutes, the Swedish winger poking in a rebound from close range.

That was cue for a spirited comeback by Tampa Bay, however, with Anthony Cirelli scoring the equalizer before Ondrej Palat played a clever give-and-go with Stamkos and rifled home to give the Lightning a 2-1 lead. Nicholas Paul then slapped in a first-time shot at the start of the second period to put the Lightning 3-1 up and although Landeskog pulled one back for Colorado on a power play soon afterwards, Tampa Bay were only just warming up.

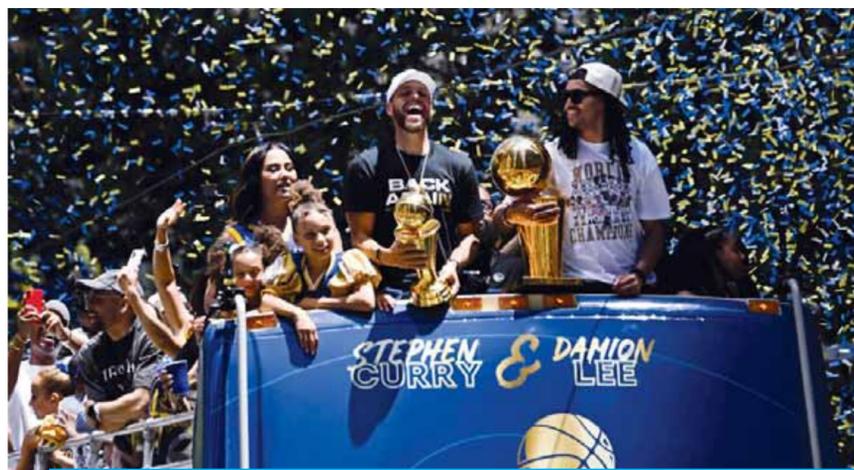
A burst of scoring with goals from Stamkos, Pat Maroon and Corey Perry left the home side 6-2 ahead going into the final period. Colorado's frustration boiled over late in the final period with the Avs' Logan O'Connor trading punches with Tampa Bay's Ross Colton in a protracted brawl with just over two minutes remaining. Game four in the series takes place in Tampa Bay on Wednesday. —AFP

Thousands salute victorious Warriors

SAN FRANCISCO: Tens of thousands of fans poured onto the streets of San Francisco on Monday to salute the victorious Golden State Warriors as the team celebrated its fourth NBA championship in eight seasons with an open-top bus parade. A blizzard of blue and gold confetti billowed along downtown San Francisco's Market Street as buses carrying the Warriors players and team staff made their way along the 1.4 mile-long parade route. The Warriors clinched their seventh NBA crown on Thursday after defeating the Boston Celtics on the road in game six of the finals to close out a 4-2 series victory.

The victory completed a triumphant return to the pinnacle of the sport just two years after the Warriors finished the 2019-2020 season with the worst record in basketball. Warriors talisman Stephen Curry - wearing a gold chain carrying his collection of NBA championship rings - led the festivities as Golden State players sprayed hordes of fans with champagne in brilliant sunshine. "I had to bring the jewelry back out," Curry said of his ring-laden necklace. "I don't look at it during the year. Every so often though you gotta remind yourself - we got four!"

Curry said the Warriors had been motivated to get back in the winner's circle after a painful defeat in the 2019 NBA Finals. "I'd be lying if I said I knew we'd be champions because it's a lot of work - but sometimes you've got to manifest it," Curry said. "We had some reverses, hit some road bumps, but peaked at the right time and everybody, 1 through 16, our coaching staff, everyone, played a significant part in this."



SAN FRANCISCO: US basketball player Stephen Curry (left) holds the MVP trophy alongside teammate Damion Lee (right) as they celebrate from a double-decker bus during the Golden State Warriors NBA Championship victory parade along Market Street in San Francisco. —AFP

'An amazing year'

The Warriors' defensive star Draymond Green paid tribute to the Warriors players and team personnel that made the win possible. "This has been an amazing year," Green said. "I told you no one could stop us from winning a championship. I warned you all. "I really love this group, and when I say this group, I mean this entire group. "There were times in the past when we won a championship and everything didn't have to be aligned, like we were just that good. "But for this to work, every single person up here had to be aligned. It's just so special. "You talk about which championship means more, but the reality is every single one of them has their own journey."

"What you appreciate about the journey is the people you go through it with. And what brings me the most joy is seeing the guys who are win-

ning it for the first time." Warriors coach Steve Kerr meanwhile revealed he had been inundated with messages of congratulations ranging from fellow NBA coaches such as Gregg Popovich to former president Barack Obama. "I got a text from president Obama, which was pretty cool. That was pretty special," Kerr said.

"This is incredible. When we started camp I thought we would be pretty good but I didn't know we could win the whole thing. "To be sitting here enjoying the parade and feeling the love of the whole Bay Area is pretty incredible." Kerr once again reserved special praise for Warriors star Curry, the NBA Finals MVP. "We've got a bunch of great guys who want to play together," said Kerr. "And it starts with Steph. Everybody wants to play with and for Steph, and we just had a great group of guys and that's the key." —AFP