

# Sports

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## Last-gasp drama as Jordan shock Iraq to secure Asian Cup quarterfinal spot

Al Rashdan nets winner

AL-RAYYAN, Qatar, Jan 29, (AP): Jordan scored two goals in stoppage time to advance to the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup on Monday after a 3-2 comeback win against 10-man Iraq.

Yazan Al Arab leveled the game at Khalifa International Stadium in the fifth minute of added time and Nizar Al Rashdan netted the winner two minutes later.

The round-of-16 match was turned on its head when Aymen Hussein was shown a second yellow card and sent off for excessive celebrations after putting Iraq 2-1 ahead.

### SOCER

The 2007 champion couldn't hold on to its lead and eventually folded under the pressure as Jordan mounted a late fightback.

Iraq had beaten pre-tournament favorite Japan and advanced to the knockout stage as winner of Group D. And in Hussein, it had the most prolific striker in the competition with five goals in the group stage.

While Hussein added to that total, his red card proved pivotal to Iraq's elimination.

Jordan advanced as one of the best third-placed teams and took the lead against Iraq in the first minute of first-half stoppage time through Yazan Al Naimat.

Suad Natiq equalized for Iraq with a header in the



Jordan's Mousa Altamari and Iraq's Amir Fouad battle for the ball during the Asian Cup Round of 16 soccer match between Iraq and Jordan at Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar. (AP)

68th and Hussein fired low in the 76th to put his team ahead. His celebrations, however, earned him that crucial second booking.

Jordan took advantage as Al Arab scored from a rebound and Al Rashdan struck the winner from outside of the box.



AUK's winning Men's Basketball Team.



AUK's winning women's basketball team.



AUK women's basketball player challenged by two opponents for the ball.

### AUK teams shine in UAAK Tournament

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 29: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) men's and women's basketball teams claimed the championship in the 2023-2024 UAAK Tournament. The team's remarkable achievement was marked by an impressive streak of consecutive victories, underscoring their dominance and proficiency on the basketball court throughout the tournament.

### BASKETBALL

Eight universities participated in the league. The men's basketball team maintained an impeccable record, remaining undefeated throughout the league. Meanwhile, the women's basketball team secured victories in all but one game during this competitive season.

Commenting on this impressive achievement, Mohammed Al-Saleh, senior sports coordinator, stated, "AUK athletics have become an attraction for prospective students, and I am very happy about this. When team players win, they feel that they are recognized as athletes, however at AUK just being part of an AUK sports team makes our players immediately feel like athletes. I am very proud of both the men's and women's basketball teams and congratulate them for all their efforts and for winning in the UAAK Basketball League."

Omar Mehdi, director of the Office of Student Life, also shared the same sentiment, "The Office of Student Life is very proud of our champions who dominated both the men's and women's UAAK basketball league. Our student-athletes' character and passion led them to this well-deserved victory."

This victory not only underscores AUK's athletic excellence but also reflects their unwavering dedication. The values of discipline, hard work, and teamwork exemplified by the athletes are ingrained in the ethos of the University, fostering a culture of excellence that extends beyond the sports field.

### ICC lifts suspension of Sri Lanka Cricket

DUBAI, Jan 29, (AP): The International Cricket Council has lifted its suspension of Sri Lanka Cricket.

SLC was suspended in November over government interference in its administration after the ministry of sport fired the national cricket board following poor results at the men's World Cup.

But the sport's governing body is now "satisfied" that SLC is "no longer in breach" of its membership obligations.

Guinea loom

### Congo knock Pharaohs out of Africa Cup on 'penalties'

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Jan 29, (AP): Congo knocked seven-time champion Egypt out of the Africa Cup of Nations with an 8-7 win on penalties after the teams finished 1-1 after extra time in the round-of-16 match.

Egypt goalkeeper Mohamed Abou Gabal struck the crossbar with his spot kick before Congo counterpart Lionel Mpasi stepped up to send the Leopards into the quarterfinals.

Also known as Gabaski, Abou Gabal - whose saves almost won the title for Egypt in the last edition - was playing because regular goalkeeper Mohamed El Shenawy dislocated his shoulder in the team's final group game against Cape Verde.

### SOCER

It was the latest misfortune for Egypt, which lost Liverpool star Mohamed Salah to a hamstring injury during the 2-2 draw with Ghana in their second match.

The Egyptian Football Association sacrificed a cow on Thursday in an effort to change the team's luck.

However, the Pharaohs' defense was caught out by a quick throw in for Congo's opening goal, scored by Mescach Elia in the 37th.

Mostafa Mohamed equalized from the penalty spot in first-half stoppage time. But extra time was needed between two teams that had failed to win any of their games so far.

It was the eighth consecutive Africa Cup match that Egypt failed to win in normal time including the previous tournament.

Egypt finished the game with 10 players when defender Mohamed Hamdy was sent off in the first period of extra time with his second yellow card for a late challenge on Simon Banzza.



DR Congo's goalkeeper Lionel Mpasi, (top), celebrates with Rocky Bushiri after scoring the winning goal in a penalty shootout winning 8-7 during the African Cup of Nations Round of 16 soccer match between Egypt and DR Congo, at the Laurent Pokou Stadium in San Pedro, Ivory Coast. (AP)

### Australian Open champions won't see change in rankings

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 29, (AP): Australian Open champions Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka will stay where they are when the new rankings are released on Monday.

Sinner consolidates his hold on a career-best No. 4 spot in the ATP rankings, and former top-ranked Sabalenka stays at No. 2 in the WTA rankings.

Sinner rallied from two sets down to beat Daniil Medvedev 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 to win the Australian Open final on Sunday for his first Grand Slam title. Sabalenka clinched back-to-back Australian Open titles with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Zheng Qinwen on Saturday.

### TENNIS

In the men's rankings, Novak Djokovic will stay top despite a rare defeat in the semifinals at Melbourne Park, where he is a 10-time champion. Medvedev missed the opportunity to move past No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz with a win against Sinner. He remains at No. 3.

Andrey Rublev is at No. 5 and Australian Open semifinalist Alexander Zverev is sixth. Holger Rune, Hubert Hurkacz, Taylor Fritz and Stefanos Tsitsipas are in the Nos. 7-10 spots.

Despite her third-round exit at Melbourne Park, Iga Swiatek holds on to the top ranking, ahead of Sabalenka.

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