



Japan players celebrate wildly after inflicting a stunning 2-1 defeat on four-time champions Germany in their Group E fixture of the World Cup at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Upsets continue as Japan humble Germany

REUTERS, Doha

Japan's Bundesliga players took matters into their own hands in their 2-1 comeback win over Germany in Group E of the World Cup on Wednesday, giving their opponents a taste of their own medicine.

In the days before the match the Japanese waxed lyrical over the contribution of Germany and its coaches for helping to develop the game in the country in the decades after World War Two.

But when they left the pitch at Doha's Khalifa stadium as sensational winners they had clearly outsmarted their teachers.

Strikes from Freiburg's Ritsu Doan and VfL Bochum's Takuma

Asano, who struck from fellow Bundesliga player Ko Itakura's deep free kick, gave the Asians their first ever win over Germany.

It was the two scorers, both substitutes, who woke their team up from their first half slumber.

In true German tournament fashion, Japan refused to surrender even after a one-sided first half in which Germany had 16 efforts on goal and possession of over 70%. Japan won the game with just 26% possession.

The introduction of Doan, nicknamed 'the Japanese Messi' and Asano in the second half lit up their game as they hustled and turned the tables on their opponents with high pressing and relentless work while charging forward.

A total of eight Japanese players in the squad compete in Germany's top two divisions and they brought back the right lessons learned there.

Their win, a result of pure determination and grit, had them punish their opponents for their lackadaisical approach to the game.

Even though he was a 57th-minute substitute, scorer Asano had the ball in the opponents' box more times than all but two Germany players.

Germany will be asking themselves how they lost a game which should have been killed off in the first half but they ultimately paid a dear price for their careless play and below par finish.

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3 binding conditions for IMF loan

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The International Monetary Fund is set to tag three binding conditions and a host of structural reforms for the prospective \$4.5 billion loan to Bangladesh, as the Washington-based multilateral lender looks to bring in lasting reforms in the country.

The mandatory conditions -- which are specific, measurable targets

called quantitative performance criteria (QPC) -- would be a minimum level of net international reserves and domestic revenue collection and a ceiling on the government's budget deficit, The Daily Star has learnt from people involved in the negotiations with the IMF staff mission to thrash out the terms for the loan.

The government must meet the stipulated targets for the respective

QPCs before the IMF releases the instalments, which would be disbursed over a 42-month period.

The targets for the three QPCs, which were set by the IMF with the view to building on the country's reserve buffer and creating fiscal space, would progressively increase with each instalment.

If the IMF board approves

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ESCAPE OF MILITANT CONVICTS They knew they'd break free soon

Handcuffs key, smartphones given to them early this month

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The condemned militants snatched from police on Sunday received the master key to the handcuffs and android phones inside the jail early this month.

They knew that they would not have to return to the prison cell after the court hearing on Sunday, investigators found.

Before they were taken to the court, they even gave away a TV set they managed to get smuggled into their prison cell, investigators found.

The convicts told their fellow Ansar al Islam members what colour of clothes they would be wearing on the day of the hearing so that the members could promptly recognise them, said officers of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of police.

The officers got the information by interrogating the two other convicts who were caught while attempting to flee.

Meanwhile, Asaduzzaman, the chief of the CTTC, told The Daily Star that officers arrested an Ansar al Islam man who was a member of the team that attacked police and fled with the two convicts.

The arrestee, Mehedi Hasan Omi who goes by the alias Rafi, is an accused in a case filed with Kotowali Police Station in the capital over the snatching of the convicts, Asaduzzaman added.

Sources said Omi is from Sylhet and is a member of the military wing of Ansar al Islam.

On Sunday, convicts Moinul Hasan Shamim, who goes by the aliases Samir and Imran, and Abu Siddiq Sohel, who goes by the aliases Shakib, Sajid and Shahab, were snatched away from the court premises.

Both were sentenced to death for killing a publisher in 2015.

Sohel had the smartphones and a master key for the handcuffs taken inside the prison, said a CTTC officer, requesting anonymity.

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Of stars and giant slayers



IRESH ZAKER

It is undoubtedly sad that the reigning Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema was ruled out of the World Cup, given this might have been his last chance to shine on the biggest stage. It does not, however, have to be so for Les Bleus.

For all their culture, the French team is notoriously prone to kerfuffle, especially when there are multiple superstars in the

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Switzerland v Cameroon	4:00pm
Uruguay v South Korea	7:00pm
Portugal v Ghana	10:00pm
Brazil v Serbia	01:00am

Greetings and Congratulations



In recognition of his significant contribution to foreign currency earning through exports, the Chairman of Primatek Group, Md. Omar Faruk (CIP), received the National Export Trophy (Gold) from Tipu Munshi, MP, Commerce Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at the Bangabandhu Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center. Heartfelt greetings and congratulations from officers and employees of Primatek Group.

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