



PHOTO: REUTERS

Senegal compounded host nation Qatar's misery, handing them their second defeat in as many games in Group A and all but eliminating them from the 2022 World Cup. The only silver lining for home fans was their team scored for the first time in the tournament in a 3-1 loss. It was the first win by an African nation at this World Cup.

Siddikur, Jamal on the move

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's Siddikur Rahman and Jamal Hossain Mollah made considerable stride in the second round of the Bangabandhu Cup Golf Bangladesh Open at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Friday as Ithipat Buranatanyarat continued to lead the pack at the 400,000-dollar event.

Siddikur, a two-time Asian Tour winner, returned a 66 to stay two shots off the pace with an aggregate of seven-under-par (135).

"Well, it was a wonderful day honestly," said the Bangladesh star. "I made a few really great up and downs so it was not easy. But I'm happy that I got a few birdies and only one bogey today, so it was a wonderful day. Of course, there is a little bit of pressure, but you know I'm always happy to play this tournament. I'm just looking forward to playing my own game, that's my goal the next two days. The rest I don't need to know."

Jamal, meanwhile, was two shots further back in fifth position while Badal Hossain was tied for eighth a stroke behind.

Ithipat Buranatanyarat continued to show scant regard for the fact he has missed the cut in his last five events by carding a three-under-par 68.

A professional since 2014 and a three-time winner on the Asian Development Tour (ADT), Ithipat is bidding to win his first Asian Tour title.

A total of 66 golfers including eight Bangladeshis made it to the weekend rounds.

Brazil, CR7 and the naysayers

IRESH ZAKER

Thursday night was, in the words of Borat, "great success" for Brazil, and consequently the cause of gastric tribulation for at least half of Bangladesh's adult population i.e. Argentina fans.

For mostly neutrals, however, it was a good watch. Especially after the hour mark, having unlocked the Serbian vault, the Brazilians played with joy that was reminiscent of Socrates' finest. The joga bonito of old.

Thursday night was also good for Portugal, and the still great Cristiano Ronaldo. While the calculus behind figuring out who was unhappy about Brazil's victory is fairly straightforward, it is harder to define the subset of humanity that is irked by CR7's success. It used to be easy once. The anti-Ronaldo camp was pretty much defined by anyone who hated Real Madrid and Manchester United.

Since snippets of Piers Morgan's interview with the star came out a few

Qatar on brink of early exit

REUTERS, Doha

Host nation Qatar were pushed to the brink of an early elimination from their own World Cup on Friday after a 3-1 defeat to Senegal.

Goals either side of half-time from Boulaye Dia and Famara Diedhiou gave Senegal the lead before Qatar substitute Mohammed Muntari replied in the 78th minute to set up a dramatic finale.

Senegal substitute Bamba Dieng scored six minutes later to put the result beyond doubt and lift the African champions, who opened with a 2-0 loss to the Netherlands, right back into contention in Group A.

The defeat left bottom side Qatar sweating on results elsewhere if they are to avoid following South Africa in 2010 as only the second World Cup hosts to bow out after the first round.

Their elimination would be confirmed if Ecuador fail to beat the Netherlands later in the day, and would make Qatar the first World Cup hosts to go out after two games.

Qatar had made a nervy start to the tournament in a 2-0 defeat to Ecuador and they again looked tentative against Senegal.

The Asian champions dropped their goalkeeper Saad Al Sheeb to the bench after his shaky performance in the opener.

His replacement Meshaal Barsham did not inspire much confidence in the early stages, flapping at a corner as Senegal pushed for the opening goal.

Ismaila Sarr and Nampalys Mendy had already missed scoring



Qatar layers were left devastated after their match against Senegal as they lost their second game in a row. The hosts look set to end the tournament without a win, but could take some solace from scoring their maiden World Cup goal.

PHOTO: REUTERS

effort.

Mendy was rooted to his line when Muntari pulled one back for Qatar, powerfully heading home Mohamad's cross to haul the hosts back into it.

The goal lifted the crowd and sent Qatar surging forward in search of another, but Dieng nipped the revival in the bud in the 84th minute when he swept the ball home for Senegal's third.

chances for Senegal by then, and Idrissa Gana Gueye and Youssouf Sabaly squandered more as the first half wore on.

- Qatar almost out -

Qatar spent most of the opening 45 minutes on the back foot but a rare break forward saw Akram Alif incensed not to be awarded a penalty after he was bundled over by Sarr.

Senegal looked like they would head into half-time without managing to break down Qatar's resistance, only for the hosts to gift them a goal in the 41st minute.

Qatari defender Boualem Koukhi fluffed a clearance to leave Dia to pounce on the loose ball and fire it past Barsham.

Senegal doubled their lead almost immediately after the break when Diedhiou glanced home a header at the near post from a corner.

Qatar began to show more attacking ambition from two goals down and Alif was involved in everything.

Almoez Ali forced a fingertip save out of Senegal goalkeeper Eduard Mendy before the Chelsea man again rescued the Africans from Isamil Mohamad's

Neymar out of Swiss clash

REUTERS, Doha

Neymar will miss Brazil's next World Cup game against Switzerland after he suffered ankle ligament damage in his team's opening win against Serbia, the team doctor said on Friday.

The Paris Saint-Germain forward was seen with a swollen ankle after being substituted during the 2-0 victory against Serbia on Thursday.

Rodrigo Lasmar, the doctor for the Brazilian football federation (CBF), said the 30-year-old had suffered "ligament damage".

Brazil right-back Danilo will also miss Monday's match against Switzerland with an ankle strain.

"We will not have these two players for our next match but they continue their treatment with the aim of recovering in time for the rest of the competition," the doctor said in a video released by the CBF.

The most expensive player in the world played a pivotal role in Brazil's win in their first game in Group G in Qatar.

He wriggled into the box to pass to Vinicius Jr. to set up Richarlison for Brazil's opening goal in the second half.

Later, however, he appeared to be in tears as he left the pitch with a visibly swollen ankle.

That was reminiscent of the back injury which



put Neymar out of the World Cup on home soil in 2014.

Match winner Richarlison, who scored a spectacular swivelling overhead volley for Brazil's second goal, said he had spoken to his team mate to check on his injury.

"It seems he has a hurt ankle and I told him to put a lot of ice on it to recover as soon as possible to have him 100% at the next match. When I get to the hotel, I'm going to go and see how he's doing," he said.



Brazil superstar Neymar left the pitch with a swollen ankle after becoming the victim of nine of the 12 total fouls that Serbia committed against Brazil during a 2-0 win in the 2022 World Cup group stages.

PHOTO: REUTERS

AGENCIES, Doha

"A few weeks ago, I was crying, not sure if it would come," Richarlison reminisced after scoring two goals to lift Brazil to a 2-0 win in Serbia in their 2022 World Cup opener, reminding fans of the calf injury that appeared to have shattered his dream of playing in the World Cup for Brazil.

"On the day of my medical exam, it was one of the longest days of my life. I remember it was a day off and I went for the exam. I stayed on the stretcher waiting for the result to come out. The doctors went back and forth, I got nervous and time didn't pass. But I think it was worth all the effort in my recovery. God saw my effort, saw how much I wanted to come to the World Cup. That's it. Now it's time to continue!"

"We did the main thing, which was to win the first game, which is very important. Now it's time to think about the second game and rest well. It was the first, now there are six more important games."

The last player to score twice in a World Cup game was striker Neymar, at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil against Cameroon.

In an interview after the



victory, Brazil's No. 9 said he told his teammates at halftime that he would only need one ball to reach the goal. He did so twice, first with an opportunistic lunge to a rebound and then bagging a sublime second that looked like it was made on Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana beach.

"Today at halftime I talked to them and said I needed a ball, and it arrived. I was prepared and managed to score. It was a

wonderful night, now we have six more games to go to achieve our goal."

Speaking about the great goal, Richarlison remembered the goal he scored in a training session in Turin in the preparation stage before leaving for Qatar.

"I don't know if you followed, but I scored a similar goal in training in Italy. It's like I said, do it in training, do it in the game. Today I had the opportunity to

volley and hit a beautiful shot. So I hope to continue like this, focused. We scored two goals and I'm going to get more, I want more", said the player.

Richarlison's sparkling start also banished the voodoo over Brazil's No. 9 jersey. Since Fred, against Cameroon in the group stage in the 2014 World Cup, their No. 9s had failed to score.

"When you wear the No. 9 jersey with the Brazilian national team, all you want to do is score goals," he said. "With these teammates, I'm sure the goals will come."

Others, including his Frenchman Hugo Lloris, who plays alongside the Brazilian at Tottenham, took note.

"I'm happy for him. He's probably the least fancied player of the team but he is a fighter and showed yesterday the part of genius that is in him," Lloris said.

His teammates were equally effusive in their praise.

"He's a great guy. He deserves it. That's Richarlison. You give him a chance, he scores. You should see him in training. He shoots from anywhere and everywhere, all sorts of angles. He's an incredible player," teammate Antony said.