



FIFA Club World Cup UAE 2009: Al Jazira set to debut on new pitch at Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium

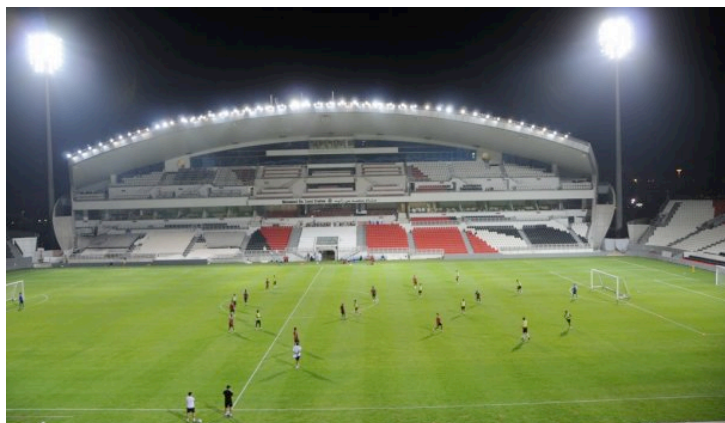
FIFA Club World Cup UAE 2009's Notes

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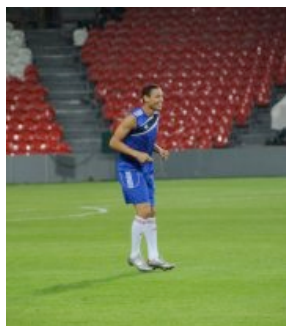
Today at 11:16am



Al Jazira's football squad has trained for the first time on the natural grass playing surface at the newly refurbished Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium, ahead of their UFL opening home fixture today.

The stadium, which is one of two host venues for the forthcoming FIFA Club World Cup UAE 2009, also now boasts a 42,000 seating capacity. Other facilities being evolved at Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium ahead of the FIFA tournament include team changing rooms, officials' rooms, media areas and broadcast commentary positions.

His Excellency Mohammed Khalfan Al-Rumaithi, President of the UAE FA, said: "The permanent infrastructure upgrades that are happening at Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium and Zayed Stadium in preparation for the FIFA Club World Cup UAE are an important part of the lasting legacy that the tournament will leave behind for all the Emirates."



Abel Braga, Al Jazira team coach, commented on how the upgrades will benefit the club: "This is the first time the players have had the chance to train on the new pitch and it has given everyone at the club a huge boost. The stadium upgrades mean we can continue to develop as a team, whilst delivering an experience to players and fans alike that is of an international standard."

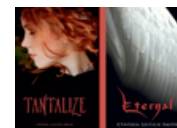
A major part of the project has been the construction of a new playing surface which uses the most advanced technology available. The natural grass surface has undergone a series of rigorous tests to ensure it is ready for competitive action, measuring factors ranging from the bounce of the ball to the gradient of the pitch.

Al Jazira's Brazilian star Ricardo Oliveira, recruited in the summer from Real Betis, was impressed with the new pitch during the squad's first training session: "The pitch held up really well, the surface is even and the bounce is right. For us as players, it makes a huge difference to play on a world-class pitch like this. Having played all over the world, from South America to



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Europe, I know how important a quality pitch is and this will be a tremendous benefit for the club."

With just two months to go until the kick-off of the FIFA Club World Cup UAE 2009, stadium upgrades are also progressing well at Abu Dhabi's other FIFA Club World Cup UAE 2009 venue, Zayed Stadium.



Abu Dhabi's landmark Zayed Stadium is being fitted with approximately 45,000 new seats, and enhancements are being made to the players' facilities, media facilities and TV studios, as well as the VIP areas and the Royal Box.

Fans will be able to enjoy the new facilities at Zayed Stadium for the first time on 12th November when the stadium will host a friendly football match between the UAE National Team and Manchester City FC.

The full match schedule for the FIFA Club World Cup UAE 2009 will be unveiled at the official draw event on 12th November. Five clubs have already qualified for the tournament, with the representatives from the AFC and CAF confederations set to be confirmed on 7th & 8th November respectively.

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