

UAE national football team making us all proud

Productivity in the UAE would have dropped visibly around mid-afternoon yesterday, but it's unlikely anyone was upset by this. For a little under two hours, the country was transfixed by the UAE national football team playing against the host team Australia in the semi-final of the Asian Cup.

As we all now know, this ended in a dignified 0–2 defeat, but just being in the semi-final at all represented a victory for the UAE team. This would have been little comfort to our home-grown heroes who had their eyes on winning; not just this match, but the entire tournament for the first time.

But it remains true that this team has impressed us with their performance; most



notably by knocking out Japan, one of the tournament favourites who had won three of the last four Asian Cups. As they return to the UAE, they should feel proud, knowing that the country united behind them.

5 Read the article. Are these statements true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 The writer believes many people stopped work to watch the match.
- 2 The Australian and Emirati teams were playing in the Cup final.
- 3 The Emirati team won the match by scoring two goals.
- 4 Earlier in the Cup, the UAE lost against Japan.

3 Choose the correct words to complete the text.

My local football team _____¹ their first match of the season last Saturday. I was really _____² about it. I knew they had been training hard for months. However, everything went _____³ from the start of the match. First of all, after only five minutes, the best player in the _____⁴ twisted his ankle and was taken off. Then, just before half time, my favourite player scored a home goal! It was terrible. By the end of the match, the _____⁵ was 0–5. I was really disappointed.

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|-------------|----------|-------------|
| 1 a did | b played | c scored |
| 2 a excited | b tired | c sad |
| 3 a well | b wrong | c quickly |
| 4 a team | b goal | c spectator |
| 5 a game | b price | c score |