

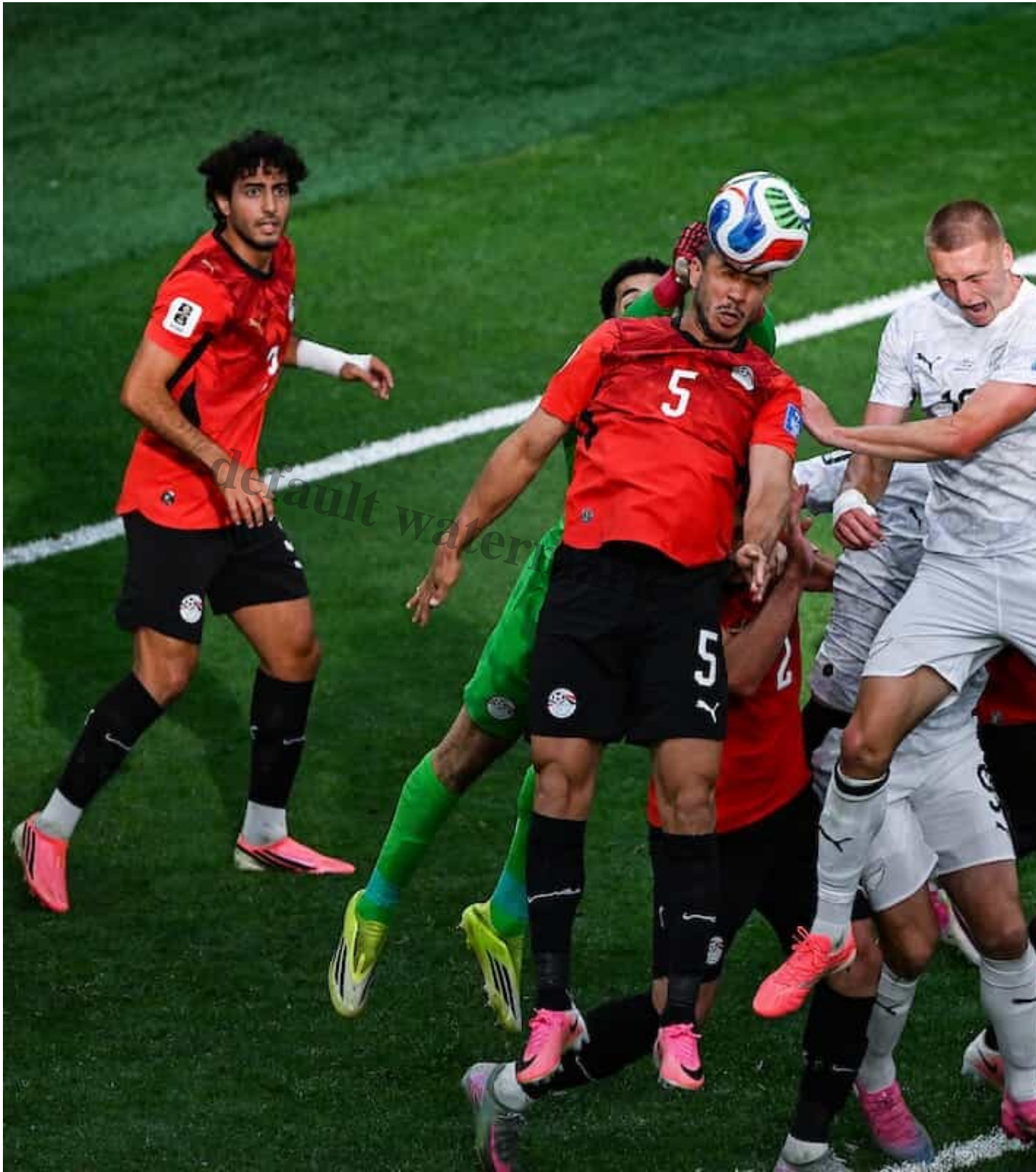


Salah Fires Egypt To Historic World Cup Victory: Pharaohs Come From Behind To Beat New Zealand 3-1 In Vancouver

Description

Egypt produced a stirring second-half comeback to beat New Zealand 3-1 in their FIFA World Cup 2026 Group G opener at BC Place in Vancouver, with Mohamed Salah's decisive strike and two crucial headers sealing a landmark victory for the Pharaohs.

After Finn Surmann gave the All Whites a shock lead in the 15th minute, Egypt turned the game around emphatically after the break - Mostafa Zico equalising before Salah's composed finish and Mahmoud Trezeguet's powerful header completed the turnaround. Egypt move to the top of Group G with four points, while New Zealand face a must-win situation in their remaining group fixtures.



Egypt defeated New Zealand 3-1 in their FIFA World Cup 2026 Group G opener at BC Place, Vancouver. Source: New Zealand Football (nzfootball.co.nz)

A Shock All Whites Lead

New Zealand's opening goal was a thing of beauty. Tim Payne worked the corner routine on the right flank, his delivery arrowing perfectly to the near post where Finn Surmann arrived with precision timing to plant a header past the Egyptian goalkeeper. BC Place erupted, and for the opening quarter of the match, the All Whites were the better side.

Egypt struggled to impose themselves in the first half. Their technical quality was evident in spells but the final ball was lacking, and New Zealand's defensive organisation â?? disciplined and compact â?? gave the Pharaohs few clear sights of goal. At the break, the All Whites's one-goal advantage looked well-deserved.

Zico Levels, Salah Strikes

Egypt's coaching staff made tactical adjustments during the interval, pushing Salah into more advanced positions and encouraging the midfield to drive through the lines with more urgency. The changes paid immediate dividends.

On 58 minutes, Mostafa Zico arrived at the far post to head home â?? a run timed to perfection, a delivery that matched it. The equaliser transformed the match. New Zealand, who had been comfortable, were now chasing shadows as Egypt's quality came to the fore.

Then came the moment the capacity crowd had been waiting for. On 67 minutes, Salah received the ball on the edge of the area, played a quick one-two with a supporting runner, and slotted home with the kind of composure that has defined his career at the highest level. Egypt were ahead, and the noise from the Egyptian contingent in the stands was extraordinary.



The All Whites headed into the 2026 World Cup with genuine hope, but a tough Group G draw leaves them needing a result against Belgium. Source: New Zealand Football (nzfootball.co.nz)

Trezeguet Seals A Historic Night

Any lingering doubt was removed eight minutes from time when Mahmoud Trezeguet attacked a corner, rising highest to head firmly beyond the reach of the New Zealand goalkeeper. The 3-1 scoreline was Egypt's and it was thoroughly merited given their second-half dominance.

For Salah, the goal was deeply personal. Among the most decorated players of his generation, this was his first appearance on the World Cup stage and he took it with characteristic brilliance. His performance throughout the second half combining strength, intelligence and the clinical edge that has made him one of the world's great strikers was a reminder of just what he brings to this Egypt side.

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New Zealand showed the fight and quality to compete with the world's best, but Egypt's second-half quality proved the difference. Source: New Zealand Football (nzfootball.co.nz)

Group G Standings And What Comes Next

Egypt sit at the top of Group G with four points after this result. Iran and Belgium who played out a tense 0-0 draw earlier in the day sit on two points each, leaving the group finely balanced ahead of the final matchday. New Zealand, with one point from two matches, face a pivotal match against Belgium on 27 June if they are to have any hope of progressing.

The World Cup 2026 has already produced its share of drama. [Portugal were held by DR Congo](#) in one of the tournament's early shocks, while [Japan's 4-0 dismantling of Tunisia](#) served notice of Asian football's growing ambitions on the world stage. Egypt's win against New Zealand adds another compelling story to a tournament already full of them.

Egypt's next fixture in the group stage will be the crucial test of whether they can go further but for now, the Pharaohs have delivered the historic moment their supporters have long been waiting for.

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