

Singapore U17s lead early but lose 3-2 to Palestine as India top AFC U17 qualifying Group E

Description

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Singaporeâ??s Under-17s were ahead inside 90 seconds against Palestine in Kuala Lumpur on Friday 20 November, but lost 3-2 in their final AFC U17 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2027 Qualifiers match. Indiaâ??s 0-0 draw with Malaysia later that day sent India through to the Finals as Group E winners.

A dream start that faded

The opener came from a set piece. Palestine failed to clear Lai Keng Lumâ??s free kick from the right, and the ball dropped to Ahmad Izzan Ahmad Farid. His cross looked harmless, but Palestine goalkeeper Mohammed Abdalkarim could not hold it, and Singapore captain Aidan Irfan was waiting to tap in.

Palestine needed a win to stay in the race and took time to find a way through, with most of their moves breaking down in midfield. Their captain, Yazan Khalifah, broke clear in the 22nd minute after loose Singapore defending, but shot straight at goalkeeper Ilhan Hady Mohamed Rezal.

The equaliser arrived in the 29th minute. Abdelrahman Sharifeh threaded a pass through to Zein Abouatiq, who slipped the ball past Ilhan. Seven minutes later Ilhan kept it level with a fingertip save from Sharifehâ??s curling shot from outside the box.

That save was undone before the break. Singapore miscued a series of clearances, and Ali Hariri slammed the ball in from just inside the box in the 40th minute.



Singapore and Palestine players battle for possession during Singapore 2-3 Palestine on 20 November 2026. Photo: AFC

Sharifehâ??s strike settles it

Singapore needed a quick response after half-time. Instead they were 3-1 down three minutes into the second half, when Sharifeh curled a left-footed shot into the far corner.

A way back opened three minutes later. Iman Naqib Idris crossed and Aidan had a header from close range, but he could not steer it on target. Izzanâ??s goal deep into stoppage time made it 3-2, too late to change the result.



A Singapore player in action during Singapore 2-3 Palestine on 20 November 2026. Photo: AFC

How Group E finished

India drew 0-0 with the hosts in the dayâ??s later match, with Malaysia pressing for most of it and India content to sit back. That was enough. India finished on 10 points, one ahead of Palestine on nine, with Malaysia third on seven.

Singapore finished fourth of five with three points. Their one win was the 6-0 opener against Guam, followed by a 4-2 defeat to India, when India captain Dallalmuon Gangte scored a hat-trick, and a 2-1 loss to Malaysia settled by a substituteâ??s goal in the closing minutes. Across four games Singapore scored 11 and conceded nine.

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Singapore on the ball during Singapore 2-3 Palestine on 20 November 2026. Photo: AFC

Izzanâ??s five goals

Ahmad Izzan Ahmad Farid ends the qualifiers as Singaporeâ??s leading scorer, with a goal in every match:

- Guam: a penalty in the fourth minute
- India: both goals, the opener in the 27th minute and a header from a corner that made it 2-2 in the 65th
- Malaysia: a far-post finish in first-half stoppage time from Saw Tian Zhiâ??s lob
- Palestine: the late goal on Friday

Aidan Irfan scored twice, against Guam and Palestine. Singaporeâ??s campaign ends with one win from four.

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