

Monday, 25 March 2013

South Korea, Qatar prepare for football World Cup qualifier



The South Korea and Qatar football squads trained in Seoul Monday for their 2014 World Cup Round Four qualifier in the Korean capital on Tuesday.

The Koreans are second in Asia qualifying Group A with seven points from four matches, while Qatar and Iran also have seven, but from five games. Uzbekistan leads the group with eight points from five games, while Lebanon has just four from five. The top two in each of the two Asia groups qualify directly for the World Cup in Brazil next year, while the third-placed go into play-offs. South Korea beat Qatar 4-1 in Doha last June and head coach Choi Kang-hee said Monday that they will be going “all out” for another win on Tuesday. “Depending on the result of the match tomorrow, we can (play) the rest of our games in a great atmosphere. So we will certainly make an all-out effort to win the game tomorrow,” said Choi.

South Korea captain Kwak Tae-Hwi, who plays for Al-Shabab in Saudi Arabia, has returned from injury and said he is in good shape.

“I think I don't have to talk about my injury any more, now I've got better and participated in training. Also, I was playing many matches in the Saudi league before I came here. I'm in good shape now,” commented Kwak.

Saudi head coach Fahad Thani emphasized the importance of the match.

“In regards to our match with the Korean national team, we believe this match will be a very important one for the Qatari national team to keep their hopes of qualifying for the World Cup, which we will continue to hope for until the last moment played in this group,” said Thani.

“The Korean national team is one of the well-known teams and is probably the favorite to top this group and they will be looking to gain three points from this match,” he added.