Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya defeat Bengaluru to become first Iraqi club to win the AFC Cup

Hammadi Ahmed's 16th goal in 11 AFC Cup games saw Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya edge past Indian club Bengaluru FC 1-0 to become the third Iraqi club to win a major continental competition and the first to win an AFC tournament.

Jawiya were the better side throughout the game as they limited their Indian opponents to long shots and long balls and took control of the encounter. They suffered a huge blow on 27 minutes when their most creative player, Humam Tariq, was subbed off after picking up an injury, and considering that their other creative playmaker Bashar Rasan was suspended, it was left to striker Amjad Radhi to become the main outlet for "Al-Soqoor" (The Falcons).

And it was Amjad who had Jawiya's best chance of the first half as he burst through on goal and attempted to lay the ball off to Hammadi Ahmed for an open-goal tap-in. His cutback was far too close to the 'keeper though and the 'keeper collected it gratefully as the chance was wasted.

And Amjad was involved once again five minutes after the restart, with a brilliant touch followed by a rushed finish that flew high and wide. Jawiya were wasting chance after chance but finally found a breakthrough with around 20 minutes left on the clock. Amjad Radhi nutmegged his way past a defender and wriggled free to set up Hammadi Ahmed for an open-goal tap-in. It was Hammadi's 16th goal of the tournament, and he scored in every single game he played in the competition.

Jawiya held on fairly comfortably from then on, even scoring a disallowed goal through Amjad, but survived a late scare when Bengaluru's CK Vineeth completely failed to connect with the ball when in a goalscoring position. The full-time whistle signalled the completion of a great achievement in Iraqi club football as Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya won Iraq its fifth major continental club competition following Al-Shorta's 1982 Arab Club Championship heroics and Al-Rasheed's impressive hat-trick of Arab Club Championship titles in 1985, 1986 and 1987. Tournament topscorer and MVP Hammadi Ahmed took the armband from Ali Abdul-Jabbar to lift the trophy for the first time in Jawiya's 85-year history as the Falcons won their 20th major trophy.