Sudanese giants Al Hilal kicked off their stay in Rwanda with a morale-boosting 2–0 victory over AS Kigali in a friendly match played on Monday evening at the Kigali Pele Stadium.

It was Al Hilal's first test game since arriving in Rwanda, where they've been offered an opportunity to play in the national league following instability back home in Sudan. The fixture was designed to give the visitors a competitive run-out and assess their fitness levels before the league calendar takes shape.

AS Kigali started brightly, controlling possession and creating early chances through Arsène Tuyisenge, who forced several corners but without reward. In the 18th minute, Jesus Molok delivered a fine cross to Rudasingwa Prince, whose shot skimmed narrowly past the post, a moment that could have put the hosts ahead.

Despite AS Kigali's promising start, Al Hilal drew first blood in the 20th minute when Mohamed Abdel Rahman latched onto a loose ball to slot home. The visitors grew into the game and doubled their advantage five minutes before half-time, with Al-Haj Madiki heading in from a corner to make it 2–0, sparking joyous celebrations among the Sudanese community in the stands.

AS Kigali reduced the deficit before the break, but the opening half ended 2–1 in favour of the Sudanese side.

After the restart, Al Hilal maintained their dominance, dictating play and keeping AS Kigali on the back foot. Youssef Kabore came close to adding a third after meeting a teasing cross, only to see his effort drift inches wide.

The encounter, initially scheduled as a league tie, was reclassified as a friendly due to CAF restrictions preventing Sudanese clubs from taking part in Rwanda's top-flight competition. Still, Al Hilal made the most of the opportunity, showcasing their sharpness and team spirit as they continued preparations under challenging circumstances.

Both Al Hilal Sports Club and El Merrikh have been temporarily cleared by FERWAFA to train and play in Rwanda while domestic football in Sudan remains on hold due to security concerns.