Qatar coach Felix Sanchez during a training session in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

English women’s football team to train in Qatar

**BOITMINE**

England’s women’s football team has been invited to build a winter training camp in Qatar this month, officials in the Gulf and the English Football Association announced yesterday.

The team will link up in Doha’s Aspire Zone from January 14-21, said officials in Qatar, as they continue preparations for the World Cup later this year and ahead of taking part in the SheBelieves Cup, a four-team tournament in the United States in February and March.

“The training camp in Qatar is crucial to our preparations for the World Cup,” said Tracey Crouch, the sports minister.

The tournament was previously announced with 15 teams, but the UK has been invited to participate and will provide a team of 20 players, including goalkeeper Karen Bardsley.

The team will remain in Qatar until May, when they will play in the SheBelieves Cup in the US.

“Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the camp,” said Crouch. “We are looking forward to working with the players and coaching staff to prepare for the tournament.”

In three years and 10 months the World Cup will begin in Qatar. Only South Africa, in 2010, has been eliminated as World Cup hosts before the kick-off stage and Qatar intend to avoid that fate.

South Korea forward Heung min HeungUi-joo celebrates after seeing his team-mates match against the Philippines in Dubai yesterday.

**ASIAN CUP**

Goalie howler as China and South Korea survive scares

Chinese winner looked inevitable when Akhlidin Israilov of Kyrgyzstan scored an own goal to put the Chinese on course for a 2-1 win.

Chinese goalkeeper Si put his side’s lead in the 23rd minute with a spectacular goalkeeping gaffe to scrap past the Philippines in Dubai yesterday.

China 1-0 at half-time but they were left to rue a costly error by goalkeeper Malon Matiash, attempting to claw a difficult ball when he was given his marching orders following Sunday’s 4-1 defeat by Iran.

In February last year, the Qatari and English Football Associations signed a “memorandum of understanding” in Doha to “share resources and expertise” in football.

“In the first test of the new World Cup format, there will be 32 to 48 teams — an idea viable only by some compromise,” Infantino said.

“Whether Infantino gets his expansion wish early — the increase will definitely happen at the 2026 edition — or not is of little real concern to them. “If we see that it’s in the benefit of football, the World Cup format, and we feel like it’s going to work, we will all do it.”

Favourites in Group E will be Saudi Arabia, having provided more evidence that the gap has narrowed between Asian teams.

After hosts UAE were held by Thailand, who impressed on their tournament debut, in 4-1 defeat on January 5, a Chinese winner looked inevitable when Akhlidin Israilov of Kyrgyzstan scored an own goal to put the Chinese on course for a 2-1 win.

Kyrgyzstan had been looking capable of surprising some champagne football, pulling off a shock 3-0 win over the Philippines on Sunday, but China 1-0 at half-time but they were left to rue a costly error by goalkeeper Malon Matiash, attempting to claw a difficult ball when he was given his marching orders following Sunday’s 4-1 defeat by Iran.

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English coach Phil...
Bayern Munich’s Robben ‘very proud’ of Inter interest

‘I’m very proud and happy to have received offers from different clubs. At the moment, we are quite busy, especially for my father, who is not always with me because I have to travel a lot,” said Bayern Munich’s Arjen Robben after being linked with a possible move to Inter Milan.

Robben, who is set to leave Bayern at the end of the season, has been the subject of transfer speculation in recent weeks. His contract at the Bundesliga giants expires in June.

The Dutchman, who has scored 18 goals in all competitions this season, has been linked with a move to Serie A giants Inter, who are looking to strengthen their attacking options.

Robben said: “We have a big challenge ahead. At the moment, we are focused on finishing the season well. We have to make sure we don’t lose any more points, and we still need another two points to qualify for the Champions League.

‘The future is still open’

Despite the recent interest from Inter, Robben has made it clear that he is focused on finishing the season on a high.

“I’m very proud and happy to have received offers. The last few weeks have been quite busy,” Robben added.

Bayern Munich and Robben’s Swiss-based agent are speaking at press conferences during their winter training camp at the Aspire Academy in Doha yesterday.

By Sports Reporter

Bayern Munich’s Dutch forward Arjen Robben speaks at a press conference during their winter training camp at the Aspire Academy in Doha yesterday.

Bayern Munich’s Dutch forward Arjen Robben speaks at a press conference during their winter training camp at the Aspire Academy in Doha yesterday.
Madrid slip 10 points behind Barcelona

Real Madrid suffered a shock 2-0 home defeat to struggling Real Sociedad.

The home side were on course for a damaging European night, when their La Liga title hopes were shattered by a valiant Sociedad side.

La Real, who had won this fixture only once in Madrid since 2014, deserve great credit for their efforts.

Sociedad had seen off Galatasaray in Turin in the Champions League, which was followed by a brilliant victory over Real Betis last weekend.

Juanmi and Oscar Gonzalez's goals were enough to hand Madrid only their second home defeat of the La Liga season.

The 31-year-old's contract was limited this season, should contain Cesc Fabregas and Cesc Fabregas replace Cesc Fabregas.

Sarri demands replacement for Chelsea's 10-point winning streak, says Ali

Real Madrid's Ruben Pardo Gutierrez (left) scores past Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois during the La Liga match in Madrid.

Sarri demands replacement for Monaco-bound Fabregas

Real Madrid missed out on the title race when they were held to a draw by Mono.

But Fabregas didn't want to leave Chelsea, where he was handed the first team by Antonio Conte last season.

The former Barcelona man, who has scored 12 goals in 25 appearances this season, said: "When I decided it was time to leave, I knew it was going to be difficult and that I would have to make a difficult decision.

I'll never forget the fans and the support that I received at Chelsea, but it's time for me to move on and it's time for me to start a new chapter in my career."
Bertens grinds down Pera, faces Muguruza next

Two-time Grand Slam winner Muguruza eases past Spaniard Clara Suarez Navarro 6-3, 6-4

**Round-up**

Bertens grinds down Pera, faces Muguruza next

Two-time Grand Slam winner Muguruza eases past Spaniard Clara Suarez Navarro 6-3, 6-4

Sydney to host finals of new ATP World Team Cup

**Resuts/Denotes seeded**

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<td>Mackenzie McDonald (USA)</td>
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<td>AUS</td>
<td>Max Purcell (AUS) 6-4, 6-2</td>
<td>Alex De Minaur (AUS)</td>
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<td>AUS</td>
<td>Jan-Lennard Struff (GER)</td>
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<td>AUS</td>
<td>Hubert Hurkacz (POL)</td>
<td>Jan-Lennard Struff (GER)</td>
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**MONPULLS OUT**

Shapovalov’s pull-out from Sydney means Canada is out of the Sydney International tournament (AELTC).

**ResulTs**

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<tr>
<th>Player</th>
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<td>Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan</td>
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**Players to watch at the Sydney International tournament (AELTC)**

- Dylan Alcott (AUS), the world No 1 and Australian Open champion who is aiming to continue his winning run at the tournament.
- Shuai Zhang (CHN), a multiple Grand Slam winner who has been inExcellent form in recent months and will be hoping to maintain her impressive streak.
- Vitalia Diatchenko (RUS), the world No 58, who has been in solid form this season and will be looking to continue her good run.

**Results**

- John Millman (AUS) defeated Mackenzie McDonald (USA) 6-3, 6-4.
- Max Purcell (AUS) defeated Alex De Minaur (AUS) 6-4, 6-2.
- Jan-Lennard Struff (GER) defeated Kamil Majchrzak (POL) 6-4, 6-4.
- Hubert Hurkacz (POL) defeated Jan-Lennard Struff (GER) 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

**Focus**

- Sydney to host finals of new ATP World Team Cup
- Bertens grinds down Pera, faces Muguruza next
- Halep and Kerber headline star cast at Qatar Total Open 2019

**Sydney to host finals of new ATP World Team Cup**

The new competition will be held on the back of the Davis Cup, which will return to the nations, in London on the 20th. The event is expected to be a family-oriented event, with fans to get to see them, more global exposure for the tournament, and the best of fun as they watch their favourite stars play.

**Bertens grinds down Pera, faces Muguruza next**

Two-time Grand Slam winner Muguruza eases past Spaniard Clara Suarez Navarro 6-3, 6-4

**Halep and Kerber headline star cast at Qatar Total Open 2019**

Halep and Kerber headline star cast at Qatar Total Open 2019
Raptors down Pacers in Lowry's return

‘Good to be out there with my guys. It felt good to help them get a win’

**NBA**

The Toronto Raptors have ended the Indiana Pacers’ two-game winning streak with a 121-105 victory at Scotiabank Arena. The Raptors, who had been struggling for much of the season, played a well-rounded game under the leadership of Kyle Lowry, who scored 19 points.

The win was big for the Raptors, who have been dealing with injuries and a tough schedule. Lowry, who was traded from the Miami Heat last season, has been instrumental in turning around Toronto’s fortunes.

**Scoreline**

Toronto 121, Indiana 105

**Key Stats**

- Kyle Lowry: 19 points, 6 assists, 4 rebounds
- Pascal Siakam: 12 points, 7 assists, 6 rebounds
- Fred VanVleet: 14 points, 4 assists, 2 rebounds
-OG Anunoby: 9 points, 4 rebounds
- Terence Davis: 9 points, 3 assists, 2 rebounds

**Next Game**

Toronto will host the Orlando Magic on Friday night.

By Jordan Green

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**SPORTS**

**Timberwolves fire head coach Thibodeau**

The Minnesota Timberwolves have fired head coach Tom Thibodeau, who is one of the winningest coaches in NBA history but has struggled to bring success to the franchise.

The Timberwolves finished 23-29 under Thibodeau this season, and the team has not made the playoffs since 2017. The firing comes after the team’s sixth straight loss, a 116-98 defeat to the Washington Wizards.

**Thibodeau’s Statement**

“Thank you to the players, the fans, the organization, and everyone who has been a part of this journey. The last six years have been an honor and a privilege. I have learned so much, not only as a coach but as a person. I appreciate the opportunity and will always be grateful for being a part of this franchise. I wish the Timberwolves all the best moving forward.”

**Thibs’ Legacy**

Thibodeau, who had a storied career as a head coach, including leading the Chicago Bulls to the NBA Finals in 2011, has been criticized for his team’s lackluster play in recent seasons.

**Next Move**

The Timberwolves are expected to name interim head coach Ryan Saunders, who has been serving as an assistant coach under Thibodeau.

By Jordan Green

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**Sharks reward F Radil with 1-year extension**

The San Jose Sharks have rewarded forward Adam Radil with a one-year extension, keeping the Slovakian winger in the NHL for another season.

Radil, who has 11 points (5 goals, 6 assists) in 54 games this season, has been a solid contributor for the Sharks, who are currently in the playoff hunt.

**General Manager Doug Wilson**

“Adam is a hardworking player who has contributed to our team in a variety of ways. We are pleased to have him remain a part of the Sharks in 2023.”

**Radil’s Reaction**

“I am very happy to be part of this team. We have a good chance to make the playoffs this year, and I want to contribute to that. I am excited to continue my career in San Jose.”

**Next Game**

The Sharks will host the Vancouver Canucks on Friday night.

By Jordan Green

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**NHL**

The St. Louis Blues have re-signed forward Dylan Strome to a one-year contract, keeping the 22-year-old forward in the organization.

Strome, who has 14 points (6 goals, 8 assists) in 47 games this season, has been a key player for the Blues, who are currently in the playoff race.

**General Manager Bill Guerin**

“Dylan has been a consistent performer for us this season and we are excited to have him back next year. He continues to develop into a solid player for our team.”

**Strome’s Reaction**

“I am happy to be back with the Blues. We have a great group of players and we are working towards making the playoffs.”

**Next Game**

The Blues will host the Nashville Predators on Saturday night.

By Jordan Green

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**5 things you should know about the Minnesota Timberwolves**

1. The Timberwolves are one of the oldest franchises in the NBA, having been founded in 1967.
2. The team has not made the playoffs since 2017, despite having a roster full of talent.
3. Tom Thibodeau, the fired head coach, is one of the winningest coaches in NBA history.
4. The Timberwolves are currently in the playoff hunt, with a 23-29 record entering the firing.
5. The Timberwolves have been criticized for their lackluster play in recent seasons.

By Jordan Green

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**5 things you should know about the St. Louis Blues**

1. The Blues are one of the most storied franchises in the NHL, having won the Stanley Cup in 1967 and 1968.
2. The team has a strong core of young players, including Dylan Strome.
3. The Blues are currently in the playoff race, with a 37-21-7 record entering the re-signing.
4. The Blues have a challenging schedule remaining, with a series of games against tough teams.
5. The Blues will host the Nashville Predators on Saturday night, in a game that could have significant playoff implications.

By Jordan Green

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**For more on the Minnesota Timberwolves and the St. Louis Blues, check out the Gulf Times and Gulf News for the latest updates and analysis.**

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**Gulf Times**

**Gulf News**
**NFL**

**Eagles edge Bears, Chargers oust Ravens in playoff thrillers**

“It came down to the wire, we just hoping for a miss.”

**Spotlight**

‘Old man’ Rivers will be younger QB against Pats

“I just waited on my opportunity to play and it worked out.”

**Eagles edge Bears, Chargers oust Ravens in playoff thrillers**

**Former Cardinals safety Kwamie Lassiter dies at 49**

**Ravens’ Harbaugh: Flacco will ‘have a market’**

**FOCUS**

The paths of New England primary rivals have seemed certain to cross at some point this season. The ways they have intersected were more than predictable. But the drama wasn’t over. Mitch Trubisky drove Chicago down field on the first play from scrimmage in the third quarter to put the Eagles ahead 16-9. But the Bears were unable to convert on fourth down at the Phillips 66-3 Bears half-time lead. But the drama wasn’t over.

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Flacco will ‘have a market’

Joe Flacco is a great talent. He’s an even better person. Joe can still play. I think we saw that the first half of the season. Joe’s going to have a market. A lot of teams are going to want Joe because they understand that and I’ll be in the market. Joe Flacco is a great talent. He’s an even better person.

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Former Cardinals safety Kwamie Lassiter dies at 49

No cause of death was announced, but Arizona Sports' Gila Jackson said: “Kwamie came to the Cardinals as an undrafted free agent in 2001 and went on to a five-year career in the NFL. He was a Dallas Cowboys of Kansas City Royals, and was signed to a three-year contract for 1,201 yards, six touchdowns and three interceptions.

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Qualifying for the NFL playoffs is meant to be a chance for new starts. It’s a fresh start for teams to turn around a disappointing regular season. It’s a chance to get back on track. It’s a chance to make the playoffs and compete for a Super Bowl. It’s a chance to do something special. It’s a chance to prove that you’re better than you were in the regular season.

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Flacco’s career playoff stats are 24-17, with 63 touchdowns and 40 interceptions. He has a career playoff quarterback rating of 89.5. Flacco has a career touchdown-to-interception ratio of 1.4. Flacco has a career touchdown-to-interception ratio of 1.4.

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Flacco finished the regular season 99 of 170 (58.2 percent) with 14 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. He has a career touchdown-to-interception ratio of 1.4. Flacco has a career touchdown-to-interception ratio of 1.4.

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Mandela would not have backed Springbok racial quotas: Kolisi

A new interview was made about the backing Mandela gave the 2001 Rugby World Cup winning Springboks, including a归纳 of all key moments of the tournament. Mandela, who was a key figure in the anti-apartheid movement, was the first black president of South Africa, and his legacy is still felt today. The Springboks defeated their rivals, the New Zealand All Blacks, 15-12 after extra time, carrying off a pack of Ellis Park supporters to share the trophy with the government. The 2001 Rugby World Cup in Japan was a memorable event.

In its last 18 months, Mandela was around the core of all the national events, the government, the people, and the country. Mandela, who died in 2013, was a major supporter of South African rugby, despite it being banned during his presidency. He was born in 1918 in the Transkei province, and was the country's first black president. He was also a key figure in the anti-apartheid movement, and his legacy is still felt today.

**Critics**

Many South Africans reacted angrily to social media on the comments of Kolisi, who became captain last year and finished his first season with a seven-match winning sequence. Some of the main players are now black and white players. Kolisi, a forward, and the first black South African to win a cap for the Springboks, was a key player in the team’s success.

** товарищ**

Springboks were seen to be a team of black and white players. Kolisi said that he had not gone to an English rugby school, he would not have eaten properly, and he did not have grown properly.

Mandela in the Currie Cup (domestic championship) you can play on your own and the teams that were involved in the Currie Cup. Mandela was the first black president of South Africa, and his legacy is still felt today. The Springboks defeated their rivals, the New Zealand All Blacks, 15-12 after extra time, carrying off a pack of Ellis Park supporters to share the trophy with the government. The 2001 Rugby World Cup in Japan was a memorable event.

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S
upercaptain Virat Kohli yesterday called it “an amazing day” for the win that put India ahead of Australia in the Ashes.

The match witnessed some remarkable batting from the Indian team, including Cheteshwar Pujara’s century.

Kohli said, “The series witnessed some big innings, underscoring how much they miss the banned Steve Smith and David Warner.

While India’s batting in Australia has been a constant presence, the team has struggled to make an impact in England.

India won their first-ever Test series in Australia, with the win over Australia being a significant achievement for the Indian team.

India’s bowlers were also in top form, with Jasprit Bumrah and Cheteshwar Pujara’s Sydney knock.

The victory was built on solid teamwork, and the Indian team is now confident going into the next Test against Australia.

India’s victory is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the team, and it is a great accomplishment for Indian cricket.

The Indian team is now looking forward to the next Test against Australia, and they are confident of maintaining their momentum.

India’s victory is a huge achievement, and it has put them on top of the world rankings.

It is a great day for Indian cricket, and the team is looking forward to the next step in their journey.

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