World Cup winner Cafu unveiled as SC Ambassador

I have witnessed the SC’s commitment to ensuring Qatar’s World Cup looks beyond the 28 days of football to inspire...
**Qatar and Argentina set for crucial Copa America match**

Against Argentina, Qatar will fancy their chances, with the Lionel Messi-led struggling to make an impact so far.

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**Uruguay draw against Japan with help of VAR controversy**

Uruguay's late equaliser against Japan was awarded after a VAR review, causing controversy. The result puts both sides in a must-win position for the final group game to book their place in the quarter-finals.

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**Former goalscorer Cech returns to Chelsea as technical adviser**

Cech ended his playing career with Arsenal in 2019 and immediately joined Chelsea as performance-adviser, the Premier League club's latest management move. He joins Frank Lampard's team as the club look to end their 26-year wait for a major title. Cech's appointment kickstarts an exciting period for Chelsea fans, with the Premier League club looking to strengthen their team for the future.

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**New role**

Cech's role at Chelsea is expected to involve working closely with the first-team coaching staff, as well as providing technical and tactical advice to the squad. His experience and expertise will be crucial as Chelsea look to achieve their long-term goals.

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**Focus**

Messi's return to Barcelona for a friendly has raised hopes among fans that he will return to the club permanently. Messi has enjoyed a successful career at Barcelona, winning numerous domestic and international titles, and fans are eager to see him play again for the club he made his name.

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**Newspaper**

The Gulf Times is a leading news and information source in the Middle East, providing coverage on football, politics, and culture. The newspaper's coverage on football is particularly strong, with regular updates on the latest news and developments in the sport.

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**Spotlight**

The Gulf Times has published an article on the upcoming Copa America match between Argentina and Qatar. The article highlights the importance of the game and the challenges each team will face. The article also provides insights into the tactics and strategies that each team is likely to employ.
USA advance with Sweden win

**FOOTBALL**

**USA vs Sweden**

The United States made it to the second round of the World Cup on Thursday by beating Sweden 2-0 to secure their place in the last 16. The US team, ranked 24th in the world, was up against a Sweden team ranked 10th but had failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup. The US women's team, led by Carli Lloyd, scored two goals in eight minutes to secure their win. Lloyd's goals were her 10th and 11th in World Cup history.

**SWEDEN**

Sweden, on the other hand, had a much better game. They had a chance to equalize in the second half but were unable to capitalize on their opportunities. The Swedish team was able to create some chances but was unable to convert them into goals.

**FOCUS**

The game was played in a tense atmosphere, with both teams looking to secure their place in the quarter-finals. The US team was able to dominate the game, with Sweden unable to create many opportunities. The US team's defense was solid, with goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher making several saves to keep Sweden scoreless.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Nigeria hit by cold-illness**

**FOOTBALL**

The Super Eagles, who kick off their World Cup campaign today, are facing a crisis due to the illness of some of their players. Three players, including captain John Obi Mikel, were ruled out of the opening match against Argentina due to illness. The team's preparations were also disrupted by the illness of several other players.

**LEGEND**

**Spain’s World Cup win for last time at 2008 European Championship**

**FOOTBALL**

Spain won the World Cup for the last time at the 2008 European Championship. They were able to win the tournament by beating Germany 1-0 in the final. This was the third time Spain had won the World Cup, making them the most successful European team in the history of the tournament.

**REVIEW**

**Cameroon team depart for Africa Cup of Nations**

The Cameroon national team has departed for the Africa Cup of Nations after initially refusing to board a flight yesterday. The team had asked for twice the amount of security that was initially offered by Cameroon authorities.

**FOCUS**

**Cameroon’s second round trip to Egypt**

This is Cameroon's second trip to Egypt for the Africa Cup of Nations. They last traveled there in 2017, but the match was postponed due to political unrest.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Egyptian security forces prepare for Africa Cup of Nations**

Egyptian authorities have put in place elaborate security measures for the Africa Cup of Nations tournament, which is set to be held in the country from January 14 to February 1.

**LEGEND**

**FOCUS**

**Hosts Egypt put elaborate security in place for prestigious continental event**

Egypt has put in place extensive security measures for the Africa Cup of Nations, which is set to be held in the country from January 14 to February 1. The tournament, which is the most prestigious in African football, is set to feature 24 teams from across the continent.

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**SPOTLIGHT**

Federer battles into 15th Halle semi-final, Zverev crashes out

**AFG**

Federer’s (left) returns to the front of the court to pull away from Zverev (right) during their quarter-final match at the Halle Open. (AFP)

R oger Federer’s (left) return was tested again yesterday as he battled to reach the semi-finals of the Halle Open following a three-set victory over Alexander Zverev. The 37-year-old Swiss star will meet the Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in his 15th semi-final in Halle. The 37-year-old will be among the favourites to win the title this weekend as he returns from a two-month break after his back injury. Federer’s 18th Grand Slam title will be his first since last year’s Australian Open. He blogged this month that his break was “indestructible” going into his first semi-final with Tsonga. “It will be unbelievable for me if I lose. I have played against Thiem, against Djokovic, against Nadal, and have reached the final four every year,” he said. Federer, world no.11, played against three-quarters of the world’s top 30 in the first two weeks of the tournament, including a shock loss against Austria’s Jean-Julien Rojer, which saw him out of the rankings to 21st. Zverev, 21, has been out of action since a quarter-final defeat to Italian Matteo Berrettini in Rome last week. His only match this year was the由此可见, the new boss had taken a very different approach. “It’s been

**FOCUS**

Barty beats Venus to close in on world number one spot

**AFG**

Barty celebrates winning the title of the tournament in Stuttgart. (AFP)

B arty continued her incredible run of form on the grass courts, winning her third title of the year at the Nature Valley Classic, finishing off Venus Williams in straight sets to close in on the top of the world rankings. The 23-year-old Australian overcame the 37-year-old American 6-3, 6-4 to reach the semi-finals of the Mallorca Open. Reigning Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber will also feature in the semi-finals after beating Karolina Pliskova. Barty is now third on the singles ranking list, just 150 points behind her main rival, Pliskova. Barty is aiming to win her first Grand Slam title at the upcoming Wimbledon, which she will play next month as a seeded player. She has won six of her last eight tournaments, including the French Open and the Stuttgart Open. She is currently ranked world No.1 in the world, just three weeks away from becoming the first Australian woman to reach the top of the world rankings. Barty’s win over Venus was her 14th straight singles title, breaking the record for the longest winning streak in women’s tennis. She has won all nine of her matches this year, including three titles. She is the first Australian woman to win a Grand Slam title since Samantha Stosur in 2011. Barty is also the first Australian woman to reach the final of a Grand Slam since Samantha Stosur in 2016.
Pelicans pick Williamson first overall in NBA draft

I didn’t think I’d be in this position. My mom sacrificed a lot for me. I wouldn’t be here without her.

Zion Williamson is interviewed before the start of the 2020 NBA Draft on New York on Thursday night (AFP)

The New Orleans Pelicans selected Zion Williamson with the first overall pick in the 2019 NBA Draft on Thursday, making the Duke star the highest-performing player to be selected first overall in 10 years.

Williamson, a 6-foot-6, 285-pound power forward from South Carolina, was widely considered the best player in the draft and was expected to go to the New York Knicks with the first pick.

However, the Pelicans shocked the basketball world by selecting Williamson, who some scouts had projected to go to the Boston Celtics with the second overall pick.

The Pelicans, who have struggled in recent years, have been rebuilding and were not expected to select Williamson, who averaged 22.6 points and 8.9 rebounds per game for the Blue Devils.

Williamson is considered a once-in-a-generation talent and is expected to become one of the NBA’s best players.

He will join a New Orleans team that has struggled in recent years but has shown signs of improvement in recent seasons.

The Pelicans have made several key offseason pickups, including guard Lonzo Ball, forward Jahlil Okafor and forward Brandon Ingram.

The team has also improved its defense, which was a major problem in recent seasons.

Williamson will join a young Pelicans lineup that includes guards Frank Jackson and Josh Hart.

He will be expected to make an immediate impact and help turn around the franchise.

The Pelicans have not made the playoffs in recent years, but Williamson’s addition could give the team a boost and help it become a Contender in the future.

Williamson is a dominant force on both ends of the court and is expected to be a star in the NBA.

He is a versatile player who can score inside and outside, size him up on defense and rebound the ball well.

He is also a strong passer and distributor, which should complement the team’s other offensive weapons.

With Williamson in the lineup, the Pelicans will have a hard time stopping him from becoming one of the best players in the league.

The Pelicans will need him to succeed, given the team’s lack of depth and experience.

However, with a solid supporting cast and good coaching, the Pelicans could become a force to be reckoned with in the Western Conference.

Williamson’s selection is a major coup for the Pelicans and a major disappointment for the Knicks, who had been expected to select Williamson.

The Knicks had been rebuilding and were expected to select a top talent to help turn around the franchise.

Williamson’s selection was considered a disappointment because the team has struggled in recent years and has not been able to attract free agents.

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agreed to not nach at the 11th, just be-
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the lead after card-
Green hit the tee shot during the second round of the Women’s PGA Championship at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minnesota, on Thursday, USA TODAY SPORTS
proud of, who finished runner-up at Peb-
West Indies still in race for semi, insists Holder

West Indies' Chris Gayle (left) and Jason Holder inspect the noen after the Bangladesh-Turin, United Kingdom, on Monday. (Reuters)

Ferguson reveals in New Zealand's powerful World Cup batting line-up

New Zealand's Lash Ferguson

New Zealand's Ross Taylor and Ferguson, who is also complemented by Graeme Smith, hold most experienced English conditions.

Lash Ferguson has said they will take some learning from this game, but gained advice on English conditions.

Jason Roy has scored 42 and still in the hunt for the semi-finals with New Zealand beating against the West Indies.

England's Roy revels in New Zealand's powerful World Cup batting line-up

England's Roy is only the second time Roy told BBC that he is not going to get a chance to play in the upcoming international matches.

England's Roy was also keen to highlight the importance of batting in the World Cup.

New Zealand's Kane Williamson hits a six on his way to 106 not out during the ICC Cricket World Cup match against South Africa at Edgbaston, Birmingham, United Kingdom, on Wednesday. (Reuters)

No 'Bull', I'm 'Hum-bull', says Australia's Warner

No 'Bull', I'm 'Hum-bull', says Australia's Warner.
Sri Lanka survive Stokes assault to shock England

“Sri Lanka deserved it. Even if we had nicked it then it would have been us robbing the game”

India won’t lower guard against mauled Rashid: Shankar

“Every day is different, and every day is different. You cannot take things for granted...”

Afghanistan captain Gulbadin Naib said he was “gutted” after his side suffered a heavy defeat to England in the Cricket World Cup today.

“The last game gave us some confidence, and especially playing against Pakistan, making my bowlers dive in,” Naib said.

“Even in my last match I showed how good I am, and that’s what made me decided to play against Pakistan,” he added.