Qatar’s young guns will take on Brazil, the Selecao, renowned for their past glories, and it will be a test of their preparations ahead of the Asian Cup in January 2023, in which Qatar will be the defending champions. The match will be a part of a three-match series that Qatar played against South Korea, Switzerland and Ecuador, among others, before heading off to the Copa America. "There is no denying the fact that there is still a lot of time before the Copa America. Let’s see how far we can go, in any case, the experience of playing in the Copa America will be of great help to the Qatar national team," he added. Qatar's biggest friendly ever and the only time the two sides have met in history, comes just after the country had hosted the FIFA World Cup in 2022, with seven of their 16 matches, four of them in the group stage, taking place in Qatar, and the other three in Al Rayyan and Doha. The match will be played at Khalifa International Stadium, which is part of the country's preparations for the Asian Cup in January 2023. From a 10-wicket thrashing by Nepal in the Asia Cup, Sri Lanka had been struggling and had been unable to win any of their last six matches in World Cup cricket, losing by seven wickets to Afghanistan, the runners-up, in their World Cup opener. But paceman Pradeep struck twice, having Kusal Mendis caught by Rahmat Shah at second slip for 23 and then removing Angelo Mathews for a golden duck, with a diving catch in the deep to dislodge the off stump. Sri Lanka's Nuwan Pradeep (2L) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Afghanistan's Rashid Khan for two runs at Sophia Gardens Stadium in Cardiff yesterday. Sri Lanka's Nuwan Pradeep celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Afghanistan's Rashid Khan for two runs at Sophia Gardens Stadium in Cardiff yesterday.

**Chance for Qatar young guns to impress against Brazil**

"Of course, if Neymar plays we will try our best to minimise his impact on the match but they also have other great players that we will have to deal with," Saudi Arabia's captain, former France and Manchester United midfielder, thundered. "There are not many difficult things to do when playing against Brazil. There are 11 world-class players from this team and anyone of them can make a difference in the game. We will have to be very focused and have the right tactics to deal with them," he said.

**FOOTBALL FRIENDLY**

**Qatar's Salman al-Ansari elected in AFC Appeals Committee**

Paris: Qatar's Salman al-Ansari has been elected as the deputy chairman of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Appeals Committee at the AFC Extraordinary Congress in Paris on Thursday. Al-Ansari, who is also the deputy chairperson of the AFC Appeals Committee, is part of the AFC executive committee and members of the AFC executive committee - AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee - AFC Appeal Committee. AFC members will vote next period for a period of four years based on the recommendations of the AFC executive committee. Al-Ansari was elected as the chairman of the AFC Appeals Committee in 2012. He was re-elected for a second term of four years in 2016. Al-Ansari's election to the position marks his third term in the position.

**AFGHANISTAN INNINGS**

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**SOUTH AFRICA not to be taken lightly, says Kohli**

"Of course, if Neymar plays we will try our best to minimise his impact on the match but they also have other great players that we will have to deal with," Saudi Arabia's captain, former France and Manchester United midfielder, thundered. "There are not many difficult things to do when playing against Brazil. There are 11 world-class players from this team and anyone of them can make a difference in the game. We will have to be very focused and have the right tactics to deal with them," he said.
India are banking on their ex- pression in their World Cup opener and cannot take the opportu-

nities of boasting attack cheaply, captain Virat Kohli said yesterday, insisting the Proteas can call upon quality-

rear replacements.

India have scored second in the world and will be first fa-

vourite to put their foot forward against South Africa in the three World Cup matches against the for-

mer champions this year.

"We need to fight all our ex-

pression on the field because a few key players get injured or not. If a cricketer is stepping in and he has the right mindset, he can re-

ably perform on the day," Kohli said, maintaining for respect that and focus on our strength and what we can offer.

"It's very important," Kohli, who is captaining the Indian side for the first time in a World Cup, said his team's first step to start winning games against the World Cup holders was to win the opening game against South Africa. The match, which will be played in Southampton on June 1, will have lot of myth around it. It's important for us to win that match and then it's very important for us to play very well from there on," Kohli said.

"We have to prepare for the World Cup in the best possible way," he said.

"In every match, we have to prepare for the next match," he said.

India's World Cup opener against South Africa will be followed by their second game against Pakistan on June 16 in Manchester and their last game against Bangladesh on June 30 in Birmingham.

"The errors you would make in the tourna-

ment will be reduced as the tournament goes on," he said.

"We have to work hard and keep making improvements in our strength and weaknesses," he said.

"Before the World Cup, our focus is to get our combinations right and then get ready for the tournament," he said.

"India and South Africa will be with-

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Bangladesh look to Shakib to tame New Zealand

I think that we are in a good place, mentally. I think if we can continue in this manner, we can go a long way in this tournament.

Shakib came to this World Cup after an opening match. That wicket made Shakib only the third Bangladesh player to play at least 5,000 international matches. This was so nearly a real milestone moment. But they could not take England over the line after reaching 206. England had a big edge and they were going to encourage him. It's no different from a Steve Waugh or a Nick Faldo. That's exactly what will happen.

That almost proved extremely costly for Pakistan. It almost looked like they were going to win the match. When they turned to Saini, they could not take England at the World Cup. They will learn very smartly from this match. This was a little too fast, a little too painful.

Pakistan missed a trick here. They could not take England on the backside after they had gone right against South Africa. England's bowling was pretty good and they had some bad days,

England are comfortable when they can get a big lead. But they can also lose a big lead. England do not have the same South London ground. They were pushing 200 when they got back on the park. It was a big lead. It was a big lead after three figures.

If he (Warner) goes and gets a ton, it will be a morale booster for them.

It was a little too fast, a little too painful.

It was a little too fast, a little too painful.

If he (Warner) goes and gets a ton, it will be a morale booster for them.
Hasan hails Arthur for Pakistan revival as England beaten

‘We had an upset against the West Indies on Friday but the guys bounced back’

Eoin Morgan, team captain, England

England’s Roy, Archer fined for breaching ICC code

Jofra Archer and Jos Buttler were fined for using an audible obscenity during the 2019 World Cup. Both players have also had two demerit points added to their records.

England’s Roy fined

Fast bowler Archer was found guilty of using an audible obscenity against Pakistan at Trent Bridge.

Bottomline

‘Don’t panic’ Root tells England after loss to Pakistan

Joe Root, England’s captain, told the team not to panic after their loss to Pakistan in the 2019 World Cup.
**NBA**

**Warriors’ Looney out, Thompson questionable**

Klay said he’ll be fine, but Klay could be half dead and he would say he would be fine.

**MLB**

**Machado slam helps Padres defeat slumping Phillies**

The Padres came out of the gate and beamed. But that might not be the biggest loss sustained by the Phillies.

**STANLEY CUP**

**Blues bounce back to square finals with Bruins**

The Blues bounced back to square the finals with the Bruins.
ATHLETICS

IAAF vows to continue its fight after Swiss court decision on Semenya

Swiss Federal Court ruled that the long-distance runner cannot compete against men until testosterone levels are reduced.

A

thletics governing body IAAF said yesterday it would not appeal the landmark Swiss court decision that banned the world’s most successful female runner from competing against men unless she lowers testosterone levels.

A FILE PHOTO OF GERARD THOMAS (BRENNER/GETTY IMAGES)

By Dominic Everson

In world athletics, there is no higher stage than the Olympics. This year, the Games are in Tokyo, and two athletes will be competing for gold: Caster Semenya of South Africa and Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands. Semenya is one of the world’s most successful long-distance runners, having won three Olympic gold medals and setting a world record in the 800 meters. However, her gender has been the subject of much controversy and debate, leading to a legal battle with the IAAF over her eligibility to compete against men. The Swiss Federal Court ruled against Semenya, stating that she must undergo medical treatment to reduce her testosterone levels in order to compete. Semenya has vowed to appeal the decision, but for now, she is out of the running.

RUGBY

Pollard hops back across ocean to rejoin Bulls

REUTERS

Flyhalf Handre Pollard said on Tuesday he had hoped to return across the Pacific as soon as possible but management and medical staff had convinced him to stay with Super Rugby team the Stormers in South Africa for now.

A FILE PHOTO OF HANDRE POLLARD (REUTERS)

By David Llong

Handre Pollard said he was “extremely excited” to return to Super Rugby after recovering from a calf injury in July.

NFL

Rams reducing running back Gurley’s role in 2019

The Los Angeles Rams have reduced the workload of veteran running back Todd Gurley, who had a career year in 2018 but is recovering from a knee injury.

A FILE PHOTO OF T.J. WATT (REUTERS)

By Jack DiCicco

The Rams have been cautious with Gurley’s workload this season, limiting his playing time in the team’s first two games of the season.

Cycling

Thomas prepared for tough defence of Tour de France crown

‘Everyone’s improving. The competition is definitely tougher this year’

Thomas says Chris Froome told him he had enjoyed his time in the race and had been able to focus on retaining the crown.

A FILE PHOTO OF GERARD THOMAS (MARK CLEVELANDERS)

By Dominic Everson

Geraint Thomas has vowed to prepare for a tough defence of his Tour de France crown.

Golf

Shahbaad Handke

Pantech | The Gulf Times

S

impled Shahbaad Handke Pollard told The Gulf Times yesterday that he was eager to return to Super Rugby, where he has been a key player for the Stormers over the past two seasons.

A FILE PHOTO OF SHAHBAAD HANDBE (REUTERS)

By Mohamed Jaffer

Shahbaad Handke Pollard said that he was looking forward to returning to Super Rugby after a successful two seasons with the Stormers.

London

AFP

Thomas told The Gulf Times yesterday that he had enjoyed his time in the race and had been able to focus on retaining the crown.

A FILE PHOTO OF GERARD THOMAS (MARK CLEVELANDERS)

By Dominic Everson

Geraint Thomas has vowed to prepare for a tough defence of his Tour de France crown.

Gulf Times

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

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| CYCLING |

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Cristiano Ronaldo has ended his international career with a thrilling victory in the Nations League semi-final against Switzerland in Porto, Portugal. Ronaldo has scored 27 goals in all competitions this season, helping Eintracht Frankfurt to be promoted to the Bundesliga and become a major force in the sport. His return did not go to plan as Fernandinho scored early in the match, but Ronaldo stepped up with a brilliant header in the second fixture of a double-header. In his absence, Bernardo Silva and Bruno Fernandes impressed, with the latter scoring a goal. Ronaldo’s return also became the principal creative force for Portugal, whose star man took the game by the horns.

On Monday, QFA President Toon Baeyens said he could see a future in five years or beyond. Maybe there are things the coach is not aware of at the moment. I don’t know what the situation will be in five years or beyond. Maybe there are limitations about the system.
Rafael Nadal yesterday became the first man to reach the French Open semi-finals in six years after easily seeing off 17th-seeded Diego Schwartzman of Argentina in four sets. Nadal, 33, overcame his 26-year-old opponent 6-1, 6-3, 6-4.

Nadal has reached the French Open semi-finals for a record 14th time and is unbeaten in 32 matches at Roland Garros.

"I'm happy to be able to come back and to fight for my 10th title," Nadal said.

Nadal, who won his first Roland Garros title in 2005, has now won 13 of his 14 French Open semi-finals and is aiming for a record 15th title in Paris.

"I have a very good feeling on the court, I'm happy with how I'm playing," Nadal said.

The Spaniard had a surprise injury but will be back for the semi-finals, where he will face either Roger Federer or Fabio Fognini. Nadal leads their head-to-head 11-0 and is looking to win his 15th French Open title.

Federer, 38, thrashed 16th seed Stan Wawrinka 6-1, 6-3, 6-1.

Federer, who is bidding for a 10th French Open title and 20th Grand Slam, had spent four more hours on court than Nadal and his efforts took their toll on the 31-year-old Chilean.

"It was a disappointment but I think Roland Garros is a good place for me at the moment," Wawrinka said.

The 2009 French Open champion, who was seeded 24th, has not won a match at Roland Garros since 2012.