Organisations, individuals honoured for 2030 bid success

Ceremony was held under the patronage of HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, Qatar Olympic Committee President

By Sports Reporter

The Qatar Olympic Committee held a celebration last evening in honour of organisations and individuals who played a role in Qatar winning the bid to host the 2030 Asian Games. The ceremony was held under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, President of the Qatar Olympic Committee and Chairman of the Doha 2030 Bid Committee.

HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, President of the Qatar Olympic Committee, presented mementos to HE Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani, President of the Qatar Football Association, Hassan al-Thawadi, Secretary-General of the Supreme Committee, Joaan al-Thani, First Vice President of the Qatar Olympic Committee, Abdul Hadi al-Sahli, Director of The Public Works Authority (Ashghal), sports leaders, heads of federations and the media were among the dignitaries felicitated by HE Sheikh Joaan on the occasion.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Sheikh Joaan praised those who worked hard to make the bid a success, saying he was proud of each one of them.

“More than two months ago we submitted to the Olympic Council of Asia the Doha bid document in order to get Qatar to host the Asian Games for the second time after hosting the Games of 1995 in 2030”, Sheikh Joaan said.

“And we must tonight in celebration of this achievement where you proved your competences and stood up to the confidence that was placed upon us, to thank you.”

Sheikh Joaan added: “This victory is reality in a promise that we made in the name of our beloved country for the sports community in Asia and even of the world, and held to an agreement of the Olympic Council.”

We have a lot to accomplish in the coming days and years to fulfill our promise with our deep appreciation for everyone who stood up and continued to work creatively and sincerely. He concluded by saying: “Brothers and sisters, we will embark on a new path of coexistence, sports organisations and the private sector will work starting from now. Our ambition has no limits especially as we work according to the strategy of achieving and building the national and continental heritage.”

Abdul Hadi al-Sahli from the Marketing and Communications Department of the Qatar Olympic Committee and the 2030 Asian Games will be an important event in the history of the continent.

“I am very proud of this occasion of Asia. We call all the people of Asia, call all the football fans, call all the sports leaders, to take part in this event,” he said.

“We will make the best of the 2030 Asian Games in the Netherlands in honour of organisations and individuals who played a role in Qatar winning the bid to host the 2030 Asian Games.”

Officials attend the Qatar Olympic Committee’s celebration yesterday in Msheireb Downtown in honour of organisations and individuals who played a role in Qatar winning the bid to host the 2030 Asian Games.

Difficult for any country to compete with Qatar in infrastructure: UEFA chief

By Sports Reporter

UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin has lauded Qatar’s preparations for the FIFA World Cup in 2022, describing Qatar as the ‘best prepared country in the Middle East’.

The European football’s governing body’s chief had visited Al-Wakrah where the recently completed Al-Wakrah Stadium had the Al-Shamal All-Stars, South Korea’s FIFA World Cup side.

Ceferin is the latest prominent figure to express admiration of Qatar’s progress as he spoke of his confidence that the country will deliver a highly successful World Cup.

“It is very important for a country that will not have played in the World Cup to start building a football stadium that will host a World Cup. That is what Qatar has done in Al-Wakrah,” Ceferin said.

Ceferin was impressed by Qatar’s preparations for the FIFA World Cup.

“I have seen the leaders of Qatar are focused on football. Therefore, it will be great to attend and play football in a country like this. And also the World Cup is in winter, while here in November, there will be World Cup. Therefore, it is wonderful. It is the ideal time for players to play football,” he said.

The UEFA President said Qatar team will play a lot by playing as a guest team in the European qualifiers for the World Cup. Qatar, who have already qualified for the 2022 World Cup by virtue of being the hosts, have been included in the European qualifiers along with Portugal, Serbia, Greece, Luxembourg and Ireland.

Matches played by Qatar will be treated as friendlies and their results won’t be taken into account while deciding the qualifying spots from the group when action gets underway in March next year. “This is the first time in Qatar that football will participate in the European qualifiers. Qatar will play a lot of good, as they prepare for the World Cup. They need to play against best teams and European qualifiers will help them do that,” Ceferin said.

NBA  |  Page 5

Tatum hits game-winner as Celtics edge Bucks

By Sports Reporter

Jayson Tatum hit a game-winning jumper with 0.9 seconds left to lift the Boston Celtics to a 98-96 win over the Milwaukee Bucks.

The third-place Celtics, who clinched a playoff spot earlier in the day, finished a season sweep of the top-seeded Bucks.

Tatum scored 24 points and added 14 rebounds.

"This is a game we tested for all season," Tatum said. "They’re the team we want to face. It is a tough team to鸟 break down in the second half. It was a good win for us."
Hernandez strikes late to keep Milan ahead of Inter

AFP

Napoli coach Gattuso reveals struggles with eye disease

FOOTBALL

SERIE A

Napoli coach Gennaro Gattuso has been hospitalised after going into hospital with a blocked nose, just hours after they had defeated Inter Milan at the San Siro - and just two days after he was taken out of the game against Verona because of eye trouble.

Napoli coach Gattuso revealed a late winner to keep AC Milan top of Serie A, heading into the winter break with a 3-1 victory over Ironically, the game was held in Milan, with both teams aware of the need to turn things around after successive losses. Striking a goal deep into stoppage time, Hernandez was instrumental in turning Napoli's fortunes around, allowing them to maintain their unbeaten run in Serie A, which now stands at six matches. While Milan have also continued their winning streak, Napoli's victory over Inter has further solidified their position as a serious contender for the Serie A title, currently sitting in second place with a three-point lead over third-placed Roma.

In a crucial match, the result was highly contested, with both teams vying for the top spot. Inter's starting lineup featured a number of key players, including Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who was back from injury to make his return to the starting XI. However, it was Napoli who proved to be the stronger side on this occasion, with Gattuso's side continuing to dominate the game.

The match began with both teams attacking from the start, with Inter pushing for early goals. Despite their efforts, Inter failed to capitalize on their chances, and Napoli's defense held firm, allowing them to keep the visitors at bay. In the second half, Napoli started to take control of the game, with Gattuso's side applying constant pressure on Inter's defense. The Italian giants struggled to create any meaningful opportunities, and Napoli continued to push forward with great intensity.

The turning point of the match came late in the second half, when Hernandez scored from the penalty spot to give Napoli a 1-0 lead. The goal was a direct result of a technical foul by Inter's defense, and Hernandez stepped up to take the penalty, sending the ball into the top corner of the net. The goal was a crucial one for Napoli, as it secured their victory and allowed them to continue their winning streak.

In the final minutes of the match, Hernandez added a second goal to ensure the victory for Napoli. With the result, Napoli now sit at the top of Serie A, three points clear of Inter, who remain in second place. The match has been a crucial one for both teams, with Napoli looking to maintain their unbeaten run and Inter aiming to secure a crucial win to remain in the title race.

Hernandez's late winner has been a key moment in the match, as it has helped Napoli to solidify their position as one of the leading teams in Serie A. With the victory, Napoli have now secured four consecutive wins, while Inter have lost two of their last three matches. The result has been a significant boost for Napoli, who are now just a point behind the leaders, and will be looking to continue their winning streak in their upcoming fixtures.

In conclusion, the match between Napoli and Inter has been a monumental one, with Hernandez playing a crucial role in securing the victory for Napoli. The goal was a direct result of a technical foul by Inter's defense, and Hernandez stepped up to take the penalty, sending the ball into the top corner of the net. The goal was a crucial one for Napoli, as it secured their victory and allowed them to continue their winning streak. With the result, Napoli now sit at the top of Serie A, three points clear of Inter, who remain in second place. The match has been a crucial one for both teams, with Napoli looking to maintain their unbeaten run and Inter aiming to secure a crucial win to remain in the title race.
Manchester United fans have been4

**FOOTBALL**

**Rangers cruise as Celtic remain in second**

Scottish Premiership leaders Rangers cruised to a 1-0 win at St John's Park, while champions Celtic could only draw 2-2 at Kilmarnock as Scott Arfield netted his 10th goal of the season to rescue a point at the top of the table to hand the Glasgow Clax 10th place to Scottish title rivals.

**PREMIER LEAGUE**

Salah is happy at Liverpool, says manager Klopp

Liverpool coach Jürgen Klopp was delighted in his post-match press conference that Mohamed Salah is happy at Liverpool, saying the forward is enjoying his football and that the fans can be reassured that he will be playing for the Reds for the foreseeable future.

**SPOTLIGHT**

Manchester United v Rangers in League Cup semi-final

Manchester United will face Rangers in the League Cup semi-final on Tuesday. The Red Devils recorded a comfortable 3-0 win over Midtjylland on Wednesday night to set up their clash with the Scottish champions at Old Trafford.

**FOCUS**

Rangers cruise as Celtic remain in second

Scottish Premiership leaders Rangers cruised to a 1-0 win at St John's Park, while champions Celtic could only draw 2-2 at Kilmarnock as Scott Arfield netted his 10th goal of the season to rescue a point at the top of the table to hand the Glasgow Clax 10th place to Scottish title rivals.
Chinese national Sun Yang has had his eight-year ban reduced to four years by an arbitration panel at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Thursday that it had upheld a ban referred to the Swiss court against the CAS Panel on "the grounds of bias of one of the arbitrators of the CAS".

"We do not believe the Panel is capable of being impartial," China’s CAS Panel member Yang said in a statement.

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Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (8) guard Jeff Teague (left), and guard Jaylen Brown (10) celebrate after making a shot against the Milwaukee Bucks during the second half of an NBA game in Boston, Massachusetts, United States, on Friday, December 31, 2021.

**NBA**

*Los Angeles, United States*

Jayson Tatum, candidate for the 2022 Most Valuable Player Award, reportedly had a five-year contract extension reportedly good to get a win, "Tatum said.

"I want to be down the stretch, I want to shoot the last two free throws, I want to have that shot because if you think about it, if you do that 1,000 times, one of those times it’s going to go in.

The last three for Boston was one of a dozen games on the second night of the 2021-22 season. The Los Angeles Lakers hosted the season opener against the Oklahoma City Thunder, which was postponed in accordance with the league’s Health and Safety Protocols, " the NBA said in a statement about two hours after the game was postponed.

"Following the contact tracing protocol, four other players are quarantined at this time. Additionally, James Harden is unavailable due to a violation of the league’s Health and Safety Protocols. Harden has four 3-10s with two assists and came up with two steals.

"Tatum, who said he “played terrible” in the first quarter, scored 35 points, 13 rebounds, two assists and three blocks in the first half of the game. He made four of the first five three-pointers he attempted in the second quarter, but the Celtics only scored six more points.

"I think that position, " Tatum said of stepping up with four-tenths of a second left, but the Los Angeles Lakers were unable to score.

"It’s the first one of the season, so it felt good to put a win," Tatum said.

"They got one shot down the clock, but I was able to get that stop because you can’t be soft when under you can’t. "

"You don’t want the second-year player who is unavailable due to a violation of the league’s Health and Safety Protocols," the NBA said.

**SPOTLIGHT**

*Los Angeles, United States*

D onald Sterling basketball operations since 2017, China’s state broad- caster CCTV said on Tuesday that the team’s majority owner Jayson Tatum is reportedly good to get a win, "Tatum said.

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Saints look for bounce-back win against Vikings

The Saints need two wins and hope other results go their way to reach the playoffs.

The Cincinnati Bengals have had two weeks to adjust to life without star quarterback Joe Burrow, who missed the team’s Week 16 loss to the Dallas Cowboys after suffering a torn ACL in Week 15.

The Bengals have not won since Burrow was injured, and they enter Sunday’s game against the Baltimore Ravens as 2.5-point underdogs. If the Bengals lose, they will be eliminated from playoff contention.

However, the Saints have a opportunity to make their playoff hopes a reality with a win over the Vikings.

In recent years, the Saints have struggled against the Vikings, losing four of their last five meetings.

But this season, the Saints have shown signs of improvement, winning three of their last five games.

With a win over the Vikings, the Saints would move to 9-6-1 on the season and force a three-way tie for the NFC South title with the New Orleans Saints and Atlanta Falcons.

The Saints need to win their remaining two games and hope that other teams lose in order to secure a playoff berth. The Saints have already clinched the NFC South title.

In addition to the Saints, the New Orleans Saints are also in the mix for a Wild Card berth.

The Saints have a tough schedule ahead, with games against the Dallas Cowboys, Carolina Panthers, and New England Patriots remaining.

But with a win over the Vikings, the Saints would set themselves up for a potential playoff run.
S Africa seek red ball revenge in first Test v Lanka

They have lost eight of their last nine Tests, a run that began in February 2019 with a shock 2-0 home defeat by Sri Lanka who became the first Asian side to win a series in the country.

New captain Quinton de Kock has a tough task on his hands as South Africa aim to revive their Test fortunes.

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Cricketers aim to restore pride in second Test

India are aiming to restore pride after a 3-0 defeat in the four-Test series against Australia, which ends today with the final Test in Sydney. India, who lost all four Tests, are hoping for a clean sweep in the first three Tests of the series to avoid an inglorious离去.

"We need to start well on Boxing Day morning and then be consistent because India, we know, will fight back," India's captain Virat Kohli said.

India have far more selection dilemmas than Australia, who will play three Tests in Melbourne and the T20 final in Sydney. India have four first-choice bowlers and an uncertain third seamer. In contrast, Australia have a depleted team but are still confident.

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"I've said that to become a great team you can't lose the games. When you take the best players out of any cricket team, then of course it weakens them, that it just reality, and it gives us an advantage," said Australia's coach Justin Langer.

"We've got a range of continuity to enable play to continue," he said.

"There's a relatively short gap between the third and fourth Tests, so from a pitch perspective it's highly, highly problematic," he said.

"We've been really buoyed by that the New South Wales and Sydney communities seem to be getting on top of this," said Langer.

"We've got a range of continuity to enable play to continue," he said.

"There's a relatively short gap between the third and fourth Tests, so from a pitch perspective it's highly, highly problematic," he said.