Innovation is the name of the game

Ross Hutchins, the managing director of the first-ever ATP Cup, says fans and players will be treated to some never-before-seen technology

England ready to support scrapping 5-day Tests

CRICKET | Page 6

LeBron James is turning 35, but still remains a dominating force

QMMF officials to attend opening of Dakar International Rally

FOOTBALL

Pogba to return for Arsenal trip, agent rules out move

Note: The Qatar Amiri and Min¬
ister of Local Government and
Municipal Affairs, H.E. Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, who is defending the title he won at the begin¬ning of 2019, tops the list of contest¬ants in the new version of the rally. The Dakar Rally will be held for the 40 years in Europe, Africa and South America. Saudi Arabia will be the 30th country to host the rally since its official launch in 1977.
Arsenal against United recalls brighter times for faded giants

“We are the biggest football club in England, and we have to play a little bit with that arrogance, that belief”

Restaurant

City clash will be good barometer of Everton’s progress: Ancelotti

“Maybe City aren’t at the same level as last year but they still remain a fantastic team with fantastic players and a fantastic manager.”

Manchester Unite v Bournemouth forecast: Pogba to return for Arsenal trip, agent rules out move

“Pogba is a fantastic player, but we need to have the confidence to compete and he focused on football.”

Spurs' Harry Kane to return vs Arsenal

“Pogba felt pain in his ankle on Boxing Day."
Scottish Premiership

Morelos ‘razially abused’ in win over Celtic, says Rangers

Rangers defeated Celtic 1-0 at Ibrox, with Alfredo Morelos scoring the only goal of the match. The striker was allegedly subjected to racist abuse by a section of the Celtic fans during the match.

Rangers manager Steven Gerrard said, “I’ve seen no evidence of that but I do think the fans at Ibrox were racially abused. We are aware of the consequences made by the player towards Celtic supporters,” Gerrard said.

Celtic manager Ange Postecoglou, however, denied any racist abuse occurred.

In other news, Rangers and Lennon have come under criticism for their post-match press conference.

Meanwhile, the SPL released a statement condemning the abuse and calling on fans to support their clubs.

IPL

Noble asks fans to get behind Moyes in rescue mission

West Ham United captain Mark Noble has urged the club’s fans to get behind new manager David Moyes.

“I’ve always put the club before myself in my career. I just want us to do well,” Noble said.

Moyes was appointed as West Ham’s manager in January, replacing Manuel Pellegrini, who was sacked in October.

“I know the fans are not happy but I do believe we will get back to where we were,” Noble added.

In other news, West Ham have faced criticism for their decision to sack Pellegrini just two months after he led them to safety.

Meanwhile, West Ham are also facing a transfer ban, which prevents them from signing new players until January 2022.

In the Premier League, Liverpool have continued their winning streak, while Manchester United have struggled.

Premier League highlights Liverpool are determined to carry on improving as they prepare to visit West Ham United on Saturday. The Reds are looking to extend their unbeaten run to 13 games and are currently top of the table.

FA Cup

Flamengo coach Jesus granted order of recognition by Portugal

Flamengo coach Jorge Jesus has been granted a special award by the Portuguese government for his services to the sport.

Jesus led Flamengo to the Brazilian Cup and the Copa Libertadores title last year, and the Brazilian club have confirmed that the coach will be presented as an AC Milan player in January.

The 65-year-old Jesus was named as the coach of Flamengo in 2018, and led the club to five titles in his first two seasons.

After focusing on Thursday’s league match against Sheffiel United and Sunday’s FA Cup tie against Everton. “We’ve got a couple of huge games at home in the next two weeks: Bradford City and Sheffield United. We want to maintain that form going into the New Year and keep Anfield a difficult venue for our opponents,” Lallana said.

There will be no let up from Liverpool, says Lallana

In an interview with the club’s official website, Lallana said, “We want to maintain that form going into the New Year and keep Anfield a difficult venue for our opponents.”

He added, “We believe Alfredo was racially abused and we will take action against Florentino. We believe Alfredo was racially abused and we will take action against Florentino.”

Liverpool became only the third team to go unbeaten in 10 consecutive home games in the Premier League this season, and currently sit five points clear at the top of the table.

Morelos ‘razially abused’ in win over Celtic, says Rangers

Rangers’ Alfredo Morelos left the pitch after being shown a red card by referee Karen Carson, with Rangers’ manager Steven Gerrard expressing his concerns during their Scottish Premiership clash against Celtic in Glasgow. (Bloomberg)
England might drop either Anderson or Broad for 2nd Test

You’ve got to look at the surface and at an attack you feel is best going to counter that.
Giannis gets 23 in return from injury

Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo (right) drives to the basket against Chicago Bulls' Daniel Gafford during the first half at United Center.

Los Angeles

Giannis gets 23 in return from injury

Antetokounmpo, who missed the previous two games because of a knee injury, tallied 23 points and 10 rebounds as the Milwaukee Bucks defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 123-102 on Wednesday night.

The 28-year-old signal caller finished with a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

The Bucks shot a season-high 70% from the field in the third quarter, putting Milwaukee ahead 100-68 on the road.

Milwaukee Bucks guard Wesley Matthews sat out the game having lost nine of 11.

NBA

Penguins rout Senators but lose Guentzel to injury

Evan Rodrigues scored twice and added an assist as the Pittsburgh Penguins capped off a week in which they got an unexpected boost from an injured player when they routed the Ottawa Senators 5-2 on Wednesday night.

The win came after an apparent upper body injury to Pittsburgh's leading scorer Jake Guentzel, who earlier in the day was named to the AI

NFL

Raiders sign Incognito to 2-year extension

The Oakland Raiders signed guard Richie Incognito to a two-year contract extension through the 2021 season Monday, according to the NFL Network.

Incognito's deal is worth $18 million with $10 million guaranteed. Cooper said the team had been working on an extension since last season.

The 34-year-old Incognito had one of the best seasons of his career in 2019. The 36-year-old is an eight-year NFL veteran who has 12 seasons of playoff experience that should serve them well to play more football at home fans in Santa Clara on Jan. 9.

The Senators again made tough and a surge of momentum.

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During the extraordinary off-season about-face, the NFC West surtout including countless clutch plays in close games.

"It's just an incredible feeling. Appreciation is something that we don't want to take for granted," said offensive tackle Trent Brown.

"He's been playing through it and I think it's all a class when you have players others in football."
LeBron is turning 35, but he's still a dominating force in NBA
Coaching legend Hansen insists he’s still Steve

‘I’m just plain old Steve, and that’s how I’d prefer to be called going forward too’ he’s still Steve

Hansen insists

Coaching legend spent eight years as an assistant with a wry sense of humour

tribution to rugby union.

Honours list, but insisted he was

in the New Zealand New Year’s

receiving a knighthood

Sir Stephen yesterday

Steve Hansen

Steve was not without his

Steve Hansen

six times.

W orld Cup, fi nished third in

2019, were W orld Rugby’s team

on his working life as a policeman,

that’s how I’d prefer to be called

I’m just plain old Steve, and

ubiquity, but informed he was

All Blacks head coach Steve Hansen insists

in the world after a season in

Sharapova has been troubled

2008 but also tested positive

by shoulder injury restricted her to eight

Sharapova to return next month as Brisbane wildcard

Sharapova

BASKETBALL

Coaching legend

spare no expense to pay debts

RUGBY

Injured Slade gets a doubt for England’s Six Nations start

Slade has 27 caps for England,

The 26-year-old sustained the

14.

it at W asps, “ Exeter’s Director of

season after he fractured

seasons ago when he fractured

Botetourt, who once

is a couple of

a woeful off season and I am moti-

his obvious thing, “ he said.

lamented an impressive 86.9 %

have worked with.

Never thought I would be good

for a jockey and started

Sharapova

Sharapova

“T o be fair when I was young-

Sharapova

Sharapova

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Sharapova
One of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy’s major highlights during 2019 was the inauguration of the spectacular Al Janoub Stadium. The 40,000-capacity venue, designed by architectural legend Zaha Hadid, was unveiled to the world in May when it hosted the Amir Cup final.

Al Janoub Stadium became the second FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 tournament venue to open after Khalifa International Stadium’s successful redevelopment was completed in 2017.

Six more stadiums are being constructed for Qatar 2022, with three of them – Education City Stadium, Al Bayt Stadium and Al Rayyan Stadium – in the final stages of delivery. All the venues will be completed and tested well in advance of the tournament, which kicks off on 21 November 2022. Here is a rundown of the latest progress update from each of the stadiums:

**KHALIFA INTERNATIONAL STADIUM**

It’s been a busy year for Qatar’s national stadium. It hosted the IAAF World Athletics Championships in September and October before being a host venue for two major football tournaments: the Arabian Gulf Cup and FIFA Club World Cup.

**AL JANOB STADIUM**

Al Janoub Stadium became the first Qatar 2022 to be built from scratch when it was inaugurated in May ahead of the Amir Cup final between Al Duhail and Al Sadd. Since then, the stadium has hosted a number of high-profile football matches, including FIFA World Cup qualifiers for the Qatar national team and the sold-out Arabian Gulf Cup semi-final between Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

**EDUCATION CITY STADIUM**

Construction has been completed at the 40,000-capacity venue, nicknamed the ‘Diamond in the Desert’. The stadium had been due to host the second semi-final and final during the FIFA Club World Cup – but it wasn’t possible to organise the necessary test events and obtain the relevant health and safety permits prior to the tournament. The stadium will now open in 2020.

**AL BAYT STADIUM**

Designed to resemble a Bedouin tent, the 60,000-capacity Al Bayt Stadium will host matches up to the semi-finals stage in 2022. Fit-out works are advancing rapidly, including the installation of furniture in the skyboxes and executive lounges. Access bridges are being built, while external work – such as tree planting, landscaping and the development of roads and car parks – is progressing.

**AL RAYYAN STADIUM**

The pitch was recently laid at this 40,000-capacity venue, which will host matches up to the quarter-finals stage in 2022. Seats are being installed at the stadium, while the external render has almost been completed. Roof cladding is also in progress.

**LUSAIL STADIUM**

The venue for Qatar 2022’s opening match and final is progressing well. All 48 structural V-frames have been installed, along with six out of the 24 roof compression ring sections. Preparations for the cable net roof installation have commenced at the field of play level.

**RAS ABU ABoud STADIUM**

This 40,000-capacity stadium will be constructed using the shipping containers which transport materials to the stadium. The container installation has reached 90%, while blockworks are 97% complete.

**AL THUMAMA STADIUM**

Once complete, this 40,000-capacity venue will resemble the ‘gahfi ya’ – a cap worn by men across the Middle East and Arab world. At present, 26 of the 40 façade columns have been installed, along with 34 out of 20 roof trusses. The bleacher installation has reached 90%, while blockworks are 97% complete.