FOCUS

Cup Qatar 2022 LLC (Q22) Chief Executive and General Manager Fatma Samoura, FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 President Gianni Infantino was joined by FIFA Secretary-General Fatma Samoura, FIFA President Gianni Infantino and FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 LLC CEO Nasser al-Khater during a FIFA World Cup meeting with ambassadors to Qatar in Doha on Wednesday. (AFP)

President Infantino has stated that the global reach of the FIFA World Cup is a key component of FIFA’s sustainability strategy for the tournament and has the potential to bring football truly global. Initiatives were backed by FIFA Secretary-General Fatma Samoura, FIFA President Gianni Infantino and FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 LLC CEO Nasser al-Khater during a meeting with ambassadors to Qatar in Doha. (AFP)

President Infantino has emphasized the importance of the Arab Cup as an example of competition to help develop global football, illustrated during the ongoing FIFA Arab Cup. Key topics on the agenda ahead of Wednesday’s semi-final between Qatar and Algeria were sustainability, strategy for the tournament and this year’s special FIFA World Cup. Meanwhile, Algerian coach Djamel Bensmaila has stated that it is a difficult match for both teams. Such matches are normal in football, given the history of the nations involved and the importance of their third-place match.

Infantino praised Arab Cup as example of competition to help develop global football

Sports Reporter

Qatar coach Felix Sanchez praised the spirit of the players after their Arab Cup semi-final match with Algeria. "At this FIFA Arab Cup, we have seen football truly global," said Sanchez. "We showed great fighting spirit," he added. The Qatar coach thanked fans for showing support for Al Arabi throughout their matches.

"We played a great team that was determined to win but was not lucky in the last minutes," said Sanchez. The defender, however, hoped his team will come back stronger in the Arab Cup final.

"It was a very challenging task but the team showed great fighting spirit," said Minnesota. "We played a great match but luck was not on our side. We were desperate for a victory in front of our fans." The support we received from them is indescribable and we will be eyeing glory. It is another tough test for us and we will prepare for that well," he said.

Meanwhile, Algerian coach Djamel Bensmaila said: "It is a difficult match for both teams. Such matches are normal in football, given the history of the nations involved and the importance of their third-place match. It is another tough test for us but we were not lucky last night."

The former said his team would come back stronger in the Arab Cup final. "We were not lucky last night. We will have to fight back against the Algerians," he said.

Infantino praised Arab Cup as example of competition to help develop global football

FIFA President Gianni Infantino with ambassadors to Qatar and other officials after the meeting.

From left: FIFA Chief Tournaments and Events Officer Colin Smith, FIFA Secretary-General Fatma Samoura, FIFA President Gianni Infantino and FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 LLC CEO Nasser al-Khater during a FIFA World Cup meeting with ambassadors to Qatar in Doha on Wednesday.
event hall and eight of the event’s security guards tested positive for Covid-19. The cricket-mad nation has had a rapid rise rate of Covid infections following the spread of the Delta and the Omicron variants.

One-day internationals

Pakistan-WI ODIs called off due to Covid cases

West Indies

Pakistan off-spinner Shoaib Malik said the series had been called off due to Covid cases. The Pakistan team had been in South Africa for a Test series earlier in the year but had to pull out after a number of Covid cases were reported. The West Indies series was a huge hit for Pakistan, which has been out of international cricket for several months due to security concerns.

Pakistani players celebrate the victory after winning the third and final Twenty20 against West Indies at the National Stadium in Karachi yesterday. (AFP)

India will play three Tests and three One-Day Internationals against England in the day-night second Ashes Test starting tonight at Edgbaston. India have been provided some break before heading to England to take on Bangladesh in the first ODI in Dhaka on 2 June. Two Covid cases have been identified in the visitors, offi cials from both teams have said. The decision was taken to provide rest to his quicks, Robinson 16-7-34-0, Ben Stokes 9-29-0-1, Stuart Broad 16-5-34-1.

Extras:

S. Smith not out 18
M. Labuschagne not out 95
J. Buttler c Broad b Stokes 95
R. Tripathi c Rizwan b Raza 3
Total: (4 wickets) 207
Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-44

Pakistan 207-3 in 18.3 overs in reply to West Indies 180-2 in 40 overs.

Pakistan’s Faheem Ashraf celebrates after taking the wicket of West Indies’ Jonny Bairstow. (Gulf Times)

SPOTLIGHT

Indian cricketers touch down for South Africa tour

The Indian cricket team arrived in Johannesburg yesterday and headed straight for the bio-bubble once at the five-star hotel in Sandton, where the team is set to quarantine before the start of the match at Adelaide Oval.

Steve Smith has become Australia’s third captain in three back-to-back Tests

Pakistan swept West Indies 3-0

Aussie top order thwart England after Cummins jolt

Aussie fast bowler Pat Cummins' jolt to the start of the match at Adelaide Oval gave way to a strong position against England as they put Australia, missing regular skipper Pat Cummins, in a difficult reach of the venues of the first two Tests, Centurion and Johannesburg.

On course for a hundred before 32,328 fans at Adelaide Oval.

T20 SERIES

One-day internationals

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Wolff casts doubt on Hamilton future, both to shun F1 gala

**FOOTBALL**

**Man United, Spurs games off as Covid wreaks havoc on EPL**

*The club has an insufficient number of first-team players available to fulfil the match*

United are billed to host only seven senior players in the Premier League clash against Spurs on Sunday at Old Trafford in Manchester. The Premier League authorities confirmed the cancellation of the Sunday’s game between the two foes, who were billed to play the match on the eve of the Christmas weekend.

The club has instead been presented with a new fixture schedule where safely possible, according to a statement. Manchester United’s weekend game against Spurs was called off shortly after Leeds United’s scheduled match against Brighton was postponed last weekend, seeing the top-flight fixture table slapped with a big asterisk.

The cancellation of the number of Covid-19 cases at the Concrete MIX treatment meant with bars growing that the crisis could dent the football season.

“Regarding Manchester United’s weekend game against Tottenham, the club confirms that the match continues to be at an ongoing stage of a doubt within our squad, which has left them unable to feel teams from the match,” Premier League said.

“A significant number of Covid-19 cases has been confirmed among the squad members,” the league said in a statement.

Mohamed Salah of Liverpool added that he was “very much looking forward” to the game, according to reports.

The club had already pulled out of its fixture against the Blues due to the rising number of Covid-19 cases with four days remaining before the match.

The Premier League’s decision came after the teams failed to agree on the rescheduling of the fixture.

**Cricket**

**Rising Stars Red’s Zeb scores 94 in U-19 tie**

Rising Stars Red captain Zeb Ahmed scored 94 not out during a QCA Under-19 Cup match against Rising Stars Red on Friday.

Zeb was joined by Zain Shaikh in a 130-run partnership for the second wicket. For Rising Stars Red, Zain Shaikh scored 51 runs off 59 balls with seven fours.

The match was reduced to 20 overs due to rains. Rising Stars Red declared 174/5 in their final four-over spell.

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Shaheb Arabian Racing’s Mwared clinch Qatar National Day Trophy

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Minister of Sports and Youth HE Rashid bin Yousef Al-Jarimi presented the Late Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohamed Bin Thani Trophy (Qatar National Day Trophy) to Shaheb Arabian Racing Manager Father Michael Man in appreciation of his efforts on the racetrack.

The trophy was awarded to Shaheb Arabian Racing for their efforts in the 2021 Qatar National Day Trophy. The race was won by Shaheb Arabian Racing’s Mwared, ridden by jockey Soufiane Saadi, who recorded a time of 1:34.30.

Mwared, a son of the late Sheikh Jassim bin Thani, won the race with a comfortable lead, finishing 3.5 lengths ahead of its closest rival, Jules Verne, ridden by jockey Kayf Bee.

Shaheb Arabian Racing’s Mwared was presented with the trophy by the Minister of Sports and Youth, who expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Shaheb Arabian Racing in the sport of horse racing.

The Minister commended the efforts of Shaheb Arabian Racing in the sport of horse racing and expressed his hope that the race will continue to attract more participants in the future.

The race was held at the Al Rayyan Racecourse and was attended by a large number of horse racing enthusiasts.

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**FOCUS**

**Generation Amazing Youth Festival**

Young people from Arab world

**Winning title is Algeria's sole goal: Bedrane**

**SPOTLIGHT**

**England drawn against Iran and Germany in Nations League**

England, Italy and Germany will be drawn against Iran and Germany in the Nations League tournament, which begins in September. The draws were made at the General Assembly held in Doha.

**English football team**

The team will face Iran in the final of the tournament, which will be held on Friday and Saturday, with the event designed to attract more fans to the sport. The team will also play against Germany in the final.

**Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation General Assembly held in Doha**

The Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation General Assembly held in Doha yesterday was attended by representatives from several countries. The main agenda item was the election of the new president of the federation, who will serve for the next four years.

**World Cup qualifying**

The draw for the World Cup qualifying阶段s was held in Doha yesterday. The top teams in the region will face each other in the qualifying matches, which will be played in the first half of 2022.

**Football**

**Generation Amazing Youth Festival unites young people from Arab world**

The third edition of the Generation Amazing Youth Festival has begun, with young people from Arab world countries participating. The festival aims to promote education, sustainability and cross-cultural understanding among young people.

**Winning title is Algeria’s sole goal: Bedrane**

“I would say that winning the title is now our sole objective,” Bedrane said. “After the match, we conceded a late goal, we believed in our rebound after his initial effort was saved andY oucef Belaili converted on the extra time, Algeria were awarded a penalty. It’s wonderful to see so many young people from across the world to become better citizens and talk about my journey, but also about other parts of the world,” he concluded.

**England drawn against Iran and Germany in Nations League**

It’s true that I play in the Tunisian league, but for the national team, there’s no country whose colours I’ve worn more proudly. “When we play for the national team, there’s no country whose colours I’ve worn more proudly. I’ve been playing for the national team, so we’re all going to make sure that we have the best possible results. “We want to celebrate the spirit of football, which is about bringing together young people from different backgrounds and learning from each other.”

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