Omar needed his star man Almoez Ali, Akram Afif and Hassan al-Haydos to come off the bench to secure Qatar’s 3-1 win over the hosts against Iraq of the FIFA Arab Cup. The Asian champions’ second win from two matches kept The Al Annabi’s real test will come in the knockout stages, while they will be playing against the UAE in the quarters on Friday, with Bahrain and Iraq facing Kuwait on the same day. With qualification to the knockout stages all but assured, Qatar coach Felix Sanchez made nine changes at half time. Three goals in the final 12 minutes made it an afternoon to forget for Muntari’s men as they beat Oman and Bahrain. Meanwhile, at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium 974, Ras Abu Aboud, Secretary General of Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, Hassan al-Thawadi (left), FIFA’s Chief of Global Football Development Arsene Wenger (centre) and QFA Vice President and QNB President Sheikh Mansour bin Jasim Al Thani (left) at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor yesterday.

FIFA chief Infantino praises Arab Cup atmosphere in Qatar

The President of the International Football Association (FIFA) Gianni Infantino, praised the wonderful atmosphere at the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2021, hosted in Doha until Dec. 18, with the participation of 16 teams under the FIFA umbrella. Infantino said in a press statement today, while he was at Al Thumama Stadium in Doha on the sidelines of the Tunisia-V. Qatar match: “Today we watched a wonderful football where the atmosphere of the match was very wonderful and the stadiums were filled with fans.” Infantino also praised the level of the match, expressing his appreciation for the efforts made by the organizers in organizing the event, with Oman joining Al Khor knocked Iraq out from the quarter-finals on Friday, with the hosts against Iraq at the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2021, hosted in Doha until Dec. 18, with the participation of 16 teams under the FIFA umbrella. Infantino said in a press statement today, while he was at Al Thumama Stadium in Doha on the sidelines of the Tunisia-V. Qatar match: “Today we watched a wonderful football where the atmosphere of the match was very wonderful and the stadiums were filled with fans.” Infantino also praised the level of the match, expressing his appreciation for the efforts made by the organizers in organizing the event, with Oman joining Al

Qatar face the UAE in the quarters, while Oman take on Tunisia on Friday

Qatar’s Almoez Ali celebration after scoring against Iraq during the FIFA Arab Cup Group A match at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor yesterday. (Reuters)

Super subs keep it perfect for Qatar

By Sahan Bidappa

Qatar’s Almoez Ali celebrates after scoring against Iraq during the FIFA Arab Cup Group A match at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor yesterday. (Reuters)
India beat NZ, take series

India’s spinners once again bared their fangs, sealing a record 372-run victory against New Zealand in the second and final Test at the Wankhede Stadium yesterday to secure a 14th consecutive series triumph at home.

It was the biggest margin of victory by runs for India in a home match, eclipsing their 337-run win against South Africa in a Delhi Test in 2015.

The 1-0 victory meant India have not lost a home series since their 2-1 defeat by England in 2012 and it also helped Virat Kohli’s side reclaim top spot in the Test rankings, pushing New Zealand to second.

With the series victory, the hosts also avenged their loss to New Zealand in the final of the inaugural World Test Championship in Southampton in June.

India’s spinners wasted little time in removing New Zealand’s remaining batters yesterday, sealing the victory in little over three days on the spin-friendly track at the sun-bathed ground overlooking the Arabian Sea.

Meanwhile India will play Test matches in Centurion, Johannesburg and Cape Town on their tour of South Africa which starts later this month, Cricket South Africa announced yesterday. The first world championship Test will start at SuperSport Park in Centurion on December 26.

**FIXTURES**

- Dec 26-30: 1st Test, Centurion
- Jan 3-7: 2nd Test, Johannesburg
- Jan 11-15: 3rd Test, Cape Town
- Jan 19: 1st ODI, Paarl
- Jan 21: 2nd ODI, Paarl
- Jan 23: 3rd ODI, Cape Town

**SCOREBOARD**

**India 1st innings**

- 325

**New Zealand 1st innings**

- 62

**India 2nd innings**

- 276-7 dec

**New Zealand 2nd innings**

- (target 540)

- T. Latham lbw b Ashwin 6
- W. Young c sub b Ashwin 20
- D. Mitchell c Jayant b Axar 60
- R. Taylor c Pujara b Ashwin 6
- H. Nicholls st Shaha b Ashwin 44
- T. Blundell run out 0
- R. Ravindra c Pujara b Jayant 18
- K. Jamieson lbw b Jayant 0
- T. Southee b Jayant 0
- E. Somerville c Agarwal b Jayant 1
- A. Patel not out 0

**Extras (b9, lb1, nb2)** 12

**Total** (all out, 56.3 overs) 167

**Fall of wickets:**

1-13, 2-45, 3-55, 4-128, 5-129, 6-162, 7-165, 8-165, 9-167, 10-167

**Bowling:**

- Siraj 5-2-13-0, Ashwin 22.3-9-34-4, Axar 10-1-42-1, Jayant 14-4-49-4 (nb2), Umesh 5-1-19-0.

Rain washes out third day of play in Bangladesh-Pakistan Test

Rain triggered by a weakened cyclone washed out the third day of the second Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan in Dhaka yesterday. Match officials called off play at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at 3pm, with no chance of the weather improving for the day. Only 62.2 overs of play were possible over 390-2 in their first innings, with skipper Babar Azam batting 71 alongside Aamer 44 and 52. Taijul Islam picked up both wickets to fall.

**Chebli shines in final round of Qatar National Sprint Championship**

The sixth and final round of the Qatar National Sprint Championship was held last Saturday.

Mansour Chebli topped the Open Class and also finished second in the Production Class 1. The event is organised by the Qatar Motor & Motorcycle Federation.

**Results:**

- **O1:** 1. Mansour Chebli; 2. Abdullah al-Khelaifi; 3. Abdulaziz al-Jabri
- **O3:** 1. Hassan Ali
- **P1:** 1. Nadim Ziade, 2. Mansour Chebli, 3. Henry Kahy
- **P2:** 1. Ali Emadadhi, 2. Dean Ball, 3. Mohamed Emadadhi
- **P3:** 1. Francesco Fornaciari, 2. Mohamed Emadadhi, 3. Abdulla Ali al-Abbasi

**Reuters**

MUMBAI

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Evenly matched Egypt and Algeria to vie for top spot

"WE HAVE GOOD PLAYERS, WE WILL WORK HARD TO SHOW OUR SUPERIORITY"

By Sports Reporter

‘WE HAVE GOOD PLAYERS, WE WILL WORK HARD TO SHOW OUR SUPERIORITY’

WE HAVE GOOD PLAYERS, WE WILL WORK HARD TO SHOW OUR SUPERIORITY

open to the public since 2019

of the globe when they arrive

ber 21. The eyes of the world will

Cup when it hosted the match

designed to resemble the tra-

 tion for people across the coun-

Ecuadorian coach Queiroz said:

his players, who have impressed in the

a strong match, "Queiroz said.

match for us is a fi nal, and we hope that

the group winners.

day in what should be an enthralling
tie.

"We are excited for tomorrow’s match.

"We have good players, we will work

new ones, and this is what we want to al-

years. Even the old players support the

been playing with each other for many

matches by sealing quarter-fi nal

Saeed has wit-

source of great pride for Saeed

Al Sadd and the Qatar national

is a former player for Al Khor,

Al Bayt. This stadium will contrib-

Samir Abdulmajeed al-Khulaifi

The Al Khor people, said Mo-

the people are very friendly. This

"You are the fi rst team for

competing for glory in Doha.

The FIF A president was eager

competing for glory in Doha.

the 2021 FIM Cross-Country

the two-wheel protagonists

the duel between Qatar’s Nasser

While most attention this

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By Sports Reporter

Tunisia beat UAE as both teams seal quarter-finals spots

The MATCH WAS VERY TOUGH BUT WE REMAINED FOCUSED ON OUR TARGET

Tunisia yesterday delivered a night to remember for fans of the Green Falcons as they held the UAE 1-1 at Al Janoub Stadium in Al Wakra to seal their top-four finishing in the FIFA Arab Cup. A second-half goal from Substitute Jozef Sebehi, which was disallowed by the VAR, was enough for the Leone of Africa to take three points against their opponents.

With this victory, Tunisia has guaranteed their place in the FIFA World Cup with a 1-1 draw. The result in the quarter-finals with a 1-1 draw, Tunisia are through to the quarter-finals of the tournament, which will take place on March 26. Tunisia will play against Saudi Arabia in the quarter-finals, and they are in the 16th position in the FIFA ranking.

The game was very tough, but we remained focused on our target. We have won our first two matches and they are a strong team. They know the Moroccan team well. The first two matches were very important for us, because we wanted to stay in the competition and for them as well. It’s a matter of a World Cup spot and we hope to win and go through," said Rashid.

By Sports Reporter

Syria bow out after losing to Mauritania

Syria face Morocco hurdle for a place in quarter-finals

With a quarter-final spot still up for grabs, the defending champions Morocco aim for three-in-a-row against Saudi Arabia. The Lions of Africa aim for three-in-three, but face a tough task against the defending champions. Saudi Arabia are in desperate need of a win to stay in the competition and for them as well. It’s a matter of a World Cup spot and we hope to win and go through," said Rashid.

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