A head of the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2022 draw, which will take place today, qualifying matches for the tournament have been decided. Of the 23 nations involved, the four groups for the tournament were decided in the April edition of the FIFA World Rank-
ing. Today’s draw will be conducted at Opera House in the Katara Cultural Village today. The draw will be conducted by four FIFA legends: four-time World Champions Zinedine Zidane (France),眩lham Al-Motarraf (UAE) and the India national team’s captain and current International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) Director of Competitions, Manvendra Singh. A limited number of officials will attend the draw with (Brazil) China’s famous former football star. The FIFA Arab Cup is seen as an important opportunity to test operations and facilities ahead of Qatar 2022, both for the domestic and international fans, with the draw of each scheduled to take place exactly one year ahead - on December 18, Qatar’s National Day.

The play-offs were decided according to the results, as follows: Oman (56) vs Yemen (145), Lebanon (57) vs Iraq (68), and Jordan (95) vs South Sudan (169). The winners of these matches will join the five nations that have already qualified for the tournament; host Qatar (14), Tunisia (81), Morocco (99), Egypt (108), and the United Arab Emirates (14) and Korea (108). The winners will face the top two teams from each of the other four groups to see which nations advance to the last 16.

The FIFA Arab Cup will be held from January 14 to February 21, 2022, with the final to be played at Khalifa International Stadium on February 21.

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“It’s true” said Eden Hazard when asked in his first press confer- ence if Real Madrid if he could become the best player in the world. “I have a lot to improve” he added.

“I’m not the best, nobody is. I think I’m still working hard to be the best”.

When Hazard moved to Real Madrid, the Spanish giants announced that he would become one of the most successful clubs in the world.

The Danish International was a surprise signing for Real Madrid, after the club had failed to convince him to stay at Chelsea.

Hazard’s move to Real Madrid was one of the biggest transfers in recent history, and he was expected to be a key player for the club.

However, his time at the Bernabeu was marred by injuries and poor form, and he failed to live up to expectations.

Hazard was later sold to Chelsea, where he has gone on to establish himself as one of the best players in the world. 

The Danish International is currently one of the most sought after players in world football, and many teams are believed to be interested in signing him in the future.
**FOOTBALL**

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Henry and Shearer inducted into Premier League Hall of Fame**

Henry and Alan Shearer were yesterday inducted at the first ever Hall of Fame ceremony in recognition of a combined 453 goals scored for Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers, Middlesbrough, Blackburn Rovers, Sunderland, and Newcastle United.

Announced in 2009, the Premier League Hall of Fame was created to recognize those who have achieved something historic. The effort of these players has been extraordinary,” said Eredivisie president Gabriele Gravina.

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**LIGA**

**Atletico lose to hand initiative to Barca**

[Those who have the mental strength will be closer to winning the title]

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**LIGA**

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[Those who have the mental strength will be closer to winning the title]
Two Australian cricketers have been dropped from the Indian Premier League (IPL) following a dispute with the tournament over the COVID-19 pandemic, officials said on Thursday.

Trevor Hohns, the Australian Cricket Board’s head selector, said the two players have been suspended as part of a review into the team’s performance in the tournament.

The announcement comes a day after India’s cricket board said it planned to play the full season of the IPL in the United Arab Emirates, which would begin on April 9.

The players suspended are Pat Cummins, a paceman from Tasmania, and Adam Zampa, a legspinner from South Australia.

The suspensions were due to “ongoing issues” with the players’ performance in the tournament, Hohns said.

Hohns added that the players had not met the expected standards in terms of fitness, performance, and behavior.

The IPL, which is the world’s richest cricket league, has faced criticism for continuing in empty stadiums despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The players suspended are part of the Australian team that won the World Cup in England last year but have struggled to maintain their form in the IPL.

The Australian Cricket Board said it had informed the Australian government of the suspensions and was seeking advice on the next steps.

The IPL, which is a Twenty20 franchise tournament, is one of the most popular sporting events in the world, attracting huge audiences and generating significant revenue for franchises and the league. However, the competition has faced criticism for its role in the spread of COVID-19, with several players and officials testing positive for the virus during the tournament.

The suspensions come as the Australian government launches a new campaign to encourage people to get vaccinated against COVID-19, with the country experiencing a surge in cases in recent weeks.

The Australian Cricket Board said it was working with the players to ensure they were able to return to Australia as soon as possible.
**NYR**

**Durant returns to power Nets, Hawks snap losing streak**

It was a good start. Hopefully, I'll build on this game and keep going.

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**MLB**

**Bumgarner spins seven-inning no-hitter at Braves**

McClouth batted for the 10th straight game and finished 2-for-3 with a single, a walk and two runs scored.

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**NHL**

**Zibanejad nets hat-trick as Rangers slug Sabres**

McKee and Mikael Granlund added goals for the Sabres, who have lost six straight.

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**Resuts**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
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<td>Mariners</td>
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<td>Giants</td>
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**Mike Zobrist**

Mike Zobrist of the New York Islanders is congratulated by teammates after he scored a hat trick in the second period against the Buffalo Sabres at Madison Square Garden in New York City (USA TODAY Sports)

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**GOLF**

**Aussies Leishman, Smith clinch PGA Tour Zurich Classic**

 заявкacat's Max Leishman, who during the 1990s became a famous face in the European Tour, has been confirmed for the 2021 Zurich Classic of New Orleans. The Australian is one of the four Aussies confirmed for the event, which is known for its strong field and challenging courses.

Leishman, 36, has had a solid season so far, with a win at the Honda Classic in March. He will be looking to carry that form into the Zurich Classic, where he has a strong history. Leishman has won the event twice, in 2016 and 2017, and has finished in the top 10 in each of the last three years.

Joining Leishman in New Orleans will be his countryman Cameron Smith, who is seeking his third Zurich Classic title. Smith, 30, tied for second place in 2019 and finished in the top 20 in 2020.

Other Aussies confirmed for the Zurich Classic include Marc Leishman and Cameron Smith, who are both coming off strong performances. Leishman, 37, finished in the top 20 in the Open Championship and Smith, 34, won the Scottish Open.

The Zurich Classic is a two-person team event, and the Aussies will be playing together. Leishman and Smith have played together in the past, and are expected to be a strong pairing.

The tournament is played on the TPC Louisiana course, which has been a favorite of the Aussies in the past. The course is known for its tricky greens and demanding bunkers, and the Aussies will be looking to make the most of their experience.

**Leading scores after foursomes final round**

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**RUGBY**

**Wales to host NZ and South Africa in autumn internationals**

Wales has been confirmed as one of the hosts for the 2021 Autumn Internationals. The Welsh Rugby Union has announced that they will host two internationals, one against New Zealand and one against South Africa.

The Autumn Internationals are a series of matches played by national teams during the fall of each year. Wales has a strong history in the Autumn Internationals, having won the tournament in 2018 and finishing in the top four in each of the last three years.

The matches are expected to be highly competitive, with both New Zealand and South Africa ranked among the top teams in the world. Wales will be looking to make the most of their home advantage and build on their success from the 2020-21 season.

**NPL**

**Flying into the US GP with a bang**

SOUTH AFRICA’S Garrick Higgo has crashed into the United States’ Open Championship after holing a 48-foot birdie putt on the 18th green on his way to eighth place.

Higgo, who is coming off the back of a strong season in Europe, was the only South African to make the cut at the US Open, which is the second major of the year.

Higgo’s performance at the US Open was his best since winning the 2019 Australian Open, and he will be looking to build on that form ahead of the next leg of the European Tour, the Spanish Open. Higgo is currently ranked 65th in the world, but will move up in the rankings after his US Open performance.

**SPORT**

**’THAT BACK NINE WAS BRUTAL. BUT WE HUNG IN THERE AND WE WON’**

‘THAT BACK NINE WAS BRUTAL. BUT WE HUNG IN THERE AND WE WON’

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Higgo cruises to second European Tour title**

Higgo cruised to his second European Tour title at the Gran Canaria Open. The South African, who has been in fine form over the last 12 months, shot a seven-under-par 65 on the final day to claim victory.

Higgo, who has been one of the most consistent players on the European Tour this year, has now won two titles in his career. His win in Gran Canaria is his second victory of the season, following his triumph at the Open de France in June.

**South Africa’s Garrick Higgo cruises to second European Tour title**

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First Arab female referee to stand tall at Olympics

LONDON: No woman has officiated at an Olympic Games before. But Syria’s Sarah Gamal is now the first Arab woman to do so.

Gamal, 32, was appointed to referee in the women’s 7-a-side football (soccer) games at Tokyo 2020 — which opened with a 1-1 draw between India and New Zealand.

The Olympic Games feature 3,300 athletes from 206 countries and territories, and also include 10,000 media and hospitality workers.

“I was really nervous when I received the news,” Gamal told AFP.

“I was pushed to the limit, especially on蔬ecting cultural factors, as the Arab region has always been a male-dominated society.”

When she was on the training field, she listened to a song by Gamal, who scored more than 10 goals before she was called up to the team.

“I have decided to change my career path and become a referee,” she told AFP.

“Once the Olympic Games are over, I will continue in this profession.”

Gamal’s appointment comes less than a year after she became the first Arab woman to officiate at a men’s professional match in Egypt.

For the last 10 years, Gamal has been working with the Egyptian Football Association (EFA) as a referee. She has also been selected to officiate at the African Women’s Cup of Nations and the Arab Women’s Cup.

“I have been a referee for the past 10 years and I have had a lot of experience working with the EFA,” she said.

“Now, I am ready to face the challenge of refereeing at the Olympic Games.”

Gamal’s appointment is a significant milestone for women’s refereeing in the Arab region.

Her appointment has been welcomed by the International Committee of Football Referees (ICFR), which represents referees from all over the world.

The ICFR has been working to promote women’s refereeing and has set up a women’s refereeing committee.

Gamal’s appointment is also a testament to the progress that has been made in the Arab region in recent years.

“In the past, women were not allowed to officiate at male matches,” said Gamal.

“Now, I am happy to see that we are moving towards equality.”

Gamal’s appointment is also a boost for women’s refereeing in Africa.

“Africa has been a pioneer in women’s refereeing,” said Gamal.

“Now, I believe that other African countries will follow suit.”

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**SPORT**

**GULF & TIMES**

**TENNIS**

**Barcelona test a platform for success in clay season: Nadal**

Nadal could prepare him for longer battles, said the 20-times Grand Slam champion returned to action at Monte Carlo this month, going out in the quarters. But the Spaniard, who will be the lead-up to Wimbledon in June, has never been held on grass courts, with three held on clay and a further one on hard courts every year. Nadal, £2 million Open 1000 event on grass in Britain is the lead-up to Wimbledon in June, the champion of the cups and the world number six, Edinburgh. Nadal is among most prestigious tournaments, with three held on clay and a further one on hard courts.

**WORLD**

Nadal was unable to play better than what I'm doing on clay and hoped that the victory was going to help me to raise a little bit my level. I want to stay healthy and play better during the week and every single match and today was a bit better than yesterday. I have seen to keep improving. I wasn't perfect.

**PLAN**

**ATP chief wants a grass Masters 1000 event**

The ATP is exploring the possibility of staging a Masters 1000 event on grass in Britain in the lead-up to Wimbledon in June, the champion of the cups and the world number six, Edinburgh. Nadal is among most prestigious tournaments, with three held on clay and a further one on hard courts every year.

**FOCUS**

**Comeback queen Barty savours ‘phenomenal’ week in Stuttgart**

The 20-year-old said she tested positive for Covid-19, the Canadian confirmed on social media on Sunday. She was unable to return to competition until September this year, losing in the second round of the Australian Open, and earlier this month made a first-round withdrawal from the US Open due to Covid-19. Barty, after transitioning on the court and signing her best, said the WTA has said it will make changes to rules to prevent the Covid-19 virus but would not require it for competition.

**UPDATE**

**Andreescu out of Madrid Open after positive Covid-19 test**

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