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**SPORT
FOR LIFE**

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
QATAR OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

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Qatari sport continues to go from strength to strength having recently been awarded the honour of hosting the 2030 Asian Games by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) General Assembly. We owe this victory to Allah first, and the support of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, as well as the tireless efforts of the bidding team. Doha previously successfully hosted the 2006 Asian Games, which left an incredible legacy and marks a key milestone in the growth of sport in Qatar.

Qatar is thrilled that the OCA and Asia's NOCs have put their trust in us to host a magical 2030 Asian Games. This will be an important opportunity to develop and advance sport in Asia, and bring the best athletes in the continent together to reflect the values of sport as well as to promote teamwork, sportsmanship and integrity. I have no doubt that it will further encourage our people to participate in the advancement and development of our nation.

Despite the challenging circumstances the world is facing, the Qatar Olympic Committee has never hesitated in continuing to work towards its vision of hosting more major championships. In particular, we have officially announced our request to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to join the non-committal 'Continuous Dialogue' to host a future Olympic and Paralympic Games, as early as 2032.

We are also incredibly proud of how our highly experienced and skilled staff have overcome the significant challenges we all face and been instrumental in the successful and safe organisation of international events in Doha. This includes the 2020 Doha Diamond League which attracted star athletes from around the world and implemented rigorous COVID-19 countermeasures to protect the health and wellbeing of everyone involved.

This was also the case with many other international events that Qatar has recently hosted, including the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League (West). The event clearly showcased Qatar's expertise and ability to host safe and secure competitions during the pandemic. As a result, the AFC decided to host the Champions League (East) and Champions League final in Doha.

In spite of the pandemic, the Qatari sports landscape continues to thrive with the safety of all participants as its top priority. Together, we are able to continue this work, allowing athletes from around the world to do what they do best. In addition, we are able to prepare our athletes to excel, especially Team Qatar who will be competing in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 this summer.

Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani
President of Qatar Olympic Committee

Doha bid caught the attention and received the largest number of votes Doha 2030 is Asia's choice for hosting the Asian Games

"Athletes have always been our first priority and therefore the concept of these games was integrated, and this will provide an easy and smooth transition for all guests of Qatar during the Asian Games."

Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Than

The evaluation committee has confirmed that Doha is now ready to host the major Asian event

**The result of the vote confirms Qatar's leading position at all levels
Qatar's diplomacy succeeded in obtaining the right to host the event**

Doha, the sports capital of the region, won the 2030 Asian Games bid race against Saudi candidate city Riyadh in the voting which took place on the sidelines of the 39th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in the Omani capital of Muscat.

The OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah announced that Doha won the bid to host the 2030 Asian Games as Doha bid claimed 27 votes against 10 for Riyadh, while 8 countries abstained from voting, according to the OCA.

Doha 2030 bid won the rights to host the Asian Games as it was the strongest and most organized bid, which contains facts seen by the OCA Evaluation Committee during its visit to Doha last November. The visit also confirmed that Doha is ready from now to host the Asian Games thanks to its ready infrastructures, stadiums, halls and sports facilities.

Attractive Presentation

Doha 2030 Asian Games bid caught attention during the General Assembly and won the approval of all attendees as it included many pillars concerned with the future of the Asian continent and what Qatar will present when hosting this great sporting event.

Promotional Video

The presentation included a promotional video for the ready facilities and infrastructure in the State of Qatar to host the events in addition some speeches delivered by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, President of the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) and Chairman of Doha 2030 Bid Committee HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, CEO of Qatar Foundation HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Secretary General of the QOC HE Jassim bin Rashid Al Buenain, Director of the QOC Marketing and Communication Department Sheikha Asma Al Thani and Team Qatar stars Mutaz Barshim and Nada Mohamed Wafa.

The Doha 2030 Asian Games Bid Committee unveiled the Project Legacy 21 as one of the most important pillars of 2030 Asian Games, which will start next year while meeting the highest standards of transparency approved by the Olympic Council of Asia.

Project Legacy 21 aims to set up a program that provides financial investments for sports development programs. It will implement a knowledge-sharing program that focuses on sports development for the national Olympic committees. Tailored training programs will be prepared for athletes to visit the advanced facilities at Aspire City and train there.

The project will enable the Asian athletes to do their best in 2030 as the Olympic Council of Asia will be responsible for managing all these programs in cooperation with a third party.

Doha also establish a development fund for developing the national sports in Asia and organize youth camps for young people from each NOC featuring a combination of sport, cultural and social activities.

Qatar also launched the Stars of Asia Program designed to develop future ambassadors for sport in Asia by collaborating with all Asian NOCs. Education and Training through partnership with the Josoor Institute, the Qatar Olympic Academy and Qatar Foundation, will offer education, training and professional certification in sport and event management to NOCs.

Doha 2030 cultural programs will be launched three years before the Games throughout the Asian continent, not only in the State of Qatar, as Qatar is keen to help everyone and will therefore provide transportation and accommodation assistance to athletes.

Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani: There is no limit to what the Qataris can achieve

HE President of Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) and Chairman of Doha 2030 Bid Committee Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani affirmed Qatar's readiness to host the 2030 Asian Games in his speech in the bid presentation, saying that the State of Qatar has worked for 20 years to build world-class sports facilities.

HE noted that he was an ambassador for the Asian Games torch which Doha hosted in 2006, and said, "I have traveled thousands of miles and visited 27 countries

over the course of 55 days to celebrate the values of friendship, respect and sporting spirit.”

HE underlined that Qatar’s hosting of the 2030 Asian Games is a source of pride for the Qatari people, noting that the winning was the result of commitment and determination to make sport the focus of attention, noting that sport is part of the national identity of Qatar.

He also said, “Athletes have always been our first priority and therefore the concept of these games was integrated, and this will provide an easy and smooth transition for all guests of Qatar during the Asian Games.”

HE added that Qatar built more than 200 sports facilities that hosted more than 50 regional and international sporting events. These facilities have gained the confidence of the various Olympic federations and committees, and this confirms that Asian athletes can compete at the highest level.

He said, “We would like to see athletes on the coronation podiums, and this tournament becomes part of the sporting history.” HE President of Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) and Chairman of Doha 2030 Bid Committee Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani said that Doha bid to host the 2030 Asian Games is distinguished by that it is not limited to tangible matters, stressing that Doha is a place that brings everyone together, and that Doha 2030 will be a model and a victory for the Olympic Council of Asia and the Olympic movement around the world.

Net profit of \$151 million The games budget estimated at \$1.3 billion

According to the Qatari bid, the financial budget for Doha 2030 Asian Games is estimated at \$1.3 billion. Because Qatar includes a very developed sports market that is based on profits and television broadcasting rights, it will achieve revenues of \$1.46 billion. According to the contract signed with the Olympic Council of Asia, part of these revenues will go to the Olympic Council of Asia and the Asian Olympic Committees, thus the net profit is expected to reach \$151 million.

Secretary-General of Qatar Olympic Committee Jassim Rashid Al Buenain said that the State will reinvest these profits during and after the Asian Games 2030, stressing Qatar’s readiness to host the 2030 Asian Games competitions through the best facilities and opportunities that help athletes succeed and rest during the competitions.

In his speech during the presentation, Al Buenain noted that the Olympic Village, which will be dedicated to athletes during the Games, will contain 2000 units capable of hosting more than 15,000 people and can be expanded to 18,000 people at a high level. It is 10 to 15 minutes away from all the stadiums that will host the competitions. After the Games the Village will be converted into residential areas.

He added that 4000 hotel rooms have been reserved for guests at the five-star level, and there are 14 hotels ready to receive all delegations participating in the Games.

Al-Buenain noted that transportation is usually a challenge for all Asian Games, however this is not the situation in Doha. In addition to the public transport system in the city, the capabilities of hosting the Asian family will be strengthened by allocating 900 cars to secure transportation, and they will be managed through a unified traffic system.

He underlined that the best medical facilities and medical care will be provided for all attendees in all stadiums and for all participants free of charge. Al-Buenain concluded his speech, saying that Doha has the experience and knowledge after hosting dozens of different sporting events over the past years, and we would like to share this experience in a new way through the Asian Games.

Sheikha Asma Al Thani We focus on investing in the success of Asian athletes

For her part, Director of Marketing and Communication at the QOC Sheikha Asma Al-Thani said that the investments that the State of Qatar made in the field of sports made Doha 2030 exceptional, noting that Doha 2030 focuses on the investment in the success of Asian athletes.

“When presenting the Doha 2030 presentation, we didn’t focus on ourselves, but on investing in the success of Asian athletes, and this is historic because the submission of the hosting files must be based on reliable and proven facts.” she said.

She noted that the infrastructure of Doha 2030 is already on the ground, not on paper,

and that Doha bid is the only one capable of ensuring a zero risk level for the Games, which allows more time to focus on providing the best experience in the Asian Games for athletes and investing the resources accomplished in the Asian Olympic family.

She added that Doha legacy will be the human legacy and it is the greatest legacy that can be made for the Asian family.

“Doha 2030 aims at sharing the lessons that we have learned with our brothers and colleagues and promoting loyalty to this continent.” she said.

Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani: Sport is the place to which everyone belongs

For her part, Sheikha Hind promised that the Doha 2030 bid will provide the ideal platform to celebrate the success of Asian athletes in the Asian continent because sport is the place to which everyone belongs.

“I have always loved sports and sporting events since childhood, and I have learned many lessons from going to the Al Shaqab stables, which were established by HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani to preserve the purebred Arabian horses. Sport is a global language because it is a form of education and lessons, and I believe in the power of education, as it is one of the noblest causes that we can devote our lives to serving,” HE Sheikha Hind said.

She said, "We all believe that education, whether it is sports or academia, is fundamental to the success of young people and children. Sport gives us the tools to achieve our goals and teaches us to look at ourselves and be aware of ourselves and encourage us to seize opportunities and see what can be achieved through teamwork and dedication, and sport is able to inspire everyone."

Sheikha Hind said, "The ultimate goal of education is not only to help children create a better future for themselves, but for all of us to meet and create a world to which we all belong."

She said Doha bid does not focus on the best for Qatar, but rather for the Asian Olympic families, pointing out that the 2030 Asian Games is an opportunity that will allow Doha to look beyond ourselves to provide opportunities for young Asian athletes.

"We know that God blesses our country, and great success comes with great responsibility. Doha 2030 bid touches and affects the lives of thousands of athletes outside our borders, and for this reason, sport like education has no boundaries, and sport also prohibits discrimination on the basis of color, race, religion or prejudices," she also added

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani: Sport is in our DNA

For his part, HE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said "The sport is in our DNA and it's truly part of our national identity. I felt great enthusiasm when I was asked to be part of the presentation team for the Asian bid, and although I have attended many conferences

and meetings... But attending this meeting is a wonderful thing for me, especially since the Asian Games win my heart."

Sheikh Mohammed thanked the government and people of the Sultanate of Oman for the hospitality, warm reception and distinguished organisation of the Asian Olympic Council meeting.

"I guarantee you the commitment of our government towards Doha 2030 as was the case in 2006. Hosting a sporting event of this size and the importance of the Asian Games undoubtedly requires more than providing the facilities that we already own, but it is related to many intangible things that achieve success for such games. The people accept the diversity and diversity in the world and seize future opportunities without relying on the past, which is what makes these games a beautiful memory." He added.

The FM affirmed that one of the most important components of the Qatari bid is the security and safety of the guests, stressing that Qatar is one of the safest countries in the world according to the Global Crime Index. "We affirm our commitment that the athletes attending will have security and safety and enjoy a very unique experience," he said.

"We look forward to creating a better world to which we all belong," he added.





Doha 2030 submits Candidature File promising gateway to certainty and legacy for Asia

Sheikh Joaan: Doha 2030 is a gateway to a brighter future for Asia

The Doha 2030 Asian Games Bid Committee recently submitted its Candidature File to the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), which detailed the bid's inspirational, sustainable plan that will provide a gateway to certainty and an enduring legacy for Asia.

Doha 2030 is a national priority for Qatar, and it has the full support of His Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar. The Bid Committee has drawn from Doha's extensive sports events hosting experience and leveraged its wealth of existing state-of-the-art venues and infrastructure to develop its world-leading plan. With all the permanent sports venues in place or already planned, Doha 2030 is able to focus on delivering a Games that brings benefits to all of Asia before and after 2030.

Doha 2030 and QOC President President HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani said, "We are honoured to submit our candidature file to the OCA and present how Doha is ready to serve the OCA and Asia through the delivery of a world-class, sustainable Games.

"But we also feel strongly that the Asian Games is about more than elite sport. We are committed to ensuring that Doha 2030 is a gateway to a brighter future for Asia. We want to deliver a Games that support development throughout the continent before and after it is hosted. At the heart of our bid is the belief that now more than ever, sport can play an important role in inspiring hope, connecting nations and celebrating our peaceful diversity."

Doha 2030 proposes a compact, sustainable Games, with athletes' experience placed at its very core. Travel times between venues and the athletes' village have been minimized, and athletes would be located in the heart of the vibrant, diverse and welcoming city.

Doha 2030 CEO and QOC Secretary General HE Jassim Rashid Al-Buenain said, "With all the sports venues and infrastructure already planned or in place, Doha 2030 represents certainty at a time of great uncertainty for Asia and the world. We believe that now is a time when low-risk, responsible and sustainable solutions are what is needed.

"Doha 2030 is promising a Games which is low-cost but of the very highest quality. In the last 15 years alone, Qatar has hosted more than 500 major international sports events, conferences and training camps. We have proven ourselves as a reliable partner to OCA, Asian NOCs and many International and Asian Federations (IFs and AFs). We have developed the knowledge and experience to know what athletes need to compete at their very best.

We are ready to work with our colleagues and partners in Asia once again to ensure that Doha 2030 is a gateway to excellence."

QOC announces interest to host future Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) has announced that it has formally submitted to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) its request to join the non-committal "Continuous Dialogue" to host a future edition of the Olympic and Paralympic Games as early as 2032.

Qatar recently delivered the request via an official letter to the IOC's headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Speaking about the announcement, QOC President His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani said, "Never before has an Olympic Games been held in the Middle East. The Olympic rings are a symbol of peace, unity and hope for people around the world, including the people of our region. Today's announcement marks the beginning of a meaningful dialogue with the IOC's Future Host Commission to explore our interest further and identify how the Olympic Games can support Qatar's long-term development goals.

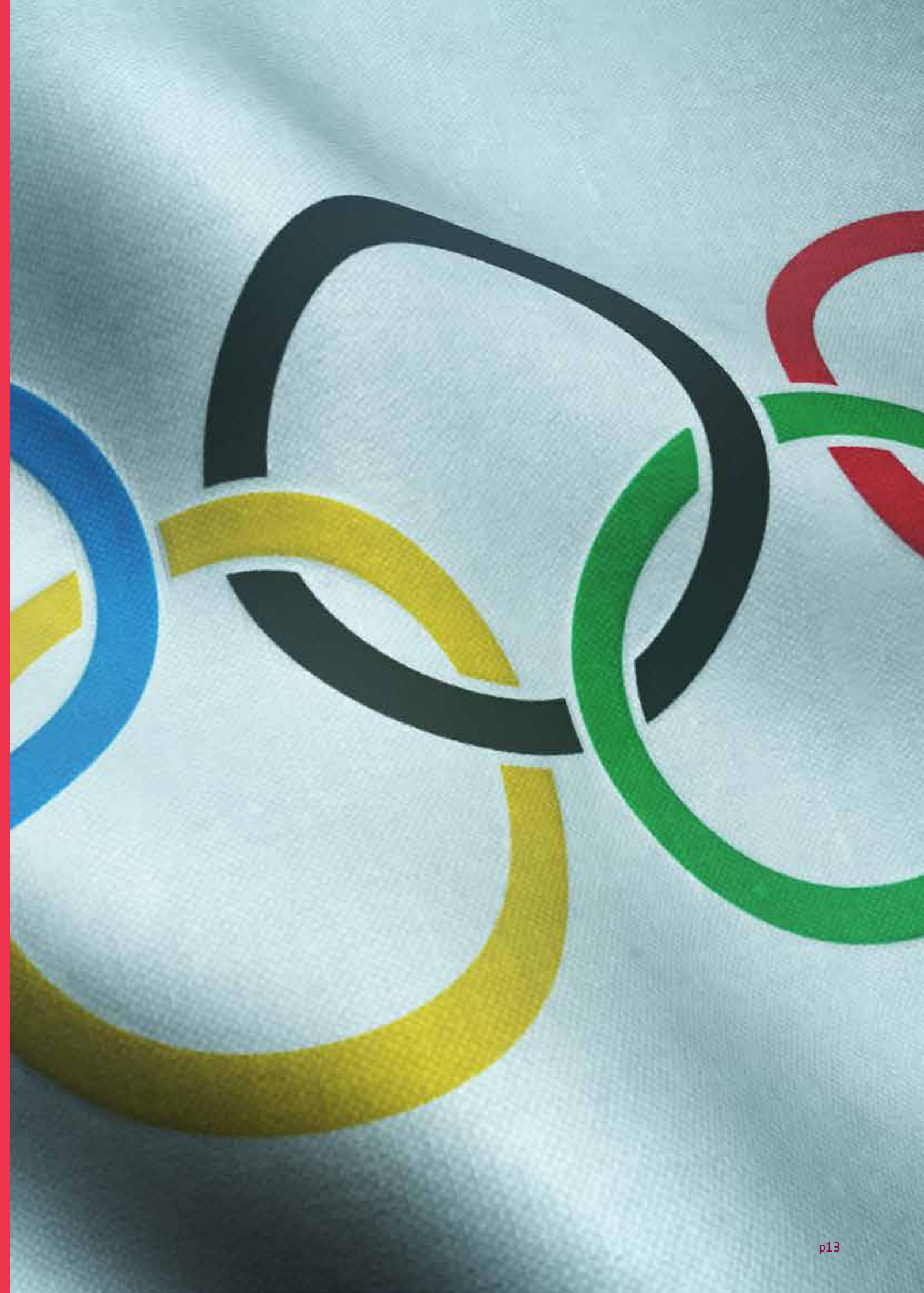
"For many years, sports have been a major contributor to our nation's development. From athletics to cycling, gymnastics to football, tennis to volleyball, Qatar has earned the reputation of a world-class destination for major sporting events. It is this proven track-record and wealth of experience, along with our desire to

use sport to promote peace and cultural exchange, that will form the basis of our discussions with the Commission."

Over the last decade, Qatar has undergone a rapid transformation as part of the National Vision 2030. Qatar has developed state-of-the-art sporting venues and transportation networks as part of its preparations to host the FIFA 2022 World Cup. Hosting a future edition of the Olympic and Paralympic Games would further accelerate Qatar's human, economic, social, and environmental development.

As part of the IOC's Olympic Agenda 2020 reforms, the IOC instituted a new approach to hosting future Olympic Games through the establishment of a permanent Future Host Commission. This approach is based on partnership, flexibility and sustainability, ensuring that future Games will fully align with the long-term development plans of host cities/regions and leave lasting legacies.

These reforms have encouraged the Qatar Olympic Committee to express its interest in hosting future Olympic Games.



QOC celebrates one year anniversary of ANOC World Beach Games Qatar 2019



The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) celebrated the one year anniversary of the ANOC World Beach Games Qatar 2019, which saw Doha welcoming over 1,200 athletes from 97 NOCs for the first-ever global festival of beach, water and action sports.

Qatar planned and delivered the Games in just four months after stepping in, following the withdrawal of San Diego as the host city. The Games also immediately followed Doha's hosting of the IAAF World Athletics Championships - increasing the operational and logistical challenges. However, due to the support of the State of Qatar, the strong relationship with ANOC and the strength of Qatar's extensive major event hosting experience and expertise, the QOC was able to deliver a successful event.

The Games showcased 13 new and dynamic sports, selected based on their appeal with young people around the world. With a combination of Olympic and non-Olympic disciplines, Qatar 2019 provided an opportunity for the QOC, and all the participating NOCs, to connect with new athletes and fans. The QOC was able to draw on its strong relationships with many International Federations (IFs) to ensure each competition was delivered to the highest standards.

Sustainability was at the heart of Qatar 2019, and QOC maximized the use of existing and temporary venues to minimize the Games' impact on the environment. Only two new permanent venues were built, a bouldering wall and skateboard park, which were built for legacy purposes given both sports will feature at the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

QOC Secretary General HE Jassim Rashid Al-Buenain said, "It is with very fond memories that we look back and celebrate the ANOC World Beach Games Qatar 2019. Qatar has been fortunate to host many world-class



events but the ANOC World Beach Games, as the first global beach multi-sport event, was unique.

"We were very proud we were able to plan and deliver the Games in just four months, particularly given that we hosted the IAAF World Athletics Championships just before that. It has left a great legacy, connecting us with new talented athletes and helping to inspire people in Qatar to try new sports and disciplines. It is these legacy benefits both for Qatar and the region, and the powerful role sport plays in social development that is the driving force behind our desire to host these major international events."

Qatar will host the FIFA World Cup in Qatar 2022 and the Doha 2023 FINA World Championships the following year. Doha is also currently bidding to host the 2030 Asian Games.





QOC announces updated calendar of sports events

The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) has announced the updated calendar of sports events for the year 2020.

The calendar included the amendment of the dates of some international sporting events scheduled for this year. This includes the Diamond League for athletics which was held on September 25, the second Qatar Men's International Tennis Federation Championship held between October 12 and 18, the third Squash Federation Championship from October 18 to 21, the third Qatar Men's International Tennis Federation Championship from October 19 to 25.

Others are the first Qatar Youth's International Tennis Championship from October 26 to October 31, the Qatar Classic World Squash Championship from November 1 to 7, the second Qatar Youth's International Tennis Championship from November 2 to 7, the 3x3 World Basketball Tour from November 20 to 21, the fourth Qatar Men's International Tennis Federation

Championship from December 7 to 13, the fourth Professional Squash Championship from December 10 to 14, and the fifth Qatar Men's International Tennis Federation Championship from December 14 to 20.

Some international tournaments have also been postponed to next year, namely the Davis Cup, the 13th Artistic Gymnastics World Cup (men and women), and the table tennis final qualifiers and qualifying event for the Tokyo Olympics.

Two tournaments at the GCC level were also postponed namely the 28th GCC Aquatics Championship and the GCC basketball clubs championship.

The updated calendar also added the Doha 2020 ASTC Triathlon Asian Cup which will take place on December 4 and 5.

Proposed Doha 2030 venue hosts QOC Padel Tournament as gateway to community sport

Closing day attended by HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani

The Al Sadd Sports Club Indoor Hall, one of the many existing world-class venues proposed for the Doha 2030 Asian Games bid, safely welcomed more than 300 members of the public for the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) Padel Tournament.

The tournament took place from October 27 to 31, and it was part of a wider QOC "Sport for Life" community engagement strategy, which is encouraging people to lead healthier and more active lifestyles. Sport for Life is a central part of Doha's bid for the 2030 Asian Games, and it reflects the country's strong belief in the power of sport to drive social development.

The tournament was held to provide an opportunity for people to continue to practice sport during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Al Sadd Sports Club Indoor Hall, which would host billiards in 2030, is one of many proposed Doha 2030 venues that will continue to serve the community and elite sport before and after 2030.

Alex Garcia and Angel Carrasco won the first place in Category A, while Mohammed Saadoun and Gonzalo Sacho are runners-up and Khalid Saadoun and Abdullah Hajji emerged third. In Category B, Rashid Nawwaf and Hamad Nawwaf won the first place, Jassem Al Mulla and George Perez came second, and Mohammed Al Shaabi and Abdullah Al Muezzin third. In Category C, Abdullah Al Shaabi and Abdulrahman Al Shaabi emerged the winners, Abdullah Al Jaber and Ibrahim Al Najjar came second, and Salah Aqil and Casper completed the podium finish.

Doha 2030 CEO and QOC Secretary-General HE Jassim Bin Rashid Al Buenain said: "Now more than ever, sports has a significant role to play in inspiring hope and positivity.

The QOC Padel Tournament is just one small way we can support our communities by giving them the chance to stay active through practising sport in a COVID-19 secure environment. This is crucial not just for the physical wellbeing but for mental wellbeing as well.

"We are fortunate to have so many existing world-class sports venues in Qatar, which makes it possible to deliver these opportunities in a safe way. Ensuring that these facilities benefit Qatar and the region from now until 2030 and beyond, is a central pillar of our bid to host the Asian Games. We are focused on using the Games to deliver benefits to Asian sport and serving as a gateway to a brighter future for Asia."

Padel is one of the proposed sports on the Doha 2030 Games programme, and it has grown significantly in popularity in recent years.





Sheikh Joaan attends meeting of IOC Commission for Public Affairs and Social Development through Sport

The QOC President HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani attended the third meeting of the IOC Commission for Public Affairs and Social Development through Sport which was held recently via video conference.

The IOC President Dr Thomas Bach was also at the meeting alongside other members of the Commission.

During the meeting, the members discussed the latest developments in the Olympic movement and the role of the Commission for Public Affairs and Social Development in promoting international peace and security.

The meeting also reviewed the topics listed on the agenda and took the necessary decisions thereon.

رحمك الله يا
” أمير الإنسانية ”

QOC suspends local sports activities to mourn the death of Amir of Kuwait

The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) suspended all local sports activities for three days from Tuesday, September 29 until Thursday, October 1 to mourn the death of HH the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh .Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah



Doha continues its impressive legacy of hosting Wanda Diamond League

Doha continued to showcase its impressive capabilities of hosting major global sporting events as it hosted the Doha Wanda Diamond League 2020, the fourth and final round of the annual athletics event, on September 25 at the Qatar Sports Club.

HE President of the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani attended the event alongside other dignitaries including HE the QOC Second Vice-President Dr Thani bin Abdulrahman Al Kuwari, HE the QOC Secretary-General Mr Jassim bin Rashid Al Buenain, Vice-President of Qatar Sports Club Sheikh Suhaim bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, President of the Qatar Swimming Association Mr Khaleel Al Jabir and representatives of the Kuwaiti Embassy.

Doha Wanda Diamond League is the most exciting athletics event in the World Athletics (formerly IAAF) agenda.

This year, the League brought together top athletes, including World Champions and Olympic medalists.

Several senior World Athletics officials globally praised Qatar's organization of the one-day event, which received widespread attention due to it being held safely during a challenging time occasioned by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

"It was great to see 117 top world athletes from 65 countries competing in the final round of Doha Wanda Diamond League 2020," HE QOC President Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani said in a tweet while lauding the successful organization of the event.

"Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the capital of world sports

hosted this World Athletics world-class event with maximum safety and professional standards," added His Excellency.

For his part, the HE President of Qatar Athletics Federation (QAF) Dr Thani bin Abdulrahman Al Kuwari thanked and appreciated the attendance of HE Shiekh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani at the Doha Wanda Diamond League competition.

Dr Thani said he was highly satisfied and proud of the organization of this edition of the Doha Wanda Diamond League which was held successfully during a challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic which is still ravaging the world.

Dr Al Kuwari added that he was also impressed by the statements of several legends of the sport who praised Qatar's organizational capabilities and its good track record of hosting any sports events.

Dr Al Kuwari thanked the office of the HE Prime Minister, Supreme Committee for Crisis Management and staff of Ministry of Public Health for their collective efforts at making the event a fantastic success. He also reiterated that Qatar would remain an inspiring nation in hosting sports events at both regional and international levels.

The event brought together 117 athletes from 65 countries, including 10 Olympic medalists and 17 World Championships medalists, who competed in 11 events.

The competition also witnessed the emergence of a group of promising Qatari athletes who shone in the events held on the sidelines of the Doha Wanda Diamond League 2020.



Our talented sprinter Abdulmageed Zakaria set a new personal best in the Men's 400m in 48.77s seconds while his teammates sprinter Hyder Al Yassiri sealed 49.27s and Ismail Babikr recorded 49.96s.

Qatar's Mohammed Al Qarni finished in the runner-up position in the Men's 1500m in a time of 3:44.30, while Moroccan Elias Al Wali was crowned champion in a time of 3:43.66 and Australia's Joseph Dong finished third in 3:47.39.

Qatar's promising sprinter, Mohammed Nasser, finished third in the Men's 400m,

setting a new personal best of 45.96s, USA sprinter Camry Montgomery claimed the first place in a time of 45.55s. At the same time, the runner-up position went to Kuwait's Yousef Karam in 45.72s.

Qatar's sprinter Abdulaziz Mohammed impressed the home fans as he finished in sixth place in the 200m in 20.88s. Arthur Cisse of Ivory Coast claimed the first place in 20.23s while Jamaican sprinter Julian Forte snatched the runner-up position in a time of 20.39s and France's Christopher Lauter finished third in 20.68s.



Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe concludes in France; Sheikh Joaan crowns winners

it is held annually within the schedule of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al-Thani's TAYF (Amer) won the Qatar Arabian World Cup (Group 1 PA) in a thrilling fashion, and Al Shaqab Racings WOODEN (Wootton Bassett) sprinted to a memorable victory in the Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp Longines (Group 1). HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani handed the Arabian World Cup to HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al-Thani who received the cup on behalf of HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

The eight-year-old TAYF (Amer) was one of the most experienced campaigners in the field, but success in the Qatar Arabian World Cup had previously eluded it.

On this occasion, it was making its fifth appearance in the world championship of Purebred Arabian (PA) racing. It landed the spoils under jockey Olivier Peslier and for trainer Thomas Fourcy, who won all the big races for Purebred Arabians during the course of the Qatar Prix de l'Arc weekend.

Tayf's victory, the horse's first in five attempts at the world championship race for Purebred Arabians, further stamped Qatar's authority in Purebred Arabian racing.

Qatar's winning streak at this year's edition of the global event continued with Al Shaqab Racings WOODEN (Wootton Bassett) winning the Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp Longines, a Group 1 over the sprint distance of 1,000m. Sheail bin Khalifa Al Kuwaris LADY PRINCESS (General) won the Qatar Arabian Trophy des Juments (Group 1 PA) for four-year-old fillies on Day One of the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe weekend on Saturday, October 3.

On Friday, October 2, at Saint-Cloud, Al Shaqab Racings ALAWSJ (Dahor de Brugere) won the Qatar Arabian Trophy Des Pouliches (Group 1 PA) and Sheail bin Khalifa Al Kuwaris HADI DE CARRERE (Nieshan) landed the Qatar Arabian Trophy Des Poulains (Group 1 PA).

The Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe which took place under the sponsorship of Qatar, and the partnership between the Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club (QREC) and France Galop, was concluded on October 4 with the last-day races at the Paris Longchamp.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al-Thani and HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani, President of the Qatar Olympic Committee attended the event.

The Paris Longchamp track hosted many amazing and exciting races for the elite of the best racing horses in the world.

HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani crowned the winners of the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (Group 1) for three-year-old and over fillies for 2400m.

This race was one of the most important races in France and in Europe in general, and



Qatar hosts first-ever virtual ITTF Annual General Meeting



Qatar's capital of Doha recently hosted the first-ever virtual Annual General Assembly meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) which was attended by the Qatar Olympic Committee Secretary-General HE Jassim Rashid Al Boenin.

The meeting was held online due to the challenging times occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is still ravaging the world.

The event was the second ITTF Annual General Assembly to be hosted by Qatar after it hosted it in 2004 on the sidelines of the World Table Tennis Championship. During the meeting, South Africa was elected as the host nation of the 2023 ITTF World Table Tennis Championships after it enjoyed a commanding 90 to 39 vote victory over its German opponent.

ITTF Deputy President and Vice-President of the Asian Table Tennis Union Khalil Ahmed Al Mohannadi expressed his happiness with the successful hosting of the meeting by Qatar for the second time.

Al Mohannadi said, "Unfortunately, this time we did not meet together in one place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we met online and brought the ITTF family together in Doha". I want to thank HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, the president of the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) for his support to us during such a challenging time. I would also like to thank our colleagues, who were able to arrive in Qatar for the meeting."

"We met together as one family to keep our visions alive and promote the game we love. Once the crisis is over, we shall come back greater and stronger than ever before," added Al Mohannadi.

Infantino impressed by Al Bayt stadium and Qatar's World Cup progress

FIFA President Gianni Infantino described preparations for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ as 'impressive' during a whistle-stop tour of the country in October.

Infantino met with tournament organizers and took part in a seven-a-side match at Al Bayt Stadium, a 60,000-capacity venue designed to resemble a traditional Arab tent. The striking arena will be inaugurated in the coming months and has been confirmed as the venue for the opening game of the tournament.

"It is an absolute pleasure to play football at this amazing stadium, where on November 21 2022, we will kick off the greatest FIFA World Cup ever," said Infantino.

"Al Bayt Stadium is incredible: a true football stadium. It has a real football feel and a local touch. The tented shape makes it truly unique, and the Arabic patterns in the roof are just beautiful. I am speechless."

Preparations for Qatar 2022 have continued despite the pandemic following the implementation of stringent health

and safety protocols to protect workers from COVID-19. Khalifa International, Al Janoub and Education City stadiums have all been inaugurated and are fully operational with three others - Al Bayt, Al Rayyan and Al Thumama - in the final stages of construction. All eight venues will be completed well in advance for the tournament.

"I am very pleased with Qatar's progress ahead of the tournament. We have seen the plans, but when you see the reality, it is even more impressive. Qatar has been able to continue to advance during the last six months while the world stood still - from infrastructure preparations to important developments such as the recent labour reforms announced by the government. If I was confident before, now I can say I am even more," added Infantino.

"In 2022, everything will be close by, and fans from all nationalities will have the opportunity to gather in the same public areas and enjoy Qatar's mild temperatures at this time of the year. It's a World Cup like no other was or ever will be."





Team Qatar to debut in Gold Cup as QFA, SC form strategic partnership with CONCACAF

With just about two years to go until the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, the Qatar Football Association (QFA) and the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) have formed a new strategic partnership with CONCACAF, the governing body for football in North America, Central America and the Caribbean.

The partnership will see the QFA the SC play a vital role in all levels of football and sport across the CONCACAF region and help deliver long-term football for development programmes across the region.

Firstly, the partnership includes Qatar's participation as a guest nation in the region's top football competition, the CONCACAF Gold Cup, in both 2021 and 2023.

The reigning AFC Asian Cup champions will make their Gold Cup debut in July of next year after their second appearance as a

guest nation at the Copa America, South America's top football competition.

The national team's appearance marks another important football development milestone on the road to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, and it will further help prepare the team ahead of their first match as host nation on November 21 2022.

The partnership also includes long-term involvement in the region's football for development initiatives through the SC's flagship human and social legacy programme, Generation Amazing, and the CONCACAF's NextPlay programme.

In particular, the partnership will have a significant focus on community coaching development, which will benefit thousands of young people across the region, and help ensure a lasting human legacy for the FIFA World Cup 2022™.

"The Concacaf Gold Cup is a prestigious tournament, and we're thrilled that Qatar has been invited to compete in the 2021 and 2023 editions," said QFA President, HE Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Thani. "Qatar's participation in the tournament next year takes place just 17 months before the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 kicks off, so it will be a great opportunity to help further prepare the national team ahead of their opening World Cup match on November 21, 2022.

"Winning the 2019 AFC Asian Cup marked an important milestone in our development plan, and so we head into the Gold Cup confident that we can compete with CONCACAF's best teams. We look forward to the competition."

**A step on the road
to 2022 World Cup
AFC Champions
League (West Zone)
tournament a new
Qatari success**





The AFC Champions League (West Zone) matches, which were recently held in Qatar from September 14 to October 3, marked the successful return of football in Asia following its suspension in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fifteen teams from Iran, Iraq, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan competed over 36 matches for a spot in the final of the continent's most prestigious club competition. The matches were staged across four venues, three of which will be used during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™.

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) worked closely with the local medical authorities, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), and the Qatar Football Association (QFA) to put in place a robust bubble-to-bubble bio framework that enabled the safe participation of teams, officials and the LOC staff.

Over 20 days, more than 7,900 tests were administered on players, officials and across the tournament workforce. Tests were repeated every three to six days as a means to allow for early detection and intervention. The result was a positivity rate of just 1.7 percent Dr Abdul Wahab Al Musleh, Advisor

to the Minister of Public Health of Qatar on Sports Affairs, which led the safety initiative, said, "The AFC Champions League was a sizeable tournament, with the number of teams participating being almost half the number that will partake in the FIFA World Cup 2022.

While we hope that the pandemic resolves in the coming months, the success we achieved with hosting the AFC Champions League has given us a further boost of confidence that we will be able to welcome both fans and players in any mega sporting events in the lead up to 2022, and the World Cup itself in two years time."

AFC Deputy Director of Competitions and Football Events Division, Avazbek Berdikulov, spoke about the choice to resume the competition in Qatar.

"In addition to the safety measures put in place, there were three key components of any successful tournament that Qatar was able to provide to the highest standards," Berdikulov said. "They were world-class stadiums, training grounds and accommodation.

Seeing these facilities first-hand gives us full confidence that Qatar will excel in hosting the FIFA World Cup 2022."





Qatar's Al-Attiyah keeps winning streak of titles and trophies, finishes first in Andalusia Desert Rally

Qatar's World Rally champion, Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah, has kept his winning streak of titles and championships with the most recent being the Andalusia Desert Rally, which he and his French co-driver Matthieu Baumel won with a total time of 8.54.09 hours.

The winning time was 3.14 minutes ahead of Spain's Carlos Sainz, who came in second place with a total time of 8.57.23 hours.

The 2020 Andalusia Desert Rally was held over five days and concluded on October 10 with the participation of 55 drivers in the car category of the most prominent world champions.

In his post-victory statement, Al Attiyah said he was delighted with the victory which he described as a powerful motivation for him to eye next the most challenging title - the Dakar Rally which will take place in January.

"The Andalusia Desert Rally was the most enjoyable one for me. It was a tough and exciting one that brought together the world stars of the sport. I was lucky to win the title of the inaugural Andalusia Desert Rally with the participation of top world rally champions. It was a best warm-up session ahead of the toughest one - the 2021 Dakar Rally."





Qatar to host 2021 GCC Aquatics Championships next August

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Swimming organizing committee has announced the postponement of tournaments scheduled for 2020 to 2021.

As a result of this, the State of Qatar will host the 28th Aquatics Championships next August.

The Committee indicated that the 16th Swimming Championship In The Short Course would be held next February, provided that the 18th Open Water Swimming Championship will take place in October 2021.

The GCC Swimming organizing committee had held a virtual meeting headed by the Chairman of Oman Swimming Association (OSA) and Chairman of the Arab Swimming

Taha bin Sulaiman Al Kashari with the participation of members of the Committee, including the Secretary-General of the Swimming Federation Talal Mubarak Al Darwish.

The meeting discussed several topics on the agenda where the participants ratified the minutes of the previous meeting number 65, which was held on September 7, 2019. The Committee also discussed its programmes and activities for the year 2021, as it was agreed to postpone the tournaments scheduled for 2020 to 2021.

The meeting also selected Mohamed Al Sahili from the Oman Swimming Federation as a technical coordinator for the GCC Organising Committee.