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The Consulate General of the State of Qatar in Hong Kong

Qatar Highlights – Special Edition –

Celebrating National Sport Day with focus on Qatar 2022 World Cup



اليوم الرياضي للدولة
National Sport Day



H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of Qatar celebrating Qatar National Sport Day 2021 with his daughters

National Sport Day is celebrated annually in Qatar every second Tuesday of February and its main objective is to promote and support a healthy lifestyle for Qatar's residents.

The first National Sport Day was held in 2012 and since then, the majority of private or public organizations in Qatar organize a series of activities for their employees in an effort to encourage and inspire a healthy and active way of living. The day is a public holiday. Qatar National Sport Day 2021 took place on February 9.

Celebrating The National Sport Day



What Is the Importance of Qatar Sport Day 2021?

The Qatar National Sport Day carries immense importance in the lives of Qataris, and understandably so. This is a day that is celebrated in line with the national vision 2030 of the country. In fact, Qatar plays a significant role in promoting a healthy community at both physical and psychological levels and the **Qatar Sport Day 2021** is a part of it.

Qatar Sport Day and the pandemic restrictions

The Ministry of Culture and Sports and The National Sport Day Committee announced public health measures to protect the health of participants, spectators, organizing committee members, staff and supporting personnel by reducing the risk of Covid-19 transmission before, during and after the event set by Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), among said restrictions is allowing individual sports activities only and limiting them to outdoors.

Follow the QR code to know more about these measures



Qatar, an International Sport Hub, and Home of the World's Leading Sports Hospital

Did You Know?

Qatar is a World-Class Sport Hub, not only does it organize and host championships and global tournaments, Qatar is also the home of the pioneering Sport Academy, Aspire, as well as Aspetar, the world's leading specialised orthopaedic and sports medicine hospital.



Aspetar is world's leading specialised orthopaedic and sports medicine hospital, staffed by some of the world's leading sports medicine practitioners and researchers.

- (FIFA) Medical Centre of Excellence

Aspetar is the first specialised Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital in the Gulf region. It provides the highest possible medical treatment for sports-related injuries in a state-of-the-art facility.

Through the delivery of excellence in sports medicine, physiotherapy, sports science, orthopaedic surgery and rehabilitation, Aspetar services the needs of football and Sports Clubs and Federations throughout the state of Qatar, and regularly services international athletes and professional sportspeople.

Aspetar provides a full service offering from injury prevention to injury management and performance improvement. The philosophy of Aspetar is to provide sportspeople with the clinical support, knowledge and facilities to maximise their training and competitive potential. This is achieved through tailored education programmes and support in areas of health including fitness assessment, nutrition, psychology, physiology and physical training.



Aspire Academy is a globally recognized national sports academy for the development of Qatar's athletically talented, its internationally renowned sports programs and facilities are a symbol of Qatar's sporting ambitions and pride.

Aspire Academy provides integrated sports development, sports science and academic learning for scholarship boys from Grade 7 (12 - 13 years) to Grade 12 (17 - 18 years). Additionally, Aspire delivers an ambitious health and lifestyle program for the community delivering over 25,000 classes per annum.

The programmes managed by Aspire Academy to develop well-educated well-rounded sports champions are based around:

- 🏆 Innovative and comprehensive sport training methods with regular international competition opportunities.
- 🏆 Global standard performance and sports science expertise, technology and research.
- 🏆 Secondary schooling focused on developing educated youth athletes, leaders, lifelong leaders and internationally minded citizens.
- 🏆 Local partnerships with Qatari Sport Federations and the QOC, as well as support from our strategic business partners Aspetar and Aspire Logistics.
- 🏆 Partnerships across the globe that help to strengthen sport, sports science and academic outcomes such as Aspire in the World Fellows and ASIA. In addition, Aspire Academy's ownership of European football clubs KAS Eupen (Belgium), Cultural Deportiva y Leonesa (Spain), and European Clubs network all contribute to its elite players' development.

[Click on the logos to learn more](#)

Welcome to Qatar FIFA 2022



"On behalf of all Arabs, we welcome the world to the 2022 World Cup."

HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of Qatar receiving the mantle of World Cup Host in 2018

How did it start?

Qatar made a bid for the 2022 World Cup. HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, son of the father Amir of Qatar, was the chairman of the bid committee.

Beginning on the 16th March 2009, Qatar set out to show the world that the Middle East deserved to host the 2022 World Cup. Their campaign was very clear from the start, the bid was, of course, for the glory of the game, but their overarching aim was to better the world's understanding of the Middle East - using football as a platform for change. Qatar's bid team travelled around the world to demonstrate the country's ability to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, taking FIFA's well-known slogan, 'For the Game; For the World', and making it their own.

On 2 December 2010, it was announced that Qatar will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, winning with its bid against USA, South Korea, Japan and Australia.



HH the father Amir (then Amir of Qatar), Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, after announcement of Qatar 2022 bid win in 2010



World Cup Preparations

Soon after being awarded the right to host the 2022 World Cup, in 2011, the State of Qatar established the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) to deliver the required infrastructure and host country planning and operations for Qatar to host an amazing and historic 2022 FIFA World Cup, which accelerated progress towards achieving national development goals and creating a lasting legacy for Qatar, the Middle East, Asia and the world.

The stadiums, as well as non-competition venues and other infrastructure the SC and stakeholders are meant to deliver will contribute to a compact and connected FIFA World Cup with sustainability and accessibility at its heart. After the tournament, the stadiums and surrounding precincts will become vibrant hubs of community life – an integral part of the legacy being built in Qatar.



“FIFA president praises Qatar’s World Cup preparations during his first visit to Al Bayt Stadium”

Working closely with the Qatar 2022 Local Organizing Committee (LOC), the SC is also responsible for 2022 FIFA World Cup host country planning and operations. Families and groups of fans arriving from around the world will experience a secure, human-centered tournament that both celebrates and exemplifies the hospitality for which Qatar and the region are known.

SC aims to harnesses the power of football to stimulate human, social, economic and environmental development in communities across Qatar, the region and Asia, through programmes and initiatives including:

- 🏆 Generation Amazing (corporate social responsibility)
- 🏆 Challenge 22 (supporting regional innovators)
- 🏆 Workers’ Welfare (ensuring the safety and security of workers on our projects)
- 🏆 Community Engagement and Josoor Institute (career development)



Qatar World Cup Stadiums at a Glance

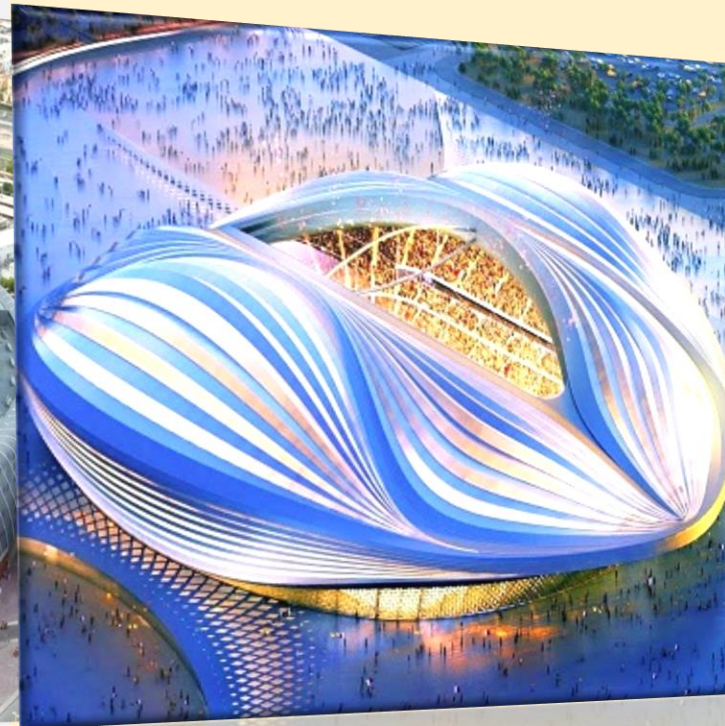
Khalifa International Stadium



- ⚽ Capacity: 40,000
- ⚽ Inauguration: May 2017
- ⚽ Location: Doha

Khalifa International Stadium was the first tournament-ready venue for Qatar 2022 and will host matches up to and including the third place play-off during Qatar 2022.

Al Janoub Stadium



- ⚽ Capacity: 40,000
- ⚽ Inauguration: May 2019
- ⚽ Location: Al-Wakrah

Al Janoub Stadium was the first Qatar 2022 tournament venue to be built from scratch and will host matches up to and including the round of 16 during Qatar 2022.

Education City Stadium



- ⚽ Capacity: 40,000
- ⚽ Inauguration: June 2020
- ⚽ Location: Education City

Education City Stadium was inaugurated in June 2020 during a virtual event that paid tribute to front-line healthcare workers during the coronavirus pandemic. It will host matches up to and including the quarter-final stage during Qatar 2022.

Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium



- ⚽ Capacity: 40,000
- ⚽ Inauguration: December 2020
- ⚽ Location: Al Rayyan

Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium or as widely known “Al Rayyan Stadium” was inaugurated on December 18, 2020, to mark two years until the World Cup 2022 final. It is set to host matches up to and including the round of 16 during Qatar 2022.



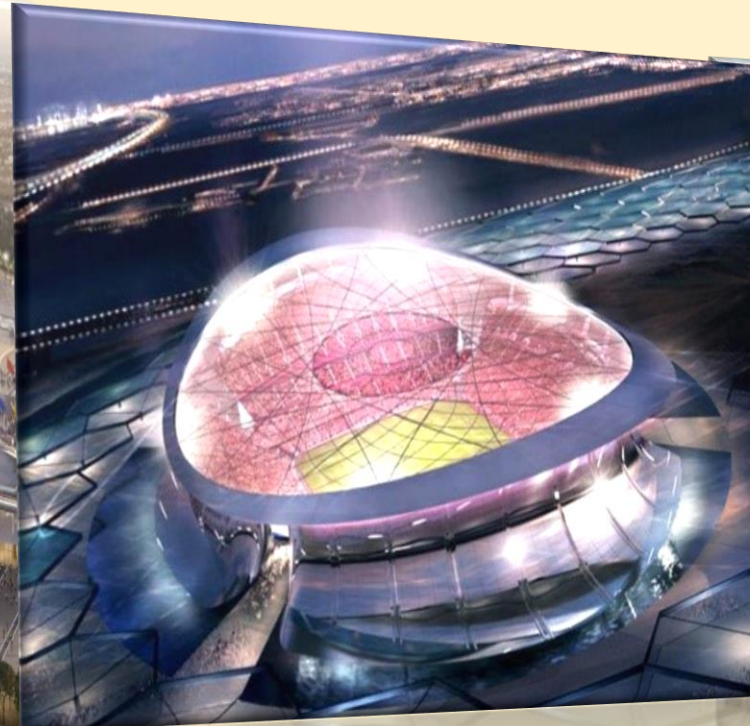
Al Bayt Stadium



- ⚽ Capacity: 60,000
- ⚽ Inauguration: later in 2021
- ⚽ Location: Al Khor

Al Bayt Stadium is set to host matches up to and including the semi-final stage during Qatar 2022. The organisers said about 28,000 seats from the stadium will be donated to developing countries after the tournament.

Lusail Stadium



- ⚽ Capacity: 80,000
- ⚽ Inauguration: later in 2021
- ⚽ Location: Doha

Lusail Stadium will be the biggest tournament venue for the 2022 World Cup and will host the final, along with matches during every stage of the event.

Ras Abu Aboud Stadium



- ⚽ Capacity: 40,000
- ⚽ Inauguration: later in 2021
- ⚽ Location: Doha

Ras Abu Aboud Stadium will be the first fully demountable tournament venue in football World Cup history.

It will host matches up to and including the round of 16 during Qatar 2022. Its structure will be built using modified shipping containers.

Al Thumama Stadium



- ⚽ Capacity: 40,000
- ⚽ Inauguration: later in 2021
- ⚽ Location: Doha

Al Thumama Stadium is set to host matches up to and including the quarter-final stage during Qatar 2022.

Al Thumama Stadium's design represents the Gahfiya – a traditional woven cap worn by men and boys across the Middle East.

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

#2YearsToGo



Following a Sustainability Strategy for the World Cup

In 2022, the FIFA World Cup will be held in the Arab world for the first time, in a fast-growing economy and in the most geographically compact area since the inaugural edition of the tournament in 1930. As any host, Qatar presents common and unique challenges to be addressed, as well as unparalleled opportunities to leave a lasting positive legacy beyond the event.

The path to achieve that ambitious goal started in 2015, when FIFA and the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) began to develop and implement the event's Sustainability Strategy – the first to be planned and delivered jointly by FIFA, the host country and the local organizers, represented in this case by the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 LLC (Q22). The associated policy applies to all functional areas and projects involved in the preparations for and staging of the tournament, in addition to post-event activities.

To deliver on that shared vision, five sustainability commitments have been defined:

- to develop human capital and safeguard workers' rights;
- to provide an inclusive tournament experience;
- to catalyze economic development;
- to deliver innovative environmental solutions; and
- to set an example of good governance and ethical business practices.

On that basis, a total of 22 objectives have been described in detail, together with more than 70 concrete initiatives and programmes to deliver the strategy and achieve the objectives set.



Above chart is a part of FIFA World Cup 2022 first Sustainability Progress report published by FIFA and the Qatari Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC)

[Click on the chart to see full report](#)

Major Transport Projects in Preparation for the 2022 World Cup



Guided by the state's long-term economic development plan, Qatar National Vision (QNV) 2030, and driven by preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, Qatar is investing heavily in infrastructure programmes focused on its non-oil and gas sectors.

According to Finance Ministry's numbers in 2017, more than \$500m a week were being spent across all capital projects in the country in preparation for the upcoming games. The Qatari government in 2020 has allocated \$25 billion of its budget for major infrastructure projects, mainly focusing on building new projects and reviving those which were put on halt.

A total of 30 road projects were being implemented in Qatar at the end of 2016, including improvements to link roads, intersections and tunnels, according to the MoTC. The largest road development programme is the multibillion-dollar Expressway Programme, focused on developing the country's network of roads and bridges.

Qatar has long-term plans for construction of a national railway network to connect the north and western regions, but it is prioritising infrastructure development in the Greater Doha area, specifically the Doha Metro and Lusail LTR, ahead of the FIFA World Cup in 2022.

By the end of 2020, Qatar announced 90% of World Cup 2022 infrastructure completed! FIFA President Gianni Infantino said:

“2020 has been a year full of challenges for the entire world, and for football in particular, but in spite of this we're seeing constant progress in the run up to the World Cup, which shows the strong, continuing commitment from Qatar, led by Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, to whom I am grateful, for hosting a tournament which will not be forgotten two years from now, as well as building a legacy that will last beyond 2022.”



Qatar and Sport



Qatar has played host to more than 500 international sporting events in the past 15 years, across all sports and age groups.

The list of International championships and tournaments held in Qatar include, but not limited to, the following: the 2006 Asian Games, the 2015 Men's Handball World Championship, the 2015 AIBA World Boxing Championship, the 48th Artistic Gymnastics World Championships, the International Handball Federation Super Globe, the 2019 ANOC World Beach Games and IJF Masters 2020 as well as the 2019 and 2020 FIFA Club World Cup. Qatar is also looking forward to hosting the 2023 FINA World Championships, and the 2030 Asian Games.

“Doha has become a beacon of pride, thanks to the guidance and directives of His Highness the Amir, who has established Qatar's global status, and made sport one of the important factors in the pillars of sustainable development of the country.”

-His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, Secretary General of the Qatar Olympic Committee, March 2019

Qatar Highlights is brought to you by the Consulate General of the State of Qatar in Hong Kong