

Qatar Highlights

Qatar National Sport Day



February 2022

The Consulate General of the State of Qatar in Hong Kong



Lusail Stadium

Sport in Qatar

In this Newsletter we will highlight sport in the State of Qatar in celebration of the annual Qatar National Sport Day.

Qatar is the new international Sports Hub!

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

“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 National Sport Day

Qatar National Sport Day is potentially the most active day in the year in Qatar, and it comes with its own public holiday. It is a pioneering initiative adopted by The Amir of Qatar HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to take place on the second Tuesday of every February. This year, it fell on the 8th of February.

The aim of Qatar National Sport Day is to promote sports and a healthier, more active lifestyle to both younger and older generations in Qatar and beyond. It brings communities together through sport and its principles of team building, inclusion, unity and participation. Qatar is celebrating its National Sport Day this year adhering to social distancing regulations and different public health measures.



The Amir of the State of Qatar, H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani marking Qatar National Sport Day on February 8th 2022 in Doha, Qatar

What are we covering in this issue?

- ❖ Qatar Sport Milestones in 2021
- ❖ FIFA 2022 World Cup Qatar Updates
- ❖ FIFA 2022 Tickets Sale First Round Launched
- ❖ Consulate General’s National Day Celebration
- ❖ Get to Know Stadium 974
- ❖ What to expect in 2022



اليوم الرياضي للدولة
National Sport Day



2021 was a big year for Sport in Qatar

2021

In 2021, Qatar continued its position as a leader in sports in the Middle East. It proved itself as the capital of Arab and international sports by hosting many tournaments and events that confirm its global position.

2021 witnessed further achievements and successes at all sports fields despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2021

Qatar successfully hosted the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2021, held for the first time under the world football governing body “FIFA” from November 30 to December 18.

The Qatari National Team finished in third place after defeating Egypt 5-4 in penalties, which was held at 974 Stadium. Akram Afif, the star of the Qatari team, won the bronze ball as the third-best player in the tournament, which witnessed an unparalleled success and came as a rehearsal before the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.



The Amir of the State of Qatar, H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani attended the tournament's closing ceremony at Al Bayt Stadium and handed Algeria the Cup after their final victory over Tunisia.

Calligraphy of the tournament name
in Arabic: FIFA Arab Cup™

Football, the
heart of every
Arab

Map of
the Arab World

Arabic Letters
beautifully embossed,
taken from the Arabic
word “My land”

Smooth undulations,
representing the trade
routes paved by Arab
ancestors

Solid gold base
representing Arab
unity



Arab Cup Trophy Explained

Proudly honouring the elements that bind the Arab world together, the FIFA Arab Cup Trophy's design is bold yet exquisitely crafted. Culture and traditions have always been shared characteristics across the region – expressed through music, art and storytelling.

The trophy has Arabic letters embossed from the word “My Land”. It also has the map of the Arab world. Solid gold base representing Arab unity. Smooth undulations representing the trade routes paved by Arab ancestors. Calligraphy of the tournament name in Arabic and it hold a football.

While these values are the heart of the Arab world, language is its soul. From the Gulf to the Pacific the dialects are many, but the letters remain the same – a language that speaks generosity, honour and solidarity.

Qatari Athletes in the Tokyo Olympics 2021

Two Golds and a Bronze!

The most prominent Qatari achievements in 2021 were those of the 2020 Summer Olympics medalists. Qatari athletes obtained two gold medals and a bronze medal.

Fares Ibrahim won the gold medal in the 96kg weightlifting competition after lifting 402kg. The second gold medal went to Mutaz Barshim in the high jump competition after achieving a height of 2.37 meters to win the gold with Italian Gianmarco Tamberi.

Ahmed Tejan and Sherif Younis won the bronze in the beach volleyball competition, the first Arab medal in a non-individual game in the history of the Olympics.

In the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, Abdulrahman Abdulqadir also won the bronze for the men's shot put F34 event.



Qatar organised the Formula 1 Qatar Grand Prix for the first time at the Losail International Circuit.



Red Bull's Max Verstappen at the Lusail International Circuit during the Formula One Qatar Grand Prix on November 20, 2021.

Qatar successfully hosted for the first time the Men's and Women's Padel Championship (Qatar 2021) in November with 16 teams, including Qatar.



Spain's team celebrate with trophy after winning the Ooredoo Qatar Padel World Championship



Judo World Masters Championship

Doha hosted the Judo World Masters Championship from Jan 11 to 13, which included the best 36 players from the world's top-ranked players in each weight with 400 participating athletes, including 215 male and 185 female representing 70 countries.



First Round of FIFA World Cup 2022 Tickets Sales launched

FIFA along with the Qatari Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy have launched the first round of ticket sales on 19 January 2022, lasting until February 8th, after which a second round will be announced.

With 10 months to go, and even when international travel still severely disrupted by the pandemic, and while only a fraction of the 32 qualifying nations known, ticket sales got off to a flying start. According to FIFA, more than 1.2 million tickets were requested by fans from all over the world in the first 24 hours of sales.

Unsurprisingly, the final match attracted the largest number of applications, with 140,000 tickets requested. It is scheduled for 18 December 2022 at the Lusail Stadium, a new 80,000-capacity venue in its final stages of construction.

Want your own ticket? Visit the official tournament website at:
<https://www.qatar2022.qa/en/tickets>

Clock is Ticking for the Approaching FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, What are the latest Updates?!

- ❖ 2021 saw the launch of 3 FIFA World Cup Stadiums! Al Bayt Stadium, Al Thumama and Stadium 974. Only Lusail Stadium is left to be officially inaugurated by early 2022. All the stadiums will employ cooling technology or design, though not every one will be fully air-conditioned. That said, it will be relatively cool during the weeks of the tournament. During daytime, the mid-November average high in Qatar is 29 Celsius or cooler still in December.
- ❖ Qatar announced the completion of more than 90% of the projects related to the World Cup, including major infrastructure projects.
- ❖ In order to get into Qatar for the FIFA World Cup within the times of Covid-19 Pandemic, all ticketholders are required to be fully vaccinated. International travellers should check the travel advice from chosen airline and follow the guidelines from the State of Qatar's **Ministry of Public Health**.



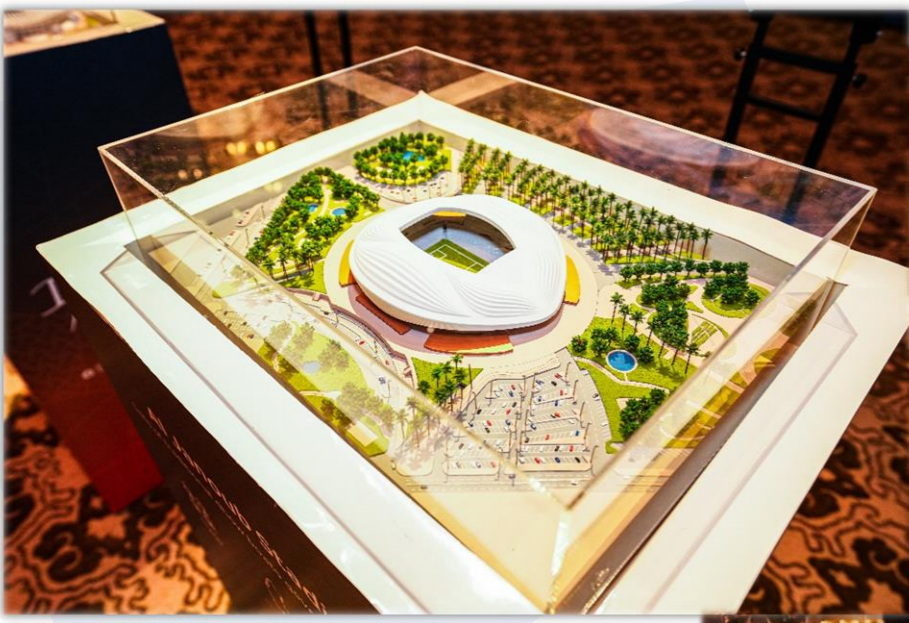
Official countdown clock showing remaining time until the kick-off of the World Cup 2022, in Doha, Qatar

We Celebrated our National Day in Hong Kong and Brought to You a Piece of the World Cup

Last December, the Consulate General celebrated the National Day of the State of Qatar in Hong Kong for 2021 at the Rosewood Hong Kong, featuring the FIFA World Cup tournament as the main theme.

During the Celebration we have unveiled 8 stands carrying figurine-sized replicas of all eight FIFA World Cup Stadiums created in Qatar for the upcoming tournament.

Our Consul General, H.E. Ali Saad Al Hajri, joined by a group of Hong Kong officials and key figures, conducted a tour to reflect on each of these Stadiums, sharing information about their unprecedented and innovative features. Local News Agency, iCable attended our celebration and broadcasted its coverage showcasing the figurines and the preparations for World Cup.





Stadium 974



Tournament capacity
40,000



Legacy capacity
Stadium will be
completely dismantled



**Distance from Hamad
International Airport**
4 km



Progress

974 Stadium was inaugurated in November 2021 at the FIFA Arab Cup, and was renamed from "Ras Abu Aboud" 974 is the number of shipping containers used to build the venue, it is also Qatar's international dialing code.



Tournament mode

Set to host matches up to and including the round of 16 during Qatar 2022.



Legacy mode

The stadium will be completely dismantled after the tournament, with its parts used to create sporting facilities across Qatar and overseas. It will be the first fully demountable stadium in FIFA World Cup™ history.



Design

The stadium will be constructed using shipping containers and modular steel elements, echoing the nearby port and Doha's maritime history. The result will be a distinctive, boldly colourful and thoroughly modern arena.

The stadium's temporary nature and clever modular design will mean that fewer building materials will be required than in traditional stadium development, helping to keep construction costs down.



Sustainability

The stadium is targeting a 4-star rating under the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) for both its design and construction.

Due to its innovative design, the stadium bowl seating avoids the need for air conditioning as it will be naturally ventilated.

Much of the stadium's structure will be made from recycled steel.

The stadium's water efficiency methods ensure it will reduce water use by 40% compared to a conventional stadium development.

Post-2022, the entire structure will be re-purposed to create smaller sporting venues, meaning the stadium continues to serve the public long after the tournament.



Get to Know One of
FIFA World Cup 2022 Qatar
Eight Marvelous Stadiums

What more to expect in 2022?

Qatar sport scene in 2022 is not all about the World Cup only!

Qatar is set to be the host of a wide array of tournaments, the nation's sport calendar in 2022 will see 62 sport events, including 36 international ones, among which is the FIFA World Cup.

Key events to be seen in Qatar in 2022 include:

- ❖ 14th Taishan World Cup Artistic Gymnastics
- ❖ Longines World Tour Show Jumping Championship – Al Shaqab
- ❖ 1st to 6th Qatar ITF World Tennis Tour
- ❖ FIBA 3x3 World Cup Qualifier Asia 2022 – Basketball
- ❖ Qatar Men's International Handball Championship
- ❖ Qatar 7th International Cup – Weightlifting
- ❖ International Conference of the International Association of Sports Management

Our Stadium Figurines Will Tour Hong Kong



After the celebration of the National Day of the State of Qatar in Hong Kong, the 8 stadium-figurines were stationed at the lobby of Central Plaza -where we're located- to be viewed publicly.

In our efforts to further promote the upcoming FIFA World Cup within Hong Kong and expand the public exposure and understanding for the State of Qatar, we aim to showcase the stadiums in different locations all around the city within the coming months.

Don't miss the chance to see the World Cup Stadium up-close! Keep an eye on our social media accounts to learn the next viewing location.



The Amir of the State of Qatar HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani Attends Beijing Winter Olympics

It is said that sport is a rare unifying power within a highly divided world, and Qatar holds this idea as an ethos guiding its ambition to be a beacon of inclusivity and diversity in the sport medium.

On the flip side of the same coin, Qatar has been working to increase its representation in all sports internationally, from providing unwavering support for Qatar countless national teams, to making sure it has the highest levels of representation in international sporting events. This has been imbedded within the Qatari diplomacy, and is evident by the attendance of the Amir of the State of Qatar HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani at the opening of the 24th Olympic Winter Games this month in Beijing, China.

The Amir of the State of Qatar HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani attended the opening of the 24th Olympic Winter Games this month



Qatar Highlights is Presented to You by
The Consulate General of the State of Qatar in Hong Kong

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