The Peninsula Local focus, Global vision

Sport

SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2021





PSG hire Pochettino as new manager

The return of Mauricio fits perfectly with our ambitions and it will be another exciting chapter for the club and one I am positive the fans will enjoy. With the appointment of Mauricio Pochettino, Paris Saint-Germain is committed to continue to build and move the club forward over the coming years.

Nasser Al Khelaifi, PSG Chairman

Sport |06



QATAR SENIOR MEN'S VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE: Al Rayyan SC beat Al Wakrah SC 3-1 (25-19, 25-15, 19-25, 25-17)

QSL: Al Ahli edge Al Wakrah as Al Sailiya down Al Rayyan

Five-star Al Sadd beat Al Kharaitiyat

THE PENINSULA - DOHA

Doha football giants Al Sadd yesterday delivered a commanding performance with a 5-0 demolition of bottom-placed Al Kharaitiyat.

Coached by Xavier Hernandez, hosts Al Sadd eased past Al Kharaitiyat in Week 12 of QNB Stars League.

After a goalless first half, Al Sadd - playing at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium - turned on the goal-fest in the second half for their 10th win of the season.

Veteran striker Rodrigo Tabata (69th and 79th minutes), Ali Asad (73rd minute) and Algerian forward Baghdad Bounedjah (82nd and 89th minutes) emerged as the goal heroes as Al Sadd extended their lead on the points table with a tally of 32 from 12 rounds.

Also yesterday, Al Ahli blanked Al Wakrah 2-0 at the Al Arabi Stadium while Al Sailiya handed Al Rayyan - playing under recently-inducted coach Laurent Blanc - their second loss in three matches.

Al Sailiya, coached by Sami Trabelsi, last night won 2-0 at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium.

Nabil El Zhar (50th-minute penalty) and Hazem Shehata (64th minute) scored the goals for Al Ahli, who moved on to 22 points with their seventh victory.

Ninth-placed Al Wakrah have 13 points after succumbing to their seventh loss.

An own goal by Al Rayyan's Shojae Khalilzadeh in the sixth minute and a slick penalty conversion by Brazilian forward Tiago Bezerra (16th minute) powered Al Sailiya to their fourth win of the season.

Al Sailiya now have 15 points while Al Rayyan remained on 16 points following their fourth defeat of the season.

Earlier in the day, Al Sadd yesterday looked a little stiff at the start of the Round 12 match as they struggled to open the scoring.

Evans Mensah, forward from Ghana, arrived to meet a perfect cross from Al Kharaitiyat's Moroccan midfielder Rachid Tiberkanine in the third minute. Under pressure from Musaab Khidir, Mensah managed a wayward header to waste the early opportunity at goal. In the 10th minute, Khadir launched a curling long cross for Bounedjah who – in close proximity of the Al Kharaitiyat goalmouth – was beaten to the dipping cross by keeper Shehab Ellethy.

Six minutes later, defender Abdelkarim Hassan sneaked into the Al Kharaitiyat box, but his left-footed flick narrowly missed the goalpost.

Al Kharaitiyat's skipper Mohamed Aamir – on the edge of the Al Sadd box – found good angle on his volley, but keeper Meshaal Barsham dived to his left to stop the ball that eventually trickled away.

In the 24th minute, Al Sadd's Spanish midfielder Santiago Cazorla almost found the target – with a right-footed drive – but the ball was deflected by the keeper with a dive to his left.

Eleven minutes later, after receiving a short tap from Hassan Al Haydous, Nam Tae-Hee hit the Al Kharaitiyat crossbar with a powerful shot.



Al Sadd star Hassan Al Haydos (fourth left) celebates with goal-scorer Rodrigo Tabata (third left) and team mates during their team's 5-0 win over Al Kharaitiyat at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium yesterday. QNB Stars League points leaders Al Sadd won 5-0.

In another Al Sadd move, Bounedjah clipped one from well inside the box, but the ball sailed close to the crossbar. In another header from close range in the 42nd minute, Bounedjah could not hit the net on a Cazorla corner kick.

In a rather ambitious move, Ivory Coast's Oumar Sako opted for a long-range shot from outside the Al Kharaitiyat box, but the ball sailed above the crossbar without causing damage in the 48th minute.

After a few hits and misses from both sides, Al Sadd found the net when substitute Tabata, after a cross from Al Haydous, deflected in the ball past the goalkeeper. The lead doubled when Bounedjah, stationed inside the Al Kharaitiyat box, slipped in a neat cross to unmarked team-mate Ali Asad, who found the net from close range.

Tabata made the most of fresh legs as he scored his second of the match with a slick shot after charging into the Al Kharitiyat box following a short pass from the right flank.

Bounedjah then found the net, drilling a right-footed shot from inside the box as Shehab stepped out to kill the move. Bounedjah scored one more goal, also from close range.

During Al Ahli's win over Al Wakrah, the first real chance at the goal came in the 26th minute when Al Ahli's Ali Qaderi, off a cross from the right by Abdulrasheed Umaru, skied the ball.

Al Wakrah retorted with a free-kick taken by their spearhead Mohamed Benyettou three minutes later, but goalkeeper Yazan Naim parried it.

Al Wakrah had a chance to surge ahead in the 38th minute, but Cristian Ceballos failed to nod home the ball, headed goalwards by Ousmane Coulibaly following a free-kick taken by Murad Naji.

Nabil tested goalkeeper Mohammed Saeed with a grounder in the 45th minute as the first half drew to a close.

Five minutes after resumption, Al Ahli took the lead, with Nabil converting a penalty awarded after Lucas Mendes fouled him.

Al Ahli pressed hard and were successful a second time as Hazem found the target with a long shot from deep on the left.

The goal was initially ruled offside, but referee Abdulrahman Al Jassim allowed it to stand after referring to the VAR.

QNB دوري نجوم STARS LEAGUE

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Al Sadd 5-0 Al Kharaitiyat

Al Rayyan 0-2 Al Sailiya

Al Wakrah 0-2 Al Ahli

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Umm Salal vs Al Duhail
Qatar SC Stadium (16:15)

Qatar SC vs Al Gharafa
Qatar SC Stadium (18:45)

Al Arabi vs Al Khor
Al Arabi Stadium (18:45)

Longines Hathab: Flawless Al Suwaidi corners Big Tour glory with Aslan 69

CHINTHANA WASALA
THE PENINSULA

Salmeen Sultan Al Suwaidi and his nine-year-old gelding Aslan 69 yesterday emerged Big Tour winners in the Longines Hathab Qatar Equestrian Tour as the 7th round of the popular series concluded at the Longines Arena at Al Shaqab.

Al Suwaidi and Aslan 69 completed a flawless routine, clocking a time of 34.53 secs in the second phase of the feature event of the day as the Qatari rider booked his second podium finish in consecutive days, having won the third place in the Medium Tour on Friday.

Yesterday's win made Al Suwaidi richer by QR 11,250 as the Big Tour points leader Nasser Al Ghazali finished second with Quel Homme.

Al Ghazali's Quel Homme was more than three seconds slower (37.56 secs) than Aslan 69, but made no errors during the run.

Al Ghazali secured a prize cheque for QR 9,000 after winning the second place ahead of the defending champion Hamad Nasser Al Qadi who secured the remaining podium spot after completing the same task in 39.66 secs despite making 4 errors on their way.

Al Qadi won QR6,750 in prize money yesterday.

Seasoned show jumpers Mohammed Saeed Haidan (D Saucedo, 44.57 secs, 4 faults) and Mubarak Yousuf Al Rumaihi (Cantinero, 45.74 secs, 4 faults) completed the top five in the final event of the round at the state-of-the-art equestrian venue.

Earlier, Faris Saad Al Qahtani clinched the victory in the Open Class in which the riders manoeuvred their horses in power and skill competition.

Al Shaqab-owned eight-year-old Mare Hidiene, ridden by Al Qahtani, made no mistakes during any of the four jump-offs as the Qatari rider sealed bagged the top prize reserved for the event, QR 6,250.

Zorro Z, with Salman Mohammed Al Emadi in the saddle, made eight errors during the fourth jump off, but secured the second spot on the podium as won QR 5,000 in prize money.

Rami Younis (Inzaghi Van Molenheide) and Faleh Suwead Al Ajami (Ulano) were joint third.

Both the riders got richer by QR 3,125 each.



Salmeen Sultan Al Suwaidi receiving his award.

Comp. (5) Open Class | Power and Skill Comp., Art. 262.3, Prize Money QR25,000

Rk	Horse	Rider	Faults	JO4	Prize Money
1	Hidiene	Faris Saad Al Qahtani	0	0	QR6,250
2	Zorro Z	Salman Mohammed Al Emadi	0	8	QR5,000
3	Inzaghi Van Molenheide	Rami Younis	0	12	QR3,125
3	Ulano	Faleh Suwead Al Ajami	0	12	QR3,125
5	Hermes Van De Meersen	Salmeen Sultan Al Suwaidi	0	el	QR1,750

Comp. (6) Big Tour, Art. 274.2.5, 130/145 cm, Prize Money QR45,000

Rk	Horse	Rider	Ph.1	Ph.2	Prize money
1	Aslan 69	Salmeen Sultan Al Suwaidi	33.46	34.53	QR11,250
2	Quel Homme	Nasser Al Ghazali	32.75	37.56	QR9,000
3	S I E C Lonnie	Hamad Nasser Al Qadi	34.09(4)	39.66(4)	QR6,750
4	D Saucedo	Mohammed Saeed Haidan	30.86(4)	44.57(4)	QR4,500
5	Cantinero	Mubarak Yousuf Al Rumaihi	31.18(4)	45.74(4)	QR3,150

The podium winners in the Open Class competition posing for a photograph with officials.



Big Tour winner Salmeen Sultan Al Suwaidi guiding Aslan 69 over an obstacle.

QOC announces 2021 events calendar

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

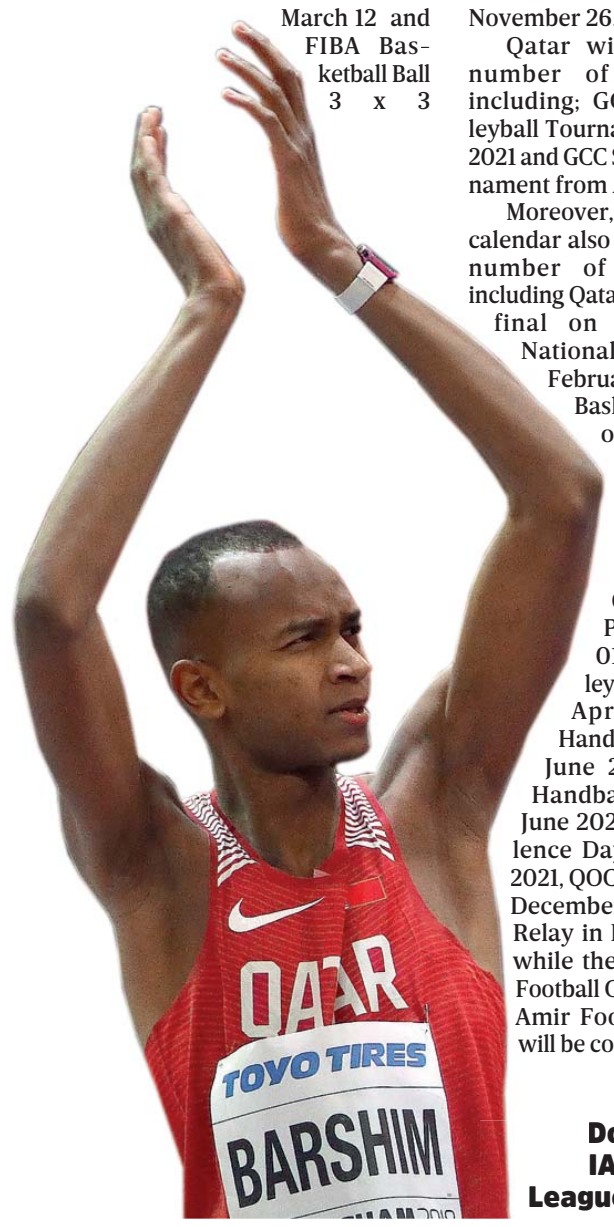
The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) yesterday announced the calendar of sport events for the year 2021.

This year's calendar will see 63 sport events , including 6 international sport events , the most prominent of them are 2021 FIFA Club World Cup which will be held from February 1 – 11, FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour from February 22 to 26, Commercial Bank CHI Al Shaqab from February 25 to 27, Longines Global Champions Tour from March 4 to 6,

FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour- Katara Beach Volleyball Cup from March 8 to 12 and Table Tennis final qualifiers and qualifying for Tokyo Olympics from March 15 to 20.

Doha is also honoured to host the convention of International School Sports Federation (ISF) on the first of April, FINA General Assembly on fifth of June and CAF Super Cup to be played in Doha in February 2021.

The 2021 calendar also included 30 international sport events , Austrian Open Qualifiers from January 10 to 13, Doha Judo Masters from January 11 to 13, Doha Fencing Grand Prix (Epee) from January 29 to 31, ITTF Qatar Table Tennis Open from February 20 to March 13, the 35th Qatar Open Amateur Championship (Golf) from February 26 to 28 , Qatar Total Open from March 1 to 7, Qatar ExxonMobil from March 8 to 14 , FIG Artistic Gymnastics Word Cup from March 10 to 13, Commercial Bank Qatar Masters (Golf) from March 11 to 14, FINA Marathon Swim World Series (10Km) on March 12 and FIBA Basketball Ball 3 x 3 World Tour from March 26 -27.



Doha will host IAAF Diamond League on May 28.

As for the international events, Doha will host IAAF Diamond League on May 28, ITTF World Junior Circuit Premium-Doha Junior & Cadet Open from October 9-16, FINA World Swimming Cup from October 21-23, World Padel Championships from November 15-28, FIBA World Cup qualifiers on November 28 and 29, Qatar Squash Classic in December 2021 and Qatar 7th International Weightlifting Cup from December 10-15.

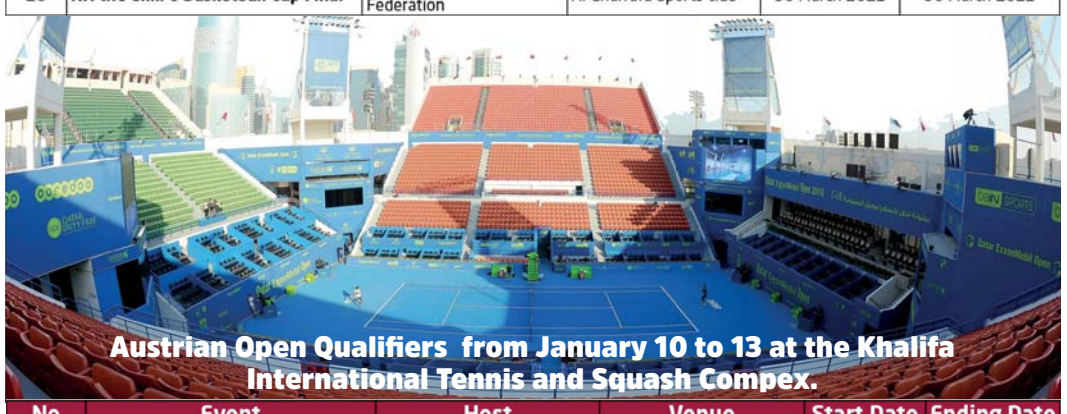
On Asian level, Doha will host FIBA Asia Cup qualifiers from February 18-21, Asian Beach Handball Junior qualifiers in March 2021, Qatar First Junior Tennis Tournament from March 22-27, Qatar Second Junior Tennis Tournament from March 29 to April 3, Asian Table Tennis Tournament from September 1-10, Qatar Open Squash Tournament from October 10-14, Qatar Asian Junior Team Tennis Tournament in November 2021 and Asian Triathlon Cup on November 26.

Qatar will also host a number of GCC events including; GCC Junior Volleyball Tournament in August 2021 and GCC Swimming Tournament from August 19-21.

Moreover, newly-released calendar also includes a huge number of local events including Qatar Basketball Cup final on February 03, National Sport Day on February 09, the Amir Basketball Cup final on March 30, Qatar Volleyball Cup final on March 30, closing ceremony of Olympic Schools Program on April 01, the Amir Volleyball Cup Final on April 17, Qatar Handball Cup Final in June 2021, the Amir Handball Cup final in June 2021, Sports Excellence Day in November 2021, QOC Beach Games in December 2021 and Flag Relay in December 2021 while the dates of Qatar Football Cup Final and the Amir Football Cup final will be confirmed later on.

NEW SPORT CALENDAR 2021

No	Event	Host	Venue	Start Date	Ending Date
1	Australian Open (Tennis)	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	10 January 2021	13 January 2021
2	Judo World Masters	Qatar Taekwondo, Judo & Karate Federation	Lusail Hall	11 January 2021	13 January 2021
3	Qatar Fencing Grand Pirx EPEE	Qatar Weightlifting & Fencing Federation	Aspire Academy	29 January 2021	31 January 2021
4	QSF 1 Psa Challenger Senior 10K - Squash	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	31 January 2021	4 February 2021
5	African Super Cup - Football	Qatar Football Federation	To be determined	1 February 2021	1 February 2021
6	clubs World Cup - Football	Qatar Football Federation	qatar	1 February 2021	11 February 2021
7	Qatar Cup Basketball Final	Qatar Basketball Federation	Al Gharrafa Sports club	3 February 2021	3 February 2021
8	National Sports Day	State institutions	Qatar	9 February 2021	9 February 2021
9	FIBA ASIA cup 2021 qualifiers - window 3 For Basketball	Qatar Basketball Federation	Al Gharafa Club hall	18 February 2021	21 February 2021
10	Qatar Open WTT Contenders WTT Star Contenders WTT Contenders	Qatar Table Tiness Federation	Lusail Hall	20 February 2021	13 March 2021
11	Beach Volleyball World Tour (*)	Qatar Vollyball Federation	Katara Beach	22 February 2021	26 February 2021
12	Commercial Bank International Equestrian Championship - Al Shaqab	Al Shaqab	To be determined	25 February 2021	27 February 2021
13	WAGR - Qatar Open Amateur Championship - 35th edition - Golf	Qatar Golf Federation	Doha Golf Club	26 February 2021	28 February 2021
14	Asian Beach Handball Qualifiers for Juniors and Juniors	Qatar Handball Federation	Al Gharafa Club	1 March 2021	1 March 2021
15	Qatar Total Open - Tennis	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	1 March 2021	7 March 2021
16	Longines World Tour Show Jumping Championship - Al Shaqab	Al Shaqab	To be determined	4 March 2021	6 March 2021
17	Beach Volleyball World Tour (****) / Katara 2021	Qatar Vollyball Federation	Katara Beach	8 March 2021	12 March 2021
18	Qatar ExxonMobil Open - Tennis	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	8 March 2021	14 March 2021
19	World Cup for Gymnastics Artistics fainal (WAG - MAG) Apparatus	Qatar Gemnasyics Federation	Academy of Sports Excellence - Aspire	10 March 2021	13 March 2021
20	Commercial Bank Qatar Masters 24 - 2021rd edition - Golf	Qatar Golf Federation	Education City Golf Club	11 March 2021	14 March 2021
21	FINA MARATHON SWIM WORLD SERIES	Qatar Swimming Federation	Katara Beach	12 March 2021	12 March 2021
22	World Olympic Singel Qualification Tokyo 2021	Qatar Table Tiness Federation	Lusail Hall	15 March 2021	20 March 2021
23	1st Qatar Asian Junior Tournament 14 years & under - Tennis	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	22 March 2021	27 March 2021
24	FIBA 3x3 world tour - Doha Masters 2021	Qatar Basketball Federation	Beach playgrounds for Al Gharafa Club	26 March 2021	27 March 2021
25	2nd Qatar Asian Junior Tournament 14 years & under - Tennis	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	29 March 2021	3 April 2021
26	HH the Emir's Basketball Cup Final	Qatar Basketball Federation	Al Gharrafa Sports club	30 March 2021	30 March 2021


Austrian Open Qualifiers from January 10 to 13 at the Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Compex.

No	Event	Host	Venue	Start Date	Ending Date
27	Qatar Cup Volleyball Final	Qatar Volleyball Association	Qatar Volleyball Federation hall	30 March 2021	30 March 2021
28	The conclusion of the school Olympic program	Qatar School Sports Federation	Aspire Dome	1 April 2021	1 April 2021
29	General Assembly Conference for School Sports	Qatar School Sports Federation	Aspire Dome	1 April 2021	1 April 2021
30	HH the Emir's Volleyball Cup Final	Qatar Volleyball Association	Qatar Volleyball Federation hall	17 April 2021	17 April 2021
31	QSF 2 Psa Challenger Senior 5K - Squash	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	23 May 2021	26 May 2021
32	Diamond League Athletics Championship	Qatar Athletics Federation	Qatar Sports Club	28 May 2021	28 May 2021
33	Qatar Cup Handball Final	Qatar Handball Federation	Duhail sport hall	1 June 2021	1 June 2021
34	HH the Emir's Handball Cup Final	Qatar Handball Federation	Duhail sport hall	1 June 2021	1 June 2021
35	FINA General Congress2021	Qatar Swimming Federation	Conference Center - Sheraton Hotel	5 June 2021	5 June 2021
36	GCC Junior Championship	Qatar Vollyball Federation	Qatar Volleyball Federation hall	1 August 2021	1 August 2021
37	GCC Swimming Championship	Qatar Swimming Federation	Hamad Aquatic Center	19 August 2021	22 August 2021
38	25 Asian Table Tennis Championshipa	Qatar Table Tiness Federation	Ali bin Hamad Al-Attiyah Hall, Al-Sadd Sports Club	1 September 2021	10 September 2021
39	QSF 3 Psa Challenger Senior 5k - Squash	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	12 September 2021	15 September 2021
40	Qatar Open WTT Youth Contenders	Qatar Table Tiness Federation	Ali bin Hamad Al-Attiyah Hall, Al-Sadd Sports Club	10 October 2021	17 October 2021
41	Qatar Junior Open - Squash	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	10 October 2021	14 October 2021
42	1st Qatar Men's ITF World Tennis Tour	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	11 October 2021	17 October 2021
43	2nd Qatar Men's ITF World Tennis Tour	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	18 October 2021	24 October 2021
44	FINA Swimming World Cup 2021	Qatar Swimming Federation	Hamad Aquatic Center	21 October 2021	23 October 2021
45	3rd Qatar Men's ITF World Tennis Tour	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	25 October 2021	31 October 2021
46	Qatar Asian Junior Teams Cup - Tennis	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	1 November 2021	1 November 2021
47	Sports Excellence day	Qatar Olympic Committee	To be determined	1 November 2021	1 November 2021
48	world padel (TBC)	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	15 November 2021	28 November 2021
49	1st Qatar ITF World Tennis Tour Junior (Group4)	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	22 November 2021	28 November 2021
50	Asian Triathlon Cup	Qatar Cycling and Triathlon Federation	Katara or Lusail	26 November 2021	26 November 2021
51	FIBA world cup 2023 qualifiers - window 1 For Basketball	Qatar Basketball Federation	Al Gharafa Club hall	28 November 2021	29 November 2021
52	2nd Qatar ITF World Tennis Tour Junior (Group4)	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	29 November 2021	5 December 2021
53	Qatar Classic PSA Platinum Senior - Squash	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	1 December 2021	1 December 2021
54	Qatar Olympic Beach Championship	Qatar Olympic Committee	To be determined	1 December 2021	1 December 2021
55	Flag Relay	Qatar Olympic Committee	To be determined	1 December 2021	1 December 2021
56	The Arab National Teams Championship 2021 for football	Qatar Football Federation	Qatar	1 December 2021	18 December 2021
57	4th Qatar Men's ITF World Tennis Tour	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	6 December 2021	12 December 2021
58	Qatar 7th International cup - Wightlifting	Qatar Weightlifting & Fencing Federation	Radisson Blu Hotel	10 December 2021	15 December 2021
59	5th Qatar Men's ITF World Tennis Tour	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	13 December 2021	19 December 2021
60	QSF 4 Psa Challenger Senior 30K - Squash	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	19 December 2021	23 December 2021
61	6th Qatar Men's ITF World Tennis Tour	Qatar Tennis, Squash and Badminton Federation	Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex	20 December 2021	26 December 2021
62	Qatar Cup Football Final	Qatar Football Federation	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined
63	HH the Emir's Football Cup Final	Qatar Football Federation	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined



Qatar will host the best club teams in the world during the FIFA Club World Cup from February 1 - 11.

Ganguly stable after heart attack

REUTERS - KOLKATA

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly **(pictured)** , who also heads the country's cricket board (BCCI), was stable yesterday after he underwent angioplasty in Kolkata following chest pain.



Ganguly, 48, was rushed to Woodlands Hospital after he complained of chest discomfort while exercising on a tread mill at his home gym.

The hospital said tests showed he had suffered a mild heart attack and the popular former cricketer had blockages in three coronary arteries.

"He came in good time. One of his arteries had critical blockage which we removed through angioplasty," Aftab Khan, a cardiologist, told reporters outside the hospital.

"He has improved, the pain in his chest has reduced. He is stable now. He has to be kept under observation for 24 hours so he will have to stay in hospital."

The private hospital formed a medical board and a decision on Ganguly's further line of treatment will be taken later.

One of India's most successful captains, Ganguly, who hails from the state of West Bengal, took over as the BCCI president in 2019. His transition from a player to top administrator was seen as a natural progression for a former captain who helped India emerge from a damaging match-fixing scandal in 2000.

New Zealand eye top spot in second Pakistan Test

REUTERS - WELLINGTON

New Zealand will rise to the top of the world rankings for the first time, replacing Australia, if they avoid defeat against Pakistan in the second Test in Christchurch and wrap up their two-match series.

After seven straight home test series triumphs, New Zealand will be strong favourites to secure another against a Pakistan side that showed great fight at Mount Maunganui but still lost the first test by 101 runs.

A victory at Hagley Oval to seal a 2-0 series sweep would also push the Black Caps firmly into contention for one of two berths in June's inaugural World Test Championship final at Lord's.

Under the leadership of Kane Williamson, who returned to the top of the world test batting rankings after his 23rd career century at Bay Oval, the Blacks Caps have developed into possibly the most consistent outfit in the test game.

They will, however, need to find a replacement for pace bowler Neil Wagner, who battled through the pain of two broken toes to finish the first Test but will miss the second.

Matt Henry, who was brought into the squad after recovering from a hand injury, is likely to get the nod as a like-for-like replacement with batting all-rounder Daryl Mitchell another option.

A 165-run partnership between Fawad Alam and Mohammad Rizwan stalled New Zealand's charge to victory at Mount Maunganui and Pakistan will look to draw on that fighting spirit on another green track.

Title-chasing Al Attiyah fastest in Dakar Rally prologue

THE PENINSULA – JEDDAH

Qatar's Nasser Al Attiyah, targeting his fourth Dakar Rally title, yesterday wasted no time in taking control of the car category as he went on to win Prologue for the 2021 Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia ahead of today's official start of the world's most popular rally.

Al Attiyah was the fastest in the 11km timed section that determines the starting order for today's opening stage, completing the distance in 5m48s.

The win yesterday took Toyota Gazoo Racing driver's career tally to 36 stage wins, just 10 shy of his French rival Stéphane Peterhansel. The 16-time Middle East Rally champion, Al Attiyah will open the road in today's 277 km long opening special.

Yazeed Al Rajhi finished second in the car prologue, eight seconds behind his Qatari rival. The Saudi driver got off to a solid start in his seventh Dakar, his second at home. Jakub Przygoński came in third.



Toyota Overdrive Racing's Qatari driver Nasser A lAttiyah and his co-driver Matthieu Baumel of France driver during the prologue in Jeddah, yesterday.

NASSER AL ATTIYAH AT DAKAR RALLY

2020: 2nd (1 stage win, Toyota)
2019: 1st (3 stage wins, Toyota)
2018: 2nd (4 stage wins, Toyota)
2016: 2nd (2 stage wins, Mini)
2015: 1st (5 stage wins, Mini)
2014: 3rd (2 stage wins, Mini)
2011: 1st (4 stage wins, Volkswagen)
2010: 2nd (4 stage wins, Volkswagen)
2004: 10th (Mitsubishi)

DAKAR RALLY 2021: TODAY'S STAGE

Stage 1: From Jeddah to Bisha (622 km/277km Special)

DAKAR RALLY: MOST WINS (CARS)

	Driver	Wins/Years
1	France Stéphane Peterhansel (2004, 2005, 2007, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017)	7
2	Finland Ari Vatanen (1987, 1989 – 1991)	4
3	**Qatar Nasser Al Attiyah (2011 , 2015 , 2019)**	**3**
	France René Metge (1981, 1984, 1986)	3
	France Pierre Lartigue (1994, 1995, 1996)	3
	Spain Carlos Sainz (2010, 2018, 2020)	3

MOST PODIUMS

	Driver	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1	Stéphane Peterhansel	7	2	2
2	Ari Vatanen	4	0	0
3	Pierre Lartigue	3	3	1
4	Carlos Sainz	3	0	1
5	Nasser Al Attiyah	3	4	1

QOC Beach Games conclude with huge success

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

Team Al Adaam won the men's beach volleyball title after defeating Al Nojoom in yesterday's final while Al Shahaniya team emerged beach football champions after beating Al Doha yesterday as the inaugural edition of the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) beach games came to a conclusion at the Aspire Zone.

Al Odaid team won the men's handball title in the multi-sport event which saw the participation of over 500 athletes.

"We were pleased with the wide participation of the teams in the Qatar Olympic Committee Beach Games, which is a community activity that extends from the success of the 2019 ANOC Beach Games," QOC Secretary-General Jassim Rashid Al Buenain, who presented awards to champions yesterday, tweeted.

The athletes competed in four beach sports, namely football, handball, volleyball and 3x3 basketball, while an exhibition beach rugby event was also held on the final day of the 12-day Gamed.

The event was conducted with the aim of promoting sport activities among the Qatari society, and was supported by a number of local organizations, including Aspire Zone, Vodafone Qatar, Sports Corner and Al Meera.



Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) Secretary-General Jassim Rashid Al Buenain presenting the award to the winners of the beach football tournament, Al Shahaniya team members on the final day of the QOC Beach Games at Aspire Zone yesterday.



Beach Volleyball champions Al Adaam players during the podium ceremony.



Al Odaid players, winners of the men's beach handball final, celebrating their victory yesterday.

PSG hire former captain Pochettino as new manager

REUTERS – PARIS

French champions Paris St Germain have named former Tottenham Hotspur boss Mauricio Pochettino as their new head coach after sacking Thomas Tuchel, with the Argentine signing a deal until June 2022, the Ligue 1 club said yesterday.

Pochettino, who played for PSG as a defender in the early 2000s and also captained the side, has been out of a job since being dismissed by Spurs in November 2019, a few months after guiding the north London club to the Champions League final.

The 48-year-old Argentine said he was honoured to take on the role and that the Parisian club "has always held a special place in my heart".

"I return to the club today with a lot of ambition and humility, and am eager to work with some of the world's most talented players," Pochettino, who has an option for a one-year extension in his contract, said in a statement.

"This team has fantastic potential and my staff and I will do everything we can to get the best for Paris Saint-Germain in all competitions.

"We will also do our utmost to give our team the combative and attacking playing identity that Parisian fans have always loved."

Pochettino's first game in charge will be a trip to St Etienne on Jan. 6 when the league resumes following the winter break. PSG have 35 points from 17 games, one point behind league leaders Olympique Lyonnais and Lille, and are through to the last 16 of the Champions League where they face Spanish side Barcelona.



"The return of Mauricio fits perfectly with our ambitions and it will be another exciting chapter for the club and one I am positive the fans will enjoy," PSG chairman and CEO Nasser Al Khelaifi said.

"With the appointment of Mauricio Pochettino, Paris Saint-Germain is committed to continue to build and move the club forward over the coming years."

Tuchel, 47, was appointed PSG boss in 2018 and guided them to two Ligue 1 titles along with a domestic quadruple in his second season at the club.

The German, who led PSG to the Champions League final in August which they lost to Bayern Munich, was dismissed on Christmas eve following a 4-0 win over Racing Strasbourg with the side sitting third in the league standings.

PSG confirmed they had terminated his contract on Tuesday.

Pochettino will take his first training session today.

MAURICIO POCHETTINO - Born: March 2, 1972 in Murphy, Santa Fe, Argentina.

PLAYING CAREER

* The centre back began his playing career with Newell's Old Boys in 1988, making his debut at the age of 16.

* Signed for Spanish side Espanyol in 1994, making over 200 appearances and winning the King's Cup before joining Paris St Germain in 2000.

* Made his Argentina debut in 1999 and went on to earn 20 caps.

* Left PSG for Girondins Bordeaux in 2003, but rejoined Espanyol on loan during the second half of the season.

* Joined Espanyol permanently after the 2003 season and won a second King's Cup in 2006 before retiring at 34.

COACHING CAREER

* Following his retirement, Pochettino took his coaching qualifications and had a stint as assistant manager of Espanyol's women's side.

* In January 2009 at the age of 36, he took charge of third-bottom Espanyol and took them to a 10th-place finish in La Liga.

SOUTHAMPTON

* Pochettino replaced Nigel Adkins as manager of Premier League Southampton in January 2013.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

* Pochettino was appointed Spurs head coach on a five-year deal for the 2014-15 season to replace Tim Sherwood.

* Spurs finished fifth in his first season and reached the final of the League Cup. They then battled 5,000-1 outsiders Leicester City for the title in 2015-16 but the Foxes won the race while the London club finished third to claim a Champions League spot for the first time since 2010-11.

* Spurs reached their first Champions League final after recovering from 3-0 down against Ajax Amsterdam in the semi-finals.

* However, Liverpool beat Tottenham 2-0 in the final in Madrid and a poor start to the 2019-20 campaign -- with the club languishing in 14th place in the Premier League and having been thrashed 7-2 at home by Bayern Munich in the Champions League -- led to the 47-year-old Pochettino being sacked in November.

Son scores 100th Tottenham goal in 3-0 win over Leeds

AP – LONDON

Son Heung-min scored his 100th Tottenham goal in a 3-0 victory over Leeds that ended a four-game winless run and sent Jose Mourinho's side up to third place in the Premier League yesterday.

Son also set up the third with a corner headed in by Toby Alderweireld five minutes into the second half.

But it is the partnership with Harry Kane that Son has benefited from so much, combining now for 16 goals in as many league games this season.

Kane, who put Tottenham ahead with a penalty in the 29th minute, sent in the cross that Son ran to the near-post to meet and he clipped a shot inside the post in the 43rd.

The South Korea forward has reached a century of goals in his sixth season at Tottenham, which won its first league game in a month.

"It is really special - it's a massive achievement for me and I'm really grateful," Son said. "We started the new year with positive energy and a fantastic result.

"Some of the games we scored the first goal and dropped the performance but today we pushed harder than before. It is a good lesson from previous games."

But there was a blot on the performance with Matt Doherty sent off after receiving a second booking in stoppage time for a late challenge on Paolo Hernandez.

Leeds, which had won three of its last four games, is 11th in the standings in its first season back in the top division after 16 years.



Tottenham Hotspur's Toby Alderweireld celebrates with teammate Son Heung-min after scoring against Leeds United at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, yesterday.