



Sports

Qatar Tribune

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59 Days to go

I wanted to be the best footballer in Belgian history. That was my goal. Not good. Not great. The best.
- Romelu Lukaku



Hamad Al Attiyah praises Qatar's preparations for FIFA World Cup

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

HAMAD bin Abdulrahman Al Attiyah, President of the Asian Equestrian Federation, and Vice-Chairman of Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club (QREC), has praised Qatar's preparations for the forthcoming FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

Speaking to QNA, Al Attiyah stated that the Asian Equestrian Federation and QREC are harnessing all their activities to promote the World Cup – the first to be staged in the Middle East. QREC's horse races will also be held during the World Cup in November and December, which is one of the events to be held during the World Cup in Qatar since equestrian is an integral part of the Qatari culture and heritage. He also praised the efforts

Asian Equestrian Federation president says Qatari equestrian events will compliment football's global showpiece event.

being made in the country to prepare to host the World Cup, stressing that the Qatari equestrian seeks to keep pace with the global event during which Qatar as host nation aims to dazzle the world with its distinguished organization drawing from its experiences of having achieved success in hosting large sporting events and championships.

He said that the FIFA World Cup Qatar will also be promoted at the Qatar Arc de Triomphe Horse Racing Festi-



Hamad bin Abdulrahman Al Attiyah, President of the Asian Equestrian Federation, and Vice-Chairman Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club (QREC).

val in Paris in October.

Al Attiyah said that for a long time there has been great cooperation between the QREC and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy and this cooperation will continue

at this year's edition, adding that the festival annually witnesses the participation and attendance of horse owners from around the world, as well as Qatari cultural movement through the years-long cooperation be-

tween the QREC and Qatar's Ministry of Culture.

On the equestrian club's readiness for Qatar Arc de Triomphe Qatar in Paris, Al Attiyah said that all arrangements have been completed by QREC and the France Gallo Foundation, and the festival will witness a large participation including a large presence of Qatari horse owners.

Several Qatari horses are participating in a number of main races, and also strongly competing to win the World Cup title for purebred Arabian horses, he added.

Al Attiyah pointed that the Qatar Prix de Triomphe is characterized by its global character and the wide participation of several countries every year, but the 2022 edition witnesses an intense presence of many different international participations

and a large group of the best horses in the world, which confirms the importance and character of this 100th edition of the race which is extraordinary.

The President of the Asian Equestrian Federation and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of QREC, further stated that the development achieved by Qatari sport in general has been due to the great support provided by the wise leadership of the country, especially to the Qatar equestrian, which has achieved many global successes in terms of participation besides sponsorship of biggest races in Britain, France, Ireland and America among other.

QREC's new racing season is scheduled to begin in October and run till April 2023 at the QREC's Al Rayyan Racecourse and the Al Uqda Racecourse.

Qatar 2022 will be unforgettable experience for the players and fans: Luis Hernandez

Mexico legend previews this year's FIFA World Cup

MEXICO legend Luis Hernandez is excited ahead of the first FIFA World Cup in the Middle East and Arab world, which will get underway in Qatar on 20 November. Hernandez, who scored 35 goals in 85 appearances for Mexico, appeared in two editions of the tournament with the North American nation, famously scoring four goals during France '98. Here, the FIFA World Cup Ambassador previews the tournament and looks forward to a celebration of the beautiful game.

You appeared in two World Cups, in 1998 and 2002. What are your favourite memories from those tournaments?

They were both incredible for my career. France '98 had a big impact on me, as it was the first time Mexico had reached the knockout stage of the tournament in Europe. It was also personally rewarding, as I scored four goals – and the fans love me for that.

Korea Republic and Japan hosted the first World Cup in Asia in 2002. Qatar will host the second Asian World Cup – how special will this be for the Middle East and Arab world?

The 2002 World Cup met everyone's expectations and was a great experience for me. I have no doubt Qatar will be the same this year. All the infrastructure is ready and great work has been carried out on all fronts, from the new stadiums to promoting the tournament. Many people have played an important role in delivering this World Cup.

Qatar will host the most compact edition of the World Cup in modern history, with all the stadiums and training sites in close proximity. How will this benefit the players and fans?

It will be great for the players, as they will have the chance to



Luis Hernandez, who scored 35 goals in 85 appearances for Mexico, appeared in two editions of the FIFA World Cup with the North American nation, famously scoring four goals during France '98.



get proper rest and recovery between games. This is important for them physically. It's also great for the tournament, as everyone will always be in the thick of the action. Fans will always be close to a stadium, their accommodation or entertainment. It will be an unforgettable experience for everyone.

Qatar will be making their World Cup debut in November. What do you make of their chances?

Qatar have the potential to surprise some people. They will

have home support and everyone behind them. It would be fun to see Qatar do well in this tournament.

Mexico will be making their 17th World Cup appearance at Qatar 2022. What are your expectations for the team?

We need to go step-by-step. Aim to win the first match, then go from there. It's important not to think too far ahead – just concentrate on the task at hand. This needs to be the mentality of the Mexican players going into

this World Cup. The great thing for Mexico is our incredible support. Many thousands will travel to Qatar. It promises to be a wonderful experience.

Which Mexico player will have the biggest impact in Qatar?

I expect Hirving Lozano – 'Chucky' – to be a major focal point for the team. I'm a big fan of him because he is very skillful and attack-minded. He is currently doing well with Napoli in Italy after overcoming some challenges in his career. He has flair and style – and I hope he can show his talent during this World Cup.

Alongside Mexico, three more CONCACAF teams – Canada, Costa Rica and the USA – have also qualified for Qatar 2022. What do you make of their chances?

I think Canada might surprise a few people if they can maintain the momentum they had during qualifying. The USA could also find a way into the next round as well – but they are in a challenging group, so we'll have to wait and see what happens. (SC)



Wales' striker Gareth Bale warms up prior to the FIFA World Cup 2022 play-off final qualifier between Wales and Ukraine at the Cardiff City Stadium in Cardiff, south Wales, on June 5, 2022. (AFP)

Bale expects to be in great shape for the World Cup

Every footballer wants to play as much as they can, but we're being clever and building myself up for the last important part of the season.

Wales captain Gareth Bale

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

WALE'S captain Gareth Bale says he is on track to be fully fit for the World Cup in November.

Bale has made just two starts in his 11 appearances for Los Angeles FC, and has yet to play 90 minutes since joining the Californian club in July.

But the 33-year-old insists his programme is tailored to reach peak fitness for the end of the MLS season and the subsequent World Cup in Qatar.

"We have a plan in LA with what we're doing," said Bale, who has linked up with the Wales squad for their closing Nations League games against Belgium and Poland.

"We're not doing too much straight away.

"Every footballer wants to play as much as they can, but we're being clever and building myself up for the last important part of the season.

"Hopefully that should put me in great shape for the World Cup. I think I'll be a lot fitter.

"I haven't played 90 minutes yet, which is what I'm building up to.

"We're on a good path to where I want to be. Of course I want to play 90 minutes as much as I can, but I understand I need to build up to that because I haven't done it an awful lot in the last few years.

"The most important thing for me is to take each week as it comes. Hopefully that will be good enough for me to help LAFC and, ultimately, be ready for the World Cup." Bale turned down offers to stay in Europe,

including one from hometown club Cardiff, to move to the United States after his trophy-laden nine-year stay at Real Madrid had come to an end.

He says he is enjoying the Los Angeles lifestyle and that his family have settled well in the US. Bale said: "I am very happy. My family are settled there, which is a big part, and the fans have been really supportive.

"It's taken a little while to get everything sorted, but I am playing games and have been training for the last 10 weeks and getting stronger.

"We now have an important stretch of games in the MLS and, after that, my attention will turn to the World Cup.

"The plan is just to be 100 per cent to help LAFC first and foremost.

Ultimately, that will lead into me being 100 per cent fit for the World Cup."

Bale did not arrive in Wales until Tuesday afternoon after playing for LAFC in the early hours of Monday.

Wales manager Robert Page says he will assess Bale's condition before deciding whether to start him against Belgium, the world's number two-ranked team, in Brussels on Thursday.

"You wouldn't have thought he'd just got off a flight from the States," said Page, who is without injured quartet Aaron Ramsey, Ben Davies, Harry Wilson and Joe Allen this week.

"His preparation started as soon as the final whistle went in his game. He goes to the nth degree. I'm not surprised by his professionalism, but I was surprised with how fresh he looked." Wales are bottom of Nations League A4 with their only point from four games coming in a 1-1 draw at home to Belgium in June.

Even if Wales lose in Belgium, and depending on results elsewhere, the Dragons could avoid relegation from the top tier of the competition by beating Poland in their final fixture in Cardiff on Sunday.

Quick read

QNB Stars League to resume December 22 post FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

The QNB Stars League, which has taken a break after the first even weeks, will resume on December 22 post FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. QSL announced the schedule of Week 8 and Week 9 matches on Wednesday. Al Duhail will take on Al Gharafa in the first match of Week 8 on December 22. Leaders Al Arabi will take Al Ahli, while Umm Salal and Al Marhiya will also clash on the same day. The Week 9 matches will begin on December 29. QSL said the venues and kick off times will be announced later. After the completion of seven rounds, Al Arabi are leading the table with 16 points followed by Al Wakrah (15) and AL Duhail (14).

Fixtures: Week 8 (Dec 22): Al Duhail vs Al Gharafa; Al Ahli vs Al Arabi; Umm Salal vs Al Markhiya; **Dec 23:** Al Shamal vs Al Wakrah; Al Sadd vs Qatar SC; Al Rayyan vs Al Sailiya; **Week 9 (Dec 29):** Al Duhail vs Umm Salal; Al Wakrah vs Al Arabi; Al Rayyan vs Al Sadd; **Dec 30:** Qatar SC vs Al Gharafa; Al Sailiya vs Al Ahli; Al Markhiya vs Al Shamal. (TNN)



Manchester United's Portuguese striker Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates scoring their second goal from the penalty spot during the UEFA Europa League Group E match against Sheriff at Zimbru stadium in Chisinau, Moldova, on September 15, 2022. (AFP)

Ronaldo shuts down international retirement talk, eyes Euro 2024

STATS PERFORM/DPA
BERLIN

CRISTIANO Ronaldo intends to continue with Portugal until Euro 2024, shutting down any notion this year's World Cup could be his last major international tournament.

The veteran attacker has struggled for form this season at club level with Manchester United, dropped by Erik ten Hag and mostly kept on the sidelines by a positive upturn in results.

But his place in Fernando Santos' Portugal squad has never been in doubt, with the 37-year-old leading his country in their Nations League matches with the Czech Republic and Spain this week.

Speaking at the Quinas de Ouro awards, where he was feted, Ronaldo revealed his ambitions to remain with the national set-up for another major

tournament cycle, taking him through to the age of 39.

"I hope to be a part of the national team for a few more years," he stated. "I still have the motivation, and my ambition is high."

"My path here is not over. We have many quality youngsters. I will be at the World Cup, and I want to be at the European Championship, too."

"It has been a long road and I want to take the opportunity to say that the road is not over yet. You'll still have to put up with me for a little while longer!" Ronaldo's only major honour at international level came at Euro 2016, albeit he missed most of the final victory over France following an injury.

Portugal will hope for a successful tournament in Qatar, where they are the top-seeded nation in Group H, alongside Uruguay, South Korea and Ghana.

Retiring Federer eyes fitting farewell alongside Nadal

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

ROGER Federer will bring the curtain down on his illustrious career with a doubles match in London on Friday night - and he hopes it will be alongside Rafael Nadal.

Federer, the 20-time Grand Slam champion and arguably the greatest male player of all time, announced last week that he will retire after competing at the Laver Cup.

Having admitted defeat in his ongoing battle with a knee injury, the 41-year-old will play one final doubles match at the Ryder Cup-style team competition at the O2.

And he offered up a tantalising prospect for tennis fans across the world, one last hurrah with his oldest and greatest rival, Spain's 22-time major winner Nadal.

"Of course. No doubt," Federer said at a packed press conference at the O2.

"I mean, I think it could be quite a unique situation, if it were to happen, for as long as we battled together to having always had this respect for one another, the families, our coaching teams, we always got along really well."

"For us as well to go through a career that we both have had and to come out the other side being able to have a nice relationship, I think, is maybe a great message as well to not just tennis but sports and maybe even beyond."

"For that reason I think it would be great. I don't know if it's going to happen, but I think it could be obviously a special moment."

Federer will have to circumnavigate the rules of the tournament which was his brainchild, as all competitors



In this file photo taken on July 12, 2019 Switzerland's Roger Federer (R) speaks with Spain's Rafael Nadal after Federer won their men's singles semi-final of the 2019 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, London. (AFP)

have to play at least one singles match rather than just doubles.

Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe, the captains of Team Europe and Team World respectively, agreed to the Swiss great's request and Matteo Berrettini, the first alternate, will take Federer's place in the event over the weekend.

"That was my concern going in," he added. "Of course this is an ATP event that I don't want to mess with, but at the same time, I know my limitations."

"This is why I asked Bjorn if it was OK if I play maybe just one doubles, and I guess that one would have to be on Friday night. Then I guess Matteo would come in for me and have to play on Saturday for me."

"Bjorn said, obviously, 'Of course, that's totally fine'. Bjorn spoke to John, as well.

They spoke to the tournament and the ATP if that was OK, and everybody said that was fine.

"So here I am trying to prepare for one last doubles. I'm nervous going in because I haven't played in so long. I hope I can be somewhat competitive." Federer revealed he could have announced his retirement earlier but waited to return to London, the scene of many of his most famous triumphs, not least his eight Wimbledon titles.

"I'm happy to do it here in London, this city has been special to me."

Maybe the most special place with Wimbledon down the road and here at the O2," he said. "I played here and qualified for so many years and won here as well."

I just thought it was very fitting. I have always enjoyed the crowds here as well.

"Also I just wanted to let the fans know I won't be a ghost. It's funny, I talked about Bjorn Borg just before - I don't think he returned to Wimbledon for 25 years."

"That, in a way, hurts every tennis fan. It's totally acceptable, his life, his reasons, you know. But I don't think I'll be that guy. I feel tennis has given me too much."

"I have been around the game for too long and fallen in love with too many things." Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray, Casper Ruud and Stefanos Tsitsipas are also on Team Europe, who will face a world team including Taylor Fritz, Felix Auger-Aliassime and Diego Schwartzman.

Al Annabi get set for Canada and Chile friendlies

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Qatari national football team is preparing for friendly matches against Canada and Chile on Friday (Sept 23) and Tuesday (Sept 27) as the squad continue their preparations in Austria ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The two matches will be held in Austria where the Qatar team has been undergoing training since June.

Qatar, hosts of the 2022 FIFA World Cup - are getting ready to face Ecuador in the opening match on November 20 at the Al Bayt Stadium.

The appearance of the Qatari team during the break period listed on the FIFA calendar for September will be the first since the friendly matches between Bulgaria and Slovenia in Doha on March 26



The Qatar national football team will play against Canada and Chile on Friday (Sept 23) and Tuesday (Sept 27) as the squad continue their preparations in Austria ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

and 29.

The two forthcoming matches will be a real test for the Qatar squad that kicked off a long preparatory programme which started in early June

after the decision of the Qatar Football Association (QFA) to exempt the international players from participating in the QNB Stars League.

In recent times a number

of unofficial matches outside the framework of FIFA's international windows have been played since there is a suspension of local leagues.

Qatar coach Felix Sanchez has decided to play as many players as possible to give them match practice in light of the short rest time before the matches against Canada and then Chile.

Earlier this year, Qatar underwent their first training camp in the Spanish city of Marbella.

The Qatari team delegation is scheduled to return to Doha after the match against Chile. Upon their return, the players will take a short break of three days before resuming training in a short indoor camp for five days where the players will engage in several training sessions including an open one on October 2.



Naomi Osaka of Japan hits balls to the crowd after her victory against Daria Saville of Australia during their women's singles match on day two of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Tuesday. (AFP)

Osaka 'pretty happy' despite falling to 48th in WTA rankings

STATS PERFORM/DPA
BERLIN

FOUR-TIME Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka admitted she has not had "the best year" but is still "pretty happy with where I am now."

Osaka - a former world number one - has slipped to 48th in the latest WTA rankings, and has not won a match at a Grand Slam since she beat Madison Brengle in the second round at the Australian Open in January.

The Japanese-born star was eliminated in the first round at the French Open and US Open this year, and did not compete at Wimbledon due to an Achilles injury.

Having taken some time away from the game last year to focus on her mental health, Osaka has struggled to get back to her previous high levels.

However, speaking ahead of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo, she seemed calm about the situation, as she suggested she is improving both on and off the court.

"It was kind of hard at first, just because I feel like I should be somewhere where I'm obviously currently not," the

24-year-old said.

"I think for me, it's more about being at peace with myself. I know that I'm here for a reason." Osaka has seven career singles titles to her name, including four majors - she has won twice at Flushing Meadows and twice at the Australian Open.

"This year has not been the best year for me, but I've learned a lot about myself," she added.

"Life is ups and downs, and this year was more down than up, but overall I'm pretty happy with where I am now."

She is now aiming to defend her title at the Pan Pacific Open, which has not been held in three years due to the coronavirus pandemic, where her opponent Daria Saville retired injured in the first match on Tuesday.

"It feels really weird to hear that I'm the defending champion because it was the last time I played in 2019," she said.

"I would love to win it again, but I think just taking it one match at a time... and also just playing in front of a crowd in Tokyo again, because the Olympics was crowdless, so it will just be nice to see people."

Germany's Bierhoff happy with Oman as the final pre-World Cup destination

DPA
FRANKFURT

GERMAN Football Federation (DFB) director Oliver Bierhoff is satisfied that the team found a new destination and opponent for their final pre World Cup test, Oman, after their original plan was ended by the tournament draw.

Four-time champions Germany wanted to play Japan in Dubai ahead of the November 20 World Cup start but both were then pitted into the same group at the tournament in Qatar.

Instead, coach Hansi Flick will now go to Oman on November 14 for a short training camp, play the country's national team two days later, and fly to their World Cup base in Qatar on November 18.

At the World Cup, Germany's group stage games are November 23 against Japan, four



Oliver Bierhoff, technical director of the German national football team, speaks during a press conference of the German national football team on Tuesday in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, two days before the UEFA Nations League Group 3 match between Germany and Hungary. (AFP)

days later against Spain and on December 1 v Costa Rica.

Oman was confirmed as the new destination only last week,

and Bierhoff said ahead of Germany's Nations League games Friday against Hungary and Monday in England that "such

talks and negotiations are not always easy.

"In the end it was important for us to get into the Qatar climate zone as soon as possible and to play a friendly against a not too strong opponent," he said.

"To give the coaches a chance to test when the players are coming out of their season, their weeks with mid-week fixtures."

Teams normally have several weeks to prepare for World Cups which are traditionally held in June and July. But due to the Qatar climate the 2022 event is late in the year, with all big leagues running until November 13, just one week ahead of the opening match.

"The preparation for the tournament is very different compared to other tournaments. And we are grateful to have found a good destination in Oman," Bierhoff said.

Doha steps up preparations to stage 2023 World Judo C'ships

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

DOHA is preparing to stage a spectacular edition of World Judo Championships next year from May 07-14, 2023.

A delegation from the International Judo Federation (IJF) began an extensive site visit to Doha in light of the process of coordination that precedes every major championship.

The Vice-President and Director-General of the local organizing committee, Khalid bin Hamad Al Attiya stressed that he is confident that Doha would be ready to host the best world's judokas next years.

"All the big pieces are in place. Our task over the next year is to link all the pieces together as we prepare to stage an innovative and exciting event edition of the world championship," he



said. Claudiu Chimoiu who led the IJF's team, said that everyone was impressed by Qatar's

preparations to host the world championships and hailed the cooperation of LOC members with IJF to provide athletes

with world-class facilities. "We have made good progress in our planning during my visit.

"One of the goals was to forge closer relationships between key personnel at the LOC and the IJF because that

united team will form the foundation for a successful edition of championships after seven months."



Hayden defends Bhuvi's bowling at the death

ANI
NEW DELHI

WITH debates being sparked on whether Bhuvneshwar Kumar is adept enough to bowl the death overs for India, Australian cricketer Matthew Hayden backed the Indian pacer and said he has been a very good "finisher."

India's road to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup started off on a rather sour note as Australia pulled off their second-highest chase in T20I cricket on Wednesday.

The T20 world champions accomplished this landmark against India at Mohali chasing down 209 with four balls and four wickets to spare.

Speaking on Star Sports show - 'Match Point', former Australian cricketer Matthew Hayden spoke about who his star performer for Australia in the first T20I against India was and whether India can stick on to their current death bowling regime ahead of the second and third T20Is later this week.

Hayden backed the pacer and said, "I disagree with that, I think he can and has been a very good finisher. I think that's his role, I mean, obviously, his role is to take wickets up front but if your skipper wants an over or two from you at the end, then he can do that."



India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar delivers a ball during the first Twenty20 international India and Australia at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali on Tuesday. (AFP)

With the challenge of 'Mission Melbourne' looking even more daunting than before, major issues in India's bowling need to be addressed as the death overs have become a major talk point in India's recent performances.

With many of Australia's young guns and debutants stealing the show last night in Mohali, there seems to be a long way

to go before India can be confident about having a successful World Cup campaign.

With India receiving another 'reality check' before the start of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, the stakes are high as they face Australia to save the series in the second T20I on September 23, 2022.

Speaking on Cameron Greene's performance against

India, Hayden said, "Greene, he has been a really big asset for Australian Cricket for a couple of years now. He's a genuine all-rounder. I just think he's such a huge part of the future of Australian cricket. So it doesn't really surprise me, he's very capable, he's a big man with good skills. He looked a little bit disappointing with the ball, but it's a tough place to bowl."



India to host Moto GP in 2023

ANI
NEW DELHI

IN a significant boost for Indian motorsports, India will host its maiden Moto GP race in 2023 to be called the 'Grand Prix of Bharat', at the Buddh International Circuit.

Riders from as many as 19 countries will participate in the event, which is expected to provide a major boost to tourism in the country.

Buddh International Circuit last hosted the Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix for three consecutive years from 2011

till 2013, and now will host the maiden Moto GP race.

Carlos Ezpeleta MD, Dorna Sports, commercial rights holder of Moto GP said, "Well we know that India is a hub and we pretty sure that we will find many more fans of this Moto GP here we are delighted to be part of India now and soon we will turn this into reality."

"We have a long way programme and a vision for this we knew that F1 packed up soon from India but we will come here with a great plan and we hope this race goes long," he added.

Quick read

Hassan to replace Shakib as captain for UAE T20Is

DHAKA: Shakib Al Hasan will be replaced as captain by Nurul Hasan, who is rejoining the team following a finger surgery, for the upcoming two-match T20I series against the UAE in Dubai. The majority of the Bangladesh team consists of T20 World Cup hopefuls. But to make up for Shakib's absence, the selectors have chosen three of the four standbys. **The squad:** Nurul Hasan (capt), Sabbir Rahman, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Afif Hossain, Mosaddek Hossain, Litton Das, Yasir Ali, Mustafizur Rahman, Mohammad Saifuddin, Taskin Ahmed, Ebadot Hossain, Hasan Mahmud, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Nasum Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Soumya Sarkar, Rishad Hossain. (ANI)

ECB announce 2023 Ashes schedule

AGENCIES
LONDON

ENGLAND have announced a jam-packed home schedule for the summer of 2023, in addition to a five-match Ashes series against Australia and a single Test match against Ireland.

A one-off Test match against Ireland will be played at Lord's from June 1 to June 4 to kick off Ben Stokes' team's summer.

The five-match Test series against Australia will then command their focus, with England attempting to reclaim the Ashes following their 0-4 loss in Australia in 2021-22.

The Test matches for the

men's Ashes will be held at Edgbaston, Lord's, Headingley, Old Trafford, and The Oval between June 16 and July 31.

The men's England team will also play four 20-over games and four 50-over games in an ODI and a T20I series against New Zealand.

August 30 through September 15 are the scheduled dates for the series versus New Zealand.

As England ramp up their preparations for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, which will be held in India, they will also play a three-match One-Day International series against Ireland from September 20 to 26.

AGENCIES
CANTERBURY

HARMANPREET Kaur hit a sublime 143 not out from 111 balls to guide India to an 88-run victory over England in the second One-Day International in Canterbury on Wednesday, reports BBC.com.

Put in to bat, India scored an imposing 333-5, the highest total England have ever conceded in a home ODI.

Captain Harmanpreet struck 18 fours and four sixes in her innings, supported by Harleen Deol's 58.

Renuka Singh Thakur then starred with the ball, taking 4-57 as England were bowled out for 245 in another disappointing performance.

Danni Wyatt and Amy Jones steered England to 167-4, before Wyatt's dismissal for 65 in the 30th over sparked a collapse of four wickets for just 16 runs.

The win takes India to an unassailable 2-0 lead, securing their first ODI series win in England since 1999.

Again England struggled in the absence of key senior players, with Katherine Brunt resting, captain Heather Knight injured and Nat Sciver taking a break for her mental health.

Harmanpreet slams 143* in record total as India eves secure ODI series



India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur launches into one of the four sixes she hit during her unbeaten knock of 143 off 111 balls against England in the second One-Day International at Canterbury on Wednesday.

The inexperience of England's bowling attack was stark, and India capitalised. The bowling figures of Freya Kemp and Lauren Bell were England's two most expensive

of all time - Kemp 1-82 and Bell taking 1-79, and as a team they bowled 21 wides.

The series continues with the third and final ODI at Lord's on Saturday.

Scores: India 333-5 (50 overs): Harmanpreet 143* (111), Deol 58 (72) **bt England 245 all out (44.2 overs):** Wyatt 65 (58); Thakur 4-57. **India won by 88 runs, lead series 2-0.**

England's home schedule for 2023

Thursday June 1-Sunday June 4: One-off Test Match, England Men v Ireland Men, Lord's
Men's Ashes Series
Friday June 16-Tuesday June 20: 1st Test, Edgbaston
Wednesday June 28-Sunday July 2: 2nd Test, Lord's
Thursday July 6-Monday July 10: 3rd Test, Headingley
Wednesday July 19-Sunday July 23: 4th Test, Emirates Old Trafford
Thursday July 27-Monday 31: 5th Test, The Kia Oval
T20I series vs New Zealand
Wednesday August 30: 1st T20I, England v New Zealand, Seat Unique Riverside, Chester-le-Street
Friday September 1: 2nd T20I, England v New Zealand, Emirates Old Trafford
Sunday September 3: 3rd T20I, England v New

Zealand, Edgbaston
Tuesday September 5: 4th T20I, England v New Zealand, Trent Bridge
ODI series vs New Zealand
Friday September 8: 1st ODI, England v New Zealand, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff
Sunday September 10: 2nd ODI, England v New Zealand, The Ageas Bowl
Wednesday September 13: 3rd ODI, England v New Zealand, Kia Oval
Friday September 15: 4th ODI, England v New Zealand, Lord's
ODI series v Ireland
Wednesday September 20: 1st ODI, England v Ireland, Headingley
Saturday September 23: 2nd ODI, England v Ireland, Trent Bridge
Tuesday September 26: 3rd ODI, England v Ireland, Seat Unique Stadium, Bristol.