

I would change all my individual trophies for that trophy of World Cup champion.  
 — Luka Modric of Croatia



# Nadal excited on his 'unforgettable' Laver Cup partnership with Federer

STATS PERFORM/DPA  
 BERLIN

RAFAEL Nadal is thrilled to have the chance to play alongside the retiring Roger Federer in the Laver Cup on Friday.

Swiss ace Federer will partner fellow all-timer Nadal in the doubles, the man from Basle bringing an end to an illustrious career in the company of his greatest rival.

Swiss great Federer made clear in a press conference on Wednesday that the tie-up with Nadal was the one he wanted for his finale.

That made it practically inevitable they would be paired together, and it was confirmed on Thursday that Federer and Nadal would indeed join forces for Team Europe, to take on Team World's Frances Tiafoe and Jack Sock in the final match of the day at around 2000 GMT.

The prospect of being a team-mate on court with Federer in London is something that will be "unforgettable" for Nadal.

"After all the amazing things that we shared together on and off the court, to be part of this historic moment, it's going to be something amazing and unforgettable for me," Nadal said in Thursday's press conference.

"I hope I can have a good time playing at a decent level and hopefully together we can create a good moment and maybe win a match.

"But I hope that the crowd will be supporting a lot. I'm super



(L-R) Britain's Andy Murray, Serbia's Novak Djokovic, captain Bjorn Borg, Switzerland's Roger Federer and Spain's Rafael Nadal laugh during a press conference for Team Europe ahead of the 2022 Laver Cup at the O2 Arena in London on Thursday. (AFP)

excited to be here with the team and of course to be on the court and having Roger next to me one more time will be something that I am very looking forward to.

"We were able to create an amazing rivalry together, and on the other hand, something that we are probably very proud [to have had], I have been a friendly rival which is not easy sometimes because we are playing for such important things for our tennis careers.

"But at the same time, we were able to understand that in the end personal relationships are more important than sometimes professional things, and we were able to handle it I think the proper way.

"Tomorrow it's going to be a special thing. I think it will be difficult to handle everything, especially for Roger, without a doubt, but for me too. One of the most important players, if not the most important player,

in my tennis career is leaving and to leave at this moment will be difficult."

By the time Nadal emerged as a teenage prodigy, Federer was already a grand slam champion, and their rivalry will go down as one of the greatest in tennis history.

They have met in nine grand slam finals, with Nadal winning six of those on his way to a career 24-16 winning record against Federer.



Roger Federer (R) and Rafael Nadal take a break during a practice session ahead of the 2022 Laver Cup at the O2 Arena in London on Thursday. (AFP)

“After all the amazing things that we shared together on and off the court, to be part of this historic moment, it's going to be something amazing and unforgettable for me.

Rafael Nadal

Federer, 41, is retiring after deciding the knee trouble that has plagued him in recent years will not allow him to extend his career any further. He will sign off with 20 slam singles titles, two behind Nadal, who has won the most of all men.

Federer is playing just one match at the Laver Cup, the tournament he was involved in setting up, with his big send-off coming in London, where he won eight Wimbledon titles.

Federer is also looking forward to the match and partnering with Nadal, though he concedes it will be a difficult test

as the Team Europe pair tackle Team World's Frances Tiafoe and Jack Sock.

"Of course, it's super special playing with Rafa," Federer said.

"It feels really different. Also just walking out on the court and having the chance to play with the likes of Rafa or Novak also in the past has been an amazing experience for me.

"So, to be able to do that one more time, I'm sure it's going to be wonderful. I'll try my very best and I hope to be good out there. And of course, I'll enjoy it but it will be hard."

## This England team can go even further in Qatar: Southgate

GARETH Southgate loves coming into work at St George's Park. And it's easy to see why. Tucked away in the quiet Staffordshire countryside, the FA's gleaming headquarters and neatly manicured training pitches are a coach's paradise. But every time he arrives and salutes the St George's Park receptionist, Southgate is greeted by images that provide a vivid reminder of his to-do list — and the item underlined at the top. England's U-17s are splashed across the wall, the U-19s and U-20s too, and the senior women now take pride of place after this year's spectacular UEFA Women's EURO triumph. All of them, naturally, have trophies held aloft. Other coaches might feel taunted and tormented by such celebratory shots. Southgate describes them as "inspiring". He can also see that, like the women's team before them, his side have been edging steadily closer to that elusive and long-awaited moment of glory.

It's easy to forget that the England team he took over had just been dumped out of the EURO by Iceland after finishing bottom of their section at Brazil 2014. Since then, the Three Lions have shed their tag as perennial underperformers at major tournaments by reaching their first World Cup semi-final in 28 years and the first EURO final of their history. The question now, of course, is how they take that next, all-important step from being on the podium to reaching its top.

Southgate sat down with FIFA+ to look ahead to Qatar 2022. Excerpts

**On the effective use of substitutes as 'finishers' in matches and the importance of the non-playing members in creating the right squad atmosphere.**

We've found in our two tournaments that several players who didn't kick a ball were really important to the feel of the group, and I think history tells you that. Personally, I've played in tournaments where I've played every minute and I've been to a tournament where I didn't kick a ball. You know those roles are different and you know what you've got to contribute to the team. With five substitutes now, I think the squad is

England manager Gareth Southgate is aiming to improve on reaching the last four and final of the Three Lions' two most recent tournaments



Gareth Southgate says there will be far less travel in Qatar and everyone will feel that that's a benefit for training and preparation.

even more important. That's both in depth and just in people understanding their roles, because at set plays you can have half the team changing as the match goes on.

**On the Qatar World Cup bring unusual and unique. And the challenges and opportunities as a coach.**

I think we should always look at what's positive about it, and for us there was a lot of travelling in Russia. Sometimes we were getting back to our base at four or five in the morning and that really impacts what you do over the next two days. So there will be far less travel in Qatar, and I think everyone will feel that that's a benefit for training and preparation. There will be challenges but we're looking forward to those challenges that tournaments bring. And we're excited. The opportunity to go for a World Cup again... these are rare events in your life, and we have a team that has enjoyed a long period of good form. Yes, we had a bit of a blip in the summer (England failed to win any of their four UEFA Nations League matches and lost twice to Hungary) but we've learned a lot from that and we're looking forward to these next few months.

**On the struggle in June Nations League and learning the lessons.**

Whenever you lose football matches, there are things you have to learn. But the reality is that we needed to use those matches to look at players. We have eight days together this month (England play Italy on Friday and Germany on Monday), then we arrive in St George's in November, fly to Doha and have five days ahead of our first game. So we needed to know about new caps over the summer. It meant that we fielded close to our strongest team in Germany, and then looked to balance having a number of matches in a short period at the end of a long season along with our desire to look at new players. Looking back, I don't think I got that balance quite right in terms of being strong enough to win all those games and get the level of performance we needed. When you make a lot of changes, if the team starts well they're confident and can keep playing. But in that last game against Hungary, we didn't start well and some of the lack of experience and lack of cohesion came through. You have to be careful as coach not to dismiss those learnings because you can't lose 4-0 at home and think eve-

rything's fine. But equally, it was only three or four games previously that we were 22 games without defeat and finalists in the European Championship. There's a lot that we've built over a long period of time that should make this group of players very confident. They've had the best run of any England team for 50 years, so they've got to remember what they've done well.

**On how much of the preferred line-up is settled at this stage.**

Well, you've always got to be open-minded. But equally, if we weren't very clear in our heads about the basis of those things, I think people would be wondering what we're doing only two games out from the tournament (laughs). In our heads we're pretty clear. Of course, there will be injuries for every country because it's going to be an intense period ahead of this World Cup, so you've got to be ready to make changes. But we've had a fairly settled group for quite a long period of time and we know the players who can play at this level. We also know the importance of some of that tournament experience around the group. Equally, there are some very good young players coming through who're challenging

strongly for places both in the team and in the squad.

**On the good run and the goodwill the team has generated.**

That's playing for England really, and it's one of the hardest things. With this national team the expectations have always been high, and ultimately you're judged on results. The goodwill and how we are with everybody is one thing, but if you don't win football matches that determines the mood. I'm aware of that as the manager and it's important I take any pressure from the players because we want them to feel free when they play for England. One of the problems we had a few years ago was that the shirt felt very heavy, and it was one of the reasons we perhaps didn't perform as well as we might have done. I think this group of players relish playing for England, enjoy it, and we're all looking forward to the World Cup. We've got two important matches first that we need to play well in and win. But equally at the back of our minds we're preparing for one of the greatest things you can be involved in as a player or a manager.

**Having gone so close in 2018, and closer still at the EURO, what can you do to take that final step in Qatar?**

We learned a lot from both of those tournaments and there were moments in both those matches (the defeats to Croatia in 2018 and Italy in 2021) — quite short periods in actual fact, 10-15 minutes — when we lost control. So we've got to keep the ball better in pressure situations, and defensively — as a team — we can be more proactive as well. Sometimes you need to go through those learning experiences. I'm not sure anyone really thought before 2018 that we were a semi-final team. We hadn't won a knockout match in ten years at that stage. That was different for the EURO and, of course, drawing the final over 90 minutes and extra time were even closer there. We know there are areas we can be even better in but, equally, we've got to keep doing the things that got us to those positions, and keep doing them really well. But our aim has to be to focus on what we can control and that's improving every aspect of our game as much as we possibly can.

## QATAR COMPLETE PREPARATIONS AHEAD OF CANADA FRIENDLY IN AUSTRIA



The Qatar national football team underwent a strenuous training session under the watchful eyes of their coach Felix Sanchez in Austria ahead of their international friendly against Canada to be played on Friday (September 23). The Asian champions will also meet Chile in their last match in Austria on Tuesday (September 27) before their return home ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2022.



## England still one of world's top sides despite setbacks – Mancini

PA MEDIA/DPA  
LONDON

ITALY coach Roberto Mancini says England remain "one of the best teams in the world" despite their two recent defeats to Hungary.

England, who cannot qualify for the Nations League finals, take on Mancini's side in their penultimate Group A3 game in Milan on Friday.

Mancini said: "I think England is one of the best teams in the world.

It's full of talent, especially the forwards.

"They have many players apart from Harry Kane, who is an extraordinary player, but the young players around him can make a difference. So it will be a very hard match for us."

The two sides played out a goalless draw at Molineux in June in their first meeting since Italy's penalty shoot-out win in the Euro 2020 final at Wembley.

The Three Lions are winless in this season's Nations League. They sit bottom of their group after taking two points from four matches and will be relegated if they fail to win in Milan.

Their 1-0 and 4-0 defeats to Hungary, in Budapest in June and at Molineux in July, sandwiched draws against Germany and Italy.

But Mancini, whose side will stay in contention for the finals if they avoid defeat to Gareth Southgate's side, is paying little attention to recent results.

"The English team is a great team," Mancini said. "It was a great team in Euro 2020 and it was a great team before."

"It's a national team full of talented players and I believe they can improve further, even though they lost two matches against Hungary."

"I think that the English players at the end of the season are very tired because they play much more matches than other national teams."

Italy skipper Leonardo Bonucci feels his side can use England's visit to Milan to gauge themselves in the world order following their failure to qualify for the World Cup in Qatar.

Bonucci said: "It's going to be a very important match because it will tell us where we are in this rebirth, let's say."

"Because after failing to qualify for the World Cup the coach has changed many players, so tomorrow we will understand where we really are, where we need to improve and if there is something to improve."

"But I think this will be the best match possible to start again and to build something new and important for the future."

"England are a great team so we need to pay attention to their individual qualities because offensively they have very talented players, who can change the match in the blink of an eye."

Mancini confirmed AC Milan midfielder Sandro Tonali was expected to withdraw from the squad due to injury.

# Mabil's magic moment gives Socceroos narrow send-off win

*Australia score 1-0 win over New Zealand in final home game before their World Cup trip in November*

STATS PERFORM/DPA  
BERLIN

AWER Mabil's fine strike gave Australia a 1-0 win over New Zealand in the final home game for the Socceroos before their World Cup trip in November.

The Cadiz winger struck in style in the 32nd minute at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane. Jackson Irvine won possession in midfield before feeding Mabil, who cut in from the left flank and fired into the bottom-left corner from 22 yards.

These teams meet again at Eden Park on Sunday, and New Zealand, who missed out on World Cup qualification when they lost in a play-off to Costa Rica, should take heart from Thursday's display.

The visitors almost snatched a 10th-minute lead when Chris Wood's flick-on put Andre de Jong in on goal, and he jabbed a foot wide of the left post after getting behind the



Australia's Awer Mabil (L) and New Zealand's Tim Payne compete during a friendly international between Australia and New Zealand at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane on Thursday. (AFP)

Australia defence.

Irvine missed the target from a big chance for Graham Arnold's Australia, and was

then penalised for a questionable push when the hosts got the ball in the net in the 28th minute.

Mabil's goal four minutes later meant that was soon forgotten, with Australia settling for a narrow win in the end af-

ter Mathew Leckie shot against the outside of the left post late on, via a faint touch from New Zealand goalkeeper Oliver Sail.

## Substitute Dykes heads in late double as Scotland beat Ukraine

PA MEDIA/DPA  
LONDON

SUPER substitute Lyndon Dykes scored a late double as Scotland moved impressively to the top of their Nations League group with a thumping 3-0 win over Ukraine at Hampden Park.

After a goalless first half, striker Che Adams and midfielder Stuart Armstrong missed good chances before skipper John McGinn fired home a 70th-minute drive and Dykes headed in twice from fellow replacement Ryan Fraser's corners for a morale-boosting win.

The Scots had been well-beaten by Ukraine in the 2022 World Cup semi-final play-off in June but they had the measure of Oleksandr Petrakov's side this time.

Scotland have nine points from four fixtures, two more than Ukraine, and will host Republic of Ireland on Saturday before another meeting with Ukraine in Poland next week



Scotland's striker Lyndon Dykes (L) scores during the UEFA Nations League B Group 1 match at Hampden Park stadium, in Glasgow, on Wednesday. (AFP)

in their final Group B1 fixture when promotion to Group A could be on the line.

Before the kick-off, some booing accompanied the minute's applause ahead of the

game in memory of the Queen, patron of the Scottish Football Association.



Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez during the Uruguayan Clausura match against River Plate in Montevideo, on Sept 17. (AFP)

## Suarez to leave Nacional in November, club president confirms

STATS PERFORM/DPA  
BERLIN

FORMER Barcelona player Luis Suarez will depart Nacional in November when his contract ends, says club president Jose Fuentes.

The 35-year-old striker rejoined his first club in his native Uruguay in July after his Atletico Madrid contract expired at the end of last season.

Uruguay's all-time record goalscorer has since played 10 games for Nacional, registering four goals and three assists, but will depart at the end of this campaign ahead of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

President Fuentes told Channel 10's Punto Penal: "The championship is over and Luis Suarez is leaving Nacional. I'm not going to create false expectations."

"Luis Suarez made a great effort to come to Nacional and, every time they ask me, I say it so as not to generate expectations for the future."

"He's leaving and he also said it more than once, that's how we fixed it."

## Huge rise in fan disorder at football matches in England and Wales

The shocking extent of criminal and anti-social behaviour at matches in England and Wales last season has been set out in data released by the Home Office on Thursday. Reported incidents of disorder at matches in England and Wales were up by 60 per cent compared to the last full season before the Covid-19 pandemic. Incidents were reported at 1,609

of the 3,019 matches played in England and Wales over the course of last season - equating to 53%. In 2018-19, there were reported incidents at 1,007 matches, equivalent to one third of the games played. There were 441 matches where pitch invasions were reported last season - up by a staggering 127% on the 2018-19 campaign

- and 384 matches where a hate crime incident was reported, an increase of 99%. Football-related arrests were up by 59% to 2,198 - the highest number of arrests since 2,273 were made in the 2013-14 season. West Ham had the highest number of arrests for a single club - 95 across the season - followed by Manchester City (76),

Manchester United (72), Leicester (59) and Everton (58). The authorities issued 516 new football banning orders in the 2021-22 season, and 1,308 were in force at the end of the season. There were 729 matches where possession of pyrotechnics was reported, and 561 where missile-throwing was reported. (STATS Perform/DPA)

# Bagnaia says he doesn't need team orders to win 2022 MotoGP title

AGENCIES  
MOTEGI (JAPAN)

FRANCESCO Bagnaia says he 'doesn't need help' from Ducati-imposed team orders to win the 2022 MotoGP championship.

The Italian is now just 10 points away from reigning world champion Fabio Quartararo in the standings, having overturned a 91-point deficit following June's German GP.

But Bagnaia's gap to Quartararo could have been just five points had it not been for Enea Bastianini beating him to victory last weekend at Aragon, raising more questions about Ducati team orders.

While Ducati has remained firm in its stance that it will not stop any of its riders spread across its four represented squads from battling for a victory, Bagnaia says he doesn't need any team orders to assist him.

"Sincerely, I don't think that I need help to be in front," Bagnaia said when asked if there had been any discussions within Ducati about team orders.



Repsol Honda Team rider Marc Marquez of Spain (L), Gresini Racing MotoGP rider Enea Bastianini of Italy (C) and LCR Honda rider Takaaki Nakagami of Japan (R) during a pre-event press conference at the MotoGP Japanese Grand Prix in the Twin Ring Motegi circuit in Motegi, Tochigi prefecture on Thursday. (AFP)

"I prefer to win on track and not because someone let me past. But in any case, I'm not inside of this decision. It's something that for sure I've said my desire, which is to let

me do what I want to do. "And if they decide something different, it's not something to do with me. So, I will be racing, I will try to be in front and I will try to win. This

will be my main goal, like I did in Misano and in Aragon."

Gresini's Bastianini, who is an outside bet in the championship at 48 points adrift of Quartararo on his 2021-spec



Ducati Lenovo team rider Francesco Bagnaia of Italy (L) walks beside a child at the paddock during the MotoGP Japanese Grand Prix at the Twin Ring Motegi circuit in Motegi, Tochigi prefecture on Thursday. (AFP)

Ducati, says he hasn't received any instructions from the Italian manufacturer to help Bagnaia this weekend at the Japanese Grand Prix.

"There is a big question about this situation," he said when asked about team orders.

"Also, the media pushes this a lot. But I think the situation inside my box now is very smooth for the moment.

"My feeling is good and I think also Ducati wants this for the moment.

"I haven't team orders for the moment and we will see during the future what happens if Pecco is in front.

"I am closer now in respect of the championship, but for the moment there is only one question: I have to do 100% to be fast." (motorsport.com)

# Babar and Rizwan steer Pakistan to incredible 10-wicket win

AGENCIES  
KARACHI

BABAR Azam hit 110 not out and Mohammad Rizwan an unbeaten 88 as Pakistan pulled off a remarkable 10-wicket victory over England to level the sides' Twenty20 series at 1-1, reports BBC.com.

Chasing 200, Pakistan's opening pair produced a batting masterclass in Karachi to seal the win with three balls to spare.

Babar reached a sublime century from 62 balls, delighting the raucous home crowd, while Rizwan hit four sixes in a whirlwind 51-ball knock.

It meant Pakistan set a new record for the highest chase in all men's T20s without losing a wicket.

England, who had never previously lost a T20 by 10 wickets, were put to the sword - Alex Hales' drop of Rizwan on 23 proving crucial.

The tourists had looked heavy favourites at the halfway stage when racking up 199-5 as Moeen Ali smashed 55 not out from 23 balls and Ben Duckett an enterprising 43.

The sides play again in less than 24 hours with the third match of the seven-match series taking place on Friday,



Pakistan captain Babar Azam (L), who made 110 not out, and teammate Mohammad Rizwan, who scored unbeaten 88, celebrate after their win at the end of the second Twenty20 international cricket match between Pakistan and England at the National Cricket Stadium in Karachi on Thursday. (AFP)

again in Karachi.

This series was already historic for being England's return to Pakistan for the first time in 17 years.

Babar and Rizwan, Pakistan's supreme captain and vice-captain, have ensured its

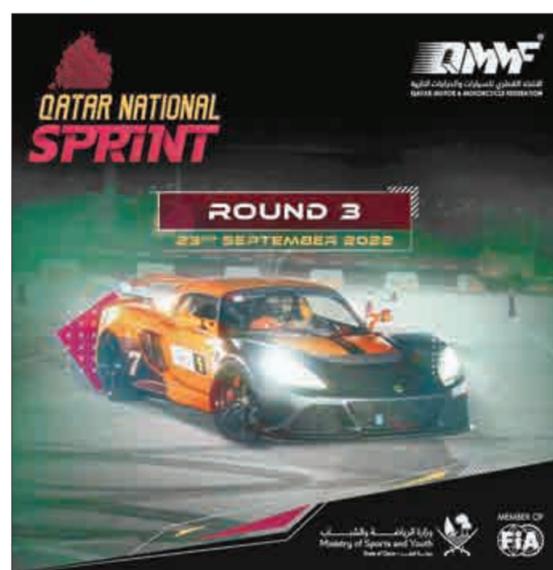
place in the record books.

In the end a challenging total was reached with relative ease, a reflection of the brilliant way the pair paced the chase.

The previous highest target reached without losing a wicket was 169, by New Zealand

against Pakistan in 2016.

**Scores: England 199-5 (20 overs): Moeen 55\* (23), Duckett 43 (22); Rauf 2-30 lost to Pakistan 203-0 (19.3 overs): Babar 110\* (66), Rizwan 88\* (51); Pakistan win by 10 wickets; level series 1-1.**



## Qatar National Sprint 2022 - Third round at Losail International Circuit today

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

THE third round of the Qatar National Sprint 2022, organized and conducted by the Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation (QMMF) will be held at the Losail International Circuit on Friday (September 23) with the wide participation of local, residents and expat drivers.

The registration and scrutiny procedures will begin at 4pm and will be followed by a preparatory meeting for drivers at 6pm.

Competitions will begin at 8pm with the opening race, followed by the second and third races at 9 and 10pm respectively.

The third round of Qatar National Sprint 2022 will conclude with the awarding ceremony of the winners.

The round will have six different categories: Open Class

-(O1, O2, O3; and Production Class - P1, P2, and P3, with each contestant making three attempts in each category with the winner being decided on the best cumulative result.

The Qatar National Sprint has been receiving great attention.

The QMMF headed by president Abdulrahman bin Abdulatif Al Mannai is also making all efforts to cater to the increasing participation and the high level of competitions.

The second round of Qatar National Sprint 2022 was held a fortnight ago where Qatar's Nadim Ziade won the O1 class, Jad Al Awar topped O2 category title, and Abdullah Al Ghaidid the O3 category.

The Production class was topped by Mansour Chebli (P1). Maher Sari won the P2 category, and Francesco Fornciacari topped P3. (TNN)

### Quick read

#### Stampede as cricket fans scramble for India-Australia T20I tickets in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD:** Four people were injured after a stampede broke out at Gymkhana grounds following a stampede which happened after massive amount of cricket fans gathered to purchase tickets for the third T20I match between India and Australia. The third T20I stadium between India and Australia will take place in Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad on September 25. A huge crowd had come to the Gymkhana grounds to purchase tickets. A large queue of fans was captured waiting to get their hands on tickets. But the situation soon turned out of control and a stampede broke out, with excited fans coming in excessive numbers and causing law and order issues. Police lathi-charged to disperse the massive crowd and restore control. Australia won the first game in Mohali while the second game is scheduled in Nagpur for Friday. (ANI)

## Osaka withdraws from home event, Ostapenko survives scare

STATS PERFORM/DPA  
BERLIN

NAOMI Osaka's title defence at her home Pan Pacific Open event came to a premature end as she withdrew from her second-round match against Beatriz Haddad Maia.

The former world number one, who won the Tokyo tournament when it was last held in 2019, was unable to compete in Thursday's match due to illness.

"I am really sorry that I am not able to compete today," Osaka said. "It's an honour to be able to play at the Pan Pacific Open in front of the amazing fans here in Japan.

"This has and always will be a special tournament for me and I wish I could have stepped on court today, but my body won't let me."

Haddad Maia advanced on a walkover and will next face fourth

seed Veronika Kudermetova, who defeated Mexican qualifier Fernanda Contreras Gomez 6-0, 6-1 to reach the quarter-finals.

Liudmila Samsonova also progressed to the last eight, with a 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 win over Wang Xinyu continuing her good form. However, sixth seed Karolina Pliskova exited the competition on Thursday at the hands of Petra Martic, who prevailed 6-3, 6-4 and will face Zhang Shuai next.

At the Korea Open, top seed Jelena Ostapenko recovered from two games down in the deciding set to overcome Anastasia Gasanova 6-3, 5-7, 7-5.

Ostapenko remains on a possible semi-final collision course with Emma Raducanu, who came through 6-4, 7-5 against Yanina Wickmayer, while Magda Linette saved two match points to beat Kristina Mladenovic 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.

## Monahan dismisses PGA Tour reconciliation with LIV Golf

STATS PERFORM/DPA  
BERLIN

PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan has ruled out the prospect of reconciliation between the PGA Tour and LIV Golf Invitational Series rebels.

The two competitions are locked in legal proceedings, with LIV Golf players submitting an antitrust lawsuit against the PGA Tour after they were suspended following their moves.

LIV Golf argues that players have been treated unfairly and the decision suppresses competition, with the relationship between the two competitions growing increasingly sour.

That mood is unlikely to change any time soon, with Monahan saying ahead of the Presidents Cup in North Carolina that the prospect of a truce is "off the table".

"Listen, I think I've been pretty clear on this: I don't see



Greg Norman, CEO and commissioner of LIV Golf, poses with 4 Aces GC caddies Austin Johnson, Malcom Baker, Michael Hartford, and Kessler Karain after winning the team title during Day Three of the LIV Golf Invitational - Chicago at Rich Harvest Farms on Sunday. (Getty Images/AFP)

this happening," he told the Golf Channel.

"When you look at where we are, and you think about words and actions, we're currently in a lawsuit, so coming together and having conversa-

tions, to me, that card is off the table, and it has been for a long period of time.

"When you look at the PGA Tour, and you look at where we are today, and you look at what it is that we try and accomplish

every single day - what's our focus?"

"To put the best competitive platform forward for the best players in the world to achieve at the highest level, to win the championships that have history, that have tradition, that create legacy.

"That is what we're going to continue to do, and we're going to continue to get better at it, we're going to continue to get stronger at it.

"You've heard me say before that we're going to focus on things that we control; we have more assets at our disposal, stronger partnerships and we have the best players in the world telling us that not only are they going to commit to play more, but they're really looking at the organisation to accomplish that.

"It's all about where we are and where we're going, and again, I couldn't be more excited about the possibilities here."

# QT to mark Saudi National Day with festivities

**TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK**  
DOHA

QATAR Tourism (QT) has announced a weekend of special events and promotions to mark Saudi National Day on September 23, in celebration of the deep bond shared between the two countries.

Following the Saudi National Day custom, throughout the weekend (September 22-24) shopping malls across Qatar will be adorned with distinctive emerald-green Saudi Arabia flags.

Place Vendôme, in partnership with Qatar Tourism, will also stage a series of special shows in honour of Qatar's neighbours. Over September 22 to 24 at 7pm each evening,



guests can travel to the mall to see a light projection of the Saudi Arabian flag, and a spectacular fountain display with the mall's famous dancing water jets.

What's more, a suite of exciting promotional offers will be launched amongst some of Qatar's top leisure and hotel

venues. Discover Qatar has launched exclusive offers comprising of three nights for the price of two or five nights for the price of three, across some of the country's most popular hotels. Participating venues will cater to all budgets and preferences, from the sprawling and

luxurious (W Hotel Doha, Al Messila Resort & Spa) to more boutique venues (Al Aziziya Boutique Hotel). The promotion can be redeemed between September 20 - 27.

Commenting on the weekend's festivities, Haya Al Noaimi, Marketing and Promotion

Sector at Qatar Tourism, said: "Qatar and Saudi Arabia have interconnected heritages and closely shared cultural values. The wonderful weekend of family fun that we have planned is a fitting tribute to our guests from the Kingdom, and we are excited to celebrate Saudi National

Day with them."

At the Saudi Arabian land border (Abu Samra), volunteers from Qatar Tourism will be stationed over the weekend to distribute curated packages for all visitors. As well as a delicious box of dates, the packages will contain Buy One Get One Free vouchers for some of Qatar's most popular theme parks, such as Angry Birds World, Desert Falls Water & Adventure Park, Snow Dunes, KidZania and Doha Quest. Visitors will also receive a physical copy of the Qatar Calendar, for inspiration on what to do and where to go during their stay. To see a full list of offers and packages celebrating Saudi National Day, visit [www.visitqatar.com/ksa](http://www.visitqatar.com/ksa)

# QU shines bright in global rankings

**TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK**  
DOHA

QATAR University (QU), Qatar's primary institution of higher education, has made several achievements recently, such as improving its world rankings and receiving international awards, including the QS Quacquarelli Symonds Internationalization Award which recognizes the global impact the university has made in 2022. The award is given to universities based on their score for 'internationalization' - the average of international student ratio, international faculty ratio, and international research network.

QU was ranked second in Times Higher Education (THE) Arab University Rankings 2021 and second in the QS Arab Region University Rankings 2022. QU also ranks among the top best 600 universities globally, according to 2022 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) by the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy.

QS World University Rankings put QU in 208th position in its latest 2023 edition, an improvement of 16 places from the previous year. In addition, QU continues to place itself among the top six universities in the International Outlook indicator for the seventh year in a row, according to the overall THE World University Rankings. QU is also among the Global Top 25 performers in the U-Multirank 2021 indicator 'international joint publications'.

QU President Dr Hassan Al-Derham commented, "We are proud of the advanced positions achieved recently by the university in international rankings of academic institutions, which positively reflect the prestigious global position QU has reached with the support of its faculty, students, researchers and staff. We are on the path of excellence and raising the bar,

leading to achieving more global positions."

Cesar Wazen, director of the International Affairs Office at QU, said, "Qatar University continues to advance in various global rankings. There has been tremendous progress made by Qatar University, signifying its competitiveness at local and global levels. The university has been supported by an ambitious strategy aiming to transform higher education in the country, prioritising research excellence and focusing on students. Our excellence in international research outlook across three rankings using different methodologies also means that QU is making full use of the support it gets from the State of Qatar, especially through the generous research funds."

QU's Chief Strategy and Development Officer Dr Khalid Al-Khanji said, "At the start of a new academic year, it's important to reflect on QU's most recent accomplishments, in view of the hard work and efforts that have gone into making these accolades possible. It is also worth noting, that the coming year is a unique one; Qatar will be hosting the FIFA World Cup giving our faculty/community and students a wealth of opportunities. The university has also launched a new college, The College of Nursing, as well as a number of new programmes and projects this year that will help boost our rankings further up the charts."

This semester, QU welcomed 28,000 students, including 4,700 new students, on the first day of the new academic year. This academic year comes on the cusp of Qatar hosting one of the most important global events in the region, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, in which QU plays an important role including conducting research, seminars, consultations and hosting of some of the international teams participating in it.



# QU honours 80 employers from various labour sectors

**TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK**  
DOHA

QATAR University (QU) honoured 80 employers from various labour sectors in the country on Thursday, as an expression of the university's gratitude towards them.

The ceremony was attended by QU president Dr Hassan bin Rashid Al-Derham, vice-presidents and deans of colleges, in addition to representatives of companies and institutions operating in the country.

In his speech, Dr Al-Derham said: "I welcome you all to this gathering, which has become an annual event dedicated to students and their affiliates. This year's meeting is face-to-face after the COVID-19 pandemic. This gives me a feeling of joy in



Dr Hassan bin Rashid Al-Derham

meeting you, exchanging views and strengthening cooperation."

Dr Al-Derham said that the university was able to form partnerships, and follow up on its progress towards its aspirations in the past period when the world had gone through very

difficult circumstances imposed by the pandemic. This requires us to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new ones that enhance our cooperation and support our plans, mission and path, and share our ambitions and goals. In all, 262 agreements and memorandums of understanding were signed, and we will sign more in the coming days, in the belief that the university should open up future horizons in front of our children, he said.

Dr Al-Derham added that developed countries achieved renaissance through partnerships between academic institutions and other institutions. In addition, this cooperation constitutes a bridge towards the university's goals and contributes to preparing graduates to

enter the labour market with full competence, he said.

Ghadeer Zainal, acting director of the Professional Development Center at QU, said: "This ceremony aims to recognise successful individuals from the nation's various business sectors who have made demonstrable contributions to student experience, including through academic sponsorships and hands-on training. This ceremony honours these efforts and encourages employers to broaden their career options for university students in support of our future."

Cesar Wazen, director of the Office of International Affairs at QU, said that QU has taken important steps to boost international rankings thanks to the support it has received from employers."

# QU & Moldova State University sign agreement for cooperation

**TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK**  
DOHA

QATAR University (QU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Moldova State University for cooperation in the field of education and research. The signing ceremony was attended by QU President Dr Hassan Al-Derham and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Moldova to Qatar HE Victor Vircun, who had previously served as president of the Moldovan-Qatari Friendship Association.

As per the agreement, both sides will exchange information -- including newsletters, journals, studies, statistics and other data -- while conduct-



ing joint studies, conferences, meetings and training.

Dr Al-Derham said, "We

look forward to working with the Moldova State University, with whom Qatar has a

strong relationship. Through this agreement, we mark an important step in formalising our relationship to further our performance in various scientific, technical and research areas."

HE Victor Vircun said, "I avail myself of this opportunity to express confidence that the MoU will provide impetus to mutual cooperation in the educational field. I am certain that through joint efforts we will strengthen the bonds between the two universities, further the academic, social and cultural goals and promote better understanding between the faculty, staff and students. Therefore, the collaborative relationships will provide mutual benefits to both parties."

# beIN to add sign language interpretation during FIFA WC Qatar 2022

**TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK**  
DOHA

BEIN Media Group, the global sports, entertainment and media group, has announced that it will be incorporating Arabic Sign Language interpretation during the news coverage of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The announcement comes in the leadup to the International Day of Sign Languages, celebrated annually on Sep-

tember 23. To mark the occasion, beIN has revealed that kicking off on November 20, 2022, its evening round-up news bulletin, taking place daily at 20:00 Mecca on its Arabic news channel beIN Sports News, will feature an Arabic Sign Language interpreter. Additionally, Arabic Sign Language will be an added feature to beIN SPORTS' daily digital sports news wrap-up show, News in 90 Seconds, published on beIN

SPORTS NEWS' Twitter account @beINSPORTSNews as well as beIN SPORTS' official Instagram account @beINSPORTS.

Commenting on this, Mohammed Al-Bader, Managing Director of beIN Channels - MENA, said: "We are committed to providing an unparalleled viewing experience to our millions of viewers and subscribers. In celebration of the International Day of Sign Languages, beIN is keen to

raise awareness and ensure the inclusion of its audiences' needs by providing a daily live sign language interpretation of the evening news bulletin and digital news wrap-up show. We look forward to continuing to deliver exceptional broadcast services during this exciting time, as we gear up to bring the world's most prestigious football tournament to life, as the official broadcaster of the historic FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022."

