

World Cup winners Argentina return ahead of welcome home party

Monitoring Desk

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina's World Cup winners led by Captain Lionel Messi returned home from Qatar in the early hours of Tuesday morning ahead of a welcome home party in the nation's capital.

Having beaten France in Sunday's thrilling final, the players will now spend the night at the Argentine Football Association (AFA) training complex near the Ezeiza airport where they arrived in Buenos Aires and where thousands of supporters were waiting to greet them.

They will then head to the iconic Obelisk monument for a tour of the Buenos Aires city center from midday on Tuesday with millions expected out in the streets on what is a public holiday.

"We will be here all night and tomorrow as well," student Ayrton Kerdocas,



25, told AFP outside the airport.

"Tomorrow we are not working, we

won't do anything and we'll go directly to the Obelisk with Argentina."

Argentina won the final in Qatar 4-2 on penalties after a rollercoaster 3-3 draw over 120 minutes of unparalleled drama for their first world title in 36 years.

Messi, who scored twice in the final, was the first player to emerge from the plane, holding the World Cup aloft, with coach Lionel Scaloni right behind him.

Forward Julian Alvarez, a revelation in Qatar with his four goals, was one of the next players out of the Aerolíneas Argentinas Airbus A330.

A picture of Messi was emblazoned on the plane's tail with the words: "one team, one country, one dream" on its side.

The players made their way from the plane along a red carpet straight to a white open-top bus with the words "world champions" and three stars on its side as their World Cup theme song "Muchachos" by ska band La Mosca blared out.

HEC Zone M Inter University Football Championship starts today

Sports Reporter

KARACHI: HEC Zone M Inter-University Football Championship 2022-23 is starting today at Sixteen Star Football Ground under the collaboration of HEC and Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology in which leading universities of Karachi will participate.

In this regard, Director Sports SSUET, Mubasher Mukhtar said that the HECZ One M Inter University Football Championship 2022-23 is being hosted by Sir Syed University and it is starting from Wednesday. Vice-Chancellor SSUET, Prof. Dr. Wali Uddin will inaugurate the football championship by kicking the ball at 11 am today. Among the universities participating in this event are the host Sir Syed University, NED University, IBA University, IoBM University, Indus University, DHA Suffa University, Habib University and PAF KLET. Former FIFA referee



Iqbal Jr. has been appointed as the match commissioner while Habibullah Muhammad Imran, Wali Khan, Khurram Shalzad, Jalal Khan and Abdul Karim will be the officials.

In addition, Managers'

Meeting regarding the event was held at Sir Syed University that was presided over by the Dean, Faculty of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aamir.

Prof. Dr. Aamir welcomed

all the participants on behalf of Sir Syed University and said that the championship will be organized in a grand manner and all teams will be provided with the best facilities. He assured of his full support and cooperation.

Pakistan Basketball Federation gets PSB affiliation

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) has become an active affiliated unit of Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) after the approval of PSB Board meeting, the PBBF announced on Tuesday.

"This affiliation is in line with the PSB Rules 2022," a PBBF spokesman said in a statement.

According to the spokesman, the decision to grant affiliation was taken in the 26th PSB Board meeting, held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan Ur Rehman Mazari, who is also the President of PSB.

Under the leadership of its President, Brigadier (R) Muhammad Iftikhar Mansoor and Secretary General, Khalid Bashir, PBBF is playing an active role for the promotion of basketball in the country. The PBBF is also recognized by Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and FIBA Asia.

The federation in the recent past organized men and women events and is planning to hold a series of tournaments next year.

"After the approval and formally notified by PSB, the federation is the only representative organization at the national and international levels that can take all kinds of measures for the development of basketball," the spokesman said.

Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) marred in vested interests



News Desk

KARACHI: In an interview, Mr. Adnan Khan, a qualified football referee, has criticized the internal politics of Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) for the wastage of energies in vested interests, due to which the game of football is suffering and, for the past 7 years, football lovers have been pointing out these issues but to no avail.

Mr. Adnan Khan added that the young of Karachi already have very few opportunities for healthy sports activities and football is one of the very few. He was also given various awards by PFF for the promotion of football in Pakistan. He has called for merit, hard work and elimination of politics from PFF.

Mr. Adnan Khan started his illustrious career with Khyber Sports and became one of the most popular football referees in Pakistan in no time. Then, he successfully refereed Karachi Leisure League, 360 League, KASB League, Karachi Youth Initiative (KYI) League, DG Rangers League and Gas Pharma League as well.

A delegation of Pakistan Desi Kushti Federation called on Vice-Chairman Sports Board



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: A delegation of Pakistan Desi Kushti Federation (PDKF) under the leadership of Nadeem Pehlwan called on Vice-Chairman Sports Board Punjab Malik Nadeem Abbas Bara and Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi at National Hockey Stadium on Tuesday.

Nadeem Pehlwan also presented a souvenir of Sher-e-Lahore Dargal to Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi on this occasion. The promotion of desi kushti among younger generation across the province was discussed at length during the meeting.

Tayyab Raza Pehlwan, who recently won Sher-e-Lahore Dargal, Sajid Hussain Awan Pehlwan, Haji Khalid Pappu Pehlwan, Bilal Awan Pehlwan, Naveed Pehlwan and Latif Pehlwan were also present on this occasion.

Talking on this occasion, Vice-Chairman Sports Board Punjab Malik Nadeem Abbas Bara said that desi kushti is quite popular in Pakistan especially in Punjab province. "Keeping this factor in view Sports Board Punjab is organizing competitions of desi kushti regularly to provide sufficient playing opportunities to emerging wrestlers of the province," he added.

Wedding bells: Shaheen Shah Afridi to 'tie the knot on Feb 3'

KARACHI: Pakistan's left-arm fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi is all set to tie the knot on February 3, according to family sources.

The 6-foot-6-inch pacer is engaged to the daughter of former national cricket team captain Shahid Afridi.

The rukhsati ceremony for Ansha Afridi, daughter of Shahid Afridi, is expected to take place later.

Both families have started preparations for the wedding ceremony. The pacer got engaged to Ansha two years ago.

Shaheen will get busy with the eighth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Speaking on Geo News show "Aik Din Geo Kai Sath", the 21-year-old revealed that it was his wish to marry Afridi's daughter, Ansha.

"It was my wish and Alhamdulillah it is fulfilled now," he shared. "I met her and will meet her soon," a blushing Shaheen told the interviewer, Sohail Warraich.

IEEE Lahore section annual general meeting

Sports Reporter

LAHORE: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022 of the IEEE Lahore Section was held on December 17, 2022 at the Shalimar Hall, Faletti's Hotel, Lahore. IEEE is the world largest not-for-profit professional technical organization, with the motto of advancing technology for humanity. The Lahore Section of IEEE is the oldest representation of IEEE in Pakistan.

This year's AGM was attended by 43 participants. Dr. Adnan Siddique, the current General Secretary of the Section, formally conducted the proceedings. The annual report of the various volunteering activities and services provided by the Section was presented by the Section Chair Prof. Dr. Amjad Hussain.

Several notable members holding key positions in various organization units (OUs) of the Section also shared the performance of their OUs. The Vice Chair of the Section, Mr. Kashif Bashir, applauded the efforts of the volunteers from among the student bodies of various public and private universities in Lahore region. These volunteers have played a pivotal role in making IEEE events in Lahore a success!

Among other speakers at the event, Prof. Dr. Waqar Mahmood, Shahid Zulfikar, Tanweer Shah Bukhari, Hamza Ihtisham, Dr. Ali Qureshi, Syed Rizwan Naqvi, Safoora Saleem, and Engr. Shahzaib Rathore, who are all IEEE members, expressed their profound interest in advancing IEEE's mission of advancing technology for



humanity further in Pakistan. Later on awards were given to

the outstanding volunteers and shield were distributed among

the outgoing executive members of IEEE Lahore Section.

Tayyab Ikram sixth Pakistani to lead an int'l sports body

GM Ghalbi

LAHORE: Pakistan has been blessed with amazing potential in all fields and our passionate individuals, whether they are players in sports, officials or administrators, have proved their mettle at key global posts on a number of occasions in the past.

Lahore-born former hockey player and currently top administrator Tayyab Ikram, who now resides in Macau, is the fresh addition to a list of highly talented Pakistani individuals, who earned unparalleled respect for the beloved motherland by leading an international sports organisation.

Tayyab, who played multiple seasons of Belgium Hockey League, National and Departmental Championships in Pakistan for Police and Wapda, made

the entire Pakistani nation proud when he defeated Belgium's Marc Coudron in the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Presidential election by 79-47 votes in a virtual FIH Congress in early November and secured a two-year term as head of the FIH.

Elevation to top FIH position is definitely a great honour and a befitting reward for Tayyab's decades-long untiring endeavours for the promotion of hockey at global level and a true recognition of his exceptional qualities, excellence and administrative skills.

Tayyab, who is proficient in seven international languages including English, Urdu, Punjabi, Chinese Cantonese, Chinese Mandarin, Portuguese and Arabic, did not reach this pinnacle overnight. He spent a

long 40-year journey in multiple executive roles in the International Olympic Committee (IOC), FIH and Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) during his illustrious career. Before assuming his office as FIH President, Tayyab was serving as CEO in AHF since 2002.

Tayyab, who is also a member of the Olympic Solidarity Commission and IOC Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration Steering Committee, has become the second Pakistani official to lead an Olympic sports federation after Prof Anwar Chowdhry, who led International Amateur Boxing Association (IABA) in the past.

Overall, Tayyab became the sixth Pakistani official to head an international sports federation. Before him, late Prof Anwar Chowdhry (IABA President from

1986 to 2006), Jahangir Khan (World Squash Federation President from 2002 to 2008), Ehsan Mani and Zaheer Abbas (both International Cricket Council Presidents in 2003 and 2015) and Syed Sultan Shah (World Blind Cricket Council President since 2014 to date) have the honour to head a world sports organisation.

Having been blessed with a kind nature and true love for hockey, Tayyab has shown a soft corner for smaller hockey nations on a number of occasions in his career. He emerged as probably the biggest advocate and well-wisher for hockey nations with limited resources.

He made effective efforts throughout his career to empower hockey minnows and bridging their gap with top tier countries. He also took several measures



for capacity building of smaller nations by preparing Regional Hockey Centers to ensure infrastructure development in these countries.

Tayyab, who is also an FIH Master Coach—a unique distinction very few hockey experts have achieved—has been massively passionate to provide underprivileged children every kind of

support to lead a better life.

The top-level professional expertise of Tayyab can be gauged from the fact that he has participated in six Olympic Games—Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020—in various vital capacities, which highlighted his long-time association with the Olympic move-

ment. He also trained hundreds of athletes who participated in Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

After his playing career, Tayyab also scaled new heights in different key roles including sport administrator, high-performance educator, presenter, sport development leader and a visionary hockey coach. He also has the honour of coaching and delivering Coach Education Models in over 40 countries since 1994.

Tayyab was also instrumental in the development of hockey particularly the reforming of Women's Hockey in China since 1982. Moreover, he was awarded a prestigious title of 'Dato' (equivalent of 'Sir') from Malaysia in 2010, President's Award (FIH) in 2002 and FIH Master Coach in 2003.