

Sports

Taiwan condemns China over changes in WCup fan labeling

Island's name ended up as 'Chinese Taipei'

TAIPEI: Taiwan accused China of "bullying" on Tuesday after the island's name ended up as "Chinese Taipei" on a FIFA World Cup fan identification card following multiple changes by organizers in Qatar. The "Hayya" fan ID card system acts as a visa to enter the country and a pass to access stadiums. Initially neither Taiwan nor Chinese Taipei - the name used for the island in international sports events - were listed on the Hayya online portal as options, and officials said Taiwanese fans might be labeled as Chinese. Last week a "Taiwan" tag was added following a complaint by the island, but it was then changed again to Chinese Taipei - which Taiwan's foreign ministry said was due to Beijing's "interferences".

"We express deep regret over the Qatar World Cup organizers' failure to resist improper interferences by political powers," said the ministry's deputy spokesman Tsuei Ching-lin at a press conference. "The foreign ministry again condemns the Chinese government's bullying... and its political manipulation of international sports events." China considers self-ruled, democratic Taiwan as part of its territory - a stance Taipei firmly rejects - and vows to seize it one day, by force if necessary.

Beijing bristles at any use of the word Taiwan - such as when Lithuania allowed Taipei to open a de facto embassy under its own name last year - lest it lend the island a sense of international legitimacy. The sporting world's use of the name "Chinese Taipei" is based on a 1981 compromise



DOHA: Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro heads a ball during his visit to the Lusail stadium, where the closing ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will take place, in Doha. —AFP

made with the International Olympic Committee to allow Taiwan to compete on the international stage. Qatar is expecting more than one million

fans to visit during the World Cup, which runs from November 21 to December 18, and all must register for the ID card. —AFP

Giggs quits as Wales manager to avoid WCup distraction

LONDON: Ryan Giggs resigned from his role as manager of Wales on Monday as the former Manchester United great awaits trial on an accusation of domestic violence. Giggs has been on leave since November 2020 when he was arrested. The 48-year-old is accused of controlling and coercive behavior against his former girlfriend Kate Greville between August 2017 and November 2020.

Giggs is also accused of assaulting Greville, causing her actual bodily harm, and common assault of her younger sister, Emma Greville, at his home in the Manchester area in November 2020. He has denied the allegations and pleaded not guilty to all charges. His trial has been delayed until August in January to a courts backlog. Since then, his former assistant Rob Page, has led Wales to their first World Cup since 1958. Giggs' decision to step aside means Page will take charge of games against the USA, Iran and England in Qatar in November.

"After much consideration, I am standing down from my position as manager of the Wales men's national team with immediate effect," Giggs said in a statement. "It has been an honour and a privilege to manage my country, but it is only right that the Wales FA, the coaching staff and the players prepare for the tournament with certainty, clarification and without speculation around the position of their head coach." Giggs won 13 Premier League titles and two Champions Leagues among 25 major honors during a 24-year career with United at club level.

He began his coaching career at Old Trafford, taking temporary charge at the end of the 2013/14 season after David Moyes was sacked before working as an assistant to Louis van Gaal for two years. Giggs was appointed Wales boss in January 2018 and helped them secure qualification for Euro 2020. And he said he hopes to return to management in the future. "I do not want the country's preparations for the World Cup to be affected, destabilized or jeopardized in any way by the continued interest around this case," he added.

"It is my intention to resume my managerial career at a later date and I look forward to watching our national team alongside you in the stands." In a statement, the Football Association of Wales (FAW) said: "The FAW places on record its gratitude to Ryan Giggs for his tenure as manager of the Cymru Men's National Team and appreciates the decision he has taken, which is in the best interests of Welsh football. "The full focus of the FAW and the Cymru Men's National Team is on the FIFA World Cup in Qatar later this year." —AFP

Euro 2020, three years after reaching the semi-finals of the World Cup in Russia. "My personal opinion on Gareth is that he is, by the facts on the pitch, the most successful England manager we've had for 55 years," said Hewitt, who took over as FA chair in January. "The bit people don't see as much is the Gareth at camp and the culture he's created. "Certainly prior to Gareth being the manager of England, there was not the pride of wearing the England shirt. There were the club rivalries we'd read about. The players not getting on. "He's changed that beyond recognition and I've seen that first hand." Hewitt praised Southgate's willingness to take responsibility for setbacks. "It's refreshing working with somebody like that because that openness to learn is quite remarkable and quite unusual in any sphere," she said. —AFP

Barca to spend '15 to 20m euros' on Olympic Stadium

MADRID: Barcelona president Joan Laporta said on Tuesday the club will have to spend "between 15 and 20 million euros" to improve the Olympic Stadium, where Barca will play the 2023/2024 season while renovation work is carried out at Camp Nou. "We have committed ourselves to adapting the Olympic Stadium's facilities, which are already in very good condition, and modernising several areas, such as the press stand, the changing rooms and parking," Laporta said.

In December, Barcelona's members approved the club taking out a loan of up to 1.5 billion euros to finance renovation projects, with 900 million euros allocated towards the revamp of Camp Nou. Barcelona's board was also given permission last week to sell off portions of both its licensing and merchandising business and its La Liga television revenues, which the club believe could raise 700 million euros.

Barca are still battling huge debts, which stood at more than a billion euros at the start of last season, causing the departure of Lionel Messi to Paris Saint-Germain. But the 99,000-capacity Camp Nou is seen as an historic stadium in urgent need of repair. By modernizing the ground, and increasing its capacity to 105,000, the club hope to boost revenues in the future.

Barcelona plan to begin renovations this summer and work will continue through next season. In the 2023/2024 campaign, Barcelona will move to the Olympic Stadium to coincide with the revamp of the stadium's third tier and the roof. Barca will then return to Camp Nou in the 2024/2025 season, but with a reduced capacity of around 50 per cent, before the refurbishment is due to complete for the 2025/2026 campaign. —AFP

FA chair backs Southgate despite poor England run

LONDON: Gareth Southgate has been strongly backed by Football Association chair Debbie Hewitt following England's disappointing Nations League results, which included a 4-0 home defeat to Hungary. That embarrassing loss last week even sparked a debate over whether the England boss should be sacked ahead of the World Cup in Qatar, which starts in November. But Hewitt hailed Southgate's role in transforming the team's fortunes on the pitch and instilling a healthy culture off it.

The 51-year-old last year took England to the final of



Double victory for Kuwait at ISSF GP

KUWAIT: Kuwait's shooting team remained at the top of the medals table at the international shooting competition in Turkey, having bagged five medals so far, including three gold medals. The ISSF Grand Prix Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun continued in Konya, Turkey. Yesterday, two Gold medals were won by

Kuwait athletes, who is confidently leading in medals standing.

Eman Al Shamaa from Kuwait came to the top of the podium in Skeet women final and won her first ISSF competition award. Turkey's Nur Banu Ozpak also won her first ISSF medal - finishing second. Finalist of the ISSF World Cup 2022 in Baku, Nurlana Jafarova (from Azerbaijan) won Bronze. World Cup winner Kuwait's Mansour Al Rashedi won the Skeet men's final after a tough match.

Classifieds

| Hospitals & Clinics | | Clinics | | Industrial Shuwaikh | |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| Sabah Hospital | 24812000 | Kaizen center | 25716707 | Industrial Shuwaikh | 24814764 |
| Amiri Hospital | 22450005 | Rawda | 22517733 | Qadsiya | 22515088 |
| Maternity Hospital | 24843100 | Adaliya | 22517144 | Dasmah | 22532265 |
| Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital | 25312700 | Khaldiya | 24848075 | Bneid Al-Gar | 22531908 |
| Chest Hospital | 24849400 | Kaifan | 24849807 | Shaab | 22518752 |
| Farwaniya Hospital | 24892010 | Shamiya | 24848913 | Qibla | 22459381 |
| Adan Hospital | 23940620 | Shuwaikh | 24814507 | Ayoun Al-Qibla | 22451082 |
| Ibn Sina Hospital | 24840300 | Abdullah Salem | 22549134 | Mirqab | 22456536 |
| Al-Razi Hospital | 24846000 | Nuzha | 22526804 | Sharq | 22465401 |
| Physiotherapy Hospital | 24874330/9 | | | Salmiya | 25746401 |

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Marshal Tioph Fernandes, Resident of Bhatir Vaddo, Morjim, Pernem, Goa - India, has done correction in my name from Marsal Tioph Fernandes to Marshal Tioph Fernandes, which is wrongly typed in my passport bearing No. T4012610, for all purposes. sd/- Marshal Tioph Fernandes (C 2013)

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