

IRONMAN 70.3 Middle East Championship programme approved

TDT | Manama

In line with the directives of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, the Organising Committee of the IRONMAN 70.3 Middle East Championship Bahrain has approved the three-day championship programme, which will take place in the Kingdom on 7-9 December 2022. The Championship will feature a broad list of activities over the course of three days ahead of the main event which will be held on December 9, 2022.

Ahmed Al Hajj, Manager of the Championship, confirmed that the event's organising committee has fully approved the programme, adding that the



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa in action during cycling trial main race will showcase 1061 sportspeople from both genders representing different countries

1061
sportspeople to represent 77 countries at the event

ing the main objectives set by the Organising Committee as per the directives of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

He pointed out that the IRONKIDS will witness a large participation of children in the running race that will be held before the main race, stating that the Organising Committee received a large number of ap-

YOU KNOW WHAT

Races' Distances: The Organising Committee approved the distances of all main events. The swimming race will cover 1.9 km, the cycling race will be held over 90.1 km, and the running race will cover 21.1 km

• Wednesday, December 7, 2022: Opening of the supporting exhibition "Expo", registration of participants in the races, the press conference of the championship, presentation on the main race, the official opening ceremony of the championship, and a brief on the age groups' races.

• Thursday, December 8, 2022: swimming training, the Expo, the second day of registration, registration of bicycles, and the IRONKIDS.

• Friday, December 9, 2022: opening of the transitional phase, swimming races (professional men), swimming races (professional women), swimming races for the age groups, cycling, running, honouring the winners and the closing ceremony.

plications to take part in it. The event programme will be as follows:

Messi magic helps send Argentina into last eight



Argentina's Lionel Messi (C) controls the ball surrounded by Australian players

AFP

Lionel Messi produced a moment of trademark quality to score the opener in a 2-1 win over Australia and send Argentina into the quarter-finals of the World Cup yesterday.

Messi's 789th goal in his 1,000th career appearance -- but first in the knockout rounds of the World Cup -- helped set up a last-eight clash with the unbeaten Netherlands on Friday.

Julian Alvarez scored the other in the 57th minute after some calamitous Australian defending, before Enzo Fernandez's 77th-minute own goal set up an unexpectedly nervy finale.

Now 35, one of the best players of all time is seeking to win the tournament for the first time in what will surely be his final World Cup.

Messi's classy first-half goal, bending the ball into the bottom corner, broke the resist-

96
international goals have been scored by Messi who is making his 169th appearance for Argentina

ance and ultimately the hearts of a gutsy Australian side who defied all expectations in Qatar and went down fighting.

Australia's yellow-shirted fans were vastly outnumbered among the packed crowd at the 45,000-capacity Ahmad bin Ali Stadium and were drowned out by Argentina's boisterous, bellowing and bouncing supporters.

Back in Australia, where fans had a sunrise start if they wanted to catch the game live on television, the Sydney Opera House was lit up in green and gold.

Dutch dominate USA in first knock-out match

Depay on target as Netherlands beat US 3-1 to reach quarter-finals

● Depay, Blind and Dumfries scores for Netherlands

AFP

A clinical Netherlands ended the United States' World Cup dream yesterday, sweeping into the quarter-finals with a ruthless 3-1 victory.

First-half goals from Memphis Depay and Daley Blind and a late strike from Denzel Dumfries sealed a deserved victory as the Dutch handed out a painful lesson in finishing to their American opponents.

The Netherlands, bidding to win their first World Cup after losing in three previous finals, will face Argentina or Australia in the last eight.

Veteran coach Louis van Gaal's men were worthy victors in yesterday's last-16 clash.

Although the USA enjoyed long periods of possession in a bright first-half display, all too often a lack of composure in the final third let them down.

Instead it was the Dutch who calmly bided their time before carving open the Americans with forensic precision.

USA forward Christian Pulisic squandered a golden chance to



Daley Blind of the Netherlands, celebrates after scoring his side's second goal

FIFA World Cup results

Netherlands	3 - 1	USA
Argentina	2 - 1	Australia

Today's matches

France vs Poland	6PM
England vs Senegal	10PM



When you play a team with so much quality like that and you give them three, four chances, they're going to put three or four away

UNITED STATES CAPTAIN TYLER ADAMS

Dumfries down the right.

Dumfries picked out Depay, who swept home the finish to cap a majestic 20-pass move that was in the best traditions of the Netherlands' total footballing heritage.

Again the Americans ad-

BETTER YOU KNOW

Runners-up in 1974, 1978 and 2010, the Oranje extended their unbeaten streak to 19 games

vanced purposefully into Dutch territory through Pulisic, only for the Chelsea player to deliver a cross that fell behind his US team-mates.

Tim Weah had the best American chance of the remainder of the half on 43 minutes, letting fly with a rasping shot that Noppert parried away.

But in first half stoppage time, the Netherlands delivered the hammer blow.

Dumfries again found space down the right and drilled a cross to Blind, who had ghosted clear of Sergino Dest, for an emphatic low finish.

The Netherlands nearly extended their lead early in the second half when Dumfries' low cross was prodded towards the US goal by defender Walker Zimmerman, forcing a smart save from Matt Turner.



Portugal's Andre Silva comes on as a substitute to replace Cristiano Ronaldo

Ronaldo denies he swore at Portugal coach over substitution

Reuters

Cristiano Ronaldo denied that he had sworn at Portugal coach Fernando Santos when he was substituted during a dramatic 2-1 defeat to South Korea in the World Cup on Friday, as both teams advanced into the next round.

Ronaldo, Portugal's captain, said the comments he made as he left the field in the 65th minute were in fact aimed at a South Korean player.



What happened was before my substitution, the South Korea player told me to get off quickly. I told him to shut up as he doesn't have that authority. There was no disagreement (with the coach)

CRISTIANO RONALDO

Portuguese media said the former Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus player, who left the English club last month, appeared to challenge Santos over the decision to substitute him, using vulgar language towards the coach.

"What happened was before my substitution, the South Korea player told me to get off quickly. I told him to shut up as he doesn't have that authority. There was no disagreement (with the coach)," Ronaldo was quoted as saying by Portuguese reporters.

The 37-year-old is seeking to equal the Portuguese record of most World Cup goals held by Eusebio, who racked up nine in 1966 in England, the only World Cup tournament he played in.

Ronaldo last week became the first ever player to score in five World Cups. Santos, asked by reporters about the substitution incident, also said a South Korean player had been aggressive in his comments towards the five-time Ballon d'Or winner.