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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, January 22, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ --
The United Arab Emirates has announced its intention to host the 2026 World Cup, marking the first time the tournament will be held in the Middle East. The decision was made following a meeting between the UAE's football association and the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA).
The UAE's bid, which was submitted in 2019, includes plans for 12 stadiums across the country, with the Al-Rayyan Stadium in Doha, Qatar, serving as the main venue. The tournament is set to begin on November 21, 2026, and conclude on December 18, 2026.
The UAE's bid was supported by the Qatari government, which has already invested heavily in infrastructure for the 2022 World Cup. The two countries have a long-standing relationship, with the UAE being a key ally of Qatar.
The announcement comes at a time when the UAE is facing increasing pressure from the international community over its treatment of the LGBTQ+ community. The country has been accused of discrimination and human rights violations, particularly towards the gay community.
Despite these concerns, the UAE's bid for the 2026 World Cup has been welcomed by many, including FIFA president Gianni Infantino, who has praised the country's "ambition and passion" for football.
The UAE's hosting of the 2026 World Cup is expected to bring significant economic benefits to the country, including job creation and increased tourism. It will also help to raise the profile of the UAE on the global stage.
The tournament is likely to be a major event, with many countries sending delegations to the UAE to compete. The UAE's hosting of the tournament is seen as a significant achievement for the country, and a major step forward in its development as a global footballing power.



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