

SPORTS

sports

Hero's welcome for the athletics team

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Member of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, member of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) and chairwoman of the Women's Sports Committee Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa welcomed members of the Bahrain national athletics team on return from the Czech Republic after taking part in the IAAF Continental Cup. The nationals had impressive results at the competition, the most significant of which was Salwa Eid winning the women's 400m gold medal.

Other athletes respectable finish were Winfred Yavi (3,000m steeplechase bronze), Aminat Yousif (400m hurdles, 5th place), Edidiong Odiong (200m, fifth place), Hajar Al Amiri (100m, seventh place).

Shaikha Hayat congratulated



The nationals had impressive results at the competition

the Bahrain delegation, headed by Bahrain Athletics Association board member Bader Nasser, and conveyed the greetings of Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al

Khalifa, representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman, and BOC Pres-

ident. Shaikha Hayat commended the results and attributed that to the support of His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Prime Minister, Shaikh Nasser

bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Supreme Council first vice-chairman and Bahrain Athletics Association president Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Brave: 16 nations to compete in UAE

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Brave Combat Federation has revealed that 16 nations will be represented in the 16th edition of the promotion.

Brave 16 will be hosted on 21st September at the Mubadala Arena in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The confirmed nations announced are Guyana, Jordan, Algeria, USA, Brazil, Russia, Lebanon, Tunisia, Sweden, South Africa, Italy, Albania, Bahrain, Philippines, Georgia and Canada.

Carlston Harris will represent Guyana for the first time in the main event as the champion of a global promotion. At the same time, Elias Boudjedda will create history as the first champion from Algeria and the

first champion in Brave Combat Federation to defend the championship more than once. Tunisia, Albania and Georgia will be represented for the first time in Brave Combat Federation. A total of 22 athletes will be competing in the fight night which marks the second time Brave Combat Federation is being hosted in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

"Brave Combat Federation is expanding its frontiers as a truly global mixed martial arts organisation by being inclusive and showcasing global talent from more nationalities. We aim to keep continuing the pace at which we are expanding. The initiative to support and develop mixed martial arts has received overwhelming response globally. The diversity of each of our events and the nations



Mohammed Shahid

represented is a testimony of our continuing growth", said Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave Combat Federation.

Nadal's absence 'changes everything'

Lille, France

France Davis Cup captain Yannick Noah says world number one Rafael Nadal's absence from Spain's team in this weekend's semi-final "changes everything".

The 17-time Grand Slam champion has helped Spain capture the annual trophy four times, in 2004, 2008, 2009 and 2011, but was ruled out of facing Noah's titleholders in Lille with a knee injury.

The long-standing problem flared up again at the US Open when Nadal had to retire trailing two sets to love in his semi-final against Juan Del Potro last week.

"As a tennis fan I'm disappointed that he won't be there," Noah told a press conference at Lille's Stade Pierre-Mauroy on Tuesday.

"As a captain, it changes everything for the match. The set-up is totally different, especially in terms of preparation."

"When Nadal plays, it's almost (a certain) two points for Spain."

"Now, that changes and we have to adapt to it."

With world number 55 Albert Ramos-Vinolas stepping in to replace the Spanish star Noah accepts that "of course we've got more chance".



Rafael Nadal of Spain leaves the court after withdrawing while playing against Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina during their Men's Singles Semi-Finals match at the 2018 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York



It changes a lot, it changes everything, but it is like it is, and we have a very good team all the same

SERGI BRUGUERA,
SPAIN SKIPPER

But he cautioned: "On paper the Spanish team are still better than ours." Joining Ramos for Spain are Pablo Carreno Busta (21st in the world), Roberto Bautista Agut (26), Feliciano Lopez (74) and Marcel Granollers (101).

Representing France are Lucas Pouille (19), Richard Gasquet (24), Benoit Paire (54), Nicolas Mahut (150) and Julien Benneteau (57).

Spain skipper Sergi Bruguera agrees with Noah that Nadal's absence has a massive bearing on the complexion of the Lille semi-final.

BTA Tennis season starts

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Bahrain Tennis Academy (BTA), based at the Dilmun Club in Saar, has resumed classes for the 2018/19 season with programmes for students of all ages and levels.

Juniors from 3 years and up can enjoy learning the game using specialised equipment appropriate to their specific age and level in a variety of categories of junior development. Advanced players have the option of registering for private lessons.

For adults, there are four weekly Cardio Tennis sessions to choose from, Beginner Lessons and a new format 'Drill and Play' session for advanced players.

BTA director Dan Barrie said, "We are excited to begin the new season. Whatever the player's age, level or objectives, we encourage all those interested in learning the game or advancing their level to contact us to discuss which program is right for them."

Contact the Tennis Director at dan@bahraintenniscademy.com or 39697114 for more information.

Australia squad for Pakistan

Sydney, Australia

Australia's 15-man squad announced Tuesday for two Tests against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates next month:

Tim Paine (capt), Ashton Agar, Brendan Doggett, Aaron Finch, Travis Head, Jon Holland, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Shaun Marsh, Michael Neser, Matthew Renshaw, Peter Siddle, Mitchell Starc

Moshiri increases stake in Everton

London, United Kingdom

Everton's majority shareholder Farhad Moshiri has significantly increased his control of the Premier League club after acquiring a larger stake yesterday.

Moshiri has bought another 18.7 per cent of Everton's shares through Blue Heaven Holdings Ltd.

The Iranian businessman already held 49.9 per cent of Everton after selling his stake in Arsenal to take charge at Goodison Park in February 2016.

Moshiri, whose personal wealth is estimated at \$1.7 billion (1.47 billion euros) according to Forbes, has taken his total holding to 68.6 per cent.

He is expected to elevate that further to 77.2 per cent by July next year.

"Everton Football Club today announces that major shareholder Farhad Moshiri has further committed to and increased his shareholding in the club," an Everton statement read.

UEFA club competition

Lausanne, Switzerland

European Club Association (ECA) chairman Andrea Agnelli has said that UEFA are clearing the way for the return of a third club competition, two decades after the disappearance of the Cup Winners' Cup.

Agnelli, who is also on UEFA's club competitions committee as well as being chairman of Juventus, said at the ECA's General Assembly in Split, Croatia, on Tuesday, that "the 'green light' has been given to introduce a third competition...as of the 2021/22 season".

The move would have to be validated at a future meeting of UEFA's Executive Committee, with the ECA later saying they expected a decision to be reached "before the end of the year".

European football's governing body confirmed only that it is "constantly reviewing the format of its competitions."

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