

Juventus Academy opens in Bahrain

DT News Network
Manama

International Business Group (IBG) have launched the first Juventus Football Club Academy in the Kingdom of Bahrain, located in Saar.

It is equipped with first class facilities including a clubhouse overlooking the playing area and all coaches are Juventus academy coaches, who follow the Juventus mythology and coaching techniques.

Adidas are a main partner of Juventus and the academy will use its official kit as well.

"I am very excited about bringing such a huge club to the island, Juventus are one of the leading football clubs

in world," Abdul Wahed Al Kooheji, CEO of Juventus Academy Bahrain, said.

Head coach John Mackenzie added, "The new Academy will provide a proper environment which enables young players to learn how to improve and develop their technical and tactical abilities. The coaches will provide competitive youth players with a positive encouraging club environment, focusing on friendship, respect, fair play, personal integrity, and above all hard work. The goal is to improve every player within the technical and tactical aspects of soccer training in both the mental and physical sides of the game,

by following our values: Fun, honesty, fair play, respect for others and teamwork."

Juventus are the most successful club in Italian football and one of the most successful globally. Overall, they have won 63 major trophies including 33 league titles, 12 Italian Cups and 11 in International competition, which includes two European/Champions League Cups, one European Cup Winners' Cup, three UEFA Cups, two UEFA Super Cups and one UEFA Intertoto Cup,

The first term of the academy began on September 10 and for more details or to sign up please call 3991 1615.



During the training session

France not 'over-confident'

Paris

Yannick Noah's France take on star-studded Serbia and 28-time champions Australia face Belgium in the Davis Cup semi-finals this weekend.

Lucas Pouille leads hosts France into battle in Lille against Dusan Lajovic in today's opening singles.

That's followed by French number one Jo-Wilfried Tsonga crossing swords with Davis Cup debutant Laslo Djere, the highest-rated Serbian at No.80 in the world.

Noah's team are favoured to progress to the final against a Serbian side sorely missing injured former world No.1 and 12-time Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic, Viktor Troicki and Janko Tipsarevic. But Pouille insisted despite their rankings superiority the semi-final was no foregone conclusion for France.

"We are not over confident, we've got an enormous amount of respect for this team (Serbia) which has a lot of very good players," said Pouille, who was beaten in the fourth round at the US Open.

'No exhibition match'

A similar note of caution was sounded by Noah ahead of the tie being held on the same clay where France lost the 2014 final to Roger Federer's Switzerland.

"We are sufficiently intelligent to know that it's going to be a difficult match," the 1983 French Open winner said.

"Even if their players aren't at the top of the rankings they've got nothing to lose. We won't be playing an exhibition match this weekend."

Serbia won their sole Davis Cup title in 2010, beating France in Belgrade 3-2.

France, who secured their ticket to the semi-finals after seeing off Great Britain 4-1 in the last eight, are seeking a 10th title but first in 16 years.

In Brussels, Belgium's David Goffin (ranked 12 in the world) will be out to embellish his phenomenal record in the competition against 185th ranked Australian John Millman.

Millman's appearance in the opening singles represented a surprise with the slot expected to go to Thanasi Kokkinakis.

Aussie coach Lleyton Hewitt explained the switch, telling the Davis Cup's official website: "John is match hardened, he's played a lot of five-set tennis, particularly in New York. We have full belief in that he can do the job for us."

Goffin, ranked No.12 in the world, has won 13 of his 14 Davis Cup matches, the lone loss coming in the 2015 final to Britain's Andy Murray. (AFP)



France's Lucas Pouille takes part in a training session

Davis Cup 2017

1st round February 3-5	Quarter finals April 7-9	Semi finals Sept 15-17	Final Nov 24-26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina 2 Italy 3 Germany 1 Belgium 4 Australia 4 Czech Rep. 1 USA 5 Switzerland 0 Japan 1 France 4 Canada 2 Britain 3 Serbia 4 Russia 1 Croatia 2 Spain 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italy 2 Belgium 3 Australia 3 USA 2 France 4 Britain 1 Serbia 4 Spain 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belgium Australia France Serbia Serbia Spain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final

Source: Davis Cup

© AFP

Dhawan to miss first three Australia clashes



Shikhar Dhawan

New Delhi, India

India opening batsman Shikhar Dhawan will miss the first three one-day internationals against Australia to be with his ailing wife, the Indian cricket board said yesterday.

The Virat Kohli-led India, who edged out Australia 2-1 in a Test series earlier this year, will begin the five-match ODI series in Chennai on Sunday.

"Team India opener Mr Shikhar Dhawan has

requested to be released from the team for the first three ODIs," said a Board of Control for Cricket in India statement. It added that Dhawan wanted "to attend to his wife, who is unwell."

The BCCI did not name a replacement. Back-up openers Lokesh Rahul and Ajinkya Rahane are already in the 15-man squad.

The hosts will also play three Twenty20 matches against Steve Smith's Australia. (AFP)

Effective leadership skills urged

DT News Network
Manama

The Bahrain Olympic Committee's (BOC) Olympic Academy organised a presentation on Wednesday on how to become an effective sport administrator at national clubs and sports associations. This presentation was staged at the National Stadium's Conference Hall in Riffa and presented by Canadian Dr. Don Clark, a Professor Emeritus at the University of Regina, in Canada.

Dr. Clark focused on the necessary skills for effective sport leadership, noting the significance of an administrator to obtain knowledge and awareness of a set of required skills that would ensure the smooth running of sports organisations.

Some of the required skills brought up at the presentation included communication and networking, financial management, planning, personal and human resource and sport specific skills.