

Bahrain to play Cape Verde in friendly

Senior men's national football team return to pitch tonight for first of two tune-up matches in their ongoing training camp

● **Match scheduled for 6.30pm kick-off at National Stadium**

● **Entrance is free for all fans who wish to attend the game**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain lock horns with Cape Verde tonight in an international friendly football match at the National Stadium in Riffa.

The game is scheduled for a 6.30pm kick-off and all are welcome to attend. Entrance is free of charge.

The nationals are using the fixture as part of their preparations for their upcoming tournaments, including their much-awaited title-defence in the Gulf Cup and their participation in the continent's biggest event, the AFC Asian Cup, both happening next year.

The Bahrainis have been in their local training camp over the past week under head coach Helio Sousa and his staff.

The Cape Verde national team, coached by Pedro Leitao Brito who is commonly known as Bubista, have already been in the Kingdom the past few days with a 24-player squad.

The Confederation of African



Bahrain's star midfielder Komail Al Aswad during training at the National Stadium

Football side features Marcio da Rosa, Elber Delgado, Dylan Silva, Ianique Tavares 'Stopira', Edilson Borges 'Diney', Steve Furtado, Dylan Tavares, Logan Costa, Joao Correia, Kelvin Pires 'Djack', Jorge Xavier 'Jojo', Kenny Rocha, Deroy Duarte, Patrick Andrade, Jamiro Monteiro, Joao Paulo Fernandes, Telmo Arcanjo, Ryan Mendes, Garry Rodrigues, Tiago Correia 'Bebé', Gilson Tavares, Bryan Teixeira, Luis Lopes 'Duk' and Alessio da Cruz.

Overseas

All their national team play-

ers play overseas with clubs from Portugal, Angola, Hungary, Morocco, Bulgaria, France, Slovakia, the Netherlands, Serbia, the US, the UAE, Greece, Spain, Austria, Scotland and Belgium.

Bahrain's squad features only two foreign-based professionals in Ali Madan and Abdulla Yusuf, who play in the UAE and Indonesia, respectively. The rest of the team is comprised of Ali Haram, Hamad Shamsan, Jassim Al Shaikh, Komail Al Aswad, Mohammed Jassim Marhoon, Mohammed Al Rumaihi, Sayed Redha Isa, Abdulwahab Al



Cape Verde players pose for a photograph in Bahrain (pic from Cape Verdean Football Federation)



Bahrainis set to also play CONCACAF giants Panama in friendly game on Tuesday next week at the National Stadium in Riffa

Malood, Amine Hasan, Rashed Al Hooti, Sayed Mohammed Jaafar, Waleed Al Hayam, Mahdi Humaidan, Mohammed Adel, Sayed Dhiya Saeed, Ammar Abbas, Ebrahim Al Khattal, Mahdi Abdullatif, Hussain Al Khayyat, Jassim Khelaif, Abdulaziz Mohammed, Ebrahim Luthfallah.

After their Cape Verde friendly, the Bahrainis will also be facing Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) side Panama on Tuesday next week. It will be their second warm-up of this period and

it will close out their camp.

The friendlies are the second and third scheduled by the Bahrain Football Association for the senior men's national team. They have added to the game Bahrain will be playing against FIFA World Cup 2022 participants Serbia on November 18, also at home.

The upcoming Gulf Cup is scheduled to take place in Basra, Iraq, from January 6 to 19 next year. It will be the 25th edition of the prestigious competition. The Asian Cup 2023 will take place in June and July at a yet-to-be-determined venue.

Federer to bow out in style with Nadal by his side

Reuters | London

Some of the most iconic moments of Roger Federer's glittering career featured Rafa Nadal across the net but on Friday his great Spanish rival will be alongside him for his final bow.

The 41-year-old Federer, winner of 20 Grand Slam titles and for many the greatest player to wield a tennis racket, is back in one of his favourite cities to bring down the curtain on a 24-year professional career that scaled staggering heights.

He will partner Nadal for a doubles match on the opening day of the Laver Cup at London's O2 Arena -- a three-day team event in which Europe takes on the Rest of the World.

Federer announced last week that the Laver Cup would be his final competitive event having failed to overcome a nagging right knee issue that required multiple surgeries.

While that injury means he is unable to feature in a singles match here in London, he will conclude the opening day alongside men's record 22-time Grand Slam champion Nadal as they face American duo Jack Sock and Frances Tiafoe.

As farewells go, it simply could not be better.

Federer played Nadal 40 times in one of the most compelling rivalries witnessed in tennis.

Who could forget their 2008 Wimbledon final when Nadal denied Federer a sixth consecutive title, the time Federer cried following defeat in a brutal 2009 Australian Open final, or the 2017 Australian Open final when Federer ended a five-year



Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray of Team Europe pose for a photograph following a practice session

"This one feels a whole lot different. I'm happy to have him on my team and not playing against him. Playing with Rafa feels really different. To be able to do it one more time, I'm sure it will be wonderful and I'll try my very best. I'll enjoy it but it will be very hard"

ROGER FEDERER

wait for his 18th major title by defeating Nadal in a classic.

No quarter has ever been given on the court but despite the ferocity of their duels, deep respect endures.

Which is why Federer said earlier this week that playing with Nadal would be a beautiful way to conclude a career that

caught fire when he claimed his first Grand Slam title in 2003 by winning Wimbledon.

Europe's captain Bjorn Borg, not surprisingly, granted him his wish.

"It's going to be a different kind of pressure to be part of this historic moment," Nadal told reporters.

"It's going to be something amazing and unforgettable for me. I'm super excited. maybe we can create a good moment and maybe win the match."

Federer cut a relaxed figure as he sat with his team mates, including 21-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic and twice Wimbledon champion Andy Murray.

But he said the emotions could hit him on Friday.

"I'm not sure if I can handle (all the emotions) but I will try," Federer, whose presence had fans flocking to watch practice sessions yesterday, said.

"This one feels a whole lot dif-

Federer one of the greatest athletes of any sport: Djokovic

Reuters | London

Novak Djokovic hailed the retiring Roger Federer as one of the greatest athletes of all time and said he would leave a lasting legacy for the world of tennis.

"His impact on the game has been tremendous, the way he was playing, his style, effortless, just perfect for an eye of a tennis coach, player or just a tennis fan," Serbian Djokovic told reporters on Wednesday at London's Tower Bridge.

"He has left a huge legacy that will live for a very long time."

Djokovic beat Federer in four major finals including at Wimbledon in 2019, the Swiss's last Grand Slam final.

"Both Andy and I didn't know that this is going to be his last match, his farewell this weekend, so that makes this occasion even greater because he's one of the greatest athletes ever to play sport, any sport," said Djokovic, who is one major title

behind Nadal's men's record of 22.

"His popularity on and off the court speaks for itself. So I'm sure we're going to have a blast this weekend."

This week's Laver Cup will be the first time that Federer, Nadal, Murray and Djokovic are playing together in an event since the 2019 Australian Open.

"It's great we will have a chance to spend some quality time off the court together," Djokovic told Eurosport. "We have team dinners and

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whatever the result of the match it would be a magical night for tennis.

"It's a very unique situation that we are all fortunate enough to be around," McEnroe said. "This is like an incredible moment for our sport."

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NOVAK DJOKOVIC

life. We don't normally do that on tour, we have our own teams and families, so this is quite unique.

"We all want to win and perform well but at the same time because of Roger's farewell and the opportunity to be alongside some of my greatest rivals in my career you also want to share some good times off the court too."

"The WhatsApp group is what keeps us together."

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