

Sports

# Zain Strategic Partner of region's first Rafa Nadal Academy

Company renews support for one of nation's biggest sports initiatives to empower young talents

KUWAIT: Zain, Kuwait's leading digital service provider, announces the extension of its Strategic Partnership with the Spain-based Rafa Nadal Academy in collaboration with Tamdeen Sports, a subsidiary of Tamdeen Group. The academy is the first of its kind in the Middle East, and only the second branch of the most famous tennis center in the world: Rafa Nadal Academy in Majorca, Spain.

The partnership was announced at the academy's HQ in Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber International Tennis Complex, attended by Zain Kuwait CEO Eaman Al-Roudhan, Tamdeen Sports CEO Mohammed Mustafa Al-Marzouq, and executive teams from both partners. Zain extends its support to this prestigious world-class academy in line with its comprehensive corporate sustainability strategy, which centers around supporting and progressing Kuwait's youth and sports sectors at the highest standards. Zain is a strategic partner of the academy since its inception back in 2020.

Zain is committed to empowering the next generation of professional Kuwaiti athletes who can compete at top international arenas. The company strongly believes that the private sector has a pivotal and essential role in supporting and encouraging the various sports projects in the nation to enable local athletes develop their skills, and em-



Eaman Al-Roudhan and Mohammed Al-Marzouq with Waleed Al-Khashti and Academy GM Martijn Belgraver.



Eaman Al-Roudhan and Mohammed Al-Marzouq during the announcement.

power them to raise the Kuwaiti flag high at regional and international arenas.

The academy features 15 tennis courts, a 1,500 sq m gym, 2 squash courts, 3 indoor padel courts, a swimming pool, and a boxing ring. The main, multi-purpose indoor court features over 5,000 seats, while the secondary outdoor court features 1,500 seats. All courts are equipped with the lat-

est world-class tools, and the facility also features a members lounge that offers nutrition programs, sports shops, and more. The hall is connected to many other facilities, such as a 5-star hotel, 360 Mall, a multi-storey parking building, and more.

Zain strongly believes in the crucial role played by private sector organizations in supporting social and economic sustainability

projects, as well as further pushing the sports community's growth in the country. Springing from its growing commitment towards practicing its social responsibility, the company is committed to printing a positive print through all its activities. This has led Zain to embrace the most influential projects in the community, including the support of this world-class academy.

## Benin held by Rwanda despite new coach, 'fearsome' nickname

JOHANNESBURG: Benin introduced a new coach and a 'fearsome' nickname against Rwanda on Wednesday, but had to settle for a 1-1 draw as matchday three of Africa Cup of Nations qualifying began. Gilbert Mugisha gave the visiting Rwandan Wasps an early lead in Cotonou. After losing teen Hakim Sahabo to a red card, the visitors conceded a late equalizer when substitute Steve Mounie struck.

The result suited neither team as Senegal have six points and Mozambique four from two matches in Group L, and Rwanda two and Benin one having played an additional match. Gernot Rohr, a 69-year-old German who coached Gabon, Niger, Burkina Faso and Nigeria, succeeded local Moussa Latoundji last week. Charged with turning around the fortunes of a team beaten by Senegal and Mozambique last June, Rohr cut a colorful figure in a green cap, red top, black pants and gleaming white shoes.

He will have been disappointed that Benin, who had a numerical advantage for 35 minutes, could not convert their second-half dominance into a victory. Nicknames are revered in African football and after many years of debate, Benin recently changed theirs from Squirrels to Cheetahs, believing the new name would strike fear into rivals. "Squirrels are harmless creatures who do not frighten anyone whereas Cheetahs are much more imposing animals," said a Beninese football spokesman.

Elsewhere, Sao Tome e Principe banished memories of a 10-goal Group A drubbing from Nigeria last year by drawing 2-2 with Sierra Leone in the Moroccan coastal city of Agadir. Argentina-based Luis Leal, the 35-year-old star of Sao Tome, put the Portuguese-speaking island nation ahead in each half only for Mustapha Bundu and Abu Komeh to notch equalizers.

The draw was a blow to the Leone Stars as they trail second-placed Guinea-Bissau by two points having played an extra match. The game was played in southern Morocco because Sierra Leone do not have an international-standard stadium. Leaders Nigeria host Guinea-Bissau, who are seeking a fourth straight appearance at the finals, in Abuja on Friday. —AFP

## Sports sponsorships in limbo after Credit Suisse collapse

GENEVA: The takeover of Swiss bank Credit Suisse leaves many sports stars, teams and tournaments with a big question mark hanging over their lucrative sponsorship deals. The Swiss national football team, the country's top football division, tennis great Roger Federer, golf star Sergio Garcia and Zurich's new stadium were all sponsored by the bank, which is being taken over by Swiss rival UBS. The deal was hastily arranged on Sunday after Credit Suisse's share price plunged.

Golf and equestrian events also relied on Credit Suisse money, as did the Swiss Sport Aid Foundation, which backs talented young athletes in minority sports. "Our sponsorships reflect our passion for excellence, sustainability, and partnership," Credit Suisse boasts. The Neue Zürcher Zeitung newspaper said that no matter how much Credit Suisse got embroiled in scandals or rejigged its strategies, "the bank has always been a reliable partner for sports".

"For the time being, we will continue our corresponding commitments unchanged," a Credit Suisse spokesman told AFP. But UBS, which has its own portfolio of sports sponsorships focusing on Formula One, athletics and ice hockey, may not necessarily continue with the deals.

### Football focus

Credit Suisse has been the main sponsor of the Swiss Football Association (SFA) governing body since 1993. The men's national team, ranked 12th in the world, has enjoyed some of its best years since the bank came on board. Having only appeared at

## Reiten goal gives Chelsea advantage against Lyon

PARIS: Norwegian international Guro Reiten's first-half goal gave Chelsea a 1-0 win away to holders Lyon in France in the first leg of their Women's Champions League quarter-final tie on Wednesday. Reiten curled a first-time effort low beyond goalkeeper Christiane Endler just before the half-hour for the visitors, a fine finish coming after an outstanding piece of play by Scotland's Erin Cuthbert to create the chance.

The result puts Emma Hayes's Chelsea — runners-up two years ago — in the driving seat as they seek to become the first English winners of the competition since Arsenal in 2007. "A 1-0 win at the home of the reigning champions to take into the second leg, I can't ask for any more," said Hayes. "We were really compact and defended well. But we're only half-way there." Chelsea had already beaten France's other

heavyweight, Paris Saint-Germain, home and away in the group stage, yet Lyon's pedigree in Europe is second to none. Lyon won the title last year for the sixth time in the last seven seasons, and Sonia Bompastor's team will still hope to turn this tie around in next week's return. "I am really frustrated with the result and that the team were not more clinical," admitted Bompastor. "I have confidence in my players for the second leg because they have experience and they have quality. We are capable of going there with the ambition of winning. We showed that in the group stage when we beat Arsenal 1-0 after losing 5-1 here." The visitors could have been further in front before the interval, with a Lauren James shot coming back off the post.

Yet Lyon had chances too, despite former Ballon d'Or winner Ada Hegerberg being left on the bench as she recovers from her latest long injury lay-off. Delphine Cascarino hit the woodwork in the second half for Lyon, who have won the Champions League a record eight times overall. Elsewhere, PSG also went down 1-0 at home, as a second-half Dominique Janssen penalty gave Wolfsburg the victory at the Parc des Princes.

A game of few chances came to life just after the break when PSG were awarded a spot-kick for a

one World Cup between 1966 and 2006, Switzerland have qualified for the last five World Cups, reaching the last 16 in four of those tournaments. The contract runs until June 30 next year. It is worth around five million Swiss francs (\$5.4 million) per year, according to Blick newspaper. The Credit Suisse logo will stay on the national teams' training jackets and jerseys for as long as the bank exists, SFA spokesman Adrian Arnold said ahead of Saturday's Euro 2024 qualifier against Belarus.

"We had good discussions with our contacts at Credit Suisse, who assured us that the existing contracts would be honored," Arnold said. "We would like the partnership to continue thereafter, in whatever form." Credit Suisse is also the main sponsor of Switzerland's bid to host the 2025 women's European Championships, and the takeover comes shortly before the hosting decision is due on April 4.

The bank is the title sponsor of the Super League, Switzerland's 10-team top football division, including well-known clubs like Young Boys, Grasshopper, FC Zurich and FC Basel. Blick said the contract runs until 2025 and is worth around eight million Swiss francs (\$8.7 million) per season. Money goes into every club as well as the tournament, with the bank's name appearing on all team strips and on advertising boards around the stadiums.

### Close ties to Federer

Federer is by far the biggest name associated with Credit Suisse. Although Switzerland's greatest sports star retired in September, he remains a brand ambassador for Credit Suisse. The bank was on board for



Roger Federer

his transition into a post-tennis career, saying: "We look forward to many more years together".

Federer has a host of other sponsors he can fall back on, including Rolex, Lindt, Mercedes-Benz and Moët et Chandon. Credit Suisse also sponsors the Federer-instigated Laver Cup, which features six top men's tennis players from Europe against six from the rest of the world, captained by Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe. The Laver Cup did not respond when contacted by AFP.

### Sponsors leave, others arrive

In golf, Credit Suisse sponsored the European Masters golf tournament in Crans-Montana and Spanish former world number two Garcia, who won the 2017 Masters. European Masters tournament director Yves Mitzag said the contract runs until the 2024 tournament so the event is not at risk. "There is no reason to panic," he told the Tribune de Geneve newspaper. "That's the business of sport: sponsors leave, others arrive." In equestrianism, Credit Suisse is a main sponsor of the Concours Hippique International de Geneve and White Turf in St. Moritz, a glitzy exclusive event featuring horse racing on a frozen lake. —AFP



DECINES-CHARPIEU, France: Lyon's French defender Selma Bacha fights for the ball with Chelsea's Norway defender Maren Mjelde at The Groupama Stadium on March 22, 2023. -- AFP

challenge on Sakina Karchaoui, only for the English referee to decide after a VAR review that there was in fact no foul. Moments later a handball at the other end by Paris defender Elisa De Almeida was given as a penalty following a VAR check after initially being missed by the officials. —AFP

# Classifieds

## Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

## Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134

Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

## Change of Name

**I, Katcha Chalapathi** (old name), R/O D. No:1/40, Garala Madugu Village, Apparajupeta Post, Pullampet Mandal, Annamaiah District, A.P, hereby changed my name as Kicha Chalapathi S/o Kicha Krishnaveni (new name). **24-03-2023**

**I, KHOJEMA**, holder of Indian Passport No. Z5708610 having permanent address 131, naya pura bakhhal patel marg Ujjain, Pin 456006, Madhya Pradesh, India, residing in Kuwait at

present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under given name Khozema and surname Bawajan. **(C#3187)**

**I, SHIVA**, holder of Passport No. T9188939 do hereby change my name to SHIVA (as given name) MADAN LAL (as Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name SHIVA MADAN LAL and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. **(C#3188) - 22-03-2023**