

# Brave kick starts India edition



## Manama

Under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth, Honourary President of the Bahrain Martial Arts Federation (BMMAF), founder of Khalid Bin Hamad Mixed Martial Arts (KHK MMA), the fifth edition of the Brave Fighting Championship was launched in Mumbai, India at the Dome National Stadium of India.

With the participation of 20 fighters from around the world the event organised by BRAVE Combat Federation emanated from the Khalid Bin Hamad Mixed Martial Arts Organisation (KHK MMA).

Matches were attended by members from the All India Mixed Martial Arts Association, combat sports enthusiasts, guests and a large

audience of fans.

Shaikh Khalid expressed his joy at being present in India to attend and follow up the fifth edition of BRAVE Championship matches.

He praised the All India Mixed Martial Arts Association for embracing this championship, and looked forward to opening wider horizons of fruitful cooperation with the Indian Association to promote the culture of mixed martial arts on the continent.

In a night of excitement and thrills, Mumbai hosted 10 bouts in the BRAVE Combat Federation Championship, where fighters delivered high levels of combat performance.

A total of 20 fighters from 11 countries participated from India, Algeria, Canada, Brazil, Poland, the Netherlands, Mexico, the Philippines, Egypt, Britain and Thailand. The

fighters from India numbered at six, followed by Brazil with three fighters, then the Philippines and Britain with two fighters.

The fifth edition of the BRAVE Championship was preceded by an advertisement film, which included a presentation showcasing the championship, since its start in Manama to the final edition hosted by the UAE capital Abu Dhabi, which showed the crowning of the championship belt. It was won by Algerian fighter Elias Boudegz dame at the expense of Mexican fighter Masio Fullen.

Bahrain Television, represented by its Sports Channel broadcast live the championship, hosted in India, which gave fans and enthusiasts of mixed martial arts in Bahrain the opportunity to follow the event.



# Benteke deals blow to old club

## Londres

Christian Benteke's double for Crystal Palace against his old club Liverpool dealt perhaps a fatal blow to their hopes of Champions League football whilst boosting Manchester United's chances yesterday.

United had already done their chances no end of good earlier on Sunday as Anthony Martial responded positively to criticism by Jose Mourinho in scoring one and being involved in Wayne Rooney's second beating Burnley 2-0 to move up to fifth spot and a point off Manchester City -- who they play on Thursday.

However, it is Liverpool who will be the most worried about missing out on the lucrative Champions League spot next season as they are just two points clear of United who have two games in hand.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp pondered how Palace

had been in danger of relegation when their performance belied their lowly position.

Palace now look certain to preserve Sam Allardyce's proud record of never being in charge of a club that has gone down.

However, Klopp issued a rallying call to the fans and his players not to give up hope on the Champions League.

"It is frustrating, disappointing of course," Klopp told the BBC.

"Everyone thinks the Champions League has slipped through our fingers but we have one more month to stay positive.

"We have to try everything to squeeze everything out of this season."

Allardyce, who has engineered victories over Chelsea, Arsenal and now Liverpool in recent weeks, said there was a sense of relief that there was clear breathing space now between them and the



Crystal Palace's Zaire-born Belgian striker Christian Benteke (L) celebrates scoring a goal with Crystal Palace's English defender James Tomkins (2L) and Crystal Palace's Serbian midfielder Luka Milivojevic (3L)

bottom three -- they are seven points clear of Swansea.

"It has been hard work but we are looking up," he told

BBC. "We have five games to go but Tottenham on Wednesday will come too early.

"We will have change the

side to get fresh legs into the side. It is a big result today, it makes life so much easier," added Allardyce.

## United on the rise

Palace forward Andros Townsend refused to accept they could relax and plan for another season in the Premier League.

"We have seen the other teams at the bottom are winning matches. We are almost there," he told Sky Sports.

United may be down to the bare bones in certain areas because of injury but even with leading scorer Zlatan Ibrahimovic out with a serious knee injury and Marcus Rashford rested till a late appearance as a substitute they made light work of a Burnley side who are not out of trouble yet. (AFP)