



Bahrain open MMA, boxing begin today

Manama
Bahrain Open Mixed Martial Arts and Boxing Championship will begin today at the Khalifa Sport City Hall.

BMMAF is organising the event, under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Honorary President of Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation, in cooperation with the Khalid bin Hamad Mixed Martial Arts.

Commenting on the championships, Colonel

Khalid Abdulaziz Al-Khayat, President of BMMAF, Head of the Championship's Organising Committee, confirmed that the event comes within the calendar year will witness three championships.

"Through its programmes, the federation seeks to implement the vision of Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, which is based on the creation of an ideal environment to encourage and push Bahraini youth to practice mixed martial arts and formation of teams for international competition," said Al Khayat said.

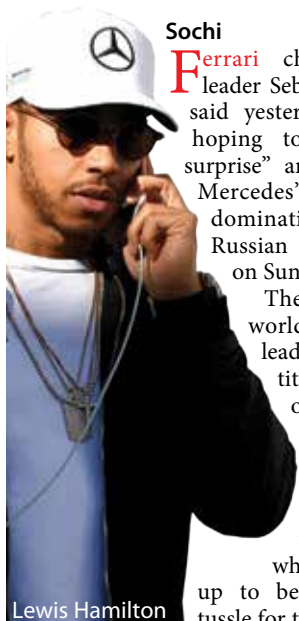
He added: "The championship is the first of the Federation's official championships since its formation last June, and aims to give local fighters the opportunity to highlight their energies and combat abilities, which serves to achieve the main objective of choosing distinguished fighters to join the national team in order to prepare for upcoming international events, particularly the national MMA team at the World Amateur Championship to be hosted by Bahrain in November this year."

The Organising

Committee has set the dates for the Mixed Martial Arts and Boxing competition. The boxing competition will be held today with the official weight examination held from 9am to 11am and the competition launching at 4pm. Tomorrow the Mixed Martial Arts Competition will be held, with the official weight examination from 9am to 11am and competitions starting at 4 pm.

Under the directives of Shaikh Khalid, the committee decided to allow free entry to the public to attend the fights, which will be hosted at the Khalifa Sport City Hall.

End of era for Merc?



Sochi

Ferrari championship leader Sebastian Vettel said yesterday he was hoping to spring "a surprise" and end rival Mercedes' three-year domination at the Russian Grand Prix on Sunday.

The four-time world champion leads this year's title race ahead of Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes by two wins to one after three races in what is shaping up to be a two-way tussle for the title.

Mercedes have won all three Russian Grands Prix held at the Sochi Autodrom -- Hamilton twice and retired Nico Rosberg once -- and have led every lap since the inaugural race in 2014.

"On paper it's been a strong track for Mercedes so they will be very strong, everything else would be a surprise," the German Vettel said on Thursday.

"I think, and I feel, there's also a couple of corners where the (Ferrari) car was already good last year.

"The DNA of the car is still in a way similar, even though obviously the rules have changed and the car feels different... there should be places on the track where we should be strong.

"There were places last year where we were weak and we hope

to be stronger this year and then we'll see where we are."

Talking to reporters at the circuit, Vettel was also asked to comment on suggestions that he and three-time champion Hamilton will benefit from team orders that require their respective team-mates to act as "number two" drivers.

"I think the way we've raced in the last two and a half years, everything straightforward, sometimes it was close, sometimes it was too close as well..." he said, rejecting the notion of Ferrari team orders.



Football

Scores as of closing

Premier League:



Manchester City 0 Manchester Utd 0

Spanish La Liga:



Alaves	0	Eibar	0
Sevilla	2	Celta Vigo	1
Athletic Bilbao	2	Real Betis	1

Russian Premier League:

Amkar Perm	0	Krasnodar	2
Anzhi Mkhachkala	3	Tomsk	3

Champions League 2016-17

SEMI-FINAL, 1ST LEG - MAY 2/3 Form W D L

REAL MADRID v ATLETICO
Santiago Bernabéu
All-time head-to-head
Won 137 Drawn 62 Won 67

●●●●●● Form ●●●●●●

28 / 15 Goals for / against 13 / 5

Competition statistics (per match)

7.50	Shots on target	4.70
7.10	Shots wide	5.70
523	Passes	423
6.60	Crosses	4.20
52%	Possession	50%

MONACO v JUVENTUS
Stade Louis II
Head-to-head
Won 1 Drawn 1 Won 2

●●●●●● Form ●●●●●●

21 / 16 Goals for / against 17 / 2

Competition statistics (per match)

4.80	Shots on target	5.00
4.80	Shots wide	6.20
315	Passes	516
5.50	Crosses	5.60
46%	Possession	55%

Karim Benzema Real Madrid striker has provided most assists (11) for Ronaldo's century of Champions League strikes

PERENNIAL FAVOURITES: Real Madrid, 11-time European champions, aiming to be first team to successfully defend Champions League title

Knock-out matches in Champions League

Real	Titles: 1998, 2000, 02, 14, 16	85
Bayern	2001, 13	83
Barcelona	2006, 09, 11, 15	82
Man Utd	1999, 2008	62
AC Milan	1994, 2003, 07	57

CITY RIVALS: Real have ended Atletico's European dream for last three seasons, including wins in 2014 and 2016 finals

Real: European record vs other Spanish teams

W11 D6 L3