



BRAVE CF 107 full card revealed as Bulgaria prepares for another historic night of action

Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation™ (BRAVE CF), the world's fastest-growing and most global mixed martial arts organization, has officially unveiled the full fight card for BRAVE CF 107, setting the stage for a spectacular night of elite talent, compelling matchups, and unforgettable moments inside the cage.

The promotion returns to Bulgaria on Saturday, August 1, bringing its signature brand of world-class competition to Burgas Arena in partnership with Bulgarian Fight Agency (BFA). The upcoming spectacle marks another milestone in a relationship that has continued to flourish, elevating the sport's profile throughout Eastern Europe.

Leading the bill is a pivotal light heavyweight showdown between Bulgarian standout Kaloyan Kolev and Slovenia's Nemanja "Sledgehammer" Kovac. Competing in front of a passionate home crowd, Kolev looks to deliver a memorable performance against a dangerous challenger eager to spoil the celebration.

The co-main event features



another fascinating international contest as Georgian standout Bidzina Gavashelishvili squares off against South Africa's Luthando "Shorty" Biko in a flyweight encounter that promises to be an instant classic from the opening exchange.

Beyond the featured bouts, fans can expect an outstanding collection of rising stars and proven competitors. The lineup includes Muhammad Idrisov, Nikolay Atanasov, Delyan Georgiev, Owais Yaqoob, Danylo Voievodkin, and Grégory "Robson" Robinet, adding even

greater depth to an already stacked evening.

Excitement continues to build as August 1 approaches, with Burgas once again serving as the destination for another landmark chapter in BRAVE CF's European milestone.

Featuring established athletes determined to reinforce their status alongside promising prospects pursuing career-defining victories, BRAVE CF 107 is poised to deliver an unforgettable showcase while further solidifying the country's place on the global MMA map.

Nine years old, nine golds

The girl who turned play into power

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

It all began at home, with playful grappling sessions with her mother.

At the time, Eleonore van den Hooven had not yet learned her first Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu technique, but even then, she was clearly a natural.

A couple of months later, she is standing on international podiums. Her latest achievement came at the AJP Tour Doha International Jiu-Jitsu Championship, where she won gold.

The nine-year-old trains at Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Bahrain and with the Bahrain National Wrestling Team. In just 1.5 years of training and 10 months of competition, she has collected nine gold medals and two silver medals across Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and wrestling tournaments in Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Speaking to *The Daily Tribune* (TDT), her mother, Sophie van den Hooven, herself an MMA and grappling competitor, said she noticed her daughter's potential early on.

"From a young age, we used to grapple together for fun, and



Eleonore van den Hooven with her gold medal

I could already see she had natural ability," she told TDT.

That talent became even more evident once formal training began, where she would often dominate the other children during practice.

After just eight months of training, Eleonore entered her first tournament in Abu Dhabi and won silver.

"From that moment, everything took off," her mother said.

Move to Bahrain

The family's move to Bahrain proved to be a turning point. "There were no Brazilian

Jiu-Jitsu or wrestling clubs in our city in the Netherlands. After we moved to Bahrain, she finally had the opportunity to start training in January 2025," Mrs van den Hooven told TDT.

Despite her rapid rise, Eleonore is already focused on what comes next. Her next major target is the Abu Dhabi World Championship in November. Before that, she will attend a wrestling summer camp in Uzbekistan with the Bahrain National Wrestling Team.

Inspiration

She draws inspiration from Sarah Galvão, a world champion who earned her black belt at just 18. Beyond medals, the family hopes her journey will inspire more girls in Bahrain to take up the sport.

Eleonore also hopes her success will encourage more girls to take up the sport as very few girls train in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and wrestling in Bahrain.

"She would love to have more girls around in the gym," Mrs van den Hooven added.

For Eleonore, the journey is only just beginning, as is her dream of inspiring the next generation of girls to step onto the mat.

Muscle man strikes silver again



Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahraini bodybuilder Hamad Kaldari has won silver at the Mr Universe Thailand International Bodybuilding Championship, taking second place for the second year in a row.

The event drew competitors from 49 countries, with Kaldari again reaching the podium in one of the sport's international contests.

Sami Al Haddad, president of the Bahrain Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation, congratulated Kaldari on the result and said the medal added

to Bahrain's record in bodybuilding.

He said the contest brought together leading athletes from around the world, but Kaldari showed the form needed to finish second.

Al Haddad said the result showed the level reached by Bahraini bodybuilders and praised the athletes' work, as well as the backing given to the sport in the kingdom.

He wished Kaldari further success in future events and said the federation would keep supporting Bahraini athletes as they seek to compete in regional and international championships.

27 NOCs nominate Shaikh Joaan for OCA President

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The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) announced that it received nominations from 27 National Olympic Committees in favour of Shaikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani for the position of OCA President for the 2027-2035 term.

The OCA President thanked the NOCs for their trust and confidence in his leadership.

The next OCA General Assembly will be held in



Shaikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani
Doha, Qatar on January 27, 2027.

NMS Bahrain continues winning legacy at CBSE cluster championships

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New Millennium School, Bahrain, once again reaffirmed its sporting excellence with an impressive performance at the CBSE Cluster (Bahrain Chapter) Inter-School Championships 2026-27. Competing against leading CBSE schools in the Kingdom, NMS students showcased exceptional talent, determination, and sportsmanship across badminton, chess, and table tennis events.

The school emerged as a top-performing institution,

NMS emerged Champions in the following categories

- Badminton**
- Under-14 Girls - Winners
- Under-17 Girls - Winners
- Under -19 Boys - Runners -up
- Chess**
- Under-11 Boys - Winners
- Under-17 Boys - Winners
- Under-19 Boys - Winners
- Table Tennis**
- Under-14 Boys -- Winners
- Under-17 Boys - Winners
- Under -19 Boys -- Runners-up
- Under-14 Girls - Runners-up
- Under-17 Girls - Runners-up



Winners, including the badminton category champions, with Principal Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma

securing championship titles in multiple categories and bringing immense pride to the NMS community.

The outstanding performances reflected the students' dedication, rigorous training, and unwavering determination. Their success stands as a proud example of the school's commitment to nurturing excellence in both academics and co-curricular pursuits.

Congratulating the students, coaches, and parents on their remarkable achievements, Prin-

icipal Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma stated that the exceptional performance resulted from the students' hard work, perseverance, and competitive spirit.

He added that the school was immensely proud of its young sportspersons for representing NMS with excellence, discipline, and integrity, and for upholding the institution's rich sporting legacy.

Chairman Dr. Ravi Pillai and Managing Director Mrs. Geetha Pillai extended their heartfelt congratulations to the

students, coaches, and parents for the commendable achievement. They remarked that the impressive results reflected the school's unwavering commitment to promoting holistic education, where sporting excellence is nurtured alongside academic success.

The management, staff, and the entire NMS family congratulate the winners and wish them continued success in the forthcoming CBSE National Cluster Championships and all future sporting endeavours.



Champions of Table Tennis: Under-14 Boys - Winners | Under-17 Boys - Winners | Under-19 Boys - Runners-up | Under-14 Girls - Runners-up | Under-17 Girls - Runners-up