

Bahrain beat Kenya in thrilling T20 opener



● **Fiaz Ahmed's blazing 88 and Rizwan Butt's four-wicket haul secure 15-run victory**

Manama

Bahrain secured a thrilling 15-run victory over Kenya in the opening match of the two-game T20 International series at the Gymkhana Club Ground in Nairobi.

The win gave Bahrain, ranked 30th in the ICC T20I rankings, a 1-0 lead over 33rd-ranked Kenya in the series.

Bahrain's victory was built on a brilliant batting display from Fiaz Ahmed and a match-winning bowling spell

from fast bowler Rizwan Butt, who dismantled Kenya's top order with a four-wicket haul.

Fiaz Ahmed Powers Bahrain to 159

After winning the toss and choosing to bat first, Bahrain overcame an early setback following the dismissal of captain Asif Ali without scoring.

Fiaz Ahmed then took control of the innings, smashing an explosive 88 runs from 49 balls, including eight fours and five sixes. He combined with wicketkeeper Prashant Kurup, who scored a steady 33 runs, to build a crucial 75-run partnership that steadied Bahrain's innings.

A late six from Imran Anwar off the only delivery he faced helped Bahrain finish

with a competitive total of 159 for four in 20 overs.

Kenya's bowlers had some success, with left-arm spinner Sachin Gill taking two wickets for 20 runs, while Peter Langat claimed one wicket. However, seven wides added pressure to Kenya's bowling effort.

Rizwan Butt's Four-Wicket Burst Sinks Kenya

Chasing 160, Kenya started positively but suffered a major setback as Bahrain's Rizwan Butt produced a devastating spell.

The right-arm pacer claimed the first four Kenyan wickets to fall, including key dismissals of Rushab Patel and Sachin Bhudia, who were both dismissed without scoring, leaving Kenya

struggling at 42 for three.

Kenya captain Dhiren Gondaria fought back with a determined 73 runs from 49 balls, but a lack of support from the other end prevented the hosts from completing the chase.

Kenya eventually finished on 144 for eight, falling 15 runs short of Bahrain's target.

Bahrain Take Series Lead

Rizwan Butt finished as Bahrain's standout performer with figures of 4 wickets for 17 runs, while Asif Shaikh contributed with two wickets to maintain pressure on Kenya's middle order.

Bahrain now lead the two-match series 1-0. The teams will meet again at the same venue for the final T20I, with Kenya aiming to level the series.

Bahrain fighters face world test in Abu Dhabi



Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's jiu-jitsu fighters will test themselves against the world's best in Abu Dhabi next week as the national team enters nine days of hard combat at Mubadala Arena.

The World Jiu-Jitsu Championship runs from August 1 to 9, with Bahrain fielding fighters in the masters, senior and youth ranks.

The squad has arrived in the UAE capital under head coach Robert Henik and assistant coach Dr Ahmed Al Aradi, who have led the final work before the first bouts.

Bahrain Jiu-Jitsu Federation president Redha Monfaradi said the event would show how the country's fighters measure up against top rivals and give younger team mem-

bers much-needed time on the mat.

He said Bahrain knew the size of the task but would seek strong displays, greater fight experience and a clear view of each athlete's level.

'We are counting on the players' discipline and hard work to give their best and represent Bahraini jiu-jitsu with pride,' he said.

Dr Al Aradi will fight in the masters over-94kg class, while Bader Al Doseri enters the under-77kg division.

In the senior ranks, Khalid Faraj will compete at under 94kg, Abdulla Al Shaikh at under 56kg and Hassan Osama at under 69kg.

Hamad Mohseni will take part in the under-21, under-56kg class, while Rashid Al Asfoor will fight in the under-18, under-52kg event.

BRAVE CF 107 ready for action as full fight card gets the green light



Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation™ (BRAVE CF), the world's fastest-growing and most global mixed martial arts organization, has officially released the weigh-in results for BRAVE CF 107.

The final step before the cage door closes has been completed, with the official weigh-ins concluding and every scheduled matchup remaining on course

for Saturday, August 1. Fans at the magnificent Burgas Arena are now one step closer to experiencing another memorable spectacle as the promotion joins forces once again with Bulgarian Fight Agency (BFA).

This latest visit underscores a thriving partnership that has entered its third consecutive year. Together, the two organizations have steadily elevated the profile of the sport across Eastern Europe, creating valuable opportunities for regional

FULL WEIGH-IN RESULTS	
96-KG Catchweight Bout - 96 KG / 211.2 LBS**	
Kaloyan Kolev (95.6 KG) vs. Salim El Ouassaidi (97.2 KG)	
Flyweight Bout - 56.7 KG / 125 LBS*	
Bidzina Gavashelishvili (57.2 KG) vs. Luthando Biko (56.9 KG)	
Lightweight Bout - 70.3 KG / 155 LBS*	
Pavel Vladev (70.6 KG) vs. Muhammed Kir Ahmet (70.8 KG)	
Super Welterweight Bout - 79.4 KG / 175 LBS*	
Deyan Galinov (79.7 KG) vs. Alexander Mikael (79.5 KG)	
68-KG Catchweight Bout - 68 KG / 150 LBS	
Delyan Georgiev (67.9 KG) vs. Owais Yaqoob (68 KG)	
Bantamweight Bout - 61.2 KG / 135 LBS***	
Muhammad Idrisov (61.6 KG) vs. Alinson Ochoa (66.5 KG)	
Lightweight Bout - 70.3 KG / 155 LBS*	
Anton Yanchev (70.5 KG) vs. Bachuki Tchikaidze (70.7 KG)	
81-KG Catchweight Bout - 81 KG / 178.2 LBS	
Bozhidar Ivanov (80.6 KG) vs. Ricards Ozols (81 KG)	
59-KG Catchweight Bout - 59 KG / 130 LBS	
Mohamed Alsameea (58.5 KG) vs. Miran Ramani (58.9 KG)	

athletes while attracting internationally recognized talent to one of the continent's most dynamic markets.

Leading the bill is a compelling clash between hometown favorite Kaloyan Kolev and France's Salim "Bizon" El Ouassaidi. The featured contest offers Kolev the opportunity to deliver a statement performance before a passionate home audience against a dangerous foe with ambitions of spoiling the celebration.

Sharing the marquee is an intriguing flyweight encounter between Georgia's Bidzina Gavashelishvili and South Africa's Luthando "Shorty" Biko. With both athletes eager to

build momentum, the matchup is expected to produce an explosive battle from the opening bell.

The remainder of the lineup offers no shortage of intrigue, with accomplished names and emerging contenders prepared to leave a lasting impression inside the cage. Among those set for action are Muhammad Idrisov, Delyan Georgiev, Owais Yaqoob, and Mohamed Alsameea, adding further depth to an already stacked card.

As anticipation reaches its peak, all eyes now turn to Saturday, when elite athletes from across the globe will converge for an evening filled with high-stakes encounters.

Chelsea fined £10mn, handed suspended transfer ban for breaching agent rules



A Chelsea flag is seen ahead of a match

AFP | London

Chelsea were fined £10 million (\$13.4 million) and given a suspended two-window transfer ban yesterday after an appeal hearing into sanctions imposed for multiple breaches of Football Association rules.

The Premier League club were initially given a suspended six-point deduction along with a fine, but the points penalty has now been replaced by the suspended registration ban.

The club had admitted to 74 breaches of FA regulations covering agents, working with intermediaries and third-party investment in players.

Owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital self-reported the breaches to football authorities in 2022, when they were in the process of buying the club from Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich.

The six-point deduction, which was to have been suspended until the end of June

2027, was imposed by the independent commission that initially heard the case but the club appealed against that sanction.

An appeal board instead replaced the points penalty with the suspended two-window registration ban, which is suspended over the same period.

Chelsea have previously entered sanction settlements in regard to the matter with the Premier League and European football's governing body UEFA.

The £10 million fine imposed by the regulatory commission was not subject to appeal and the full amount will be invested into grassroots football.

The FA said it was continuing to investigate individual misconduct arising out of the case.

Chelsea issued a statement welcoming a "final decision" on the matter.

"In 2022, the club self-reported potential historical rule breaches to all applicable regulators," it said.