

Bahrain is a dream destination: Luan

TDI | Manama

Luan Santiago, the former lightweight title contender has announced his intentions to return to Brave Combat Federation after his injury.

Santiago had competed in Brave Combat Federation in every edition of the event hosted in Brazil. He had recently competed in the main event of Brave 11 hosted in Belo Horizonte, where he faced Lucas Martins. In the final seconds of the fifth round, he faced a TKO defeat due to an injury that occurred during the take-down. Santiago revealed his intentions to compete in Bahrain post his recovery.

"I am thoroughly happy with the way Brave has been growing and carving space in Brazilian MMA and in our so-



Luan Santiago

ciety in general. Brave is one of the pinnacles of the sport and is fast becoming a dream destination for Brazilian fighters. Bahrain is a dream of mine. I would love to be a part of the International Combat Week one day as I hear great things about the way the event takes over Bahrain. However, I feel this isn't the right time yet. Brave is different for their treatment of the fighters. They go all in on making sure we're comfortable and really care for us. We feel valued with Brave, which is different from some of the other events that try to monopolise the sport. I want to grow together with Brave and become the best in the world," said Santiago.



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LUAN SANTIAGO

Azaitar expected to make his return at Brave 14

Azaitar is the first champion to have been crowned from Morocco

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Brave Combat Federation will be hosting the fourteenth edition of the event in Tangier, Morocco on 18th August, 2018.

Ottman Azaitar is the first champion to have been crowned from the Kingdom of Morocco.

Azaitar have last appeared in Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions hosted in Bahrain during the 2017 Brave Interna-

tional Combat Week.

Azaitar faced Alejandro Martinez from Mexico for the lightweight championship. Azaitar won the bout by TKO to be crowned the first lightweight champion by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

During the event in Morocco, Azaitar is expected to return to compete and to defend his championship.

Azaitar and Carlston Harris are yet to defend their championship in the promotion.

This will also mark Azaitar as the first champion to defend his championship title in Africa. Brave 14 marks the first time a global MMA event is hosted in Africa.

Cris Cyborg compares Brave CF to Pride FC

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Cris Cyborg, the reigning UFC Women's Featherweight Champion compared Brave Combat Federation with Pride FC. Pride FC was one of the greatest MMA organisations of all time.

In the world of combat sports the era of Pride FC is compared to be the Golden Age of MMA. Some of the best fights of all time took place in Pride. Cyborg had been supporting Brave Combat Federation from the early days and made her presence felt during Brave 4: Unstoppable hosted in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Cyborg also became a celebrity commentator during the show.

"Brave Combat Federation reminds me of the days of Pride FC. The level of compe-



Cris Cyborg

tion and tough fighters make the event extremely entertaining and memorable. The fights and action brought forward by Brave is changing the sport of mixed martial arts," said Cris Cyborg.

Nadal kills curse of 100

Rafael Nadal beats Israel's Dudi Sela, enters Wimbledon second round

AFP | London

World number one Rafael Nadal breezed into the Wimbledon second round yesterday with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 win over Israel's Dudi Sela as the Spaniard returned to action for the first time since claiming his 11th French Open title.

Nadal, the Wimbledon champion in 2008 and 2010, also managed to avoid falling victim to a player ranked outside the world top 100 for what would have been the fifth time in his last six visits to the All England Club.

"It's great always to play here in Wimbledon, especially on Centre Court," said Nadal after seeing off world number 127 Sela. "I'm just happy to be through of course and yes, this match gives me positive feelings. There's still room to improve but after a while without playing on grass, of course it's very important to start with a straight sets victory."

Nadal, the 17-time major winner, has not got past the fourth round since finishing runner-up to Novak Djokovic in 2011.

Argentine fifth seed Juan



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates winning a game

Martin del Potro made it nine first round wins in nine appearances at the tournament, breezing past Germany's Peter Gojowczyk 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Del Potro, who made the semi-finals in 2013, next faces Feliciano Lopez of Spain who on Tuesday set a record of playing 66 consecutive Grand Slams when he eased past Federico Delbonis of Argentina 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Left-handed Lopez made

his debut at the majors at the 2001 French Open.

Yesterday, the 36-year-old broke the record for straight Slams which was previously held by Roger Federer.

"When I was about to break the record, I thought, wow, I'm going to beat Federer at something!" joked the 70th-ranked Lopez who has lost all 13 matches he has played against Federer in his career.



Rafael Nadal is the sixth player in the Open Era to reach more than 100 finals on the ATP World Tour

German fourth seed Alexander Zverev eased past world number 748 James Duckworth of Australia 7-5, 6-2, 6-0.

Zverev, who made the last 16 in 2017, goes on to face Taylor Fritz of the United States.

Spain's Garbine Muguruza opened her title defence with a 6-2, 7-5 win over British wild card Naomi Broady.

Muguruza is bidding to reach her third Wimbledon final after winning last year's title match against Venus Williams and losing the 2015 showpiece against Serena Williams.

Australia's Finch revels in record

AFP | Harare

Australia captain Aaron Finch revelled in his record-breaking innings against Zimbabwe, saying it was "up there" as one of the best innings he has ever played.

Finch powered his way to 172, beating his own world record high score in Twenty20 Internationals.

Finch and fellow opener D'Arcy Short put on 223, another world record.

Australia reached 229 for two, the highest total ever scored against Zimbabwe in a T20 international as a slew of records were broken during Australia's 100-run victory.

"It's nice to break my own record," said Finch. "Satis-



Aaron Finch plays a shot

fying. It's something that I'll look back on when I've finished playing and be really proud of."

Finch cracked his first six in the fourth over of the morning,

Scorecard

Australia 229 for 2 (Finch 172, Short 46) beat Zimbabwe 129 for 9 (Tye 3-12, Agar 2-16) by 100 runs

and with his third he brought up a 22-ball half century - his fastest in Twenty20 internationals.

Australia took 75 from the Powerplay, with Finch doing the bulk of the scoring while fellow opener D'Arcy Short was content to turn the strike over to his big-hitting partner.

Finch brought up his second T20I hundred at the end of the 14th over, taking just 50 deliveries.

Terenzo Bozzone seriously injured



Terenzo Bozzone

Stuff | Kumeu

Triathlete and Ironman champion Terenzo Bozzone has been seriously injured after being hit by a truck.

Bozzone was cycling on Waitakere Rd in Kumeu, in Auckland's northwest, when he was hit just after 2pm yesterday.

A witness who was first on the scene said they saw the truck pull over on the side of the road, then drive off at speed.

"When the truck drove off I saw a man lying on the road. I jumped out to help him; he was semi-conscious and his bike was in two pieces."

The witness realised the cyclist was Bozzone after his father showed up at the scene.

"I left as the paramedics were loading [Bozzone] into the ambulance. He was conscious but seemed to be in a lot of pain."

A St John Ambulance spokeswoman said a person had been taken from the scene of the crash to Auckland City Hospital in a serious condition.

An Instagram post uploaded to Bozzone's account yesterday evening said the athlete was in the emergency department.

Kuldeep, Rahul lift India to victory

AFP | Manchester

Kuldeep Yadav claimed his maiden Twenty20 international five-wicket haul and KL Rahul struck his second century in the format as India began their tour of England with an impressive eight-wicket victory at Old Trafford yesterday.

Left-arm spinner Yadav finished with 5-24 as England were restricted to 159-8 after they collapsed from 94-1 following India skipper Virat Kohli's decision to insert the hosts at the toss.

Jos Buttler was the only England batsman to cause the India attack any trouble on his way to 69 from 46 balls before he also fell victim to the beguiling spin of Yadav.

India then confidently chased down the total in 18.2 overs as Rahul -- dropped on 17 by Jason Roy -- mixed finesse with some

brutal hitting as he whacked five sixes and 10 fours en route to an unbeaten 101 off 54 balls.

England's form in ODI cricket has seen them climb to number one in the world in that format, but their T20 side remains a work in progress.

After they whitewashed Australia 5-0 in their ODI series and won the only T20, hopes were high against India.

However, their explosive top order toiled against Yadav which will be of particular concern for the respective limited overs and Test challenges ahead

Scorecard

India 163 for 2 (Rahul 101*) beat 159 for 8 (Buttler 69, Kuldeep 5-24) by eight wickets



India's Kannanur Lokesh Rahul plays a shot

during the remainder of the English summer.

India removed England's Jason Roy in the fifth over when he mistimed a pull shot off seamer Umesh Yadav (2-21) through midwicket and ended up chopping on to his stumps for a 20-ball 30.