

Spain legend Casillas retires

● Spanish World Cup winner Casillas called time on career after being sidelined for more than a year with a heart problem

Reuters | Madrid

Spain's World Cup-winning captain and goalkeeper Iker Casillas announced his retirement from the professional game yesterday, ending a career that spanned over two decades in which he captured the game's biggest prizes.

The former Real Madrid skipper had called time on his five-year spell with Portuguese side Porto last month after his contract with the club expired.

Casillas, 39, has not played any competitive football since he suffered a heart attack during a training session last year.



Spain's Iker Casillas (C) raises the World Cup trophy after the final match in 2010

"The important thing is the path you travel and the people who accompany you, not where it takes you, because that comes with work and effort alone," Casillas said on Twitter.

"I think I can say, without

hesitation, that the path I have taken is the one I dreamt about."

Casillas was given a role on Porto's technical staff at the start of last season and was included in the first-team squad, although he was never named in a matchday squad.

He captained Spain's 'golden generation' that won a maiden World Cup title in 2010 as well as two consecutive European Championships in 2008 and 2012.

The shotstopper, who came

through Real Madrid's youth system, made his senior club debut in 1999 at the age of 18 and went on to make 725 appearances over 16 seasons, winning five La Liga titles and the Champions League three times.

However, he made a tearful exit without any fanfare in 2015 when he announced his departure from his boyhood club at a news conference, a move for which Real were heavily criticised and led to fans chanting for club president Florentino Perez to resign.

"The best goalkeeper in the history of Real Madrid and Spanish football joined us at the age of 9," Real Madrid said in a statement yesterday.

"He was formed here and defended our shirt for 25 years, becoming one of our most emblematic captains of all time. Iker Casillas earned the love of madridismo and is a symbol of the values that Real Madrid represents."

Casillas holds the record for most appearances in the Champions League, featuring 177 times -- 150 of which came with Real Madrid -- as well as the most clean sheets in the history of the competition (57).

Dar Kulaib advance to Crown Prince Cup volleyball final



Action from the match

● Finalists upset heavily favoured Muharraq with a come-from-behind victory over five sets

TDT | Manama

Dar Kulaib punched their tickets to the final of the Bahrain Volleyball Association's (BVA) Crown Prince Cup last night, following a come-from-behind 3-2 (18-25, 25-19, 22-25, 25-22, 15-12) victory over heavily favoured Muharraq.

The first of two final four clashes was played at the BVA arena at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

Dar Kulaib fell a set behind twice in the contest but were able to battle back each time. In the deciding fifth set, Ali Ebrahim made two key plays—first to break a late 12-all deadlock before applying the final dagger to seal the win.

With their victory, Dar Kulaib denied Muharraq a chance to claim a fantastic league-

and-cup double, with Muharraq having already secured the Bahrain First Division Volleyball League title earlier this year.

Dar Kulaib now move on to the Crown Prince Cup final where they will face the winner of the other semis battle between Al Ahli and Al Najma, which will be held tomorrow at 6pm at the same venue. The title game has yet to be scheduled by the BVA.

There were no fans present in last night's match and all guidelines set by authorities to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) diseases were followed.

It was also the first game played between top flight teams in Bahrain volleyball, and second official volleyball match that has taken place since sports leagues were given the green light to resume activities following a lengthy months-long ban due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Previously, the final of the Bahrain Second Division Volleyball League was played, and Busaiten were crowned champions while gaining promotion to the top flight.

Bahrain's Abdullah Yusuf joins Czech outfit Slovan Liberec on loan

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Czech champions Slavia Prague have reached an agreement with first league rivals FC Slovan Liberec to loan Bahrain national team star Abdullah Yusuf for the 2020/2021 season.

The striker has contributed greatly to the title run of Slavia



Abdullah Yusuf

Prague. He also became the first player from the Gulf to participate in the UEFA Champions League.

Yusuf will now compete with Slovan Liberec in their quest to claim a place in next season's Europa League.

Slovan Liberec finished their domestic league campaign in

fifth place this past season.

The loan marks Yusuf's third European club, all of which were in the Czech First League. He started with Bohemians Praha 1905 for the 2018/2019 campaign, before signing with Slavia Prague for three seasons starting 2019/2020.

BRAVE CF president Shahid confirms Mokaev's next fight

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Muhammad Mokaev made a huge impact on his professional debut last weekend, during BRAVE CF 37, in Sweden. The 23-0 amateur, who's been labeled as the "new Khabib Nurmagomedov", won via dominant and unanimous decision over a bitter rival in Ireland's Glenn McVeh.

Hungry and ready for more, Mokaev made sure to ask for a quick turnaround and publicly stated he wanted to fight as soon as possible, preferably in one of the upcoming BRAVE CF cards in Europe within the next weeks.

BRAVE CF President Mohammed Shahid listened carefully, and impressed by Mokaev's potential, granted the Russian-British phenomenon his wish, confirming that "The Punisher" will be seen inside the BRAVE CF arena soon, more specifically in Poland.

BRAVE CF will land in Poland on September 5th, for its first-ever fight night in the Eastern European Country. Poland will then become the 21st nation to host a BRAVE CF fight card in history.

Despite confirming that



Muhammad Mokaev

Mokaev will have his second pro fight within less than six weeks, Mohammed Shahid didn't announce who is going to be his opponent. The name of the other part of this Bantamweight bout is expected to be revealed in the upcoming days.

Before going to Poland, though, BRAVE Combat Federation has two more cards in Sweden scheduled. After BRAVE CF 37 last weekend, the promotion will host both BRAVE CF 38 and BRAVE CF 39 in the Scandinavian country.

Both events, as the previous one, will be co-promoter with local organizers Bulldog Fight Night (BFN) and take place, respectively, on August 8 and 15, in Stockholm.

Champ Al-Selawe's shadow looms for winner of BRAVE CF 38's main event

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Welterweight champion Jarrah Al-Selawe has his eyes set on BRAVE CF 38's main event. The show will take place in Sweden, this Saturday (8), and is set to be headlined by two of Al-Selawe's recent rivals in Carl Booth and Abdoul Abdouraguimov, the latter a former champion himself. Both men have shared the cage twice with the reigning titleholder, and they're 1-1 with Al-Selawe.

While BRAVE CF hasn't officially confirmed that the winner of Abdouraguimov vs Booth will get the next title shot, the logical step is for one of them to settle their score with "The Jordanian Lion", who has been waiting for his next title defence since regaining his belt against Abdoul last year at BRAVE CF 27.

And Al-Selawe has already



Jarrah Al-Selawe looks on prior to a bout

started the trash talk with both men ahead of their first encounter, claiming he favoured the grappler Abdouraguimov

over the striker Booth. Jarrah commented on a social media post saying that "The Bomber" would not come out victorious.

The Englishman, who's based in Nottingham and is riding a two-fight win streak, responded harshly saying that Al-Selawe was hoping for his loss so they wouldn't be matched up again. Booth is the only man to knock out Jarrah when they met ear-

ly on in their pro career back in 2014. It was Carl's first pro fight and Jarrah's second. Since then, both men have gone on to become two of the best Welterweights in the world, and Booth feels that he has learned a lot since his decision loss to Al-Selawe in their second encounter, back at BRAVE CF 9.

Since then, Booth has amassed two straight victories, including a domination of Hayder Hassan in the main event of BRAVE CF 32, when he disfigured his opponent's face, showcasing improved defensive wrestling and even more of a striking prowess.

He will now face one of the most accomplished grapplers in the division. Abdouraguimov is coming off two straight fights against Jarrah, winning a close decision to capture the BRAVE CF title and then losing in their immediate rematch by way of TKO.

Whoever comes out on top this Saturday might have the chance to settle his differences with the reigning champion, and bring a nice, shiny belt back home in the process.



Jarrah Al-Selawe has been waiting for his next title defence since regaining his belt against Abdoul last year at BRAVE CF 27