

BRAVE CF President hails HH Shaikh Khalid's vision

Mohammed Shahid congratulates HH Shaikh Khalid on groundbreaking success in revolutionizing the sport of MMA



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa



Mohammed Shahid

● **Mohammed Shahid hailed the achievements BRAVE CF accomplished globally**

TDI | Manama

President of BRAVE Combat Federation Mohammed Shahid congratulated His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) First Deputy Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) President, on the success of the 50th edition of BRAVE CF, the last of 4 events that took place during the Kombat Kingdom Returns Series in the Kingdom of Bahrain

from March 11 to April 1st, and the achievements BRAVE CF accomplished globally.

BRAVE CF has grown tremendously with the vision of HH Shaikh Khalid to reform MMA from an entertainment business into a sports business and provide opportunities for fighters on a global platform and reforming the sports from a unique perspective. The Bahraini MMA promotion changed the landscape of MMA worldwide and became the only MMA promotion to visit 21 countries, 5 continents, in its first 50 events making it the only truly global and fastest growing MMA promotion in the world, the largest sports media property in the Middle East and acquire the largest MMA market share in Asia, making it the leading promotion in the continent.

Shahid further congratulated HH Shaikh



Khalid on the success of his vision to promote the sports sector in the Kingdom, and putting Bahrain on the map internationally through his efforts in MMA. HH's passion for MMA found the number one ranked amateur MMA national team in the world and the fastest olympic boxing qualifying federation with national combat sports development programs in 17 countries making the Kingdom a hotspot for combat sports globally and revolutionizing mixed martial arts.

Shahid also thanked HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Bahrain Council for Combat Sports, for his continuous support and efforts toward promoting combat sports in the Kingdom, and Mohammed Qamber, the president of the Bahraini Mixed Martial Arts Federation, for his support overseeing the event and assistance to ensure BRAVE CF 50 is a glowing success.

French government says Roland Garros faces delay of 'a few days'



General view inside Court Philippe-Chatrier during a match at Roland Garros (file photo)

AFP | Paris

The French government has discussed a possible "delay of a few days" of this year's French Open with the event organisers, the sports ministry said yesterday.

Discussions between the ministry and Roland Garros officials also included how the tournament might be able to accommodate fans who were largely locked out of the delayed 2020 edition.

This year's event is due to take place between May 23 and June 6, with qualification rounds starting earlier.

"Discussions are underway with the organisers on the methods used, in particular for the reception of the public," the ministry spokeswoman told AFP.

"A delay of a few days is under discussion," she added.

At the end of March, Gilles Moreton, the new president of the French Tennis Federation (FFT), had indicated that he was working on almost all the scenarios.

He said the only ones he "dared not" consider were the extremes - a 100 percent spectator level and outright



cancellation.

"At the moment, we are on track, the tournament is on the scheduled date," he said.

"But if we go into total lockdown for two months, we will obviously need to take measures -- the worst being the outright cancellation, but I dare not imagine that."

Coronavirus restrictions were tightened across France last Wednesday although all professional sport is carrying on albeit behind closed doors. President Emmanuel Macron has expressed a wish to re-open cinemas, museums and theatres in mid-May.

The Proof of Trust, KHK Holding announce collaboration



Waseem Sakhil, Patrick Damien O'Brien, Arthur Ali, Jez Noah Ali, Khalique Mani, Aaron Ali, Ali Adam Noah from The Proof of Trust pose with KHK Holding CEO Mohammed Shahid and Jaideep Kharub, IMinds Director, during BRAVE CF event

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The Proof of Trust, the world's first globally patented smart contract validation and automated dispute resolution platform, announce a collaboration with the Kingdom of Bahrain through KHK Holding, founded under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has emerged as a key centre for technology in the Arab Gulf region. In 2017, the government launched its 'StartUp Bahrain' programme which has led to growth of nearly 50 per cent in Bahrain's startup ecosystem. Technology spending is also estimated to grow at an annual rate of 8.6pc over the coming three years - demonstrating its hunger for innova-

tion. The Proof of Trust's hub will meet the needs of the burgeoning tech sector by giving Bahrainis the opportunity to join educational courses run by The Proof of Trust through which they will be able to work for the Company within the region.

Sakhil Waseem, Chief Innovation Officer at The Proof of Trust said: "The Kingdom of Bahrain has demonstrated an incredible level of dedication to building its nascent technology industry. As we enter the transitional period out of the Covid-19 pandemic, governments and the private sector alike are seeking new ways to ensure business continuity and support economic recovery and protect against future black swan events. The Proof of Trust can provide solutions in sup-

port of both objectives through our innovative, IBM-backed protocol.

"It's highly welcoming tech and business environment make Bahrain the perfect launch-pad for The Proof of Trust in the region, and we look forward to working closely with our in-country partners to deliver novel solutions to some of the world's biggest problems."

Mohammed Shahid, Chairman of KHK Holding said: "As pioneers of innovative technology in the Gulf, we are very proud to be collaborating with The Proof of Trust to bring the power of its protocol to Bahrain. Working with The Proof of Trust, we hope to create new technology-based opportunities for our people and further enhance our business landscape."

Casimero eager to retire Rigondeaux

TDI | Manila

World Boxing Organization (WBO) bantamweight champion John Riel Casimero is aching to meet fellow titleholder Guillermo Rigondeaux in the ring.

Manny Pacquiao Promotions chief Sean Gibbons has expressed desire for Casimero to take on the Cuban WBA regular champ in a match between a "classic boxer versus puncher."

"John Riel Casimero would love to do a favor for the boxing fans and retire Guillermo Rigondeaux once and for all! It would be a great fight," said Gibbons.

"Casimero can do a lot of different things. Rigondeaux is 20-1, only lost to Vasiliy Lomachenko in a fight way out of his weight division. He is a future Hall of Famer possibly. Casimero and him would be an explosive fight and I think the fans would really enjoy it."

Reports have surfaced about their potential unification bout.

The two champions, likewise, had an exchange of indirect banter with confidence on how they will fare against each other in the boxing ring.

Casimero has made it known that he is very confident that he would emerge victorious if the fight comes to fruition.

"He can say what he wants, but inside the ring we will be the referee - him and myself. Let's see if he can do it. Let's see if on that day he will really rip



Casimero is confident of beating the Cuban champion

John Riel Casimero would love to do a favor for the boxing fans and retire Guillermo Rigondeaux once and for all! It would be a great fight

MANNY PACQUIAO PROMOTIONS CHIEF SEAN GIBBONS

my head off. I'm the best pound for pound at 122 pounds and now I'm going for more," said Rigondeaux.

Casimero is currently on a six-match win streak with the latest coming from a technical knockout win over Ghanaian pug Duke Micah last September which was his first fight amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 32-year-old Casimero, who holds a 30-4 record on top of 21 KOs, has been in the waiting game for so long against unified WBA and IBF king Naoya

Inoue of Japan.

The duel between Casimero and Inoue has yet to materialize after being reset twice and Hall of Fame promoter and Top Rank honcho Bob Arum eventually matched up Inoue against Jason Moloney of Australia.

Inoue had defended his titles in a seventh-round knockout win against the Aussie foe.

Rigondeaux, for his part, last saw action in February 2020 with a split decision victory over Liborio Solis of Venezuela to improve at 20-1 record with 13 KOs.

Rigondeaux has won three fights in a row since his loss to Lomachenko while Casimero is riding a six-fight winning streak.

Prior to winning the bantamweight title, Rigondeaux campaigned as a junior featherweight for his entire career except for his fight against Lomachenko.