

## Hidd, Muharraq draw as Nasser bin Hamad league returns



Muharraaq's Fernandes celebrates after scoring the equalising goal

TDT | Manama

Title contenders Hidd and Muharraq played to a 1-1 stalemate last night as the 2019/2020 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League got back into action, following a months-long ban due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

Senegalese professional Mamadou Drame and naturalised striker Thiago Augusto Fernandes were the scorers for their respective teams.

Drame put Hidd in front with a goal on the stroke of half-time, while Fernandes equalised on the hour-mark to give Muharraq a share of the points.

Drame scored from a brilliant low cross by Mohammed Fares on the right wing, tapping the ball into the net after poor Muharraq defending.

Muharraq later levelled the proceedings with a Fernandes header, off a high cross from the right flank.

Muharraaq's Nigerian professional Prince Obus Aggreh found the net in the 82nd minute after a slotting home a rebound off an Ismael Abdulatif shot, but it was waived off as Aggreh was offside.

With the result, the two

teams remained two points apart atop the league standings. Hidd improved to 29 points in first place while Muharraq went to 27, with six games each remaining.

In other matches yesterday, Riffa defeated Manama 3-1 and Al Ahli beat Al Hala 3-0.

Riffa claimed their seventh win and improved to 22 points in third place, while Ahli won their fourth match and rose to 14 points while ranked seventh on the table. Manama suffered their third loss and stayed sixth with 15 points, while Hala were dealt their ninth defeat and remained bottom of the table with five points.

League action continues tonight with another two matches. Al Shabab play Al Najma at Khalifa Sports City and Busaiten take on East Riffa at the Muharraaq Club stadium, both scheduled for 7pm starts.

**29**  
points have been earned by Hidd to stay top of the table

# Hamilton back on top in Silverstone practice

Hamilton leads Mercedes 1-2 ahead of Ricciardo as Vettel suffers engine failure

● Bottas was the fastest in the day's first session

AFP | Silverstone

Lewis Hamilton led team mate Valtteri Bottas in a Mercedes one-two in practice for Formula One's 70th Anniversary Grand Prix yesterday as he set his sights on a second home win over successive weekends.

The six-times world champion, chasing a fourth win in a row on Sunday to stretch his 30-point lead over the Finn, lapped with a fastest time of one minute 25.606 seconds using medium tyres on a hot but cloudy afternoon.

Bottas, who had been fastest in the day's first session at Silverstone as drivers got to grips with Pirelli's softer tyres, was 0.176 slower.

Hamilton won last Sunday's British Grand Prix at the same circuit from pole position and despite a last lap puncture.

"I think it's been generally a good day. We had understanding, good findings from last week and I think made some small adjustments which have cut off a millisecond here and there," said Hamilton.

"So it's been positive in general. The tyres have been very soft but they're fine."

With 87 career wins, the Brit-



Lewis Hamilton steers his car during practice

on is closing in fast on Ferrari great Michael Schumacher's all-time record of 91 set between 1992 and 2006.

He could also become the first driver to take back-to-back wins at his home race, with Silverstone hosting two in a single season for the first time.

"I see it as an opportunity but Valtteri's going to be strong this weekend," said Hamilton. "You saw it in the last week that anything can happen, particularly in the last lap.

"But of course that would be an incredible accomplishment for us as a team."

Red Bull's Max Verstappen was best of the rest in the morning, 0.727 off the pace, and Renault's Australian Dan-

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LEWIS HAMILTON

iel Ricciardo filled that slot in the afternoon with the Dutch youngster fourth.

"The gap to Mercedes last weekend was big, so of course I

think it's quite normal that we can't magically change things within a few days, but we are doing what we can," said Verstappen. Racing Point, fined and with 15 points deducted after stewards upheld a Renault protest, looked quick with Lance Stroll ending the day fifth and experienced German stand-in Nico Hulkenberg sixth.

Hulkenberg, replacing Sergio Perez after the Mexican contracted COVID-19 and then tested positive for a second time, was fourth in the opening session. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was fifth and seventh fastest respectively but team mate Sebastian Vettel suffered an engine failure in the afternoon and ended up 14th.

## Fighters almost start brawl during BRAVE CF 38 weigh-ins, all athletes make weight

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BRAVE Combat Federation's second Sweden show in as many weeks takes place this Saturday, as fighters from 10 nations will compete with eyes on moving forward in their divisions. However, two Bantamweights almost started the event one day early as Bernardo Sopai and Tariq Ismail almost traded blows during their staredown after the official weigh-ins.

Both men stepped under the limit at Bantamweight, but when they squared off, their foreheads touched and they almost started a brawl, being stopped by BRAVE CF officials. The young Sopai promised he would "smash" his opponent and Ismail also had some choice word for the BRAVE CF debutant.

In the main event of the evening, Welterweights Carl Booth and Abdoul Abdouraguimov were respectful to each other in their weigh-ins, and Abdoul even joked by grabbing the Jamaican flag that Carl carried with him alongside the British flag and they both posed for photos in an upbeat mood.

Aside from the clash in the Bantamweight bout, the ceremonial weigh-in went on without major incidents. All athletes made weight, with most fighters reserving their energy for tomorrow night when BRAVE CF 38 puts on the most stacked card of the European Invasion, that has seen the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world take over the continent of Europe.



Carl Booth and Abdoul Abdouraguimov during weigh-in

### BRAVE CF 38 Weigh-in results

Welterweight: Abdoul Abdouraguimov (77,5 kg) vs Carl Booth (76,8 kg)  
 Super Lightweight: Benoit St. Denis (74,5 kg) vs Mario Saeed (75,1 kg)  
 Bantamweight: Bernardo Sopai (61,5 kg) vs Tariq Ismail (61,6 kg)  
 Super Lightweight: Issa Isakov (75,1 kg) vs Djamil Chan (74,8 kg)  
 Catchweight (56 kg): Malin Hermansson (55,8 kg) vs Elin Oberg (55,8 kg)  
 Catchweight (74 kg): Dilmurod Movlonov (73 kg) vs David Jacobsson (74 kg)  
 Catchweight (72 kg): Joakim Jankovic (71,8 kg) vs Robert Nystrom (71,6 kg)  
 Bantamweight: Jonny Touma (61 kg) vs Moher Azizi (61,5 kg)  
 Catchweight (68 kg): PK Zadeh (68 kg) vs Wasiu Idowu (68 kg)

## BRAVE CF's Welterweight division is stacked and full of hungry contenders

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BRAVE Combat Federation is known around the globe for its world-class scouting program, and for discovering talent like no other promotion in the business. After launching a number of athletes to stardom, all eyes are now on the organization's Welterweight division.

Led by world champion Jarrah Al-Selawe, arguably the best Arab fighter in the world, the weight class is packed and set to produce some of the most exciting fights in the next months.

Apart from Al-Selawe, two of his former foes are set to meet soon. France's submission specialist Abdoul Abdouraguimov and England's striking powerhouse Carl "The Bomber" Booth will headline BRAVE CF's second iteration in Sweden, in a fight that is likely to set the next title contender, although no official word yet from the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world has cemented that fight as a number one contender's bout.

Joining them at the high ranks of the Welterweight division is Switzerland knock-



With a handful of key fights coming up and many names in contention for a shot against the kingpin Al-Selawe, BRAVE CF's Welterweight division is definitely one to keep an eye on moving forward

out artist Kevin Ruart, who is currently on a seven-win streak and won his most-recent bout via first-round-knockout against Ion Surdu, at BRAVE CF 36, in Romania. Ruart has dynamite in his hands and has become known as KO machine during his time with BRAVE CF, as both of his victories have gone viral for the way he dismantles his opponents. Aside from Surdu, Ruart also knocked out Ibrahim Mane late last year at BRAVE CF 31.

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Subscription & circulation: Tel: 36458394 | Email: subscription@newsobahrain.com | Website: www.newsobahrain.com | Printed and published by Al Ayam Publishing