

SPORTS
sports

MRF Challenge set for round two at BIC



Participants in action during MRF Challenge (file photo)

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is all set to host one of Asia's premier single-seater racing series as part of the support programme for this upcoming weekend's FIA WEC Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain.

The India-based MRF Challenge will be staging the second of three rounds in its 2019/2020 season at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" on December 13 and 14.

The MRF Challenge is India's only FIA-inscribed championship, conveniently slotted in the winter months. Over the past seven seasons, the MRF Challenge has proven to be a great platform for racing aspirants looking to not just keep themselves in competitive trim during the European off-season, but also bolster their racing credentials.

The event in Bahrain follows the first meeting of Season Eight, which took place last month in the UAE. Five races were held at Dubai Autodrome with nearly a dozen drivers taking part.

Belgian youngster Michelangelo Amendola won a triple crown after clinching the first, second and fifth sprints. Australian Dylan Young won race three, while race four was claimed by Indian-American Yuven Sundaramoorthy.

Another four races will be

held in Bahrain this weekend, while the final round of the season will take place in Chennai, India from February 13 to 16.

Heading into the events in Bahrain, Arun Mammen, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of MRF Tyres, commented: "It has been an exciting journey for us as we present the eighth edition of the MRF Challenge. We provide identical cars to all the drivers and so, the key differentiating factor is the driving ability."

"It has also been our constant endeavour to develop the car which is now among the fastest single-seaters in Asia. The MRF Challenge also offers us rich data that in turn helps us to develop further the MRF Z.L.O. slicks and wet tyres."

Over the years, the MRF Challenge has featured quite a few high-profile racers like Mick Schumacher, son of seven-time Formula 1 champion Michael Schumacher; Harrison Newey, son of Formula 1 design guru Adrian Newey; Manuel Maldonado, cousin of former Formula 1 driver Pastor Maldonado; female Formula 1 test driver with Alfa Romeo Racing Tatiana Calderon; and last season's champion Jamie Chadwick, who is also the first-ever champion of the W Series and the first-ever lady driver to win an international race at Bahrain International Circuit.

Daniel claims first Middleweight title

Daniel "Gaucho" Souza Pereira brutalizes Chad Hanekom to become first-ever BRAVE CF Middleweight champion

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It was a night to remember for Daniel "Gaucho" Souza Pereira, who wrote his own name in the history books as the first-ever BRAVE Combat Federation Middleweight world champion. With a violent performance in the main event of BRAVE CF 31, in Durban, South Africa, he silenced the South-African fans by knocking out local hero Chad Hanekom in the second round.

With a sprawl-and-brawl tactic, Daniel was able to fend off submissions attempts by Hanekom in the first round, before hurting him in the last few seconds. Still stunned, Hanekom came out in the second round without being able to fight to the best of his abilities, which played into the Brazilian powerhouse's hand.

Showing a lot of patience by waiting for the right moment to attack, Daniel connected with a violent combination and kept on Hanekom until the referee stopped the fight, putting him amongst BRAVE CF folklore as the first-ever world champion in the Middleweight division.

Also on the incredible fight night, a great performance by both Djamil Chan and Amin Ayoub ended with the French debutant having his hand raised, as he locked in a surprise and quick guillotine choke in the third round.

Jeremy Smith and Mzwandile Hlongwa lived up to the hype and put on an unforgettable



Daniel 'Gaucho' Souza Pereira celebrates his win

BRAVE CF 31 Results:

MAIN CARD

Middleweight World Title: Daniel Souza def. Chad Hanekom by TKO - Round 2
Catchweight bout (58 kg): Dansheel Moodley def. Anton Larsson by unanimous decision
Catchweight bout (73 kg): Amin Ayoub def. Djamil Chan by submission (guillotine) - Round 3
Middleweight bout: Mzwandile Hlongwa def. Jeremy Smith by unanimous decision
Welterweight bout: Kevin Ruart def. Ibrahim Mane by KO - Round 3

PRELIMINARY CARD

Featherweight bout: Tariq Ismail def. Cedric Doyle by unanimous decision
Bantamweight bout: Abdul Hussein def. Martin Debeer by submission (ninja choke) - Round 1
Bantamweight bout: Nkosi Ndebele def. Ian Cleary by unanimous decision
Welterweight bout: Jason Culverwell def. Dimitri Fogg by submission (triangle choke) - Round 2
Welterweight bout: Eleizer Kubanza def. Matt Raynard by KO - Round 3

show for the Durban crowd, as both men kept swinging the fences from the first to the last minute. In the end, the ef-

fectiveness of Hlongwa was too much for Smith.

Opening up the main card, another violent KO, as Kevin

Ruart put the lights out on Ibrahim Mane after the two men had an incredibly close first two rounds.

BTA Junior Tournament concludes

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The final rounds of both the 12-and-under and 14-and-under categories were held at the Dilmun Club, Saar on what was the final day's play of the BTA Junior Tennis Tournament, organised by Bahrain Tennis Academy (BTA).

The top four players were due to return for both the 12-and-under and 14-and-under group stages returned to battle it out for the trophies.

In the 12-and-under category, Rohan Mukherjee was crowned the champion after receiving a walkover in both the semi-final and final due to the Saudi contingency of Haiyder Al-Fareed, Abdulrazzaq Al-Henabi and Ali Al-Ahmed being unable to return for their matches.

In the 14-and-under play-off for the third place medal, Raj Singh defeated Rohan Mukherjee 10-7, 9-10, 10-9. Then in



14-and-under finalists with the Tournament Director

the final, James Blair defeated Jaber Abdulaal 10-6, 10-5 to claim the title.

14-and-under results

Semi-finals: James Blair d. Rohan Mukherjee 10-4, 10-4, Jaber

Abdulaal d. Raj Singh 10-4, 10-1 3rd/4th play-off: Raj Singh d. Rohan Mukherjee 10-7, 9-10, 10-9

Final: James Blair defeated Jaber Abdulaal 10-6, 10-5

BraveCF to kick off 2020 with Slovenia debut

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BRAVE Combat Federation will keep landing in new territories in 2020, as the fastest-growing organization in the world will move on from its month of madness in December, with three events in three different regions, to its debut in Slovenia. BRAVE CF 34 will take place in Ljubljana, on January 19th, in an exclusive partnership with WFC, the leading promotion in the region.

The partnership was closed during the visit of Zlatko Mahic, the president of WFC, to the Kingdom of Bahrain during the BRAVE International Combat Week. While in Bahrain, Mahic had a meeting with Mohammed Shahid, president of BRAVE CF, when the two parties agreed to partner up and

help the development of the booming MMA scene in the Balkans.

In the coming weeks, BRAVE Nation fans can expect the full fight card to be announced, as Slovenia gears up to become the 19th nation to host a BRAVE Combat Federation show, as the organization keeps pushing for worldwide opportunities from fighters from all corners of the globe.

BRAVE CF 34 will mark the first time BRAVE Combat Federation lands in the Balkans, as well as the fourth show to take place in the continent of Europe. BRAVE CF has also hosted events in Africa, South America, North America, Middle East, South East Asia, and will make its debut in Central Asia on December 14th, with BRAVE CF 32 taking place in Kyrgyzstan.

Sri Lankan Stars to play Bahrain Red in Women's Cricket Tournery final

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Sri Lankan Stars will play Bahrain Red in the final of the first ISB Mega Fair Softball Night Cricket Tournament 2019 for women at the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) ground in Isa Town.

The final will be played on Thursday, at 8pm. The qualifying rounds on Friday witnessed some interesting matches. Six teams participated in the tournament in two groups.

In one exciting match, Sri Lankan Stars scored 125 runs in just 5 overs which is the highest total in women's cricket tournament in the Indian School grounds. They scored these runs during their match against Karnataka Social Club.