

Mohamed Said Maalem rekindles fiery feud with Mohammad Fakhreddine

Manama

Mohamed "L'Ambiance" Said Maalem has finally scaled the summit of mixed martial arts, but the glow of championship gold has not dimmed the memory of a rival he refuses to forget.

Even after delivering a career-defining triumph, the Algerian-Swiss powerhouse finds himself drawn back into the orbit of Mohammad "The Latest" Fakhreddine.

At BRAVE CF 106 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on Saturday, June 6, Said Maalem authored one of the most dramatic turnarounds in recent memory.

Facing defending champion and rival Erko "The Bounty Hunter" Jun in a high-stakes rematch, he absorbed adversi-



ty before flipping the contest on its head, sealing a fourth-round stoppage to capture the BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight World Title in the co-main event.

Yet the celebration carried an unmistakable undertone of unfinished history.

During his post-fight conversation with play-by-play voice Phil Campbell, the newly

crowned king wasted no time redirecting attention toward a familiar adversary.

"Give me Fakhreddine. Fakhro, come here, boy," Said Maalem declared.

The response from the reigning BRAVE CF Middleweight World Champion came swiftly and without hesitation.

"Challenge accepted. I'm about to come and get your a** again," Fakhreddine replied on social media.

The hostility between the two is rooted in a turbulent shared past that has refused to fade with time.

Their first encounter at BRAVE CF 52 in August 2021 in Milan, Italy, saw Said Maalem seemingly reach the pinnacle of his career after overwhelming Fakhreddine and securing a

first-round technical knockout for the vacant BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight World Title.

He even left the arena with the belt wrapped around his waist, believing destiny had finally answered.

That moment, however, was short-lived. A post-fight review later revealed illegal strikes to the back of the head during the finishing sequence, prompting officials and the Italian commission to overturn the result to a no-contest.

The victory, along with the championship celebration, was erased from the record.

When fate brought them together again at BRAVE CF 57 — this time happening in Bahrain — in March 2022, Fakhreddine settled the score in definitive fashion, halting Said Maalem in

the second round to seize the vacant crown and firmly slam the door on his rival's redemption arc.

Now, with the belt once again resting on his shoulders, Said Maalem stands at another crossroads.

The ghost of Milan and the sting of defeat in their rematch continue to linger, and the path forward appears to lead back to the same man who has defined so much of Said Maalem's anguish.

With BRAVE CF's competitive landscape shifting once more, this renewed friction could pave the way for the most consequential trilogy clash in the promotion's history, and potentially the most heated rivalry the growing Arab MMA scene has ever witnessed.

Bahrain to compete in 2026 World Snooker Team Championship in China

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will participate in the 2026 World Snooker Team Championship, scheduled to take place in Guangdong Province, People's Republic of China, from June 16 to 19.

The national team will be represented by promising young players Abdullah Al Aali and Abdullah Mohammed, marking another important step in Bahrain's continued development of cue sports at the international level.

Organised under the International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF), the championship will be hosted by the

Chinese Billiard Sports Association (CBSA) in collaboration with the Guangdong Billiards Association. This will be the third consecutive year that the CBSA has staged the event, reflecting its ongoing commitment to promoting and developing cue sports globally.

The IBSF and CBSA have extended invitations to all member nations to participate; entries are required by May 15. A total of 24 teams will compete, each consisting of up to three players and one team delegate or coach. Excluding the host nation, China, each country is permitted to enter one team in accordance with qualification criteria.

Chery Bahrain Supports Local Sporting Talent as Title Sponsor of Badminton Tournament

Manama

Chery Bahrain, operating under The Bahraini Asian Motors W.L.L. by Motorcity, took part as the title sponsor of the CHERY-BBSF-POWERJADE Junior Ranking Circuit 2 and Eid Open Tournament held at Al Nasser Club in Juffair from May 29 to 31.

The tournament, organised by PowerJade Academy in collaboration with the Bahrain Badminton & Squash Federation (BBSF), brought together junior and senior badminton players from across the Kingdom.

The competition featured boys' and girls' singles and doubles matches across Under-9 to Under-19 categories, alongside senior and veteran events. A total of 279 players participated, with 48 winners and 48 runners-up recognised across various divisions.

Tournament referee Shanil Abdul Rahim said the event set "a fantastic new benchmark for youth sports" in Bahrain, while



Tournament Director Jinesh praised the partnership with Chery in supporting player development.

Suaid Mulla, Senior Marketing Manager for Chery, said the

company remains committed to supporting community initiatives that encourage youth development, healthy lifestyles and sporting excellence in Bahrain.

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Stokes facing uncertain future as England captain after nightclub incident 'with rugby player'

AFP | London

Ben Stokes' position as England cricket captain was in jeopardy Monday after officials announced he was being investigated for a nightclub incident reportedly involving a Saracens rugby player.

Stokes and team-mate Gus Atkinson are facing a probe by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for breaking team rules in the early hours of Monday morning following England's win in the first Test against New Zealand at Lord's.

It is the latest controversy concerning the England team following a tour of Australia where the side faced allegations of a drinking culture during a 4-1 Ashes series loss concluded in January.

If Stokes is stripped of the captaincy, vice-captain Harry Brook -- already the skipper of England's white-ball teams -- could lead the hosts in next week's second Test across London at the Oval.

This would represent a re-



England captain Ben Stokes (R) congratulates Gus Atkinson (L) during a match (file photo)

markable reversal for Brook, who was fined and censured for late-night drinking and clashing with a nightclub bouncer before captaining England in a one-day international in Wellington in October.

"The ECB is currently investigating a breach of team protocols following the conclusion of the first Men's Test against New Zealand," the governing body said in a statement issued Monday.

Wembanyama sparks Spurs past Knicks in NBA Finals as Trump booted

AFP | New York

Victor Wembanyama scored 32 points to inspire the San Antonio Spurs to a 115-111 victory over New York in the NBA Finals on Monday, snapping the Knicks' 13-game win streak with President Donald Trump booted as he watched on.

Frenchman Wembanyama added eight rebounds, six assists, three blocks and two steals at Madison Square Garden as the Spurs cut the Knicks' lead to 2-1 in the best-of-seven championship series.

"We've done what we were supposed to do but the job is absolutely not done," the 22-year-old Wembanyama said. "We're not even halfway. The hardest is yet to come."

The Spurs knew no team has ever won an NBA playoff series after losing the first three games, helping push them after



San Antonio's Victor Wembanyama, center, and teammate De'Aaron Fox react

late-game blunders cost them in a game-two home loss.

"Less mistakes, more control," the 7ft 4in (2.24m) Wembanyama said. "It's the little things. We were more serious. Less mistakes. Less turnovers."

Stephon Castle added 23

points for the Spurs while Dylan Harper had 13 off the bench.

"He has got great poise," Wembanyama said of Castle. "It's hard to put into words how valuable he is to us."

Jalen Brunson led New York with 32 points while OG

Anunoby added 28, but the Knicks shot 40-of-88 from the floor and only hit 13-of-37 from three-point range.

"What was better in the defense was communication, being early," said Wembanyama.

The Knicks' win streak was halted two shy of the NBA playoff-record 15 in a row won by Golden State on the way to the 2017 title.

The Spurs seek their sixth NBA title and first since 2014 while the Knicks won their only crowns in 1970 and 1973.

A raucous crowd created an electric atmosphere for the first NBA Finals game at Madison Square Garden since 1999.

That included boos for Trump, the first sitting president to attend an NBA Finals game, when he was shown on the arena videoseen.