

SPORTS  
sports**Athletes welcome new weight classes**

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation revealed that two new weight classes are officially announced during Brave 19 hosted in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The weight classes will be active from the year 2019. Bahrain based global MMA promotion will adopt the super lightweight (165 pounds) and super welterweight (175 pounds) weight classes, eliminating the traditional welterweight (170 pounds) in the process.

The current welterweight champion Jarrah Hussein Al-Silawi, who claimed the 170-pound belt with a first-round victory over Carlston Harris in September, will be crowned the super welterweight titleholder when the change is made official.

The new weight classes will make it easier for fighters to make the weights and would lower risks of weight cuts. It also means that fighters are likely to fight closer to natural weight.

After the announcements, Carl Booth, Tahar Hadbi and David Bear expressed their interest to join 175 division which is opted by Jarrah Al-Selawe.

**AC Milan held by Torino**

AC Milan missed a chance to pile pressure on local rivals Inter Milan in Serie A

AFP | Milan

AC Milan missed a chance to pile pressure on local rivals and fellow Champions League chasers Inter Milan in Serie A after being held to a goalless draw by Torino at the San Siro on Sunday.

Gennaro Gattuso's fourth-placed Milan are three points behind Inter, who lost to leaders Juventus on Friday, after wasting opportunities to win the match, with forward Patrick Cutrone missing a golden chance with four minutes left and Gonzalo Higuain, returning from a two-match ban, also denied late.

Milan's wastefulness wasn't punished by Torino, four points behind Milan in sixth and still unbeaten away from home, thanks to goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma denying Iago Falque and Andrea Belotti.

"I don't consider it a missed opportunity, as we knew very well that Torino are a difficult team," said Gattuso.

"It's a good point. I don't see it as a bad performance at all. I am sure that a year ago, we would have lost this game."



AC Milan's Spanish forward Suso (L) runs for the ball with Torino's French defender Koffi Djidji

Milan also had the chance to move away from Lazio, who contrived to draw 2-2 with Sampdoria on Saturday despite taking lead five minutes into stoppage time, and Roma, who threw away a two-goal lead to draw at Cagliari after Sardinians were reduced to nine men.

All lag behind Juve, who are eight points clear of second-placed Napoli.

Earlier Duvan Zapata got Atalanta back to winning ways after consecutive losses with a

hat-trick against former club Udinese that brought them to within touching distance of Champions League places, last of which is occupied by Milan.

"Zapata's enjoying a good moment," said Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini, after the South American also scored in last week's defeat to Napoli, who had loaned him to Udinese.

"He's in great condition and is an extra option for us."

Colombian striker Zapata's goals put Gian Piero Gasperini's side seventh, level on 21 points with three other teams and five behind Milan.

"We're in the company of great teams, everyone can fight for the Europa League and maybe even for fourth place," said Gasperini.

**Piatek overtakes Ronaldo**

Cesare Prandelli started his reign as Genoa coach with a 1-1 draw against fellow strugglers SPAL, despite captain Domenico Criscito being sent off in the 11th minute.

Andrea Petagna had headed SPAL ahead minutes after Criscito's dismissal for a high tackle,

but Krzysztof Pietek earned Genoa a point from the penalty spot with his 11th goal of the season -- taking him ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo at the top of the scoring charts.

On-loan Everton winger Kevin Mirallas struck his first Serie A goal six minutes into injury time to snatch a point for Fiorentina in a dramatic 3-3 draw at Sassuolo that saw both teams finish with 10 men.

Belgian Mirallas, 31, who joined the Tuscan side on a season-long loan after falling out of favour at Goodison Park, came on as a late substitute and made an instant impact when he beat Sassuolo keeper Andrea Consigli with seconds remaining.

A chaotic final period saw Sassuolo's Filip Djuricic and Fiorentina's Nikola Milenkovic sent off before Fiorentina struck back.

Mirallas' late leveller, which came after his side had gone 3-1 down with 10 minutes remaining, means ninth-placed Sassuolo are also on 21 points, two points ahead of Fiorentina, who drop to 12th after their eighth game without a win.



AC Milan's 19-year-old goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma played his 100th consecutive full Serie A game

**Al-Selawe shoots down rematch opportunity for Booth**

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Carl Booth made his return to Brave Combat Federation after nearly a year of absence in the promotion. The welterweight from England made a huge statement when he knocked out of South African veteran Dino Bagattin at Brave 19 held at Johannesburg in South Africa.

In the bout, that is crucial to his career after two consecutive losses, Booth wasted no time as he aggressively dominated the fighter from South Africa. Bagattin was knocked out in the very first round which gave Booth his first victory for the year 2018.

Booth's only losses in Brave Combat Federation came against the current and previous welterweight world champions. Booth made his professional debut when he knocked out the reigning welterweight world champion, Jarrah Al Selawe within 31 seconds of the first round.

In the bout that took almost 8 years in the making, Al-Selawe faced Booth



Carl Booth confronts Jarrah Al Selawe

at Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions held in the Kingdom of Bahrain during the Brave International Combat Week 2017. Al-Selawe won the bout by unanimous decision.

Booth was asked whom he wants to face next, to which the fighter who trains at Nottingham MMA responded, "Anyone close to the title contention, man. Jarrah is holding the title at the

moment. Give me someone who is a top man."

However, the reigning welterweight world champion did not mince his words when it came to his old rival. Jarrah Al Selawe who is currently 13-2-0 in his professional career with the most number of wins in Brave Combat Federation with 6 wins in his 6 appearances retaliated.

**Major Indian MMA fighter withdraws due to injury**

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Brave Combat Federation will host the twentieth edition of the event on 22nd December in the Gachibowli stadium located in Hyderabad, India.

Abdul Muneer was among the biggest names in Indian MMA who had fought in main cards of a global mixed martial arts promotion. The featherweight fighter was injured during a wrestling session during his training for Brave 20.

Muneer upon medical checks was advised to take complete rest for three weeks which ended his dreams to compete in India.

Abdul Muneer who had competed in nine professional bouts winning six of them was set to face Ali Qaisi from Jordan. Brave Combat Federation will be finding a replacement to face Ali Qaisi in the coming days.

Abdul Muneer had visited the Kingdom of Bahrain multiple times and have a fan following in the GCC. The 2016 Indian Fighter of the Year is also a 7 times State Champion in Boxing.

Brave 20 is the biggest Mixed Mar-



Abdul Muneer

tial Arts event to take place in India and will be MMA event to take place in India with the highest global broadcast coverage. The main event of Brave 20 will be headlined by a clash between Sidney Wheeler from the USA and Leon Aliu from Italy.



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Organisers and participants of the cricket tournament part of the Indian School Mega Fair pose for a photo after the opening ceremony yesterday. On the first day, three teams competed in which Bombay Boyz and Fog Printers moved to the quarter finals. Fog Printers beat Ibn Al Hytham Islamic school for nine wickets in the first match of Group F. In the second match, the Bombay Boyz won by five wickets against Ibn Al Hytham Islamic school. In the third match in Group E, the Bombay Boyz defeated the Fog Printers by 10 wickets.