

# ASIA'S LARGEST MMA EVENT



# Bahrain dominate at IMMAF Worlds

Bahrain clinched five wins on the first day of IMMAF World Championship

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**T**eam Bahrain's run at 2019 IMMAF World Championship started with a blast. The athletes representing the Kingdom secured five wins over six bouts and turned the Day 1 of the tournament into a huge success for the hosts, holders of the first position of the international rankings, a feat that will be on the line throughout the competitions.

The first fighter entering the 2019 IMMAF WC cage was Abdulla Mubarak, who scored a unanimous decision over Cristiano Ottaviani, from Italy. The win came with a dominant performance by the Bahraini prospect.

The same scenario was seen in the next bout, a Bantamweight contest, between Bahrain's Ab-

dulla Mubarak and Czech's Miroslav Peroutka. The Bahraini controlled the match and put on a stellar performance to secure 2-0 in the day for his country, leaving the crowd ecstatic.

At Lightweight, Abbas Khan was able to overcome Pavel Senchenko, from Ukraine, handing Team Bahrain one more victory in the first day of competitions.

Ramazan Gitinov sent a message to the entire Welterweight division with a submission win over Jairo Carreon, from Mexico, while Sultan Omarov got a knockout win over Carlos Gamboa, getting his Middleweight run off to a great start.

Throughout the day, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa proved once again his commitment to the sport of MMA, and its development in the Kingdom



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa with a winner

of Bahrain by cornering fighters and giving them advice during their bouts and in-between rounds as well. Shaikh Khaled



A winner celebrates after a fight

was an energetic presence for the athletes, who welcomed the chance of listening and taking in his advices.

# Bahrain is an incubator of MMA, says Shaikh Nasser

● HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa inaugurated 2019 BRAVE International Combat Week

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**H**H Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Charity Works, the National Security Advisor, President of the Supreme Council of Youth and Sports underscored that Bahrain has become an incubator for MMA at the international level thanks to the success the Kingdom has achieved through this event which is taking place in Bahrain for the third year in a row.

HH Shaikh Nasser's statement came during his inauguration to the BRAVE International Combat Week in the presence of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa look on during the event

of Bahrain Olympic Committee, Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Deputy President of the Supreme Council For Environment and Head of the Coordination, Follow-up and Implementation Committee in the Supreme Council of Youth and Sports, Kerrith Brown, President of the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation, Aymen bin Tawfeeq Al Moayed, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs and many VIPs as well as senior officials.

"Bahrain has achieved many accomplishments in the MMA sport thanks to the support ex-

erted to it by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, thanks to which the Kingdom is occupying a leading position in the MMA at the international level," HH Shaikh Nasser said.

"I would like also to praise HH Shaikh Khalid's exceptional efforts that have allowed this sport to accomplish a lot of achievements," HH Shaikh Nasser added, also valuing the contributions of Bahrain Combat Sports Council under the chairmanship of Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa.

From his side, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa confirmed that the event represents a real opportunity for the MMA sport to reach a new level. He lauded the enormous provided to the game by HM the King which has allowed it to occupy a higher position internationally.

Meanwhile, Brown praised the organisation level of the event, expressing his confidence in seeing the event achieves similar successes to the previous ones. He valued HH Shaikh Nasser's sponsorship to the game.

# Brazilian army touch down in Bahrain ahead of Brave 29



Brazilian fighters upon their arrival in Bahrain

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**B**RAVE International Combat Week is the yearly, and much-anticipated, return of BRAVE Combat Federation to its home, the Kingdom of Bahrain. This time around, though, the event could also use the tagline "Brazilian Army", given the strong presence of Brazil representatives.

Four of the six Brazilians featured on BRAVE 29 got to the Bahrain International Airport together and ready to make history in just a few days.

Star of the main event of the evening, a Flyweight inaugural title bout against Jose "Shorty" Torres, Marcel Adur shared his thoughts on the upcoming challenge.

"Just landed here in Bahrain and got the typical warm welcome from everyone at BRAVE. I'm looking forward to the fight and expecting a win. I'm facing a very tough opponent in Jose Torres but I've faced fighters as tough, if not tougher than him. I'm sure this will be the most important step in my way to the top so all I want is for him to be ready. Ready for one, two,

three, or five rounds because, regardless, I'm leaving with this belt", Adur said.

Adur's arrival coincided with his former CM System teammates' Luan "Miau" Santiago and Felipe Silva. The former Lightweight champion Miau returns to Bahrain, this time moving up to the Super Lightweight division, to face Russia's Gadzhimusa Gaziev. On the other hand, Silva is making his Bahraini debut and will meet Georgia's Guram Kutateladze, in a bout delayed from BRAVE Colombia earlier this year — after a Guram's injury forced his withdrawal and changed Felipe's opponent a week prior to the event.

Joining Adur, Silva, and Santiago, Luana Pinheiro also got the Kingdom of Bahrain, followed by her boyfriend, coach, and BRAVE CF fighter Matheus Nicolau. After two impressive wins in her first BRAVE appearances, Pinheiro comes to the biggest event of the year ready to take on England's Helen Harper.

The "Brazilian Army" will be completed on November 12, with the arrivals of the remaining three members.



Audience cheer during the event