

Bahrain unifies MMA: Shaikh Nasser

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HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa affirmed that the Kingdom of Bahrain has become a favoured destination for all athletes and parties wishing to organise a distinguished tournament combining all elements of success.

This came as the Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Olympic Committee inaugurated BRAVE International Combat Week, the largest Mixed Martial Arts sports festival in Asia.

“Bahrain is a favoured destination due to the high organisational capabilities and qualified national cadres who are adept at handling the burdens and requirements of these competitions”, HH Shaikh Nasser said during the inauguration ceremony which was attended by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad

Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Honorary President of the Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation, Chairman of the High Organising Committee of BRAVE International Combat Week and Kerrith Brown, President of the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF).

HH Shaikh Nasser said that HH Shaikh Khalid has made significant efforts to promote the spread of MMA culture not only in the Kingdom of Bahrain, but also at regional and global levels through the clear steps taken by him to establish a solid base for this sport, which has contributed to the increase in the number of centres and schools that embrace various types of combat sports.

“This is evident in His Highness’ support for Bahrain’s hosting of the World MMA Championship, which represents a qualitative leap in the progress of MMA in Bahrain. The organisation of the championship for



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa (R) inaugurates Brave International Combat Week as HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa (L) and Kerrith Brown looks on



The organisation of the championship for the second time is a clear affirmation of the high position Bahrain occupies as a centre to unify the MMA community

HH SHAIKH NASSER BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

the second time in Bahrain is a clear affirmation of the high position that Bahrain occupies as a centre to unify the MMA community to start building a better future for this world-class sport.”

For his part HH Shaikh Khalid said that BRAVE International Combat Week will be an ideal opportunity for a true launch of MMA games, in order to raise its level and ensure its global spread.

Drag racers set for epic battles

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The region’s biggest and most competitive drag racing series is back in action this week with Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) playing host to the season-opening round of the 2018/2019 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship.

BIC’s quarter-mile drag strip, a member of the prestigious National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Worldwide Network, is the venue for four nights of non-stop head-to-head action from today to Friday.

Drivers from all across the Gulf and beyond are set to battle it out in the 16 competition categories for both cars and motorbikes.

The participants will be vying for the season’s titles as well as a highly sought-after “Wally” trophy, aside from pride and the ultimate bragging rights.

The classes this season include 11 for cars and five for motorcycles.

The cars categories consist of: Street 4-5-6 Cylinder, Street RWD, 8+ Cyl, Super Street RWD 4-5-6 Cyl, Super Street Rear (V8+), Outlaw RWD, 4-6 Cyl, Outlaw RWD 4-5-6 Cyl, Outlaw 10.5 RWD (8+ Cyl), Competition 4.5 & 4.0, Index 10.50 Class & 9.50 Class, Index 8.50, and the Pro Mod category. For motorcycles, the classes include the Stock (Street Fight), Street, Super Street, Pro and the Hot Rod (Cruiser) HD.

Two evenings of Test and Tune gets the opening round underway. The first is scheduled for today evening, while the second is on Wednesday night, from 6pm to 11pm. Qualifying follows on Thursday and Race Day is on Friday. Action begins at 4pm on those final two days.

The 2018/2019 season is set to feature five rounds, to be held until early March of next year. Round two is set from December 18 to 22, followed by round three in January. Round four in February, and the championship finale in February.

BTA Junior Tennis Tournament registration opens

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From 23rd November to 1st December, Bahrain Tennis Academy (BTA) will be holding a junior tennis tournament at the Dilmun Club, Saar. Events will be held in four categories: 8-and-under, 10-and-under, 12-and-under and 14-and-under.

The competition will feature matchplay in a round-robin format using the red, orange and full-size courts, along with the corresponding ball, in line with the International Tennis Federation’s guidelines.

The tournament is open to all boys and girls who are of an eligible age at the start date. Certificates will be presented to all participants while the winners and finalists will be awarded trophies.

Inspiring fitness journey of Shaikh Khalid ahead of opening ceremony

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HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa went the extra mile to gift Mohammed Buhaz’a a day to remember and to prove to the world that it is worth to fight for the dreams.

The opening ceremony showcased Mohammed Buhaz’a facing HH Shaikh Khalid in a friendly bout in front of his friends and coaches who trains him martial arts.

Buhaz’a won the bout and celebrated the moment with confetti showering as he was announced as the winner. The moment was cheered by the attendees with teary eyes witnessing the joy of Buhaz’a who hugged his role model and hero, HH Shaikh Khalid and walked along to meet HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

In preparation to the bout HH Shaikh Khalid left no stone unturned as he made sure that he will drop down to the weight of Buhaz’a at 70 kilograms

done in mixed martial art rules.

It took a gruesome weight cut of roughly 14.5 kilograms in less than one and a half months. The step was taken to make sure no stones were unturned while making the day the biggest not only for Mohammed Buhaz’a but for his friends who are taking the step towards overcoming their limitations to chase

their dreams.

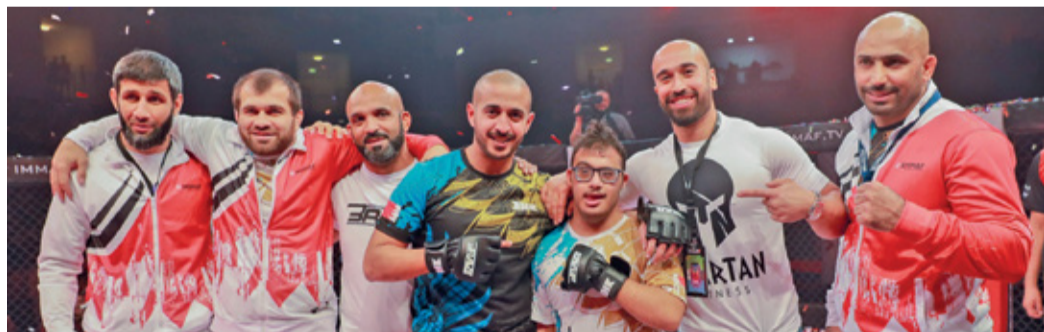
Cutting weight is one of the most gruesome tasks leading to an MMA fight where the fighter is forced to undergo strict diet and cutting water to pass the stipulated weight category. Though the bout was a friendly session, it was made to a point that the rules are followed to set an example for dedication and commitment.

The initiative also was the launch of KHK Heroes which is an initiative to inspire global compassion to drive inclusivity and support to the underprivileged and to those in society with special needs.

“I am out of words to describe the moment. HH Shaikh Khalid proved a point not only by supporting the differently abled and under privileged youth in Bahrain but also by making sure that every step towards the moment is taken seriously. This is a wake up call for all those who are yet to chase their dreams,” said Eldar Eldarov, Head Coach of Bahrain National team.



HH Shaikh Khalid went through a gruesome weight cut before facing Mohammed Buhaz’a in order to follow the MMA rule



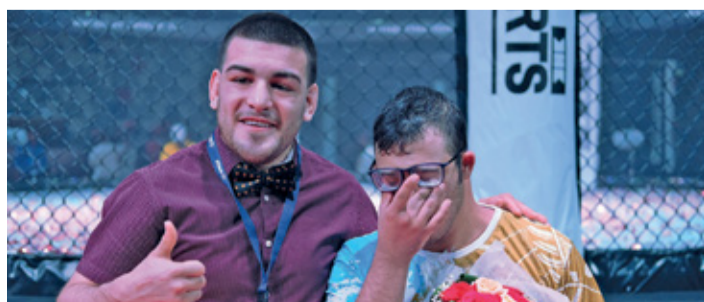
HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa with Mohammed Buhaz'a

Jose “Shorty” Torres supports KHK Heroes during Brave ICW 2018

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Jose “Shorty” Torres, the two-time IMMAF World champion, champion in two-weight categories at Titan FC and KHK MMA fighter arrived in the Kingdom of Bahrain to support Brave International Combat Week.

The flyweight fighter has previously trained extensively in the Kingdom of Bahrain at KHK



Jose Torres with Mohammed Buhaz'a at Khalifa Sports City

MMA and were among the first fighters to join the team.

The two-time IMMAF World champion will be taking up the commentary responsibilities during the 2018 world championship. Torres will be in Bahrain from 12th November till 18th November at the Khalifa Sports City and during the events held by Brave Combat Federation.

During the opening ceremony,

Torres extended his support to KHK Heroes. He personally met Mohammed Buhaz’a with a warm embrace and extended his support towards the initiative. Torres interacted with Buhaz’a and praised his will and resolve to compete. Buhaz’a was overwhelmed by the respect and admiration from the professional fighter which left him in tears of joy.



Lucas Mineiro and Luan Santiago with KHK Heroes

Brazilian athletes extends support for KHK Heroes

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Lucas Mineiro, Lightweight world champion of Brave Combat Federation and Luan Santiago, 2016 Brazilian Fighter of the Year extended their support towards KHK Heroes which was launched during the inauguration ceremony of Brave International Combat Week 2018 at the Khalifa Sports City in Bahrain.

The athletes stated that the initiative will be supported by the Brazilian community in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the fighters from Brazil. Mineiro who has personal projects for the underprivileged children and for children with special needs extended his intentions to support KHK Heroes.

Santiago and Mineiro joined Buhaz’a and friends in their post victory celebrations which was later joined by Jose “Shorty” Torres. The fighters interacted with the children and expressed how amazing

it was to watch their friend in action in the cage. Both of the fighters posed for photographs with Buhaz’a and friends.

Mineiro is set to compete Abdul Kareem Al-Selwady in the main event of Brave 18 held on 16th November at the Khalifa Sports City. Luan Santiago will face knockout specialist, Djamil Chan in the undercard of the fight night.

“The opening ceremony of Brave International Combat Week 2018 will live forever in our memories due to the presence of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Mohammed Buhaz’a. Not only they inspired the world but also let us search our soul and find motivation to exceed and chase our dreams. KHK Heroes is so close to our heart and we are proud to represent Brazil on such a glorious occasion. This gives us motivation to represent our nation and bring back gold and glory from the Brave nation of Bahrain”, said Lucas Mineiro.