

SPORTS  
sports

# Chimaev eyes three belts, starting at BRAVE CF 37

● **Undefeated Khamzat Chimaev is set to face Jarrah Al-Selawe at BRAVE CF 37's main event**

TDT | Manama

**K**hamzat Chimaev has high hopes for himself and his career with BRAVE Combat Federation. At 6-0 in his professional career, "Borz" is already a part of history as he's set to challenge reigning Welterweight world champion Jarrah Al-Selawe in what's being billed as the biggest fight in the company's history.

The two will meet at BRAVE CF 37's main event, which takes place in association with AK Fighting Championships, in Stockholm, Sweden, on April 18th. It will be a fitting homecoming for Chimaev, who has adopted Sweden as his home and trains at the world-renowned AllStars Training Center, with the likes of Alexander Gustafsson, Reza Madadi, and Ilir Latifi - all of which



Khamzat Chimaev celebrates a victory

are huge fans of Khamzat, and have been on record saying their younger teammate will "soon be the best in the world".

For the young phenom, however, the Al-Selawe fight simply represents a step towards immortality. Chimaev has grand plans under BRAVE Combat Federation and is looking to start off with a rivalry against "The Jordanian Lion". Khamzat has hinted multiple times his great-

est aim is to be known as the first-ever three-division world champion.

In order to do that, he will start his quest at Welterweight, while he has his eyes set on an eventual showdown at Middleweight and Super Lightweight. Khamzat believes he can take out Al-Selawe, and then move up to challenge Daniel "Gaucho", the current champion at Middleweight, as well as go-



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ing back down to Super Lightweight to face Eldar Eldarov.

While he hasn't disclosed officially when he would like to face off with other champions, he has the biggest test of his professional career in front of him. Al-Selawe is the best fighter in Middle East history and is ready to conquer Europe and the world. A victory over Chimaev would solidify Jarrah as the best in his weight class, and a victory for Khamzat would mean the start of his dream scenario - can Chimaev become a three-division world champion?

## Guardiola fears sack if Real Madrid tie goes wrong

AFP | London

**M**anchester City manager Pep Guardiola said he could be sacked if he fails to beat Real Madrid in the last 16 of the Champions League.

Guardiola has won five major trophies in three seasons at the Etihad, but a failure to progress beyond the quarter-finals of the Champions League has been the big disappointment of his reign.

Guardiola's side trail Liverpool at the top of the Premier League by a mammoth 22 points this season with their campaign now set to be judged on how they fare in Europe.

"I want to win the Champions League. I dream (of it) and I will enjoy preparing for the games against Madrid," Guardiola told Sky Sports.



Pep Guardiola looks on during a match

"If we don't beat them, OK, come the chairman or the sport director and say, 'It's not good enough, we want the Champions League, I'm going to sack you.'"

"I don't know (if this would

happen). It has happened many times and could maybe happen."

Guardiola has a contract at the Etihad until the end of next season.

After four years at Barcelona and three in charge of Bayern

Munich, he is expected to fulfil his deal and enter a fifth season at one club for the first time in his managerial career.

But the Catalan coach also hit back at the suggestion that the success or failure of a season should only be measured in trophies.

"We give a bad, bad message for the new generation, for our kids, to just count the winner, the trophies to win," added Guardiola.

"You say the season is a disaster but if you win the Champions League it will be exceptional. Why? It is difficult to win it."

"If you don't, we can say in more than 100 years of history (there) were 100 failure seasons for Manchester City. That is not true."

## Falcon rally past Ruct

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**F**alcon beat RUCT by 7 wickets in CBA Division D 25 overs League.

Falcon won the toss and elected to bowl first. RUCT managed to score 169 in 25 overs. Bineesh (45) was the top scorer. Rameesh and Deepak took three wickets each for Falcon CC. Chasing the target, Midhilaj's 80 runs in 50 ball helped Falcon to reach the target in 18th over with 3 wickets loss.

Falcon CC 171/3 in 171 overs (Midhilaj 80, Faisal 29) beat RUCT 169/7 (Bineesh 45, Deepak 3/32, Ramesh 3/44) by 7 wickets

Superb XI 287/6 (Nabil 75, Rauf 61, Irfan 40, Sanju 3/41) beat Rising Stars 136/10 (Subhiraj 45, Aizal 3/6) by 151 runs

Tornado A 244/4 (Nitin 84 Sarath 70, Gigin 35) beat Kothambawala 123/10 (Adnan 27, Kingsly 3/23, Byju 3/36) by 121 runs

KIMS CC 168/8 (Arun 35, Sarfaraz 3/21) beat United CC140/10 (Fahad 29, Shyam 4/21, Firos 4/34) by 28 runs

Bassali Tigers 214/5 in 24.3 overs (Rashid 62, Hamza 51) beat Jinnah CC 210/7 (Atif 62, Umer 33, Kashif 2/37) by 5 wickets

Spartans CC 140/7 (Zeeshan 46, Rajesh 2/17) beat CEBARCO 56/10 (Saravanan 13, Zeeshan 6/12, Ali 3/13) by 84 runs

Karnataka Strikers 220/5 (Sohaib 57, Anil 53, Osman 43) beat Kerala XI 149/10 (Shiji 33, Shoaib 2/25) by 71 runs

AF Bahrain 233/6 (Ruvinda 68, Rassika 55, Fayaz 3/40) beat Bahrain Hawks 162/8 (Sushanth 37, Satinder 41) by 71 runs

Nelofar Events 79/1 in 6.4 overs (Ashfaq 41, Saeed 28) beat Santy Excavation 76/10



Midhilaj - Falcon CC



Mohameed - Shafiq XI



Rashid - Bassali Tigers

(Sony 12, Naeem 4/18, Burhan 3/17) by 9 wickets

Shafiq XI 218/2 (Mohammed 78, Mansoor 45, Raj 43) beat Salmaniya Eagles 186/10 (Mehdis 50, Raj 4/32, Fadhil 3/30) by 32 runs

Hyderabad Boys 150/10 (Tohid 43, Akhan 3/29, Anu 3/29) beat Gladiators 88/10 (Chako 15, Nirenjan 3/25) by 62 runs

## Rodgers ignoring 'narrative' around James Maddison

Reuters | London

**L**eicester City manager Brendan Rodgers says he knows the real James Maddison and is ignoring the "narrative" which sections of the media have constructed around the midfielder.

Newspapers published photos on Monday of Maddison "partying" in Dubai during the Premier League's mid-season break ahead of Leicester's return to action against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Friday.

The 23-year-old has previously been criticised for going to a casino on the night England lost a Euro 2020 qualifier to Czech Republic last October after withdrawing from the squad due to illness.

"People want to fit a narrative around him so I don't worry so

much about that side. I know the reality of what he is and what he gives," Rodgers told reporters.

"It's unfortunate. We're supposedly in this world where everyone 'cares'. Rubbish - the first thing they do is try to stitch you up."

"This is a 23-year-old boy who is single, he's been given a week free. We try to educate them in many ways but this is something I'm not too bothered about."

Maddison has scored nine goals in all competitions this season for Leicester, who sit third in the Premier League.

He has been tipped to earn a spot in England's Euro 2020 squad after making his senior debut in a 7-0 win over Montenegro last year.

"He is a talent, what we try to educate off the pitch is to focus every day on training, and how important training is. It's not just about the talent, you

have to work at your talent," Rodgers added.

James Maddison



Staff of Gulf Air take part in various activities organised as part of Bahrain Sports Day

