

BRAVE CF leads the way as biggest promotion in Europe

BRAVE CF dominates Europe to officially became the number one MMA promotion in the continent

● BRAVE CF hosts 7 events in Europe in one year

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa's mixed martial arts company BRAVE Combat Federation has achieved another milestone. After dominating Asia earlier this year, BRAVE CF dominated another continent and officially became the biggest MMA promotion in Europe.

BRAVE CF was established with a vision to reform the MMA industry from an event business to a sports business, and give opportunities to fighters and the entire industry around the world regardless of marketability, language, nationality or religion. His Highness Shaikh Khalid's vision believed that talent should be the only variable and with that vision achieved what other promotions only dreamed of.

The fastest growing promotion in the world identified Europe as an important market in 2020 and broke combat sports history by being the only global promotion in the world to host 7 events in Europe in one year. The accomplishment's magnitude was magnified as it occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic when



most promotions stopped hosting events or left the continent entirely.

Earlier this year, BRAVE CF returned to Europe with their 46th edition taking place in Sochi, Russia and reigned the European MMA scene with an event headlined with the defence of the Super Lightweight World Title by Eldar Eldarov and the return of the biggest Russian

MMA phenom Ali Bagautinov. The event sent waves across the continent, and the growth of BRAVE CF became exponential.

After reaching the 50th event landmark in the promotions headquarters in the Kingdom of Bahrain, BRAVE CF returned on the road and activated the European scene once again with BRAVE CF 51 in Minsk, Belarus and bringing up the next genera-

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ation of Belarusian mixed martial arts fighters.

With 80+ active European fighters from 30+ countries, BRAVE CF currently has the largest active market share in Europe in more than three regions and the biggest scouting network in the continent. It has hosted events in 7 European countries — Northern Ireland, England, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia, Russia, and Belarus — and is continuing the journey with an event in Milan, Italy on August 1st.

BRAVE CF's future in the MMA industry looks bright as it continues expanding across the globe and making its way up towards becoming the biggest promotion in the world.

Brazilian actor Caio Castro impressed by BRAVE CF reach

TDT | Manama

Lucas "Mineiro" Martins is not only one of the most successful Brazilian Mixed Martial Artists, he's also one with the most distinguished inner circle, having some of the most coveted celebrities in the South American country training under his mentorship. One of these personalities, Brazilian soap opera superstar Caio Castro followed Lucas to Belarus, to be part of his entourage to the then-cancelled main event against Marcel Grabinski. Despite the unfortunate events surrounding Mineiro's fight, BRAVE CF left a great impression on Castro, as he stated himself.

"It's not like I was surprised by how big the event is, I knew it. But regardless, when I actually came and experienced it, saw it myself, it was crazy. I feel like part of it. I'm here with Lucas, we're living it, the day-by-day, we have all these strong feelings going around, it really runs through your blood", Castro said in a backstage interview held at the Falcon Center in Minsk.

"I can speak for myself, even in my career as an actor we were and are always looking for opportunities", Castro continued. "And for the fighters,



Caio Castro and Lucas Martins at BRAVE CF 51



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CAIO CASTRO

having big events like that, with great fighters in the roster, it gives athletes in Brazil the opportunity to showcase their talent, an aspiration for where they want to be. I can tell you, at least from Brazil's perspective, that Brazilians are super excited".

BRAVE CF 51 took place on June 4th, in Minsk, Belarus. After the last-minute cancellation of Lucas Martins vs Marcel Grabinski, after the German fighter's participation was vetoed by the medical team, the night was headlined by the local hero Denis Maher's knockout victory over the undefeated Rinat Sagyntay in the second round.

French Open organisers defend Osaka handling, say 'can do better' on mental health

Reuters | Paris

French Open organisers defended their handling of the Naomi Osaka situation yesterday but accepted that the governing bodies need to do better on mental health issues following the Japanese player's exit from the Grand Slam over her media boycott.

Osaka announced in the build-up to the French Open that she would not attend the mandatory post-match press conferences for players, saying the questioning by journalists impacts her mental well-being.

The four-time Grand Slam winner stuck to her stance and did not face the media



I think we really cared for her. We really tried to engage. We were pragmatic in the way we handled the progressive approach to sanctions. It was a very sensitive and difficult situation, but we believe we really treated that with respect, with care

FRENCH TENNIS FEDERATION DIRECTOR GENERAL AMELIE OUDEA-CASTERA



Japan's Naomi Osaka reacts during her first round match against Romania's Patricia Maria Tig

after her opening win, leading to a \$15,000 fine and a strongly-worded letter from the board of the four Grand Slam tournaments warning her of possible expulsion from Roland Garros and future majors.

Japan's Osaka ended the stand-off with the French tennis federation (FFT) by withdrawing from the claycourt major after winning her first round match, explaining she had been suffering from depression for almost three years.

FFT director general Amelie Oudea-Castera said the organisers tried to reach out to Osaka several times without success and the statement from the four

Bangladesh star Shakib suspended over umpire outburst



Shakib Al Hasan throws the stumps to the ground during the match

AFP | Dhaka

Bangladesh star all-round-er Shakib Al Hasan, who has a history of disciplinary breaches, has been suspended for three matches and fined for "showing aggressive behaviour towards the umpire" during a domestic match, the country's governing body said.

Shakib, the International Cricket Council's top-ranked all-rounder in one-day internationals, kicked the stump after an appeal was turned down by the umpire during a match between Abahani Limited and Mohammedan Sporting Club in Dhaka on Friday.

He later pulled out all three stumps and flung them aside after the umpire halted the game because of rain.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) found Shakib, who captains Mohammedan, guilty of two counts of misconduct and suspended him for three upcoming matches in the Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier Division T20 Cricket League. He was also fined 500,000 taka (US\$5,900)

brought the game into disrepute through the use of offensive language and reckless conduct with the umpires, the BCB added.

Shakib wrote on Facebook that he was "extremely sorry for losing my temper".

"An experienced player like me should not have reacted that way but sometimes against all odds it happens unfortunately."



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