

## Naurdiev speaks out on choosing BRAVE CF and promises to showcase his all-around skills in Poland

TDT | Manama

Earlier this year, Ismail Naurdiev, one of the most coveted free agents of the market, joined BRAVE Combat Federation in a multi-fight deal and made waves within the MMA community.

About to make his second promotional appearance, this time against Olli Santalahti at BRAVE CF 54, Naurdiev reflected on his career move of joining the truly global MMA promotion.

“BRAVE is the fastest-growing organization in Europe and in the world, which is good”, he said. “And they make very good events. The people, matchmakers and the president are all so nice, they are doing a really good job”.

Speaking about the upcoming fight, in which he will look for his first win under the BRAVE CF banner, Naurdiev was emphatic in saying he still has a lot more to show. “I can’t want to get back there and finally show my skills”.

BRAVE CF 54 takes place on September 25, in Konin, Po-



Ismail Naurdiev



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land. The event, held in association with Galana Exclusive Championship, will be headlined by the Lightweight title bout between the champion Amin Ayoub and the challenger Ahmed Amir.

## Nadal drops out of top five as Spanish teenager Alcaraz soars in rankings

AFP | London

Former world number one Rafael Nadal dropped out of the top five in the ATP rankings released yesterday while Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz, seen by many to be his compatriot's successor, soared 17 places to 38.

Nadal has not played since losing to Novak Djokovic in the French Open semi-finals due to a foot injury and now sits sixth in the rankings.

Djokovic comfortably retains the number one spot despite his defeat to second-ranked

Daniil Medvedev in Sunday's US Open final. Medvedev's predecessor as US Open champion, Dominic Thiem, is another to slide down the rankings, from six to eight, as a wrist injury prevented him defending his title in New York.

Alcaraz shone at the US Open where he showed he is likely to be a force to be reckoned with, becoming the youngest US Open men's quarter-finalist in 58 years but a thigh injury brought his run to an end and he retired from the last-eight clash with Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime.

# Djokovic's Grand Slam bid foiled as Medvedev wins US Open

Daniil Medvedev wins first major tournament after 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 victory

● **Medvedev captures first Grand Slam title in third Slam final**

AFP | New York

Daniil Medvedev shattered Novak Djokovic's Grand Slam with a straight sets victory in the US Open final here Sunday, denying the world number one a record-breaking 21st major men's singles title.

Russia's second-ranked Medvedev dominated Djokovic 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 to prevent the first calendar-year Grand Slam since 1969 and keep Djokovic level with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal atop the career Slam title list.

Medvedev, the 2019 US Open runner-up, captured his first Grand Slam title in his third Slam final, a rematch of February's Australian Open final, won in straight sets by the 34-year-old Serbian to launch his Slam quest.

Djokovic's bid to sweep the US, French and Australian Opens and Wimbledon in the same year for the first time since Rod Laver did it 52 years ago collapsed at the last hurdle, with 83-year-old Aussie legend Laver among 23,700 watching at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Djokovic missed out on his fourth US Open title and will enter 2022 tied with “Big Three” rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, both absent with injuries, on an all-time record 20 men's Slam titles.

Instead of joining immortals Laver and Don Budge, who



Daniil Medvedev of Russia (R) talks with Novak Djokovic of Serbia

completed the first men's Slam in 1938, Djokovic became the third man to fall at the final match attempting to complete the Slam after Australians Jack Crawford in 1933 and Lew Hoad in 1956.

Medvedev, 25, became the third Russian man to win a Grand Slam title after Yevgeny Kafelnikov at the 1996 French Open and 1999 Australian Open and Marat Safin at the 2000 US Open and 2005 Australian Open.

### Struggle from the start

In the biggest of Djokovic's 1,176 career matches, he made two unforced forehand errors to surrender a break to Medvedev in the first game.

Djokovic saved two break points to hold the third game but Medvedev held through to take the first set in 36 minutes, never facing a break point.

It was the fifth consecutive match in which Djokovic



**He came out very determined on the court. You could feel that he was just at (the) highest of his abilities in every shot**

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

dropped the first set.

Medvedev dropped only three points on his serve in the first set but lost that many to open his first service game in the second.

Djokovic, however, squandered his first three break points of the match and Medvedev held to 1-1.

Medvedev hit a backhand wide to give Djokovic a break chance in the fourth game but he netted a forehand volley then drew back his racquet in anger as if to smash the ball.

After botching a forehand on



the following point, Djokovic shattered his racquet and on the next sent a backhand volley as Medvedev held to 2-2, pressure clearly affecting the Serb.

In the fifth game, Djokovic mis-hit a backhand volley to hand Medvedev a break and a 3-2 lead and the Russian held three times to claim the set, Djokovic pushing a backhand wide to surrender the final point.

Medvedev broke again to begin the third set when Djokovic sent a backhand long and again in the third game when a botched volley seemed to signal the end of the Slam chase.

Djokovic held at love in the fifth game but Medvedev held again to 5-1 and served for the match in the eighth game.

Medvedev double faulted on championship point and again, then netted a forehand to surrender a break that kept Djokovic in the match. The crowd cheered his fightback, sensing a momentum swing.

Serving again for the match at 5-4, Medvedev double faulted on his second match point but finally got over the line on his third chance with a service winner after two hours and 16 minutes.

## Tipsaev threatens McVeigh ahead of BRAVE CF 54: “We will meet a day before the fight”

TDT | Manama

Swedish standout Bilal “Borz” Tipsaev knows very well that trash-talking and taunting bring an element of entertainment in mixed martial arts, but he wouldn't let those unnecessary antics outside the cage distract him from moving closer to his goal.

The 22-year-old Allstars Training Center representative revealed that his opponent Glenn McVeigh is trying to goad him through his different social media accounts.

Both men are scheduled to face each other in a three-round bantamweight clash on the supporting card of BRAVE CF 54, which emanates live from Konin, Poland on September 25th.

“He (McVeigh) is a funny guy actually, he used to write to me on DMs, calling me a fat boy. I see he likes to talk. If he likes to talk, let him talk if it's okay for him. What he says, I don't take it seriously. He's just trying to hype the fight. But I didn't know him before,” Tipsaev shared.

Tipsaev also divulged that in one of direct messages he



Bilal Tipsaev

received from McVeigh, the Northern Ireland native seemed to draw shade of his weight-cutting regimen. But to the best of the Swede's recollection, he hasn't missed weight so far in his professional career.

“He's been writing to me saying, ‘Nothing really serious, just make sure that you make weight, fat boy.’ I don't even know what he's talking about. He's a funny guy, you know. When I see what he writes to me, I can understand that his mentality is like a 15-year-old boy,” he said in jest.

“I'm very sure that my life experience is more than his. We are of the same age, but our

mentalities are of different levels so I don't have any interest in talking to him. When I talk with him, I feel like I'm talking with a 15-year-old boy.”

“Borz” cautioned that McVeigh's jib-jabbing may backfire on him during their staredown at the official weigh-ins.

“I think he forgets that we will meet a day before the fight in Poland, so he should think better before he writes,” Tipsaev stated.

As to how things will play out on fight night, Tipsaev believes that his wrestling will spell the difference against McVeigh.



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BILAL TIPSAEV

“I'm sure my wrestling is much better than his. I don't want to over hype it. It will show in the fight. I hope he is preparing as well. Once we're inside the cage, it will show who's the more prepared and better fighter,” he declared.

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## FIA will investigate latest Hamilton-Verstappen collision

Reuters | Monza

Formula One's governing body will investigate Sunday's Italian Grand Prix crash between title contenders Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton because it was ‘unusual’, race director Michael Masi said.

The Australian said that although the collision was relatively low-speed, the FIA's safety experts would still take

a look.

The crash had Verstappen's Red Bull lift up off a kerb and land on Hamilton's Mercedes with the inside of a rear wheel hitting the seven-times world champion's helmet through the protective halo.

“Incidents that are different, so it's not necessarily high G impacts or anything like that, but are unusual, we do look at,” said Masi.

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