

# SPORTS

## sports

# Ayyad makes Bahrain proud with a dominant win at Brave 22

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Brave 22: Storm of Warriors showcased the best MMA has to offer. In a night full of knockouts and submissions, Bahrain's own Hussain Ayyad flew the flag of his country to the highest pole with a dominant victory over Jason Vergara, who was fighting in front of his home fans at the iconic Mall of Asia, in Manila, Philippines.

Ayyad put on a show as he was able to quickly tap out his opponent with a slick triangle choke.

It was the second win in a row for the KHK MMA product, who is climbing up the Flyweight rankings at a steady pace.

"Iron" had beaten Mohamed Abo Ali back in November of last year, at Brave 18. This time around, however, he was fighting against the crowd, which



Hussain Ayyad during his fight

was no problem for him.

Ayyad didn't let Vergara's fans faze him, as he dominated the entire fight, which was ended by him in the very first round.

The sole representative of Bahrain showcased once again the improvements made in the KHK MMA headquarters, as he proved to be well-rounded since his last win was by TKO and he's now finished an opponent once again by submission.

In the main event of Brave 22: Storm of Warriors, Bantamweight champion Stephen Loman maintained his title with a TKO victory over challenger Elias Boudegzame.

He is the first man to finish "Smile" inside the Brave cage and stayed perfect under the promotion's banner, improving to 5-0, and three title defences to his name.

## BIC begins final 10-day countdown to Bahrain GP

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) launches today the final 10-day countdown to the event everybody's waiting for: the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2019.

Motorsport fans can brace for "Limitless" thrills and amusement at the four-day weekend of sport and entertainment, which takes place March 28 to 31 in Sakhir.

Excitement for the Formula 1 spectacle has already reached fever pitch, with BIC delivering an impressive nation-wide promotional campaign as part of the race build-up.

## BTA junior tennis tournament registration open

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From 29th March to 6th April, 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.

## Half marathon success noted

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Bahrain's first-ever International Half-Marathon saw the participation of more than 800 men and women's athletes from inside and outside the nation.

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf congratulated HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first vice-chairman, West Asian Athletics Federation president and Bahrain Athletics Association (BAA) president, on the success of the race in Bahrain on Friday.

Al Nusuf paid tribute to the association's contribution to raising athletics standards, and commended its efforts in making this event a great one. He also hailed initiative of HH Shaikh Khalid in attending event and honouring winners.

## Brave CF breaks records and makes history with maiden show in the Philippines

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Brave 22 took the Philippines literally by storm. Aply named as Storm of Warriors, the groundbreaking event marked the first time Brave Combat Federation landed in the country and it was a night to remember, as the local warriors shone on the brightest stage in combat sports, in front of the loudest fans and the biggest celebrities and influencers in the Philippines.

Leading the way was a stellar performance by Stephen Loman, who knocked out Elias Boudegzame in the main event to maintain his status as the first and only Brave Bantamweight world champion. His KO was watched and celebrated by Alfonso Ver, the Filipino Ambassador in Bahrain and one of the biggest influencers in bringing Brave CF to Manila.

Also in attendance was legendary sportsman Vincent "Chot" Reyes. Currently serving as the president of Brave's



Brave CF Bantamweight World Champion Stephen Loman alongside with Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave CF

TV partner in the country, TV5, Reyes has made history as head coach of the Filipino basketball team. He was complimentary of the event's structure and reaffirmed his willingness to help with the promotion of MMA in the Philippines.

Brave president Mohammed Shahid hailed the Filipino crowd as "one of the best Brave fanbases ever" and praised the Filipino media for their work in covering the largest MMA event to ever been held in the country.

## Racing Bahrain crowned endurance karting champions after 24-hour race win

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Racing Bahrain won a tightly contested 24-hour final round in the 2018/2019 Bahrain SWS Endurance Karting Championship, held over the weekend at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhir.

The supremely talented quartet of Mohammed Mattar, Khaled Alsaedi, Khaled Alrayes and Duarte Lopes put on a dazzling display of teamwork and grit as they overcame a gruelling challenge from the elements, their fellow-competitors and BIKC's 1.414-kilometre Commission Internationale de Karting (CIK) Track.

With the result, Racing Bahrain claimed the overall title for the 2018/2019 endurance karting season.

They enjoyed a narrow winning margin in the weekend's finale, with their chief rivals GO Bahrain hot on their heels.

GO Bahrain finished just 1.898 seconds behind the victors after an entire day's worth of battling. The deserving runners-up were comprised of Ali Baslar,



Participants in action during Bahrain SWS Endurance Karting Championship

Abdulla Buhendi, Raed Raffii and Rashed Almuammari.

Both teams completed 1,131 laps over the race duration, but Racing Bahrain were able to squeeze ahead for their hard-earned triumph.

Finishing in third place overall with 1,125 laps were Bapco Sadeem, who comprised of Osama Albuflasa, Faisal Alshadii, Abdulla Althawadi, Talal Beshara and Mohammed Jalal.

BeeSa Racing (Paul Lecailon, Bader Mubarak, Khaled Alzayed, Osama Azzouka) were fourth with 1,124 laps, Racing Bahrain Jr (Hussain Hasan, Khalifa Alyaqoob, Mohammed Ameen, Khaled Alwazzan) fifth on 1,121 laps and Bapco Mot-

orsports (Saud Alshreedi, Isa Mahmood, Khalifa Alzayani, Abdulrahman Alawadi) were sixth, also with 1,121 laps.

Aside from taking the overall victory, Racing Bahrain were also first place in the Pro category. They were followed by Bapco Sadeem and BeeSa Racing.

In the Nations class, Go Bahrain were the winners, while Racing Bahrain Jr were second. MMC Racing (Ahmed Ebrahim, Hisham Ali, Essam Alabbasi, Fuad Ahmed, Safyan Almalki, Mohammed Shams) came third.

Finally, Bapco Motorsports triumphed in the Corporate category, adding to their overall classification in sixth.

## Moundir and Butulija top seeds in Bahrain qualifying

AFP | Milan

Adam Moundir of Switzerland and Boris Butulija of Serbia have been named as the top two seeds in Qualifying for the Men's Singles tournament of the Bahrain ITF World Tennis Tour 2019 at Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC).

BTC hosted the draw for the Qualifying competition yesterday evening at its premises in

Juffair. International Tennis Federation (ITF) Supervisor and Tournament Referee Dr. Ashraf Hamouda administered the proceedings in the presence of BTC Honorary President Dr. Ali Fakhro, BTC President Khamis Al Muqla, Organising Committee members and some players.

Al Muqla expressed a warm welcome message to the overseas players who have come to

Bahrain for the tournament. He wished all the competitors the best results and added that he is looking forward to enjoying plenty of great, top-class tennis.

A total of 18 matches are scheduled to be played today as 22 players vie for just six slots in the competition proper.

Moundir (423rd on the ITF Rankings) and Butulija (ranked 1,011th) have both been given



A player in action during Bahrain ITF World Tennis Tour 2019 at BTC

byes for the first round of play, and need to win just one match today to make it to the Main Draw.

There are two Bahrainis among the 22 qualifying hopefuls, namely Hamad Abdula'al and Kareem Abdulredha. They hope to join their countrymen Ali Dawani, Eliyas Abdulredha and Hassan Abdulredha, who are already in the Men's Singles Main Draw as Wild Cards.