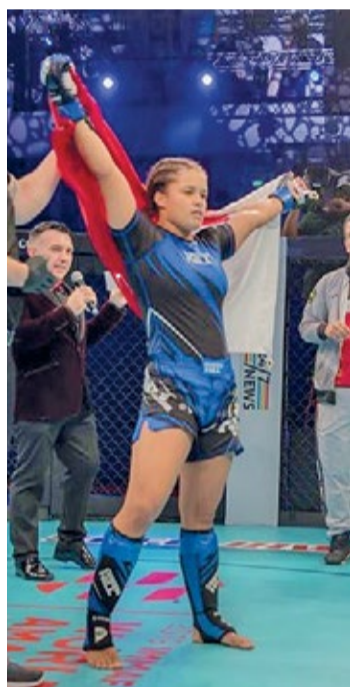


# Bahrain crowned Team of the Year

Team Bahrain grabs four world titles at IMMAF



Kingdom officially beat the likes of Kazakhstan, Ireland, and Russia, to be named the best Team in the world. Above, His Highness Shaikh Khalid with Bahrain Team



Team Bahrain won four more gold medals on the last day

TDT | Manama

The third edition of the BRAVE International Combat Week came to a close in a spectacular fashion for Team Bahrain, which maintained their number one spot in the MMA world and was crowned the Team of the Year in the IMMAF Awards.

After numerous attempts by other national teams to surpass Bahrain's incredible year, Bahrainis on the last day of competitions clinched a historic feat led by the incredible work of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the visionary in making Kingdom the biggest force today in mixed martial arts.

Maintaining the number

one ranking was the work in the cage itself, with Team Bahrain winning four more gold medals on the last day of the competition.

Sabrina Sousa emerged winner in Women's Featherweight division. Pasha Karkhachaev became a two-time world champion at Super Heavyweight, while Ramazan Gitinov and Murtaza Talha Ali won the world titles at Welterweight and Light Heavyweight respectively.

The glory obtained by Team Bahrain was completed with the Kingdom officially beating the likes of Kazakhstan, Ireland, and Russia, to be named the best Team in the world according to the IMMAF itself. Today, MMA is Bahrain, and Bahrain is MMA.

## Incredible KHK belt gets a worthy winner



Azamat Murzakanov became the first-ever winner of the KHK World Championship

TDT | Manama

The expectations for the unveiling of the most prestigious prize in sports today were enormous. Up until minutes before the final of the KHK World Championship, the world had yet to see the KHK belt in its true glory. It was fitting that the entrance of the glorious belt had a different setting, as it arrived in a helicopter and was taken inside the sold-out Khalifa Sports City Arena for the world to see.

Inside the cage, a match for the ages took place as two battered fighters had to dig deep to find the power and resilience to go through a second battle in the night in order to win the biggest prize of all.

It was Azamat Murzakanov who became the first-ever winner of the KHK World Championship, the best start ever to what promises to become the World Cup of mixed martial arts.

The Russian powerhouse left no doubt of his true value as he ran through top kickboxer Guto Inocente in the semifinals before scoring a KO victory for the ages against Mohammad Fakhreddine in the final bout of BRAVE CF 29, which took place last Friday in Bahrain.

"The Professional" improved his professional record to 9-0, maintained his undefeated status and became the king of the KHK World Championship. If Azamat wins the tournament two more times he will have the right to become the permanent owner of the most prestigious belt in the world, adorned with 6.2 kg of gold.

As he has shown in the two bouts of the evening, such a thought should be taken seriously as he has proved he's not just raw talent, but a complete fighter and the king of kings in a night that produced several magical moments.

## Ronnie on 99 as Portugal enter Euro 2020

Luxembourg

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 99th international goal as reigning champions Portugal secured their place at the Euro 2020 finals yesterday with a 2-0 victory away to Luxembourg.

Bruno Fernandes struck the opening goal on 39 minutes before Ronaldo tapped in a scrappy second late on to clinch second place in Group B behind winners Ukraine, who drew 2-2 in Serbia.

Portugal became the 17th nation to qualify for next year's multi-host tournament, which kicks off in Rome on June 12, joining the likes of world champions France, Spain, Italy and England.

Fernando Santos' side knew they would book their place at Euro 2020 with a win or by matching Serbia's result from their game in Belgrade.

But Portugal were made to work hard on a heavy pitch by a Luxembourg team ranked 96th in the world that notably held France to a 0-0 draw in 2018 World Cup qualifying.

Sporting Lisbon midfielder

Fernandes broke the deadlock before half-time, controlling Bernardo Silva's pinpoint pass expertly before lashing in from 20 yards.

Ronaldo, who smacked in a hat-trick in Thursday's 6-0 thrashing of Lithuania, moved to the brink of his international century four minutes from time. Silva's far-post cross was forced towards goal by Diogo Jota, with Anthony Moris getting a hand to the ball before Ronaldo turned in from the goalline.



## Verstappen wins thriller in Brazil

● Both Ferraris collide and crash out

● Hamilton collides with Albon in closing laps

Agencies | Sao Paulo

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen has won Formula 1

One's Brazilian Grand Prix for his eighth career victory.

The Dutch driver controlled nearly all the race at Interlagos yesterday. Toro Rosso's Pierre Gasly was second and six-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton third, though the Mercedes driver is under investigation.

Ferrari drivers Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc did not finish after the two crashed near the end of the race.

The Brazilian GP yesterday was the penultimate race of the season. Hamilton had already secured the season title in the previous race in the US.

Verstappen converted pole position into victory but had to twice pass Hamilton for the win as an initially strategic grand prix turned into an absolute thriller.

Verstappen and Hamilton mirrored each other's approach before a pair of Safety

Car periods late in the race resulted in a dramatic denouement.

One Safety Car period was caused by the Ferrari drivers colliding as they contested fourth position, leaving both out of the race.

Amid the drama weekend-long midfield leader Gasly surged into third spot, which became second when the recovering Hamilton clashed with Alexander Albon on the penultimate lap.

Hamilton, who accepted blame for a clash that is under investigation, recovered but fell millimetres short of denying second

from the excellent Gasly.

Verstappen retained the lead from pole position while Hamilton immediately emerged as his nearest opponent by passing Vettel around the outside of the Senna S.

For Gasly it was his maiden podium finish and the second of the year for Toro Rosso.

Carlos Sainz Jr. rose from the back of the grid after an engine failure in qualifying to take fourth position, with Alfa Romeo profiting from the melee to claim a season-best fifth and sixth, Kimi Raikkonen ahead of Antonio Giovinazzi.

### Brazil - Race Result

Pos	Driver
1	Max Verstappen
2	Pierre Gasly
3	Lewis Hamilton
4	Carlos Sainz
5	Kimi Raikkonen
6	Antonio Giovinazzi
7	Daniel Ricciardo
8	Lando Norris
9	Sergio Perez
10	Daniil Kvyat

