

Kooheji to represent Bahrain at Brave 37

MMA hero Hamza Kooheji set to face Jaures Dea in Sweden



Hamza Kooheji

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's biggest MMA fighter has a date for his return to competition. After an unforgettable homecoming at BRAVE CF 29, when he dominated Nahuel Gandolfi in front of a sold-out Bahraini audience, Hamza Kooheji will take his talents to Sweden. "The Pride of Bahrain" is set to welcome dangerous Jaures Dea to the Bantamweight division at BRAVE CF 37, on April 18th, in Sweden.

Kooheji will be defending a three-fight win streak, which culminated in the co-main event spot at BRAVE CF 29, where he lifted up the Kingdom of Bahrain with an incredible performance, knocking out "El Roble" in the third round and climbing up higher towards an eventual title shot. Hamza has been hailed as a pioneer of mixed martial arts in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as he has flown the flag in the highest of places and has become synonymous with the booming sport in the Kingdom as one of the biggest professional success stories. In front of "The Pride of Bahrain", lies a dangerous opponent. "The Crazy Cameroonian" is coming off four straight victories and makes his BRAVE Combat Federation

debut against Kooheji as the number six Bantamweight fighter in the Middle East - Hamza is listed as number four in the region. BRAVE CF 37 will be headlined by a gigantic title fight, as current Welterweight world champion Jarrah Al-Selawe looks to defend his crown against Khamzat Chimaev, the biggest prospect in Europe. The show will take place at the Solnahallen, in Stockholm, Sweden, in partnership with AK Fighting Championship, and marks the third European show for BRAVE Combat Federation in 2020 so far, after a successful debut in Slovenia back in January and the upcoming BRAVE CF 36, which takes place in Romania, on April 13th.



Kooheji prepares for comeback in Thailand

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Hamza Kooheji has spent part of his training camp working on his stand-up in Thailand. "The Pride of Bahrain" has become a wrestling

sensation under the training of BRAVE CF Super Lightweight world champion Eldar Eldarov's tutelage, and has chosen to vary his training for his upcoming bout. Kooheji went to Phuket to work

with specialized muay thai coaches, as well as getting different looks in order to compete at the highest level and with the aid of world-class trainers in the Kingdom of Bahrain and KHK MMA.

Hamza has looked sharp with his much-improved stand-up and has incorporated hard kicks into his already complete arsenal, making him an even bigger threat to fighters everywhere in the Bantamweight division.

Kooheji also went to Saudi Arabia at the end of the year to support his teammates at BRAVE CF 33, when he was able to train with the team and start his camp for the next fight while in Jeddah.

Silverwood backs Buttler to reignite test career

Reuters | London

England coach Chris Silverwood hopes Jos Buttler's return to form in the Twenty20 series decider against South Africa will help revive his test career in next month's tour of Sri Lanka. The wicketkeeper-batsman's blistering knock of 57 runs off 29 balls helped England secure a five-wicket win and a 2-1 series triumph on Sunday. Buttler has struggled in the longest format, however, managing just 158 runs in his last five tests against South Africa and New Zealand. "Runs breed confidence



England's Jos Buttler reacts during a match (file photo)

within a batsman -- to see him come off with a smile on his face in the way he did was su-

perb," Silverwood told British media. "Hopefully he'll take a lot of confidence from it and bring that with him to Sri Lanka." Silverwood said England were close to finding the right balance in the squad ahead of the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year. "The more they've played together, the better they've got -- we've seen the improvement throughout the series so I don't think we're a million miles away," Silverwood added. "But we'll obviously refocus now on the test series against Sri Lanka and look to pick up where we left off here."

Vietnam F1 Grand Prix gets go-ahead despite virus

AFP | Hanoi

Vietnam's inaugural Formula One Grand Prix will take place in Hanoi in April as planned, organisers said yesterday, avoiding the fate of the Chinese Grand Prix which was postponed over the deadly coronavirus outbreak. The virus, which has killed more than 1,800 people in China, has trashed Asia's sporting calendar, forcing the postpone-

ment of top events including the Hong Kong Sevens rugby. But Vietnamese authorities said the country's inaugural F1 race would go ahead as "scheduled" on April 5, Le Ngoc Chi, CEO of Vietnam Grand Prix said. That flies in the face of mounting fears over the spread of the virus from neighbouring China and the risk of transmission among the crowds expected to make the journey to the

Vietnamese capital. "The time for the... F1 race will not be postponed or delayed," Tran Trung Hieu, deputy director of Hanoi's tourism department was quoted as saying by state media yesterday. "Although this is a sports event, it has a very huge impact on Vietnam and Hanoi's tourism," he said, adding all measures will be taken to ensure safety.

Man United's Maguire should have seen red, says Lampard



Manchester United defender Harry Maguire scores a goal

Reuters | London

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard has said Harry Maguire should not have been on the pitch when he scored his side's second goal in a 2-0 Premier League win on Monday after the Manchester United defender escaped a red card for kicking Michy Batshuayi. The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system was in the spotlight once again after Maguire kicked Batshuayi in the groin area in the first half at Stamford Bridge. "Maguire should have been sent off," Lampard told British media. "That's clear, and that obviously changes the game."

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FRANK LAMPARD

United captain Maguire, who escaped sanction for the incident, went on to score a thump-

ing header in the 66th minute to seal the win. "Decisions like that are crucial," added Lampard. "That's a major part of what VAR was brought in for: a second viewing, different angles. I don't get why they aren't looking at the monitor. It should be used." VAR also ruled out two Chelsea goals from Kurt Zouma and Olivier Giroud in a frustrating night for Lampard's side, who went a fourth straight league match without victory. "The Zouma goal should have stood," Lampard added. "Giroud's goal being ruled out is a bit soul destroying but it's the culmination of a few incidents."