

After Fight of the Year in 2019, human highlight-reel Hlongwa returns at BRAVE CF 44



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Two heavy-handed Middleweights will face each other in what is expected to be an action-packed bout at BRAVE CF 44 in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Mzwandile "Snakebone" Hlongwa will be back in search of another highlight knockout against Austria's Dom Schober. BRAVE CF will be back at the Kombat Kingdom with a series of exciting fights next month. Among the bouts confirmed is the return of Hlongwa, who will look to get one step closer to an eventual title shot as he takes on Schober in the main card of BRAVE CF 44.

Hlongwa is coming off a big win against his idol Jeremy Smith in what was voted as BRAVE CF's Fight of the Year for 2019. Although a loss to Khamzat Chimaev in his promotional debut caused the

only blemish on his record, Mzwandile's fight history is full of exciting performances. This includes an astonishing first round knockout victory against Torbjorn Madsen which went viral online.

His opponent will no doubt match his power, as Schober has had of all 11 professional wins come via stoppage. But with losses in his two previous bouts he will be looking for a strong return to winning ways.

BRAVE CF 44 is headlined by a gigantic title fight as reigning Lightweight world champion Cleiton "Predator" defends his throne against top contender and submission machine Amin "Fierceness" Ayoub. Also set for fight night are two pivotal match-ups at Welterweight (Abdoul Abdouraguimov vs Louis Glismann) and Lightweight (with John Brewin taking on veteran Rolando Dy).

Ahli lift Khalifa bin Salman Cup

Victors secure impressive league-and-cup double after defeating arch-rivals Manama in final

● Cabinet Affairs Ministry undersecretary HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa attends final, presents trophy to Cup champions

● Hesham Sarhan scores Ahli's final four points, including a jump shot with 19 seconds that virtually iced the game



His Highness Shaikh Isa, front left, alongside Ahli's Qurban and team official Khalid Kanoo during the Cup presentation

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Ahli lifted this year's Khalifa bin Salman Cup last night to secure a spectacular league-and-cup double for the 2019/2020 Bahrain basketball season.

Ahli secured the prestigious trophy following a thrilling 99-91 triumph over Manama in the one-off final.

Star guard Hesham Sarhan scored the victors' last four points in the contest, including an off-balance jumper with 19 seconds to go that made it a two-possession game and virtually iced the victory. Sarhan then pegged the final score with a pair of charity shots with eight seconds left.

Ahli's Cup win yesterday added to their Zain Bahrain Basketball League title, which they

clinched late last month in a championship series where they also faced Manama.

Ahli and Manama were presented their respective awards following last night's game in a ceremony attended by Cabinet Affairs Ministry undersecretary and former Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa. Ahli skipper Mohammed Qurban received the Khalifa bin Salman Cup on the team's behalf.

Other high-ranking BBA and Ahli officials were also on hand.

American professionals Brandon Brown and Dominique Sutton have been Ahli's dynamic duo since the resumption of league and cup action, and the tandem once again came up big

for their team, combining for 60 points.

Brown had a game-high 34 to go along with 14 rebounds, while Sutton's 26 included an impressive five three-pointers.

Talented combo guard Maitham Jameel scored 15 and had 10 assists with zero turnovers while also registering four steals. Sarhan chipped in with 12 markers and Qurban had nine.

Most of Ahli's offensive production came from their five starters, with the bench only contributing three points.

For Manama, Hasan Nowrooz scored 23 to pace his team in the losing effort, while American Harvey Jerai Grant added 20 and 10 boards. Young guard Mustafa Hussain Ali was a spark off the bench, chipping in 14.

American professionals Brandon Brown and Dominique Sutton have been Ahli's dynamic duo since the resumption of league and cup action, and the tandem once again delivered, combining for 60 points



Alaswad wins Golden Boot award

● Bahrain national team will face UAE next month

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National team midfielder and Riffa Club star Komail Alaswad has won the Golden Boot award of the 2019/2020 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Alaswad secured the coveted title after finishing the recently concluded season with an impressive 14 goals.

The 26-year-old was in fine form throughout the competition, with his closest challenger a distant six goals behind in Riffa teammate Sayed Hashem Sayed Isa.

Three others were tied third in the race for the Golden Boot. Scoring seven goals apiece were Cameroonian professional Ernst Thierry Anang of Al Ahli, Brazilian import Everton de Mendonca de Muharraq, and Libyan professional Mohammed Soulah, also of Riffa.

This year's league was postponed for more than four months due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Hidd were crowned champions after finishing a point ahead of Muharraq, while Riffa—who scored



Riffa Club's Komail Alaswad (L) controls the ball (file photo)

the most goals out of all teams with 50—finished third, three points back.

The rest of the standings saw Al Najma, East Riffa, Manama and Al Ahli ranked fourth through seventh, respectively; while Al Shabab and Al Hala were both relegated to the second division.

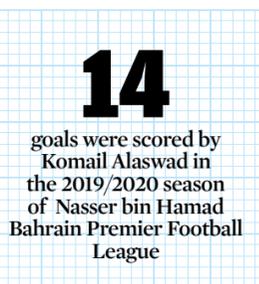
Busaiteen, on the other hand, will have to play Bahrain Club over two legs for the right to remain in the top flight. They will be facing off in the first match

tomorrow, to be followed by the second leg on Monday next week.

Malkiya and Budaiya have both been promoted to the premier league after finishing as the top two in the second division.

Friendly against UAE set

Meanwhile, Bahrain's senior men's national team have added an international friendly match against the UAE during their training camp in Dubai



next month.

This was confirmed by the Bahrain Football Association, and the game will be played on November 16.

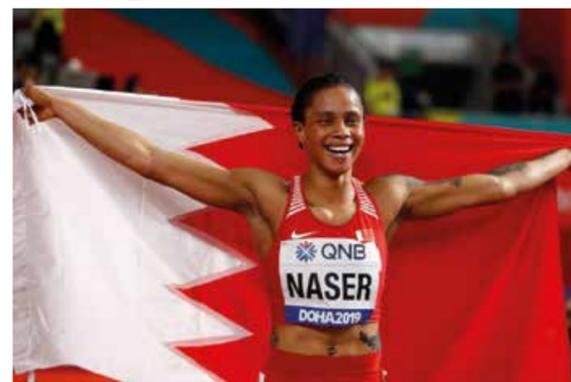
The tune-up adds to Bahrain's other already scheduled friendlies against Tajikistan on November 7 and Lebanon on November 12.

The nationals are scheduled to hold their overseas camp from November 1 to 17.

Bahrain will be preparing for their remaining qualifying matches for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and the 2023 AFC Asian Cup. The joint-qualifiers have been delayed due to COVID-19, and matches are only expected to resume next year.

Bahrain are in Group C of joint-qualifying, where they currently sit in second place behind leaders Iraq. They are ranked ahead of Iran, Hong Kong, and Cambodia following five games already played, with three remaining.

Doping charges against Bahrain's 400m world champion Naser dismissed



Salwa Eid Naser celebrates after her victory (file photo)

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The doping charges brought against Bahrain's 400 metre world champion Salwa Eid Naser have been dismissed, the Athletics Integrity Unit announced yesterday.

The 22-year-old Naser was provisionally suspended in June and charged with failing to meet 'whereabouts' criteria.

The AIU charged the runner with four alleged 'whereabouts' failures which included three missed tests between March 2019 and January this year.

But the World Athletics Disciplinary Tribunal did not confirm a missed test from April

2019, therefore meaning Naser had not missed three tests within 12 months which is required to prove an anti-doping violation.

The AIU added that it has the right to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Naser stunned athletics in Doha last year when she powered to the third-fastest 400m time in history to win the world title.

Her time of 48.14 seconds has only been bettered by East German Marita Koch in 1985 and former Czech runner Jarmila Kratochvilova in 1983.

The AIU is the independent anti-doping watchdog for track and field, set up in 2017.