

# Bahrain excel at MMA Euro Open

TDT | Manama

Team Bahrain made history once again. After rising up to the number one spot in the world MMA rankings, the squad put on a collective performance for the ages, winning five senior golds and one junior gold at the IMMAF-WMMAA European Open.

The tournament concluded yesterday, with Bahrain topping the table for most gold medals, alongside Russia, who had more silver medals. The squad counted on the presence of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, whose continued efforts made the achievements possible.

The European Open was up for grabs at the beginning of last day, but Bahrain made sure to make a run at top, winning all of five finals that the squad were involved, topped by an incredible first-round knockout by Pasha Kharkhachev, who is reigning world champion at Super Heavyweight and new European champion in this weight class.

At Heavyweight, Shamil Gaziev was also dominant, overwhelming Gadzhimurad Bagaudinov, from Russia, en route to a second-round TKO, after ground and pound strikes from mount position.

Bantamweight Magomed Idrisov came out victorious against Spain's Alvaro Ucendo, while Featherweight Abdulmanap Magomedov beat Artem Afanasenko, from Ukraine, to claim the gold medal in their respective weight class.



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa with the winners

Finally, Ramazan Gitinov went the distance but overwhelmed Evgeny Morozov, from Russia, to win the Welterweight gold medal by unanimous decision.

The historic result means Team Bahrain holds on the hard-earned top spot at the world rankings, as the squad looks forward to more success at home when the entire world of mixed martial arts will meet in November for the World Championships, in Isa Town, during the International Combat Week.

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HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa celebrates with a fighter of team Bahrain



Winners celebrate on the podium

## Hamilton triumphs in France

● Dominant Lewis Hamilton wins French GP to extend Mercedes' unbeaten run to 10

● Charles Leclerc finishes second with Sebastian Vettel fifth

AFP | Le Castellet, France

Lewis Hamilton extended his championship lead and continued his relentless run of success when he scorched to an emphatic victory ahead of Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas at the French Grand Prix yesterday.

The defending five-time champion repeated his pole-to-flag triumph of 2018 with a flawless drive to his fourth win in succession, sixth this season and 79th of his career.

His victory extended Mercedes' unbeaten start to the 2019 season to eight races and their overall winning streak to 10, the Silver Arrows leaving their main rivals trailing in their wake again.

After eight of this season's 21 races, Hamilton leads the championship with 187 points ahead of Bottas on 151.

"It's definitely been a really good weekend," said the Briton. "It's such a challenge out there and I live that, really trying to find the edge."

"I couldn't do it without this incredible team and we are creating history -- and I am so



Lewis Hamilton celebrates winning the race

proud to be part of it," Hamilton reflected.

In sweltering conditions, he extended his title race lead over Bottas to 36 points -- with Charles Leclerc finishing a strong third following a determined drive in his Ferrari.

Bottas, who resisted a late charge from Leclerc, said: "Ultimately, Lewis was quicker today and I couldn't match his pace."

Leclerc said: "I gave it everything, but the Mercedes are just too quick."

### Resurgent McLaren

Max Verstappen was fourth for Red Bull ahead of four-time champion Sebastian Vettel in the second Ferrari and the resurgent McLaren of Carlos Sainz.

Vettel, who started seventh after a troubled qualifying, took a late pit stop for fresh tyres and snatched fastest lap and a track

record by 0.024 seconds from Hamilton in the final seconds.

Daniel Ricciardo was seventh for Renault ahead of Kimi Raikkonen of Alfa Romeo and Nico Hulkenberg in the second Renault with Lando Norris finishing 10th despite hydraulics problems in the second McLaren.

The race began with a track temperature of 57 degrees Celsius and an air temperature of 30, sizzling conditions that ensured a difficult afternoon for tyre-wear.

Hamilton made a smooth start with Bottas and Leclerc following him on the opening lap, the Englishman soon opening up a gap of more than a second, by the end of lap one, and 1.5 by lap three.

On lap six, Vettel finally passed Norris for sixth. The British rookie responded at Signes, but Vettel resisted while

Hamilton, at the front, reeled off another fastest lap.

Vettel continued his progress, passing Sainz into the chicane on lap seven for fifth, 18 seconds adrift of the leader, but back in the main scrap behind him.

By lap 12, Hamilton was 2.5 seconds clear of Bottas, but the Finn responded with a fastest lap of his own.

Ricciardo was the first man to pit after 15 laps, sparking a sequence of reactions that saw his direct rivals respond, all switching to 'hard' compound tyres.

After the leading cars had pitted Hamilton had pulled clear by 12 seconds reeling off fastest laps.

If the outcome looked inevitable, it seemed so to Leclerc as well. When Ferrari asked him if he could push more, he replied: "I could, but it not good for the tyres. So, no..."

Like the spectators, he may have been aware that since Le Castellet rejoined the calendar, Mercedes have topped every session and won both races.



Lewis Hamilton won his sixth race of the season, his fourth in succession, by leading from beginning to end



Roger Federer from Switzerland poses with the trophy

## Federer crushes Goffin for 'unbelievable' 10th Halle title

AFP | Halle Westfalen, Germany

Roger Federer will head to Wimbledon in high spirits after waltzing past Belgium's David Goffin in straight sets to win a record-extending 10th title at the ATP event in Halle yesterday.

Federer, 37, beat Goffin 7-6 (7/2), 6-1 to secure his 102nd career singles title and remain unbeaten on grass so far this season.

"It's unbelievable. I never thought when I first played here that I would win 10 titles," said Federer.

"I've never won a tournament 10 times before, so I will remember forever that I did so here in Halle."

The Swiss star is chasing a ninth Wimbledon crown in London next month as he looks to extend and defend his record of 20 career majors.

Long-term rival Rafael Nadal moved to within just two titles of Federer's record with his 12th French Open triumph earlier this month, while world

number one Novak Djokovic is just five short with 15 career majors.

Federer endured a rough ride in the early rounds in Halle, battling to hard-fought, three-set victories over Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Roberto Bautista Agut.

Things got easier in the latter stages as he thrashed Andy Murray's new doubles partner Pierre-Hugues Herbert in the semi-finals before dispatching Goffin yesterday.

An unsettled looking Goffin then gifted Federer the opening game of the second set with a double fault on break point.

From there, the Swiss never looked back, breaking Goffin twice more on his way to a 10th Halle title. "I thought David was actually better than me in the first 10 games," said Federer.

Goffin added: "I thought I started really well, there was great intensity in the first set.