

Tokyo Olympics doubly special for handball quartet

● Skipper Hussain Al Sayyad, goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain, left back Ali Mirza and pivot Mohammed Mirza were also part of Bahrain team that made first-ever appearance in World Handball Championship in 2011

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The Tokyo Games marks the first-ever Olympics in which Bahrain is competing in the men's handball tournament, and for four of the Kingdom's national team players, the occasion is doubly special.

Centre back and Bahrain captain Hussain Al Sayyad, goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain, left back Ali Mirza and pivot Mohammed Mirza were also part of Bahrain's debut appearance at the World Men's Handball Championship in 2011.

The two events are 10 years apart, and the quartet are making history being a part of both squads.

"It is an incredible feeling, the most important moment of my career," says Al Sayyad, who has played 482 international matches for Bahrain, according to International Handball Fed-



Bahrain handball quartet



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HUSSAIN AL SAYYAD

eration statistics.

"I think most of the players share the same feeling. Qualifying for the Olympics, which is the most important event in the world for us as athletes.

"The Olympics is harder than the world cup and the Asian championship, and harder than all the championships we have participated in before. You are talking about the 12 best national teams in the world.

"Our ambition is to show our national team in the best image, as we always do, and hopefully achieve something that hasn't been achieved before."

Martins vs Grabinski rescheduled for BRAVE CF 53, in Kazakhstan



AFP | London

Lucas "Mineiro" Martins and Marcel Grabinski were supposed to meet inside the BRAVE CF arena in Belarus, back in June, but a health issue with the German star caused the cancellation of the bout only a few minutes before the athletes' walkout.

After all the turbulence, Martins and Grabinski are set to finally settle their differences. BRAVE CF officials have confirmed that Martins vs Grabinski will be a 3-round, featured Lightweight bout in

the upcoming BRAVE CF 53, on August 21st, in Kazakhstan.

In the aftermath of the drama in Belarus, "Mineiro" and Grabinski engaged in a war of words through social media, demanding a do-over in the nearest date available, which has now been confirmed.

BRAVE CF 53 will take place on August 21st, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and marks the second visit of the truly global MMA promotion to the Central Asian country. The main event of the evening, promoted in association with Octagon League, is yet to be confirmed.

Al Mubarak claims opening round in Esport GT series



Action from the race

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Two-time defending champion Ebrahim Al Mubarak kicked off his quest for a title three-peat on a positive note by taking the opening round of season three in the Bahrain Esport Gran Turismo Championship.

Driving a WRX Gr.4 car, Al Mubarak won from pole position in a total race time of 21 minutes 59.094 seconds.

The meeting was held along a virtual version of Spain's Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya. The race took place over 12 laps.

Al Mubarak took first place in qualifying with a best lap of 1:49.070. He beat his closest challenger by 00.476 seconds.

In the race, Al Mubarak made

no mistake and went on to take the chequered flag with a comfortable 7.513s gap ahead of the rest of the pack.

Hussain Hasan finished as the runner-up while Hassan Khalil came third overall.

Hamad Al Fardan came fourth and Abdulla Sami Qamber fifth, while competing the top eight were Yahya Kuzbar, Ahmed Amin and Yusuf Al Askeri. Ahmed Yusuf Ahmed rounded off the final classification in ninth place.

To add to his victory, Al Mubarak clocked the ace's fastest lap of 1:49.145.

The series' third season is set to feature five rounds in all.

The competition is being run on the Gran Turismo Sport video game on the Sony PlayStation 4

or 5 platforms, which is officially licenced by the International Automobile Federation (FIA).

The field is set to return to action for round two on July 30, while round three will be on August 6, round four on August 13, and the fifth and final round a couple of weeks later on August 27.

Prize money is presented to the top three of each meeting, with the winner getting BD50, the runner-up BD30 and third place taking home BD20.

Drivers will earn points per round, which will go towards their championship classification. At the end of the season, the winner will get BD500 in prize money, while second place will take home BD300 and third place BD200.

Fakhreddine goes off on rival title challenger: "S**t person and fighter"

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Mohammad "The Lat-Mest" Fakhreddine is on the verge of making history for mixed martial arts as the first-ever double world champion from the Arab world, as well as the first two-weight titleholder in BRAVE Combat Federation history.

The reigning Middleweight champion will go up to Light Heavyweight to take on Mohammed Said Maalem in a vacant title bout which will headline BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood on August 1st, in Milan, Italy.

And the name of the event couldn't be more in line with the rivalry between both men, which has been building up since their previously scheduled fight didn't go through at BRAVE CF 50. At the time, Fakhreddine was forced to pull out of the fight during the event itself, prompting Said Maalem to ask for the title to be handed to him, which kicked off a serious rivalry between both men.

Algerian powerhouse Said Maalem went as far as hinting that Fakhreddine treated fellow Arab fighters differently, and Fakhreddine didn't hold back when describing his opinion of his next challenge.

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Mohammad Fakhreddine

You know, I don't really know him as a person, but after what he said in the cage last time and the posters he put on his social media, he really showed what kind of s* person he is. I'm only going to say what I saw, and I saw a disrespectful, cheap person**

MOHAMMAD FAKHREDDINE

on his social media, he really showed what kind of s*** person he is. I'm only going to say what I saw, and I saw a disrespectful, cheap person. As a fighter, I have no respect for him, he hasn't done anything, he hasn't accomplished anything that's worth talking about. He's a s*** fighter", said Fakhreddine.

Fakhreddine vs Said Maalem will headline BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood, which marks the first time the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world hosts an event in Italy. The groundbreaking show will be hosted in association with The Golden Cage, and will have fighters from across the world in action.