THE tribune

Tokyo Olympics doubly special for handball quartet

🗕 Skipper Hussain Al Savvad, 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

TDT | Manama

The Tokyo Games marks L 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 all 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



Mohammed Abdulhussain, Ali Mirza and Mohammed Mirza were also part of Bahrain's debut appearance at the World Men's Handball Championship in 2011 eration statistics.

It is an incredible feeling, the most important moment of my career. 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.

HUSSAIN AL SAYYAD

"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

ucas "Mineiro" Martins and Marcel Grabinski were ma in Belarus, "Mineiro" and supposed to meet inside the Grabinski engaged in a war of BRAVE CF arena in Belarus, words through social media, back in June, but a health issue demanding a do-over in the with the German star caused nearest date available, which the cancelation of the bout has now been confirmed. only a few minutes before the athletes' walkout.

Martins and Grabinski are ond visit of the truly global set to finally settle their dif- MMA promotion to the Cenferences. BRAVE CF officials tral Asian country. The main have confirmed that Martins event of the evening, promoted vs Grabinski will be a 3-round, in association with Octagon featured Lightweight bout in League, is yet to be confirmed.

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

In the aftermath of the dra-

BRAVE CF 53 will take place on August 21st, in Almaty, Ka-After all the turbulence, zakhstan, and marks the sec-

Al Mubarak claims opening round in Esport GT series



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

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Mohammad ''The Lat-est" 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.



Action from the race

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Two-time defending cham-▲ pion Ebrahim Al Mubarak kicked off his quest for a title the runner-up while Hassan 30, while round three will be 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 tion in ninth place. a virtual version of Spain's Cir-The race took place over 12 laps.

Al Mubarak took first place in qualifying with a best lap to feature five rounds in all. of 1:49.070. He beat his closest

fortable 7.513s gap ahead of the Automobile Federation (FIA). rest of the pack.

Khalil came third overall.

Hamad Al Fardan came fourth and Abdulla Sami Qamber fifth, while competing the on August 27.

top eight were Yahya Kuzbar, Ahmed Amin and Yusuf Al Askeri. Ahmed Yusuf Ahmed rounded off the final classifica-

To add to his victory, Al cuit de Barcelona-Catalunya. Mubarak clocked the ace's fast- round, which will go towards est lap of 1:49.145.

challenger by 00.476 seconds. on the Gran Turismo Sport video place will take home BD300 and In the race, Al Mubarak made game on the Sony PlayStation 4 third place BD200.

no mistake and went on to take or 5 platforms, which is officially the chequered flag with a com- licenced by the International

The field is set to return to Hussain Hasan finished as action for round two on July on August 6, round four on August 13, and the fifth and final round a couple of weeks later

> 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 their championship classifi-The series' third season is set cation. At the end of the season, the winner will get BD500 The competition is being run in prize money, while second

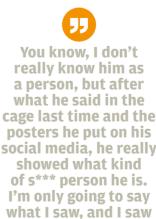
The reigning Middleweight champion will go up to Light Heavyweight to take on Mohammed Said Maalem in a vacant title bout which will headline BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood on August 1st, in Milan, Italy.

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.

"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

Mohammad Fakhreddine



a disrespectul, 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 disrespectul, 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.