

BRAVE CF President congratulates HH Shaikh Khalid on five years of success

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation completes five years of tremendous success worldwide under the vision and leadership of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and BRAVE CF president Mohammed Shahid has congratulated His Highness on the momentous occasion marking the fifth anniversary of BRAVE CF.

“On this day marking 5 years of BRAVE CF, I would like to thank His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his vision, leadership and support,” says BRAVE CF President Mohammed Shahid. “It has been 5 years of advocating change in the MMA industry, globalising the sport, empowering governance and providing opportunities. We look forward to another 5 years that will implement what was built in the first 5 years. Thank you to the BRAVE nation for their love and support. Together let’s continue the take over and introduce a new age of MMA.”

In five years of operations,



the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world has broken several records, travelling to 24 different countries and making its debut in Poland on September 25th, with 54 extravagant events helping to revolutionize the sport around the globe.

In this period, BRAVE Combat Federation became the only international promotion to do events in South Asia, West Asia, Central Asia, and South East Asia with the largest active market share in Asia with operations developing across the continent.

It has also held events in nine European countries across Scandinavia, South Europe, Central Europe, South-Eastern Europe, and Eastern Europe making it the leading international promotion in Europe with the largest MMA market share. BRAVE CF also made history in Africa, being the only international organization to host events in the continent.

In these five years, BRAVE CF has also developed the finest scouting program in the world of MMA, granting opportunities to fighters from across the globe, and providing talent from around the world with the global opportunity they crave and deserve.



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BRAVE CF president initiates a new national MMA project in Poland

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Mohammed Shahid, the president of BRAVE Combat Federation, has finally arrived in Konin, Poland as the global outfit gears up for its maiden event in the country --BRAVE CF 54-- on Saturday, September 25th.

To celebrate its fifth anniversary in the mixed martial arts industry, the Bahrain-based promotion has prepared a stacked fight card headlined by a grudge match between BRAVE CF Lightweight World Champion Amin “Fierceness” Ayoub of France and challenger Ahmed “The Butcher” Amir of Egypt.

Aside from the main event, the show also features three of the country’s up-and-coming stars who will be getting a fair share of the international limelight.

Marcin “Bomba” Bandel, Wawrzyniec Bartnik and Ewelina Wozniak will be donning the national colors of crimson red and immaculate white at the historic BRAVE CF 54.

Meanwhile, Irish stand-out Blaine O’Driscoll is set to square off with Muhammad “The Punisher” Mokaev in the co-feature attraction.

As the countdown begins,



Mohammed Shahid

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MOHAMMED SHAHID

Shahid can’t help but look back at the things that his company has accomplished in Europe in the span of nine months.

“BRAVE CF has always been known as a national project with the focus to provide sports values to a nation. It’s clearly seen with the government rela-

tion BRAVE CF has with the host nations,” he stated.

“But at the same time the events are also a unique networking opportunity where international government officials, global business tycoons and celebrities around the world come together.”

Though it looks like BRAVE CF has attained a significant stride across the continent in 2021, it seems to be the tip of the iceberg.

Most recently, BRAVE CF announced that it will be holding a card in Russia towards the back end of this year, aiming to return to where the company has started this year.

Further details about the organization’s return to Russia will be announced in the coming weeks.

Verstappen laughs off Hami’s pressure comments

Lewis Hamilton says he has empathy for title rival Max Verstappen

● Briton suggests title rival is under pressure

● Verstappen responds with sarcasm

Reuters | London

Max Verstappen hit back with sarcasm yesterday after seven times Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton suggested his young Red Bull rival was feeling the pressure of a first title tilt.

“I’m so nervous I can barely sleep,” the Dutch 23-year-old told reporters at the Russian Grand Prix when Hamilton’s comments were put to him.

“It’s so horrible to fight for a title. I really hate it,” he added.

Verstappen said those who knew him could testify how relaxed he was.

“I’m very chilled. It’s the best feeling ever to have a great car where you go into every weekend and you can fight for a win... those comments just show you that he really doesn’t know me,” he said of his Mercedes rival.

“Which is fine. I also don’t need to know him, how he is fully. I just focus on myself and I really enjoy it out there in front and hopefully we can do that for a very long time.”

Verstappen is five points clear of Hamilton after 14 of 22 rounds but has a three-place grid penalty for Sochi after they



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton (L) and Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen collide during the Italian Formula One Grand Prix

collided in the previous race at Monza.

Their clashes have become the story of the season as Verstappen and Red Bull seek to end seven years of Mercedes domination and dethrone the most successful driver of all time.

Hamilton had earlier told reporters that he knew from experience what Verstappen was going through.

“Obviously he won’t admit to it and I’m not going to make an assumption,” the Briton added when asked whether he felt the pressure was starting to catch up with Verstappen.

“I’m just saying that I remember what it was like when I had my first one and it definitely mounted up. It was difficult, it was intense, I was going through a lot of different emotions and

I didn’t always handle it the best.”

“That’s to be expected ... there’s a lot of self-expectation and pressure because the desire to win is huge. I empathise and understand that.”

Hamilton won his first championship in 2008 as a 23-year-old with McLaren, in what was his second season. Verstappen is now a veteran of 133 races and in his seventh campaign.

No Lingering Effects

Hamilton said there were no lingering effects from Monza, where Verstappen’s car ended up on top of the Mercedes with a rear wheel hitting the Briton’s helmet.

He said he had done yoga and acupuncture and his physiotherapist Angela Cullen had flown with him to America,



Verstappen is five points clear of Hamilton after 14 of 22 rounds but has a three-place grid penalty for Sochi after they collided in the previous race at Monza

where he attended the Met Gala fashion show in New York.

The 36-year-old batted aside reported comments from Red Bull consultant Helmut Marko questioning how much pain he had really felt.

“I don’t really listen to what these individuals talk about. It’s natural when a car lands on your head that you’re going to have some sort of discomfort,” he said.

“I didn’t say I was dying. Just aware that in a millisecond anything can happen. I did feel grateful to come out of it not badly injured and move on.”

Hamilton said he was putting no energy into worrying about more collisions.

“I think what’s important is that we just continue to race hard and fair and I have no doubts that we will both be professional and learn from the past,” he said.

Sola not intimidated by more experienced opponent on his second pro fight

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The former #1 ranked amateur fighter in the world and IMMAF European champion Axel Sola might be heading to his second professional fight but he’s showing the confidence of a long-time veteran. Ahead of his fight against Wawrzyniec Bartnik at BRAVE CF 54, the Frenchman seemed unfazed by the fact that his opponent is going to his 8th pro bout.

“I believe in my coach. He told me it was time for me to fight this kind of opponent, so I just listened and I did. I trust him and I trust my skills. He knows me, he knows how



Axel Sola in action during a bout (file photo)

“I believe in my coach. He told me it was time for me to fight this kind of opponent, so I just listened and I did. I trust him and I trust my skills. He knows me, he knows how I fight. If he says I’m ready, it means I’m ready”

XAXEL SOLA

I fight. If he says I’m ready, it means I’m ready”, he said.

“I think he (Bartnik) is very tough, he is hard to finish”, he continued. “He can take shots on the head and he will keep moving forward. He is looking for close-range fighting. I just have to do my game to stay technical and I don’t see how he can beat me”.

Speaking about his own abilities, Sola said that he believes that being a more well-rounded fighter will give him the edge.

“I am a more complete fighter, so I will be able to switch things up to get the points or to get the finish or the victory and I don’t think he is able to switch things up like I can”, he finished.

Axel Sola vs Wawrzyniec Bartnik takes place at BRAVE CF 54, on September 25, in Konin, Poland. The event will be headlined by the Lightweight title bout between the champion Amin Ayoub and the challenger Ahmed Amir.