

Strongest Man at Home mirrors Shaikh Khalid's support to youth and sport: Al Shaikh

TDT | Manama

Director of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Media Office, President of the Organising Committee of the Strongest Bahraini Man at Home Championship Ahmed Al Shaikh underlined that the contest clearly reflects HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and Bahrain Olympic Committee President's support to the youth and sports fields through unique initiatives that aim to encourage the Bahrainis to improve the skills and upgrade their capabilities.

"HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa always encourages to continue practicing sports and this is shown in the initiatives HH introduces to support the youth and



Ahmed Al Shaikh

sports fields. HH's instructions to organise the Strongest Man at Home Championship is a continuation for his exceptional efforts towards backing the youth and sports fields in order to allow our Bahraini youth unleash their energies and capabilities," he said.

"The Championship will be held taking into consideration the preventive measures in place to combat Covid-19. We have a team of experts to ensure the event will take place as planned," he concluded.

Fernandes targets Europa League glory for Man Utd

AFP | London

Bruno Fernandes is targeting Europa League glory after helping lead Manchester United back to the Champions League.

The midfielder scored in United's 2-0 win at Leicester on Sunday as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side sealed third spot in the Premier League, meaning they will return to Europe's elite competition next season after a year's absence.

United lead LASK 5-0 from the first leg of their last-16 Europa League tie and will face Istanbul Basaksehir or Copen-

hagen in the quarter-finals as part of a mini-tournament due to be played in Germany from the quarter-finals onwards.

Fernandes has scored 10 goals since joining from Sporting Lisbon in January to inspire United's top-four return and now he wants silverware.

"Now our focus is on the Europa League because this is a really good trophy and we want to win," he told MUTV.

"I came to Manchester to win trophies. We need to play every game to win. If we go into the Europa League and win every game, we know we'll win the trophy."

Murray 'mentally' planning for US Open

● Andy Murray is planning mentally for the US Open next month despite uncertainty over whether the event will go ahead

AFP | London

Andy Murray is "mentally" planning for next month's US Open but admits he is apprehensive about the return of tennis following the coronavirus shutdown.

The former world number one is taking part in the Battle of the Brits Team Tennis event in London this week and remains focused on the showpiece hard-court event in New York, scheduled to start on August 31.

The British player told the Metro he was expecting the US Open, which he won in 2012, to go ahead.

"We have to try and prepare that way," he said. "We were saying four or five weeks ago, you know, we were pretty sceptical about it but mentally at some stage you need to start preparing and planning for that."

"I'm planning to try and be



Andy Murray hits a return during a match (file photo)

there in shape for the US Open," he added. "If it wasn't happening my schedule for practising, my rehab would all be a bit different. So yeah, mentally I'm planning for it to go ahead."

The three-time Grand Slam champion said he was still "apprehensive" but hopes tennis

can follow other sports back into action after the long lay-off.

Top-level men's and women's tennis has been suspended since March.

Tennis chiefs last week cancelled a tournament in Washington DC due to mark the resumption of the men's tennis season over "continued uncertainties".

Several leading figures have cast doubts over the US Open, including world number one Novak Djokovic, who earlier this month said he was undecided over whether to travel for the tournament.

"Hopefully it can go ahead

but, if not, I'm also OK with that," Murray said in comments reported by the Guardian. "It's not like I'm saying it must go ahead. We need to try to get back to competing when it's safe to do so."

"Some sports have gone back, and seem to have done pretty well -- football, for example. The issue for us is the travel."

Murray, still working his way back from injury, suggested he would probably try to compete at the ATP Western and Southern Open, which has been switched to Flushing Meadows, as a warm-up event ahead of the US Open.

A number of players, including Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Simona Halep, have expressed doubts about taking part at the US Open



Surviving Covid-19: The BRAVE CF fight

● The story of how BRAVE CF not only went through the pandemic but managed to thrive in such adverse scenario

TDT | Manama

No one could have imagined what 2020 was preparing when the year started. When the clock hit 00:00 and suddenly it was January 1st once again, it seemed that with a few twists here and there, it was going to be just the usual, except that the normality in force back then now seems a long and distant past.

Fast forward almost eight months and here we are. A global pandemic of unprecedented consequences struck the entire world, sadly, hundreds of thousands lost their lives, borders were shut for the first time in a long time, travel restrictions



applied, businesses plummeted around the globe, and every single person's lifestyle was shaken to the core faster than anyone could predict.

Amid this historical and challenging moment, many struggled to keep going on: important national and international companies shut down, governments

worldwide issued massive bailouts to corporations and social security assistance to citizens, and some countries spiralled down towards the worst recessions in the recent memory.

Still, some managed to thrive in this hostile environment and one of those examples was, without a doubt, the Bah-

rain-based Mixed Martial Arts promotion BRAVE Combat Federation, founded by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Right when the dimension of the Covid-19 crisis made itself evident, the promotion took the lead and suspended indefinitely all its scheduled events -- the plans for 2020, as it had been for the two previous years, were to hold 12 events in 12 different countries.

The idea was to, first and foremost, preserve the health of the thousands of people involved with the organization of a single BRAVE CF fight night, plus the other thousands that attend the events. Secondly, to better understand the extension of the actions that would've to be taken and when would be safe to return implementing them, according to international health bodies.

The organization then turned its attention to how it could be useful to society in terms of combating Covid-19. Inside the Kingdom of Bahrain, its home country, BRAVE CF was pivotal in some key government activities, focused on controlling the spread of the virus and reaching communities in social vulnerability. In accordance with its international presence, the truly global MMA promotion also kicked off a global awareness campaign, helping to advertise

the best practices and certified recommendations by national and international health organizations.

Internally, BRAVE's results were even more noteworthy. Rather than laying off staff, which had been the common rule of thumb of business to survive the Pandemic, BRAVE CF further increased manpower and maintained job security for its employees.

Additionally, the months off were used to expand the brand activities and work on the strongest Covid-19 protocol in the sport of Mixed Martial Arts. Thus, in July, BRAVE CF announced a staggering number of six new content distribution agreements with market giants in three different continents and, in parallel, was able to confirm its return ensuring the safety and security of all involved.

The first leg of BRAVE CF return came to an end on Monday (27), with the second consecutive event in Romania. From there, BRAVE CF remains in Europe for another series of shows, in Sweden, Poland, and Belgium.

With professionalism and social responsibility, BRAVE Combat Federation was able to contribute to the community in hard times as the ones we're living and internally ensure that it's steady as always and stronger than ever.

Liverpool's Lovren completes Zenit switch

AFP | London

Liverpool defender Dejan Lovren has completed a move to Russian side Zenit St Petersburg for a reported £10.9 million (\$14 million) after slipping down the pecking order at Anfield.

The 31-year-old, who joined the newly crowned Premier League champions from Southampton in 2014, made just 15 appearances this season, falling to fourth-choice centre-back behind Virgil van Dijk, Joe Gomez and Joel Matip.

The Croatian has been troubled with niggling injuries over the past two years.

"Another Liverpool legend who leaves the club, because he was absolutely a very, very important part of this team from the first day since I was in," manager Jurgen Klopp told liverpoolfc.com.

"When he was fit, he was very, very, very often in the team. A great player and a great person," Klopp added.



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