

Bulgaria's Delyan Georgiev squares off against India's Owais Yaqoob at BRAVE CF 107

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation™ (BRAVE CF), the world's fastest-growing and most global mixed martial arts organization, continues to raise anticipation for its return to Bulgaria with a lightweight showdown officially confirmed for BRAVE CF 107, scheduled for Saturday, August 1, at the Burgas Arena.

The bout will see hometown favorite Delyan Georgiev collide with Indian standout Owais Yaqoob in a three-round featured attraction on the supporting card, adding further intrigue to a highly anticipated international showcase.

Delyan Georgiev, Former IMMAF World Champion, stated: "I've been waiting for this moment for a long time. Finally making my BRAVE CF debut in front of my home fans and a worldwide audience is truly special. I am ready to show every-



one what I can do and prove that Bulgaria has another elite talent ready for the international scene."

Owais Yaqoob, No. 5-Ranked Lightweight Contender, stated: "I'm excited to compete again in BRAVE CF and continue building my momentum. Delyan

Georgiev is a young and talented fighter from Bulgaria, so I know this will be a tough test in front of his supporters. These are the kind of fights that push you to the next level, and I'm ready for it."

Georgiev joins BRAVE CF carrying an exceptional amateur

pedigree. The Bulgarian prospect established himself as one of the brightest names in European mixed martial arts after becoming a two-time IMMAF World Champion, winning the gold medal in 2017 and 2018.

Since transitioning to the professional ranks in 2021, Georgiev

has compiled an unbeaten 3-0 record, showcasing versatility with victories by both knockout and submission. Now, the promising lightweight prepares to unveil his skill set on one of the sport's premier platforms in what could become a defining chapter of his young career.

Standing across from him will be a competitor who has rapidly emerged as one of BRAVE CF's most dangerous new athletes.

Yaqoob owns an impressive 5-1 professional record with three stoppage victories and has made an immediate impact during his current run under the promotion's banner. The Indian bruiser forced Ian Paul Lora to tap from strikes in the opening round at BRAVE CF 98 in September 2025 before delivering another emphatic first-round finish against Mehmet Can Tasdoven through relentless ground-and-pound at BRAVE CF 103 three months later.

Those dominant performances earned Yaqoob the prestigious 2025 BRAVE CF Breakout Fighter of the Year award and cemented his reputation as one of the most exciting talents in the weight class today.

The clash becomes even more intriguing considering the elite camps behind both competitors. Georgiev sharpens his craft alongside BRAVE CF alumnus Iliya "El Matador" Topuria, while Yaqoob trains under the guidance of MMA legend Khabib "The Eagle" Nurmagomedov.

With national pride, rising momentum, and international recognition all at stake, Georgiev vs. Yaqoob promises to deliver a compelling battle when BRAVE CF 107 lights up Burgas Arena on Saturday, August 1.

Several additional matchups will be announced in the coming weeks as BRAVE CF continues to build anticipation for its return to Bulgaria.

Egypt eye World Cup breakthrough in Salah's likely last World Cup

● Mohamed Salah targets elusive victory

● Egypt holds seven continental championships

● AFCON heartbreak still motivates Salah

AFP | Cairo

Mohamed Salah has unfinished business in what could be his final World Cup as Egypt's superstar seeks to deliver a first win at the tournament for the Pharaohs.

Powerhouses of African football with a record seven continental titles, Egypt have struggled to make a dent on the global stage in three previous attempts.

Salah should have arrived at the 2018 World Cup in the form of his life.

Fresh from scoring 44 goals in his debut season at Liverpool -- which propelled him from promising talent into a worldwide phenomenon -- Salah suffered a serious shoulder injury in the Champions League final after an infamous challenge by Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos.

A patched-up Salah did make it to Russia and scored twice in his two appearances, but failed to prevent a group stage exit after defeats to the hosts, Uruguay and Saudi Arabia.

Now the 33-year-old comes into a World Cup at the other end of his Liverpool career.

Salah broke down in tears several times as his nine-year spell at Anfield ended on Sunday after amassing 257 goals, two Premier League titles and Champions League glory.

"We put this club back where



Egypt's forward #10 Mohamed Salah reacts during a match (file photo)

it belongs," he said in his parting message on Merseyside.

His Premier League exploits meant that his influence stretched far beyond the field of play.

Salah was named in Time magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in 2019, described as an "iconic figure for Egyptians, Scousers and Muslims the world over".

He has used that profile to call for greater gender equality in the Arab world and to appeal for humanitarian aid to be allowed into Gaza following Israeli air strikes in October 2023.

'Best in the world'

Now, his home nation expects Salah to deliver a moment on the international stage which is lacking from his glittering

career.

Twice he has been on the losing side in Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals, in 2017 and 2021.

"For me, Salah is the best player in the world," Egypt forward Mahmoud Hassan, better known as Trezeguet, told AFP.

"His presence is extremely important for us. Not only as a star, but also as a leader who gives us confidence and strength."

Together, Salah and former Aston Villa forward Trezeguet scored 14 of Egypt's 20 goals in qualifying.

Yet, Salah was a diminished force in the Premier League this season, which accelerated his exit from Liverpool.

A year ago, he was handed a new two-year contract on the back of one of the great all-time



individual seasons to deliver the Premier League title.

Tensions between Liverpool's "Egyptian King" and manager Arne Slot simmered for months after Salah was dropped for three consecutive matches in December.

Injuries to others meant he regained his place after returning from AFCON, but Salah's return of 12 goals in 41 appearances was by a distance the lowest of his Liverpool career.

However, his and Egypt's form at international level is a cause for optimism heading into a manageable draw against Belgium, New Zealand, and Iran in Group G.

Salah scored in his first four appearances at AFCON before more heartbreak against his former club team-mate Sadio Mane's Senegal, this time in the semi-finals.

He then missed the March international window where Hosam Hassan's side thrashed Saudi Arabia 4-0 and held Spain to a 0-0 draw.

"I believe he will achieve something with the Pharaohs at the 2026 World Cup," former Egypt captain Ahmed Fathi said.

"I played with him since the early days of his international career -- we were together at the London 2012 Olympics and the 2018 World Cup. He always made the difference, and I hope he will do it again in the United States."

Mateta fires Palace to Conference League glory in Glasner farewell



Crystal Palace's French striker #14 Jean-Philippe Mateta reacts holding the trophy

AFP | London

Jean-Philippe Mateta scored as Crystal Palace beat Rayo Vallecano 1-0 in the UEFA Conference League final in Leipzig on Wednesday to secure the club's first European trophy in their history.

After a cagey opening half with few clear chances, Mateta turned in a rebound for the game's only goal on 51 minutes, sending departing coach Olivier Glasner off in style.

Glasner departs with a third trophy in two years as Palace manager, the most successful period in the club's history, after dashing Rayo's hopes of landing their first major silverware.

"The difference he (Glasner) has made in two and a half years is incredible," Palace midfielder Adam Wharton told TNT Sports.

"Three trophies, the first in the history of the club, first European competition and winning it.

"He's got to be one of the best managers Palace has had and he's made a huge difference to how the club looks at competitions now -- we're

looking to win it."

The victory also completed Glasner's objective of returning Palace to the Europa League, the competition they qualified to play in this season before falling foul of multi-club ownership rules and being demoted to the Conference League.

The Austrian, already a Europa League champion with Eintracht Frankfurt in 2022, once again showed his excellence in knockout competitions.

Palace overcame the sales of star players Eberechi Eze and Marc Guehi this season, and the fallout from the latter's January move to Manchester City, to cap their first full venture into European competition with a title.

France striker Mateta, the hero on the night, was a failed medical away from leaving Palace for AC Milan this winter.

"I feel fantastic," said Mateta. "First time in Europe, we did it! Now I just want to celebrate, I just want to party."

"I'm tired, man. I gave everything. The team gave everything and that's why we won today."