

Bahrain team set for Spartan World Championship



The team members

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's obstacle course racing team continue their intensive training programme in preparation for the Spartan World Championship 2021, which will be held in Abu Dhabi from December 2 to 5.

The event will be held for the first time in the Middle East, confirming the Gulf's position as a host of leading global competitions.

The team has gradually increased the pace of training in order to ensure that they are fully ready for this important international participation and avoid fatigue and injuries.

Bahrain Obstacle Course Racing Club (BOCR) general secretary Seema Al Khraz was present yesterday at the training of the participating team, accompanied by BOCR competition's committee chairman Faisal Al Khalassi and the BOCR delegation head. She met the participants and conveyed to them the greetings of BOCR president Shaikh Khaled bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa.

Al Khraz commented: "Abu Dhabi is hosting the Spartan World Championship for the first time outside the USA, and the first time in the Middle East, in light of the great successes of this new type of sport, which is characterised by a global interaction in these races by all participants in different countries of the world."



Seema Al Khraz

Al Khraz noted that the venue features sandy desert nature and sand dunes, which in themselves are obstacles and interesting challenges for participants.

Al Khalassi, Sarah John, Mariam Al Khalassi, Abdullah Merheb and Abdulrahman Al Dosari will compete in the 21km and 13km elite competition as well as in the teams category.

The tournament is expected to see a total field of up to 5,000 participants in all competitions, with more than 2,000 having so far registered and confirmed their presence.

Faisal Al Khalassi pointed out the remarkable development in the performance of the team members through their preparations this year under the current circumstances.

It is expected that the organising committee will issue the final schedule of the competitions after approving the participating teams and players and distributing them according to international classifications.

BRX to unleash Prodrive Hunter T1+ at Dakar 2022



The all-new Hunter T1+ car

● **Redesigned Prodrive Hunter to meet the new T1+ regulations recently announced by FIA at world's biggest and most challenging multi-stage rally in Saudi Arabia set for January next year**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Raid Xtreme (BRX) has redesigned the Prodrive Hunter to meet the new T1+ regulations recently announced by the FIA, which is now the top class alongside T1-E.

The new regulations were introduced to help balance the performance of the four and two-wheel-drive cars in the T1 class.

The Hunter will run on larger tyres, with increased suspension travel and a wider track. Thirty-seven-inch tyres on 17-inch rims, replace the current 32-inch tyres on 16-inch

“We've learnt a huge amount on our debut this year and have put all this learning into improving the car and believe our new Hunter T1+ is a significant step forward”

BRX TEAM PRINCIPAL GUS BETELI

rims, with suspension travel increased from 280mm to 350mm and the body width increased from 2m to 2.3m to accommodate this.

These changes have necessitated some significant changes to the Hunter's drivetrain; suspension and bodywork. The suspension geometry has been reconfigured with longer wishbones and dampers, and there are larger brakes accommodated in the 17-inch wheels.

The larger tyre radius increases the load in the drivetrain so driveshafts, the propshaft and differentials have all been modified. The wider track has



BRX's first Hunter T1+ car is currently being built at Prodrive's headquarters in the UK and will run for the first time in September

also meant nearly half the bodywork has been redesigned with Callum restyling the Hunter to suit the new regulations, while keeping the same distinctive look.

Prodrive has taken the opportunity to increase the size of the windscreen and fit a new programmable wiper motor to improve the driver's visibility. The onboard jacks have been improved to not only be lighter and stronger, but to lift the car faster and can now be powered by an electric pump for addi-

tional reliability.

BRX team principal Gus Beteli said: "We are very pleased the organisers have addressed the disparity in regulations between the buggies and the four wheel drive T1 cars, where larger tyres had an advantage over rough terrain. We've learnt a huge amount on our debut this year and have put all this learning into improving the car and believe our new Hunter T1+ is a significant step forward. We are looking forward to returning to Saudi in January, where we will be looking to challenge for victory."

BRX competed with the T1 car for the last time at Baja Aragon last week, where the Hunter showed its pace setting fastest times on eight of the rally's 11 sectors.

The first Hunter T1+ car is currently being built at Prodrive's headquarters in the UK and will run for the first time in September. The new car is also available to customers to compete in FIA Cross Country events, Bajas and at the Dakar in 2022.

Middleweight world champ working to get his name written in BRAVE CF history

TDT | Manama

BRAVE CF Middleweight World Champion Mohammad "The Latest" Fakhreddine has learned plenty of lessons in his life so far, but the most important is that hard work makes dreams come true.

As a result of his dedication, he is now revered by many as one of the most recognizable faces in the burgeoning Arab mixed martial arts (MMA) circuit by becoming the first Lebanese to ever hold a major world title in the sport.

The 36-year-old knockout artist has an opportunity to write his name in history books by becoming a two-division world champion. He is set to face Mohamed "L'Ambiance" Said Maalem for the vacant BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight World Championship in the main event of BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood, which takes place in Milan, Italy on August 1.

Though betting odds tell Fakhreddine that he is the favourite to walk out with two gold-plated belts draped over his shoulders on fight night,



Mohammad Fakhreddine

complacency is a non-existing word in his vocabulary as he earned his stature in the world of MMA the hard way.

Nothing was ever handed to Fakhreddine, going through trials and tribulations both inside and outside the cage. The most painful of them all was when he lost his humble home in Beirut to a fire that took away 200 lives and affected thousands in their neighbourhood.

His family had no other choice but to migrate to the United States, where they found a new lease on life. Nothing

came easy for them, but they had come too far to give up on the American dream.

Fakhreddine pushed through language barriers and prejudice as he turned an unfamiliar place into his home.

Participating in athletics was one way for the then-youngster to ingratiate himself with the local community. Doing so broke the ice and allowed him to make new friends and stay active, but it wasn't until he discovered MMA that he truly began to shine. He went from being a run-of-the-mill practitioner to a prodigy.

Said Maalem aims to write his name as the next BRAVE CF world champion

TDT | Manama

A victory this Sunday, August 1 in the main event of BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood could transform the professional mixed martial arts (MMA) career of Mohamed "L'Ambiance" Said Maalem.

The Swiss-Algerian behemoth is set to square off against BRAVE CF Middleweight World Champion Mohammad "The Latest" Fakhreddine of Lebanon for the vacant BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight World Championship.

Said Maalem is one of the most lauded athletes in the sport today, racking up 11 victories out of 14 bouts with six wins by way of knockout.

The evident secret behind his tremendous run in MMA is his wrestling as the discipline holds all sorts of technical advantages, including the ability to dictate the pace of a bout.

Said Maalem was a natural at wrestling. He trained every single day at a very young age, dominated the competition, and became a national cham-



Mohamed Said Maalem

pion in his home country.

His caliber and credentials as a wrestler could have made him a regular fixture in the prestigious Summer Olympic Games, but he found his true calling when he met Brazilian coach Anderson Pereira in 2010.

The trainer invited him to spar with a pro MMA athlete, which turned out to be an eye-opener for him due to the all-encompassing nature of the sport. At that very moment, he

decided to continue competing, only now it would be inside the cage as a prizefighter.

Four years later, Said Maalem made his professional debut, and since then, he has never looked back.

When he inked an exclusive deal with BRAVE Combat Federation in 2019, he immediately established himself as one of the most exciting light heavyweights on the roster in his maiden appearance.