



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa attends the opening ceremony

A scene from the opening ceremony

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa inaugurates 2022 BRAVE International Combat Week in glittering opening ceremony at Khalifa Sports City arena

● **HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa attends opening ceremony along with a host of ministers and high-ranking officials**

● **Mixed Martial Arts extravaganza to continue until Saturday, and it will feature world-class events including BRAVE CF 57 and the MMA Super Cup**

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The 2022 edition of BRAVE International Combat Week kicked off last night with a glittering opening ceremony held at the Khalifa Sports City arena in Isa Town.

In attendance was Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, General Sports Authority president and Bahrain Olympic Committee chief His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

BRAVE International Combat Week is being held under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid and has been organised by the

Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation (BMMAF), in cooperation with the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF) and Khalid bin Hamad Sports Organisation (KHK Sports).

The MMA extravaganza will continue until Saturday, and it will be headlined world-class events, including BRAVE CF 57 and the MMA Super Cup.

Yesterday's inauguration was attended by a host of ministers and high-ranking officials.

On this occasion, HH Shaikh Khalid affirmed that Bahrain has become an ideal destination for major sports events at the continental and international levels, thanks to the sponsorship and care extended to sports by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the interest of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

"We have sketched our vision to support the MMA sport which has now become the centre of



Athletes take part in the parade of nations during last night's inauguration

attention from across the world," HH Shaikh Khalid said.

"Bahrain has accomplished tremendous achievements in

this sport, foremost of which topping the IMMAF rank as well as the introduction of BRAVE CF.

"The Kingdom is the favourite destination for the IMMAF after earning the trust and the confidence of the federation, following the organisation of three tremendously successful world championships.

"As a result, we have been

granted the rights to host and organise the first edition of the MMA Super Cup."

Moreover, HH Shaikh Khalid stated that BRAVE CF 57 represents a great opportunity for professional fighters to encounter one another.

"The event will feature three important fights, the main of which is Hamza Kooheji's fight against Brad Katona," HH Shaikh Khalid added.

HH Shaikh Khalid also lauded the hugely successful opening ceremony, stressing that it confirms the high capabilities and abilities of Bahrain to organise such great events.



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- HH SHAIKH KHALID BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA



BRAVE CF 57 is set to feature world-class fighters from 17 nations, including Bahrain, Canada, Lebanon, Algeria, Kyrgyzstan, France, Uzbekistan, Brazil, England, Russia, Switzerland, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, India, Egypt, and Afghanistan.

Mohammad Fakhreddine's fan bets \$100K on him to win at BRAVE CF 57

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Loyal fan of Mohammad Fakhreddine in Orange County, California is expected to have an expensive night on Friday, March 11 as he opted to put big money on BRAVE CF Middleweight World Champion.

Fakhreddine is set to battle arch-nemesis Mohamed "L'Ambiance" Said Maalem in a much-awaited rematch for the vacant BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight World Championship at BRAVE CF 57, which takes place at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town, Bahrain.

The unnamed fan is betting \$100,000 that Fakhreddine will beat Said Maalem and make history as the first fighter un-



Mohammad Fakhreddine

der the promotion's umbrella to hold two World Titles at the same time.

The first encounter between Fakhreddine and Said Maalem at BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood in August 2021 ended in controversy as the result was overturned by the Italian Federation

of Grappling and Mixed Martial Arts following a thorough investigation of the match.

It was found that there were illegal strikes made by Said Maalem on Fakhreddine in the final sequence, something that contributed to the stoppage.

Now, Fakhreddine and Said Maalem will have to settle the score with a chance to have a much more definitive ending and crown the new BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight World Champion.

It's not clear what odds Fakhreddine's fan will get for the said amount of his bet, but he will surely earn more than his wager if the Lebanese hard-hitter walks out with another belt draped on his shoulder.

Said Maalem seeks to silence Fakhreddine once and for all

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Mohamed "L'Ambiance" Said Maalem made it clear that he plans to humble BRAVE CF Middleweight World Champion Mohammad "The Latest" Fakhreddine when they meet inside the cage once again.

Both men are set to face each other for the vacant BRAVE CF Light Heavyweight Championship in a rematch at the highly-anticipated BRAVE CF 57, which takes place at Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town, Bahrain on Friday, March 11.

The bad blood between the two stemmed from their canceled fight at BRAVE CF 50 in



Mohamed Said Maalem

April 2011 when Fakhreddine opted to pull out of the contest due to illness. The war of words on social media and in person ensued soon afterwards.

Said Maalem and Fakhreddine had the opportunity to

settle the score at BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood four months later, but to compound the misery, it ended in controversy.

The result of the fight originally had Said Maalem winning by stoppage in the first round, but the Italian Federation of Grappling and Mixed Martial Arts—the authorized governing body that sanctioned the fight—overturned the outcome following a thorough investigation.

It was found that there were illegal strikes made by Said Maalem to the back of Fakhreddine's head in the final sequence, prompting the commission to call for a no contest.