

# Team Bahrain face tricky conditions at Rotax MAX practice

Muhammad Wally among pacesetters in Junior MAX category on first day of practice in Rotax MAX Grand Finals

● **Wet conditions provide valuable experience for Team Bahrain drivers**

TDT | Manama

After two days of driver registration and kart distribution, on Monday track action began in earnest ahead of the 2022 Rotax MAX Challenge (RMC) Grand Finals, in Portimao, Portugal.

Team Bahrain drivers were thus faced with conditions the drivers are not as familiar with as their European counterparts, but nevertheless, it was a positive day for the team.

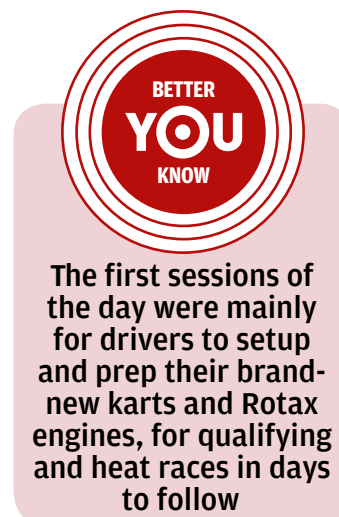
The 23rd edition of the Grand Finals, began with a wet track thanks to a fine drizzle that persisted through the night in



Participants steer their car during practice

the Algarve, meaning that some classes were forced to run wet weather tyres early in the day. As the day progressed the track dried and the pace picked up considerably but later in the afternoon the rain returned.

The first sessions of the day were mainly for drivers to setup and prep their brand-new karts and Rotax engines, for qualifying and heat races in days to follow. Team Bahrain this year is represented by: Micro, Yousif



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AlGhaith (10), Bahrain; Mini, Khaled Najjar (11), Bahrain; Junior, Muhammad Wally (14), South Africa/ Poland; Senior, Najash Rashdan (23), Bahrain; and DD2, Sulaiman AlKandari (18), Kuwait.



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HASAN SHEHABI, BIC COMMERCIAL KARTING AND TEAM BAHRAIN MANAGER

While his teammates came to terms with the tricky conditions, Muhammad Wally showed strong pace throughout the day, ending third-fastest in the Junior category, and with it signalled his intent while giving Team Bahrain hope for a strong result in the MAX Junior Class.

Hasan Shehabi, BIC Commercial Karting and Team Bahrain manager, summed up the day. He

said: "Rain is always a challenge for non-Europe based drivers, therefore it was no surprise some of our team were nervous. But once the action started they all gave their best."

"We are very happy with Muhammad Wally's performance, he was among the pace-setters from the start, in the dry and wet, while the wet track provided the likes of Yousif AlGhaith, Khaled Najjar, Najashi Rashdan, and Sulaiman AlKandari with invaluable experience in these conditions."

"All in all, a solid day for Team Bahrain, with the serious side of the Grand Finals starting after Tuesday's final practice day. The spirit in the team is high, and confidence growing."

Tuesday is another day of practice, followed by qualifying heat races in the forthcoming days, with the Finals set for Saturday, 26 November.

## BRAVE CF president hails Mohammed Farhad's influence in Indian MMA

● **Mohammed Farhad to face Ruel Panales at BRAVE CF 66**

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BRAVE Combat Federation President Mohammed "The Hawk" Shahid has saluted BRAVE CF star Mohammad "Sher-e-Hind" Farhad for his impact on Indian MMA. Speaking ahead of BRAVE CF 66 set to take place in Bali, Indonesia this Saturday, Shahid doffed his hat to "Sher-e-Hind" for how he has grown over the years while also doing his part in lifted MMA in his motherland.

Mixed Martial Arts has gained significant popularity in India over the years, with an increasing number of events being held in the country. And Shahid has hailed the influence of Farhad, who returns to action at BRAVE CF 66 against Ruel Panales.

"Mohammed Farhad is the biggest star in Indian MMA. He has seen it all. He was there when I was still fighting," says President Shahid who retired with a professional record of four wins and two losses. "Farhad is now an international



Mohammed Farhad returns to action at BRAVE CF 66

fighter with a lot of experience. At BRAVE Combat Federation, we are proud to have followed him on his journey from a young athlete to a family man. Now, he is an Indian MMA icon and one of the top Bantamweights in the world," said the BRAVE CF President.

"Sher-e-Hind" never ceases to entertain with eleven of his twelve wins coming via KO/TKO stoppages. At BRAVE CF 66, the Indian star - who has an impressive record of 12 wins and four losses - Farhad faces Filipino star Ruel Panales in a Bantamweight bout.

He aims to get his BRAVE CF 135-pound title campaign back on track after a disappointing loss against Egypt's Maysara Mohamed at BRAVE CF 57. Before that, he was riding a three-fight win streak that included two stoppages in the most-global MMA promotion, BRAVE CF.

A win over Panales could help Farhad take the next step in his career and get him closer to that elusive BRAVE CF Bantamweight strap. It will not be an easy feat, though. Panales - mentored by former BRAVE CF veteran, Rolando Dy - makes his BRAVE CF debut and will aim

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MOHAMMED SHAHID

to become the new face of Filipino MMA with an emphatic win over his dangerous Indian opponent.

Much is being made about Panales as he comes into BRAVE CF unbeaten with a five-fight win streak. With Dy being his mentor/coach, it only adds to the allure of Panales. Farhad will be keen on derailing the Panales hype train and flying the Indian flag high in BRAVE Combat Federation again. BRAVE CF 66 takes place on November 26th as the world's fastest-growing MMA organization returns to Indonesia after a four-year hiatus. The fight card is head-lined by a Middleweight bout between South Africa's Chad Hanekom and South Korea's In Jae La. For more information on BRAVE CF 66, visit [www.bravecf.com](http://www.bravecf.com).

## Ronaldo to leave Manchester United after criticism of club



Cristiano Ronaldo stretches with teammate Pepe, in the background, during a Portugal soccer team training session

AFP | London

Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo will leave with immediate effect, the Premier League team said yesterday, marking a bitter end to the Portugal captain's second spell at Old Trafford after he said he felt betrayed by the club.

An explosive interview with TalkTV this month -- in which Ronaldo also said he did not respect manager Erik ten Hag -- had put him on shaky ground at the club he rejoined in August 2021 after winning eight major trophies with them from 2003-2009.

United said last week they would address Ronaldo's comments only after establishing the complete facts and added last Friday that they had initiated "appropriate steps" in response.

"Cristiano Ronaldo is to leave Manchester United by mutual agreement, with immediate effect. The club thanks



Ronaldo's contract at Old Trafford was due to run until June but United sought to cancel it early after the striker said the club had made "zero progress" since Sir Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 and that he "doesn't respect" Ten Hag

him for his immense contribution across two spells at Old Trafford, scoring 145 goals in 346 appearances, and wishes him and his family well for the future." United said in a statement.



Ruben Dias and Cristiano Ronaldo

## Portugal must focus on World Cup, not Ronaldo: Dias

AFP

Portugal defender Ruben Dias said yesterday it was time to focus on the World Cup and move on from the media circus

surrounding Cristiano Ronaldo's explosive interview.

"I don't think Cristiano's affairs have put a dent whatsoever into what we are trying to achieve here, so I don't have much to say

about it," Dias said.

"I think we've talked about this enough, there's not much to add. As a team we will focus on the World Cup now and not other issues."