

# Nemat flips the script, outlasts Roman Bogatov to win world title

● **Nemat Abdrashitov becomes second Kyrgyz world champion and fourth Featherweight titleholder in BRAVE CF history**

TDI | Manama

**B**RAVE Combat Federation has a new champion of the world. In a dogged performance in the main event of BRAVE CF 72, Nemat Abdrashitov flipped the script on its head by outlasting Roman Bogatov, widely expected to have the advantage in endurance. In the end, Abdrashitov was too much for his opponent and became BRAVE CF's fourth Featherweight titleholder in one of the greatest fights in BRAVE CF history.

After the bout, an emotional Abdrashitov thanked BRAVE CF for the opportunity and Roman Bogatov for giving him a shot at the world championship. Nemat becomes the second Kyrgyz champion of the world in BRAVE Combat Federation following the footsteps of his friend and training partner, Lightweight king Abdissalam Kubanychbek.

He was then surprised to see Omar Solomanov get into the cage for a special face-off. Omar had beaten Ilyar Askhanov at BRAVE CF 71 to earn the shot at the winner of the night's main event and will now face Nemat later this year.

Roman Bogatov's gameplan was as clear as ever: to use his wrestling to make Nemat tired and eventually work his way to a stoppage. But Abdrashitov had other plans. In what became a staple of the fight, "Eagle" surprised Roman early on by locking in a guillotine which almost



Nemat Abdrashitov receives the belt from BRAVE CF President Mohammed Shahid



**BRAVE CF will land in Nantes, France, on September 7th for its first event in the country. And throughout the week, it was announced that Yanis Ghemmouri and Ylies Djiroun would be confirmed to fight in the event should they win their bouts at BRAVE CF 72**

made Bogatov go to sleep.

From then on, the pace of the fight was played out in Nemat's favour, with the challenger hurting the champion at times, while also using his own wrestling to keep any offense from Roman to a minimum.

In the third round, he nearly finished Bogatov again, when he

connected with a right hand that sent Roman crawling near the cage. He locked in an arm-triangle choke, but the Russian refused to tap and ended the round on top, opening up a cut on Nemat's forehead.

Abdrashitov seemed even more fired up by his own blood, truly showcasing the heart of a champion. He took the initiative, punished Bogatov with hard punches and, when the wrestling element took over, was able to keep his wits and come out on top.

In the end, judges had the bout 50-45, 49-46, and 48-47 in favour of the new champion.

#### Co-main event drama

Before the main event unfolded, a bloody co-main event took place with Bidzina Gavashelishvili's takedown speed the difference maker against Muhammad Idrisov. The Georgian Flyweight's wrestling was a major factor in him earning 29-28's across the board.

For Idrisov, his first professional defeat can be a learning moment, as he looks to go back to the drawing board and figure out his next steps. The IMMAF

European champion could very well reinvent himself at Bantamweight as the size difference was in his favour.

#### French connection

BRAVE CF will land in Nantes, France, on September 7th for its first event in the country. And throughout the week, it was announced that Yanis Ghemmouri and Ylies Djiroun would be confirmed to fight in the event should they win their bouts at BRAVE CF 72.

And it certainly seemed as if they were eager to confirm themselves on the fight card. Both men put on arguably the strongest performances of their respective careers, earning huge victories and collecting their tickets to Nantes in the process.

Ylies Djiroun, coming off a two-year layoff, was sharper, faster, and stronger than Olzhas Eskaraev, beating his Kazakh opponent via unanimous decision. Yanis Ghemmouri had an even more impressive performance,

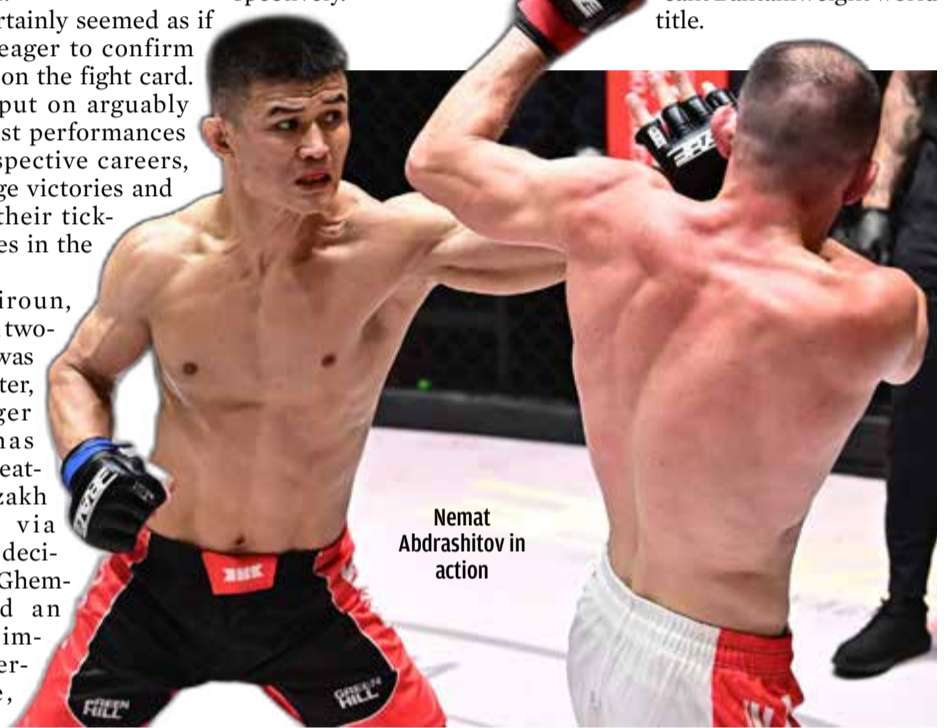
nullifying Mehmosh Raza's offense in the first before connecting with a very well-timed knee and knocking out "The Renegade".

#### The prelims

Elsewhere there were huge victories for Rasul Magomedov, Mohsen Mohammedseifi, and Eliezer Kubanza, who earned violent stoppages over Mohamed Hisham Baraka, Noor El Islam, and Rayan Atmani, respectively.

In the night's opening bout, the future of Bahraini MMA, Mohammed Alsameea earned a victory in his professional debut, knocking Ibrahim Hassan in the second round.

BRAVE CF next returns on August 12 for BRAVE CF 73, which goes down in Bogota, Colombia, as part of the BRAVE Pan-American Combat Week. In the main event of the evening, Jose "Shorty" Torres takes on Nkosi Ndebele for the vacant Bantamweight world title.



Nemat Abdrashitov in action

#### BRAVE CF 72 RESULTS

<b>Featherweight title:</b> Nemat Abdrashitov def. Roman Bogatov via unanimous decision (50-45, 49-46, 48-47)
<b>Flyweight:</b> Bidzina Gavashelishvili def. Muhammad Idrisov via unanimous decision (3x 29-28)
<b>Featherweight:</b> Yanis Ghemmouri def. Mehmosh Raza via TKO (knee) - 1m05s - Round 2
<b>Lightweight:</b> Ylies Djiroun def. Olzhas Eskaraev via unanimous decision (3x 29-27)
<b>Super Welterweight:</b> Eliezer Kubanza def. Rayan Atmani via KO (Head Kick) - 1m10s - Round 1
<b>Light Heavyweight:</b> Rasul Magomedov def. Mohamed Hisham Baraka by TKO (punches) - 2m07s - Round 1
<b>Lightweight:</b> Mohsen Mohammedseifi def. Noor El Islam via KO (punch) - 1m37s - Round 1
<b>Flyweight:</b> Mohammed Alsameea def. Ibrahim Hassan via TKO (punches) - 4m08s - Round 2

## Bahrain face Hungary in junior handball worlds

● **Bahrainis to play first game in main round of 24th IHF Men's Junior World Championship 2023**

TDI | Manama

**B**ahrain's under-21 national handball team take on their counterparts from Hungary today in their first game of the main round in the 24th IHF Men's Junior World Championship 2023, currently being hosted by Greece and Germany.

The nationals advanced to this stage for the first time ever in the history of the competition, and as underdogs will be looking to get a surprise victory.

They already have a loss to Sweden, which was a result that has been carried over from the preliminaries.

Today's game is scheduled for a 5.30pm start, Bahrain time. It will be played at Ano Liosia Olympic



Jassim Khamis looks to score against Greenland in Bahrain's last preliminary round match

Hall in Athens.

The Bahrainis' next game in Group III of this phase will be tomorrow against Denmark. It will take place at the same venue, starting at 7.45pm.

There are three other pools in this stage. Group I includes Ger-

many, Croatia, France and Tunisia; Group II consists of Portugal, the Faroe Islands, Spain and Brazil; and Group IV features Egypt, Iceland, Serbia and Greece.

The nationals need to finish in the top two to advance to the quarter-finals; otherwise, they will

play for ninth to 16th. That would be their best finish in the junior worlds, having been classified 17th overall the previous two times they played in the tournament in the 1995 and 2019 editions.

The remaining teams who did not advance to the main round are in the consolation pools where they will play for the President's Cup. Group I includes Poland, Algeria, Libya and the US; Group II features Kuwait, Japan, Angola and Costa Rica; Group III consists of Slovenia, Norway, Argentina and Greenland; and Group IV consists of Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Cuba and Chile.

The Bahrainis are coached by Essam Abdulla. Their roster in the competition includes Abdulla Abdulkarim, Komail Fouad, Sadiq Jaafar, Hussain Ali, Mahmood Al Khunaizi, Mustafa Al Hayki, Ahmed Al Zain, Hassan Khalil, Yasser Qambar, Ali Madan, Ali Redha, Ali Al Asheeri, Hesham Ahmed, Mohammed Hameed, Ali Jameel, Ali Mahmood, Ahmed Redha and Jassim Khamis.

## Bublik beats Zverev to reach Halle final



Alexander Bublik  
AFP | Halle

**A**lexander Bublik eased past home hope Alexander Zverev 6-3, 7-5 to reach the final of the Halle ATP tournament yesterday.

Bublik, 26, will play his first final of the season in the Wimbledon warm-up grass-court event against either Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut or Russian Andrey Rublev.

Kazak Bublik won his only title last year in Montpellier against Zverev and now holds a 3-1 record against the German.

On Saturday, Bublik took less than an hour and a half to dispatch the former world number two, firing down 14 aces with a strong service game.

In the first set, he quickly took the lead with a break in the fourth game (3-1), and then counted on his serve (6-4) to pull him through.