

RBH announced as Asian Youth Games gold sponsor

ASIAN YOUTH GAMES – ROYAL Bahrain Hospital (RBH) were announced yesterday as gold sponsor of the third Asian Youth Games, set to take place in Bahrain from October 22 to 31 under the royal patronage of His Majesty King Hamad.

The sponsorship agreement was formalised with the signing of the contract by the Games' executive committee chairman Yusuf Duaij Muhoorfi and KIMSHEALTH regional chief operating officer Bahrain Dr Ahmed Alrashid.

Muhoorfi expressed his

heartfelt gratitude to RBH for their generous support, emphasising that this partnership exemplifies the hospital's commitment to fostering sports and youth activities in the kingdom.

He noted that the collaboration with the hospital will add significant value to the Games and that it represents a model of community partnership.

This cooperation underscores the importance of collaboration in ensuring the success of this major continental event, which Bahrain is proud to host for the first time.

On his part, Dr Alrashid conveyed his pride in sponsoring the Games, highlighting Bahrain's elevated status as a host for major activities.

He affirmed that this partnership aligns with the hospital's dedication to supporting significant national events and enhancing Bahrain's presence on the continental and international sports stage.

Dr Alrashid stressed that their sponsorship is a contribution toward the success of the Games and showcases the kingdom as a hub for sports events.



■ Muhoorfi and Dr Alrashid during the contract signing

Magomedov eyes third straight title in Georgia

By PATRICK OLIVER SALOMON

MMA – BAHRAIN'S Gimbat Magomedov gets his bid underway today for an unprecedented third straight world title when he steps into the cage at the 2025 IMMAF World Championships in Tbilisi, Georgia.

The prestigious International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF) event kicked off yesterday and it is being held as one of the main attractions of BRAVE International Combat Week, under BRAVE Combat Federation.

Magomedov will be fighting in the super welterweight 79.4kg category. He was the world champion of the same weight-class last year, which was his first world title at the senior men's level. The 22-year-old had earlier clinched world championships gold in 2023 in the junior men's welterweight 77.1kg category.

His first assignment today will be in the round of 16 against Yerkebulan Myngbossyn of Kazakhstan, who was a winner by unanimous decision over Robert Guth from Slovakia yesterday.

Magomedov is part of a seven-strong Bahrain team going for gold in the Georgian capital.

Isaev Abdulla was the kingdom's lone MMA fighter in action yesterday in the round of 32 of the senior men's light heavyweight 93kg division. He narrowly lost his bout against Edvainer Injal from England by split decision, thus making an early exit from the worlds.

Bahrain's other competitors are reigning world champion Gadzhil Gadzhiev and Magomed Sheikhov in the senior men's weight classes, and Tamim Seroor, Abdulla Ismaeel, and Arsen Suleimanov in junior men's categories.

Gadzhiev is competing in the super middleweight 88.4kg. He gets his medal bid underway tomorrow when he



■ Action in the world championships' cage in Tbilisi

will be facing either Mario Stefan from Angola or Mbono Mounoume from Cameroon in the quarter-finals.

Like Magomedov, Gadzhiev is aiming to complete a hat-trick of world titles this year. The 23-year-old clinched the super middleweight crown in 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, after winning light heavyweight 93kg gold in 2023.

Elsewhere today, Sheikhov will be facing Nebu Hadnezar

from Indonesia in the flyweight 56.7kg's last 16.

In the junior men's categories, Bahrain's Ismaeel is competing in the strawweight 52.2kg class, where he begins his medal bid in the round of 16 today against Bekzhan Nazarov of Kazakhstan. Seroor is also in the cage today against Tamaz Shavadze of Georgia in the flyweight 56.7kg division's last 16.

Suleimanov is only in action

tomorrow when he takes on Volodymyr Mukan of Ukraine in the light heavyweight 93kg category's quarter-finals.

Fights are to be held every day this week until the junior finals take place on Wednesday and the senior finals on Thursday, the concluding day of the championships.

This year's meeting marks the second edition in which IMMAF world champions will be awarded official title belts in

recognition of their victories.

In 2024, the kingdom's national team ranked first amongst Arab nations in Tashkent, where they came away with four medals, including two gold, one silver, and one bronze. Gadzhiev and Magomedov were the gold-medallists, Sheikhov captured the silver, and Sultan Gapizov won bronze in the senior men's super heavyweight +97kg category.

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Alvarez nets two goals as Atletico stun Real Madrid

FOOTBALL – JULIAN Alvarez scored twice as Atletico Madrid came from behind to thrash city rivals Real Madrid 5-2 in a pulsating derby yesterday that handed the LaLiga leaders their first loss after a perfect start to the season.

The thrilling encounter at a raucous Metropolitano stadium, with nearly 70,000 fans on the edge of their seats, saw Atletico fight back from 2-1 down to claim a memorable victory that lifted them to fourth place with 12 points. Real Madrid remain atop LaLiga on 18 points, two ahead of Barcelona who have a game in hand.

Atletico's aggressive start paid off when Robin Le Normand opened the scoring with a header in the 14th minute, but Kylian Mbappe burst through to level with an unstoppable strike from close range in a quick counter in the 25th minute, with Arda Guler netting a volley from a Vinicius Jr cross 11 minutes later to put the visitors in front.

Alexander Sorloth's header in added time before the break gave Atletico a boost and they regained the lead five minutes into the second half when Alvarez converted a penalty after Guler's high boot clipped rival Nico Gonzalez on the face inside the box.

After Alvarez extended their lead in the 64th minute with a sublime free kick into the top corner, substitute Antoine Griezmann sealed the win in a quick counter in added time that set the Metropolitano on fire, with the crowd jumping and singing in ecstasy.

It was Atletico's first win over their city rivals since January 2024 and the first time they had scored five goals against Real Madrid in 75 years.

The stunning victory provided a big boost for Diego Simeone's side, who had struggled early on, with just one win in their first six matches in all competitions despite sky-high expectations following the club's huge summer investment.

Yesterday's statement victory should lift the Atletico fans, who were starting to question their long-standing boss Simeone, now in his 14th season with the club and without a trophy in four years.