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ACR CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38466788 or MUBEENMUHAMMAD5555@GMAIL.COM

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Al Ahli Fends Off Hala’s Comeback in Season Opener

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The 2025–26 Zain Basketball League tipped off in style last night, with Al Ahli narrowly edging Al Hala 79–74 at the Bahrain Basketball Association Arena. In a contest that swung dramatically across all four quarters, Al Ahli’s veteran trio of Hesham Sarhan, Elijah Tillman, and Ali Shukralla steadied the ship when it mattered most.

Al Ahli, led by head coach Ahmed Jan and assistant Ay-oob Haji, came out strong in the first quarter. Sarhan drove to the basket for quick layups, Tillman hit a deep three, and Shukralla’s board control converted second-chance points. Despite the sharp shooting of Abdulqader Thani for Al Hala, who are under head coach Ahmed Mirza and assistant Hussain Al Durazi, Al Ahli led 21–19 after a competitive opening frame.

In the second quarter, Al Ahli steadily extended their advantage. Sarhan orchestrated the offense with mid-range jumpers and free throws, while Tillman added a layup and a fast-break dunk. Nader Shaker and Alwatheq Ali contributed energy and key putbacks, helping the team enter halftime ahead 45–34, even as Thani and Roderick Smith kept Hala within striking distance.

Hala mounted a strong third-quarter response, cutting the deficit through Khalifa’s



Al Ahli’s Hesham Sarhan navigates traffic on court

drives and Thani’s perimeter shooting. Shukralla’s tip-ins, Sarhan’s assists, and Tillman’s crucial defensive plays kept Al Ahli ahead, 64–56, heading into the final period.

The fourth quarter brought a tense finish. Hala narrowed the lead to 75–74 in the closing minute, but decisive plays by Shukralla, Sarhan, and Tillman secured the win. Shukralla converted an offensive rebound into a tip-in, Sarhan made clutch free throws, and Tillman grabbed the final rebound. Sar-

han finished with 21 points, 8 rebounds, and 4 assists. Tillman added 21 points and 9 rebounds, while Shukralla contributed 15 points, 11 boards, and 5 assists. Thani led Hala with 23 points and 9 rebounds, supported by 11 points each from Mohamed and Ahmed Khalifa.

The league continues on Thursday with Muharraq facing Nuwaidrat, followed by Al Najma against Manama on November 27, promising more early-season excitement in the Zain Basketball League.

Cristiano Ronaldo says 2026 World Cup ‘definitely’ his last

AFP | Riyadh

Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo yesterday said next year’s World Cup would be his last as he winds down one of the all-time great careers.

The 40-year-old forward, with more than 950 club and international goals, also said he would retire from football in “one or two years”.

“Definitely, yes,” he told a Saudi forum by video link, when asked if 2026 would be his final World Cup. “I’m gonna be 41 years old and I think it will be the moment.”

Ronaldo, who began a lucrative stint at Saudi Arabia’s Al Nassr in 2023, also elaborated on comments last week when he said he would retire “soon”.

“Let’s be honest, when I mean soon, it’s probably one or two years I’ll still be at the game,” he said.

The five-time Ballon d’Or winner is hoping to play at a sixth World Cup next year. He came closest to lifting the trophy on debut in 2006, when Portugal lost to France in the semi-finals.

Portugal have yet to qualify for the 2026 tournament in the USA, Canada and Mexico, but can secure their spot if they beat Ireland on Thursday.

Last month, Ronaldo became the top goalscorer in World Cup qualifying history when he netted twice against Hungary to reach 41 goals, overtaking retired Guatemalan international Carlos Ruiz’s 39.

The former Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus forward is also the all-time leading international goalscorer with 143 strikes.

During an interview on Piers Morgan Uncensored last week, Ronaldo opened up further



Portugal’s forward #07 Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates scoring his team’s second goal during the 2026 World Cup qualifiers Europe zone group F football match between Portugal and Hungary(file photo)

about the realities of his looming retirement.

“It will be difficult? Yes. Probably will cry, yes. I’m an open person. It will be very, very difficult, yes,” he said.

Ronaldo joined Al Nassr after leaving Manchester United for a second time in late 2022, a move that heralded an influx of late-career stars to the oil-rich kingdom.

Ronaldo initially signed for 200 million euros a year, according to a source close to Al Nassr at the time, and inked a two-year contract extension in June.

Last month, he was named by Bloomberg as the sport’s first billionaire, and topped the Forbes list of highest-paid footballers for the sixth time in a decade.

Ons Jabeur expecting her first child



Ons Jabeur
AFP | Paris

Former world number two Ons Jabeur is pregnant with her first child, a boy who will be born in April, she has announced.

The 31-year-old Tunisian, twice a beaten Wimbledon finalist, decided to take a break in her career in July after two injury-plagued years and is now ranked 79th.

Below a photo of her and husband Karim Kamoun holding a Wimbledon-branded baby onesie, Jabeur posted on Instagram late Monday: “Took a little break to reset and recharge... Turns out, we’ve been planning the cutest comeback ever.

“The court will have to wait a little longer, because soon... we’ll be welcoming our tiniest team-mate. Baby boy joining the team in April.”

Unsung Heroes Keep Fighters Safe at BRAVE CF

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s BRAVE CF medical team came under the spotlight last weekend at BRAVE 100 & 101, where they managed injuries, knockouts, and critical interventions with precision. Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Dr. Mohamed Shehab, a plastic surgeon and head of BRAVE CF’s medical committee, gave rare insight into the team’s methods and the pressures of keeping fighters safe during intense bouts.

“Alhamdulillah for this amazing event,” Shehab said. “Combat sports are aggressive by nature, and it’s growing internationally at all levels. To develop a strong medical team, you need teamwork first. When everyone knows their role, the quality of care goes up immediately.”

He explained how the team prepares for each discipline. “Whether it’s Jiu-Jitsu, Muay Thai, or MMA, you must anticipate the types of injuries. Dislocations and cut wounds are most common. In MMA, knockouts and impacts to the eyes, nose, and upper lip – what we call the inverted triangle – can lead to concussions or internal bleeding. Knowing this ahead of time allows us to respond instantly.”

Shehab described the structure of the ringside team: orthopedic surgeons, plastic surgeons, anesthesiologists, ENT spe-



Dr. Mohamed Shehab speaks to TDT at BRAVE 101

cialists, and ophthalmologists. When asked about the crowd’s concerned silence when Hamza Kooheji was knocked out by Borislav Nikolic, he said: “Having every doctor, nurse, and volunteer in their spot allows me to stay relaxed as a leader. I monitor when to rotate staff, but in the cage, the focus must be total. We do not get carried away by the audience. Everything is based on training and instinct.”

On dealing with knockouts,



Shehab tends to Hamza Kooheji after the referee stoppage

Shehab said: “We take it step by step. Most fighters regain consciousness within four to five seconds. We avoid raising them too quickly to prevent dizziness, and intervene inside the cage only if necessary, such as a fracture. Most recover quickly, Alhamdulillah.”

Reflecting on the event, he

added: “It’s a fight. Aggression is there. That’s what makes it exciting, and we’re here to make sure everyone comes out safely.” The medical team, often working behind the scenes, are the unsung heroes of combat sports, quietly ensuring every fighter leaves the cage in good health.