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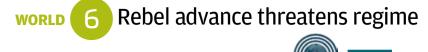
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DECEMBER 2024

ISSUE NO.10134

McLaren dominate Abu Dhabi practice

Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri lead the pack in Friday practice as Ferrari's Leclerc faces grid penalty | P12





Nicole Kidman remains 'so passionate' about acting

BUSINESS

MPs push for Union and Sports Federation Audits despite Government opposition

Germany rejects Amnesty's 'genocide' accusation against Israel

Berlin, Germany

The German government yesterday rejected Amnesty International's accusation that Israel is committing "genocide" against Palestinians in its military campaign in Gaza.

Asked for a response to Amnesty's report, German foreign ministry spokesman Sebastian Fischer told reporters: "The question of genocide presupposes a clear intention to eradicate an ethnic group. I still do not recognise any such clear intention and therefore I cannot share the conclusions of the report."

"We take the accusations in the report very seriously and are currently analysing them," he said.

"We have repeatedly urged the Israeli government to adjust its military operations in Gaza and better fulfil its obligations to protect civilians," Fischer said. "However it is still our opinion that Israel is acting in defence against Hamas which sparked this conflict with its terror attacks," he said.

Iran plans to 'significantly increase' enriched uranium production: IAEA

AFP | Vienna, Austria

Tran plans a major increase in the production rate of highly enriched uranium, the UN nuclear watchdog said yesterday in a confidential report.

An updated design of Iran's Fordo plant showed that the effect of the change would be to significantly increase the rate of production of uranium enriched up to 60 percent", the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report said.

Production will jump to more than 34 kilogrammes of highly enriched uranium per month, compared to 4.7 kilogrammes previously, added the report to the IAEA's board of governors.



UN nuclear watchdog chief Rafael

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Dialogue for sobal peace

HRH CP, PM inaugurates 20th IISS Manama Dialogue



In pictures, the inauguration of the 20th edition of the IISS Manama Dialogue security conference

TDT | Manama

is Royal Highness Prince Salman bin HRH told the conference. Hamad Al Khalifa, the security conference, affirming that benefit all nations. commitment to regional and and development..

ship of His Majesty King Hamad ing regional and global stability. ty Supreme Commander noted bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme HRH Prince Salman under- that this year's broad interna-Commander of the Armed Forc- scored the value of strategic tional participation demon-

In this regard, HRH stressed exchanging perspectives on Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme the importance of collective ef-Commander of the Armed Forc- forts to strengthen regional and es and Prime Minister, yester- global security and stability, ad-

tainable development, empha-goals. Bahrain, under the leader- sising its integral role in foster-

Reflecting on the success of day opened the 20th edition dress emerging challenges, and the Manama Dialogue over the of the IISS Manama Dialogue achieve sustainable solutions past two decades, HRH Prince Salman praised its contributions Further, HRH highlighted se- to fostering collaboration and international security, peace, curity as a cornerstone of sus- advancing global development

fence challenges.

pressing foreign policy and de-

The Crown Prince and Depu-

es, is committed to supporting partnerships and internation- strates the forum's significance regional and international se- al forums in advancing peace, in addressing security challengcurity, peace, and development, stating that platforms like the es and promoting innovative Manama Dialogue are vital for strategies for regional stability.



The IISS Manama Dialogue is one of the most prominent security and defense conferences in the Middle East, held annually since 2004.

Iran launches heaviest space payload into orbit: media

AFP | Tehran, Iran

ran launched yesterday Lits heaviest space payload, which includes a satellite and a space tug, using a domestically developed satellite carrier, official media reported.

Weighing 300 kilogrammes (660 pounds), the payload consisted of the Fakhr-1 telecommunications satellite and the Saman-1 space tug, according to state television.

The Saman-1 is an "orbital transmission system" designed to transport satellites from lower orbits to higher ones, as described by the Iran Space Research Center when it was unveiled in 2017.

The payloads were launched using the homegrown Simorgh satellite carrier from the Imam Khomeini launch base in Semnan province.

Named after a mythical Iranian bird, the Simorgh is a two-stage, liquid-fuelled satellite launch vehicle developed by Iran's defence ministry.



Qatar resumes Gaza mediation: source with knowledge of talks

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Oatar has resumed its role as a mediator in efforts to secure a truce in the Israel-Hamas war following a brief suspension, a source with knowledge of the talks said Thursday.

The Gulf emirate, along with the United States and Egypt, had been involved in months of unsuccessful negotiations for a Gaza truce and hostage release after nearly 14 months of war.

news of bahrain

C-SIPA A Pillar for Stability and Prosperity: HRH CP, PM

Holds talks with top officials, ministers as part of 20th IISS Manama Dialogue

TDT | Manama

is Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, yesterday praised the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA) as a cornerstone for fostering regional stability and prosperity.

"C-SIPA represents a model for advancing an inclusive vision based on mutual respect and shared objectives," HRH stated during talks with Anne Neuberger, U.S. Deputy National Security Advisor for Cyber and Emerging Technologies, held on the sidelines of the 20th IISS Manama Dialogue.

HRH underscored that CSI-PA is not merely a bilateral arrangement but the founda-







rules-based international or- Force. der that serves all people," he



tion for a broader multilater- by senior Bahraini officials, Margus Tsahkna, the Minister al framework aimed at uniting including Shaikh Salman bin of Foreign Affairs of the Kingnations with a shared commit- Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of dom of Norway, Espen Barth ment to stability and economic Finance and National Econo- Eide, the Minister of Defence of Through agreements like dullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, Szalay-Bobrovniczky, Minister C-SIPA, we can envision a Minister of Defence Affairs, of Foreign Affairs of the State of Middle East and a global com- and Lieutenant-General They- Kuwait, Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, munity rooted in peace, eco- ab bin Saqr Al-Nuaimi, Chief Minister of Foreign Affairs of nomic development, and a of Staff of the Bahrain Defence the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

The meeting was attended fairs of the Republic of Estonia, Singapore, Dr NG Eng Hen.

my, HE Lieutenant General Ab- the Republic of Hungary, Kristof His Highness Prince Faisal bin Separately, HRH held talks Farhan Al Saud and the Minister with the Minister of Foreign Af- for Defence of the Republic of

UK to join US-Bahrain Security Pact

Ashen Tharaka TDT| Manama

 $T^{\text{he United Kingdom is set to}}_{\text{join the US-led Comprehen-}}$ sive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA) with the Kingdom of Bahrain, following an invitation extended by Bahrain and the United States during the 20th IISS Manama Dialogue currently underway in Manama. The landmark trilateral initiative aims to enhance regional and global security through multilateral cooperation, mutual respect, and shared prosperity.

In his opening remarks, Bahrain's Foreign Minister, Dr. Ab-humanitarian aid delivery. In Arab Summit Impact dullatif bin Rashid Alzayani, said, underscoring Bahrain's gional reintegration. global tensions.

advocating for immediate ac- as a mediator in fostering peace Israeli-Palestinian conflict. tion in Gaza, including a cease- and stability. fire, the release of hostages, and



Lebanon, the Kingdom called highlighted the pact as a key for adherence to UN Security

Reflecting on the Kingdom's example of Bahrain's diplomatic Council Resolution 1701, urging leadership during the 33rd Arab approach to fostering stabili- respect for international law. Summit, Dr. Alzayani highlight- Dr. Alzayani encouraged active ty. "C-SIPA is designed not as a For Syria, as chair of the Arab ed the adoption of the "Mana- participation, stressing that bilateral arrangement but as a League, Bahrain pushed for a ma Declaration," a roadmap collective action and innovamultilateral framework adapt- political solution preserving for actionable outcomes. The tive thinking are essential to able to evolving challenges," he sovereignty and promoting re-declaration includes initiatives address today's complex chalto improve healthcare, educa- lenges. "Together, through division for collective solutions to "These issues, alongside other tion, and innovation for comalogue and partnership, we can challenges, demand sustained munities affected by conflict navigate these challenges and The dialogue also tackled engagement," Dr. Alzayani stat- and reaffirms a commitment to build a more secure, prosperous pressing issues, with Bahrain ed, reaffirming Bahrain's role the two-state solution for the future for all," he concluded,

> "The declaration represents discussions ahead. Bahrain's dedication to mean-

ingful progress, not just symbolic gestures," he noted, expressing hope that the dialogue would amplify support for these

Marking Milestones

The 20th Manama Dialogue coincides with the 25th anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's accession, underscoring Bahrain's enduring commitment to dialogue and diplomacy. Dr. Alzayani credited His Majesty's leadership and the proactive efforts of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for elevating Bahrain's role on the international stage.

Call for Collaboration

As the dialogue continues, setting an optimistic tone for the

IISS committed to keep dialogue relevant: Dr. Giegerich

Ashen Tharaka TDT| Manama

he 20th Manama Dialogue L commenced with a keynote from Dr. Bastian Giegerich, Director-General of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), who lauded Bahrain's leadership in advancing peace and security. Dr. Giegerich recognised the silver jubilee of His Majesty the aspirations of the region's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's accession as a testament to the Kingdom's steadfast commitment to diplomacy.

instrumental role of His Royal highlighting the forum's role Highness the Crown Prince in shaping decisions and enand Prime Minister in shap- couraging reflection on critical ing the dialogue into a vital challenges. He reaffirmed the platform for regional and glob- IISS's commitment to keeping al cooperation, calling their the dialogue relevant and envision the foundation of the gaging amid evolving regional event's success.

Strategic Reflection

by the Crown Prince, Dr. Gieg- special focus on young leaderich emphasised its powerful ers, reflecting IISS's dedication call for a shift in regional nar- to empowering the next genratives - moving away from eration of policymakers. Dr. political posturing and actions Giegerich stressed the importhat undermine security, and tance of their participation in instead embracing collabo- crafting innovative strategies ration, honest dialogue, and for the future.



Dr. Bastian Giegerich

people.

"For two decades, the IISS Manama Dialogue has fostered dialogue and facilitated coop-He also acknowledged the eration," Dr. Giegerich said, dynamics.

Future Voices

Recalling last year's keynote This year's dialogue places

Diplomats, military leaders, and experts to discuss regional issues

The much-anticipated Middle East Security Summit 2024 brings together top diplomats, military leaders, and experts to discuss key regional issues.

The event opens today with a welcome address by Dr. Bastian Giegerich, Director-General and Chief Executive of IISS, who will set the stage for the summit's discussions.

HH Prince Faisal

Affairs of Saudi Arabia.

First Plenary Session: 20 Years of Dialogue



Sir John Chipman, Executive session will explore "Political The summit will feature a Chairman of IISS. This session and Military Responses to Con-Special Keynote Address by His will reflect on two decades of Highness Prince Faisal bin Far- regional diplomatic dialogue, ashan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign sessing how partnerships have evolved and how regional and global powers have worked together to address Middle Eastern security concerns.

Political and Military Responses to Conflict

The summit's second plenary flict." Dr. Giegerich will chair the session, with speakers including Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Defence of Singapore, Ararat Mirzoyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, and

Private Ministerial Lunch

will follow, providing an opportunity for delegates and ministers to engage in off-the-record discussions, fostering deeper cooperation and strategic plan-

Third Plenary Session: Initiatives for Regional Peace

The afternoon will contin-

for Foreign Affairs in Egypt. Peace," chaired by Dr. Giegerich. chaired by Sir John Chipman The discussion will focus on The session will feature Sameh and will include contributions how political and military re- Shoukry, former Minister of from prominent leaders such sponses have evolved in the face Foreign Affairs of Egypt, and as Dr. Tobias Lindner, Minisof ongoing regional conflicts Sven Koopmans, Special Rep- ter of State for Foreign Affairs and the need for multi-pronged resentative for the Middle East in Germany, Hamish Falconer, strategies to ensure peace and Peace Process at the European Minister for the Middle East Union. The focus will be on at the UK's Foreign, Commoncurrent initiatives designed to wealth and Development Office, promote peace in the region, Nuh Yılmaz, Deputy Minister A private Ministerial Lunch emphasizing the importance of of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, political cooperation and economic development as part of National Security Advisor for comprehensive peace-building Cyber and Emerging Technoloefforts.

Fourth Plenary Session: **International Approaches to Middle East Security**

General Walaa Adel Aboelfarag, ue with the third plenary ses- "International Approaches to cyber security.

Assistant Minister of Defence sion, "Initiatives for Regional Middle East Security," will be and Anne Neuberger, Deputy gy at the U.S. National Security Council.

This session will address how international actors can collaborate on enhancing security in the Middle East, with a special The final session of the day, focus on emerging threats like

Work permits to get costly?

MPs debate higher expat work permit fees to boost local jobs

MPs propose increasing work permit fees by 20% in the first year, 35% in the second, and 50% in the third.

LMRA argues the plan is impractical due to fluctuating labour demands.

BCCI warns the proposal could financially strain businesses.

Mohammed Darwish TDT | Manama

obs for Bahrainis Parliamentarians are determined to leave no stone unturned on this path. Now, they are adding yet another tool to make this battle more effective: higher work permit fees for expatriate work

T h e m o v e forms part of enforcing 7 0 % Bahrainisation

sectors.

Yes, you heard it right.

The logic is that this would concerns about its feasibility. make hiring expatriates an expensive affair. Naturally, com- change will reduce unemploypanies would be compelled to ment, but the LMRA sees it as hire locally, thereby creating highly impractical. more opportunities for Bahraini

The proposal suggests that of the labour market. the fee will increase progressively-20 per cent in the first not practical to link fee increasyear, 35 per cent in the second, and 50 per cent in the third.

If the proposal, led by MP Dr Muneer Seroor, gains parlia- claims that the fee hike would ures. mentary approval this Tuesday, this will become a reality.

> However, the the local economy. draft has already a general rise in fees across all attracted sectors, which it believes would criticism. LMRA

Furthermore, the LMRA emphasises that Bahrainisation quotas are typically applied to n e n t business activities rather than a m o n g individual job categories. "Hence, the proposed 70% the critics is the target is difficult to enforce," the Labour LMRA stressed.

Additionally, any changes should align with existing laws, including Article 42 of Law No. 19 of 2006, and the broader national employ-

es and Bahrainisation quotas to

improve household finances

and boost spending power in

Instead, the LMRA suggests

be more effective and manage-

specific roles.

ment strategy. Dr Muneer spite these objections, the Services Committee has backed the pro-

Market Regulatory Authority posal, citing the need to address (LMRA), which has expressed unemployment among Bahrainis and reduce reliance on for-Advocates argue that the eign workers.

BCCI has concerns

The Bahrain Chamber of The main reason cited is the Commerce and Industry (BCCI) ever-changing demand patterns believes that such a law would severely strain businesses fi-According to the LMRA, it is nancially.

The organisation has urged MPs to focus on broader and long-term strategies rather than They also disagree with implementing restrictive meas-

> It has also called for a detailed review to ensure that the proposed measures do not harm the private sector or stifle economic



As of recent estimates, expatriates make up approximately 80-90% of the workforce in many GCC countries, with the exact percentage varying by country and sector. For example: **UAE:** Expatriates account for around 88% of the workforce. **Qatar: Expatriates represent about**

85-90% of the workforce. Saudi Arabia: The expatriate workforce is around 30-40% with a significant presence in the private sector.

Kuwait: Approximately 70% of the workforce are expatriates. Oman: Around 40-50% of the workforce are expatriates.

Wives' property won't harm husbands' housing rights, new proposal



Representative picture **Mohammed Darwish** TDT | Manama

Aensure that a wife's property ownership does not pre- it is used for business. vent her husband from access-

band and wife as a combined entity. This policy often results in husbands being disqualified from housing services.

regulations, such as the property size limits under Decision No. 90 of 2019, and taking into new proposal aiming to account the purpose of property ownership, such as whether

Despite these concerns, the ing government housing is set committee firmly supports for a parliamentary vote next the proposal. They argue that, according to Islamic law, the Critics warn that this change husband is responsible for procould create a dangerous prec-viding housing, irrespective of edent, potentially enabling the wife's financial situation families to exploit the system. or property ownership. The The proposal, which has the committee also references backing of the Public Utilities Bahrain's existing laws, such and Environment Committee, as Law No. 32 of 2010, which challenges the current rule un- excludes the wife's financial der Ministerial Decision No. details from her husband's ob-909 of 2015, which treats the ligations, a precedent they befinancial resources of a hus- lieve should extend to housing policies.

On 26 October, the committee met with Minister of Housing and Urban Planning The Ministry of Housing Amna Al Rumaihi and senior and Urban Planning, however, officials, including Engineer opposes the proposal, warn- Asim Abdul Latif and Fatima ing that separating financial Al Manai, to hear the minisresponsibilities could lead to try's concerns. Letters were people transferring property also sent to the Supreme Counownership to spouses in order cil for Women and the Bahrain to gain unfair access to hous- Women's Union, but no reing benefits. The ministry sug- sponses were received by the gests instead revising existing time the report was finalised.

Police traps barber behind 300spot drug network in Kingdom

Drugs were sold across the Kingdom for just one dinar per drop-off.

The mastermind behind this dark trade was a man who worked as a barber during the day. Police said they arrested the man, who was running a 300-location drug network across Bahrain, based on a tipoff they received.

Cops said the man was selling drugs using a 'dead drop' technique, where narcotics were left in hidden spots for buyers to collect. He also had accomplices abroad.

The suspect was apprehendappearing intoxicated.



Representative picture

taining a suspicious liquid. items, including CBD narcot- more illegal substances. Upon searching him, officers ic liquid, herbal drugs, wraps, found two medium-sized bags plastic bags containing white ditional stashes of drugs and accused remaining in custody

hesive tape, and a syringe bear-Further inspection of the ing traces of drugs. Hidden in ed in his car in a residential area, car uncovered a trove of illegal the boot was a box filled with

Later, police discovered adof drugs and a glass bottle con- powders, a precision scale, ad- another precision scale tucked until then.

beneath his bed at his home.

During interrogation, the man confessed to stashing narcotics in around 300 locations across Bahrain, earning a dinar for each drop-off. As part of the arrangement, he also received partial rent payments and free narcotics for his own use.

Forensic analysis of his phone uncovered a series of conversations, including images and videos of drugs marked with specific symbols, as well as evidence of money transfers linked to the trade.

The Public Prosecution has charged the man with possession, sale, and use of illegal substances for both trafficking and personal use. The case will be heard in the First High Criminal Court on 10 December, with the

Man gets a year in jail for theft and assault at electrical store

H Naser TDT | Manama

to intervene.

40-year-old man has been Aconvicted and sentenced by the High Criminal Court for count, showing the defendant theft and assault at an electrileaving with the drill while cal goods store. The defendant the employee pursued him. A was found guilty of stealing a medical report indicated that power drill and assaulting a the employee suffered pain,

According to the employee, the incident began when the charged the defendant with defendant selected a power theft by coercion and assault. drill and attempted to leave The court found him guilty without paying. When the em- on both counts and sentenced ployee confronted him, the him to one year in prison. defendant reacted aggressively, shouting and striking him on the head and neck. He also grabbed the employee's face, causing several injuries before

len item. The employee described the attack, stating, "I was just do-

fleeing the store with the sto-

ing my job when I saw him trying to leave without paying. I didn't expect him to hit me." Security camera footage confirmed the employee's acstore employee who attempted swelling to his head, a cut lip, and scratches on his neck.

The Public Prosecution



No room for runaways

MPs push for tougher penalties

Vote set for next Tuesday

LMRA' argues that runaway workers make up a small percentage of the workforce, citing 1.44% among housemaids in 2022

Protection for **Sponsors: Licensed** hiring offices are required to replace fleeing workers, with the LMRA refunding sponsors if offices fail to do so

Mohammed Darwish TDT | Manama

nough is enough.



Abdullah Al Dhaen, MP

saga of runaway housemaids.

They are preparing stringent measures to tackle the issue, which will be put to a crucial vote in parliament next Tuesday.

Lawmakers are calling for tougher penalties and public warnings, urging locals not to so exacerbates the problem.



Abdulawahid Qarata, MP

debt and legal battles.

This push for stronger laws is part of a proposal laid out by MP Ahmed Abdulwahid Qarata, with the support of Hanan Al Fardan, Hassan Ibrahim Hassan, Abdulla Al Dhaen, and Hamad Al Doy. Their proposal highlights a

out of 483,549 lawful permits in the commercial sector, only 1,070 workers fled—about 0.18%. Among household help, 874 out of 73,209 left, around 1.44%. The worst recorded figure was in 2019, when 2.28% of housemaids fled.

According to the LMRA, in 2022,

ing issue.

sition from the Labour Market housemaids fled. Regulatory Authority (LMRA), fraction of the workforce.

According to the LMRA, in

1.44%. The worst recorded fig-However, they face stiff oppo- ure was in 2019, when 2.28% of

which argues that runaway cidents to unpaid wages, poor urges the public to avoid hiring workers make up only a tiny accommodation, inadequate rest, and mistreatment.

hire runaway workers, as doing steady rise in walkouts, leaving 2022, out of 483,549 lawful perthe LMRA cancels the permit. sponsors vulnerable. They argue mits in the commercial sector, Commercial employers have 30 The justification for these that ordinary Bahraini families, only 1,070 workers fled-about days to file claims, while those MPs say they are determeasures is clear: rogue workalready under financial strain, 0.18%. Among household help, with housemaids have only five. mined to end the ongoing ers are driving local families into need protection from this grow- 874 out of 73,209 left, around Once confirmed, the runaway is half-measures has passed.

blacklisted, preventing future employment.

Licensed hiring offices are required to assist sponsors by ensuring workers are not exploited by shady middlemen. These offices must replace any worker who flees during the trial period, or the LMRA will refund the sponsor from the office's deposit. Critics argue that this approach is too lenient, as Bahraini families bear the financial burden each time a worker runs away, leaving behind debts and broken agreements.

Despite the criticism, the LMRA acknowledges the difficulty of overseeing housemaids, as many work behind closed doors and routine checks are The LMRA attributes these in- prohibited by law. The LMRA runaways, warning that doing so is against Bahraini law. It collab-When a runaway is reported, orates with foreign embassies to ensure proper hiring procedures and compliance.

Meanwhile, MPs remain steadfast, insisting that the time for

Man's worst fears confirmed after DNA test

TDT | Manama

The man, who had suspected for years that one of his children was not his, had his worst fears confirmed when the appeals court authorised a

For 10 years, he believed the child to be his, but after the couple's divorce in 2023, he questioned the paternity of one of their two children.

The couple had married in 2012 and had two children dur-



Representative picture

Despite the setback, the man Musa Adnan.

ing their marriage. After the didecided to appeal the case to vorce, the man took the matter the High Shariat Appeals Court, ternity to the claimant, nullifyto court, claiming that one of where judges authorised a DNA ingall legal consequences of the the children was not biological- test. The test results revealed previous paternity attribution. ly his. The court, however, re- a mismatch, confirming that Additionally, the court ordered jected his argument and denied the man was not the biologi- the removal of the man's name his request to have his name cal father, while affirming the from all official documents reremoved from the child's pass- mother's biological relationship lated to the child.

port and other legal documents. to the child, according to lawyer

The court ruled to deny pa-

Proposal for women's-only college faces strong opposition

H Naser TDT | Manama

parliamentary proposal to Aestablish a women's-only college at the University of Bahrain has been met with resistance from the Ministry of Education, the Supreme Council for Women, and the Bahrain Women's Union.

MPs Bader Al Tamimi, Hamad Al Doy, Mohammed Al Ahmed, Jameel Mullah Hassan, phasized that co-educational and Mohammed Al Rifai argued that a gender-exclusive institution could provide a more and competition, recommend- with national strategies for comfortable environment for ing the Royal University for women's empowerment. female students, enhancing ac- Women as an alternative for ademic performance.

The Ministry of Education education.



Representative picture

rejected the proposal, citing low enrollment in some programmes and the potential conflict with the university's plans to expand its offerings. It emsystems foster better learning like CEDAW. They emphasized outcomes through interaction the alignment of co-education students seeking single-gender further debate in the parlia-

The Supreme Council for Women pointed to the strong academic performance of Bahraini women, who made up 59% of undergraduates and 63% of graduates in 2022, arguing that the existing system does not hinder female success.

The Bahrain Women's Union also opposed the idea, stating it would promote segregation, restrict career options, and contradict Bahrain's commitments under international agreements

The proposal is set to spark

Police dismantle family-run human trafficking ring: Four Asians, including woman, arrested

TDT | Manama

human trafficking ring, Awhich exploited women with fake job offers and forced them into prostitution, has been dismantled, with four suspects, including one woman, sentenced to prison by Bahrain's High them in a nightmare of exploita-

who used her network of fam- keeping them in captivity. ily and friends to control and In a landmark ruling, the first



Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women. and children are trafficked worldwide - including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality.

Asian nationals, lured women her friend, to act as a guard for a BD 3,000 fine, and deportation sage therapist in Bahrain. Des- to charge us for the recruitinto the Kingdom with promises the women; the third defend- after their sentences are served. perate for work, she responded ment and travel costs. We were of legitimate work, only to trap ant, her friend's son, was tasked The third and fourth defendwith transporting the victims ants were handed three-year only to find herself trapped in The investigation revealed a the fourth defendant, her broth- each, with deportation to follow. was taken to a residential build- aged to escape and contact her enforcement to fight against this chilling operation orchestrated er, was responsible for cooking All four were also ordered to ing, where the third defendant embassy. In a coordinated effort pervasive crime. The defendants by the first defendant, a woman and selling food to the women, pay for the repatriation of the confiscated her passport and with the Anti-Human Traffick-

manipulate the victims. She and second defendants were the victims, a young woman,

Criminal Court. The group, all hired the second defendant, sentenced to five years in prison, between different locations; and sentences and a BD 2,000 fine a grim reality. Upon arrival, she abuse and threats until one manvictims.



came across an enticing Face- customers," the victim recalled. book ad offering a job as a mas- "If we refused, they threatened and travelled to the Kingdom, trapped." The case began when one of women from her home country. officers tracked down and ar-

The women endured constant locked her in a room with other ing Department, female police of their actions, with the full "They told us we had to accept rested the suspects.

The authorities uncovered a horrific web of manipulation, control, and exploitation, leading to charges of human trafficking, illegal transportation and housing of the victims, and forcing them into prostitution under duress. The Public Prosecution has vowed to continue cracking down on such operations to protect vulnerable individuals from being preyed upon.

This case serves as a stark reminder of the dark underbelly of human trafficking, and the determination of Bahrain's law are now facing the consequences weight of the law bringing justice to those they victimized.

MPs push for Union and Sports Federation Audits despite Government opposition

- MPs are pressing ahead with a proposal to audit unions and sports federations, despite government opposition, citing potential conflicts with legal and international standards.
- The government argues existing laws, like Article 22 bis of the Associations Law, already provide sufficient oversight without threatening organisational autonomy.
- Critics warn that expanding state oversight, particularly for sports federations, could lead to Bahrain's exclusion from international sporting events due to conflicts with global agreements.

Mohammed Darwish TDT | Manama

espite government oppoon Tuesday.



Picture for representation only

al argue that it would enhance ganisational autonomy. The government has rejected financial accountability, while

The bill, referred to the Fi-

sition, MPs are pushing tinction between public and pri- existing laws, such as Article Committee by Speaker Ahmed forward with plans to vate funds, which could violate 22 bis of the Associations Law, bin Salman Al Musallam in Sepions, and officials.

The core issue revolves around the bill, arguing it blurs the dis- the government maintains that nancial and Economic Affairs the nature of the funds managed

funds-sourced from member their independence. fees, donations, and international grants-are private, not pub-ternational stakes are high. The lic, and thus not subject to state Bahrain Olympic Committee's oversight. According to current rules already ensure compliance laws, the National Audit Office with global standards, and any (NAO) is only empowered to government interference could oversee public funds managed disrupt this balance, with seriby state-linked entities, leaving ous consequences for Bahrain's unions and federations outside participation in international its jurisdiction.

For sports federations, the government points out their private status as public-benefit entities. These federations are already held accountable to Bahrain's Olympic Committee, which enforces financial and administrative rules in accordance with the Olympic Charter. Officials warn that expanding state oversight could put Bahrain in conflict with international agreements, potentially leading to penalties such as exclusion from global sporting events.

Similarly, labour unions are governed by their own laws, which safeguard their financial independence. The government notes that unions' funds come from member contributions, approved donations, and activity revenues, not public money. Therefore, they argue, the NAO should not be involved in their financial oversight.

Supporters of the bill assert that it would improve transparency and accountability. Howdebate a proposal on auditing legal and international stand- already provide adequate over- tember, has sparked significant ever, the government insists unions and sports federations ards. Supporters of the propos- sight without infringing on or- debate among lawmakers, un- that existing laws are sufficient, particularly Article 22 bis of the 1989 Associations Law, which allows ministers to request fi-

by these organisations. The gov- nancial audits of private organernment maintains that these isations without undermining

For sports federations, the insporting events.



An audit is a systematic examination and evaluation of an organization's financial records, systems, and processes to ensure accuracy, compliance with laws, and the effectiveness of financial management. Audits can be conducted internally by the organization's own staff or externally by independent auditors. They help identify discrepancies, prevent fraud, and improve the overall financial health of an organization.

New regulations urged to fix gaps in bankruptcy law

TDT | Manama

Ps are calling for better Mexecution and implementation of the Restructuring and Bankruptcy Law, urging the government to issue new reg-

The proposal, supported by the Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee. was put forward by MPs Ahmed Qarata, Abdullah Al Dhaen, Mohammed Al Rifai, Bader Al Tamimi, and Hamad Al Doy. It addresses issues stemming from the inconsistent application and understanding of the current law.

According to the MPs, the existing situation has led to unresolved business debts, numerous court cases, and negative impacts on the Kingdom's economy. The proposed new regulations aim to ensure consistent application of the law, stabilise commercial transactions, and maintain trust among businesses.

which included three meetings on November 22, 2023, March advisors, found the proposal to gaps in the law's current imple-rain. The proposal will be dis-



The proposal was put forward by MPs Ahmed Qarata, Abdullah Al Dhaen, Mohammed Al Rifai, Bader Al Tamimi, and Hamad Al Doy. It addresses issues stemming from the inconsistent application The committee's review, and understanding of the current law.

13, 2024, and April 17, 2024, with have merit. The report stresses mentation to foster a healthier cussed during Tuesday's House input from legal and economic the importance of addressing business environment in Bah- of Representatives meeting.

Rain damage: Government approves 561 compensation claims out of 1,760 filed



Representative picture

H Naser TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Works in was caused by rainwater ac-Bahrain has processed cumulation or sewage back-1,760 compensation claims ups due to Ministry projects. for damages caused by recent Claims involving damage from heavy rains, with 561 claims direct rainfall, such as leaks approved and compensa- through roofs or windows, are tion disbursed, according to not eligible. Minister Ibrahim Hassan Al

still under review, with some the damage, with compensadelayed due to incomplete tion varying depending on lodocumentation.

to furniture, electrical appli- mation.

ances, and building structures. Eligibility for compensation is based on whether the damage

A damage assessment committee evaluates claims based The remaining claims are on site visits and the extent of cation and property contents. In response to a parliamen- The Ministry is working with tary inquiry from MP Moham- the Capital Municipality and med Maarefi, the Minister municipal councils to expedite outlined the types of damages the process and assist citizens reported, including damage in submitting complete inforJapan's space agency has said its plan to launch a solid-fuel

command of Mark Antony

North Gaza hospital director says Israeli strikes hit facility

500,000 homeless

A 6.9 magnitude earthquake in

Spitak, Armenia, kills 25,000 to

50,000 people and leaves up to

News in brief

Japan solid-fuel rocket unch pushed back after fire

rocket by the end of March is now mpossible, after a recent engine test resulted in a large fire. Towering flames and white fumes engulfed an Epsilon S rocket of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) during a failed combustion test in southern Japan last month. The compact rocket is being developed to carry satellites into orbit and JAXA says on its

website it is "designed to lower the threshold to space". ◆ Europe's new

Europe's Vega-C rocket launches satellite into orbit after delays Thursday from French Guiana and put a satellite into orbit in its first takeoff since a failed flight two years **ago.** After two days of delays, the rocket -- crucial to Europe's autonomy in reaching space -- took off without problems, carrying the

Sentinel-1C satellite for the European Union's

satellite, which provides data and services for observing the planet in order to understand climate change impacts, was put into orbit at an altitude of around 700 kilometres (435 miles), 1 hour and 43 minutes after lift-off, to thunderous applause from the Jupiter control centre

Putin appoints new governor



governor of the Kursk region - partly controlled by Ukraine -- saying it needs a "crisis" manager, after residents voiced anger at the handling aunched a shock offensive into Kursk in August, forcing thousands to flee border areas. Ukraine's army said in November

it controls 800 square kilometres (310 square miles) of territory in the region. Putin appointed Alexander Khinshtein -- a prominent pro-Kremlin lawmaker -- as acting Kursk governor late on Thursday.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

NASA delays crewed lunar landing to 2027



A person is seen in an unpressurized mockup spacesuit used for moonwalk tests during a media event for NASA's Joint EVA and Human Surface Mobility Test Team Field Test 5 (JETT5) to practice moonwalking operations for the Artemis lunar missions

AFP | London

The United States is delay- and life support systems. **L** ing its planned return to "We were able to recreate officials said Thursday.

as President-elect Donald press conference. Trump prepares to take office The problems have pushed in January and could signifi- back the entire Artemis timecantly reshape the direction line. Artemis 2, a crewed lunar of the US space agency.

Artemis, named after Apol- September 2025 to April 2026. lo's twin sister in Greek my- Artemis 3, intended to see the thology, was unveiled in 2017 first woman and first person as NASA's ambitious program of color set foot on the Moon's to establish a long-term pres- ice-rich south pole, is now slatence on the Moon and apply ed for "mid-2027." those lessons to eventual Mars "That will be well ahead of

after multiple delays.

pected ways, and there were also issues with its electrical

the Moon from 2026 to "mid-the problem here on Earth, 2027," citing heat shield issues and now we know the root and other problems plaguing cause, and this has allowed its Orion crew capsule, NASA us to devise a path forward," NASA Administrator Bill Nel-The announcement comes son told reporters during a

flyby, has been delayed from

the Chinese government's an-Its first mission, Artemis 1, nounced intention that they was an uncrewed test flight have already publicly stated to the Moon and back in 2022 of 2030," added Nelson. "The safety of our astronauts is al-

But teams reviewing the ways first in our decisions. It data later learned that Orion's is our North Star. We do not heat shield eroded in unex- fly until we are ready."

diagnosis. The London carol service will Southport in northwest England "reflect upon the importance of in October to meet people affected love and empathy, and how much by a knife attack in July that killed we need each other, especially three young girls. lives", according to Catherine's are among the 1,600 people in-

Each guest will receive an order the BBC. of service illustrated by British Among the guests are those artist Charlie Mackesy that will "who have supported others in ask "how did I help?", with the their communities, whether on reply "you were by my side, which a personal level with friends and

Catherine is expected to attend they selflessly give up their time alongside husband Prince Wil-through volunteering," said Kensliam and their children Prince ington Palace.

Syrian rebel forces aim to topple Assad's regime in strategic advance vere "collapsing as they fled beore our forces on the frontlines".

Rebel advance threatens regime

Rebels led by HTS seize Aleppo, Hama; target Homs next

Homs' capture could isolate Damascus from Assad's coastal power base

Thousands flee Homs amid escalating sectarian fears

AFP | Beirut

ebel forces pressing a lightning offensive in Syria aim to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad's rule, their Islamist leader said in an interview published yesterday.

After wresting other key cities from government control, the

In little over a week, the offen- five decades. war began in 2011.



This aerial picture shows the municipality building in Syria's city of Hama after anti government fighters captured the city

ia's Homs, a war monitor said, power in the capital Damascus remains the overthrow of this Syrian troops and Iran-backed though the defence ministry de- from the Mediterranean coast, regime. It is our right to use all forces "suddenly" withdrew from tens of thousands of members of ist who survived the siege and is

Should the rebels capture "When we talk about objec- its image in recent years.

Homs is located. sive has seen Syria's second city Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, the The rebel alliance conducting The Observatory later said the Homs was the scene of a years- doesn't matter to me who is con-Aleppo and strategically located leader of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sh- the offensive that began on No- army had withdrawn from Homs long government siege of oppo- ducting this. The devil himself Hama fall from Assad's control, am (HTS) rebel alliance, said the vember 27 is led by HTS, which city towards its outskirts, and resition areas and deadly sectarian could be behind it. What people for the first time since the civil goal of the offensive was to end is rooted in the Syrian branch of bel military commander Hassan attacks in the early years of the care about is who is going to lib-Al-Qaeda but has sought to soften Abdel Ghani said armed forces civil war.

ruth to news... about the army withdrawing from Homs". The rebels launched their offensive in northern Syria the same day a ceasefire took effect in the war between Israel and Lebanese

Syria's defence ministry denied

the report, saying: "There is no

group Hezbollah, which along with Russia and Iran have been crucial backers of Assad's gov

Turkey, which has backed the opposition, yesterday said it would hold talks this weekend discuss the situation in Syria.

bel advance would go off "without Syrians who were forced out

pressed readiness for dialogue phones as they watched the dewith Turkey and the rebels, saying velopments unfold. rebels were at the gates of Syr- Homs, that would cut the seat of tives, the goal of the revolution According to the Observatory, political reality for the country. for more than a decade," said

nied claims it had withdrawn its a key bastion of the Assad clan, available means to achieve that Deir Ezzor in the east and head- Assad's Alawite minority began now living as a refugee in France. which has ruled Syria for the past goal," Jolani told CNN in an in- ed towards central Syria where fleeing Homs on Thursday, residents and the Observatory said.

In a symbolic act, down a statue of Hafez al-Assad, recalling the brutal massacre under his rule in the 1980s

The war began with Assad's with Russia and Iran in Qatar to brutal crackdown on democracy protests, and activists referred to Turkey's President Recep Tayy- the city as "the capital of the revip Erdogan said he hoped the re- olution" against the government.

of the country by the crackdown Syria's Kurdish-led force ex- on the revolt were glued to their

"We've been dreaming of this Fearing the rebels' advance, Yazan, a 39-year-old former activ-Asked whether he was worried

1,500 pupils

walk out of

school over

bullying

AFP | Skopje

N. Macedonia

More than 1,500 primary and middle school

pupils yesterday boycotted

nia's capital Skopje after a

boy accused of bullying re-

turned to their school, local

The third grader (aged

eight to nine) has been ac-

rare case that has shocked

the public and brought the

country's education system

According to parents of

pupils at the school, the

boy's bullying began two

years ago when aged just

six or seven and included

verbal and physical har-

assment, beating, van-

dalism of school equip-

ment, sexual harassment

and even threats with a

to enroll his son in a dif-

ferent school at the begin-

ning of the week but the

educational establishment

cancelled that move after

children there staged a boy-

cott in protest.

The boy's father had tried

media reported.

under scrutiny.

Adwan hospital. "There was a series of air strikes on the northern and western sides of the hospital, accompanied by intense and direct fire," said hospital director Hossam Abu Safieh, adding that

> The Israeli army has not yet responded to AFP requests for comment on the strikes.

AFP | Gaza

Mahmud Bassal, Gaza's civil defence spokesman, told AFP that the Israeli army entered Kamal Adwan hospital, evacu-

The director of one of north-

health centres and the territo-

ry's civil defence agency said

Israel conducted several strikes

yesterday that hit the Kamal

⊥ ern Gaza's last functioning

were left at the facility.

in recent days, forcing thou- first time in 60 days.

cused of repeated bullying over a number of years in a

The Kamal Adwan hospital in Gaza has been hit by Israeli air strikes multiple times since the start of the war nearly 14 months ago, killing

People check the damage outside the Kamal Adwan hospital in Beit Lahya in the northern Gaza Strip

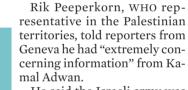
four staff were killed. its intensive care unit director Ahmad al-Kahlut in an air strike

ated patients and arrested sev- nearly 14 months ago. The hospital said that its intensive care is still "minimum operational" Abu Safieh said that follow- unit director Ahmad al-Kahlut ing the latest raid, no surgeons was killed in an air strike late Kamal Adwan since the start of

late last month

last month. The city of Beit Lahia, where The latest strikes came just besieged north in early October, the hospital is located, has been days after the UN's World the hospital had run out of most the site of an intense Israeli mil- Health Organization said an supplies, including fuel. itary operation for the past two emergency medical team had
The Israeli army says its opmonths that has again escalated reached the hospital for the eration in the far north aims

sands to flee amid bombing, the Dr Faradina Sulistiyani, a sur- regrouping there. geon on the team, told AFP from Rights groups have accused it civil defence agency said. Israeli forces have stormed Gaza City that all seven of her of pursuing a plan to evacuate Kamal Adwan on several occateam members left the premises or starve all those remaining sions since the start of the war on foot as the bombing went on. there, which Israel denies.



He said the Israeli army was first spotted outside the hospital at 4:00 am (0200 GMT).

He said that the international medical team said that "panic caused by the bombing and shelling, along with the panicked crowd inside the hospital" caused Gazans and the team to leave the hospital despite there being "no official evacuation order".

Peeperkorn said that a "substantial amount" of people including patients and staff remained in the hospital, which

With little to no aid reaching the Israeli operation in Gaza's

to keep Hamas militants from

Arsonists set Melbourne synagogue ablaze

AFP | Melbourne

Mask-wearing arsonists set a synagogue ablaze in a pre-dawn attack yesterday in the Australian city of Melbourne, police said, sparking widespread condemnation.

The fire broke out at 4:10 am (1710 GMT Thursday) in the Adass Israel Synagogue when some congregants were already inside, police said, gutting much of the building in the southeast Melbourne suburb of Ripponlea.

No serious injuries were re-

agogue for morning prayers plosive squad. Inspector Chris Murray of the in the premises," he said.



Police officers investigate near the scene of a fire at the Adass Israel Synagogue in Melbourne

A witness entering the syn- Victorian police arson and ex- The synagogue was "engulfed saw "two individuals wearing" "They appeared to be spread-"We believe it was deliberate.

masks", according to Detective ing an accelerant of some type We believe it has been targeted. What we don't know is why."





an important platform for addressing security issues. Thank you, @moi_bah-Abdullah Al Khalifa, for the warm welcome. Grateful for Bahrain's strong support for @IAEAorg and our commitment to effec tive multilateralism.

@rafaelmgrossi



the EU-Mercosur agreement. It marks the begin ning of a new story. I now look forward to discussing it with EU countries. This agreement will work for people and businesses. More jobs. More choices. Shared prosperity.

@vonderleyen



fter months of ne-Agotiation & support from @WBG_IDA partners, wonderful to announce that #IDA21 has raised \$23.7 billion dollars in donor contributions, that we will leverage to \$100 billion in financing for the countries who need it most. #IDAWorks

@AxelVT_WB



or too long, Britain has been held to ransom by blockers and bureaucrats who've stopped the country building, suffocating working people's aspirations. Those days are over. We will build 1.5 million new homes and inject ambition back into Britain.

@Keir_Starmer

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

UK's Catherine to reflect on 'difficult times' at Christmas service



Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales greets dignitaries as she arrives ahead of a

AFP | London

D ritain's Catherine, Princess of ber that she had completed her **D**Wales, yesterday will host a chemotherapy treatment for an Christmas service at Westminster unspecified cancer and was look-Abbey that will reflect on "the ing forward to undertaking more most difficult times" as she re- engagements "when I can". turns to public life after her cancer She attended Remembrance

in the most difficult times of our Families affected by the attack vited to the service, according to Kensington Palace office.

George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis

The princess said in Septem-

Day events last month and visited

family, through their work, or as

Georgia PM says 'won battle' with pro-EU protesters as crisis deepens

eorgia's Prime Minister ✓Irakli Kobakhidze vesterday claimed victory in a "battle" against the pro-Western opposition, even as a crisis fuelled by his suspension of EU talks

showed no signs of easing. Tbilisi has been engulfed in turmoil since the governing Georgian Dream party -- accused by critics of creeping authoritarianism and steering the country back towards Russia -- declared that it had Anti-government protesters with flags of Georgia and European Union rally in won a disputed October 26 front of the parliament during

against alleged electoral fraud Georgia would not seek Euro-Tens of thousands have tak- and Kobakhidze's shock an- pean Union membership talks

en to the streets to protest nouncement last week that until 2028.

Romania's top court scraps presidential election

Romania's constitutional court announced yesterday that it had annulled the presidential election following allegations of Russian interference, effectively cancelling the second-round run-off that had been due to take place this weekend.

Romanian authorities had cried foul after far-right outsider Calin Georgescu topped the first round of presidential elections on November 24, a sur-



prise result in the EU and NATO against Georgescu and Russia, "to annul the entire electormember bordering Ukraine. including "massive" social me- al process for the election of On Wednesday, the presi- dia promotion and cyber-at- the President of Romania... to dency declassified documents tacks.

detailing a slew of allegations The court said it had decided gality of the electoral process".

ensure the correctness and le-

On Wednesday, he returned to his previous school, only for his classmates to walk out.

Nicole Kidman remains 'so passionate' about acting

Bang Showbiz | Los An-

Nicole Kidman is still "so, so passionate" about her work.

> Тhе star has enjoyed huge success during her acting career, and Nicole remains as passionate as she ever has

Nicole Kidman

what I do. I love acting, and I love being and whatever happens happens'. with people that are so inspiring. And a great script is a great script."

work schedule in spite of her fame and suc- on that because fear can set in. That's very, cess. The acclaimed actress insisted she's very destructive to the expression and the still "incredibly grateful" for the opportudesire." car-winning nities that come her way.

> explained: "I don't think it's burnout. It's experience. more staying in a place of just [being] incredibly grateful for opportunities and the hard now. Actually everything. ability to work with people that I love."

Nicole recently admitted that she's been there's nothing that's, 'Oh my about her work happy to take "bold risks" in her career.

Asked if Hollywood has become more light, let's go.' Or maybe open to risks, Nicole told Vanity Fair's 2025 it's just the things that Nicole, 57, told E! Hollywood Issue: "I suppose I don't think I do.

News: "I'm just still so, so passionate about of that. I just go, 'This is the road I'm on,

"If it's seen as a risk, I'll take these risks. And if they're bold risks, then I'll take those Nicole is happy to maintain a jam-packed risks, but I'm not going to hang too much

Nicole subsequently conceded that work-Asked about avoiding burnout, Nicole ing in Hollywood can be a "rollercoaster"

The actress explained: "Everything's

"I mean, maybe not 'Deadpool', but

gosh. Yep. This is it. Green-

Demi Moore: I've reached a place of radical acceptance

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Demi Moore feels more "liberated" than ever in

The 62-year-old actress has been working in Hollywood for decades, and Demi has revealed that she's now reached a place of "radical acceptance" in her life.

The movie star told 'Extra': "I think it's the most liberated that I feel. The place is of greater, or I would say, of radical acceptance."

Demi starred in the body Substance'. horror film 'The Substance' earlier this year, and the actress admits she resonated with her onscreen character, who turned to a black market drug in order to create a vounger version of herself.

Demi reflected: "We all live in a world where we have circumstances that present us with the challenge of compare and despair. But the reality is, it's not what's being done to us on the outside, it's what we do to ourselves. I think that's, to me, what was always so moving and resonated so deeply, is that harshness and that violence that we can have against ourselves."

Demi previously admitted that she felt "a certain sense of liberation" after filming 'The



I knew there were going to be shots that highlighted my flaws, but those allowed me to find acceptance and appreciation in myself

DEMI MOORE

The actress explained that she relished shooting the movie, which also starred Margaret Qualley and Dennis Quaid.

Demi - who became the world's highest-paid actress in the 90s

> - told The Independent: "I walked away from it with a certain sense of liberation within my-

"I knew there were going to be shots that highlighted my flaws, but those allowed me to find acceptance and appreciation in myself. "It was about

surrendering. I had to let go of any parts of me that value perfection." Asked how she was

coping with that process, Demi replied: "It's ongoing. But I'm getting better."

Ariana Grande's Wicked role 'transformed' her style

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Ariana Grande's "relationship to make-up" has been transformed by her 'Wicked' role.

The 31-year-old singer plays Galinda Upland, a popular young pretty. woman who becomes Glinda the new musical fantasy film, and Ariana has now revealed that the project has had a big impact on her own sense of style.

n an Instagram video: "This to be loved".

make-up made me look and my entire relationship to make-up. I just love love, love."

style has evolved over recent times. at all and being like, 'But really?

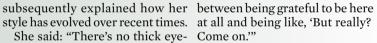
She said: "There's no thick eye- Come on." liner, there's no heavy crease, it's just really warm and open and

"The lashes are in a cat [eye] Good Witch of the North, in the shape, which still gives you the cat the best-selling artists in the eye lift that I usually love, but it's a more honest representation of what you look like."

Meanwhile, Ariana previously to The award-winning star said admitted that she finds it "lovely

The pop star appreciates having replaces that ... There transform my entire the support of her fans, but Aria- was a time when it na is also aware that they always "want more of [her]".

The singer - who has a huge fol- I do now for certain songs it so much. Love, lowing on social media - said on and for the music because 'Hot Ones': "It's so lovely to be I think some of it was a Ariana loved. But yeah, I sit somewhere in stressful time."



Ariana initially struggled to cope with the expectations of

The pop star - who is one of world - explained: "That's like a natural thing that all artists can probably relate

"But seeing [fans'] reaction to it also kind of was hard for me to feel that same gratitude that

Hugh Grant gets emotional as he discusses the joy of fatherhood

Los Angeles

his children crawl- chaotic at times. ing all over him.

as he discussed the joy John Mungo, 12, and in the loo." daughters Lulu, eight, **Hugh Grant**

has with wife Anna Eberstein as ing home tonight and, let's well as daughter Tabitha Xiao Xi, 13, face it, the bit where they and son Felix Chang Hong, 11, from jump in your arms - my Hugh Grant his relationship with former partner six-year-old calls it embraces Tinglan Hong-even though it can be her 'chimpanzee'

Asked if he was a "jungle gym that. The 64-year-old dad", Hugh told 'The Kelly Clarkson star became emotional Show': "Oh I love a bit of that.

"I mean there's a lot to dread be- cry." he gets from parenting cause I'm old and it's noisy and it's his five children - son unbearable and I do a lot of hiding dings and a Funer-

The 'Heretic' actor became teary names of his two youngest and Blue, six, who he as he continued: "I mean, I'm go-daughters earlier this month

hug'. I quite like

Hugh added: "I've made myself

The 'Four Wedal' star revealed the

Hugh Grant teared up on 'The Kelly Clarkson Show' as he spoke about the joy he gets from

parenting his five n a m e d ... I

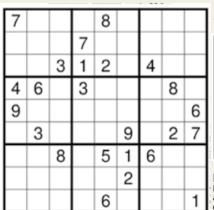
children.

and confessed that we thought it might be nice for her he was in a bit of when she was older if she could say a "panic" when in bars that her middle name was attempting Danger. So her name is Lulu Danger to name his Grant."

> The star revealed that his other H u g h daughter is named Blue "because said: "I have again I panicked about names with a daugh- my wife so we asked (Lulu's) elder ter who I brother when she was on the way".

Grant recalled: "We said, 'There's a was in a bit of new baby coming along, what should a panic with my we call her?' And he said, 'Kevin,' bewife on the day cause that was his favourite Minion we named her and (from the film 'Despicable Me').

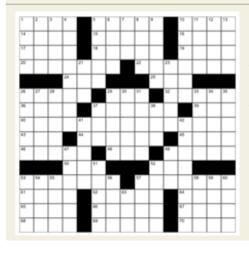
SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

2 4 9

How to play Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all



CROSSWORD

children

1- Util. bili; 5- Hawkins of Dogpatch; 10- Support; 14- Gee whizl; 15- Nincompoops; 16- Half of zwei; 17- Nick and Nora's pet; 18- Send payment; 19- Some TVs; 20- Wanted; 22- Section; 24- Short spooze: 25- New Haven student: 26- With of thousands!: 29- Muesli hit: 32- Les -Unis: 36- Oueens stadium: 37- Give. as homework: 39- Actress Farrow: 40- In spite of: 43-

East ender?: 44 Takes by theft; 45-Zeno's home; 46- Brings up; 48- Summer quaff; 49- The Pacific, for example; 50- Belonging to us; 52- "Fancy that!"; 53- In the place of; 57- White ant; 61- Actress Sofer: 62- Spud state: 64- Tell all: 65- Stuck, after "in": 66- Less bananas: 67- Lcould horse!; 68- Competitive advantage; 69- Giving the once-over; 70- Tatum's dad;

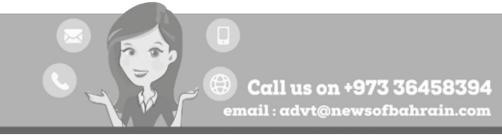
Down

Across

I- Old oath; 2- Diet successfully; 3- Ballpark figs.; 4- Woodcutter power tool; 5- Throat problem 6- Impressed: 7- Not too bright: 8- How sweet 1: 9- Cosmetician Lauder: 10- Allow: 11- Starchy staple; 12- _ epic scale; 13- Hey, over here!; 21- Rodent, betrayer; 23- First American to orbit Earth: 26- Moore's TV boss: 27- Task: 28- Big name in insurance: 29- Milo of "Barbarella": 30- Syrian president; 31- Championship; 33- Miss by __; 34- Fungal infection; 35- Astronome Carl: 37- Court fig.: 38- Fuel type: 41- Magazine copy: 42- 12th month of the year: 47- Revolve: 49- Anthem contraction; 51- Elevate; 52- Conductor Solti; 53- Dies __; 54- Dweeb; 55- Cozy; 56- WWII event; 57- At that point; 58- Now __ me down...; 59- Cheerio!; 60- Israeli statesmar



Classifieds



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KOOHEJI CONTRACTORS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786500 or careers@kcbahrain.

REGINA CONSTRUCTION . has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39267838 or alivirk101@gmail.com

GOLDEN TOUCH CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17345150 or raihan@gtcbah.com

HRDCO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13303353 or yzayer@hawarresort.com

yzayer@hawarresort.com
PUNJAB CITY CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy
for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can con-

tact 39252020 or SHAREF.WORKS@GMAIL.COM
Al amoor Middle East Cleaning Co.W.I.I. has
a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER
(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can
contact 36410050 or SAMEER.SAYED4U@

GMAIL.COM

BAKEMART W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(ASSISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17626183 or

hasan.fares@almarai.com

WADY GOLDEN NUTS ROASTER has a vacancy for the occupation of ROASTER(NUTS), suitably, qualified, applicants, can contact

suitably qualified applicants can contact 17699500 or wadynuts@gmail.com

AL MOJTABA GATE GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC suitably

for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39080571 or HOTLINE.AUTOPARTS@HOTMAIL.COM

KRONOS CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17564981 or INFO@KRONOS-BH.COM

EVER BUILD TRADING CO. W.L.L has a va-

cancy for the occupation of PRODUCTION MACHINE OPERATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36885222 or JEHAN@ EVERBUILD.NET

ZENON CAFETERIA has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33100058 or ZENONMANAMA@GMAIL.COM

A M A G G COMPUTER W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COMPUTER TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35958613 or IJAZ.BH.PK@GMAIL.COM

ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING GROUP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK-ER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

EAGLE HILLS DIYAR COMPANY W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33550061 or yg@eaglehills.com

ABU BASHAEER FRUITS AND VEGETABLES has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK-ER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39919980 or MOHSIN.SAKRAN@GMAIL.COM

ALEA WORLD CONTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORK-ER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39669225 or SAATI-2002@HOTMAIL.COM

ALWAHA CLEARING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34411451 or ALC@WAHADGMAIL.COM

JASSIM TRADING & AGROSERVE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK-ER(GARDENING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36661716 or JASSIMT@BATEL-CO COM RH

SEE ME CLEANING ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(-MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34376160 or ON-TITA24@GMAIL.COM

Adele Beauty Saloon has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37115516 or ruthdeguzman911@gmail.com

ABN AL NAFIS PALACE TAILORING - BAH-RAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66664123 or DEEPUMILAN4123@GMAIL.COM

Top One Laundry has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66994556 or 3ALI55ABDULLA@GMAIL.COM

SUPER SHINE CLEANING & SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEAN-ER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38727499 or MOHAMMADSHERIEF499@GMAIL.COM

BEIT BEIRUT RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(AS-SISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39808365 or MASOOMADOC2014@GMAIL.COM

VERSATILE KHANS SERVICES BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32070786 or MKHANABID@GMAIL.COM

GENTLE RESTURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(FALAFEL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33339455 or MYASHOOR55555@GMAIL.COM

SPRINKLEZ GENERAL TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(AS-SISTANT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33536117 or HUSAIN.MOHAMED@ APPARELGROUP.COM

MUBARK AND HABIBA PUBLICITY AND AD-VERTISING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34330910 or HABIBA-LI168@GMAIL.COM

GULF AIR HOLIDAYS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of VICE PRESIDENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17338575 or MISHAL.ABUBSHAIT@GULFAIRGROUP.BH

BU TALAL LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of LAUNDERER/PRESSER(GENER-AL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 16666607 or RIFFA31@GMAIL.COM

IFTIKHAR AHMED COMBINED SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33742314 or IFTIKHARCHEEMA822@GMAIL.COM

HOME MATTERS REALSTATE CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORK-ER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35124062 or JAWAIDMALIK90@YAHOO.COM IKRAM SCRAP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably

NAIZIIKRAM786@GMAIL.COM
RULOR CARGO SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants

qualified applicants can contact 34542929 or

can contact 33742842 or MUHAMMADBU-RAAQ63@GMAIL.COM

NANCY VENTURES FOR FACILITIES SUP-PORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37661056 or ONTITA06@ GMAIL.COM

Al Faisaliyah Welding Ismithery Fabricti has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 13351335 or procorpco@gmail.com

ROTECH INTERNATIONAL CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES EXCUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33517779 or ROYSBHN@GMAIL.COM

ZEENAT FASHIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34440801 or MOONAIM-TIAZ1@GMAIL.COM

ROTI BOTI W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36900706 or CON-SULTSTATION.BH@GMAIL.COM

SHIFT & SHINE AUTO WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36494283 or SHIFTANDSHINE@YAHOO.COM TUN TUN CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably

SAIM2424786@GMAIL.COM

WHITE CARPET SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33441552 or DDSAIG@GMAIL.COM

qualified applicants can contact 66631834 or

AHMED QAED CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISH-MENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17826260 or info@CIHBAHRAIN.COM

ALABRIQ SANDWICH & GRILL has a vacancy for the occupation of SHAWARMA WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400233 or AHMEDJUMA51@GMAIL.COM

JAHECON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17244111 or JAHECON@BATELCO.COM.BH

AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or ALANSARI@AREENAGROUP.COM

CITY GLASSES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of GLAZIER(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39813203 or cityyaser@yahoo.com

JASIM A.NABI ABDULLA AL TOOQ (ALMIZHAB-13523) has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33209333 or HODA-JASIM@HOTMAIL.COM

ALDAAYSI SONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39464237 or ALDAAYSI1@GMAIL.COM

Arabian International Contracting CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CO-OR-DINATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39677780 or AWALSERV@BATELCO. COM.BH

AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or ALANSARI@AREENAGROUP.COM

MAGIC SHINE CLEANING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36509129 or info@magicshinebh.com

RANWA STONE CONSTRACTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36361228 or ALIJMAA16@GMAIL.COM

EXCELLENCE INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RIGGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or a.jawahery@exibah.com

Pile and Drive Co W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 16001600 or ALI@MATROOK.BH

LULU CONTRACTING CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17720648 or INFO@LCMWLL.COM

CIRCLE INTEGRATED SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17822218 or INFO@CIRCLE.BH

CAPITAL REEF CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34192481 or CAPITALREEF.BH@GMAIL.COM

DELTA MECHANICAL SERVICES CO. W.L.L

has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK-ER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17786444 or fatima@deltabahrain.com

Zu Gluhen Auto Care has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILE POLISHER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36111101 or INFO@ZUGLUHEN.COM

ZADRAN SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35904595 or ADILKHAN334442@GMAIL.COM

GOLD GULF CONTACTING company partnership owned by hasan abdulre has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33100058 or BOB_200420@HOTMAIL.COM

AL BUSHRA TRANSPORT has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33865060 or abushra.cargo@hotmail.com

ESSHA CONTRACTING AND SUPPLY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SAFETY OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37966961 or YRADHA1977@GMAIL.

H L B BOUTIQUE has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34168877 or NAHI-D850114950A@GMAIL.COM

Cafe Sego W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COFFEE SERVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17211152 or info@cafesego.com

BLAZE BEAUTY SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39188822 or JAVED-MALIK6925@HOTMAIL.COM

FADHEL PALACE CARPENTRY has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39266637 or FADHEL.PALACE@GMAIL.COM

XPRESS MAJID FAST LAUNDRY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORK-ER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33441347 or SHYAMRAJ8748@ GMAIL.COM

TARGET SPORTS FOR TAILORING AND TRAD-ING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36699789 or SHUAIBCALICUT@ GMAIL.COM

FAST LINE AUTO SPARE PARTS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35418910 or CHABBASALI117@GMAIL.COM MEXICAN GRILLED FRESH AND HEALTHY FOOD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38304432 or FAYSAL3FAY-

SAL3@GMAIL.COM

BOLAY MIX CONSULTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32107003 or LEILADULAY@GMAIL.

THE MOBIZ MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34352557 or HCHITARI@MOBIZINC.

MIDNIGHT MOON MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36943665 or ALKHAIRDIVO@GMAIL.COM

AL FOUAD CONSULTING SERVICES COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SECRETARY, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33929932 or FUAD.ALZOUBA@

GMAIL.COM
HALAIS SHAWARMA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SHAWARMA WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33838634 or BASIDNML@GMAIL.COM

ARAD CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT has a vacancy for the occupation of CIVIL ENGI-NEERING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17256338 or ACE.5391@ GMAII COM

AHMED QAED CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISH-MENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17826260 or info@CIHBAHRAIN.COM

AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or ALANSARI@AREENAGROUP.COM

Eastern Asphalt & Mixed Concrete Co. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CON-STRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17252078 or S.RADH@ EAMCO.BH

BURJ FAHED CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUC-TION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33304453 or ASIMAFTAB69@ GMAIL.COM INTERNATIONAL MARKETING COMPANY W.L.L CLEANTEC has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36636640 or HANANKHALAF84@GMAIL.COM

KERALA DARBAR RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17241049 or SALMAN@GCCBAH.COM

SEA BIRD MECHANICAL AND MARINE CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17273133 or SIAM7373@BATELCO.COM.BH

URBASER BAHRAIN CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17534342 or sajilnath@urbaser.com

AL REEM GATE CONSTRUCTION has a va-

cancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39771192 or inter.island.bh@gmail.com
GLOBAL LINK TRADING AND CLEARING has

GLOBAL LINK TRADING AND CLEARING has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17830010 or MAJED.LMRA@GMAIL.COM

Gates E & S Bahrain W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39457945 or AMEEREXI@YAHOO.COM

KINGDOM ASPHALT COMPANY W L L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17466776 or ABDULLA@KINGDOM BH

BOSS CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 37777701 or HUSSAIN@ENERGYCENTRALCO.COM

ZEESHAN AHMAD SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33218761 or ZEESHANAHMEDBH1214@GMAIL.COM

VANDIK BAHRAIN HOTEL COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33658488 or ahamdan@addresshotels.com

BROSTED LAND RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORK-ER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17760290 or ALZIYADI_2009@HOTMAIL.COM HAMAMA CONSTROCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39233794 or HAMAMA33@HOTMAIL.COM

GULF CITY CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39641612 or yousif@aanass.net

RADHWAN TRADING GROUP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR FOR STORES, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17646545 or RADHWANBAKERY@GMAIL.COM

THE RITZ - CARLTON BAHRAIN HOTEL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER/BARTENDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17580000 or rc.bahrz.hr@ritz-carlton.com

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33054436 or REZANAJJAR54@YAHOO.COM

VAKAS AZIZ MOHAMMAD AZIZ KHAN AMIR M.NIAZI has a vacancy for the occupation of AUTOMOBILE ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33194925 or BMDC.BH22@GMAIL.COM

ECO SHINE SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36729696 or echoshinebahrain@gmail.com

STROKER SPEED FOR SELLING CAR SPARE PARTS has a vacancy for the occupation of MACHINIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39663650 or TARIQBH3966@GMAIL.

NASS CONTRACTING COMPANY (W.L.L) has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@aanass.net

Pile and Drive Co W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 16001600 or ALI@MATROOK.BH

ANAND CONTRACTING COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(-CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33664969 or ananthmonish@gmail.com

INTEGRATED FACILITY MANAGEMENT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEAN-ER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com Cinqo Contracting W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39845868 or satish@cinqo-me.com

Jehlum Contracting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38398065 or SHABANGUJJAR3002@GMAIL. COM

MARDAN FASHION BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36880843 or E.BRA5058@ YAHOO.COM

WAQAS BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66308852 or WAQASGUJJAR479@GMAIL.COM

FOUR LEAF CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CON-STRÚCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39633078 or hr@fourleafbh.com Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOREMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM BURGER ZOOM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER(FOOD DISTRIBUTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17001720 or BURGERZOOMBH@GMAIL.COM AHMED AL ABRI TRADING BAHRAINI PART-NERSHIP CO has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33666613 or MOHSENMAJEED@ GMAIL.COM

CUSTOM TOUCH CAR CARE BAHRAINI PART-NERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASHER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34674387 or DANISH.S1411@GMAIL.COM

MALEEHA MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34185302 or JALEEL682003@GMAIL.COM

a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33032025 or NEXT_WAY@YAHOO.COM

MIAN AHAD REAL ESTATE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT,

suitably qualified applicants can contact 37388179 or FAHADRAJPUTX@GMAIL.COM JADS GENTS SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36663334 or

MAADHSALEH87@GMAIL.COM

SHERANI ABAD SUPER MARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(-SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38143435 or MASUDM1216874@GMAIL.

NAJRAN WELL CAR SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(CARS ENGINES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33838478 or AHMEDY.SALMAN11@ GMAIL COM

ROLLIN CLEANING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33032721 or NAVEEDANJUM141@GMAIL.

CANDLE LIGHT RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17270874 or nafoora1979@gmail.com HONG KONG CHINESE RESTAURANT W.L.L

has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(-

GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39692001 or HONGKONG@BATELCO. COM.BH

AL- HASA'AN EST. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(HAND WRAPPING), suitably qualified applicants can contact

17602070 or info@alhasaan.com

Pearl Elevator International Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17490040 or zahra.almarkhi@gulfmarketsin-

tl.com
WA Tech Water Technology W.I.I has a vacancy for the occupation of OPERATOR(MECHANICAL MACHINERY)GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17720617 or

CONTACT@WATECHMENA.COM

LAL SUHARA SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34518198 or LAALSUHARABH@GMAIL.COM

NASS LANDSCAPES has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39470985 or yousif@

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDBLAST-ER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37787773 or DUAIJMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

BU WALEED LUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of PRESSER (HAND), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39469721 or bu.ahmed1999@hotmail.com

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDBLAST-ER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37787773 or DUAIJMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET

MAGNIUM ENTERPRISES CO.W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832244 or per121@alkhalidiagroup.com

AMBALI CLEANING AND CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39375444 or AMBALICLEANING@ GMAIL.COM

SCOTIA TRAVELS AND TOURISM has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33109007 or ADMIN@SLOTIATRAVELS.COM

PAK RAVI CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CON-STRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39245209 or CAREPOINT67@ GMAIL.COM

ALA KHAIFAK TRADING . EST has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17259458 or ALTAQADEM66@GMAIL.COM

MAGNUM SHIPCARE SERVICES CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELD-ER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17832244 or per121@alkhalidiagroup.com

HAYA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39635396 or NASSER00@BATELCO.COM.BH

IBN SINAA CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17535983 or BUTALAL1953@YAHOO.COM

AL BARAKA FERTILITY HOSPITAL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN (INSTRUMENT), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17727888 or ahmedaabarakat@gmail.com

BEAUTY AND SPARADISE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17313131 or NEDHAL@SPARADISE.COM.BH

SHAH ZAIB INTERIOR DECORATION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34423084 or SHAHZAIBABBASI.FF@GMAIL.COM

KHALIL 87 SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORK-ER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36272017 or SIDRAMUGHAL1809@GMAIL. COM

CLEAN MUFFLER AUTO CENTER has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33755536 or MUNADADABHAI@ICLOUD.COM

EMCO COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION). GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17821988 or emco@emco.com.bh

FOOD WORLD W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17777993 or FOOD-WORLD.WLL@GMAIL.COM

TECHNO PAK CONTRACTING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUC-TION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39245981 or ZAHEERAB-BAS1283@GMAIL.COM

STAR DRIVE GARAGE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(METAL MELTING & REHEATING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39888023 or CHSHAFIQ581@

SAFINA FACILITIES SUPPORT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SANDBLAST-ER, suitably qualified applicants can contact the contact of th

37787773 or DUAIJMALKHALIFA@ASRY.NET
Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM CHAUDHRY UPHOLSTERY CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably

TARIQ4SEASONS@YAHOO.COM
GCS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37722884 or government@mre.co

qualified applicants can contact 77087370 or

KANS INTERIOR CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR(INTERNAL WORKS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17704218 or SHITAL@KANSBH.COM

GULF HOTELS GROUP - GULF HOTEL has a vacancy for the occupation of DIRECTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17713000 or khalid.alawadi@gulfhotelbah-

BB CITY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy

for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66360474 or JUTTBASHA3@GMAIL.COM

Fabtech contracting W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(METAL CLEAN-ING), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17701112 or idawani@fabtechbahrain.com

AMBIKA RESTAURANT has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33132220 or SALAH.ALYAQOOB@GMAIL.COM

KOKO CAKES AND BAKES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MANAGER (CUSTOMER SERVICES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 35312702 or OSAMA_ABOELMAGD@LIVE.COM

JUMAIRA ELECTRONIC REPAIR W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33071953 or SHAZADCHAUDHRY043@GMI-AL COM

INSOMEA COMPUTER SOLUTIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34676000 or NABIL.YOUSSEF@INSOMFATN

PAK DIAMOND CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CON-STRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 38475348 or Fz.bajwa786@ gmail.com

GLAMOUR AND GLOW BEAUTY SALOON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33805721 or RAO.PUSHPA76@GMAIL.COM

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ZULQARNAIN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY & SUPPORT SERVICES BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37394429 or HAMZACHAUDARY575@GMAIL.COM

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can contact 17255980 or ADEEBALI@BOKHOWAGROUP.COM

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Amorim tempers Man Utd expectations

Manchester United's new manager navigates challenges after Arsenal defeat in Premier League

United sit 13th, three points from top six

Recent performances show mixed results and inconsistency

Defeat at Arsenal highlights gap with title contenders

AFP | London

uben Amorim believes he has to keep expectations in check at Manchester United after the optimism surrounding his positive start was punctured by a 2-0 defeat at Ar-

The Portuguese has had a rollercoaster introduction in his first two weeks in charge of the English giants.

lowly Ipswich was followed by an eventful 3-2 Europa League Premier League game by four or title was evident as the Gunners top six. win over Bodo/Glimt.



Manchester United's Portuguese head coach Ruben Amorim (L) shouts instructions to the players from the touchline during A disappointing 1-1 draw at the match against Arsenal (file photo)

Everton's 4-0 thrashing at However, the gulf between the Stadium on Wednesday. Old Trafford last weekend was Red Devils and those sides chalthe first time United had won a lenging for the Premier League but are only three points off the one result," Amorim said at his and Wayne Rooney and stars day for us."

more goals since August 2021. eased to victory at the Emirates

"It's hard because it's very competitive this league and

We have to manage expectations and at the same time when you have a bad result you have to be calm and continue to do the job that we are doing

RUBEN AMORIM

pre-match press conference ahead of Nottingham Forest's visit on Saturday.

"Before this Arsenal game you guys were asking about the top four, and now we return to this

tions and at the same time when tributes. you have a bad result you have to be calm and continue to do the Amorim. "It's a sad day. Everyjob that we are doing."

Off the field it has been a sad Thursday.

A host of legendary former United sit 13th in the table changes all the time with just players such as David Beckham care of everybody, so it's a sad



Manchester United's 4-0 win over Everton last weekend was their first Premier League victory by four or more goals since August 2021

from the current squad like position. Nowadays it's like that. Marcus Rashford were among "We have to manage expectathose to pay their own personal

> "You feel it today," added body talks about lady Kathy.

"You feel it, the love, the way week for United as popular for- (United technical director) Darmer receptionist Kath Phipps, ren Fletcher speaks about her, who worked at the club for over so she was a really important 55 years, died at the age of 85 on person here that represents everything this club is.

"Friendly, professional, taking

Messi to kick off new Club World Cup, Neymar to face Real

AFP | Miami

ionel Messi and Inter Miami ✓ will kick off FIFA's new 32team Club World Cup when the Major League Soccer side take on Egypt's Al Ahly in the June 15 opener, the draw for the tournament revealed on Thursday.

Brazilian team Palmeiras and Portugal's Porto complete Group A alongside Argentina World Cup winner Messi, whose Miami team were handed a spot by FIFA after finishing top of the regular season standings in MLS.

Messi's former Barcelona team-mate, Brazilian Neymar, will have a reunion with La Liga rivals and European champions Real Madrid in Group H.

Twelve European clubs will feature in the tournament with Manchester City facing Juven- zil and Seattle Sounders. new era in club football".

Atletico Madrid, Copa Liberta- those at the draw.



FIFA President Gianni Infantino (L) and Brazilian former soccer player Ronaldo unveil the trophy during the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup Draw ceremony

tus in Group G of a tournament FIFA has had to deal with some draw and US President-elect sented by former Juventus and which FIFA president Gianni scepticism over the need for the Donald Trump sent his best Italy forward Alessandro Del Infantino said would "start a tournament and the chances of wishes in a video message be- Piero and featured celebrities Paris Saint-Germain were fans but there was plenty of supplied during a 90-minute live

dores winners Botafogo of Bra- Club officials and former players gathered for Thursday's part in the draw which was preit capturing the imagination of fore the ceremony, which took such as model Adriana Lima. dio in Miami.

The Club World Cup is expected to attract global attention and showcase the world's best club teams competing on a single stage

"The event is going to be incredible," said Trump in his message where he praised Infantino as a "winner".

"We've known each other a long time and I'm so honoured to have this kind of relationship because soccer is going through the roof as everyone knows," he

The USA will co-host the 2026 World Cup with Mexico and Canada.

Trump's daughter Ivanka took

The final of the tournament drawn in a tough group with port for the competition among broadcast from a television stu- will be held at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on July 13.

Vinicius back for Real Madrid Champions League clash: Ancelotti

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said star forward Vinicius Junior will be back from injury quicker than expected to face Atalanta in the Champions League on Tues-

The Brazilian winger suffered a hamstring injury in November which was expected to keep him out until the Intercontinental Cup final on December 18.

to train yesterday and Ance- with the team, was finding fitlotti said he would return next ness after a long-term knee week, missing Saturday's La injury and could return in Liga visit to face Girona.

injury very well, he will not even more focus has been cast be ready for tomorrow but he on misfiring superstar striker will be for the next Champions Kylian Mbappe after his arrival League game," Ancelotti told from Paris Saint-Germain in a news conference yesterday. the summer.

Vinicius' return bolsters a Madrid side which has suf- penalties in defeats by Liverfered three defeats in their pool and Athletic Bilbao in the opening five European match- past fortnight and is struggling es, sitting 24th in the Champi- to find his best form, with 10 ons League group table.

The coach said defender Daacross all competitions.



Real Madrid's players are seen during a training session (file photo)

However Vinicius was able vid Alaba, who also trained January.

"Vini has recovered from his With Vinicius sidelined,

The French forward missed goals in his first 20 matches

Hamdan and Al-Imran Schools edge closer to handball final

TDT | Manama

Bin Hamad Handball Champi- minutes. onship for Boys' High Schools. ball Association arena.

Hamdan City School tri- the Best Player accolade. umphed in a nail-biting match the way with an impressive 22 Al-Hidaya Al-Khalifiya.

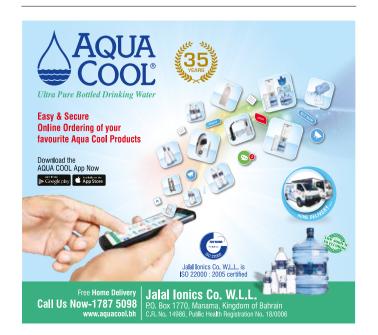
goals, earning the Man of the Hamdan City and Ahmed Match award. Despite strong resistance, Sheikh Khalifa's team narrow victories in the first leg fell short due to missed opporof the semi-finals of the Khalid tunities and errors in the final

In the second match, Ahmed The matches, organized by Bah- Al-Imran School defeated rain's Ministry of Education's Al-Hidaya Al-Khalifiya School Physical Education Department, 33-31, with standout player Mowere held at the Bahrain Hand- hammed Haitham Aoun contributing seven goals and claiming

The return leg is scheduled against Sheikh Khalifa Bin for Sunday, December 8, at the Salman Institute of Technolo- same venue. Hamdan City will gy, winning 40-39. Star player face Sheikh Khalifa Institute, Mohammed Ahmed Tarada led while Ahmed Al-Imran takes on



Action from the match



Quarterfinal lineup set for School Football Championship

Groups 3 and 4.

ran School maintained their to progress. dominance, defeating Bahrain Bayan School 4-3 in a high- to begin on Sunday, December 8, stakes match. Despite the loss, with notable clashes including Bahrain Bayan advanced on goal Ahmed Al-Imran School against difference, edging out Sheikh Brights International School Abdulaziz Bin Mohammed Al and Al-Hidaya Al-Khalifiya fac-

tournament despite a 3-0 win over the American School.

The Nasser Bin Hamad Group 4 saw Al-Hidaya Football Championship Al-Khalifiya School secure their for Boys' High Schools has fi- place with a crucial 2-0 victory nalized its quarterfinal lineup over the British School, who following a thrilling conclusion also advanced as runners-up. to the preliminary rounds in Hamdan City School delivered an emphatic 7-0 win over Al-In Group 3, Ahmed Al-Im- Noor International but failed

Quarterfinal matches are set Khalifa School, who exited the ing Modern Knowledge School. Action from a match



Australia on top in 2nd India Test after Starc takes six

AFP | Adelaide

ustralia lost opener Usman AKhawaja but took first day honours at the day-night second Test in Adelaide yesterday after a Mitchell Starc onslaught saw India crumble to 180 all out.

At the close, the hosts were 86-1 with Nathan McSweeney not out 38 from 97 balls and Marnus Labuschagne on 20 after the visitors were dismissed on the cusp of tea after winning the toss and opting to bat.

A menacing Starc was India's chief destroyer.

He gave the hosts a dream start in removing Yashasvi movement and with it a thick Jaiswal with the first ball of the edge from Khawaja (13) that fortune, showing maturity in his match and ended with 6-48 -his best Test figures.

sistence paid off, finding extra abh Pant.



Australian bowler Mitchell Starc (C) celebrates the wicket of Indian batman Yashasvi Jaiswal

carried to Rohit Sharma at slip.

In reply, Australia weathered took 17 balls to get off the mark gets a big score after a lean spell. Rahul was at the crease for 40 10 overs of the pink ball at dusk and had a life on three when before Jasprit Bumrah's per- dropped by wicketkeeper Rish- ing high after a 295-run vic- he was given out, caught behind

But he made the most of his second Test, while Labuschagne Fellow opener McSweeney survived a nervy start as he tar-

tory at the first Test in Perth, off Scott Boland.

but Australia have a formidable record in Adelaide, winning all seven pink-ball Tests they have played at the

The visitors retained Jaiswal and KL Rahul as openers in preference to Rohit, who missed the first Test on paternity leave and came in at six.

But the plan backfired as Starc sensationally trapped Jaiswal lbw from a swinging first ball, with the left-armer's pumpedup celebration showing how much it meant.

Jaiswal scored 161 in his last innings.

The returning Shubman Gill then stroked two boundaries in an eventful first over.

But the runs dried up and India came into the clash rid- minutes without scoring when

'New Stoke' Arsenal aiming to be 'kings of everything', says Arteta



Arsenal's players celebrate a goal (file photo)

AFP | London

rsenal boss Mikel Arteta Asaid his side want to be "the best in the world" in every aspect after receiving plaudits for the Gunners' prowess from set-pieces.

Two goals from corners were Premier League title challenge We take it as a big compliwith a 2-0 win over Manchester United on Wednesday.

corners since the beginning of the best in the world, attacking the 2023/24 season to 22 - five in open spaces, the best in the more than any other side in world. Europe's top five leagues.

City - depending on set-piec- Before it was we didn't score es to give them the win," said enough, we didn't challenge, former Manchester United we didn't win big games for 20 forward Dimitar Berbatov in years. We want to be the best his post-match punditry.

Stoke excelled from set pieces during a 10-year spell in the with four consecutive victo-Premier League between 2008 ries in all competitions has and 2018.

what Dimitar Berbatov said, it League leaders Liverpool.

Stoke excelled from set pieces during a 10-year spell in the Premier League between 2008 and 2018

enough to reignite Arsenal's was in the best possible way. ment," said Arteta.

"We want to be the kings of That took the tally of goals everything. On set pieces, the scored by Arteta's men from best in the world, on high press

"Best atmosphere and sta-"Arsenal are the new Stoke dium, the best at everything. at everything."

Arsenal's return to form propelled them back to with-"I understood very well in seven points of Premier

McLaren dominate Abu Dhabi practice

Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri lead the pack in Friday practice as Ferrari's Leclerc faces grid penalty

Lando Norris tops second practice session in Abu Dhabi

Verstappen and Russell struggle to find pace

Red Bull faces challenges in closing the gap to McLaren

AFP | Abu Dhabi

ritish driver Lando Norris led Australian team-mate Oscar Piastri in second practice yesterday as McLaren turned up the heat in their bid to secure the constructors' title at the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc had topped the opening practice session at the Yas Marina Circuit ahead of Norris and Lewis Ham- 2008. ilton, but the Monegasque driver new battery pack on his car.

for Sunday's race compromises the Italian team's bid to capture a 21-point deficit on leaders



McLaren's British driver Lando Norris drives during the second practice

"We've got to do something was then penalised for taking a special and to overperform," said Leclerc, having conceded that 23.517 seconds to beat Piastri by good pace we had from Qatar ond Ferrari ahead of Sauber's

Ferrari need to overturn a first constructors' title since McLaren, who last won the

week-end. Norris clocked one minute and third-placed Nico Hulkenberg

of Haas. "We still have a tough fight to-

constructors' title in 1998, this morrow. It probably looks better than it is for us," said Norris.

"We've continued with the Leclerc's 10-place grid penalty McLaren's pace was exceptional. two-tenths of a second, ahead of and it feels strong, but the others haven't turned up their engines

Norris added: "We're still try-



McLaren are on track to win their first constructors' title since 1998, holding a 21-point lead over Ferrari ahead of the season-ending Abu **Dhabi Grand Prix**

ing to find the balance. It's nothing huge. Small things to get the balance between being quicker and saving the tyres, especially on the longer runs."

Carlos Sainz was fourth fastest in the second Ferrari followed by seven-time champion Hamilton, the British driver in his last race weekend with

Leclerc was sixth in the sec-Valtteri Bottas, Kevin Magnussen in the second Haas, Williams' Alex Albon and RB's Yuki

Leclerc, who was accompanied by his brother Arthur, an F1 rookie, in opening practice, was forced to take a new battery pack, his third of the season for which only two units are allocated in the regulations.

Williams duo Albon and Franco Colapinto face five-place penalties for exceeding gearbox components usage.

'It's tricky'

The feuding pair George Russell of Mercedes and Red Bull's newly-crowned four-time world champion Max Verstappen struggled to find the pace and wound up 13th and 17th, respectively, in a largely uneventful twilight session.

"Not good," said Verstappen, who had announced earlier that he is to become a father for the first time with his partner Kelly Piquet, daughter of Brazil's triple world champion Nelson Piquet.

"The balance is off and there is no connection in mid-corner so it is difficult to push and we need to work it overnight," said the Dutch driver.

"I'm sure we can do better, but maybe not to the McLaren level. If we can get into the top six, that would be a great recovery."