

Russell secures Las Vegas pole

Mercedes' Russell clinches pole as Verstappen edges closer to fourth world title | P12

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Western powers voice 'serious concern' over Iran nuke plan

AFP | Washington

The US, Britain, France and Germany yesterday expressed "serious concern" over Iran's plans to launch a series of new centrifuges for its nuclear program, urging Tehran to reengage with the UN nuclear watchdog.

Iran's announcement came after the four Western powers brought a censure motion targeting the Islamic republic at the 35-nation board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The resolution was adopted on Thursday.

"We note with serious concern Iran's announcement... that, instead of responding to the resolution with cooperation, it plans to respond with further expansion of its nuclear program in ways that have no credible peaceful rationale," the four nations said in a joint statement released by the US State Department.

Storms hit Ireland, Britain and France

AFP | London

Ireland, Britain and France faced travel chaos yesterday and one person died as a winter storm battered northwest Europe with strong winds, heavy rain, snow and ice.

Hampshire Police in southern England said a man died after a tree fell onto a car on a major road near Winchester early in the day.

Police in West Yorkshire said they were probing whether a second death from a traffic accident was linked to the storm.

Motorcycle driver killed in accident

TDT | Manama

A tragic traffic incident occurred on Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway heading towards Manama, near Hamad Town, involving a collision between a vehicle and a motorcycle.

The motorcycle driver, a 46-year-old man, tragically lost his life in the accident.

Authorities carried out the necessary procedures to investigate the incident.

HM King sends written message to Pope to boost Bahrain-Vatican ties

Rome

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a written message to His Holiness Pope Francis, delivered by Dr. Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi, Public Affairs Minister at the Royal Court, at the Vatican.

The message focused on strengthening the close relations between Bahrain and the

Vatican, including collaboration between the King Hamad Digital Library and the Vatican Apostolic Library.

Manuscripts, books

The Vatican Apostolic Library, established in the 15th century, houses manuscripts and books in various languages, including Arabic works on medicine, astronomy, mathematics, and literature.

His Holiness Pope Francis visited Bahrain in November 2022, marking a historic trip to promote interfaith dialogue and peace.

The visit included a meeting with King Hamad, a public mass attended by thousands, and participation in the Bahrain Forum for Dialogue.

The Pope emphasised coexistence and human fraternity.



Dr. Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi delivers the written message to His Holiness

Israeli air strike kills 15 in Beirut

City residents left in shock after residential building reduced to rubble

AFP | Beirut

Lebanon said an Israeli air strike in the heart of Beirut that brought down a residential building and jolted residents across the city killed at least 15 people yesterday.

A Lebanese security source told AFP that the strike had "targeted a leading Hezbollah figure", but a Hezbollah lawmaker denied any official of the Iran-backed group was present.

The attack in the capital was followed by others in the city's southern suburbs after calls by the Israeli military to evacuate.

Israel has not commented on the strike in central Beirut.

Operations

Rescue operations were underway in the area yesterday morning, with an excavator removing the rubble of the eight-storey building.

"The strike was so strong it felt like the building was about to fall on our heads," said Samir, 60, who lives in a building facing the one that was destroyed.

He said he fled his home in the middle of the night with his wife and children.

"We saw two dead people on



Rescuers sift through the rubble of a levelled building, following an overnight Israeli airstrike that targeted Beirut's Basta neighbourhood. (AFP)

the ground... The children started crying and their mother cried even more," he told AFP.

Casualties

The Israeli strike, which hit the working-class Basta neighbourhood, killed at least 15 people and wounded 63, Lebanon's health ministry said.

"The final death toll will be determined after DNA tests are carried out," the ministry said in a statement.

The state-run National News Agency (NNA) said Israeli jets had launched six missiles at the structure, causing "widespread destruction in buildings" nearby. The predawn attack in Basta

was not preceded by an evacuation warning from Israel's military.

Warning

Similar strikes carried out without warning outside of Hezbollah's traditional bastions have tended to target senior figures but Hezbollah lawmaker Amin

Sherri denied any official was present at the time of the strike. "There was no party figure in the two targeted buildings," the NNA quoted him as saying as he visited the site.

The health ministry said the Israeli air force also hit eastern Lebanon, killing eight people in the town of Shmostar overlooking the Bekaa Valley, another Hezbollah stronghold.

"The Israeli enemy strike on Shmostar killed eight people, including four children, and nine others were injured, including four in critical condition," a ministry statement said.

Campaign

Israel stepped up its campaign against the group in late September, targeting its strongholds in Lebanon's east and south as well as south Beirut, and later sending in ground troops after nearly a year of limited cross-border exchanges of fire.

Lebanon's health ministry says more than 3,650 people have been killed since October 2023, when Hezbollah began trading fire with Israel in solidarity with its Palestinian ally Hamas.

Stalemate at COP29

Wealthy nations 'scramble' for climate funding deal

AFP | Baku, Azerbaijan

Key nations raced yesterday to salvage UN climate talks after the poorest countries pushed back angrily for more than \$300 billion a year in help from historic wealthy emitters.

More than a day past the scheduled conclusion of two weeks of COP29 talks, host Azerbaijan urged bleary-eyed delegates to seek consensus to avoid failure.

"I know that none of us want to leave Baku without a

good outcome," COP president Mukhtar Babayev told a late-night session, urging all nations to "bridge the remaining divide".

Developing power Brazil pleaded for at least some progress and said it would seek to build on it when it leads COP30

next year in the Amazon gateway of Belem.

"After the difficult experience that we're having here in Baku, we need to reach some outcome that is minimally acceptable in line with the emergency we're facing," Brazil's environment

minister Marina Silva told delegates.

A number of nations have accused Azerbaijan of lacking the experience and will to meet the moment, as the planet again sets record temperatures and faces rising deadly disasters.



Bahrain leads in women's space sector participation

TDI | Manama

The National Space Science Agency (NSSA) has announced that Bahrain topped United Nations indicators for women's participation in the space sector, as highlighted in a study by the "Space for Women" programme of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

The study, Landmark Study on Gender Equality in the Space Sector, unveiled at the 75th International Astronautical Con-

gress, included data from 53 space agencies and organisations worldwide.

Leadership

The study revealed that women make up 30% of the workforce in public sector space organisations but hold 19% of board positions and 21% of leadership roles.

Women are underrepresented in technical, policymaking, and astronaut roles but lead in education, outreach, human resources, and administration.



The NSSA is committed to gender equality, reflecting the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

DR. MOHAMED IBRAHIM AL ASEERI, CEO OF NATIONAL SPACE SCIENCE AGENCY (NSSA)

Supported by the Government of the Republic of Korea, the study also incorporated contributions from Canada and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) in developing a gender mainstreaming toolkit for the space sector, offering practical solutions to promote gender equality in space policies and practices.

Data

Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Al Aseeri, CEO of NSSA, highlighted Bahrain's active participation in the study by provid-

ing data and involving female employees.

He reaffirmed the NSSA's commitment to gender equality, reflecting the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Dr. Al Aseeri noted Bahrain ranked first in Asia Pacific and third globally in women's representation in public sector space organisations, fourth in female leadership, and fifth in administration, with women exceeding 50% across these indicators.

A Night to Remember

The New Millennium School dazzles with Disney-themed Annual Day

TDI | Manama

The New Millennium School (NMS), Bahrain, celebrated its annual day with grandeur and enthusiasm yesterday, as the institution's achievements and creative flair took centre stage.

Themed 'Disney Wonders @ NMS', the event was a dazzling showcase of music, dance, and drama, inspired by four timeless Disney tales of kindness and compassion - Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Frozen, Beauty and the Beast, and Aladdin.

His Excellency Vinod K Jacob, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain, was the distinguished chief guest for the occasion.

Among other eminent attendees were officials from the Ministry of Education, principals of Bahrain's leading schools, and members of the media.

A Celebration of Excellence

The programme commenced with the recitation of the Bahraini and Indian national anthems, followed by a Quranic reading.

A ceremonial lamp was lit by the chief guest, joined by the Chairman, Dr. Ravi Pillai, and other dignitaries, symbolising enlightenment and unity.

In his address, Dr Ravi Pillai highlighted the school's exceptional progress and celebrat-



This historic achievement, is a testament to the dedication of our students, teachers, and parents

DR. RAVI PILLAI, CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM SCHOOL (NMS), BAHRAIN

ed its recent accolade of earning an 'Outstanding' rating in the Bahrain Quality Authority (BQA) review - a distinction no other CBSE school in Bahrain has achieved.

"This historic achievement," Dr Pillai remarked, "is a testament to the dedication of our students, teachers, and parents."

The Chairman also expressed gratitude to the Indian ambassador, noting, "We feel honoured by the esteemed presence of His Excellency, Mr. Vinod K Jacob, who represents the strong and enduring bond between Bahrain and India."

He further encouraged students to embrace lifelong learning, uphold their cultural roots, and prioritise giving back to society.

Applause for Achievements

The school's principal, Dr Arun Kumar Sharma, presented the annual report, highlighting key accomplishments over the past academic year.

The prize distribution ceremony followed, recognising employees with long-standing service of up to 20 years and awarding mementoes to parents for their unwavering support.

Special recognition was also given to teachers with perfect attendance.

H.E. the Ambassador commended the school's achievements and lauded the commu-



I commend the school's achievements and the community effort in nurturing academic and creative excellence

H.E. VINOD K JACOB, AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

nity effort in nurturing academic and creative excellence.

In his remarks, H.E. underscored the importance of fostering global leaders and strengthening educational partner-

A Magical Spectacle

The cultural programme delighted the audience with vibrant performances.

A euphonious welcome song, a melodious instrumental re-



H.E. Indian Ambassador Vinod K. Jacob with New Millennium School officials, teachers, parents and students, along with guests

ce, and the dramatization of Disney classics brought an enchanting energy to the event.

The evening's performances reflected the school's ethos of blending education with creativity, leaving the audience spellbound.

Dr Pillai concluded the evening with words of encouragement, urging students to

remain resilient, cherish their cultural heritage, and aspire for excellence in their future endeavours.

The event was a fitting celebration of NMS's enduring commitment to academic and co-curricular brilliance, underscored by the spirit of collaboration between the school and its supportive parent community.



Coast Guard recovers body of missing sailor

H Naser
TDT | Manama

The Coast Guard has recovered the body of 26-year-old Isa Ali, who went missing following a boat collision near Sitra on Wednesday evening.

The discovery comes after two days of intensive search and rescue operations hampered by strong currents and fading light.

Rescue teams struggled against challenging conditions as they searched for Ali, who disappeared after the collision.

The accident also left his father hospitalised with head and leg injuries, including a minor brain bleed.

His father is now reported to be in stable condition.

Fishing trip

Ali had embarked on a fishing trip with his father in the Al Warf area on Wednesday afternoon, departing around noon.

The exact circumstances of the collision, which occurred after nightfall, remain unclear.

The search operation, led



Isa Ali

by the Coast Guard, involved divers, civil patrols, and local fishermen.

Despite the extensive efforts, strong tides significantly hindered progress.

Operation

The Ministry of Interior confirmed the Coast Guard's lead role in the operation.

Ali, a married man from Al Hidd, was reported missing following the incident.

His family, friends, and neighbors had held out hope for his safe return.

Further details are expected to be released as the investigation progresses to identify the culprits in the accident.

A fresh start

MP proposes to cut criminal record delays and expedite clearances for former offenders

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Former offenders in Bahrain could soon have their criminal records cleared far more quickly under a proposed change to the law.

MP Jalal Kadhem has tabled a plan to reduce the waiting period for record clearance to just three months for misdemeanours and one month for felonies — down from the current one year and two years, respectively.

The proposal aims to help individuals rebuild their lives and return to society more quickly after serving their sentences or receiving a pardon.

Inspiration

Kadhem explained that the idea draws inspiration from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's recent pardons,



This will allow people to move forward, secure jobs, and live with dignity

MP JALAL KADHEM

describing the changes as a humane way to support rehabilitation.

"This will allow people to move forward, secure jobs, and live with dignity," he said.

Under the existing rules, many former offenders struggle to obtain good conduct certificates — a requirement for employment in both the public and private sectors.

The delays often leave people unemployed and excluded from society.

Pressures

Kadhem warned that this can lead to social and financial pressures that may drive individuals back into crime.

The proposed amendment would shorten these waiting times and offer individuals a genuine chance to start over.

"By removing unnecessary obstacles, we can ensure that people can rejoin their families, communities, and the workforce much sooner," Kadhem

added.

The bill's explanatory notes argue that the current system creates frustration and isolation, leaving many with little hope of moving on.

Stigma

The shorter waiting periods, supporters say, would make rehabilitation more achievable while tackling the stigma surrounding criminal records.

Advocates believe the proposal represents a fairer approach to justice, giving former offenders the tools to rebuild their lives while reducing the risks of reoffending.

Parliament is expected to debate the proposal in the coming weeks, with increasing support for a measure that could transform how Bahrain approaches rehabilitation.

Bahrain workforce ranks third in Arab productivity

TDT | Manama

Workers in Bahrain rank among the most productive in the Arab world, earning the kingdom third place regionally and 39th globally for 2025, according to a report by CEOWorld Magazine.

The findings show Gulf states leading the regional rankings, with Luxembourg topping the global table.

Saudi Arabia led the Arab nations, coming 28th globally, followed by Qatar at 29th.

Bahrain placed third in the Arab world, with the UAE and Kuwait following at 44th and 50th globally.



Oman, Libya, Iraq, Egypt, and Djibouti made up the rest of the top 10 for the Arab region, with global rankings

of 58th, 61st, 72nd, 87th, and 90th, respectively.

Luxembourg's position as the most productive country

is owed largely to its strong financial services sector, which thrives on a small but skilled workforce.



The rankings were based on labour productivity measured by contributions to GDP, working hours, and purchasing power.

Redevelopment proposal

MPs propose converting former school land into housing project

● **Move to address long-standing housing shortage problem**

H Naser
TDT | Manama

A group of MPs has proposed converting the land of two former schools in the Capital Governorate's second district into much-needed housing.

The proposal, put forward by MPs Ahmed Qarata, Hisham Al Awadhi, Jameel Mullah Hassan, Mohammed Al Aliwi, and Mohammed Al Rifae, aims to alleviate a significant housing shortage affecting residents, some of whom have waited over 15 years for housing units.

The proposal calls for transferring ownership of the land — formerly occupied by Al Khansa'a Girls' Primary School and Ibn Sina Boys' Primary School (located on Road 505, Block 305) — to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning.

Units

This land would then be developed to provide housing

units for residents of the second constituency.

The MPs argue that this is necessary due to the critical need for a dedicated housing project within the second district of the Capital Governorate and the urgent need to address long-standing housing applications, as well as the lack of available land within the constituency for new housing projects.

Furthermore, they cite the insufficient number of existing housing projects to accommodate the constituency's growing population and the importance of protecting the constituency's social fabric.

Essential services

They also highlighted the severe shortage of land designated for housing and essential services within the second district.

The Parliament's Services Committee, chaired by MP Mamdooh Al Saleh, reviewed the proposal and recommended its approval.

The proposal will now be put to a vote in the Parliament's upcoming session on Tuesday.

Father 'not liable' for private school expenses

H Naser
TDT | Manama

The Sharia Court has ruled in favour of a father who was sued by his ex-wife for failing to pay private school fees for their children.

The father, a low-income employee, had repeatedly requested that the children be transferred to public schools due to his mounting debt.

However, the mother refused and pursued legal action.

According to lawyer Zahra Hussain, the mother's lawsuit demanded the father pay outstanding school fees and ex-

penses.

The mother had received numerous calls from the schools threatening to withhold the children's report cards if the fees remained unpaid.

Lawsuit

This prompted her to file the lawsuit.

In court, the father testified that he had pleaded with his ex-wife to enroll their children in public schools, citing his limited income and substantial debt accumulated from paying private school fees and transportation costs.

He stated he had borrowed



money to cover these expenses and had even applied for financial assistance without success.

Review of national projects set for debate

TDT | Manama

A spirited debate is anticipated in the Council of Representatives on Tuesday, centring around a contentious proposal that seeks a comprehensive review of national projects and their economic repercussions.

This clash is set to unfold between the advocates of the

proposal and the Finance and Economic Affairs Committee, which has advised against its adoption.

The proposal, put forward by MPs Muneer Saroor, Mohammed Janahi, Mohammed Al Ahmed, and Lulwa Al Rumaithi, calls for a thorough evaluation by the government of all national projects to assess their effects

on the economy of Bahrain.

It underscores the critical role of foreign investment in realising Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, which aims to bolster economic competitiveness, generate employment opportunities for skilled national workers, and ultimately enhance the overall standard of living for citizens.

In their arguments, the pro-

ponents of the proposal express concerns regarding certain non-profit projects that may be taking advantage of government incentives, as well as the underinvestment observed in some newer initiatives. They also highlight the existence of projects that could potentially obstruct national economic growth and sustainability.

Appeal ruling set in tragic ice-block fight

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court has scheduled November 25th for a ruling on an appeal in a case involving a fight stemming from a dispute over the sale of an ice block.

The incident, which occurred in the Manama Central Market, resulted in the defendant stabbing the victim, causing permanent injuries.

The High Criminal Court had previously sentenced the 44-year-old defendant to seven years imprisonment, followed by deportation, and confiscation of the murder weapon.

According to the court's findings, the altercation began with an argument between the victim, an ice vendor, and the defendant, who works in the same business, over the sale of an ice block to a customer.

Safety concerns

Interior Ministry warns of rising crimes involving Bangladeshi nationals, citing 'troubling' statistics

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bangladeshi workers are increasingly being linked to public safety concerns in Bahrain, topping crime statistics and causing unease among citizens, according to the Interior Ministry.

A recent incident at sea, which left one citizen seriously injured and another missing, has drawn greater attention to the issue.

In a statement issued yesterday, the ministry stressed that the safety of citizens remains its top priority and assured that the law would be enforced equally on all individuals in the Kingdom, including expatriate workers.

"Figures show that Bangladeshi workers rank highest in serious crimes and frequent breaches of the law, creating risks to public safety and adding to public concerns," the minis-



88,142

Number of Bangladeshi nationals who make up a large share of the expat workforce.

try said.

It also cited repeated offences at sea, including the recent case, which has further unsettled the public.

Unwelcome

The ministry noted that the increase in crimes committed by Bangladeshi workers has contributed to a widespread feeling that they are unwelcome within Bahraini society.

"All workers in Bahrain are required to respect local laws and uphold the country's tradi-

tions. Any violation, regardless of its severity, will lead to the offender being detained and deported in accordance with legal procedures," the statement added.

The ministry's comments come amid growing calls to address these concerns and ensure public safety remains a priority.

Bangladeshi workers, the second-largest group of expats in Bahrain, have come under the spotlight following a rise in crimes and legal breaches.

Official figures show that

88,142 Bangladeshi nationals, alongside 8,462 domestic workers, make up a large share of the expat workforce.

However, their role in a string of offences has raised concerns about public safety.

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has deported 6,517 workers for breaking the law this year, part of an ongoing drive to tackle irregularities.

Registration system

A new registration system introduced last year has seen the number of illegal workers drop by 63 per cent, from 95,721 to 35,640.

Overall, Bahrain has 631,763 active work permits for expat workers.

Of these, 33,740 were newly issued this year, while 99,279 were renewals.

Bangladeshi workers hold a prominent position in these figures.

MPs propose fee relief for charities

TDT | Manama

Charitable and civil societies in Bahrain may soon be freed from paying government service fees, with Parliament set to discuss the proposal next Tuesday.

The parliamentary Financial and Economic Affairs Committee has backed the idea, saying it would enable these groups to focus their resources entirely on helping those in need.

Both types of organisations are struggling with rising costs and reduced government support, making it increasingly difficult to fund projects and provide assistance to families and individuals.

MP Khalid Buanaq said, "The fees take a large chunk out of their already small budgets. Removing these costs would let them focus on what matters — helping people."

Initially, the proposal only

applied to charitable societies, but discussions with MPs led to it being extended to civil societies as well.

The committee has argued that lifting these fees would ease the financial strain and align with Bahrain's development plans and the goals of the Ministry of Social Development.

Members emphasised the essential role these organisations play in supporting communities and delivering aid where it is most needed.

The proposal was introduced by MPs Khalid Buanaq, Hisham Abdulaziz Al Awadhi, Ahmed Qarata, Jameel Mulla Hassan, and Mamdouh Abbas Al Saleh.

If approved by Parliament next week, charitable and civil societies could finally gain the financial breathing room they need to focus fully on their work, unhindered by mounting administrative expenses.

AI regulation bill 'redundant'

TDT | Manama

Existing laws already address many of the aims of Bahrain's proposed AI regulation bill, the government has said in a written letter to Parliament, while suggesting a 'Regulatory Sandbox' to safely test new technologies.

Officials argue that this approach avoids redundancy and keeps oversight practical.

In its letter, the government described artificial intelligence (AI) as a major force driving change in work and daily life.

However, it highlighted

several concerns with the draft law, urging a careful approach.

Officials stressed the need for thorough research into AI's impact on ethics, security, individual rights, and national interests.

The draft law, introduced by the Shura Council, includes 38 articles proposing a new authority to regulate AI, penalties for breaches, and compensation for damages caused by AI systems.

However, the government believes that Bahrain's current legal framework already addresses many of these points.

Project to revive dilapidated homes



A push to revive Muharraq's project to rebuild ageing and unsafe homes dominated discussions at the latest Municipal Council meeting. Councillors described the initiative as crucial for addressing pressing housing needs and protecting the architectural heritage of one of Bahrain's most storied regions. The scheme, once a source of local pride, transformed entire communities before it was shelved. The Finance and Legal Committee, led by Ahmed Al Moqahwi and joined by Mohammed Al Mahmoud, Mohammed Al Moqahwi, and Dalal Al Moqahwi, urged the project's return to the council's agenda.

Public-private partnership in municipal property management

TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives is set to deliberate on a proposal put forward by MP Mohammed Al Maarifi, advocating for the government to organise and invest in municipal properties in

partnership with the private sector.

This proposal aims to designate specific areas for private sector utilisation, detailing the types of commercial activities that can take place in each zone and establishing kiosks that

will be equipped with essential services, such as electricity and water.

The initiative hinges on considerations of public interest, primarily focusing on bolstering the local economy by providing designated spaces for

private enterprises.

By doing so, the proposal seeks to create job opportunities and enhance the income levels of citizens, encouraging the establishment of new businesses and commercial ventures.

Noopura Dwani 2024



Six talented disciples of Guru Smt. Chitralkha Ajith performed their Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi Arangetrams (first stage performance) at the Indian Club, Bahrain on 21 November 2024. The Chief Guest of the event named Noopura Dwani 2024 was Shri Ravi Kumar Jain, Second Secretary of the Indian Embassy in Bahrain and Smt. Meera Ravi, Senior Journalist and Editor of Salaam Bahrain was the Guest of Honour. The event attended by over 350 guests marked the Kuchipudi Arangetram for Akanksha Shaji, Harshada Nair and Rithvi Ramesh Rao and Bharatanatyam Arangetram for Avanthika Harikumar, Dhisha Dhinesh and Srinidhi Harihar.

Bill on unions and sports federations financial audit

TDT | Manama

The Council of Representatives is preparing to conduct a crucial vote on a bill that proposes to place labour unions and sports federations under the scrutiny of the National Audit Office (NAO).

This legislative move aims to enhance the transparency and proper management of funds within these organisations, with the intention of combating corruption and bolstering public trust.

Proponents of the bill argue that increased transparency would significantly strengthen the role and credibility of these

organisations in the eyes of their members and affiliated institutions.

By mandating financial audits, the bill seeks to ensure that funds are being managed appropriately and that there is accountability at all levels within these entities.

However, the government has expressed its opposition to the bill, recommending that it be reconsidered.

The government's objections are primarily focused on the current mandate of the NAO, which is understood to be limited to overseeing public funds and does not extend to private entities.

Filipino walkathon for a cause event in Muharraq

TDT | Manama

The Philippine Embassy is organising an Anti-Violence Against Women (VAW) Campaign Walkathon on Friday, 29 November 2024, from 7am to 9am at the Dohat Arad Park, in Muharraq.

The event is part of the Philippines' annual 18-day Cam-

paign to End Violence Against Women (VAW) from 25 November to 12 December 2024.

To register for the walkathon, please use the QR code on the poster or this link: <https://tinyurl.com/mr2vdbxp>.

Participants in the Walkathon are encouraged to wear orange, the official colour of this campaign.

What forcing Google to sell Chrome could mean

● **Selling Chrome would also deprive Google of a rich source of information used to train its algorithms and promote its other services like Maps.**

AFP | New York, United States

US antitrust lawyers are calling on a judge to force the sale of Google's Chrome browser to limit the company's market clout in a move that would shake up the internet giant.

On Wednesday, the US Department of Justice submitted its recommendation for the breakup to US District Court Judge Amit Mehta, who is set to impose steps next year to address Google's monopoly power in online search.

Blow to Google?

"This would be a huge gut punch to Google," said Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives.

Google provides free search, making money off targeting ads and features that promote online commerce.

"It would greatly alter (Google's) business model," said Syracuse University professor of advertising Beth Egan.

Selling Chrome would also deprive Google of a rich source of information used to train its algorithms and promote its other services like Maps.

Launched in 2008, Chrome dominates the browser market, dwarfing rivals Edge and Safari, developed by Microsoft and Apple, respectively.

Egan believed Google would find a way to recover if forced



Google CEO Sundar Pichai is sworn in as he testifies during a House Judiciary Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC

Key facts about the birth of Google Chrome:

Launch Date: Google Chrome was officially released on September 2, 2008, initially for Microsoft Windows.

Announcement: The launch was announced through a unique approach—a web comic created by Scott McCloud, a well-known comic book author. The comic explained the browser's technical and user-friendly features.

Development Motivation: Google's motivation for creating Chrome was to develop a faster, more stable, and secure web browser that could handle modern, complex web applications better than existing browsers.

Project Start: Work on Google Chrome began around 2006. The project was kept secret under the code name "Project Chrome."

WebKit and V8: Google Chrome was initially based on the WebKit rendering engine (later replaced by Blink) and introduced the V8 JavaScript engine, which significantly improved the performance of web applications.

Open Source Project: Alongside the Chrome browser, Google launched the Chromium Project, an open-source initiative that provided the codebase for Chrome, allowing developers to contribute to and modify the browser.

Rapid Growth: Google Chrome quickly gained popularity due to its minimalist design, focus on speed, stability, and innovative features like a sandboxing system to isolate web processes, making it more secure.

Cross-Platform Availability: After the initial Windows release, Google expanded Chrome to Mac OS X and Linux in 2009 and 2010, respectively. The browser is now available across multiple platforms, including mobile devices.

Market Share Leader: By 2012, Chrome became the most widely used web browser globally, overtaking competitors like Internet Explorer and Firefox.

to sell Chrome.

"I don't think divesting the

browser is going to kill Google as a company," Egan said.

She noted that it could be its users who wind up suffering,

given the case Google is making in blog posts on the matter.

What is Chrome worth?

A Bloomberg analyst estimates that Chrome, which is used by more than three billion people around the world, would sell for at least \$15 billion.

But given the lack of precedent, predicting how much Chrome would fetch on the market is tricky.

A Chinese investment group bought an internet browser from Opera Software ASA in Norway for \$600 million in 2016, but it only claimed 350 million users at the time.

Who might buy it?

There are very few potential buyers for Chrome, according to Emarketer senior analyst Evelyn Mitchell-Wolf.

"It's likely that any company with deep enough pockets to afford Chrome is already under antitrust scrutiny," Mitchell-Wolf said.

"If I had to speculate, my inclination is to look at US-based artificial intelligence players."

While Chrome being bought by the likes of OpenAI would certainly raise antitrust concerns, the US government could see it as a way for the nation to prioritize innovation on the global stage.

Elon Musk's AI startup could conceivably be a Chrome contender, bankrolled by his riches and having the deal cleared thanks to his close working relationship with incoming president Donald Trump.

Win for rivals?

Analysts agreed that people will keep using Chrome regardless of who owns it, provided the quality doesn't plummet.

"This assumes Chrome retains

its most popular features and continues innovating," said analyst Mitchell-Wolf.

"Search behaviors are a function of convenience first, trust and experience second."

The justice department's argument that people use Chrome because it is a default search engine in devices is off the mark, the analyst added.

Trump factor

Many doubt that Judge Mehta will embrace all of the justice department's proposed remedies in the case.

CFRA analyst Angelo Zino considered the measures "extreme and unlikely to be imposed by the court."

The incoming Trump administration also "remains a wild card" regarding whether justice officials will back off the idea of breaking up Google.

Trump in October indicated he opposes dismantling Google, believing such a move would be against the interests of the US internationally.

"China is afraid of Google" and a breakup would hurt the company, Trump reasoned at the time.

Meanwhile, Trump has also accused Google of being unfair to conservatives.



Trump names hedge fund manager Scott Bessent as Treasury chief

AFP | Washington, United States

US President-elect Donald Trump yesterday named billionaire Scott Bessent as his Treasury secretary, choosing the hedge fund manager to help execute an agenda promising tax cuts and tariffs.

Bessent, who is chief executive officer of Key Square Group, has called for an extension of tax cuts from Trump's first term, wants to reassert American energy dominance, and believes it is necessary to deal with the budget deficit.

"Scott is widely respected as one of the world's foremost international investors and geopolitical and economic strategists," Trump said in a statement.

"He will help me usher in a new Golden Age for the United States, as we fortify our position as the world's leading economy," he said, adding Bessent

would also help "reinvigorate the private sector, and help curb the unsustainable path of federal debt."

The nomination of Bessent -- who recently served as an advisor to Trump -- would put him at the forefront of rolling out the president-elect's economic plan, from seeing tax cuts through Congress to managing ties with countries like China.

The position carries influence over both domestic and international policy.

With Trump promising sweeping tariffs on allies and adversaries alike, all eyes will be on how his new Treasury chief walks the line between supporting these efforts and fanning trade tensions that might roil the global economy.

The Treasury Department has oversight across a range of areas, from federal finances to bank supervision. The Treasury also oversees US sanctions.

Wajda ICT launches ESG Center of Excellence in Bahrain, highlighting AI's role in sustainable development



TDT | Manama

WAJDA ICT, a prominent player in Bahrain's digital and technology landscape, recently launched its Center of Excellence for Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) at an exclusive event held at the Ritz-Carlton on November 18th.

This initiative was launched in collaboration with their Strategic Alliance Partner, SUSTAINICAL, a leading provider of sustainable IT solutions focused on helping businesses align their operations with ESG principles, leveraging a blend of open-source and proprietary technologies, integrating AI, ma-

chine learning, and cloud-native platforms. The event brought together leaders in business, technology, and sustainability to discuss the intersection of ESG principles and the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in driving sustainable development.

Mr. Mohamed AbdulJabar Alkooheji, the Chief Guest and Second Vice Chairman of The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), inaugurated the event. He was joined by key figures including Mr. Mohammed Asif, C.E. of Wajda Group, Mr. Mohammed Faisal Ikram, Director of Wajda Group, Mr. Amar Ul Haq, CEO of Sustainical, Mr. Karsten, CTO of

Sustainical, and Mr. Sid, Regional Sales Director of Sustainical.

In his address, Mr. Alkooheji emphasized Bahrain's commitment to sustainability, which aligns with the national goals outlined in His Majesty The King's Vision 2050. He highlighted the significant role of AI in advancing sustainability efforts and praised Wajda's strategic focus on technology and corporate responsibility as essential enablers of a sustainable future.

The event featured a keynote speech by Dr. Jassim Haji, a leading expert in AI and digital transformation, who provided insights into the evolving role of artificial intelligence

in achieving ESG outcomes. A highlight of the event was the live demonstrations by Sustainical, showcasing their innovative platforms designed to help businesses and governments align their operations with ESG principles.

The AI and ESG Panel, moderated by Mr. Henry Sutton, included discussions with Dr. Mohammed Nass, an expert in business transformation and sustainability, Mr. Ahmed Saleh AlBalooshi, CEO of Fintech IT Services, and Mr. Tong Lee, a solutions manager focused on AI-driven ESG initiatives. The panel explored the intersection of AI and ESG for sustainable business practices.

celebs



Lindsay Lohan wants 'new traditions' at Christmas now that she is a mom

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Lindsay Lohan is planning "new traditions" at Christmas now that she is a mother.

The 38-year-old actress has son Luai, 16 months, with husband Bader Shammass, and revealed that she is looking forward to finding "different" creations for him to enjoy over the holiday period as they grow as a family.

She told US TV show 'Extra': "We have our son now, so we're going to have

Lindsay Lohan

new traditions. So maybe we'll have something that's different that he ends up liking that we create for him."

Meanwhile, Lindsay has been reunited with her 'Mean Girls' co-star Tim Meadows on the festive Netflix film 'Our Little Secret' and explained that it "felt like yesterday" even though it has been more than 20 years since he played her high school principal.

She said: "It felt like yesterday. I feel like Tim's the kind of person that he's such an approachable person and he's so nice and funny

and warm and loving that it felt like we had just been working with each other."

Earlier this year, just as she was getting prepared for Halloween, Lindsay admitted that she was embracing the tradition of trying on different costumes with her son while she had the chance before he gets older and stops seeing the fun in everything.

She told People: "I'm still trying to decide what I want him to wear, but my problem is I always buy so many costumes. And he's still at the age where I can just make

him wear five different things because I just want all those photo memories."

The 'Parent Trap' actress recently noted that she is just thrilled to be able to "see life" through the eyes of her son every day and described him as a "bundle of joy".

She said: "Just to see — because he is, so pure and just so happy, just to see life through his eyes, every day. He's just this beautiful bundle of joy. I can't think of anything else!"

Demi Lovato and Jutes in no rush to marry



Demi Lovato and Jutes
Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Demi Lovato and Jutes won't rush into getting married.

The couple got engaged in December 2023 and are taking time to enjoy this stage in their relationship because they don't want to add too much pressure by speeding up the planning process for their big day.

Jutes - whose real name is Jordan Lutes - told People magazine: "We're not trying to stress ourselves out. I feel like a lot of weddings can be stressful and very quick, and so we're on it, but we're also taking our time, and we're also just enjoying being engaged."

"We're not trying to skip engagement to get right to wedding. We're just basking in it and soaking it up. We'll be married forever. We just want to enjoy every step."

Nicole Kidman wakes up crying at 3am

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Nicole Kidman regularly wakes up crying in the middle of the night.

The Hollywood actress, 57, admits she's "more open to emotions" now she's in her 50s as she's raising children and dealing with the pain of losing both her parents as well as pouring her feelings into her acting roles.

In an interview for British GQ's Men of the Year 2024 editions, Nicole explained: "I consider myself open to emotions ... More so now. Even more so ...

"Mortality. Connection. Life coming and hitting you. And loss of parents and raising children and marriage and all of the things that go into making you a fully sentient human."

"I'm in all of those places. So life is, whew. It's definitely a journey. And it hits you as you get older how it's a wake up at 3am crying and gasp-

ing kind of thing. If you're in it and not numbing yourself to it. And I'm in it. Fully in it."

Nicole's father Antony died aged 75 in 2014 and she lost her mother Janelle passed away in September - just a week after she gave the interview to GQ.

She added: "There's the mortality aspect of life which, when you start to deal with that, it's very heavy. When you're raising children you're like, I gotta stay here. I wanna see all of this. It's devastating and beautiful and extraordinary ..."

Nicole explained her daughters - Sunday, 16, and Faith, 13, with husband Keith Urban - were very young when her father died and they saw how upset their mum was and she felt she had to "push through" the grief for their sake and it actually helped her "get better".

In the chat with the magazine, the actress also revealed she channels all her emotions into her roles and it often leaves her feeling ill and unable to sleep.

She said: "I get sick or I get disturbed. It penetrates my dreams, I don't sleep well, I shake, I have all sorts of different physical manifestations from it."

Nicole Kidman

Billie Eilish named Apple Music's Artist of the Year

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Billie Eilish has been named as Apple Music's Artist of the Year.

The 22-year-old singer - who released her third studio album, 'Hit Me Hard and Soft', earlier this year - has been recognized for her impact on the music scene throughout 2024.

Billie - who has already won a host of awards during her career, including Grammys and Academy Awards - told Apple Music: "Since day one, Apple Music has supported my music and artistry, and I am both honoured and humbled to receive this recognition as Artist of the Year this many years into my career."

Billie has actually become the first person to win Apple Music's Artist of the Year award twice, having previously won the accolade in 2019.

Rachel Newman, Apple Music's senior director of content and editorial, noted that the streaming service has been a long-time "champions of Billie's work".

Rachel said: "From the moment we first heard 'Ocean Eyes' nearly a decade ago, we've been fans and champions of Billie's work."

"It's always special when a young artist can connect with so many people so quickly. But what's been truly remark-

able about watching her evolve over the course of this last year isn't just that her voice and artistry have continued to resonate so widely. It's that she's blossomed as bravely and honestly as she has - on her own terms, in her own way."

Billie has enjoyed a hugely successful year so far, which has included being nominated for seven Grammy Awards and performing at the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics.



Billie Eilish

Kendrick Lamar drops surprise new album

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Rap superstar Kendrick Lamar surprised fans on Friday with the unannounced release of a 12-track album.

"GNX," the performer's sixth studio album, appeared on streaming services without fanfare at midday on the US East Coast (1700 GMT).

The offering from the

37-year-old comes at the end of a year that has seen his music fueled by a feud with Drake, a spat that produced some of the year's biggest hits.

One of them, Lamar's "Not Like Us," grabbed the top spot on Billboard's Hot 100 chart and garnered him a number of Grammy nominations for next year's gala.

"GNX" is the first album from Lamar since

his mega-selling "Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers" in 2022, which itself came after a five-year wait.

Friday's release is timely for an artist who will headline the Super Bowl halftime show in February, a coveted showcase that takes place in the middle of the NFL season finale, which is routinely watched by around a third of Americans.



Kendrick Lamar

SUDOKU

5	1			2	7			
				5				2
	4			8				
	5	4		6				
3		8				5		6
				9		4	7	
				4			3	
2				1				
		3	6			5	9	

Yesterday's solution

9	3	4	7	2	1	6	5	8
5	7	8	3	9	6	2	1	4
1	6	2	8	4	5	9	7	3
8	5	9	2	7	4	1	3	6
6	4	1	5	3	8	7	9	2
7	2	3	1	6	9	4	8	5
4	8	5	9	1	2	3	6	7
3	9	6	4	8	7	5	2	1
2	1	7	6	5	3	8	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 of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD

Across
1- Chart anew; 6- Actor Julia; 10- Marsh bird; 14- Video game pioneer; 15- Furthermore; 16- I'd hate to break up; 17- "Socrate" composer Erik; 18- Cape Canaveral org; 19- Bingo call; 20- Pub pint; 21- U-Haul competitor; 23- You ___ right; 24- Speed demon; 26- Without ___ in the world; 27- Poem of 14 lines; 29- Mexican moola; 31- Romeo's last words; 32- Provide food for; 33- Neckline shape; 36- In spite of; 40- Trick ending; 41- Racket; 42- You're making ___ mistake; 43- Wonderland girl; 44- Coiffure; 46- Reef material; 48- Big name in vermouth; 49- Extend a subscription; 50- ___ of a Salesman; 52- Toronto's prov.; 55- First place; 56- Hebrew month; 57- Watering hole; 59- Ciao; 60- Humorist Barry; 61- Thick-skinned charger; 62- God of love; 63- Textile worker; 64- Alleviates;

Down
1- Tabula ___; 2- And others, for short; 3- Motherhood; 4- Greek nickname; 5- Penetrate; 6- Time off; 7- Wingle parts; 8- The Beatles' "Back in the ___"; 9- Mauna ___; 10- Native Israel; 11- Blender brand; 12- Witherspoon of "Legally Blonde"; 13- ___ time (never); 22- Are we there ___; 23- Squirrel's prize; 25- Once again; 26- Away from port; 27- Trig ratio; 28- Air freshener target; 29- Dated; 30- Novel ending; 32- Fashionable; 33- Venereal disease of cattle; 34- Novelist Bagnold; 35- Breakfast brand; 37- Acquired relative; 38- Work hard; 39- Speaker's spot; 43- Places of contest; 44- Spicy; 45- On the beach; 46- Aromatic wood; 47- ___ a customer; 48- Less common; 49- Nerve network; 50- June 6, 1944; 51- Gutter locale; 53- Baseball team; 54- General ___ chicken; 56- Append; 58- Just as I thought;

Yesterday's solution

B	A	S	O	C	A	B	A	L	I	T	H	A	R
E	G	T	O	A	T	A	R	I	H	A	H	A	
I	R	E	S	O	L	D	E	M	A	N	E	S	
S	U	P	E	R	H	E	R	O	I	R	I	S	H
E	A	R	N	I	N	G	S	M	O	T	H	E	R
E	P	E	E	S	O	A	H	U	Y	O	G	A	
R	E	L	C	A	D	E	T	S	R	I			
I	R	E	S	O	L	D	E	M	A	N	E	S	
E	S	T	E	E	M	S	T	E	R	M	I	T	E
S	P	A	L	L	G	L	A	N	D	U	L	A	R
Y	O	G	I	M	O	O	S	E	N	E	A	T	
N	O	U	N	A	N	T	E	S	T	I	R	E	
C	R	A	G	G	E	T	A	T	S	A	P	S	

Bahrain Para Taekwondo Poomsae stars poised to dazzle

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The stage is set for a groundbreaking moment in Para Taekwondo history as Bahrain prepares to host the inaugural World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships. Scheduled for November 26-27, the event will feature 140 athletes from 23 nations, along with Individual Neutral Athletes, marking the highest participation ever for this standalone championship.

Among the competing nations are powerhouses like Croatia, Great Britain, Colombia, Mexico, and Australia, whose athletes will showcase precision, skill, and focus across the P20, P30, P50, and P70 categories.

For Bahrain, this championship serves as more than just a competitive platform; it's a statement of intent to inspire future champions while fostering inclusivity and excellence on a global stage.

Pioneering Championship

This inaugural event is more than a milestone for Para Taekwondo—it is a criti-



A Para Taekwondo Poomsae athlete in action

cal step toward inclusion in the LA 2028 Paralympic Games. The remarkable participation highlights the growing appeal of Para Poomsae and Bahrain's leadership in advancing adaptive sports.

Para Taekwondo Committee Chair Us-

man Dildar commended Bahrain's efforts, singling out His Excellency Shaikh Mohamed bin Duaij Al Khalifa for his visionary leadership.

"Bahrain's commitment to inclusivity and excellence in sport is unparalleled. This championship is a celebration of perseverance and unity, laying the groundwork for Para Taekwondo's evolution on the world stage," Dildar remarked.

He also praised the organizing committee and volunteers, whose dedication has ensured the event's success.

Global Celebration

Athletes from five continents will convene in Bahrain, making this championship a global celebration of adaptive sports. The event, livestreamed on World Taekwondo's YouTube channel, promises to captivate audiences worldwide with its inspiring displays of determination and athleticism.

As Bahrain welcomes the world, the championship symbolizes more than medals—it embodies progress, resilience, and the unyielding spirit of sport.

Chelsea see off Leicester



Leicester City's goalkeeper Mads Hermansen saves a shot from Chelsea's #15 Nicolas Jackson (L)

AFP | London

Chelsea survived a late Leicester rally to win 2-1 on Enzo Maresca's return to the King Power Stadium yesterday, moving just a point behind second-placed Manchester City in the Premier League.

The visitors, finding their groove after the international break, hogged the ball from the kick-off and Nicolas Jackson gave them a deserved early lead.

But they failed to make the most of their superiority until 15 minutes from time, when Enzo Fernandez scored to make it 2-0, before surviving a nervy few minutes after Jordan Ayew pulled a goal back for the home side.

Chelsea's win, which came after two draws, lifts them to 22 points.

It was Maresca's first game at the King Power since he took Leicester back to the Premier League last season in his only campaign at the club.

Chelsea zipped the ball around with confidence in the opening stages on a soggy afternoon in the English Midlands.

Joao Felix, making his first Premier League start of the season, fired wide in the 13th minute and then a minute later volleyed over from just outside the box.

But moments later Chelsea got the goal they deserved when Jackson won his tussle with Leicester defender Wout Faes, who missed a number of chances to clear.

Novak Djokovic announces to be coached by Andy Murray

AFP | London

Novak Djokovic announced yesterday that his retired long-time rival Andy Murray is joining the 24-time Grand Slam-winning player's coaching team, starting at the Australian Open in January.

"I'm thrilled to have one of my biggest rivals on the same



Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic

side of the net with me, this time as my coach. I look forward to starting the season with Andy and having him by my side in Melbourne, where we've shared many exceptional moments throughout our careers," Djokovic said in a statement.

Murray, 37, a three-time Grand Slam champion who retired from competitive tennis in

August, said: "I am very excited about this and look forward to being on the same side of the net for a change."

Djokovic posted a video on X of him and the Scotsman, jokingly titled: "He never liked retirement anyway." The 37-year-old Serb has won the Australian Open a record 10 times, defeating Murray in four finals.

Russell secures Las Vegas pole

Mercedes' Russell clinches pole as Verstappen edges closer to fourth world title

● Carlos Sainz second for Ferrari, followed by Pierre Gasly in third

● Max Verstappen qualifies fifth, ahead of title rival Lando Norris in sixth

● Verstappen can secure his fourth title by finishing ahead of Norris

AFP | Las Vegas

George Russell of Mercedes took pole position for the Las Vegas Grand Prix on Friday while title-chasing Max Verstappen was fifth as the Dutchman closes in on a fourth successive world championship.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz was second ahead of Pierre Gasly of Alpine with Red Bull's Verstappen finishing one spot ahead of title rival Lando Norris of McLaren who was sixth.

Verstappen, who won the Las Vegas race in 2023, leads Norris by 62 points with three races remaining and needs simply to finish ahead of him yesterday night to become only the sixth man to win four world titles.

Norris has to beat the Dutchman by three points to keep his slim championship hopes alive.

Charles Leclerc, in the sec-



Ferrari's Charles Leclerc (L) and Mercedes' George Russell race during the qualifying session

ond Ferrari, was fourth fastest in qualifying and will share the second row with Gasly whose impressive performance on the Las Vegas street circuit followed a shock third-place finish in Brazil last time out.

Yuki Tsunoda of RB was seventh with Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren, Nico Hulkenberg in a Haas and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes completing the top 10.

Russell clocked a best lap in one minute and 32.312 seconds to outpace Sainz by 0.098 seconds for his third pole this year the fourth of his career.

"It feels incredible to be back

on pole," said Russell, who clipped a wall in the third and final qualifying run.

"I knew that last lap was the one that would really count. We had to change the front wing and I didn't know it I would make it to the flag.

'Confident in myself'

"I am feeling confident in myself and now it is down to us converting this in the race."

Sainz said: "It was very tricky and a very tight qualifying. I am a bit closer to pole than I expected and now we need to stay confident that we can fight at the front even more than we

have today."

Gasly described his session as "unbelievable" and "incredible".

On a cool night in America's gambling capital, with a track temperature of 13 degrees Celsius, it was Gasly who set the pace as the rest slithered in early pursuit.

Having been quickest in the earlier final free practice, Russell topped Q1 ahead of Hamilton.

Unfortunately for Red Bull, Verstappen's team-mate Sergio Perez's miserable season continued as he was eliminated along with Aston Martin's two-time world champion Fernando Alonso, Williams' Alex Albon,

It feels incredible to be back on pole. I knew that last lap was the one that would really count. We had to change the front wing and I didn't know it I would make it to the flag

GEORGE RUSSELL

Valtteri Bottas of Sauber and Lance Stroll in the second Aston Martin.

Hamilton set the Q2 pace in 1:33.136. After his dismal outing in Brazil where he finished 10th in the rain, this was evidence of a revitalised Hamilton ahead of a move to Ferrari next year.

Verstappen briefly went top with an edgy lap before Mercedes responded with Russell taking control as both he and Hamilton delivered improved laps, Russell clocking 1:32.881.

At this stage, Verstappen was showing enough pace to stay ahead of Norris before the Q2 segment ended with a yellow flag as Franco Colapinto hit the wall at the penultimate corner in his Williams, climbing out of the wreckage unhurt.

It was his second consecutive crash in qualifying and left the team with a big repair and rebuild job – the British team's sixth in three Grands Prix.

The Argentine driver was al-

BETTER YOU KNOW

Pierre Gasly's impressive third-place qualification continues his strong form after a surprise podium in Brazil, adding momentum for Alpine on Las Vegas' slippery street circuit

ready heading for a Q2 exit in 14th place along with RB's Liam Lawson, Sauber's Zhou Guanyu, Kevin Magnussen of Haas and Alpine's Esteban Ocon.

Hamilton topped Q2 to lead the way into the top ten shootout with a best lap in 1:32.567 ahead of Sainz and Russell.

The Q3 action resumed after a 25-minute delay for repairs, Verstappen leading the way followed by both McLarens before Russell clocked an early marker in 1:32.811 ahead of Sainz while Hamilton locked up and aborted his first lap.

That left him under pressure for the final runs as Russell, with a final flyer, grabbed pole ahead of Sainz and Gasly. Hamilton ran wide on his lap and without a true time wound up 10th.