

CAPTAINS CORNER

Bahrain shares pulse of healthy world



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

When a family friend recently suffered problem requiring specialist neurosurgery and was moved to the Salmaniya Medical Centre recently, I was consoled to note that the Ministry of Health has specialist doctors who were trained in treating the patient. The complex and tricky surgery required intensive training and equipment, both of which are available at Salmaniya, a public health hospital whose top-notch facilities have played a huge role in the World Health Organization listing the Kingdom as 'Healthy City 2021'.

Starting from the 1970s, Bahrain has invested a lot in its healthcare infrastructure. Even before that, we had the American Mission Hospital, the region's first organised and dedicated private care hub for health services.

In the 1980s, an assessment found that Bahrain has excellent maternal and child health indices, meaning that infant mortality and the health of women who have delivered babies are assured of high quality care in the critical weeks and months immediately after childbirth. This lays the foundation for a long and healthy life for the infant and supports the mother in getting back on her feet and back into discharging her duties.

Today there are many private hospitals, specialist hospitals and even alternative medicine centres in Bahrain. While they are all monitored by the NHRA, they also have strict standards to adhere to and their delivery of quality care is assessed by the Ministry on a regular basis. All the care and rigid commitment to agreed upon terms does not loosen the grip of the NHRA on the quality standards.

In the critical months ahead, as the world slowly recovers from the pandemic, the Bahrain experience in designing and executive a world-class healthcare delivery system and keeping it updated with modern times will serve as a great lesson for many countries. The WHO has chosen well to open an office in the Kingdom and spread the word about healthy Bahrain to the world.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

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Bahrain enters French green list

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France has moved Bahrain onto its COVID-19 green list of countries, effective today. Besides Bahrain, Jordan had also made it to the green list.

Following the announcement, Jérôme Cauchard, the Ambassador of France, thanked His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for adopting measures to prevent the pandemic effectively, including the free vaccination programme.

Accordingly, People travelling from Bahrain to France will be able to enter without the need to provide proof of their purpose of entry, undergo multiple tests or quarantine. Vaccinated travellers from a "green" country must prove that they have received all doses of one of the vaccines recognised by the European Medicines Agency.

For their travel, they must carry proof of their vaccination status and a sworn statement attesting that they have no symptoms of Covid-19 infection and that they are not aware of any contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 in the 14 days before travel.

The vaccines recognised by the European Medicines Agency are Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson.

Travellers from the green list who are not vaccinated, however, will have to present proof of a PCR or antigen test taken within the last 72 hours before their arrival to France. They are also required to carry a sworn statement.

The measures applying to vaccinated parents also apply to their accompanying minor children, whether they are vaccinated or not.

Garbage vending machines a huge hit

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The automatic garbage bag vending machines (Sahal) launched by the Southern Municipality has attracted over 130,000 users since launching its service in April 2019.

The vending unit in the Ramez Riffa market recorded the maximum number of users - 72,637, while that in the Al Inmaa commercial complex in Riffa registered 26,977 users.

Closely following was units in Muntazah markets in Isa Town with 17,357 users and that in Ramez markets in Azkar with 11,170 users.

Assem Abdul Latif Abdullah, the Director-General of the Southern Region Municipality, said the initiative allows people to receive garbage bags monthly by visiting shops in the southern region.

The service is available 24/7 in commercial complexes close to residential neighbourhoods.

The municipality, he said, aims to install new devices in the Al Nour and Zallaq, Muntazah markets and Al-Bukwara in Riffa to serve the highest possible number of citizens and residents.

"This also brings the total number of bag dispensing devices to six in vital locations," Abdullah said.

The project, he said, is a thumping success as the demand for the Sahel device is increasing. The Sahel, which translates to Easy in English, could store up to 300 garbage packages.

The dispenser allows beneficiaries to choose their language. To obtain bags, one should enter their subscriber number of the Electricity and Water Authority and personal ID number.

Focus on projects in Riffa

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Works Ministry announced launching a package of infrastructure and municipal services projects in the Riffa area, Southern Governorate.

Some of the projects, Essam Khalaf, the Minister of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning, said, are under implementation, while others are in tendering stages.

The minister said they had also completed several projects.

One of the most important projects is the development of complex 913 in Riffa. "Several roads, pedestrian sidewalks, rainwater drainage network, safety barriers and other facilities are under development here," said the minister.

On the developments in complex 917, the minister said the project includes the re-establishment and paving of several highways and secondary roads, car parks, and other necessary facilities within the complex.

The tender board had awarded the BD 863,260 road development project in complex 913 to Gasco, while Al Dour contracting is handling the BD735,175 project in area 917. The ministry is also preparing to begin the works of roads in blocks 915 and 916 in Riffa. The tender board is currently evaluating the bids received for the project expecting completion in five months.



Works are progressing

On the infrastructure projects in the Wadi El Beher region, the minister said the tender boards is to open the bids received for works in blocks 943 and 941.

The ministry also has completed the works in block 914 ahead of schedule, said the minister. Jasco and Eastern Asphalt company were the contractors of the BD160,000 project.

Works ministry had also recently completed the works of Sheikh Hamoud bin Sabah Street in Riffa in the Southern Governorate, which connects the Military museum, East Riffa Health Centre, family court, schools and several

other top facilities.

The minister further said that the ministry hopes to complete the BD521,789 Ain Al Hanina and Mohammed bin Faris Park project by the end of this year. The project's cost exceeds one million dinars, the minister said.

Besides, the minister said that they are working to rehabilitate the garden in Complex 927 in East Riffa. The BD483,948 project, on an area of 10240.3 sqm, has begun.

Badr Al-Tamimi, the head of the Municipal Council of the Southern Region, praised the ministry for the services provided to the Riffa area.

Works Ministry gets more than 3,000 requests through Tawasul

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More than 3,000 people reached the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning through the National Suggestion and Complaint System, Tawasul.

In total, the ministry said it received communications from 3,852 people, of which the majority, 3,300, is through Tawasul.

Breaking down further, the minister said that most of the complaints were in the road sector, mainly regarding potholes and the paving of new roads.

Requests for constructing rainwater drainage holes, sewage network opening and maintenance or replacement of manhole covers came next.

Following several complaints from Block 245 in Arad, the ministry said it launched a project to develop the roads. Construction of sidewalks, rainwater drainages, repaving of asphalt and other workers are ongoing.

In the southern governorate,



The National Suggestion & Complaint system "Tawasul" is one of the essential eChannels that enable citizens and residents to submit their suggestions and complaints to any government entity in the Kingdom of Bahrain easily at any time and from anywhere.

the ministry said most of the requests were from complex 913 and 917. Based on which the ministry said it started projects to develop both the blocks in Riffa.

Regarding the sewage sector, the ministry said the construction of rainwater drainage holes was the subject of most of the suggestions.

BD34,000 fine for COVID-19 violations

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A Bahraini court yesterday slapped a total of 34 thousand dinars fine on 22 people and six shops for violating coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions.

The Chief Prosecutor of the ministries and public authorities said the individual fines ranged between BD1,000 and BD2,000.

The prosecutor said he received 19 notifications from the Department of Public Health in the Ministry of Health during June on COVID-19 violations from barbershops, salons, restaurants, and cafes.

The Public Prosecution initiated investigations into each of the cases before referring them for a criminal trial.

ICRF Thirst Quenchers reach 260 workers in Jannusan

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The Indian Community Relief Fund announced distributing bottled water and fruits to the workers as part of its summer programme Thirst Quenchers 2021.

More than 260 workers took part in yesterday's programme held in the Jannusan area.

The programme aims at educating workers on the importance of drinking water and remaining healthy to overcome summer. Bohra community supports the programme, now in its



fourth week.

Masks, soaps

ICRF volunteers also distributed reusable face masks and anti-bacterial soaps and flyers explaining the measures to remain safe and mentally healthy during COVID-19.

ICRF Chairman Aruldas Thomas, General Secretary Pankaj Nallur, ICRF Thirst Quenchers' Convener Sudheer Thirunilath, ICRF Volunteers Muralikrishnan, Pavithran Neeleswaram, Nisha Rangarajan and Raman Preet took part.