

## CAPTAINS CORNER

## Avoiding the virus myths



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The COVID-19 virus has spawned thousands of myths and fake claims – alongside the frontliners, the brave hearts and warriors who are fighting to right this topsy-turvy world, there are many who are looking to make a fast buck from the disease that has robbed the world of a whole year of progress. I have lost count of the number of sanitisers and disinfectants which claim to prevent the virus attack – a claim that is partly true but only if supported with other safety measures such as wearing face masks, observing social distancing and avoiding crowds and gatherings.

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Now comes news that Bahrain's Ministry of Health and the University of Bahrain have conducted rigorous research into claims that UV light destroys the COVID-19 virus. The study has found definitive evidence that the claim is a tall tale. Does the UV light destroy germs? Yes. But to extend this to destruction of the COVID virus and ask people to buy these lights is a fake claim that is making money for the manufacturers and has no scientific backing.

The slowdown of the virus' relentless attack in Bahrain has been largely due to the absolute scientific temperament of all the authorities charged with braking the march of the disease. As the vaccine makes its way to our shores, we will no doubt hear about why we should or should not take the shot, who is first priority in the queue and many more unfounded details that will confuse us. Let us listen to our government in this matter. Our leaders and government have done a sterling job of containing the virus and we must continue to repose our trust in them.

(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)

## Thank you volunteers, says HRH CP

● 2020 Theme: Together We Can Through Volunteering

● International Volunteer Day (IVD) mandated by the UN General Assembly, is held each year on 5 December.

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Bahrain yesterday joined the rest of the world in celebrating International Volunteer Day, which falls on December 5 every year.

In a message on his Instagram account, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Prime Minister thanked the contribution of volunteers.

HRH Crown Prince Wrote: "For every citizen and resident who volunteered for the sake of Bahrain and the sake of humanity, your donation is appreciated and is a place of pride for everyone."

"On the International Volunteer Day, we thank you for your contribution that represents the highest meanings



A Combo showing frontline workers in the Kingdom (Courtesy of BahrainCPNews)

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HRH CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

of the authentic and unifying spirit of our Bahraini society," said HRH Prince Salman.

The post also had a combo of pictures showing volunteers during their line of duty as a tribute.

This year's IVD campaign thanks volunteers worldwide and also sheds light on the difficulties and needs of volunteers during the pandemic with the message: "Together We Can Through Volunteering." The day is viewed as a unique chance for volunteers and organizations to celebrate their efforts, to share their values, and to promote their work among their commu-



**International Volunteer Day (IVD) mandated by the UN General Assembly is viewed as a unique chance for volunteers and organizations to celebrate their efforts, to share their values, and to promote their work among their communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, government authorities and the private sector.**

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In his message on the day, Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary-General, appealed to

all governments to promote volunteering, support volunteer efforts and recognize volunteer contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. "Volunteers deserve our heartfelt thanks," he said.

## Boosting ties



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, holding a discussion with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Levant Affairs and Special Envoy for Syria at the US Department of State, Joel Rayburn. They reviewed ways of boosting cooperation and discussed security and political issues of common concern. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Undersecretary for International Affairs, Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and Director of Americas and Pacific Affairs Directorate, Ambassador Shaikh Abdullah bin Ali Al Khalifa. From the American side, the meeting was attended by the President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Kimberly Reed, the Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Margaret Nardi, and the accompanying delegation.

## Oman backs multilateral strategy

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Oman's Foreign Minister, Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al-Busaidi affirmed his country's commitment to settling conflicts peacefully and supporting peace and stability.

Addressing the 11th Manama Dialogue forum, he stressed the importance of multilateral participa-



Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al-Busaidi

tion to achieve success in an interrelated world.

"The Sultanate of Oman is looking forward to revitalising economic, commercial and tourism fields", he said, adding that community security represents an essential component to reaching comprehensive security, a secure social fabric and economic environment.

## ICRC efforts in crisis-hit countries underlined

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The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Peter Maurer stressed the importance of focusing on the humanitarian side and working on countering terrorism in all its forms.

He pointed out that that humanitarian aid is important, but insufficient unless it is accompanied by eradicating the ideology of terrorism.



Peter Maurer

He said that human development indicators in the Middle East and Africa show the need to empower women and youth and eliminate the challenges of insecurity in some areas.

Addressing the third session of the Manama Dialogue forum, he underlined the ICRC-led role in providing humanitarian aid in areas of armed conflict and working to alleviate the psychological and social impacts.

The capital municipality announced removing 1,160 violations related to cleanliness in the first quarter of this year, with the majority of them being cars abandoned on streets. The municipal officials said they conducted extensive field visits to monitor violations as well as campaigns to remove abandoned vehicles during the period. Officials said 628 of such vehicles found on streets were taken away by owners, after serving notices. For the rest, the officials said had initiated the process to remove them, if the owners are not responding.



1,160 violations detected in Capital