

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Matching training to the 21st century workplace



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The tiny Egyptian clover bird lives with the fearsome Nile crocodile, entering its mouth to clean it's teeth for food and parasites. It is one creature that the croc never tries to crush between its powerful jaws. Sometime back, I remember seeing a cartoon in a HR magazine about inappropriate training, where a penguin trainee is standing on the back of the croc, saying "They said there was dental work to be learnt here." It was a funny and honest comment on some of the training schemes that young people undergo through government schemes – training that takes no account of the skills of the trainee or the market needs.

As we enter the new academic year for schools, colleges and polytechnics, every institution is aligned to make the most of changing workplace trends and technology, to equip students of today for the future. While the efforts are well-intended, I find that they are not backed by extensive and rigorous research that will help shape the pedagogy of our educational institutions and also attitudes. As an Arab culture, our society still places emphasis on how parents guide their children. Most parents are fixated on the CED formula - civil services, engineering and doctor (medicine). But the world has changed enormously since our times and even my children's teenage years. I read somewhere that the children entering kindergarten today, will find 50% new kinds of work that does not even exist today. We have seen this even in our time – would you have taken careers in gaming design or fitness or event management seriously for your kids? But parents today have to change their perspective and look at these options also for their children. And so should educational and training institutions and ministries such as the Ministry of Labour – the old order has most definitely given way to the new and unless all the stakeholders are aligned, we cannot make the future of our children a winning one.

(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 Counter-terrorism)

News in brief

Hippo capsizes boat in Ivory Coast, 11 missing



it was motoring along the Sassandra River near the town of Buyo. Three people survived the incident and were rescued, and "a search is ongoing in the hope of finding the missing victims", she said..

◆ Eleven people including children were missing after a hippopotamus capsized their boat in southwestern Ivory Coast, a government official said yesterday. The West African nation's minister for national cohesion and solidarity, Myss Belmonde Dogo, said on her Facebook page that the missing included women, little girls and a baby. She said the hippopotamus tipped the narrow, canoe-like boat over on Friday, as

◆ Thailand's next prime minister yesterday pledged to make good on his promise to lead the fractured interim government to new polls. Conservative tycoon Anutin Charnvirakul was confirmed by parliament on Friday, ending a week-long power vacuum following the ouster of his predecessor Paetongtarn Shinawatra. The construction magnate cobbled together a coalition of opposition blocs to shut out Pheu Thai, the electoral vehicle of the once-dominant Shinawatra dynasty's patriarch Thaksin.

Thailand's next PM reaffirms fresh polls promise



Australia offers reward for arrest of gunman after police killings



police arrived at his home in Victoria with a search warrant. The shooting killed 59-year-old detective Neal Thompson and 35-year-old senior constable Vadim De Waart. A third officer had surgery after being wounded in the lower body. More than 450 police have been searching in vain for the alleged shooter, a reported conspiracy theorist who has bush survival skills, after he fled into dense forest by the small town of Porepunkah..

◆ Australian police offered Aus\$1 million yesterday for the arrest of a gunman who allegedly killed two police officers, as a vast manhunt entered its 12th day without any sightings. Police in the eastern state of Victoria said they were putting up the "life-changing" sum to assist their search for the 56-year-old fugitive, Desmond Freeman. Freeman is accused of opening fire when

Israel flattens Gaza high-rise as it tells residents to flee

Military warns residents to flee south as planned assault on Gaza City approaches

● Second high-rise destroyed in 48 hours

● Military warns of targeting tall buildings

● Residents told to flee to Al-Mawasi

● UN estimates 1 million people in area

AFP | Jerusalem

An Israeli strike flattened a high-rise in Gaza City yesterday -- the second in as many days -- after the military warned people to flee south to a "humanitarian zone" ahead of a planned offensive to capture the area.

Israel has been warning for weeks of a new assault on the territory's largest urban centre, without issuing a timeline.

It has stepped up air strikes in the area and operations on the city's outskirts despite calls to abandon the plan, which has sparked widespread fears it could worsen already-dire humanitarian conditions.

Yesterday, the military announced it struck a Gaza City high-rise, saying " Hamas terrorists installed intelligence gathering equipment and positioned observation posts in the building in order to monitor" Israeli troops, adding it had taken "measures to mitigate harm to civilians".

Witnesses identified the building as the Sussi residential tower and said it was destroyed, with video shared by Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz showing the roughly 15-storey structure buckling to the ground in a cloud of dust and smoke.

"We're continuing," Katz said in the post, after having shared a video the previous day of another Gaza City high-rise being destroyed.

The military has said that in the coming days it will target structures deemed to be used by Hamas, particularly tall buildings.

It also issued an evacuation



Children search for salvage at the mound of rubble at the site of the collapsed Sussi Tower

order for another high-rise yesterday, warning of an imminent strike and telling people to leave to the south.

A military spokesperson had earlier called on residents to leave the city for Al-Mawasi, along the southern coast, where the army said humanitarian aid and medical care would be provided.

"Take this opportunity to move early to the (Al-Mawasi) humanitarian zone and join the thousands of people who have already gone there," spokesman Avichay Adraee said on social media.

Israel first declared Al-Mawasi a safe zone early in the war, but has carried out repeated strikes on it since, saying it targeted Hamas fighters hiding among civilians.

Gaza City residents said they believed it made little difference whether they stayed or fled.

"Some say we should evacuate, others say we should stay," said Abdel Nasser Mushtaha, 48, a resident of the city's Zeitun neighbourhood now sheltering in a tent in the Rimal area.

"But everywhere in Gaza there are bombings and deaths. For



Israel's designated "humanitarian zone" in Al-Mawasi has itself been repeatedly struck throughout the war, despite being promoted as a safe area for civilians

the past year-and-a-half, the worst bombings that caused massacres of civilians have been in Al-Mawasi, this so-called humanitarian zone," he added.

"It no longer makes any difference to us," said his daughter Samia Mushtaha, 20. "Wherever we go, death pursues us, whether by bombing or hunger."

US in 'deep negotiation'

Israel has faced mounting domestic and international pressure to end the nearly two-year

war in Gaza.

Its foe Hamas agreed last month to a proposal for a temporary ceasefire and staggered hostage releases, but Israel has demanded the armed group release all the hostages at once, disarm and relinquish control of Gaza, among other conditions.

At the White House on Friday, President Donald Trump said the United States was in talks with Hamas over the captives being held in Gaza.

"We're in very deep negotiation with Hamas," said Trump. "There could be some (hostages) that have recently died, is what I'm hearing. I hope that's wrong, but you have over 30 bodies in this negotiation."

Armed men took 251 hostages during the October 2023 Hamas attack on Israel that sparked the war. The Israeli military says 47 remain in Gaza, including 25 believed to be dead.

"We said let them all out right now, let them all out, and much better things will happen for them," said Trump. "But if you don't let them all out, it's going to be a tough situation, it's going to be nasty."

India's Modi says ties with US still 'very positive'

AFP | New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday New Delhi and Washington still shared "very positive" ties, after US President Donald Trump reaffirmed their personal friendship and downplayed his earlier remarks about "losing India" to China.

Trump and Modi have shared a strong bond since the US president's first term.

"Deeply appreciate and fully

reciprocate President Trump's sentiments and positive assessment of our ties," Modi wrote on X, adding that India and the United States shared a "very positive and forward-looking comprehensive and global strategic partnership".

Earlier, Trump told reporters that he "will always be friends with Modi".

"India and the United States have a special relationship. There is nothing to worry about," Trump said.



U.S. President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi meet in the Oval Office (file photo)