

CAPTAINS CORNER

Taking the pulse of healthcare sector



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

What a wonderful contrast our compassionate leaders have set as a standard for the world. While healthcare frontliners in the rest of the world fought lack of PPEs, non-payment of salaries and overwork, in Bahrain, our Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has issued a thoughtful stay on collection of fines or financial dues for non-renewal of licences as of February 2020.

This comes over and above stimulus packages designed to cushion healthcare heroes from the financial pain inflicted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Even in the so-called advanced and developed nations, hospitals and healthcare personnel have been scrambling for testing kits against the pandemic and PPE for frontliners.

Bahrain, by contrast, was among the first countries of the GCC, to purchase testing kits in large numbers even before the crisis hit full-blown proportions and there is a strict pandemic protocol to protect frontliners.

Spurred by the example of our leaders, the private sector too has time and again shown special respect for healthcare frontliners. At the Lulu Hypermarket, for example, there are priority checkout counters for healthcare personnel. Even in small cold stores, the neighbourhood nurse or doctor is treated with awe these days as they battle to keep us all safe.

At the turn of the 20th century, around the 1930s, Bahrain's healthcare system was manned by a handful of Western and Indian doctors and nurses who braved disease and death to bring the blessing of modern healthcare to the people of Bahrain and neighbouring countries, travelling across to Basra and to the Eastern Province on dhows to meet patients. With time, many inspired Bahrainis joined the medical profession and today many nationals hold responsible posts as doctors, surgeons, nursing teams and paramedics. We have pioneering doctors and even a Bahraini Florence Nightingale - Dr Naima Al Qaseer - the highest-ranking nursing expert who is in charge of WHO in Egypt. The Kingdom is giving priority to skilled Bahraini medical personnel and seeking to push Bahrainisation of the sector to over 80% just like the banking and finance sector.

Bahrain has now instituted a timely award under the patronage of and in the name of our PM for doctors and medical personnel who contribute significantly to the Kingdom's healthcare improvement. We thank our leaders for so wisely taking the pulse of the times and boosting our vital healthcare sector.

(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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Turning marble into heritage

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Here artists are busy!

They are chiselling away chunks of solid matter from the huge blocks of marble before them, transforming them slowly into compositions depicting Bahrain's heritage, culture, and closely knit societal fabric.

The venue is Bahrain International Airport Marble Sculpture symposium.

Watching the proceeding carefully among others are Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) Chairman, Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed.

He was at the three-week project to review the progress of the work which will transform BIA into a world-class boutique airport and a key driver of national economic growth.

Organised by BAC and Hind Gallery, the event is taking place in a fully equipped facility with 10 leading Bahraini sculptors near the airport as part of Airport Modernisation Programme (AMP).

The minister said: "This symposium is an opportunity to showcase the talent of Bahraini artists who, through their participation



Minister Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed during his visit to the Bahrain International Airport Marble Sculpture symposium.

in local and international exhibitions, have displayed their work at several world-famous venues."

"Every element of the new facility has been carefully selected to reflect Bahrain's culture and heritage and envisioned to become a popular attraction for tourists."

The sculptors participating in the three-week project expressed pride in the initiative.

The new terminal will house two galleries which will regularly display Bahraini antiques and art.

Souq Al Qaisarya will feature a broad selection of local products, food and beverage outlets, Bahraini jewellery, an art gallery, and a theatre, enabling passengers to experience the Kingdom without having to set foot outside the airport.

Police registers 10,866 cases for not wearing face masks



In pictures, officials during a campaign held to ensure the proper following of coronavirus precautionary measures

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Bahraini authorities have registered 10,866 cases against those failing to wear face masks in public settings since the implementation of COVID-19 preventive measures began.

Of the total cases, 2,989 were recorded in Muharraq Governorate, 2,643 in Northern Governorate, 2,096 in Capital Governorate and 1,808 in Southern Governorate

Police Directorate. Besides, the Operations Department headed by General Security recorded 1246 violations, and General Administration of Ports Security recorded 84 violations related to non-usage of face masks.

Brigadier General Dr Sheikh Hamad bin Muhammad Al Khalifa, Assistant Chief of Public Security for Operations and Training Affairs, said the Interior Ministry is pressing on with awareness campaigns in various governo-

rates to educate public on the need to follow COVID-19 protocols including wearing masks and maintaining social distancing in public places and shops.


He also warned strict measures against any such violations in this regard. In addition to wearing face masks, other health guidelines, including continuous hand washing and social distancing, are equally important.

"It is important to wear face masks properly to curb the spread

of the virus, as most of the people are currently wearing it under their nose."

Police personnel are currently educating the public on the correct way of wearing a mask in various languages to help spread the information among foreign workers and communities.

The Assistant Chief hailed the active participation of women police personnel in enhancing awareness among female citizens and residents.



Ministry of Interior on 26 March 2020 announced a ban on gatherings of more than five individuals on roads, yards, beaches, parks and other public places.

Starting on April 9, as per Government of Bahrain's official efforts to combat the spread of Covid-19, everyone must wear a facemask in all public venues.

The Government of Bahrain has stated that anyone subjected to quarantine must comply or face up to three months in jail and a fine of up to 10,000 BHD

In focus: Busaiteen Walkway



In pictures above are Busaiteen Walkway, one of the preferred destination of people here in Bahrain and an ideal location for a weekend family getaway. The walkway is also a favourite location for photographers, thanks to the charming view of the sea it provides. The walkway, which was opened in conjunction with Bahrain Sports Day, has 80 fitness devices and uses clean and renewable energy. With over a parking space for 400 cars, the location is also easy to approach. According to Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Essam Khalaf, the project is one of the prominent development in Bahrain that forms part of Vision 2030. The 1.829 million dinars project which enjoys a length of 2 kilometres includes a public square, green spaces, restaurants in over more than 43 thousand square metres. The walkway is also the first of its kind in Bahrain that works on renewable energy.