

The King of Humanity: How His Majesty ushered in Bahrain's New Age



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

Just last week, it was my privilege and honour to meet our beloved King, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and present to him my book which deals with the human rights in the Kingdom Bahrain under his wise leadership and His Majesty's vision which shapes Bahrain's legacy in this area of human endeavour.

His Majesty came to the throne in March 1999 at the edge of the new millennium. It was a time of change and ferment as a whole new generation of citizens clamoured to

be heard and sought to contribute to the growth of Bahrain. At such a juncture in the growth of Bahrain as a modern nation, it needed a leader with vision and confidence like His Majesty to boldly chart a new path and welcome citizens to be a part of the power structure of the Kingdom.

By calling for citizens to express their views in the National Action Charter that mapped the future course for democratic governance within the monarchy-led rule in Bahrain, His Majesty led the first vital step in listening to the people and incorporating the values and the vision of the citizens into Bahrain's future growth.

The reinstatement of parliamentary governance in Bahrain and subsequent democratic milestones is now well-known.

When a leader is charged with ruling his Kingdom and guiding



His Majesty receives a copy of the book from Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood.

his people, he has to manage everybody a voice, listening to a fine balance between giving the wisest words and ensuring

that the destructive forces are contained. This is the true test of leadership. By setting the benchmark for these acts of leadership so high, our King His Majesty King Hamad has proved that he is truly a King of Humanity. His actions are shaped by his concern for the people of Bahrain and the future of the Kingdom.

All over the world, it is only the true leaders who march to their own drumbeat, who have the courage to harness people power for social change. His Majesty is one such leader. That is why I feel that the most apt title for him is 'The King of Humanity'. From the beginning he has been a compassionate ruler, one who has always his people first and always helped to change the way society treats its most vulnerable people - whether widows and orphans cared for under his instruction in Bahrain

or the powerful changing of the Family Law which brought security and legal justice to women in Bahrain, among many changes.

By leveraging his powerful position to change lives and the trajectory of the Kingdom for the better, by stepping forward to enable reform and doing so with compassion and wisdom, His Majesty has set a new template for leadership.

In writing my book, I have repaid his wise leadership in small and humble measure. In the decades to come, His Majesty's wise rule and his management of change will be a lesson in good governance and compassion - a record that we all should celebrate.

(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)

Key meeting held



Al Namal and VKL Group Chairman Dr Varghese Kurian met Indian National Congress President and Indian Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi in Dubai yesterday. Mr Gandhi, who is in the UAE for his two-day maiden visit, interacted with many business leaders at a breakfast meeting. He also attended a meeting organised by the Indian Business and Professional Council in Dubai.

Radio show focuses on camping season

Manama

This week's 'Al Aman' radio show focused on the security services provided during the camping season to ensure the safety of campers.

Director of Engineering and Investment Services at the Southern Governorate, Khalid Haji highlighted the dedication of the governorate to provide the required services and facilities for campers through

ongoing follow up of His Highness Southern Governor.

He highlighted the allocation of an office to secure the camping season and allocate camping areas away from the oil and gas wells in cooperation with Tatweer company.

He emphasised that various traffic, civil defence and other safety-related workshops have been held for campers to encourage them to follow the safety rules.



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Bahrain attends key UNEP meeting Amman

Chief Executive of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), Dr Mohammed Mubarak bin Daina, chaired Bahrain's delegation to the Extraordinary Session of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, held in Jordan.

The Extraordinary Session was organised by the United Nations Environment Programme, West Asia Office in co-ordination with the Arab League.

The session was held within the Arab Group's efforts to coordinate Arab stances ahead of the Fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 4) and the Global Pact for the Environment that will take place during 11-15 March in Nairobi, Kenya.

Member States have agreed that the fourth UN Environment Assembly will focus on the theme, 'Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production (SCP)'

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