

## CAPTAINS CORNER

## Let's not go 'a-stray' in canine matters



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

To an animal-lover, the fear that a person unfamiliar with animals feels is difficult to understand. This is especially true in the case of dogs which are honoured as 'man's best friend' and have a long history of being kept as pets, as security support to sniff out drugs and explosives, as guard dogs and as guide dogs for the blind or deaf. With such an admirable background, canine-lovers argue fiercely that any move to catch strays and move them to safe sanctuary or even trap and neuter them to break the chain of new strays is not correct.

However, even canine-lovers would agree that being confronted by a pack of hostile dogs – or even friendly dogs running in a pack – can be terrifying. You are outnumbered and stray dogs are often creatures that have reverted to their wilder instincts of hunting and attacking in a pack. One false move can result in injury. Little wonder that in March 2021 alone over 185 complaints were received and 133 stray dogs were caught and taken off the streets for neutering. Cash-strapped municipal councils are now looking for a permanent shelter to house the dogs.

As responsible citizens, there is plenty that we too can do to tackle the stray dog menace. There are so many dog-lovers who think they are doing good and feed the dogs in their neighbourhood and even other localities. While this is commendable, it means that the size of the pack increases with ready availability of food and soon becomes unmanageable. If you truly care for the strays in your street, why not invest in supporting a Trap & Neuter programme and the upkeep of the dog in shelters away from residential and industrial areas where they are subject to traffic and the vagaries of an uncared-for life?

If you are a pet-owner, do not abandon your pet to the street when you tire of it – and if you want to own a pet, think carefully about the responsibilities that are attached to the ownership. We are all responsible for caring for the world and all its creatures.

(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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Northern Governor Ali bin Al Sheikh Abdulhusein Al Asfoor yesterday held a Ramadan majlis remotely in the presence of lawmakers and citizens. Al Asfoor extended Ramadan wishes to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. During the majlis, Al Asfoor stressed the importance of raising community awareness and joining the vaccination campaign. He also urged participation in the second edition of the national employment programme, which aims to provide 25,000 jobs and 10,000 training opportunities. Several community initiatives were launched during the majlis, including COVID-19 vaccination for the elderly at the Abdulrahman Kanoo Social Centre.

## COVID-19 violations: Four mosques closed

● These mosques will remain closed for a week

● Dedicated teams will carry out contact tracing and the sanitisation process

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Picture courtesy of AlAyam

Four mosques and a community centre in the Kingdom were closed for failure to comply with COVID-19 protocols.

The move comes a day after Bahrain reopened mosques for Friday prayers, Isha and Tarawih following a royal order.

Entry was on producing proof of COVID-19 vaccination or recovery through the 'BeAware Bahrain' app.

Proof of vaccination appears only 14 days after administering the second dose.

The Sunni and Jafari en-

dowment administrations picked the mosques that were allowed to welcome worshippers.

The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments yesterday said they detected violations in four mosques in the Capital, Muharraq and Southern Governorates.

Those mosques will remain closed for a week to correct their COVID-19 preventive measures.

"Failure to comply with

the protocols by the mosques put the health of the worshippers at risk," the ministry statement said.

"The decision followed the laxity of those in charge of the mosques in implementing the required precautionary measures, especially those related to examining the vaccination certificates and keeping a safe distance between those performing the prayers," the ministry added.

The ministry further said

they took the closure decision following consultations with the National Medical Taskforce.

The one week time is for carrying out contact tracing and the sanitisation process. A dedicated team is on it.

"A team will also make sure that the mosques are properly following the precautionary measures," the ministry said.

As per the decision, mosques will open for Friday prayers 45 minutes before prayer time and close 25 minutes after the prayer.

The ministry also specifies that the duration of the sermon should not exceed 10 minutes.

Worshippers are also required to leave the mosque immediately after prayers.

Entry, however, is denied for women and children under the age of 15.

The allowed duration for Isha and Tarawih prayers are 40 minutes.

Waiting time between the call to prayer and the evening

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prayer is limited to five minutes. Taraweeh prayers should commence after the Isha prayer.

Worshippers are required to wear masks and ensure social distancing at all times.

## 138 fundraising licenses issued so far: official

● Names of those licensed to collect money for religious purposes are available on [www.rfr.bh](http://www.rfr.bh)

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The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments have, so far, issued 138 licenses to raise funds for religious purposes in the Kingdom, said a top official.

"126 of the licenses were for collecting money from within the Kingdom, and the remaining were for sending or receiving money from abroad," said Dr Mohammed Taher Al Qattan, Assistant Undersecretary for Islamic Affairs.

Explaining the roles and functions of the office of Registration of Applications for a License to Collect Money for Religious Purposes, he said the licencing system is for ensuring transparency, accountability and boosting donor confidence.

The system verifies the purpose for which the money is collected and reassures its correct use.

The ministry, Dr Al-Qattan said, had carried out an



DR MUHAMMAD TAHER AL-QATTAN, ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY FOR ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

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If the collection value exceeds 100 Bahraini dinars, it is necessary to obtain a license to collect money, and according to the law, the license period does not exceed one year. It is permissible to extend for another three months upon request

awareness campaign using the hashtag #Collecting Donations...Commitment and Responsibility' for the purpose.

The office issues fundraising licenses to individuals for religious purposes. "Issuance of all other licenses are by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development," he added.

The ministry also addresses requests for fundraising licenses by associations and institutions, whether for charitable, social, educational, cultural or religious purposes.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs issues licenses to private bodies working in the youth and sports sector to collect money.

To receive a license, Dr Al-Qattan said, the applicant must be a Bahraini, a natural

person (limited to individuals, excluding associations and institutions), should have good conduct and behaviour. He should not have received any final judgments in felony or misdemeanour cases for violating honour, trust or public morals.

Regarding documents required, he said the applicants must attach original ID card, statement of the bank account opened to collect money (showing: bank name, account name, IBAN account number, account balance).

"The applicant must fill up an application form, provide all details and contact numbers, and should specify the purpose of collecting the money, determine the period for collecting money, and plans for disbursing the funds."

"Details of a beneficiary

is required for transferring funds abroad as well as donors for receiving fund from abroad,"

"The applicant must send all the details in PDF format to the email: [money\\_collection@moia.gov.bh](mailto:money_collection@moia.gov.bh)."

Al-Qattan also revealed that the office is in the final stages of launching licensing processes online through [WWW.RFR.BH](http://WWW.RFR.BH), where all the necessary steps for registration and application are available.

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cence period does not exceed one year. It is permissible to extend for another three months upon request."

On the types of licenses, he said there are four types. The first is for raising funds from inside the Kingdom for up to a year. The second is for receiving a donation, the third is for receiving money

from abroad, and the fourth is for transferring money abroad.

Violations will attract life imprisonment or a jail term of not less than ten years and fines.

"Whoever collects funds for a terrorist purpose or public purposes without a license shall be punished with imprisonment and fines of up to five hundred thousand dinars," he said.

To find the names of those licensed to collect money for religious purposes, visit [www.rfr.bh](http://www.rfr.bh), or call the office at 17812622, or message via WhatsApp on 17812622, or via email [money\\_collection@moia.gov.bh](mailto:money_collection@moia.gov.bh).

