

CAPTAINS CORNER

What the Monkeypox scare teaches us



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Barely did the world heave a collective sigh of relief at the waning of the pandemic and we have been slapped with yet another warning note by Mother Nature – this time in the form of a rapidly expanding monkeypox virus. This is not a deadly virus per se of course – deaths are rare and limited to the very vulnerable groups. But zoonotic diseases where the germs cross into other species are increasingly getting more common – in the past century alone we have seen the emergence of major transnational outbreaks including HIV, Ebola, SARS, MERS, and H1N1 swine flu, among others.

More and more evidence is being gathered by scientists and agriculturists which point to the need for a drastic change in the way we manage our animal husbandry. The modern factory farm is not only a template for inter-species cruelty and inhumane management of animals, it is also a breeding ground for zoonotic diseases.

The time has come to pay heed to the signals waved in our faces by the over-stressed world and resolve to curb our senseless greed and give back to the Earth. After all, this is the only planet we have!

World-wide, the majority of the 88 billion animals used for food each year are factory farmed. Of course, this has meant an abundance of relatively cheap meat, eggs, and dairy on supermarket shelves and in food outlets. However, besides zoonotic epidemics, we are also faced with many far less desirable effects, including an increased risk of antibiotic resistance in human medicine, hormonal imbalance and a rise in chronic diseases such as obesity, hypertension and diabetes etc.

If we link this topic to the recent visit of Indian spiritual leader Sadhguru who visited Bahrain to urge people to pay heed to saving soil and restore its organic qualities, we see that the gaping hole of human greed lies at the bottom of our stress. Whether it is a child reaching for an extra-large burger or an industrial farm conglomerate squeezing more profit per animal by pumping it with growth hormones and hastening its sale date, we seem to have painted ourselves into a red corner. The time has come to pay heed to the signals waved in our faces by the over-stressed world and resolve to curb our senseless greed and give back to the Earth. After all, this is the only planet we have!

(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)



Labour Market Regulatory Authority Chief Executive Officer Jamal Abdulaziz Al Alawi attended the meetings of the UN General Assembly, chaired by Abdulla Shahid. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres attended the meetings which were held at the UN headquarters in New York as part of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) programme on May 17-20. Al Alawi stressed Bahrain's keenness to promote and protect human rights, including the rights of expatriate workers, and combat trafficking in persons within the framework of the National Human Rights Plan 2026-2022, which comes in line with the sustainable development goals and the Kingdom's economic vision 2030. He highlighted Bahrain's comprehensive development led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, with the support and follow up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Deputy President of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) and President of the Court of Cassation, Chancellor Abdulla bin Hassan Al-Buainain, attended the diamond jubilee celebrations of Egypt's State Council, held under the patronage of President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. Al-Buainain extended sincere congratulations to Egypt on the 75th anniversary of its State Council, noting that the deep-rooted Bahraini-Egyptian relations are based on a strategic partnership in various fields, especially in the judicial field.



Short film 'Virunnu'



The poster release of the upcoming short film 'Virunnu' was held at Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS). A poster was handed over to BKS General Secretary Varghese Karakkal by BKS President P V Radhakrishna Pillai. Budding artist Sreemathi Unni (Sunu) has written the script and screenplay for the short film apart from wearing the director's hat. The short film will be released in the first week of June.

Un-Bee-Lievable success for primary spellers



After two years, the Spelling Bee completion was back with a bang in the British Primary Section of Al Noor International School on May 11, 2022. Over forty primary graders battled it out to become Spelling Bee Champion, where students are asked to spell a wide selection of words, with some degree of difficulty. After an epic battle of more than 80 words being spelt correctly by Grade One, Sarah Zayed won in Grade 1. The other winners are Abdul Wahab (Grade 2), Maximilian Iain Sword (Grade 3) and Ajidesh Elangesan (Grade 4). Trophies and certificates were handed out by the school Principal Amin Halewa and the Headteacher of the British Primary Section Chris Fenton.

High school student wins YouTube Masters competition

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Batoul Marzouq Al-Bunni of Jidhafs Secondary School for Girls, won first place in the "YouTube Masters" competition by Shabaka media and events management.

The programme was in partnership with the US Department of States, the Ministry of Youth & Sports of Bahrain, the Ministry of Education of Bahrain, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO),



Tamkeen and 24F Production. The intensive two-month training and competition programme had the participation of 72 Bahrainis who competed against each other to produce

Manama Central Market renovation ongoing: official



Officials visiting Manama Central Market

Outdoor canopy for wholesale vendors; new display stands for fish and fruit stalls

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The Capital Municipality is continuing with plans for the comprehensive maintenance of the Manama Central Market, said a top official.

The Director-General of the Capital Municipality, Muhammad Saad Al-Sahli, said this during a visit to the market to review the progress of the development works.

Al-Sahli talked with merchants to understand their requirements and service upgrades needed to improve the facilities offered at the market.

He said the authorities are working to improve the efficiency of the air conditioners, strengthen lighting, and improve the sewage network.

Works are also progressing to install a mechanism for periodic detection of faults using the latest tools and techniques

that work 24/7.

The authority, he said, is also providing hygiene and sterilisation services in the market.

The Director-General also affirmed the keenness of the municipality to strengthen the partnership with the merchants by discussing rehabilitation and development projects, obstacles and ways to address them.

Al-Sahli pointed out that advancing the level of the central market requires effective community partnership and an integrated service environment.

He said: "The Capital Municipality has begun installing external umbrellas to provide shade for 135 outside vendors and completed the replacement of all concrete tables with ceramics in the fish market according to the specifications approved by the Ministry of Health."

Officials have also completed the replacement of display and presentation platforms in the fruit and vegetable market instead of displaying them parallel to the ground, which presented the market with a new look.



Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala, Mario Bœcaro, received yesterday Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Jamal Faris Al-Ruwaie, who presented a copy of his credentials as Non-resident Ambassador of Bahrain to Guatemala. The Foreign Minister of Guatemala stressed the keenness of his country to promote cooperation and friendship with Bahrain in different areas in a way that benefits the two friendly countries and peoples.