

## CAPTAINS CORNER

## Bahrain needs "drone age" rules



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

With the launch of the iPhone14, Bahrain entered the sci-fi world of drones in a unique way. Batelco, in collaboration with the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) delivered the first iPhone14 in the Kingdom at a midnight launch by drone.

Given the traffic on Bahrain's streets especially on weekends, does this mean we can look forward to commercial use of drones to beat the crush of vehicles on our streets? Of course, this may quickly lead to hazardous air traffic conditions, so we have to be careful what we wish for.

The iPhone14 has already generated interesting news related to customer interest, with one young man spending hundreds to fly from Kerala to Dubai to be the first by a few hours to get his hands on an iPhone14. He made sure the news went viral on social media – but I wonder if he is ready with answers to questions that I am sure the customs officers will have for him when he returns!

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Are we in Bahrain thinking clearly about the implications of commercial drone delivery? In the USA, where Amazon, Walmart and other giant corporations have petitioned to launch drone delivery services, there is an argument brewing that they are snatching up private airspace rights and paying the State nothing in return. What this means to the ordinary citizen is that companies will seek federal authority to route low-flying drones directly over their home or school playgrounds and there will be no right to object.

Commercial delivery drones fly within a few hundred feet of the ground through space that landowners have historically controlled. Like the internet and social media, drones too are an inevitable sign of progress I guess but we must start now to draft laws and rules that will keep citizen safety and rights in view when large-scale use of drones are used. Otherwise can you imagine the potential for damage when two drones carrying fragile loads collide over a crowded school yard or busy street?

We are at the start of an adventure. Let us get the rules right.

(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)

## GCC-Russia ministerial meeting



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, yesterday took part in a joint ministerial meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Russian Federation at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The meeting was on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The GCC side was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the current session of the Ministerial Council of the Cooperation Council, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, and saw the participation of GCC Secretary-General, Dr Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf. The Russian Federation was headed by the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov. The meeting discussed aspects of cooperation between the GCC states and the Russian Federation in various fields, and reviewed areas of developing joint action, based on the mechanisms of strategic dialogue and the executive work programme launched in November 2011.

## Bahraini man undergoes life-saving surgery at SMC

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A team of surgeons from the Ear, Nose, Throat and Anaesthesia Department at the Salmaniya Medical Complex saved the life of a Bahraini man in his sixties suffering from a cancerous tumour in his larynx through a complex surgery.

The tumour created a life-threatening condition for the patient, who developed an obstruction in his airway producing difficulty in swallowing.

Dr Dina Shabib, a consultant laryngeal and vocal cord specialist, and Dr Melda Khalil, an anaesthesiologist consultant, led the surgery.

The medical team included Dr Amr Bahr, Dr Rehab Gharib from the Anaesthesia Department, Dr Talal Hassan, Dr Muhammad Siyadi, and Dr Esraa Qaidi.

"The patient developed severe swelling leading to a complete closure of his air-



way, requiring urgent surgical intervention," doctors said.

Dr Dina Shabib, a senior consultant in the field of breathing and throat at the ENT department at SMC, said that conducting such operations reflects the outstanding capabilities and skills of the medical staff at SMC.

Dr Melda Khalil, a Senior Consultant in the Department of Anaesthesia and Pain Care, praised the outstanding performance of SMC staff.

Dr Talal Hassan explained the multiple symptoms that

may appear in patients with this type of cancer, which are a change in the voice, the appearance of a lump in the neck, a feeling of pain in the throat, suffering from breathing problems, difficulty in swallowing, and unexplained weight loss.

Dr Talal added that the genetic mutation in throat cells is one of the most important causes of throat cancer, where smoking is the root cause of these mutations. Other factors include alcohol consumption and problems in the immune system.

## Labour Ministry holds 147 inspection visits in H1 2022

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The Ministry of Labour announced conducting 147 inspection visits during the first half of 2022 to ensure the commitment of vocational training institutions.

In Bahrain, 82 private training institutions are functioning in the private sector.

The Director of the Department of Vocational Institutes Affairs at the Ministry of Labour, Ahmed Jaafar Miftah, said the ministry, from January to August 2022, withdrew the licences of nine institutions, authorised 367 programmes, licensed 191 trainers and investigated 20 complaints from trainees, of which resolved eight.

The ministry issued 35 warnings for non-compliance and completed 771 services for training institutions, a 22% decline compared to 991 in the same period a year ago.

## Too hot to work: Bahrain had 18 days exceeding 40°C in August

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The highest mean monthly temperature for August was 36.8°C recorded in 2021.

The mean maximum temperature of the month was 40.5°C which is 0.9°C below the long-term normal and this goes on record as the eighth highest mean maximum temperature for August since 1946. The highest mean monthly maximum temperature for August was 41.8°C recorded in 2021. During the month, Bahrain had 18 days with a maximum temperature exceeding 40°C. The highest temperature recorded during

the month was 43.7°C which occurred on the 15th of August at Bahrain International Airport.

The highest temperature recorded for August at Bahrain International Airport was 45.7°C which occurred on 9th August 1993.

The *Daily Tribune* earlier reported on the plight of different categories of workers including small-scale restaurant cooks, food delivery workers and others who were struggling from heat stress during the rising summer temperature.

The report quoted construction and outdoor work-

ers, who were pleading to the Labour and Social Development Ministry to extend the outdoor work ban to September as well amidst the mercury levels continuing to remain high in the Kingdom. The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 41 degree Celsius.

The plea came as the outdoor work ban strictly implemented by the ministry, starting July 1 ended yesterday. The ban aimed to protect outdoor labourers from heat stress.

Other countries in the region including the UAE generally offer midday breaks for

outdoor workers from June 15 to September 15.

During the months of July and August this year, the ministry directed all employers to strictly follow the outdoor work ban in line with the Kingdom's keenness to protect workers from occupational health issues and injuries, especially during the summer period, which witnesses a rise in temperature and an increase in humidity.

The Labour Ministry has always implemented initiatives that affirm the Kingdom's position as a leader in ensuring a secure and safe work environment for workers.

## New executive committee formed

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Nithyan Thomas Kalarickal



Vinu Christy

Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) has elected its new Executive Committee, which will be headed by Mr Nithyan Thomas Kalarickal and Mr Vinu Christy.

The Annual General Meeting held on Saturday at KCA VKL Hall, elected the new Executive Committee for the years 2022-2024.

The new executive committee members are Mr Nithyan Thomas Kalarickal (President); Mr Thomas John (Vice President); Mr Vinu Christy (General Secretary); Mr Jinson Puthussery (Assistant General Secretary); Mr Asok Mathew (Treasurer); Mr Thomas Velikkath Mathew (Assistant Treasurer); Mr Joyal Jose Neyyan (Membership Secretary); Mr Jithin Jose (Entertainment Secretary); Mr Vinod Daniel (Sports Secretary) and Mr Ranjith Thomas (Lounge Secretary). Mr Antony Roch and Mr K E Richard are being selected as Internal Auditors.

## Bhavans students top NGSE

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Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School (BIS) students - Aditya Mishra and Harshvardhan Chellaraja came out with flying colours in the National Genius Search Examination (NGSE) conducted by National Genius Search Foundation, India.



Aditya Mishra



Harshvardhan Chellaraja

National Genius Search Examination is a scientifically devised assessment tool which aid in accelerated learning. Aditya Mishra and Harshvardhan Chellaraja scored 100 percentile in their class category and topped all CBSE schools participating from India as well as abroad. Directors Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma and Principal Saji Jacob congratulated the winners.



Earth's temperature has risen by 0.14° Fahrenheit (0.08° Celsius) per decade since 1880, but the rate of warming since 1981 is more than twice that: 0.32° F (0.18° C) per decade. 2021 was the sixth-warmest year on record based on NOAA's temperature data.



Global temperature is projected to warm by about 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7° degrees Fahrenheit) by 2050 and 2-4 degrees Celsius (3.6-7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100.