

CAPTAINS CORNER

Refashioning
our food
relations

CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

If you were to choose one word that defines our lifestyle in 2023, what would it be? For me, that word is “sustainable”. Everywhere we turn, this much-used word pops up, promising everything from zero carbon growth to better development for nations. If a plan is not “sustainable”, it is dumped immediately, while other blueprints that merely whisper the word at least get their report onto the table.

The latest to jump onto the sustainability bandwagon is the habit of ‘snacking’. From having been shunned as a practice that led to obesity, snacking is now being carefully positioned as a social practice that encourages positive connections such as networking, friendship and even healthy eating through ‘grazing’.

A recent poll suggests that consumers are increasingly replacing meals with snacks, with 55 percent reporting a higher likelihood to eat a snack across all three standard mealtimes.

What’s more, this is being seen in light of how sustainable the snacking choices are – for instance, does the snack use palm oil, which is seen as a predominant cause of deforestation? Apparently seven in 10 consumers say they prioritize snacks that have less packaging and 72 percent saying they typically recycle it.

In all humility, as a lay person, may I suggest that such reports send out the wrong signals? After all, we must be aware that it is supported by one of the world’s largest snack manufacturers and take the findings with the proverbial pinch of salt.

By all means, eat sustainably and enjoy your snacks. However, there is no need to glorify snacks as a meal substitute or a great social construct. Moreover, it is important to check the ingredients on a snack as it is to find out if the can or carton is recyclable.

We shall soon be approaching the Holy Month of Ramadan – let us use this sacred month of fasting and spiritual revival to refashion a healthy relationship with food.

(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)

Shura Council to discuss draft law modernising sports legislation

TDT | Manama

Shura Council members will today discuss a decree that aims at modernising the Kingdom’s sports legislation and expanding the authority of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport to better facilitate its work.

The amendments proposed by Decree-Law (42) of 2022 also aim to ensure Bahrain’s compliance with international requirements and the Olympic Charter.

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued the Decree in November last year, as proposed by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and approved by the Cabinet.

It aims at eliminating any conflict between local laws and the approved regulations of the International Olympic Committee.

Accordingly, the Decree calls for appointing a Chairman, one or more deputy chairmen and at least eight members for a renewable four-year



term.

Besides, all state departments are duty-bound to provide the council with data, statistics and studies and cooperate with it to facilitate the performance of its duties and tasks.

The Decree also states that the decisions of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports shall be enforce-

able and binding on all authorities in the Kingdom, including ministries, authorities, institutions and others.

The discussions on this will come up during the ninth meeting of the Shura members in the first session of the sixth legislative term.

In the same session, councillors will also consider a report of the Commit-

tee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, and National Security regarding a draft law ratifying the agreement between Bahrain and the United Kingdom on air services, attached to Decree No. (79) of 2022. The Committee has approved the bill in principle.

The draft law replaces the existing agreement signed in London on the 29th of April 1998 with an updated version agreed upon on the 10th of November 2022 in Manama.

The amendment brings in articles ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, fair competition, establishing common-code and strengthening safety and security.

The deal also calls for increasing the number of flights for international passengers and freight and boosting economic and tourism exchange between the two countries.

The move also aims at strengthening the role of Bahrain International Airport at the regional and international levels and the national carrier’s role in the civil aviation sector.

New park opens in Zallaq



The Southern Region Municipality inaugurated Al Zallaq Park yesterday in the presence of Asim Abdullatif Abdullah, the Director General of the Municipality of the Southern Region. The park is located on a 565.2 square meter area within the Zallaq housing area and features a well-lit walking path, a resting area, and other amenities.



Bahrain’s Ambassador to Belgium, Abdulla bin Faisal bin Jabr Al Dosary, yesterday presented his credentials as a non-resident Ambassador Plenipotentiary Extraordinary to King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands. During the ceremony, the ambassador conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain. King Willem-Alexander also extended his greetings to HM the King and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and emphasized the importance of developing joint cooperation between the two countries.

RHF plans ‘Bahrain’ hospital in Syria

TDT | Manama

The Royal Humanitarian Federation will open a hospital in Syria named “Bahrain” as part of the ongoing relief and rescue operations led by the Kingdom in the quake-hit areas of Syria and Turkey.

The announcement by Dr Mustafa Al-Sayed, RHF Secretary-General, late night on Friday was during the Solidarity Day national fundraiser telethon organised in cooperation with Bahrain TV that raised over 3.7 million dollars within three hours.

Latest reports say more than 46,000 people have been killed in the earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria, and the toll is expected to soar.

BDF Royal Guards are currently participating in the search and rescue operation Arms of Relief in Turkey, extending much needed to people affected by the quake.

Yesterday, Royal Guard commandos in Turkey said they recovered seven victims buried under the rubble in the Hatay province of southern Turkey.

The team said they are pushing ahead with their mission to assist and search for survivors by harnessing all efforts, despite inclement weather and other adverse conditions.

Friday’s fundraising campaign followed the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to



Royal Guards in action at quake hit areas

support the people devastated by the deadly quake in Syria and Turkey.

Yesterday, in a statement, Information Minister, Dr Ramzan bin Abdulla Alnoaimi, said the telethon re-

flects the dedicated efforts led by HM King’s Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The Oil and Gas Holding Company,

on behalf of its group of companies, donated BD150,000 to the telethon to become the largest donor. Alba closely followed by donating BD100,000.

WFP Director David Beasley had said their operation is about \$50 million a month for quake response alone, “so unless Europe wants a new wave of refugees, we need to get the support we need.”

The head of Turkey’s Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), Yunus Sezer, said the search and rescue efforts will largely be terminated on Sunday night.



The death toll in Turkey stands at 40,642 from the quake while neighbouring Syria has reported more than 5,800 deaths, a toll that has not changed for days.