

CAPTAINS CORNER

Tech truths that we must remember



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The world over, hundreds of tech employees are being pink-slipped at an alarming pace. But none seem to have been as brutally crushed as the workers at Twitter, who are facing a "My way or the Highway" moment with new owner Elon Musk.

But Musk's Twitter takeover and subsequent HR antics are not just about employee nightmares. You are looking at the richest man on the planet, with personal wealth estimated at \$273 billion - equivalent to the GDP of Portugal or New Zealand, both ranked among the top 50 wealthiest countries in the world. And he has now become sole owner of a social media platform that is the communications lifeline for thousands of professionals, scientists, media personalities, artists and teachers who use it to send and receive messages and discuss, argue and amplify their work. Should Twitter - or any other social media channel - now be transformed into a mere money-making enterprise?

Similarly with Amazon. The home delivery logistics giant has announced the layoff of thousands of employees just at the start of its busiest season - Christmas. The company was previously in the headlines for strong-arm tactics against potential union organisers. Can a company that owes its profits to capitalism turn around and bite the hand that serves it?

For our Bahraini small enterprises - and large ones too! - there are many lessons to be learnt from the unfolding Big Tech Drama. Firstly, no matter how strongly you believe in hardware and software engineering, a tech company needs social vision to forge ahead. Our Be Aware app is a fine example of that. Secondly, you may swear by robotics and AI as the future of the workplace and yes, they are. But the power of the community and of people can never be fully replaced. Technology works for us - not the other way round.

Finally, any concentration of absolute power to communicate is tricky to navigate. We need to hear other voices, other opinions in order to hear ourselves.

Are you listening, Mr. Musk?

(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)

'Regional peace' focus of talks

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

Speakers at one of the sessions of Manama Dialogue unanimously agreed on the importance of the region's initiatives and contributions to strengthening regional and global peace and security.

The fourth session, entitled 'Middle East Initiatives to Resolve Regional Conflicts' was attended by Dr Fuad Hassan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, Dr Nayef Al Hajraf, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Anken Hoetveldt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway.

Dr Fuad Hassan congratulated the Kingdom for organising this important event, which contributes to strengthening the language of dialogue and communication, striving to unite efforts and giving priority to the language of dialogue in order to create a stable life, strengthen regional and international cooperation, and achieve security and stability in the region.

He pointed to the strategic importance of the Middle East region and its advantages, which require serious steps to be taken to stop conflicts,



Dr Fouad, Dr Nayef, Mr Chipman and Ms Anken at the panel discussion

noting the importance of the Manama Dialogue to discuss challenges from their various political and security aspects, and to search for opportunities to end instability and maintain security and community peace.

Dr Fouad Hassan touched on the role played by Iraq in confronting the terrorist organization "ISIS", and is still playing the same role in cooperation with the countries of the region and the world with the aim of enhancing security and stability, preventing the entry of foreign fighters and drying up financial support for them, calling on the Security Council to urge countries to

fully implement its obligations related to combating terrorism and cutting off all forms of financial support for it.

He explained Iraq's pursuit of legal, judicial and security cooperation with the Arab Gulf states, to enhance cooperation in the areas of security and economic diplomacy, as Iraqi diplomacy seeks to build balanced relations with all countries of the world and international and regional organizations to preserve the achievements that have been made.

Dr Nayef Al Hajraf explained that the Middle East has been a region full of great initiatives and conflicts since ancient

times, and one of the most important of these initiatives is the establishment of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, which aimed to create a framework for cooperation to enhance relations, development and prosperity, and over the years in the past, the Council showed a very important ability to face challenges and risks, and to play the role of a factor of stability in the region and the world. He reviewed the large-scale programmes and plans launched by the Gulf states to support human capital, infrastructure and the journey of transformation, in addition to informing the Council of its

commitments in combating terrorism and poverty in countries in need, which made the Council the best example of effective initiatives in the region.

The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council reaffirmed faith in peace and security, which requires the application of the rule of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, respect for the sovereignty and political independence of states and their territorial integrity, resolving disputes by peaceful means and non-interference in the affairs of others.

Meanwhile, Anken Huitveldt, stressed that peace and reconciliation is one of the pillars in which her country believes, as peace is in the interest of the whole world, noting her country's efforts to facilitate talks and long-term investment to create a coexistent world.

The Norwegian minister indicated her country's involvement in facilitating negotiations around the world and supporting cooperation initiatives, which contributed to achieving positive results such as reducing the suffering of those affected, a temporary ceasefire, or the establishment of safe corridors.

Global micro-diplomacy efforts under spotlight

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

One of the sessions held yesterday as part of the Manama Dialogue highlighted the global micro-diplomatic success, especially in light of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis.

Micro-diplomacy consists of the set of diplomatic initiatives pursued by non-super powers or parties involved in a conflict, or non-state actors to find solutions to issues that are capable of creating a global crisis if aggravated.

Pekka Haavisto, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland, spoke on the subject followed by ISS Director-General and Chief Executive Dr John Chipman.

"We really appreciate the efforts of the Turkish government to ensure a non-stop flow of food grains from the conflict region. A great job was also done by the International Atomic Energy Agency to en-



Turkish President Erdogan and UN Secretary General Guterres at the deal signing event

sure the nuclear safety process. "Saudi Arabia, indeed, did a great job by forging an agreement to ensure the exchange of prisoners between both na-

tions." Kyiv and Moscow in July 2022, five months after the breakout of the war, signed landmark agreements with

Turkey and the United Nations that will free up Ukrainian Black Sea ports and clear the way for exporting millions of tons of desperately needed

Ukrainian grain, as well as Russian grain and fertiliser.

Brokered by Turkey and the UN, the major breakthrough marks the first step to ending a standoff that threatens world food security and will ease the looming global food crisis while the two countries are at war in Ukraine.

The signing of the deal in Istanbul was overseen by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan - a key player in the negotiations who has good relations with both Moscow and Kyiv - and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Ukrainian Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov signed separate deals with Guterres and Defence Minister Hulusi Akar.

Russia and Ukraine have swapped hundreds of prisoners in a deal mediated by Saudi Arabia, another case of micro-diplomatic success.

The Indian School holds Mega Fair and Food Festival 2022

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The Indian School will hold a 3-day Mega Fair and Food Festival 2022 from November 23 to 25 at its campus in Isa Town.

Visitors will have the chance to win prizes based on their entry tickets. Zayani Motors will award two cars: Mitsubishi ASX as the first prize and MG5 as the second prize.

On Wednesday, the school will hold a Grand Finale of its youth festival Tarang from 6 pm onwards.

On Thursday, South Indian playback singers Siddharth Meon and Mridula Varier and



ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan, Secretary Saji Antony, Executive Committee Members Premalatha NS, Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese, Mohammad Khurshed Alam, Ajayakrishnan V, Principal VR Palaniswamy, Riffa Campus Principal Pamela Xavier, Staff Representative Johnson K Devassy, Fair Organising Committee General Convener Shanavas PK, Patron Muhammad Malim, General Coordinator Vipin PM and members of the organising committee were present at the press conference.

their team will present a musical programme at 6 pm. Sachin Warrior, Vishnu Siva, Avani and Abdul Samad are also part of the team.

Bollywood singer Bhoomi

Trivedi and team will entertain the crowd at 6 pm on Friday.

ISB said has formed a 501-member organising committee for the fair. Shanavas PK is the general convener, Mo-

ammed Malim patron and Vipin PM coordinator.

ISB also confirmed that proceeds from the fair would go towards helping needy students and staff welfare. The school

said it is currently giving fee concessions to around 1000 students.

ISB is also holding a students' art exhibition along with the fair.

Parking is at the national stadium near the school, from where shuttle bus services will be available on fair days.

Entertainment and related stalls will be at the school's football ground, while food and commercial stalls will be at the athletic ground.

Entertainment programmes and game stalls for children will take place in the Jashanmal auditorium.