

CAPTAINS CORNER

A season to thrive



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

It's the season to thrive as Bahrain's short winter and its agricultural abundance fill our Kingdom with greenery and with locally sourced farm produce – herbs, fruits and veg, dairy and poultry products. This year, under the directives of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the patronage of HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the Wife of HM the King and President of the NIAD Consultative Council, the National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD) has gone beyond the popular Farmers' Markets and started an ambitious greening project which aims to plant over 50,000 plants and saplings across Bahrain. This is a scientifically designed programme and 12 sites have been chosen for their best soil, water and sunlight qualities to nurture the saplings and shrubs, once planted.

What is commendable is that many private sector organisations have come forward to support the "Forever Green" campaign which is expected to promote the expansion of the green area in Bahrain and to address the effects of climate change within the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Despite poor soil and arid climate, Bahrain will benefit greatly from the planting of trees and green cover. The move by NIAD comes in line with the Kingdom's ambitious plans to nurture a circle economy which will cut waste, upcycle as much trash as possible to deliver energy and reduce carbon emissions by 30% by 2030.

As urbanisation grows apace, the Kingdom's planners are also looking to raise green cover so that we find a proper balance going forward. Each one of us can help in this project – even those without the proverbial green thumb can help by cutting back on plastic use, by encouraging the respect for garden space and wilderness – the mangroves of Arad and Tubli, for example, the brown grass stands that dot our desert areas, they all are part of the wonder of Bahrain's natural green cover and we must safeguard and develop it for the future generations.

(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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Partial eclipses, two lunar eclipses and more for Bahrain in 2022: Al Hajri

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Several rare astronomical phenomena are in store for people of Bahrain to enjoy in 2022, said a top Bahraini astronomer and researcher.

Ali Al Hajri said several celestial events are lined up for Bahrain next year and the first will be the alignment of four planets -- Venus, Mercury, Saturn and Jupiter-- after sunset in the first seven days of January.

Celebrating this special gathering from the space will be the Crescent Moon of the month of Jumada Al Akhirah from the 4th to the 6th of January.

Al Hajri also said that sunset in Bahrain would align with Qibla, the direction towards the Kaaba in the Sacred Mosque in Mecca, from the 8th to 13th January at around 6 pm. It will occur at an angle of 246 degrees from the north side of the horizon.

"This annual phenomenon will be repeated from the 28th of November 2022 to the 3rd of December during fall at 4.45 pm."

Bahrain, he said, will witness a partial solar eclipse (38.77%) for two hours and 18 minutes on the 25th of October 2022.

Another eclipse on the 16th of

Partial solar eclipse and two false lunar eclipses on Bahrain's horizon in 2022, says Ali Al-Hijri



Ali Al Hajri

May 2022 will happen for about 18 minutes. The percentage of the Moon entering the penumbra of

Earth will be 17.28%.

The last eclipse will be on the 8th of November 2022 and will last for about six minutes at Moonrise. The percentage of the Moon entering the semi-shadow of the Earth will be 0.14%.

In 2022, Ramadan days will start on the 2nd of April 2022 and last for 30 days and Eid Al-Fitr on the 2nd of May 2022.

Al-Hajri added, "A four-way conjunction of the Moon will occur during the month of Sha'ban at dawn with Saturn, Venus and Mars on the 28th of next March towards the east and before sunrise."

Earth will come closer to the Sun "perihelion" for 2022 on the 4th of

January at (09:55) in the morning. Earth will be at the "Aphelion" on the 4th of July at (10:11) in the morning.

Moon will be closest to the Earth "Perihelion" on the 13th of July 2022 at (12:05) noon at a distance of (357278.8 km).

Moon will be farthest from the Earth, or "Aphelion" on the 29th of June at (09:08) am at a distance of (406574.9 km).

"The difference in diameter of the Moon and the Sun at apogee and perihelion can be observed by photographing them with the same equipment and comparing them with computer programmes," he added.

Inmates to sit for school level exams: Reformation and Rehabilitation centre

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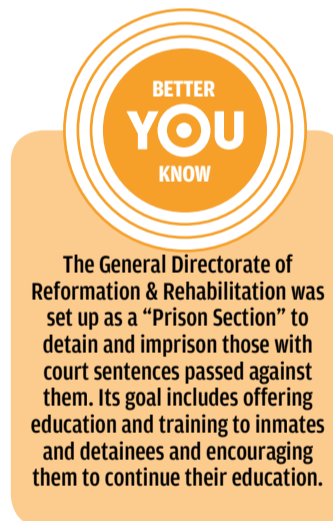
The General Directorate of Reformation and Rehabilitation confirmed it had taken all measures to allow inmates registered for various academic levels to sit for their final exams of the first semester, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

All necessary procedures are taken for inmates to register for courses, secure study material and sit for exams following the regulations in place in the Kingdom.

The move aims at developing the talents of inmates, improv-



ing their skills to help them integrate into society so they can build their future and contribute to national development.



Students of Al Malikiyah School take Lulwa Al-Khalifa Prize for short story

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Fatima Abdul Shaheed Al-Baqali and Zainab Ali Khalil from Al-Malikiyah Primary Preparatory School for Girls won first place in the Shaikha Lulwa Bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa Prize for Short Story for Children, in age groups (13-16) and (10-12).

School Principal, Widad Al-Bandir Al-Dosari, thanked the Ministry of Education for creating activities and projects to stimu-



late linguistic creativity in students.

Assistant Director Hanan Marhoon congratulated the students on their win.

ICRF "Faber Castell - Spectra 2021" witnesses huge participation

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The Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF), under the patronage of the Embassy of India to Bahrain, opened this year's art carnival titled 'Faber Castell - Spectra 2021' on a virtual platform.

The inaugural event was on the 10th of December 2021 at the ICRF office in Segaya.

Ravi Shanker Shukla, Second Secretary at the Embassy of India, opened the event by lighting the lamp.

ICRF Chairman Dr Babu Ramachandran, General Secretary Pankaj Nallur, Ex Officio/Advisor Aruldas Thomas, Vice Chairman Adv. V K Thomas, Treasurer Mani Lakshmanamoorthy, Joint Secretary and Spectra Convener Aneesh Sreedharan, Spectra Joint Convener Nithin Jacob and Muralikrishnan, Faber Castell Country Head Sanjay Bhan, ICRF



Volunteers Suresh Babu, Sudheer Thirunilath, Sunil Kumar, Subair Kannur, KT Salim, Nasser Manjeri, Kasi Viswanath, Sivakumar, Pankaj Malik, Chemban Jalal, Javad Pasha, Murli Nomula, Nisha Rangarajan, Ajith Kumar, Albin George, Anilraj, Hari B Nair, Usha Haridas, Sasidharan M, Devadas C, Raman Preeth, Deepshika Saraogi, Sushama Anil, Nithyan K Tomas, Manikut-nan, Rajeevan and Jisha Jyothis were present.

Around 325 children from



21 schools in Bahrain are participating in the competition after being selected by their respective schools.

Competitions are held for five to eight years, eight to

eleven years, eleven to thirteen years and fourteen to eighteen years. Children are provided with free drawing materials by Faber Castell. In addition, 18 years and above

also joined the competition in the adult category. The competition is being held in two days due to examinations of senior students. The competition for international participants will be held today.

Winners will be honoured during the 2022 Calendar release function on the 1st of January 2022.

The winning entries and other outstanding creations will figure in the Wall Calendars and Desk-Top Calendars for 2022.

This is the 13th annual art carnival by ICRF. The first was in the year 2009.

Participating students are allowed to keep the materials for themselves after the competition.

Net proceeds from the competition will go towards a Family Welfare Fund to support the families of deceased Indian labourers drawing wages below BD100 per month.