

Thinking green

Rehan Ahmed



CELEBRATING EID UL FITR

The culmination of the holy month of Ramadan is with the festival of Eid ul Fitr or Feast of Breaking the Fast. Eid is considered as a religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide and to show a common goal of unity. The main aspects of Eid are congregational prayers in masjids, open areas and parks, get together of families and friends at home or restaurants, making and eating special dishes and wearing ceremonial dresses.

Eid festival like other local, national and religious festivals often have a major impact on the environmental resources. Extra food, drinks and clothing's are made, used and consumed. People spend huge amount of money in buying these items. Visiting public places, malls and entertainment location cause massive littering. The environmental consideration of the festival is often being neglected and forgotten causing adverse impact on local resources.

The celebrations and festivity are often extravagant and cause excessive pollution of all forms. The day starts with the special prayers whereby men, women and children gather to offer prayers. The site of praying after the ritual is often plagued by water bottles, tissue papers, litter, rubbish and waste scattered all over the place and even blowing in the air and migrating to nearby safe heavens for unaesthetic accumulations.

Special food is prepared in houses which are visited by the relatives and neighbours. This cause great food wastage often due to under utilization as food is prepared more than the number of visitors and with a feeling that any dish prepared should not be finished. On the other hand, people also eat limited quantity of special food less than expected or prepared which ultimately becomes waste. This includes special breakfast, lavish snacks, sumptuous lunches and extravagant dinners during the festival days.

To supply the residents with the required quantity of food, government make huge efforts in procuring the food items for local consumption. It includes meat, poultry, vegetables, fruits, dairy products, cereals, grains, packaged food etc. Meat and poultry is lavishly eaten during the Eid holidays. The demand of chicken, meat and related meat products increase to around 50% of the normal demand, which in itself is very high.

Eid also prompt extra buying of food items and eatables, which are out of shelves quickly in the super markets and cold stores during the last days of Ramadan. This trend again leads to more wastage as the food items bought are not being fully and efficiently utilized and ultimately end up in garbage bins.

Over the period of years, the festivities are increasing with more buying of items and eatables per head. Consumption of eatables has increased many folds in the Kingdom and people have become more wasteful due to rise in income, living standards and affordability. But affordability does not mean that wastage should increase.

Let us change our attitude towards festivity and wastage and celebrate the festival in the right environmental spirit.

Here are some points to be considered for Eid ul Fitr celebrations:

- * Buying clothes and dressings with minimum packaging.
- * Buying food items in calculated quantities based on the actual requirements and cooking based on number of guests to be served.
- * Educating guests in avoiding left over's and wasting food.
- * Avoid using disposable cutlery, plates, napkins, tissues etc.
- * Giving left over food to the less privileged people in the neighbourhood

Let us celebrate the Eid in an environmental friendly way.

Head, Waste Disposal Unit, Supreme Council for Environment, Bahrain (Email: rahmed@sce.gov.bh)

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)

Drug peddling case: Court upholds verdict against five accused

DT News Network
Manama

The Supreme Appeals Court yesterday upheld the sentences issued against five Asian men convicted in connection with a drug case.

The accused were earlier handed down sentences between 1 to 10 years in prison, but they were all ordered to be expelled from Bahrain once they completed their jail term.

Three of the accused were slapped with large fines of BD10,000 each while their co-accused were ordered to pay BD3,000 each.

The five men were charged



Representational image

with using marijuana illegally, but the first, second and third accused were also indicted for peddling the drug.

The incident unfolded when

the first accused, a Filipino, was discovered possessing drugs for the purpose of selling. Therefore, he was tracked down by an officer in plainclothes,

who eventually contacted him and requested him to buy BD50 worth of marijuana.

He accepted the money and asked him to meet him in Riffa. Police officers stalked him when he handed the drugs to the undercover agent.

The accused, who was working as a manager in a local restaurant, admitted to his crimes during questioning, telling prosecutors that his friends - the other defendants - were also involved with him.

He expressed readiness to help prosecutors to arrest them red-handed. And he trapped them.

Three accused get three years jail term for terror crime



Representational image

DT News Network
Manama

The High Criminal Court sentenced three accused to three years behind bars each for detonating a gas cylinder in Sitra.

The incident occurred on February 27, 2017, where the cylinder exploded after the defendants placed it in the middle of burning tyres.

The accused men were captured following police investigations and the first accused told prosecutors that the second accused was the one who plotted to blow up the cylinder.

"He (the second defendant) told me he had a gas cylinder which he wanted to detonate. He asked me to agree on that and we later met the third accused.

At around 11:00 pm (on February 27, 2017) we detonated the cylinder with the use of tyres and firebombs. The trio was charged with detonating a cylinder for terrorist purposes.

مرکز الشرق الأوسط الطبي
MIDDLE EAST MEDICAL CENTER
QUALITY MEDICAL CARE

With you the whole

9 MONTHS & BEYOND...

OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY

Diagnosis & Treatment

- ▶ Infertility
- ▶ Antenatal care
- ▶ Contraception
- ▶ OB & Gyn Ultra Sound
- ▶ Cancer Prevention (Colposcopy)



Dr. Mahnaz Keshavarzian
Consultant Obstetrician Gynaecologist
& Laparoscopic Surgeon



Dr. Maha Ahmed M.S
Consultant
Obstetrics & Gynaecology



Dr. Mona Rashid Al Khalidi
Specialist
Obstetrics & Gynaecology

HIDD, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

17 46 48 48

Ramadan Timing: 8:00 am to 12:00 am

memcbahrain membhr
Middle East Medical Center
Info@membh.com www.membh.com

Our
Hospital

MIDDLE EAST
HOSPITAL
TRUSTED HEALTH CARE FOR LIFE



مستشفى
الشرق الأوسط
رعاية صحية متميزة وعى الحياة

Near Al Hayat Shopping Centre
SEGAYA 17 36 22 33