

Thinking  
green

Rehan Ahmed



## DON'T WASTE PAPER!

**P**aper and paperboard products are a world wide commodity found everywhere including newspapers, magazines, books, stationery, envelopes, shopping bags, drawing, craft & scratch papers, plates and cups, wrapping papers, tissues etc. Paper is a valuable commodity and a versatile material vital to the growth and development of any country and its communication and packaging systems.

One tree makes about 3,077 pieces of A4 paper. It takes 13 trees to make one tonne, or 40,000 pieces of paper. Paper can usually be recycled around six to ten times.

Paper is playing an important role in education, business, industries and recreation. Even after going electronic, the use of paper has not declined tremendously as was envisaged earlier. About one fifth of the contents of household dustbins consist of paper and cardboard, of which almost half is newspapers and magazines. Industrialized nations, with 20% of the world's population, consume around 87% of the world's printing and writing paper. This demand contributed to the loss of much of the forests worldwide.

Paper and allied waste accounts for more than 20% of municipal waste in the country with little quantities collected and sent for recycling and major quantity of mixed paper waste is being collected, transported and disposed in the landfill site each day. The paper waste is not much segregated mainly due to people's old habits, lack of awareness and absence of local recycling facilities.

The solution to the growing paper waste problem is mainly through 'prevention' of reducing or eliminating paper use so that the disposal is prevented in the first place. Printing paper on both sides of the sheet or using the paper sheets from both the sides rather than on one side is a classic example of paper waste prevention, as it can reduce the need for paper by up to 50 percent.

We need to understand that for every ton of paper used for recycling, the estimated savings are:

- 30,000 litres of water.
- 3000 - 4000 KWh electricity
- 17 trees
- 95% reduction of air pollution.
- 3 cubic yards of landfill space.
- Reduced waste treatment cost.
- 1,400 kg of CO2 gas emission

Recycling of paper is an environmental priority. It can reduce the load on importing and using virgin paper. Recycled paper can make various products. It can be used for newsprint, stationary, tissues, hand towels and toilet paper. Various packaging e.g. egg boxes, cup holders, presentation boxes and wall coverings can be made. It can also be used for CD racks and toys.

Paper is a biodegradable material. This means that when it goes to landfill, as it rots, it produces methane gas, which is a potent greenhouse gas (20 times more potent than carbon dioxide). With the occurrence of 'global warming', the methane and carbon dioxide emissions have to be reduced to avoid its adverse impacts. Forests take large amounts of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and store it in wood, in a process called carbon sequestration. Waste prevention and recycling of paper products can leave more trees standing in the forest, continuing to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

We need to reduce the paper waste by:

- Reducing printing, using both sides of the paper in photocopy and printing.
- Use waste paper as scrap paper.
- Avoid envelopes and reuse if received.
- Segregate paper at source and contact recyclers/waste collectors to collect based on a weekly collection schedules.

\* Head of 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.)

# Father and son injured in fire, house destroyed

DT News Network  
news@dt.bh

Manama

**T**he members of a Bahraini family has become homeless after a fire destroyed their home near Roundabout 4 in Hamad Town. The incident happened on Tuesday, leaving the head of the family and his son in a critical condition at the Military Hospital. The father reportedly fractured his skull while attempting to save his son who was trapped in the toilet.

The boy was rescued by Civil Defence firefighters, Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

A team from Northern Area Municipal Council, headed by Chairman Mohammed

Buhamood, on Thursday paid a visit to the injured in the hospital and the devastated house located on Block 1207.

Buhamood confirmed that the council has communicated with the concerned authorities to provide the family with a shelter while the house is revamped, especially that Ramadhan is approaching.

"We have communicated with Dar Al Karama Centre for Social Care to provide the family with a temporary place till their house is repaired," Buhamood said.

The fire destroyed most of the ground floor of the house, while parts of the second floor were damaged by the heat and smoke.



Buhamood (second from left) and Municipal Council officials during the visit to the house destroyed in fire

## Interior Minister heads delegation to GCC meeting

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Riyadh

**I**nterior Minister Lt. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa led Bahrain's delegation to the 18th consultative meeting of the GCC Interior Ministers being held in Riyadh, under the chairmanship of Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. Discussions focused on security issues and cooperation.

## Al-Nuaimi visits school

DT News Network  
Manama

**E**ducation Minister Dr. Majid bin Ali Al-Nuaimi paid an inspection visit to Malik bin Anas School for Boys and was updated about extracurricular learning programmes and activities. The minister praised particularly a class activity themed "Proud of My Language", which aims at consolidating the skill of students and teacher to use the classical Arabic. Dr. Al-Nuaimi underscored the importance of valuing the mother tongue, being the cornerstone and key pillar of Bahrainis' national identity.

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