

# 3pc of Bahrainis suffer from visual disabilities

Cataract, glaucoma, corneal disorders and retinopathy among the major eye diseases diagnosed in the Kingdom

● The expert called on diabetic patients to visit the ophthalmologist periodically to avoid retinopathy.

● Dr Al Yousif pointed out that there are four million people with visual disabilities in the Middle East, and explained that diabetes is one of the main causes of cataract, glaucoma and diseases of the cornea and retinopathy.

TDT | Manama  
Thamer Taifoor

Close to three per cent of Bahrainis suffer from visual disabilities, an international report showed.

According to the latest report by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB),

the percentage of visual disability in Bahrain is 2.7 per cent.

Ophthalmic and Lasik Consultant at King Abdulla Bin Abdulaziz Medical Centre Dr Nada Al Yousif said the causes of visual impairment in the Kingdom include cataract, glaucoma, corneal diseases and retinopathy.

She advised parents to examine their children's eyes beginning age five to detect and correct any symptoms of visual impairment and to avoid eye laziness that cannot be cured later.

However, Dr Al Yousif said the percentage of visual disability in Bahrain is lower than neighbouring countries, where it could reach up to 3.17pc.

Diabetes is one of the main causes of cataract, glaucoma and diseases of the cornea and retinopathy.

DR AL YOUSIF



Periodic eye check-ups are recommended to prevent visual disabilities.

She commented: "There are 285 million visually impaired individuals worldwide in which 80pc of them could've avoided their impairment and 90pc of these individuals are from developing countries.

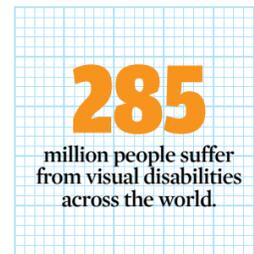
"Around 101 million people suffer from weak reading vision, according to the World Health Organisation."

Dr Al Yousif's statements came during a ceremony held to observe the World Sight Day, which is annually observed on October

11. The event was held at King Abdulla Bin Abdulaziz Medical City, under the patronage of its president Dr Abdulla Al Awhali.

The event aims at raising awareness on the global issue of blindness and avoidable visual impairment, and influence policy makers to support and improve the National Eye Health Programme.

Dr Al Yousif pointed out that there are four million people with visual disabilities in the Middle East, and explained that



diabetes is one of the main causes of cataract, glaucoma and diseases of the cornea and retinopathy.

She called for periodic measurement of eye pressure for people over the age of 40 to prevent glaucoma, which is one of the most important causes of visual disability in the world.

Dr Al Yousif also advised to consult the doctor if any deterioration of vision is sensed for elder people, warning that cataracts can be easily treated by surgical intervention but could also lead to vision loss if neglected. The expert called on diabetic patients to visit the ophthalmologist periodically to avoid retinopathy.

## Woman jailed for stealing gas cylinders

● The couple was put on trial before the Lower Criminal Court, which sentenced them to six months behind bars each.

TDT | Manama  
Ali Tarif

A Bahraini woman in her forties along with her boyfriend was jailed for stealing gas cylinders.

The woman was arrested after the couple stole seven cylinders at one stretch from a building in Riffa.

The couple was identified after the police reviewed CCTV images in the area.

They were using a rented car to transport stolen cylinders, according to prosecutors.

The suspects told prosecutors that they were selling stolen cylinders at a shop.

The couple was put on trial before the Lower Criminal Court, which sentenced them to six months behind bars each.

They were earlier sentenced to one year behind bars after being found guilty of stealing gas cylinders from another building.

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