

Rising concerns over low vision

One in every two children may need glasses, according to studies

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Many parents in the Kingdom are increasingly concerned about the declining eye health of their children.

They attribute it to the whole online classes, quoting medical opinions, most often stretching longer hours during the two-year plus pandemic season.

They say online education paved the way for online addiction, which now seems to have no cure, leading to many eye illnesses among children.

According to medics, many eye disorders are increasing among children, including Glaucoma, Myopia, Cataracts, Diabetic Retinopathy, Amblyopia, Strabismus and others.

Shops selling spectacles attest to this fact, claiming increased sales of specks and eye lenses during the post-pandemic period.

Dr Ebtisam Al Alawi, Con-



Dr Ebtisam Al Alawi

sultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Ophthalmology Department, told The Daily Tribune that "children's lifestyles have changed, contributing to an increase in short-sightedness.

"If we look at the western side, the weather is pleasant, and people are more into outdoor activities than sitting at home and using phones. In our region, the weather makes individuals prefer to spend their time indoors.

"Coronavirus has significantly impacted people's health, par-



Eldho Verghese

ticularly the eyes. In addition, children are accustomed to spending hours on their phones at home, which is a problem worldwide."

Dr Ebtisam stated, "I have seen young children clutching mobile phones, iPads, and computers at ages 5 and 6. It is a serious problem that has to address before it is too late."

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Mahwash Faraz, a resident, said, "I can see that my daughter Mar-



Mahwash Faraz

specks, and she will always be on the phone despite my repeated warnings. Due to the lack of outside activities during Covid.

Eldho Verghese, General Manager of Clear Vision Optics, said, "We used to sell more spectacles to older people, but the trend is changing, and children and youngsters are becoming our significant customers. However, despite the increased sales of reading glasses, the demand for sunglasses was low during the pandemic."

10 years in jail for man who faked electricity meters' readings

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A man who faked readings from electricity meters was sentenced by the High Criminal Court to 10 years in prison and fined BD5,000.

The defendant was serving in a company which was contracted by the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) to record the meters' readings. The owner of the company was fined BD2,000 for hiring the first defendant without permission.

According to court files, the first defendant falsified the data of electricity meters via the use of the reader that was in his possession.

He also forged the readings of four other meters, which he took from four other em-

ployees. The second defendant was the owner of the company, which was contracted by EWA to record the readings of the meters. He tasked the first defendant to handle the employees' accounts.

The defendants' crime came to light after the EWA doubted several entries, as a result of which they launched investigations into the matter.

It was discovered that the first defendant manipulated the readings of the meters as he wanted to register them without visiting the properties to check them.

The employees confirmed that the first defendant requested their devices' pin codes, and they discovered that he entered the readings. The two were charged with forgery.

Dolphins released back into the sea

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Dolphins caught by scrupulous individuals in Bahrain waters were released back into the sea in a first-of-its-kind operation in the Kingdom.

The Public Prosecution, Coast Guard General Administration, and Supreme Council

for the Environment worked with the International Fund for Animal Welfare to make it happen.

This followed an unprecedented court decision that found the suspects accused of hunting dolphins guilty.

Dolphin hunting is prohibited in the territorial waters of the Kingdom.

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