

A 'vicious cycle' of food waste during Ramadan

Tofoof AlMansoor
TDT | Manama

Arab countries produce large quantities of food waste which increases significantly during the holy month of Ramadan.

Estimates show that around 15-25% of all food purchased or prepared during Ramadan ends up disposed before even being used or consumed.

The trend indicates that during Ramadan, the demand for beef, chicken and other related meat products surges by almost 50% of the normal demand, which in itself is very high.

Similar is the fate of other food items such as vegetables, fruits and dairy products, which are emptied out of the shelves quickly in supermarkets during religious occasions.

During Ramadan, people tend to buy more than their normal necessities for self-consumption and for preparing meals for their guests, as this is the norm during the holy month.

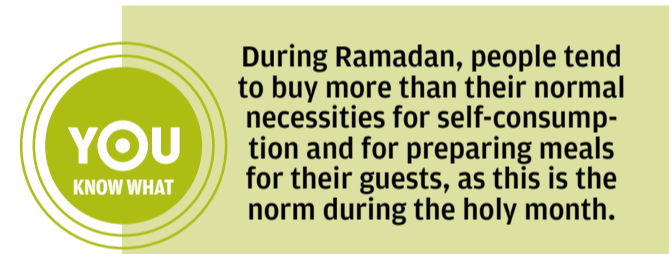
Due to the limited quantity of food that is consumed by people, most of it goes to waste as Fatoor is not usually eaten for Sahoor. The demand for fresh food increases as most people opt for spending extra for better quality of food, and this creates the vicious cycle of food wastage.

It is environmentally and morally considered offensive that as a society we have become so casual about the basic raw materials of life.

The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture has called for rationalisation of food consumption during the month



Excessive food waste during the holy month (Image used for illustrative purposes only).



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of Ramadan by releasing a video that encourages people to purchase food commodities in a moderate amount and adopt wiser consumption habits.

A non-profit organisation

called Conserving Bounties Society (CBS), which is licensed by the Ministry of Social Development, has been formed to combat the food waste issue in Bahrain.

It collects surplus food that has not been consumed and distributes it to families, expatriate workers and individuals in need throughout the Kingdom.

CBS reported that this initiative has helped in reducing the amount of food excess that is sent to the municipality's landfill in Askar, the only existing landfill in Bahrain which will reach its capacity soon, raising an environmental concern to the surrounding areas.



Cyberattacks in various sectors are for real!

Cyberattacks targeting Bahrainis up in second quarter of last year

● Middle East drive toward digitisation makes cyber security more relevant

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

The Middle East region has seen significant progress in the digitalisation of many sectors during the last few years.

As a result, cyberattacks started to increase again, making cybersecurity a key topic for the next decade.

Digital bank scams are becoming more complex with the onslaught of malicious bots, leading to account takeovers and financial fraud through a variety of cyberthreats.

Cyberattacks targeting Bahrainis have rocketed up in the second quarter of last year by a concerning 188 per cent, says a new report, especially by targeting people with vacation opportunities abroad, as pandemic-induced restriction eased.

In 2022, global cyberattacks climbed by 38 per cent compared to 2021, while the UAE saw an increase in weekly

attacks on the organisation by 178 per cent in Q2 2022, indicating the need for investment in cybersecurity.

A high degree of cyberthreats is expected to cause the GCC cybersecurity market to grow at a CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) of 5.9% between 2017 and 2030.

Geographically, the UAE accounted for the largest market for advanced cybersecurity solutions with more than 35 per cent market share in the GCC cybersecurity market.

Saudi Arabia closely follows the UAE, accounting for 30 per cent market share in the GCC cybersecurity market, and is growing at a healthy rate on the back of a growing oil and gas sector.

Experts claim that because the majority of banking institutions provide access to their services through mobile applications, mobile devices are particularly vulnerable to cyberattacks that aim to steal customers' personal information. Effective identification and access management, as well as user personal data protection, are required. Apps with a high level of authentication can stop cyberattacks in their tracks.

NATIONAL HOTELS COMPANY (B.S.C.)



ANNOUNCEMENT FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CASH DIVIDENDS FOR 2022

The Board of Directors of National Hotels Company B.S.C. is pleased to invite the shareholders whose names are registered in the Share Register as of the Record Date on Wednesday 22 March 2023 to arrange a prior appointment through the Hotline indicated below or via (Skiplino) with the Company's Share Registrar and Dividend Agent, Messrs. Bahrain Clear B.S.C.(C) to receive the cash dividends for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 from Wednesday 5 April 2023. The shareholders shall carry with them on the date of the appointment their ID card, passport and original share certificates. For shareholders who have previously made arrangement for the transfer of dividends via bank transfer to their IBAN, the cash dividends shall be deposited directly into their bank accounts.

Share Registrar and Dividend Agent

Messrs. Bahrain Clear B.S.C.(C)
Bahrain Financial Harbour, Harbour Gate
4th Floor, King Faisal Highway
Building No. 31, Road 383, Block 305
P.O. Box 3203
Manama – Kingdom of Bahrain
Hotline: +973 17108786
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Faisal Ahmed Al Zayani
Chairman

Filipino products on display in bazaar

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The Philippine Embassy invites everyone to visit the Asean Ramadan Bazaar at the Dana Mall Sanabis every weekend of Ramadan from 3pm to 9pm starting tomorrow.

Sample the unique flavours from the Philippines and the other Asean countries like Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

The bazaar is organised by the Asean Committee composed of the Embassies of Bru-

nei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, and the Kingdom of Thailand, with the support of the Capital Governorate, in partnership with Lulu and Dana Mall and in cooperation with Brand Sync.

Deal on open prison's programmes

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In the presence of Her Highness Chairman of INJAZ Bahrain Shaikha Hisa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa and the Director-General of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing Shaikh Khalif bin Rashid Al Khalifa, both organisations have signed an agreement to provide programmes for the beneficiaries of the open prison's programmes.

The agreement signing was part of the directives of His Excellency Interior Ministry General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa to reinforce community partnership and belonging to the nation with various organisations and members



Shaikha Hisa and Shaikh Khalif sign the agreement

of the NGOs to achieve the noble goals.

The agreement aims to enhance the skills of the beneficiaries in entrepreneurship and innovation, which gives them the opportunity to join the labour market and enhance their personal confidence and leadership. The General Di-

rectorate asserted dedication to supporting and empowering the beneficiaries by developing their knowledge and skills and creating a good environment for them through various programmes and training that meet the labour market requirements per the economic vision 2030.