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# Crackdown on Al Ain restaurants

## Authorities closed down restaurants for violating health regulations: Food handling a concern

By Ekram Youssef

The authorities have taken a serious view of Al Ain restaurants not following regulations about health standards and hygiene conditions and closed down offenders after giving them warnings.

Mohammed Jalal Al Riyasa, the spokesperson of Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority says that offenders were issued prior warnings to improve the conditions and complying regulations.

"We have cancelled the licenses of many restaurants for violating regulations regarding quality and safety after giving them three warnings. We want to make sure the food served is

safe for human consumption and standards regulated by the authority are maintained," said Mohammed Jalal.

According to him inspectors from the Food Control Authority makes three visits each month to monitor the conditions in restaurants, cafes, take-away services and other eating places.. They check the condition of kitchen, refrigerators, general cleanliness, expiry dates of items they use, and the hygiene standards of their employees.

"We give them three warnings if anything is found wrong and if they don't comply after warnings, their business

license is cancelled," he said.

Meanwhile, customers are complaining about the practice of handling food by staff.

"In most restaurants, especially take away places, employees don't wear gloves when serving and they handle food. It's a common practice and vendors don't find anything wrong about it. It's disgusting. This practice has to be curbed for our health safety," says Mohammed, a bachelor from Iraq who mostly eats out or uses take-away joints.

The Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority proposes specifications and conditions that regulate the quality and

safety of food, as well as any material in connection to food commodities, and acts in coordination with the concerned bodies to that end. It acts to train the technical cadres operating within the Authority to meticulously inspect in a programmed manner, food industries, hotels, restaurants, cafes and markets.

The Authority also operates to monitor the safety of any elements used in canning, preserving or dealing in imported commodities or substances used for human consumption and to affirm the absence of diseases in those commodities.

YOUR STARS INSIDE!

### RED CRESCENT WARNS AGAINST SWINDLERS

The Al Ain Red Crescent Society (AARCS) has warned Al Ain residents against e-mails sent to their inboxes asking for financial help for treatment purposes.

A number of Al Ain residents have complained that they received disturbing e-mails from people in an Arab country asking for financial aid. The e-mails say that the financial support will help a child who is paralyzed and cannot walk, adding that the money collected will help the child as he needs an urgent operation.

The photograph of the poor child was attached to each e-mail. The e-mail sender asks each philanthropist to send Dh3,000 to the bank account that is enclosed inside the e-mail.

Hamad Saif Al Shamsy, Director of AARCS, said these e-mails are used for cheating, adding that both locals and expatriates should be careful to avoid electronic exploitation and deception.

### NATIONAL MEDIA COUNCIL HOLDS ITS FIRST MEETING

The recently set up UAE National Media Council (NMC) held Wednesday a meeting at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahayan.

The meeting which is the first ever since the inception of the NMC was attended by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Mohamed Abdullah Al Gergawi and Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development, Abdul Rehman Mohammed Al Owais.

The meeting discussed NMC's future plans, mission and media trends. Also present at the meeting were Director of Emirates Media Corp.

Ahmed Ali Al Balouchi, Director of Dubai Media Corp. Hussain Lootah, Director General of Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, Dr. Jamal Sanad Al Suwaidi, Director of the Sharjah Media Department and Prof. Hussa Lootah of the UAE University also attended the meeting.

## Awareness campaign on FNC elections launched in Al Ain

### FNC EXPLAINED ELECTION PROCESS IN UNIVERSITY SOCIAL CLUB SEMINAR

Al Ain Times report

The speakers at a seminar in Al Ain said that elections for the Federal National Council in December will open the way for the nation's youths experience the democratic and to enrich their experience in political life. The speakers also lauded the UAE for giving women the right to actively participate in the country's political process. 1190 of the 6688 electorates in December elections are women.

The address by Dr. Anwar Mohammed Kerkash and Mohammed Saleh Al Mazroui of the Federal National Council was organized by the Cultural

and Scientific Committee of the UAE University Social Club and was also attended by high government officials including Tariq Hilal Lootah and Dr. Saeed Al Ghaffli. Dr. Hadeef Al Dhahiri, Vice Chancellor of the UAEU also attended the seminar.

Dr. Kerkash said the National Commission wants to create awareness about the different aspects of the FNC election and the benefits of the democratic process to the society.

He also explained the election process of electronic voting, a clear time table for counting of votes and announcement of election results.

He said that the election will be for half of the FNC members while the other half will be nominated by the respective rulers of the emirates. He said the elected members will not hold any government position.

Earlier, Mohammed Saleh Al Mazroui, FNC Secretary General said the election process will make the Federal National Council more powerful as it will be able to take decisions and will not remain just a consultative body. He said the UAE consultation has already guaranteed the rights of women in society and there is no need to amend the constitution in this regard.

Meanwhile The Elections Management Committee held a meeting in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday with the Abu Dhabi Electoral Committee to discuss preparations for the Federal National Council (FNC) elections due to be held on 16th, 18th, and 20th Dec. 2006.

According to a WAM dispatch, the meeting discussed the proposed mechanisms for implementing the executive instructions at the emirate level in addition to other issues such as allotment of an office for the elections committee in the emirate.



Dr. Kerkash addressing the seminar at the University Social Club

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