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**WEAR SEATBELTS TO STAY ALIVE: WARN EXPERT**

**Higher mortality rate in accident victims who avoid seatbelts**

Al Ain Times report

Experts believe a tragedy, like the killing of five children in an Eid day road accident, could be avoided if passengers wear seatbelts.

"Community should be made aware that seatbelts may be the difference between life and death in traffic accidents," A researcher from the UAE University told the Al Ain Times. "Studies world over have proved the significance of using the seatbelt and how buckling up reduces the fatality factor in case of a mishap," he added.

In the UAE road users generally disregard or pay less attention to the seatbelt law. According to a police study of 541 motor vehicle crashes in Al Ain last year,

seatbelt use among casualties was only 2.8%.

According to the study, sudden diversion, a tire burst (the cause of Eid day tragedy) or a collision are some of the causes of motor vehicle

compliance rate of wearing seatbelts was conducted by Dr Mohammed El-Sadig and his colleagues from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Services with the help of medical practitioners from the

reduced severity of injury, admission rate to hospital and the duration of hospital stay after the seatbelt law was implemented. According to study the proportion of moderate to fatal injuries declined from 54% to 17% and the average number of hospital bed days for the MVC victims declined from 5 to 3 days.

The seatbelt legislation in the UAE required only front seat passengers to wear seatbelts.

A Roadway Traffic Accident Research Center, the first in the Middle East, was also established in Al Ain in collaboration with the Monash University Melbourne and Holden, Australia's automobile manufacturer.



crashes (MVC) and casualties could be reduced by using the seatbelts.

According to another Al Ain study the proportion of moderate to fatal injuries declined almost 31 % after the seatbelt legislation was implemented in the UAE more than seven years ago.

The study on the effectiveness and the

Al Ain Hospital.

The researchers studied the level of injury severity from motor vehicle crashes (MVC) before and after the seatbelt legislation was implemented in the UAE in January 1999

The study found significant reduction in morbidity in those arriving alive at hospital following MVC, including



Al Ain Times report

**CAR CRASH CLAIMS LIFE OF AL AIN PROFESSOR**

Al Ain academia is grieving the untimely death of their colleague Professor Dr. Ahmed Al Badawi who died last week after seriously injuring himself in a road accident.

Dr. Al Badawi's vehicle collided with another car after he mistakenly crossed a red signal near the industrial area of Sanaiya just a few days before Eid. He was admitted to hospital in a serious condition but died on 29 October while undergoing surgery.

Dr. Al Badawi, an Egyptian, was the Dean of the Students Affairs at the Al Ain University and prior to that with the Faculty of Food and Agriculture at the UAE University.

He left a good trail of admirers at both universities and is remembered as a polite and a humble man.

Dr. Al Badawi had a PhD in Floriculture from the University of Minia, Egypt, and then from the University of Florida, USA. He had earlier joined the UAE University in Al Ain where he was also involved in research activities and conferences. He later moved to the Al Ain University.

"Dr. Al Badawi will be missed by Al Ain University, the academic community and everybody who got to know him," said one of his colleagues at the Al Ain University.

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**Eid day tragedy: 5 children killed in road accident**

**3 BOYS & 2 GIRLS DIED INSTANTLY, MOTHER & MAID INJURED**

By Ekram Youssef

An Al Ain family that lost five children in a road accident on the Eid day is trying to recover from the shock of the tragedy and the unbearable grief of losing all children, aged from 1-7 years. Mohammed Hamdan Baluchi, the grieving father told Al Ain Times about the pain he felt. "I haven't seen my children for 5 days before they died due to my work schedule and only talked to them on the phone," he said. Um Sultan, the mother of the

children was driving the car at the time of the accident and was taking the children to their grandparents in Salamat on the Eid day when the car went out of control hitting the pole. Um Sultan, an Al Ain school teacher, and the accompanying maid also were injured. Um Sultan is out of the hospital now and the maid is declared out of danger and is out of the intensive care unit. The children were buried in the graveyard at Al Foa. Meanwhile in another road accident on the second day of Eid a 24-year old national died in a head-on

collision with another car. Two persons were injured and were admitted to hospital for treatment.



Mohammed Hamdan Baluchi, the grieving father