

Stop them!

MUHAMMAD RAMZAN objects to extravagance



asant has been in practice for centuries in India. It was primarily a Hindu festival and was luxuriantly celebrated in Delhi, the capital of the subcontinent. Now the Lahorites celebrate it with great enthusiasm and fervour. Preparations are made weeks and weeks before. This year celebrations seem to have been government sponsored, as Pakistan Television thought itself duty bound to give a colourful and live view of the celebrations as if it was very much in the greater national interest to apprise the nation of the activities and hullabaloo of these fanfares.

Roofs of bungalows and grand buildings were hired for the purpose. Some knowledgeable people say that in some of the localities, roofs were rented at Rs 1-2 lacs. Some of the MNCs and Beverage concerns were on the forefront in making special arrangements at their own cost for the government high-ups coming from Islamabad.

Unlike the past, this time invitation cards were given. Men, women, boys and girls especially belonging to the affluent class did not lag behind in sharing these galas. This time, it was virtually shared in a western style as lot of individual freedom was exercised.

The 'official' electronic media has given full projection and telecast of these activities to please "Bara Sahibs" in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan by glamorising these days under the semblance of "Jashn-e-Baharan". On the other hand, the government goes on

assuring the people time and again that no programme against our values, traditions and culture would be brought on the TV screen. Surprisingly, military and civil authorities from Islamabad had also thronged Lahore to catch the entertainment. Arrangements for fresh food were lavishly made by Lahori zealots to please their guests. Those, who are privileged to possess and spend so extravagantly and sumptuously, have wasted millions of rupees in holding these festivals.

Malpractice associated with Basant like use of metallic, nylon and glass or chemical coated string for kite-flying caused deaths, injuries, loss of limbs, short circuiting, electrocuting and break-downs of electricity. Reportedly as many as 25 casualties only in Lahore were caused as a result of kite flying during the recent "Jashn-e-Baharan".

Surely a good trend is a good friend and a bad trend is a bad friend. Let's, therefore, adhere to our own values, traditions and culture faithfully and sincerely, without being swayed away by the lust, glamour and temptations of the western ways. We are on the right track and the West is endeavouring to derail our young generation. I attribute this inflow of the Western negative values, trends and traditions into our society to the lack of our leadership. After the death of Father of the Nation, there has been no national leader of that calibre, character and sagacity to show the right direction and give destination to our young generation.