Celebrating innovated festivals

What is the shar ' i ruling on celebrating festivals such as the birthday of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), children ' s birthdays, Mother ' s Day, Tree Week and national holidays?

Firstly: ' Eid (festival) is the
name given to something
which returns ya ' ood , and is used to describe gatherings which happen repeatedly, on a yearly,
monthly or weekly basis, etc. So an ' eid includes a number of things, such as a day which comes regularly, e.g., ' Eid al-Fitr and Friday; gatherings on that day; and actions such as acts of worship and customs which are done on that day.

Secondly: any of these things which are intended as rituals
or acts of worship aimed at drawing closer to Allaah or glorifying Him
in order to earn reward, or which involve imitating the people of Jaahiliyyah
or any other groups of kaafirs, is a prohibited bid ' ah, an innovation
which comes under the general meaning of the hadeeth: " Whoever innovates
something in this matter of ours (Islam) that is not part of it, will
have it rejected. " (Narrated by al-Bukhaari and Muslim).
Examples of that include Mawlid al-Nabi (the Prophet ' s birthday),
Mother ' s Day and national holidays, because in the first case there
are innovated acts of worship which Allaah has not prescribed, and because

it involves imitation of the Christians and other kaafirs. And in the
second and third cases there is imitation of the kuffaar. But in cases
where the intention is to organize work to serve the interests of the
ummah and to put its affairs straight, or to organize programs of study,
or to bring employees together for work purposes etc., which in and
of themselves do not involve acts of worship and glorification, then
these are a kind of benign innovation which do not come under the meaning

of the hadeeth, “ Whoever innovates something in this matter of ours (Islam) that is not a part of it will have it rejected. ” So there is nothing wrong with such things, indeed they are allowed by sharee ’ ah.

And Allaah is the Source of strength. May Allaah bless our Prophet Muhammad and his family and companions, and grant them peace.