

Boy, 17, on rape charge

By NOOR ZAHRA

A BAHRAINI allegedly sexually assaulted his neighbour's eight-year-old son after abducting him from outside his home.

It is claimed the 17-year-old student grabbed the youngster as he was playing in the street and pulled him into his house.

He then reportedly took him to the first floor of his home, which was under construction, where he carried out the assault.

It happened in Hamad Town on June 7 – despite the boy crying and begging him to stop, according to court documents.

The defendant, who had only been released from prison a week before, denied the charge as he appeared at the High Criminal Court yesterday.

"I was standing outside my house in Hamad Town, when he (the suspect) came and held me tight," said the boy in a statement to prosecutors.

"He took me to the first floor of his home and took down my shorts.

"I was crying and told him 'stop this is rude'. I then felt pain in my back as he held me against the wall."

The victim's father claimed it was not the first time the defendant had abused his son.

"My son was watching television with his mum, when a show about sexual assault was aired," said the 27-year-old.

"He asked his mum, what the meaning of sexual assault was.

"She explained it to him and when she asked if he was ever put in a situation like that before, he told her that their neighbour's son had touched his bottom before."

The boy's parents were unable to confront the defendant about the initial alleged sexual assault because he was already in prison for another offence.

"When he came out of jail, a week later, he then sexually assaulted my son after forcing him into his house," his father told prosecutors.

"I got a call from my wife saying that my son was just sexually abused by our neighbour son and had blood on his underwear."

According to court documents, a medical examiner's report showed saliva found on the victim's clothes matched the defendant's DNA.

The trial was adjourned to September 16.

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Bahrain Polytechnic hosted a ghabga for its staff and media personalities at the Gulf Hotel's Al Dana Ballroom last night. Present were board of trustees chairman Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, acting chief executive Dr Mohammed Al Aseeri and deputy CEO Dr Hasan Al Mulla along with staff and senior officials. Above, from left, Shaikh Hisham, Dr Al Aseeri, Dr Al Mulla and Bahrain Polytechnic board member Mariam Janahi. Left, folk musicians perform at the event.

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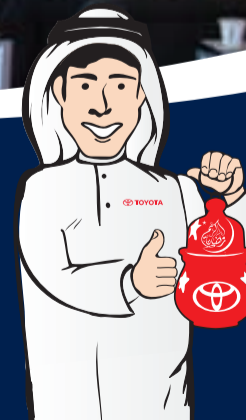
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