

Death crash driver jailed for 15 years

A SAUDI motorist who knocked down and killed a fellow national outside a hotel in Manama has been jailed for 15 years.

However, the 31-year-old was convicted of assault leading to death after defence lawyer Fatima Al Hawaj successfully argued to reduce the premeditated murder charge.

By NOOR ZAHRA

Prosecutors said the defendant, who was "intoxicated", got behind the wheel of his white Toyota Land Cruiser and hit 44-year-old Saud Mohammed Al Shafat on March 6.

He was found guilty and jailed for 15 years by the High Criminal

Court yesterday.

"The defendant had come from Saudi Arabia and went to a hotel located on Exhibition Avenue," read court verdict documents.

"He then went to a restaurant where he had alcoholic cocktails and was very drunk, but yet was still aware of his actions before he left the restaurant

with another man.

"He was seen talking to five other men, including the victim, in the car park of the hotel.

"He then got into his car and drove at an insane speed towards the five men.

"Four of them managed to jump out of the way but (Mr Al Shafat) stood still. "He was crushed and got stuck be-

tween the defendant's vehicle and another parked car.

"The defendant knew what he was doing and did not stop."

Witnesses previously described how the defendant purposely drove into his victim.

"The court found that the charge of assault leading to death was more suitable than premeditated murder in connection to this case.

"The defendant also received the maximum punishment for that charge due to being drunk."

A medical examiner's report said the victim's injuries were consistent with being run over by a car.

According to a Traffic Directorate report, the victim was found with tyre marks on his clothes.

The report also concluded that the defendant had purposely driven at the victim due to the high speed his vehicle was travelling at in the confined space of the car park.

An eyewitness who previously took to the stand said the defendant drove towards the victim "at a crazy speed" on March 6.

However, the defendant earlier claimed he lost control of the vehicle because he was "too drunk".

He said he handed himself over to authorities after finding out the victim had died on "feeling guilty".

The defendant will be deported after completing his sentence.

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■ Shaikh Mohammed with other dignitaries at the event. Right, a student receives her certificate

Graduates take a bow

A TOTAL of 649 students from Bahrain Polytechnic graduated yesterday during a ceremony held at Bahrain University's Sakhr campus.

They received their bachelor degrees from Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, who patronised the event held at the university's Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Hall.

Also in attendance were Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi, Bahrain Polytechnic trustees board chairman Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, acting chief executive Dr Mohammed Al Aseeri and other guests.



■ A graduate is honoured at the ceremony


During his speech, Shaikh Mohammed expressed his appreciation to the Bahrain Polytechnic fraternity for supporting the students in their education and training to enable them to emerge as the preferred

choice in the labour market.

Meanwhile, Dr Al Nuaimi highlighted the importance of technical and vocational education in serving the national economy, praising the creation of Bahrain Polytechnic.



■ Polytechnic students at the graduation ceremony



Celebrating 15 years in Bahrain

Festive Lunch

Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay

Guest Speaker Shaikha Hind Bint Salman Al Khalifa

December 10, 2015
Vendor Sale from 10.30am. Festive Buffet Lunch from 12 noon
Price BD 22

Tickets on sale at
The Bahrain Rugby Football Club - Saar
The Dilmun Club - Saar
The British Club of Bahrain - Adliya
The Bookcase - Saar

Tickets to be purchased by **December 3, 2015** - only cash payment will be accepted
For enquiries please call 39967896

All proceeds will go to our Feed A Family Program