

Killer was fully aware of actions

A DOCTOR has dismissed claims that a killer who strangled another man to death with his bare hands was not responsible for his actions.

The 31-year-old Nigerian defendant was receiving treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital when he killed fellow Bahraini patient Ebrahim Al A'ali, 48.

He first tied up Mr Al A'ali with a piece of cloth before beating and strangling him on June 17 last year, but denies premeditated murder.

The defendant has been diagnosed with Impulsive Control Disorder (ICD), but the head of a court-appointed medical panel told the High Criminal Court that did not mean he was unaware of his actions.

"It happens all over the world and people suffering from ICD could harm

By NOOR ZAHRA

or even kill others over nothing," the 54-year-old Bahraini doctor told judges.

"But the defendant, who suffers from ICD, was fully aware of what was right and wrong when he choked the victim to death."

The defendant had been transferred to the hospital for evaluation after attempting suicide while serving a 12-month prison sentence for a spate of mobile phone thefts.

He is also standing trial in a separate case for allegedly trying to strangle a guard at the Dry Dock Detention Centre.

Mr Al A'ali had also been referred to the Psychiatric Hospital for evaluation and was standing trial for manslaughter in connection with a car accident that

killed three people.

"I examined the defendant myself at the beginning and he arrived (at the Psychiatric Hospital) because he attempted to kill himself while being held in detention," added the doctor.

"We did not keep him separately at the start because I did not know yet that he suffers from ICD."

"However, we kept him under complete observation throughout the day and night."

When asked whether the hospital had been negligent in failing to prevent the attack on Mr Al A'ali, the doctor answered that it was possible.

"There might have possibly been negligence," he said.

However, he added the defendant had not yet been diagnosed with ICD at the time the murder took place.

"After the murder we received orders from the Health Ministry not to bring the defendant back to the Psychiatric Hospital because he was deemed too dangerous," he said.

"He killed the victim at 5am while the latter was sleeping and no-one expected this to happen."

"I have been working as a doctor for 17 years and never saw anything like this."

"The defendant was very calm after murdering his victim and sat on the bed next to the lifeless body on the floor."

"He then cried for one minute before complying with us with utmost relaxation."

The trial has been adjourned until June 11 for the submission of defence papers.

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Forum inspires young to chase their dreams

SPEAKERS from the region shared their ideas to empower society during the 'Be The X' conference held yesterday at the Bahrain Polytechnic.

The event was held under the patronage of Polytechnic's board of trustees chairman Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa.

"The conference targets young people from different backgrounds and age groups in an exceptional environment aimed at motivating the audience to achieve their ideas in a way that serves the society, as well as encouraging Bahrainis to be capable of changing the world, regardless of their background and interests," said Bahrain Polytechnic Student Council president Hasan Ali Al Tooq.

Featured speakers included Kuwaiti author and radio broadcaster Ali Najim, former minister and entrepreneur Dr Fatima Al Balooshi, paramedic Fahad Yaqoot, chef Roaya Saleh and other experts from different backgrounds.

The event was hosted by social media influencer Khawla Al Muraghi.



Dr Al Balooshi speaking during the event yesterday

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