

Schoolboy, 10, found not guilty of attacking, injuring classmate

Defendant's lawyer told judges that the case lacked solid evidence to hold his client guilty

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In a rare case, the Lower Criminal Court has acquitted a ten-year-old student of causing a head injury to his schoolmate.

The boy is said to have been playing with the victim and the latter crashed his head against the wall, injuring his head.

The event happened before the morning assembly and the family

of the injured student filed a case against the 10-year-old boy, according to prosecutors.

"The boy was shocked to learn that his friend's family lodged a case against him, accusing of deliberately injuring while playing together," the defendant's lawyer said.

Meanwhile, the boy's lawyer told judges that the case lacked solid evidence to hold his client

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LAWYER

guilty.

"He (the 10-year-old boy) took the injured boy after the incident to the school counsellor along with his brother, something that wouldn't have happened if he had intentionally attacked him.

"The medical report confirmed that the boy's injury was due to a fall on the ground and it wasn't caused by a physical assault. Therefore, the accusations

against my client were false," he added.

The lawyer also presented to the court the academic performance of the student, which confirmed he was very good at his studies, while the school administration praised his behaviour and commitment.

Taking into account these facts, the Lower Criminal Court decided to acquit the boy.

Woman jailed for blackmailing husband

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A woman allegedly resorted to blackmail her husband in order to force divorce, threatening him of publishing obscene images of him with his second wife.

The defendant had stolen the images from the victim's mobile phone.

The victim filed a case against her, as a result of which the Lower Criminal Court sentenced her to three months behind bars.

500

Bahraini dinars in fine was imposed on the woman for blackmailing her husband.

Court rejects compensation plea for lack of evidence

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The High Administrative Court yesterday rejected a lawsuit filed by a Bahraini citizen who demanded over BD5,000 in compensation for a land that was acquired and turned into a public road in 1988, claiming that he owned the land back then and that it was forcefully taken from him.

The court rejected the man's claims as he didn't provide any documents proving his ownership of the land, and ordered him to pay the court fees.

The plaintiff, who alleged that he owned the land in 1988,

the year when part of it was acquired and turned into a public road, failed to provide the court with documents proving his claims.

Instead, he was only able to provide ownership documents dated on December 2, 2007, almost ten years after the incident of the land acquisition, which he demanded compensation for, took place.

According to court files, the man demanded a BD5,001 compensation for the land, in addition to "legal interests" of 10 per cent for each year since 1988 until today.

He claimed that 432 square



Rejecting the lawsuit, the court ordered the plaintiff to pay its fees.

meters of his land was acquired without an official acquisition authorisation and without being compensated.

The court initially assigned an expert to examine the location and issue a detailed report mentioning the condition of the land and its market value.

However, the court withdrew this decision after the plaintiff wasn't able to prove his ownership of the land at the time of acquisition, as shown in the ownership document he provided.

The court decided to reject the lawsuit and order the plaintiff to pay the court fees.

"She sent me personal pictures of me with my second wife. They were private images and she warned me that if I don't divorce her she would share the images with the public," the victim said.

The woman was accused of disturbing her husband and misusing her phone as well as blackmailing him.

The woman admitted to her crime and the Lower Criminal Court held her guilty and sentenced her to three months behind bars.

She was also fined BD500.

US envoy honours contest winners

● The GIST Tech-I Competition is an annual competition for science and technology entrepreneurs from emerging economies worldwide.

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Harpreet Kaur

The US Ambassador to Bahrain, Justin Siberell honoured the winners at an award ceremony held for the eighth annual Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) Tech-I Competition.

The GIST Tech-I Competition is an annual competition for science and technology entrepreneurs from emerging economies worldwide.

Aspiring innovators submit their ideas and startups online which are then reviewed by experts before they enter a global public vote to pick the top entrepreneurs, who compete in the Tech-I finals.

Ambassador Siberell congratulated the Tech-I 2019 finalists. Speaking to Tribune, he said: "This year we started out with more than 500 applications. The hard work and dedication illustrate that these 24 finalists are truly some of the world's best and brightest entrepreneurs."

Shura Council approves proposal to ban sale of energy drinks to children

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Mohammed Zafran

A proposed law that aims to reduce the consumption of energy drinks in the nation has been approved by legislators yesterday.

Ban on sale of energy drinks to those under 18 years could be implemented as a proposed law was approved yesterday by the Shura Council.

This comes after its youth affairs committee placed a proposal intended to reduce the consumption of energy drinks in the country as reported by Tribune yesterday.

The proposal now needs to be drafted to a law and referred to the House of

Representatives.

According to the proposed law, those who sell energy drinks to children would be fined up to BD2,000.

If the law is passed, the commercial markets would be required to make it clear that the drinks are not for sale to those under 18 years.

The law would also prevent the free distribution of energy drinks as well as their advertisements.

Social media was rife with rumours that the Shura Council was moving towards a total ban on energy drinks.

However the committee clarified that the proposal is not intended to enforce a total ban on consumption of energy drinks, rather is intended to restrict



Anxiety, insomnia, gastronomic upset, headaches, and hyperactivity are some of the side effects of high level of consumption of energy drinks.

and limit the consumption on those under 18.

The committee stated that due to the unhealthy nature of energy drinks, it aims to reduce its consumption in the country.

The move comes in light of research that excessive consumption of energy drinks can lead to severe health problems in children.

Anxiety, insomnia, gastronomic upset, headaches, and hyperactivity are some of the side effects of high level of consumption of energy drinks.

More serious long term effects such as diabetes and heart disease have also been associated with energy drink consumption, according to experts.

Jarir Bookstore to open BD4m outlet in the Kingdom

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Harpreet Kaur

Jarir Bookstore, the largest retailer of books and consumer electronics in Saudi Arabia, will open a branch in the Kingdom next year.

Jarir Chief Operating Officer Nassir Al Ageel noted Seef District as the best location for their new branch, due to its attractive investment environment.

"The area is considered to be the prime tourism and commercial destination for residents and tourists in the Kingdom, and we believe this showroom will contribute to the overall sales growth of Jarir, which will reflect positively on our shareholders," he added.

Al Ageel indicated that



Mr Al Ageel speaks at the press conference.

the amount of investment in this showroom is around \$10 million (BD4 million), and it should contribute to providing many job opportunities in Bahrain.

The company will initially employ 40 Bahrainis, but the figure will go up to 70 depending on business development,

he said.

He added that the new showroom will be the ultimate destination for the lovers of latest technology gadgets and books, as it will offer a very wide range of office supplies, school supplies, English and Arabic books, arts and crafts, smartphone and laptops and



An artist's impression of the proposed Jarir Bookstore in Seef.

their accessories, and video games.

More branches will be opened in Bahrain later, Mr Al Ageel added.

"We will open 3-4 showrooms in Bahrain including a branch in Riffa," he said.

The company has been pushing ahead with expansion plans

into Arabian Gulf countries.

The Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) has supported the firm throughout their set-up process.

Jarir Bookstore was started in 1979 in the Saudi capital Riyadh as a bookshop that sold newspapers, magazines and school supplies.