

# 'Boost' club in Dubai busted

Undercover policemen arrest two for selling animal growth steroids as muscle-building hormonal drugs

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Dubai: A cook and an owner of a body-building club are facing charges of smuggling steroids that are used to boost growth in animals and selling them to customers as muscle-building drugs, thereby posing risks to people's health.

B.F., 43, and S.N., 52, both Indians, are also facing charges of posing as pharmacists, violating drug storage rules and selling fake and banned medicines.

According to court records, the Anti Narcotics Department at Al Qusais police station received a tip-off about an Indian illegally selling muscle-building hormone injections. A policeman posed as a buyer and paid Dh4,100 for three injections and a few tablets.

## Caught red-handed

S.N. was arrested on the spot last August in the sting operation. The drugs were then referred to the criminal laboratory for tests, which revealed that the hormones were for animal use.

According to the report, Oxymetholone, a steroid that stimulates muscle growth in animals, but with several side effects, was seized from the suspects.

A certain type of the same medication is, however, used on patients suffering from hormonal disorders.

Court records revealed that the drugs were smuggled from India, Pakistan and Oman.

S.N. was found to have been illegally selling banned drugs through his body-building centre for five years.

During investigations, he denied selling the drugs and said they were for his personal use.

However, when more than 5,000 hormone doses were seized from his residence, his testimony changed.

He claimed a friend who lived at his residence had left the drugs behind and that he did not know about them.

He later alleged that suspect B.F. was behind it all.

B.F. denied and said he worked for S.N. at the centre.

More than 12 kinds of medications, some of which were fake, were seized from S.N.'s residence at Al Karama.

The seized drugs included Sustanon, Testolic, Stanazol and some hormone growth injections as well as other types of medication in tablet form.

Defence lawyer Mohammad Salman has requested the questioning of police witnesses.

The next hearing in the case is on December 26.

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