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Kuwait to sell local currency bond by yearend to meet deficit



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7 SENTENCED TO DEATH OVER AL-SADEQ MOSQUE BOMBING

JUDGE WARNS OF DANGERS OF EXTREMIST IDEOLOGY



Min 27°
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'ABDALY' SUSPECTS DENY ALL CHARGES, ALLEGE TORTURE

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: In a separate case also presided by Judge Mohammad Al-Duaij, all 23 Kuwaiti suspects of the so-called "Abdaly cell" categorically denied the charges and insisted that they were tortured severely to extract confessions from them. The public prosecution charged 24 of the 26 suspects of having links to Iran and its Shiite Lebanese militia ally Hezbollah and of plotting attacks against Kuwait. Twenty-three suspects, all Kuwaiti citizens, appeared in court in grey prison uniforms. Three others, including one Iranian, are at large.

Judge Duaij allowed all the suspects to express their grievances and tell their stories in a hearing that lasted two-and-a-half-hours and witnessed intense arguments by defense lawyers. But as the hearing was about to conclude, the main suspect Hassan Abdulhadi Hassan sprang a major surprise. After initially denying all the charges, Hassan sought permission to speak and told the court that the arms discovered at his residence were from the 1990-91 Iraqi invasion period and were given to him by a sheikh.

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KING SANCTIONS BINLADIN GROUP



MAKKAH: Pilgrims walk yesterday past the site of a crane collapse that killed over a 100 people last Friday in the Grand Mosque. — AP (See Page 13)

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The criminal court yesterday sentenced seven men, five of them in absentia, to death over the suicide bombing at the Imam Al-Sadeq Shiite mosque that killed 26 people and wounded 227 others, and passed various jail terms against eight others. Reading the court verdicts in front of the suspects and a packed courtroom, Judge Mohammad Al-Duaij also acquitted 14 suspects. The public prosecution had pressed charges against 29 people, including seven women. Five of the men remain at large.

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The two men who were sentenced to death while in court were Abdulrahman Sabah Eidan Saud, the bedoon driver who dropped off the Saudi bomber to the mosque in Kuwait City and who also brought the explosives used in the bombing from near the Saudi borders, and Fahd Farraj Nassar Muhareb, who is described as the "wali" or leader of the Islamic State group in Kuwait. The man has been serving a jail sentence in another case.

The five others who received the maximum punishment in absentia include the two Saudi brothers Mohammad and Majed Al-Zahrani, who transported the explosives belt from Saudi Arabia into Kuwait a day before the bombing. The two carried the explosives through the borders in an icebox in an old car and abandoned the car in Kuwait. The two are being held in Saudi Arabia after they were arrested a few days after the attack.

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