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# Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

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## MP ASHOUR URGES PROBE INTO 'ABDALY' CELL TORTURE CLAIMS

COURT DELAYS DECISION ON COED BAN • KANDARI TO BE FREED SOON



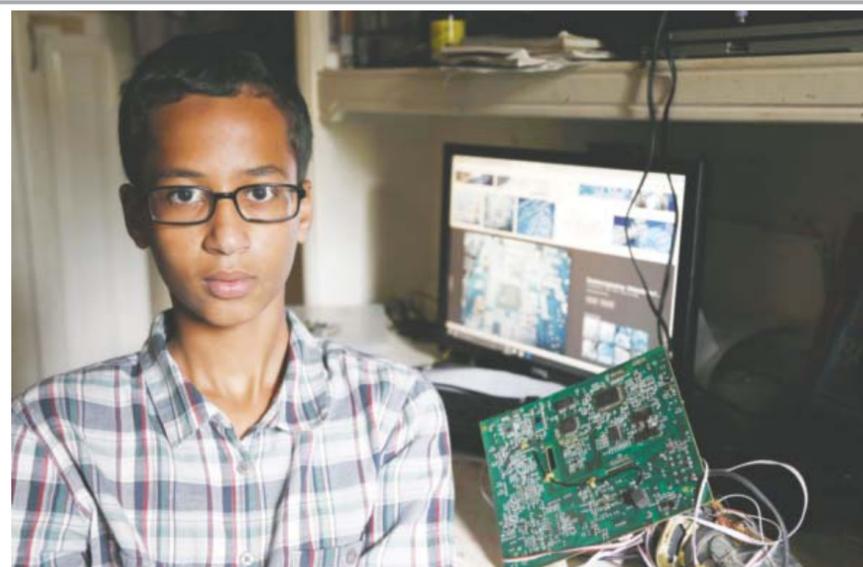
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### KOC TO START OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait plans to start an offshore oil exploration program within two years, state news agency KUNA yesterday cited a Kuwait Oil Co (KOC) executive as saying, part of plans to boost oil output capacity. In comments suggesting Kuwait will maintain energy investments despite plunging oil prices, KOC's manager of planning Bader Al-Attar was quoted as saying Kuwait aimed to add a total of 700,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil production capacity from offshore and onshore areas. Attar did not identify the potential offshore locations.

Most of Kuwait's production is from the onshore Burgan field, the world's second largest, in the southeast of the country, though it also extracts reserves from an offshore Neutral Zone where it shares facilities with Saudi Arabia. Attar also said Kuwait aims to boost production capacity to 3.5 million bpd by the end of 2015, including from the Neutral Zone, from around 3.15 million bpd now. A Kuwaiti oil industry source told Reuters last week his country will raise oil output by between 250,000 and 270,000 bpd by the end of the year to make up for production lost from two shut oil fields.

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**IRVING, Texas:** Irving MacArthur High School student Ahmed Mohamed, 14, poses for a photo at his home on Tuesday. Mohamed was arrested and interrogated by Irving Police officers on Monday after bringing a homemade clock to school. He was suspended from school for three days, but he has not been charged. — AFP (See Page 13)

By B Izzak and A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Shiite MP Saleh Ashour called yesterday on the interior minister to form a neutral committee to probe claims by Hezbollah-linked cell members that they had been tortured to extract confessions. Ashour said in a statement that the committee should investigate the claims and find people responsible for the torture and take legal action against them. He said that torture of suspects is prohibited under international covenants signed by Kuwait and is also banned under the Kuwaiti constitution and laws.

Twenty-three Shiite suspects told the court on Tuesday that they were systematically tortured by severe beatings and repeated electric shocks to force them to sign prepared confessions at the state security. The men along, with three others still at large, are charged with being members of the Shiite Lebanese militia group Hezbollah and of collaborating with Iran and Hezbollah to carry out attacks against Kuwait.

The cell was busted last month when a huge arms cache was seized at a farm in Abdaly near the borders with Iraq and at the residence of the main suspect, who told the court that the arms were old and from the Iraqi invasion period in 1990-91. He said he used them to fight against Iraqi occupation and was asked by a senior resistance leader to hide the weapons. Judge Mohammad Al-Duaij declined requests by defense lawyers to free the suspects and set Sept 29 for the next hearing.

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