

Court revokes conviction of terror cell member

● The case initially involved 24 defendants including a lawyer, a businessman and a policeman from Bahrain and Saudi.

● The terrorist cell, Imam's Army, initially planned to attack the Interior Ministry, Bahrain International Airport, Bahrain International Circuit, the US Navy base, Bahrain Defence Force, Shaikh Isa Air Base

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Representational image

The First Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal yesterday ordered to revoke the conviction of a Saudi national who was earlier sentenced by a local court here to 15 years of imprisonment for his involvement in a terrorism case that is commonly known as the Jaish Al Imam (Imam's Army) case.

The court's decision came after acknowledging that the man has been already convicted in the same case by Saudi courts, which upheld his conviction twice, according to his defence attorney.

The lawyer presented the

court with documents proving that her client has already been sentenced to imprisonment in Saudi Arabia and lost his final appeal against the verdict in 2018, demanding to waive the sentences issued against him here.

According to court files, the case initially involved 24 defendants from Bahrain and Saudi, and the list of defendants included a lawyer, a businessman and a policeman. They first received different sentences in 2013 after being convicted of forming and joining a terrorist cell, Imam's Army, which carried out and planned terrorist

attacks on military and vital establishments in the Kingdom.

Four of the defendants, including two fugitives, were sentenced to life in prison; six, including the appellant, got 15 years of imprisonment; while 14 were acquitted.

The defendants, excluding the appellant, got their sentences upheld after challenging it before two courts here; the Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal and the Court of Cassation.

The evidence submitted to the court proved that the cell planned to attack several vital sites around the Kingdom, including the Interior Ministry,

Bahrain International Airport, Bahrain International Circuit, the US Navy base in Juffair, Bahrain Defence Force, Shaikh Isa Air Base, and other important sites.

The terror cell was reportedly waiting for instructions from Iran for a "zero hour" to carry out massive attacks in Bahrain using light and medium weapons, in addition to homemade explosives and ammunition.

Witness testimonies indicated that it is run from Iran by a member of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, who reportedly allocated around \$80,000 (BD30,160) to finance the group.

Capital Police arrest two for robbery attempt



Representational image courtesy of Reuters

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Two individuals have been arrested while attempting to steal the contents of cars in parking lots in the Capital Governorate, the Interior Ministry has announced.

The Ministry said yesterday that the Capital Governorate Police director-general reported the incident.

He noted that a police patrol suspected the men while they were trying to open the door of a car with tools. After searching them, some stolen items were found, including pills that were suspected to be narcotics, which were confiscated.

Legal proceedings have been taken against the pair, said the director general.

Meanwhile, two other individuals have been arrested for forced robbery after stealing a wallet from a man, the Interior Ministry also announced yesterday.

The Criminal Investigation



On searching the two arrested robbers, stolen items including suspected narcotics pills were found.

and Forensic Science director-general reported the incident.

He said that the directorate had received a case from the victim, in which he highlighted that while walking in Karana, two men approached him and took his wallet after threatening him with a knife.

The director-general added that an investigation into the case led to identifying and arresting the criminals.

Legal proceedings are being taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.

Verdicts upheld against human trafficking group

● The sentenced consisted of a Bahraini man, two Filipino men, and five women of the same nationality—with all six foreign defendants ordered to be deported after completing their imprisonment while also being fined BD2,000 each

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A group of men and women, who were earlier convicted of forcing two Asian women into prostitution, had their appeals rejected yesterday by the First Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal.

The eight appellants were previously sentenced by the First High Criminal Court to seven years of imprisonment



Representational image courtesy of Reuters

each, in addition to collectively paying for the repatriation expenses of the victims, who are both Filipino nationals.

The group consisted of a Bahraini man, two Filipino men, and five women of the same nationality. All foreign defendants

were ordered to be deported after completing their imprisonment sentences here and they were also fined BD2,000 each.

The case emerged when the authorities here were officially informed by its Filipino counterpart about an ongoing inves-

tigation into human trafficking, which involved a number of Filipino nationals, who exploited the victims by forcing them into the flesh trade and making a profit from the illegal activity.

The information received from the Filipino authorities also included that the victims' freedom was restricted, their passports were taken away, and they were physically assaulted to force them into prostitution.

A probe was launched and initial findings indicated that the victims were forced into vice in the past two years (2018, 2019), and that the defendants physically assaulted both women while threatening them of never being allowed to return to their country.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendants of restricting the victims' freedom and exploiting them, in addition to depending on vice for a living and running a brothel.

Virtual seminar to be held on protecting commercial accounts

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The Bahrain Chamber, in cooperation with the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security at the Ministry of Interior, will be holding on Thursday at 10.30am a virtual seminar themed "Pro-

tecting Commercial Accounts from Cybercrimes". In this regard, the Bahrain Chamber extends an invitation to members of the business community, calling them to join this important virtual seminar.

It added that the seminar will be conducted in Arabic via the Zoom application.

Man who tried to kill neighbour over parking dispute loses appeal

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The First Supreme Court of Appeal yesterday upheld the punishment of a Bahraini man who was earlier convicted of attempting to murder his neighbour because of a dispute over a parking spot here last year.

The appellant was sentenced by a first degree court to seven years of imprisonment, after deliberating the case for more than one year over uncertainty with regards to his mental competence. Medical reports eventually proved that he was mentally fit and responsible for his actions.

The 23-year-old had reportedly stabbed his neighbour, a 48-year-old Bahraini man, multiple times and escaped before the arrival of the authorities. The incident took place in February last year in a residential neighbourhood in the town of Galali.

Investigations showed that the perpetrator stabbed the victim a few hours after they were both involved in a verbal dispute over a parking spot in the area. He was arrested later on the same day, while

the victim was rushed to the hospital.

Investigations further revealed that the appellant had the intention to kill the victim, as he prepared a knife for this purpose and monitored the victim's movements. He reportedly stabbed the victim and continued stabbing him with the intention of killing him and later fled the scene, leaving the victim in a pool of blood.

Following claims about his mental incompetence, the court ordered to admit him to the psychiatric hospital.

The hospital's report mentioned that the defendant does not suffer from any organic diseases or auditory hallucinations; however, it showed that he suffers from a slight mental retardation and cannot judge complex or medium matters.

It was also shown that the defendant has a file at the hospital since 2011, but he has not followed up with the hospital on a regular basis.

The report indicated that he was fully aware and responsible of his actions at the time he committed the crime.

NOTICE

This is to inform all the concerned that
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