

Other Voices

Am I a dumb devil?

'Need to reform charities'

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

I was not surprised when a number of decision-makers drew my attention to the draft law which was submitted to the National Assembly to regulate charity work which also calls for imprisonment and fine for those who doubt its work.

This is not because I am a legislator, or an activist and can stop the bill, but because I was one of the most obvious critics by making a statement throwing a hint here and there and writing about the violations and abuses committed by these charity societies and had exposed the practices of some of them for the past quarter of a century. This is in addition to other colleagues, who have refused to remain silent in the face of the 'Ali Baba' practices.



Al-Sarraf

It is very strange that in time of transparency, governance, rule of law and civil liberties, openness to the world and efforts to develop the personality of a Kuwaiti, a minister submits a draft law requiring the citizen to donate to charities, even if he sees the wrongdoings of these charities, or faces imprisonment or a heavy fine, or both, as if the charity societies prevent the citizens from criticizing their work, whoever he/she may be.

There is no doubt in the mind of any sane person that the charity work needs to be regulated by a law because the draft law that has been submitted is the most eloquent response to the current situation and the positions adopted earlier by us.

If the conditions of these charities were normal, it would not be necessary to issue such a draft law and submit it to the National Assembly in such an urgent manner.

We do not disagree with many of the articles of the draft law, but it is illogi-

cal and unfair to completely shut the door in the face of criticism of some of these charity associations, which do not differ in any word from other public benefit associations but they need to be controlled and they are open to criticism more than the others because they are most secretive in their work, and most cautious when it comes to disbursement of funds. They also are able to collect funds in violation of the instructions issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

Therefore this draft law is tailored to add a halo of quasi-holiness on their work, and I do not think these associations are more important than banks, which take care of the money of hundreds of thousands of clients, depositors and shareholders.

These banks may be disastrously affected and collapse in the face of rumors about the shortage in liquidity, however no similar draft law was tailored to prevent criticizing these banks or doubt their work and if this happens, the existing laws are enough to address any defect or infringing on their reputation.

The current penal law is overflowing with its articles and charity work. We have criticized the behavior of many charities in the past and none of them were prevented by any party from filing lawsuits against us, but to a large extent they have been silent because there is no truth in what they say or do.

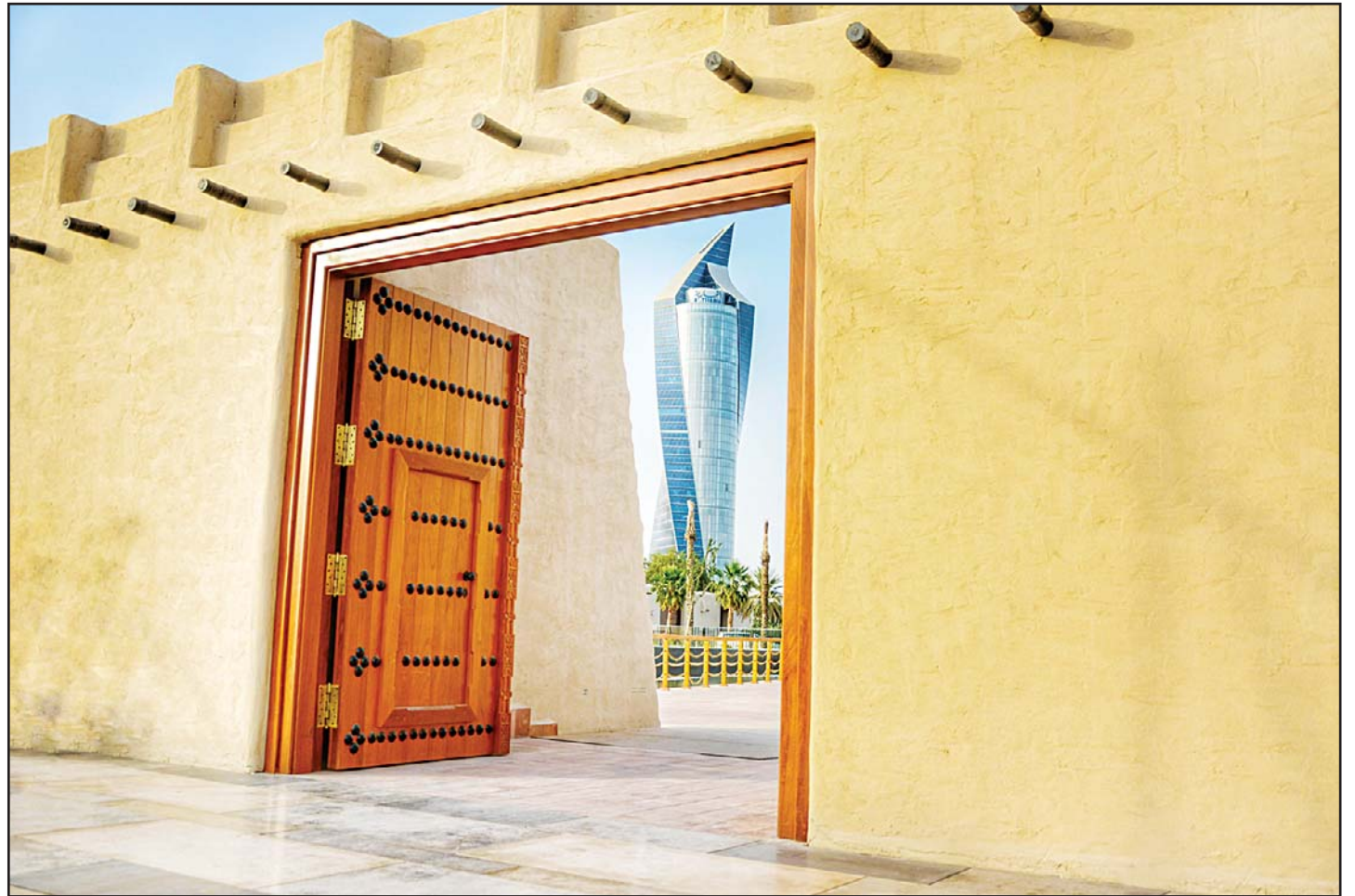
The last criticism was directed at an association that helps patients for acquiring dozens of commercial sites outside the hospital buildings, and have turned them into a source of income for them but they handed over their management and profits to influential personalities who have publicly admitted to the charges.

Is the disclosure of such violations considered to be suspecting the charity work worthy of imprisonment? What about the Hadith (saying of the Holy Prophet) that says: 'He who remains silent about truth is a dumb devil'.

Do the government and the legislator want us to be dumb devils?

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One of Kuwait's five historic gates that were part of the city wall (Al Soor) which was built to protect it from invaders. The wall came down in 1957 but the gates remained as landmarks of Kuwait. (Fahad Al Rowayee — KUNA)

# Two expats fool citizen into making cash with ink, flee

'Drifters' have field day as revelers brawl in water battle

By Munaf Nayef/Mishal Al-Sanousi  
Al-Seyassah Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Feb 27: Coinciding with the National Days festivities, officers from Public Security Sector continued the campaign against vice in Ahmadi and Jahra governorates and arrested 30 individuals for drifting with vehicles and putting life and property in danger.**

The operation launched upon instructions from the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs in the Ministry of Interior Major General Ibrahim Al-Tarrah resulted in the arrest of 16 motorists whose vehicles were impounded to the ministry garages for reckless driving.

Also, 16 motorists including GCC nationals were apprehended in Taima, Oyoun and Jahra respectively for drifting, and their vehicles have since been confiscated.

A security source said the campaign will continue in all governorates over an indeterminate period to restore sanity on roads, while protecting life and property.

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**Making money?:** When a Kuwaiti who is believed to be in his 50s filed a complaint with the Bayan Police Station accusing two Europeans of African origin of selling him 13 imitation watches for KD 50,000, police investigations revealed the man was telling lies, reports Al-Anba daily.

Police investigations showed the Kuwaiti met the two men in a hotel and they persuaded him to buy 50,000 black papers the size of KD 20 banknotes, which according to them would turn into Kuwaiti dinars 'in a few days'.

The suspects demonstrated how the whole thing works and applied some kind of ink on two black papers which after applying the ink turned into KD 20 notes. To confirm this, the man went to a money exchange and changed the money into other currency.

Now convinced that the ink works, he fell for the ploy and bought the 50,000 black papers for KD 13,000 and ink worth KD 10,000. He applied the ink on the papers and waited for a few days but when the color did not change he felt he was duped and went to the police station and filed a fake complaint.

Police records show the suspects have already left the country immediately after selling their merchandise.

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**Revelers in brawl:** A group of youths engaged in a bloody fight along the Restaurants Street in Salmiya area resulting in injuries to three people.

A security source said the fight started when one youth sprayed water on another. The issue escalated to a heated argument, which turned into exchanged of blows. Friends of the two feuding parties joined in the fight and three people were injured in the process. They were referred to a hospital by the rescue team that arrived at the scene to deal with the situation.

Meanwhile, a citizen in his 20s was arrested by Capital securitymen in Sulaybiqhat area and handed over to concerned security authorities for evading five years jail term for a



Firemen discussing plan to tackle the blaze.

KFSD photo

## Fire forces out tenants

Fire broke out in a house in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area. No injuries were reported.

According to a press statement issued by Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD), when the Control Room of KFSD received information about a

house on fire, five fire teams rushed to the location within four minutes with securitymen and paramedics.

They discovered that the fire broke out in a storeroom of area 2,300 square meters that contained wood materials and spin-

ach on the ground floor of the house and then spread to two floors above.

After evacuating all the tenants from the building, firefighters extinguished the fire before it spread further.

Court Cases

## Hashash gets 5 yrs in new case

By Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Feb 27:** The Criminal Court acquitted an employee of a petroleum company and his cousin of possessing illegal brain stimulants for personal consumption.

Police officers stationed at a petroleum facility in Mina Abdullah arrested the duo when the employee asked permission for his cousin to enter the petroleum compound with an expired gate pass. This prompted the officer to conduct precautionary search on them.



Al-Alanda

Attorney Abdullah Al-Alanda, who represented the accused in court, argued that the search of his client's car was illegal, so the result from such search is also illegal.

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**Hashash jailed:** The Criminal Court sentenced, in absentia, Twitter user Sager Al-Hashash to five years in prison for violating State Security laws.

The Public Prosecution charged Al-Hashash after the security agencies accused him of posting statements deemed offensive to the entity of HH the Amir on Twitter.

This is the second conviction of Al-Sager who had earlier been sentenced to 15 years

in jail for offending the judiciary, casting doubt on the integrity of the judicial system, and spreading false news about the internal situation of the country.

Previously, Al-Hashash, who is on the run, was also sentenced by the Court of Cassation to 10 years in jail for misusing his mobile phone, giving tips on how to make a Molotov bombs (petrol bombs) for illegal schemes, and instigating others to make and use such bombs.

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**'Pay firm KD 90,000':** The First Instance Court obliged a commercial company to pay KD 90,000 to a general trading and contracting company as the value of contracts between them.

The commercial company (plaintiff) filed a lawsuit requesting the court to summon an expert from the Ministry of Justice to evaluate the contracts and receipts and cheques collected by the general trading and contracting company (defendant) to determine the extent at which the defendant was committed to conditions of the contracts as regards the exclusive distribution of its products.

Attorney Yusuf Hussain representing the defendant implored the court to obligate the plaintiff to provide the original contracts with authorized translation in addition to the original receipts, documents and payment orders.

Expert's report proved that relations between the two parties are in line with terms of the signed contracts, contrary to claims of both parties. He reiterated the report concluded the plaintiff owes the defendant KD 90,000.

News in Brief

**Asian found dead:** The corpse of an Asian expatriate was discovered in a building under construction in Hawally area, says Al-Seyassah.

When the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information about the discovery of the corpse, securitymen, firefighters and paramedics rushed to the location. The corpse was examined to discover the victim had died after falling from top of the building.

The corpse was referred to the Forensics Department, and investigations have been launched to determine further details relevant to the incident.

A case was registered.

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**Marijuana seized:** An Asian expatriate was arrested at Kuwait International Airport for attempting to smuggle almost 3.7 kilograms of marijuana, says Al-Seyassah.

One of the Airport Customs officers received a tipoff about some strange items inside the luggage of an Asian expatriate arriving from his country. They checked the luggage of the passenger and found the drug hidden among some items.

The passenger was referred with the confiscated drug to the concerned authorities for further investigations.

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**Four hurt in fire:** Three individuals sustained injuries and burns, and another suffered from smoke inhalation due to a fire that broke out in a three-storied

house in Khaitan area, says Al-Seyassah.

When the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information about the house on fire, firefighters rushed to the location and discovered that the fire spread to an area of 500 square meters. Immediately, the rescue team evacuated almost 30 individuals from the house. Three among them had sustained burns and another suffered from smoke inhalation. Paramedics immediately referred them to the nearest hospital.

Firefighters initially faced difficulty in extinguishing the fire due to the explosion of a gas cylinder that was placed in the corridor. They eventually managed to control the situation and extinguish the fire.

Investigations have been launched to determine the cause of the fire.

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**Officer run over:** A security officer in the Northern Border Patrol Unit sustained a broken right foot when a vehicle whose driver committed a traffic violation in Mina Abdullah hit him, so he was referred to Adan Hospital, says Al-Seyassah.

According to the police report, the officer signaled for the driver to stop as he had to issue a traffic violation citation, but the driver speed off by running over the officer.

However, other officers in the area nabbed the person who is said to be with the one who violated a traffic regulation. Search is underway to arrest the latter.

Other Voices

## Mechanism of a collapsing company (2)

By Yousef Awadh Al-Azmi

TO initiate a rescue plan for a collapsing company, there should be an urgent need for precise diagnosis of factors which triggered the company's downfall in order to start thinking about necessary rescue remedies.

The rescue plan starts with sedatives like curbing expenses and preventing the company from further decline by holding its position, which is considered more difficult than applying remedial solutions that are expected to bring the company towards recovery.

The most needed step is to conduct a quick but detailed diagnosis by experts who lived through such crisis. They should be characterized with integrity and experience which will help them solve the deteriorating situation of the company.

As rescue measures are explored, some instinctive questions might cross the minds of many such as: Why not allow the company to meet its fate? Why exert resuscitation effort on a patient who is already on deathbed? Wouldn't that be a reward for its management?

Will the cost for rescuing it be more than the cost of its existence, in other words, is the bird bigger than the nest?

These questions and many more are valid, rational and possible. However, in this case, the company might severely suffer in various ways such as the demands of creditors like banks, internal dues like leasing charges and delayed salaries, let alone lawsuits which could be filed against the company due to delayed liability settlements.

The company could also suffer moral tremor when it loses confidence and integrity, whether from its clients or employees. This could reach a point where the long time clients and employees will deal with rival companies due to the miserable state of the company in question.



Al-Azmi

At this stage, the parent company decides to appoint a temporary management board for a limited period and with a clear mission, which is to rescue the collapsing company. This new temporary management is given full authority to deal with the situation in a manner that will facilitate the rescue plan of the company.

By this time, the parent company has demonstrated its seriousness in saving one of its subsidiaries. With the first board meeting, the outcome is as follows: stopping dismissal and hiring of employees at least temporarily. This will restore confidence and integrity at least on the part of employees.

Another decision is to pay delayed salaries if the company can do so, partial settlement of delayed rents and payments for suppliers, and inform major creditors about the measures which the new management will be taking to rescue the company. These are among the steps that should be taken and more will come in the next article.

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Twitter@almazmi1969

crime-related offense.

And, two Bedouins dodging a four-year imprisonment sentence for drug-related offenses were arrested by Jahra security operatives and later referred to the concerned authority for necessary action.

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**Officer caught drunk:** A police

officer with the rank of lieutenant was arrested in Hawally for consuming alcohol with two bottles of imported liquor in his possession.

When a team of police officers was on duty during the national celebrations, they signaled for the driver of a vehicle at a checkpoint but the latter ignored their instruction and then he attempted to escape.

However, the officers on duty managed to stop him and they checked his identification documents.

They found out that the driver is also a police officer with the rank of lieutenant and he happened to be intoxicated.

The officers on duty searched the suspect and his car, leading to the discovery of the liquor bottles.