

## Court Cases

## Bodybuilder acquitted

## Jail, fine for 2 citizens in anchor libel lawsuit

By Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 6: The Misdemeanor Court delivered judgments ranging from jail term and fines against two citizens charged for defaming the presenter Saleh Al-Rashid. The verdicts were based on petitions filed on behalf of the plaintiff by lawyer Maryam Al-Bahar.

In the first case, the court fined the first suspect KD 2000 for allegedly posting comments deemed offensive to Al-Rashid via a blog on Instagram account. The court referred civil aspect of the case to the concerned court of jurisdiction.



Al-Bahar

In the second case, the second suspect was sentenced to three years in prison with hard labor and KD 300 bond for suspension of execution on the accusation of threatening Al-Rashid via social media.

Lawyer Al-Bahar is determined to continue seeking huge compensations for her client due to psychological and financial damages he incurred, adding different courts have been handling other cases related to the defamation of her client's character.

**Bodybuilder acquitted:** The Criminal Court acquitted a bodybuilder who was accused of possessing methamphetamine for consumption purpose and of driving under the influence of the banned drug which led him to crash into a wall and break into the sitting room of a Kuwaiti family's house.

The Public Prosecution had pressed the above charges against the suspect following a report by the arresting officer who searched the suspect at the accident scene and discovered the above mentioned drug.

The defense counsel Lawyer Abdulmohsen Al-Qattan stressed the invalidation of the arrest and search procedures due to violation of the provisions of the law and lack of incriminating evidences against his client.

**Decision upheld:** The Court of App-

peal upheld First Instance Court's decision and acquitted a citizen of possessing illegal brain stimulants. The citizen was arrested after a traffic accident on the Seventh Ring Road, because he appeared to be intoxicated.

The Public Prosecution charged the citizen together with another person for the possession of illegal brain stimulants for consumption following the arrest, especially as they could not provide necessary documents allowing them to consume the substance.

Testimony of the arresting officer indicates his patrol team pulled up after spotting two cars involved in a minor accident, and while he was listening to the statements of the motorists, the accused appeared to be intoxicated. This prompted the officer to conduct precautionary search on him and recovered brain stimulants.

Representing the accused, Attorney Esmat Kharboul maintained the arrest and search were conducted on illegal grounds, given that the officer had no warrant for that purpose.

**Dud cheque issued:** The Court of First Instance ordered an Egyptian expatriate to pay a sum of KD 6,543 that he owed a company.

Representing the company was Lawyer Zainab Al-Ranzi who explained that the company sold a quantity of its products to their Egyptian client who paid for the products by giving a cheque. However, the cheque bounced when the company representative tried to cash it. The company eventually resorted to the court and asked it to obligate the Egyptian to pay the amount he owed it as well as the legal fees.

**Man not guilty:** The Criminal Court chaired by Counselor Saoud Al-Sane'a acquitted a person accused of possessing hashish for consumption and sale purposes.

The case file indicates an officer intercepted the accused in Salwa area while he was seated in a car parked in front of a residential building. The suspect was allegedly arrested in a disoriented state.

In his defense, lawyer Muhammad Khalil Al-Qattan argued the search and arrest of his client was unjustified. Moreover, a gun supposedly found on him during arrest was nothing more than a lighter in the form of a gun.



Dense fog covering the sky in Kuwait City. (Faisal Alnumis — KUNA)

# Many workers sacked, pay stopped for 'absenteeism'

MoH embezzlement case sent to court

By Meshal Al-Sanousi  
Al-Seyassah Staff and  
Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, March 6: A Kuwaiti man born in 1979 was apprehended by security operatives in possession of illicit substance and a sharp object. The citizen is alleged to have dispossessed several expatriates of their belongings in Farwaniya area.**

Apparently, the citizen was trekking along the road when he aroused suspicion of officers on a round of the vicinity and they decided to verify his status.

The officers recovered illicit drug and a sharp object while conducting the precautionary check and preliminary investigation revealed that he was notorious for robbing expatriates in the area. He was referred with the seized items to the concerned authority.

Meanwhile, the officers arrested another citizen in Kheitan area for refusing to pay KD 6,000 debt. Necessary legal measures have since been taken against him.

**Workers sacked:** Several employees at the Ministry of Social Affairs were dismissed and payment of their salaries was suspended due to long period of absence without justification – legal or medical, reports Al-Rai daily quoting a knowledgeable source.

The source disclosed that some of these employees took sick leaves or unpaid holidays, while others applied for delegation to other institutions where they started working without obtaining approval.

The source added the ministry has taken legal action against these employees.

**MoH case referred:** Attorney-General Dirar Al-Assousi referred the case of embezzlement of public funds, forgery and nepotism in the Ministry of Health to the Criminal Court, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Involved in the case are a senior official, his son and a former employee in the minister's office, in addition to the CEO of a government institution.

A security source pointed out this case is the first to be referred by the Anti-Corruption Authority to the Office of the Attorney General after the investigators found the state-owned company paid bonuses to the accused.

The source added the Public Prosecutor's Office is currently investigating 12 more cases of embezzlement of public funds and other financial irregularities in the Ministry of Health.

**Man walking naked:** The Farwaniya police have arrested a Kuwaiti who is believed to be in his 30s and handed him over to the Psychological Medicine Hospital reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, the man was found walking naked. According to a security source, several police patrols rushed to the area after the Operations Room of the Interior Ministry was flooded with calls from passersby.

The Kuwait was given a piece of cloth to cover his body and when the family was contacted, police discovered he is suffering from mental disorder and received treatment from the Psychiatric Hospital.



A huge quantity of multiple drugs were seized in Failaka Island

Mol photo

## Kuwaiti held with drugs on Failaka Island

A Kuwaiti citizen was arrested in Failaka Island in possession of drugs.

According to the General Department of Public Relations

and Security Media, Coast Guard officers found 58 pieces of hashish, 25 sachets of 50,000 pills suspected to be narcotic pills and one sachet of a drug

suspected to be opium with suspect in Failaka Island.

He was referred with the confiscated drugs to the concerned authorities for further investigations.

## Other Voices

# Mechanism of collapsing company (3)

By Yousef Awadh Al-Azmi

"Returning what has been entrusted to you is the key for blessings." Commander of Believers Ali bin Abi Taleb — may Almighty Allah be pleased with him.

The initial decisions taken by the Administrative Board were merely sedative measures. The Board of Directors was fully aware that these measures had temporary effect only and there was dire need for continuous positive efforts in rescuing the company from collapse.

Therefore, the board opened two very important files: the first was about subsidiary and sister companies, and the second was about bank debts.

The actual rescue mission kicked off by looking into subsidiary and sister companies, listing down pros and cons of such commercial offshoots. This led to looking into profits and losses recorded in the official budget in the past three fiscal years before the crisis. This operation was aimed at determining the veracity of recorded data, followed by analysis and then setting up desired solutions.

**Drug peddler held:** Personnel from the Jahra Criminal Investigations Department have arrested an unidentified Egyptian for trafficking in drugs and narcotic pills, reports Al-Anba daily.

During interrogation police discovered the suspect was well-known among drug abusers.

He was also reportedly selling each Tramadol pill for KD 4.

Through a quick glance at the record, it turned out the figures did not add up. After perusing the entire data in the budget, it became clear that there were administrative and financial lapses. The solution would lead to accusations which would mire the integrity and credibility of those who contributed in filing such data.

This has prompted the Board of Directors to send those under suspicion of breach of trust to the office of the CEO of the group of companies with the recommendation to conduct quick legal investigation which could result to indictment of some employees.

Indeed, the involved officials were suspended pending investigation and they were immediately replaced as per the recommendation of the Executive Director who is also a board member of the company in question.

The internal audit of the involved

companies revealed that most of the information on paper contradicted reality, while verbal transactions between officials dominated the records — a clear indication of corruption.

Imagine that in the records, one of the real estate companies incurred losses for three years and it did not distribute profits throughout this period. At the same time, records show that their buildings were continuously occupied.

The excuse given by investigated officials was that the financial returns generated by the real estate properties of this company were deposited in bad investments. The investigation also revealed that part of these returns was registered under individual names, not companies.

Interestingly, the funds registered under individual names generated reasonable profits, but those under company names incurred unreasonable losses.

This is a clear manifestation of the wickedness which infested some officials in the collapsing company. More will come in the next article.

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## Other Voices

# 'Rush for personal interest'

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

MP Osama Al-Shaheen, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, said the 'hospitality' file of the Ministry of Interior for fiscal 2014-2015 and 2015/2016 has not been closed and will be of utmost importance since the expenses of this department has reached record levels of waste, an increase of 736 percent or calculated as 29 million dinars. The file is tainted with favoritism.

Al-Shaheen said he is surprised this is happening at the Ministry of Interior, when the government calls for rationalism, imposing taxes and refusing to reduce the retirement age.

He also pointed out in two years the department has thrown parties and organized banquets for more than 313,000 people, which roughly works out to a banquet for 429 people each day.

Al-Shaheen also accused a colleague in the National Assembly who was shouting at the top of his voice to sweep the issue under the carpet because he is involved in the case since there are documents to prove that point that anyone who works in the hotel industry has a percentage in a Kuwaiti hotel, considering it a blatant conflict of interest and abuse of authority and parliamentary advantage.

MP Safa'a Al-Hashem through her lawyer filed a complaint in 2014 with the Attorney-General against the Minister of Interior. In the complaint she stated she has proof that 62,000 Kuwaitis have acquired citizenship through fraud. The complaint also included civil information and the

court verdicts against a number of officials in the Ministry who are linked to the fraud.

Meanwhile, dozens of similar statements containing threats were made by MPs but nothing happened. The threats have evaporated in thin air once the complainants got personal benefits.

Most intimidations and threats fizzle out once the concerned people get what they want. For four years, we have been waiting for the outcome of the complaint which was submitted by Safa'a Al-Hashem concerning the issue of 62,000 forged citizenships. We have yet to know whatever happened to this complaint and why the issue was hushed up.

On the other hand, a minister, whom I hold in high esteem, told me he is often forced to bring a smile on his face, perhaps to prevent some MPs from leaving the Abdullah Al-Salem Hall with the excuse of calling someone or smoking because he hates the term 'lack of quorum' since it delays the adoption of important and urgent laws, which does not mean anything to some MPs compared to their interest in completing the transactions of voters.

In response to what I wrote about the need for the Civil Service Commission to intervene on the issue of performance evaluation reports in ministries and government institutions, one official told me after due consideration the concerned people found it futile because of the continued interference of some MPs who intervene on behalf of their voters and as a result are given excellent grades even if their performance was below par and even if their attendance was questionable.

I do not know how the state can advance and democracy progress in the midst of all this. We pray to Almighty God to help Kuwait.

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## News in Brief

**Live ammo drill:** Kuwait Army has declared its intention to carry out a live ammunition drill in Al-Adayr area on March 6-8, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the army's Public Relations and Morale Department, the location of the drill will be approximately 46 kms south of Al-Salmi Road, and 11 km towards the west in an area called Al-Dabdaba, and 46 kms north and east of Al-Abraq towards Al-Adayr a fields at a distance of 11 kms.

The shooting range will be of an approximate height of 12,000 meters above the land.

**'Punish culprits':** MP Saleh Ashour

has called on the Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah to punish those who have made a fake video clip of a mother setting fire to her bedouin son in Jahra, reports Al-Shahed daily.

He added these people must be referred to the Public Prosecution.

**'Only for 18-yr-olds':** The Mandatory National Service Department of the Ministry of Defense has requested the Ministry of the Interior to grant driver licenses for citizens who have reached the age of 18 only if they have a letter from the Department, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting a security source.