



LONDON: In this video grab taken from footage broadcast by the UK Parliamentary Recording Unit (PRU) shows British Prime Minister David Cameron giving a statement in Parliament in London yesterday. — AFP

NO NEED TO RUSH JUDICIARY INDEPENDENCE LAW: MP

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Abdullah Al-Maayouf said yesterday that there was no need to rush the judiciary independence law and pass next week before sorting out differences over the draft law.

He said the bill concerns the judiciary as a whole and we should not rush approving it before the summer recess in order to avoid making legal or constitutional errors.

The lawmaker said that there are differences between the government and the supreme judicial council over a number of articles, adding that we want to ensure that

the minister will have no authority over the judiciary or in any way to interfere in its affairs. The government, the National Assembly and the judicial council have been holding meetings in a bid to complete the draft law that would give the judiciary more independence and freedom to manage their administrative and financial affairs.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouk Al-Ghanem and Justice Minister Yacoub Al-Sane attended a meeting with other MPs and judges in a bid to finish the draft law and make it ready for the July 3 meeting, expected to be the final meeting of the assembly in this term. The assembly will

start the next term in October.

MP Yousef Al-Zalzal said yesterday that he believes the amendments to the election law are in line with the constitution and accordingly is not expected to be rejected and returned to the National Assembly by the government.

He said that the Prime Minister and all ministers present in the session last week voted for the amendments which bar those convicted in a final ruling of insulting the Almighty Allah, the prophets and HH the Amir from running in parliamentary elections. The lawmaker also said that all constitutional experts in the National Assembly

and the constitutional advisors of the legal and legislative committee said the amendments were constitutional. The law means that a large number of opposition figures, including prominent opposition leader and former MP Mussallam Al-Barrak, who have been convicted of insulting HH the Amir will not be able to run for office.

Barrak is serving his second year of a two-year term passed against him for publicly insulting HH the Amir and undermining his authority.

A large number of liberal, Islamist and national groups, mainly from the opposition, strongly condemned the amendments,

saying it is an attempt to stifle democracy and freedom in the country. Some groups have appealed to HH the Amir to reject the law. MP Kamel Al-Awadhi yesterday criticized Education and Higher Education Minister Bader Al-Issa for the low grades Kuwait University has obtained in a new educational evaluation. The lawmaker also asked the minister about the latest developments in the forged degrees case and how many people have been referred to the public prosecution in this connection. He also asked if any teachers at Kuwait University were charged of holding fake degrees in the past.

LOCAL EXCHANGES 'HOARD' POUND...

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"Maybe by tomorrow, when the market stabilizes, we will resume trading in sterling again," he told Kuwait Times. "The pound has dropped considerably and we cannot blame dealers for holding their money, because everyone knows they bought the currency at a very high price. We really hope by tomorrow that everything will be okay," he added.

But another exchange company in Kuwait City was dealing in the pound yesterday. "We are buying and selling British currency. How much you need, we have it. We are aware of the fact that some companies have halted trading in the pound. But we are in the money exchange business, and whatever happens, we won't stop. Ironically, no one is asking for the pound right now," said Mustafa, the exchange company manager. "A week ago, 1,000 British pounds traded at KD 460. Now it is KD 410," he added.

AMIR UNDERLINES NEED TO SAFEGUARD...

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preoccupied with libel suits. "Such a manner is denounced for it is sinful and rejected by our heavenly religion, which stipulates sincerity and safeguarding peoples' honor." Addressing the various national media networks and the press, HH the Amir called for checking authenticity of reports picked up from online means before publishing, "to avert boosting this strange phenomenon."

Youth empowerment

His Highness the Amir renewed the call for helping the youth in sharpening their skills and attaining highest levels of education, "so they may become more mature and conscious, immunized against drifting thoughts and deviating behaviors." In this respect, he expressed satisfaction over launching the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise. "We hope that

the paper work concerning it be facilitated," he said.

He recalled bombing of Imam Al-Sadiq Mosque, during Ramadan last year, which left scores of people martyred and wounded. "Culprits (of the blast) intended with their satanic act to drive a wedge among Kuwaitis, who reacted by showing sympathy to each other and adhering to their national unity."

His Highness the Amir prayed for heavenly guidance so that the Kuwaiti people would remain committed to sincerely serving Kuwait, so the homeland may be protected and remain safe and secure. He also prayed to His Almighty so "the Muslims may be united, their ranks closed, their blood spared and their countries safeguarded." HH the Amir concluded by recalling the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the late Father Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. He also remembered the martyrs who sacrificed their souls for the sake of the dear homeland. — KUNA

RAMADAN AND CHANGE

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innate needs of food, drink and sex. Being capable of subduing such formidable forces that enslave the human soul will help Muslims grow confident in the path of changing themselves in the first place and their community in the second place.

The changes that fasting bring about extend to touch Muslims' inner life; emotions, passions, priorities and interests. It is a real comprehensive change that encompasses both what is inward and outward simultaneously. The biggest part of that change takes place within the soul when Muslims gain the power to free themselves from the chains of sin and bad habits that imprison them for most of the year. Muslims realize at the end of the month, that once they have a resolute firm will, they can change much. Several other factors facilitate the process of change. First, the fact that a vast majority of the community is fasting encourages the individual to change because a person is more willing to change when he finds a similar mode of change in his surroundings. There is a general communal attitude of change for the better that encompasses the whole Islamic society.

We have now to explore some real examples of change that is associated with Ramadan. Ibn Abbas reported: The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, was the most generous of the people and he was even more generous during the month of Ramadan when Gabriel visited him. Gabriel, upon him be peace, would meet with him every night of Ramadan until the end of the month and the Prophet would recite the holy Quran to Gabriel. When Gabriel met him, he would be more generous than a swift wind bringing rain. Ramadan brings us more close to the suffering of the poor and the needy as fasting helps us feel their pains and we are

more willing to offer help.

Ramadan is a real opportunity for those who are willing to purify the soul from forbidden desires and customs and attain a spiritual achievement. People who fail to avail themselves of this chance are most likely to fail to change at any other point.

Ka'ab Bin Agza said: the prophet -peace and prayers upon him -said: "bring the stand, so we did. When he ascended a step, he said: Amen and did the same when he ascended the second and the third steps. When he came down we said: O messenger of God, we have heard of you today something we have never heard of before? He said: Gabriel has shown up to me and said: who can ever witness Ramadan and do not attain forgiveness is not forgiven, I said: Amen. When I went up the second step, he said who can hear your name being mentioned and do not pray upon you is not forgiven, I said: Amen. When I went up the third step, he said: who can a senior parent or both of them and they do not cause him to go to heaven, is not forgiven, I said: Amen." [Approved by Al-Albany].

So, if you are unable to get rid of your worst habits in Ramadan, you will not probably be able to change afterwards. Allah has ordained fasting on His servants so that they may change their bad personal characteristics, but some have instead changed only the time of their meals. Ramadan is the best time to start a change, both inward and outward.

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