

Local

Oil sector's expatriate technical staff irreplaceable: Sources

618,365 people from suspended nationalities have valid visas

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Lawmakers' threats to grill Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel if he fails to replace expatriate employees in the oil sector with national manpower cannot be implemented, according to official sources.

Parliamentary demands call for appointing Kuwaitis to replace expats in technical jobs, which cannot be implemented completely, because job vacancy advertisements are made according to needs, while contraction through private companies contributed to making the job easier, the sources said.

Furthermore, the sources argued that MPs are interfering in 'purely technical matters' and want to impose employment at the expense of competency and need. They said oil companies make annual ads to employ Kuwaitis, and choices are made according to test results.

"There is no way to let go of expats if there were no experienced Kuwaitis to replace them," the sources said.



Imported fish must be marked

Imported fish

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued a circular stating that companies that import fish to Kuwait should be informed to clearly mark imported 'Zubaidi', 'Balool', 'Nagroor',

'Subaiti' and 'Sheem' fish before putting it on sale. Imported fish should have part of their tails cut as a distinguished mark starting Jan, 20, 2019, the circular explained.

Mubarak Hospital

Deputy Rector of Kuwait University for Medical Sciences Dr Adel Al-Hunayan said it is necessary to designate an educational hospital for the university due to its importance in training and qualifying students, as well as conducting research. He said a committee between the university and health ministry plans to start working again on moving Mubarak Hospital back under the university.

Hunayan said the importance of an educational hospital that belongs to Kuwait University's medical sciences center lies in the necessity of students receiving training under the supervision of academics, adding that most medical students are receiving training in public

hospitals where health ministry doctors work, which causes difference in training agendas, while academic doctors will be absent from supervising them.

Suspended nationalities

Statistics issued by the Residency Affairs General Directorate showed that the number of people from suspended nationalities, ie Syria, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh is 618,365 and have valid residency permits. There are 152,759 Syrians, 278,865 Bangladeshis, 107,084 Pakistanis, 38,034 Iranians, 14,999 Iraqis, 12,972 Yemenis and 13,652 Afghanistans in Kuwait, Al-Anbaa daily reported yesterday. Statistics showed the number of workers from those nationalities in the public sector is 19,920 while 331,144 are in the private sector. The number of domestic helpers from these nationalities is 95,215 and those on family residence are 153,903.

Farwaniya residency affairs building closed pending relocation

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Operations at the residency affairs building in Farwaniya governorate has stopped pending its relocation to a new site in Riggae next to the Public Authority for Manpower's building, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department announced yesterday. People are requested to process their transactions at other nearby residency affairs building, it said. An announcement will be made later for the new building's opening date, it added.

Worker freed

Firemen rescued a worker who fell in an air conditioning duct in a Rumaithiya house. Fire operations received a call about an Arab worker who got trapped inside a duct he fell in. A team from Bidaa fire station responded, led by Lt Col Abdullah Al-Khabbaz. A hole



KUWAIT: Firefighters work on freeing a worker who fell in an air conditioning duct in a Rumaithiya house.

was made in the concrete wall, and the man was freed unharmed.

Exercise

Five fire teams carried out the 'Jahra Star' exercise which deal with chemical and radiation leakage at the new Jahra hospital, in the presence of Deputy Director General for Fighting Sector Maj Gen Jamal Al-Bulaihees. The exercise aims at preparing for dealing with hospital accidents to boost the role of employees during emergencies.

their protection from her 'abusive husband,' Al-Rai reported yesterday. Investigations are underway.

Clinic staff assaulted

A citizen beat and insulted a Syrian woman who works for a private clinic. The woman then lodged a complaint against him. The citizen is being sought by police for questioning. The woman said that while at work, a man wanted to enter to the doctor while another patient was inside. When she stopped him, the man became angry and beat her, only stopping when others intervened.

Thieves caught

Ahmadi police arrested two citizens for attempting to steal a motorcycle from its owner by force. The suspects reportedly made the robbery attempt while they were in abnormal condition and had psychoactive drugs on them. They were sent to Drugs Control General Department following their arrest. A police source said that patrolmen noticed the two beating a man, and when they approached them, they escaped before being caught after a chase. The victim said the two were trying to steal his bike and beat him when he resisted. — Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

Man accuses estranged wife of uploading 'intimate moments' online

KUWAIT: A citizen accused his runaway Asian wife of spreading her privacies online and selling her videos to pornography websites. He gave police evidence to support his claims. The citizen said that few months after marrying his Asian wife, he discovered that she uploaded videos of their 'intimate moments' online. Furthermore, he said that he found out that his wife sold the video clips which she recorded without his knowledge to Asian men, who uploaded them online. When he confronted her, the woman denied her actions and screamed hysterically, then went to her country's embassy to seek

Kuwait Zoo denies health scare rumors

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Kuwait Zoo commented on 'inaccurate' social media reports which claimed that an infection has spread amongst animals there. Posts had recently went viral on social media claiming that several animals were diagnosed with Brucellosis infection, and urged the public to avoid going to the zoo, saying that the 'dangerous virus' can be transmitted to humans.

In the aftermath of the rumors' spread, the zoo's administration posted a clarification on their Instagram account, saying that Brucellosis (Brucella disease) is a bacterial disease, not viral, and only affects certain animals such as cows, sheep, goats, and camels.

This disease often spreads to humans via direct contact with infected animals or contaminated animal products, it explained. The disease also spreads through consuming unpasteurized milk, cheese, and other dairy products.

Those conditions are not found at Kuwait Zoo, the administration explained, and reassured visitors that they had no reason to worry, especially that it took all necessary health precautions to deal with the disease in the same way as they did with any other disease that affected animals in the past.

A Kuwait Zoo employee told Kuwait Times yesterday that only three or four animals suffered from this disease, adding that the animals were already quarantined. "Our veterinary took samples from those animals which are now receiving treatment," he told Kuwait Times. "We followed the same procedures as we usually do with any other disease."

"There are about 120 employees working at the zoo including the administration, veterinary, laborers, and other staff. If there was a real danger on humans, then we would not be coming to work, and the zoo would have been shut down," the employee further said. "Simply put, there is no reason for fear."