

Local

State departments told to address unpaid wages problem, visa trade

Around 215,000 expats left labor market in 2020

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Manpower told state departments concerned with unpaid salaries due to workers on government contracts that the issue needs a quick solution, along with fighting residency trade, Al-Qabas Arabic daily reported yesterday. Informed sources said the authority wrote to the Central Agency for Public Tenders to liquidate the financial guarantees of violating companies in order to pay workers their delayed salaries from these guarantees.

The sources pointed to the continuation of visa trade and violations of the labor law, adding grave violations were discovered lately. They said several guards must leave the country because they are in violation of residency laws for not renewing their work

permits due to the closure of their companies' files, while others were registered on bogus companies.

Meanwhile, as efforts are being made to balance the population structure, efforts to provide more jobs to Kuwaitis continue, along with the replacement policy in the government sector. A government report revealed 12,000 Kuwaitis were employed in the private sector in 2020.

The private sector suffered a large drop in the number of workers in 2020 due to the coronavirus crisis and suspension of new work visas for expats. The drop in worker numbers includes those who left the country permanently or transferred to family residency, as around 215,000 expats from three sectors left the marketplace.



Crimes

Man lost three fingers in fight with butcher

KUWAIT: A Sudanese man lost three fingers during a fight with an Egyptian in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. A security source said police received a call about the fight, so they rushed to the scene along with paramedics, but found the Sudanese had already gone to the hospital. Police went to the hospital and found the man was in the operation theater to reattach his fingers. The Egyptian, a butcher, was arrested, and faces legal action.

Body found

KUWAIT: Ahmadi detectives are investigating the death of an Egyptian man whose body was found in a Farwaniya apartment. Police and paramedics went to the flat and inspected the scene. Forensic personnel then removed the body of the 23-year-old. Detectives are investigating the case as a suspected felony after finding drug paraphernalia in the flat.

Swindling accusations

A Kuwaiti woman accused a contractor of swindling, after he agreed to do external repairs of her house. She gave him money to buy the necessary material, but he disappeared and switched off his phone. The woman told Farwaniya police station that the contractor did not return, nor did he call back. Police are looking for the contractor for questioning.

Car break in

A Kuwaiti man told Mubarak Al-Kabeer police that his vehicle's window was smashed and his personal belongings were taken. He said he suspects someone he knows with whom he has differences of committing the act. Detectives are investigating. — Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

Burgan Bank concludes participation in 'KFAS Innovation Challenge'

KUWAIT: As part of its ongoing efforts to empower its employees and promote an innovative culture across its workplace, Burgan Bank announced that it has concluded its participation in the 'KFAS Innovation Challenge 2020', organized by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) in collaboration with the Executive Education Center at Wharton School - University of Pennsylvania.

The Burgan Bank team, who were carefully nominated by the Learning and Development Department of the Human Resources Group, consisted of five members from "Ro2ya" training program. The team members were Omar Al-Halabi, Ahmed Al-Rbean, Shurrooq Al-Houly, Salem Al-Qenaai, and Mohammed Bualiyani. The team presented the idea of developing an "Innovation Lab" to serve as a hub for all staff to propose new ideas capable of creating an impact and adding value to the bank. The project was presented through a Digital Platform to the Bank's top senior executives in addition to representatives from KFAS top management. Following the presenta-

tion and discussion, the Innovation Challenge project was well received, approved by management, and will be implemented in the very near future.

Commenting on this program, Ghada El-Kadi, Senior Manager - Learning and Development at Burgan Bank, said: "I am delighted and proud of the Bank's team participation in the "Innovation Challenge 2020." At Burgan Bank, we always strive to develop our human capital by providing the best training programs to enhance their skills, foster a culture of innovation and ideation in our workplace, and turn their innovative ideas into useful services. This program combined educational materials with practical application, leading to state-of-the-art technology solutions, which reflect the Bank's focus and strategy to adopt the latest technologies. Burgan Bank will continue to invest in our people to build future leaders."

Bashar Al-Qattan, Manager-Learning and Development, said: "The level of resilience and commitment of our team in the latest Innovation Challenge program was exceptional, given the recent global health situation.



KUWAIT: Burgan Bank Team Omar Al-Halabi, Ahmed Al-Rbean, Shurrooq Al-Houly, Salem Al-Qenaai, and Mohammed Bualiyani.

The team overcame all obstacles faced and came up with a remarkable innovative solution that will add great value to Burgan Bank. As HR-L&D, we will provide them with our fullest support to implement their innovative solution and apply all skills learned from the program".

KFAS Innovation Challenge, first launched in 2015, is an annual executive training program aimed at developing innovation capabilities in the private sector by exposing teams of professionals to the combined resources of world-class academic institutions, in order to develop their business capabilities. Topics and activities tackled

this year included business model innovation, innovative delivery models, in addition to team coaching by trained Wharton coaches and faculty. Furthermore, the program offered participants the chance to attend remote learning workshops organized by University of California Los Angeles' (UCLA) experts. Aimed at elevating employee performance, Burgan Bank's participation comes as part of its ongoing efforts to provide its employees with world-class training and development programs to help improve their knowledge and skills, and maintain the bank's position as a regional financial powerhouse.

NCCAL, Association sign cooperation agreement

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and Kuwait Writers Association signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation to organize cultural events and activities. In a press statement yesterday, NCCAL's Secretary General Kamel Al-Abduljaleel said he was pleased with signing the memorandum which will boost cooperation with the writers association. The memorandum involves protecting writers' rights and cultural cooperation, he added. Meanwhile, The association's Secretary General Dr Khaled Ramadan said the two sides have been cooperating for years and taking part in joint events. Meanwhile, NCCAL's spokesperson and assistant secretary general for culture affairs Dr Essa Al-Ansari said that the two sides will form a committee



KUWAIT: NCCAL's Secretary General Kamel Al-Abduljaleel (left) and Kuwait Writers Association's Secretary General Dr Khaled Ramadan sign the agreement. — KUNA

to execute the memorandum's articles and goals. The three-year memorandum includes launching training courses and cultural projects, as well as organizing cultural workshops. — AFP

Kuwait curfew: What you need to know

KUWAIT: Kuwait imposed a curfew from 7:00 pm to 5:00 am until the end of Ramadan to help curb an increase in COVID-19 cases. During the curfew hours, pharmacies, medical stores, co-operative societies and supermarkets are allowed to continue operation only through delivery services, while restaurants and cafes are allowed to deliver food from 7:00 pm to 3:00 am every day. Also during the curfew, people are allowed to go to prayers at mosques only by walking, and the government allowed people to practice walking and jogging from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The government meanwhile allowed salons and health clubs to reopen during the day but kept restaurants and cafes closed except for drive-through and delivery services. Meanwhile, taxis are allowed to carry only a maximum of two passengers.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched a booking service, allowing people to shop from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am during the curfew hours. The service is valid for all co-ops and supermarkets around Kuwait. To book an appointment, a shopper should visit www.moci.shop, enter the required information (civil ID number and serial number, contact number and email address), the reason for appointment (food supply center) and the time and date of the appointment. The shopper would then receive a barcode to show once

they reach the shopping center.

Where to obtain a curfew pass?

Citizens and residents that need a pass during the curfew hours to leave their homes can apply for a pass at <https://www.paci.gov.kw/>. The pass is available for those in need of emergency medical treatment, doctor's visits, blood donation, COVID-19 swabs and COVID-19 vaccinations.

Co-op delivery during curfew hours

During curfew hours, co-ops, grocery stores and other markets will be allowed to offer delivery services. Most co-ops will accept orders via delivery. Here is an incomplete list of co-op WhatsApp numbers. Each co-op will be responsible for deciding if and when they provide delivery services and not all may be providing.

Omariya Co-op
WhatsApp 6041-0067

Farwaniya Co-op
WhatsApp 6767-8211

Qairawan Co-op
WhatsApp 9000-3749

Jahra Co-op
WhatsApp 5160-2458

Abdulla Al-Mubarak Co-op
WhatsApp 6066-6338

Nuzha Co-op
WhatsApp 9784-5531

Khaitan Co-op
WhatsApp 6777-9745

Ardhiya Co-op
WhatsApp 6902-0779

Rabiya Co-op
WhatsApp 2438-8316

Wafra Farm Co-op
Tel: 9883-5245 / 5170-0085

Salmiya Co-op
Tel: 22253225

Jabriya Co-op
Tel: 1805-353
WhatsApp 6566-6084

Rawdha & Hawally
WhatsApp 9662-2883

Shaab Co-op
WhatsApp 9090-4455

Wafra Co-op
WhatsApp 5055-0539

Keifan Co-op
WhatsApp 5178-1719

Rehab Co-op
WhatsApp 9222-2358

Mishref Co-op
WhatsApp 5055-9900

Faiha Co-op
Tel: 1861-000
WhatsApp 9098-6000

Rumaihiya Co-op
WhatsApp 6066-0045

Bayan Co-op
WhatsApp 9004-2500

Fahaheel Co-op
WhatsApp 5178-9951

Adan & Qusour Co-op
Tel: 5034-3111 / 6593-3975

Salam Co-op
WhatsApp 9788-7832

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