

LOCAL

Dr Mahdi affirms panel studying researches referred by govt bodies

PAHW earmarks 16 construction projects for the fiscal

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: Secretary General of Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr Khalid Mahdi confirmed the published reports concerning the formation of a committee for harmonizing the educational outcomes with the labor market demands, reports Al-Rai daily.

He explained that the committee was formed based on a decision taken by Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh.

A suggestion was presented to make Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Public Authority for Manpower, and Civil Service Commission (CSC) under the leadership of one single minister.

The committee is headed by the Secretariat General of Planning and its

members include representatives of Kuwait University, Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), private universities, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, CSC, Public Authority for Manpower, and Secretariat General for Statistics.

Dr Mahdi affirmed that the committee is studying the researches and recommendations referred to the committee by different government bodies.

He indicated that there are many researches and studies and they include many suggestions such as cancellation of some specializations in Kuwait University and Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

Dr Mahdi said some studies recommended identifying the jobs that will be in demand after the completion of some major projects and identifying the required numbers in order to prepare specialists of those jobs in time.

Meanwhile, Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has earmarked 16 construction projects for the current fiscal year with a total disbursement of KD 390.838 million of the approved total amount reaching KD 1.664 billion, reports Al-Nahar daily.

According to a source from PAHW, the projects include public utilities in the cities of Saad Al-Abdullahallah and Qairawan as well as the continuation of provision of consultations in Jaber Al-Ahmad City in addition to the works on public buildings, road lighting and asphalt surface layer amounting to KD 48 million.

Regarding Sabah Al-Ahmad City, the authority is following up the public utilities works along with government houses and vertical housing works, road lighting and asphalt surface layer for costs reaching KD 15.870 million. This is followed by Abu Halifa projects which include extension of cables, establishment of transformers and stations as well as similar works in Wafra area.

As for West Abdullah Al-Mubarak area, PAHW has set KD 12.998 million for public utilities works and KD 20.879 million for electrical installations, transformers and terminals. It has completed the north-west Sulaibikhat project in light of the continued consultancy work for South Sabah Al-Ahmad project.

Regarding Mutla City, the execution sector is following up the works of the plots for which KD 102.503 million has been allocated. This is besides the extension of cables and main roads for costs estimated at KD 172 million, in addition to KD 3 million for consulting, planning and designing.



KUNA photo
Director General of the General Authority of Sport Dr Mahmoud Fleith during the inspection tour carried out by the Hunting and Equestrian Club.

Deals will target vital sectors

HH Amir's China trip to target bilateral cooperation and trade

BEIJING, July 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's second upcoming visit to China holds a special significance in increasing its bilateral cooperation with Kuwait, particularly in regards to joint trade and investments.

With one eye on the future, the leader of the first Arab nation to have launched diplomatic relations with China back in 1971, will also look to open new areas for cooperation between the two.

First on the agenda of his trip to Beijing, which begins on Saturday, will be bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The talks will showcase the signature of a number of agreements, according to China's Ambassador Wang Di.

These deals will target vital sectors such as trade, energy and finance along with China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, more commonly referred to as the modern-day Silk Road — which Kuwait intends to be a part of amid its own hopes to one day become a global financial hub.

His Highness the Amir also plans to attend the four-day China-Arab Cooperation Forum (CACF) — a dialogue between Beijing and Arab League member countries created in 2004.

During his last visit in mid-2009, the Amir signed an agreement for the construction of an oil refinery in China and other bilateral agreements in education, energy, infrastructure, sports and environment protection.

Kuwait 3rd most favoured destination

Number of visas granted to Indians to work in Gulf states declines: Tol

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: The Times of India (ToI) newspaper reported a decline of about half in the number of visas granted to Indians heading to work in the Gulf States, reaching 3.7 million in 2017, compared with 7.6 million in 2015.

According to a report published in the newspaper, the number of new Indian workers in Kuwait last year was 56,380, compared with 72,384 in 2016 and 66,543 in 2015, which represents a decline of about 15 percent between 2015 and 2017.

According to the data, Kuwait is the third most favored destination of the Gulf, after the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Although the UAE is the most preferred destination for Indian workers, the number of new Indian workers there has also declined, reaching 1.5 million workers in 2017, compared with 1.6 million in 2016 and 2.2 million in 2015, 33 percent over the years cited.

Saudi Arabia absorbed about 78,000 Indians in 2017, compared with 1.6 million in 2016 and 3 million in 2015, a decline of 74 percent.

In Oman, the number of new Indian nationals in 2017 stood at 53,332, compared to 63,236 in 2016 and 85,028 in 2015.

For the State of Qatar, data showed that it attracted 24,759 new Indian workers in 2017, compared with 30,619

in 2016 and 59,340 in 2015, a decline of about 58 percent.

The number of new Indian workers in the Kingdom of Bahrain was about 11,516 in 2017, compared to 11,964 in 2016 and 15,619 in 2015, a decline of 26 percent.

The report pointed out that the reason for the influx of larger numbers of Indian workers to the United Arab Emirates is the result of the relaxation of the immigration policies of professionals, while countries such as Oman have tightened the screws on migration by extending the recruitment freeze for another six months until the end of December, while Saudi Arabia lost its luster to Indian labor after the imposition of a family tax, which would have an impact on migrant workers paying a tax of SR 100 per month per dependent, which would double every year.

According to the report, while Indian blue-collar workers, such as workers, carpenters, electricians, plumbers and drivers, dominate the work stage in the Gulf states, industry observers say there is a gradual shift taking place now, with more white-collar workers from India interested at work in the Gulf States.

According to the World Bank's latest report, India continues to be the world leader in terms of receiving remittances from abroad, bringing total remittances to \$69 billion in 2017, of which about 56 percent comes from Gulf countries.



KUNA photo
Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Support and Planning Affairs at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Commerce and Industry Dr Abdullah Al-Owaisi and a number of participants in an open meeting organized by the Kuwait Economic Society on the decision to organize commercial vehicles.



Female students of Cambodian Universities.

Rahma Int'l opens dormitory for female students

Rahma International affiliated to Kuwait's Social Reform Society has opened a dormitory for female students of Cambodian universities.

The dormitory will benefit more than 60 students who cannot afford educational expenses. It is furnished with educational services including bedrooms, lecture rooms, computer rooms, a

library, a kitchen, a multi-purpose hall and administration and secretariat offices.

Head of the Kyrgyz, Chinese and the Cambodian Office of Rahma International Dr Ali Al-Rashid explained that the dormitory building is made up of three storeys, and built on an area of about 780 square meters.

It is earmarked to serve female

students of scientific specialties such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Engineering, Maternity, Computer Science, Political Science and languages.

He affirmed the students' need for such dwelling which provides them with a safe environment suitable to protect them and will give them the zeal to seek knowledge.

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Dossier for remedying inflation

'Govt must give evidence of its previous spendings'

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: Before the end of the second session of the National Assembly, the Ministry of Finance submitted a proposal to allocate additional budget for ministries and other government departments for fiscal 2017/2018 to liquidate current assets (custody account) by withdrawing KD923 million from the sovereign fund, reports Al-Rai daily.

Chairman of the parliamentary Budgets and Final Accounts Committee MP Adnan Abdul-Samad said the endorsement of the budget and final account does not necessarily give the government a blank cheque, or that the committee will approve the proposal.

The MP indicated that for the committee to approve, the government has to provide evidence of its previous spending in the custody account. Consequently, Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf referred to the Assembly a dossier containing the mechanism for remedying inflation in the current assets account.

Proposal

He told the daily that the committee will meet during the parliamentary summer holiday to prepare its report concerning the government's proposal on the additional budget, warning that the discussion will be long.

"The committee will not approve the proposal unless the government presents evidence that its expenses were done in a proper manner, without violations," he noted.

"Some governmental bodies have no legal backing for spending and this is the reason why the committee reconsidered approving this proposal", he revealed.

The MP explained that the committee would have rejected the government's budget and final accounts in order to send a clear message to the government about dissatisfaction on the weak performance of concerned agencies in the departments of State finance.

However, representatives of the Ministry of Finance insisted on the importance of approving this budget and final accounts in order to avoid negative impact on the credit rating of the country.

He indicated that these justifications are not true since there is no relation between credit rating of the country and whether the final accounts are approved or not.