

# 'Kuwaitis engaged in over 25 economic activities in private sector are only 4pc'

Probe continues in drug smuggling case

**KUWAIT CITY, Dec 14: Government statistics revealed that Kuwaitis working in more than 25 economic activities in private sector constitute only 4 percent compared to 96 percent of expatriates out of the total 1,734,629 workers.**

The recently released statistics indicate only 52 Kuwaitis venture in the petrochemicals sector, 55 in newspapers, 115 in agriculture

and fisheries, 140 in electricity and gas industry, 145 in tourism and travel, 154 in forex business and 213 in the insurance sector. It explained the total number of Kuwaitis working in this sector is 71,013, of which 70,960 are into 25 economic activities, while 53 of them are "not stated". The number of expatriates working in these activities reach 1,663,616.

The percentage of Kuwaitis employed in banking sector is the highest, constituting 71.8 percent of the total workforce in private sector with 8,988 citizens out of 12,506 expatriates, while the percentage of Kuwaitis is the lowest in the agriculture, fishery and grazing sectors as they do not exceed 0.2 percent, indicating a ratio of 115 nationals to 50,719 expats. It also said that trade and restaurants sector tops economic activities with the largest number of Kuwaitis compared to other activities, as it registered 26,868 nationals out of 675,279 expats, while petrochemicals and refinery recorded the lowest number of 52 citizens out of a total 1,427 employees in this activity.



The fire officials giving instructions during the drill.

KFSD photo

## Mock evacuation drill at Mina Abdullah Refinery

The Mina Abdullah Refinery Department, affiliated to the Kuwait National Petroleum Company, conducted a comprehensive evacuation exercise in accordance with the situation (CAT3), which is classified as the most dangerous for workers, within the framework of the emergency plan in force introduced by the KPC and its subsid-

aries, reports Al-Rai daily.

The mock drill evacuation happened at Unit 12 as all the employees and other workers at the refinery's sites and facilities, numbering 1,507 people, including those living in the Mina Abdullah chalets in the vicinity of the refinery were evacuated, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, particularly the

traffic and assistance departments.

In this regard, Salah Al Khayyat, the company's director of operations, stressed that the refinery administration is keen to conduct these exercises periodically, with the aim of raising the efficiency and readiness of workers to deal with any possible emergency cases.

## Syrian, PAM worker under probe in bribe case

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 14: Personnel from the Residence Investigation Affairs Department have solved the corruption case involving a Syrian and an employee from, Public Manpower Authority (Labor Inspection Department) who has been allegedly receiving 1,000 dinars every month from the Syrian to turn a blind eye to the irregularities, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, the employee

has been charged with accepting bribe and exploiting his job to help the Syrian violate the laws of the country.

Both men have been referred to the Public Prosecution.

According to the security sources, personnel from the department led by Colonel Sheikh Abdullah Al-Malik Al-Sabah received information about the violations committed by the Syrian who ran a compa-

ny in partnership with an unidentified Kuwaiti.

It was reported that the employee helped the Syrian bring into the country more than the quota allowed by the Public Authority for Manpower. The source added police investigations revealed the Syrian was able to get okay for his illegal transactions by transferring the money into the account of the employee.

## Other Voices

### The cause of few achievements

By Yousef Awadh Al-Azmi

"A state is better governed which has few laws, and those laws are strictly observed" (Rene Descartes).

With the formation of the European Union, followed by positive developments witnessed until the advent of 'Euro and Schengen', the disposition of each element working independently was not in place; it rather operated on interests and clear agreements.

The steps were sustained after the establishment of the coal and steel agreements, and it remained coordinated as demanded by the political situation of that time until the European Union became what it is now. The account might be different based on the narrative of different times, although it remains a unique bloc with the ability to accomplish relative massive achievements. The Euro and Schengen are absolutely the most important of its achievements.

In the Gulf "Despism" Council that started its activities in 1980s, member states have yet to make any achievement that is of essence to their nations, except few agreements, which each of the countries could have signed without necessarily joining any regional bloc. (In fact, allowing passage of GCC nationals with personal identities is the most important of the little achievements...)



Al-Azmi

This is a confirmation that the council consists of Gulf countries that cannot reach an agreement through institutional activities or a clearly specified system. It is rather an affair of each country warbling from outside the tunnel. Mutual struggle is the most prominent fact that the Council Secretary General is unable to play his role of dousing tension among member states, whether in the crisis of 2014 or the current one. The in-house crises among leaders are more than crises among countries!

Many people criticize what they described as "silence of the Secretary General Dr Abdul-Lateef Bin Rashid Al-Zayani to the escalating differences among member states and his failure to act positively and effectively to resolve the situation, so they consider the council as having no Secretary General".

The truth of the matter is: the Secretary General is no more than a senior official whose prerogatives are limited to specific administration and protocol, so it is unfair to burden him beyond his prerogatives. For this reason, there is no institutional solution lacking for the crises among GCC countries.

The problems are now tilting toward 'kingsfolk-based' solutions rather political. It could have been built on the foundations and clauses of understanding clear to everybody, and it doesn't matter whether the solutions are done publicly or in camera. The most essential part is that those solutions should be in line with generally acceptable rules.

The sustainability of any integral relationship is based on clarity and organized agreements. However, spontaneity and lack of clear vision cannot solve any problem or untie any lock. The kingsfolk's solutions may be useful today, but it can't guarantee a clear and convincing commitment.

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