

LOCAL

Debate on whether Kuwait stays ideal destination for foreign workers: report

'Use expat investments to boost economic cycle'

KUWAIT CITY, March 4: Almost two decades ago, Kuwait was an ideal destination for many foreign workers, particularly those holding high positions in both the public and private sectors, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Kuwait attracted not only those who came to work in the country but also investors with savings plans in various forms, primarily bank deposits.

However, the current indicators reflect many changes in the local economic environment due to several factors, led by the drop in oil prices and huge budget deficits in succession and an increase in fees which left some wondering "Has the landscape really changed, and is Kuwait still on the map of savings and investment as it was before?"

One of the senior bankers answers these questions by quoting the story of one of his old friends from Kuwait, explaining that it applies to a segment that is not simple.

"I have a Lebanese friend who, 14 years ago, after the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri, persuaded his family to establish an investment portfolio that would raise their capital from members of his family.

"At the time my friend decided to invest the portfolio capital in Kuwait. As he worked for a local institution and his proximity to the business community, it was prudent to bring his family's savings into a stable, economic and political country with optimistic indicators, not least the growth of the economy.

"But the irony is that my friend, the Lebanese himself, has recently begun reviewing his plans and his family to keep their money in Kuwait, or move it out, but he has not yet decided on the destination."

"Until 2008, Kuwaiti companies

Egypt cancels accreditation requirement

KUWAIT CITY, March 4: In a move that may confuse the Ministry of Higher Education's plans to eliminate fake and counterfeit certificates, the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education canceled the requirement of obtaining accreditation from the cultural offices of foreign students studying at their own expense in Egypt, reports Al-Qabas daily.

However, sources familiar with the Kuwaiti students stressed the

need to obtain accreditation from the Cultural Bureau of their embassies overseas prior to the registration, as a mandatory condition for the equivalence of the certificate after graduation, even if the Egyptian universities canceled this requirement.

A letter from the head of the Central Administration of Foreign Student Affairs in Egypt revealed that the Egyptian Minister of Higher Education has agreed to

cancel the requirement of obtaining a letter from the embassies of students studying at their own expense.

The sources said that the step came after the decision of the Kuwait's Ministry of Higher Education to adopt a new list of Egyptian universities, consisting of only 7 universities, and required Kuwaiti students to register in universities included in the list only.

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While the member of the Chamber confirms that there is informal harassment of expatriates, which sometimes comes in the form of parliamentary statements, he expressed his belief that it is not wise to determine the decision of the investor or permit savings issued here or there for electoral gain.

Al-Mullah pointed out that Kuwait is seeking to transform itself into a financial and commercial center in the region, where it will increasingly need qualified labor, which makes the question worthy of citizens' ability to meet the expected demand surge in the labor market.

Al-Mullah himself says the expected size of the business and its operational power is much higher than the rate of citizens who are waiting to enter the labor market. Although 18-year-olds make up half of the population, they cannot cover the fields such as medical, engineering and other sectors that are likely to develop both population and investment.

Al-Mullah stresses the importance of expelling unwelcome concerns saying that investment decisions generally have to be supported by a solid set of fundamentals and assessments that are not subject to occasional mood decisions in Kuwait.

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Abdullah Najeeb Al Mullah, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry said in the UAE the ratio of population is in favor of the expatriates 5:1 and the decisions are motivating their survival not their migration.

Successful

Al Mullah said some of the successful economies in the region, particularly Dubai, are relying on domestic spending to boost expatriate spending and boost domestic tourism and still making motivating decisions for their survival, not their migration.

In the language of money, Al-Mullah told the daily "all the real estate and food statistics, as well as the recent retail sales, confirm the impact of these sectors on the drop in spending by expatriates." He added that "the strength of their presence is linked to the movement of the economy, if it is prosperous there will be an opportunity to work for the expatriate and also to invest funds locally, or at least to save one of the channels of Kuwait, which reflects positively on the GDP, but if the economy is repulsive and passes a negative cycle, the expatriate will move to another market, driven by the

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Road repairs

Hurdles in jobs for expats

MPW begins plan to cover roads with asphalt Mar 15

KUWAIT CITY, March 4: The Administrative Sector in the Ministry of Education has started to transfer functional degrees allocated for non-Kuwaitis to the budget of the next fiscal year, which will be adopted by the beginning of April, reports Al-Rai daily quoting an educational source.

The source affirmed that contracting with non-Kuwaitis will be limited to the teaching profession and certain specializations determined by the Public Education Sector.

He explained the nomination of Kuwaitis to work in the ministry – whether in the educational or administrative sector – will be in accordance with their functional degrees, affirming that there is no problem in this aspect. He pointed out the problem lies in non-Kuwaitis who will not be approved to occupy social and psychological service jobs or in any other job like before.

He went on to say that the ministry

did not receive any letter from the Public Education Sector regarding the announcement to hire teachers locally. He warned against the delayed formation of local and foreign recruitment committees, which is usually done in February every year. He pointed out it will have a negative impact on the next school year considering delay in the arrival of teachers similar to what happened last year.

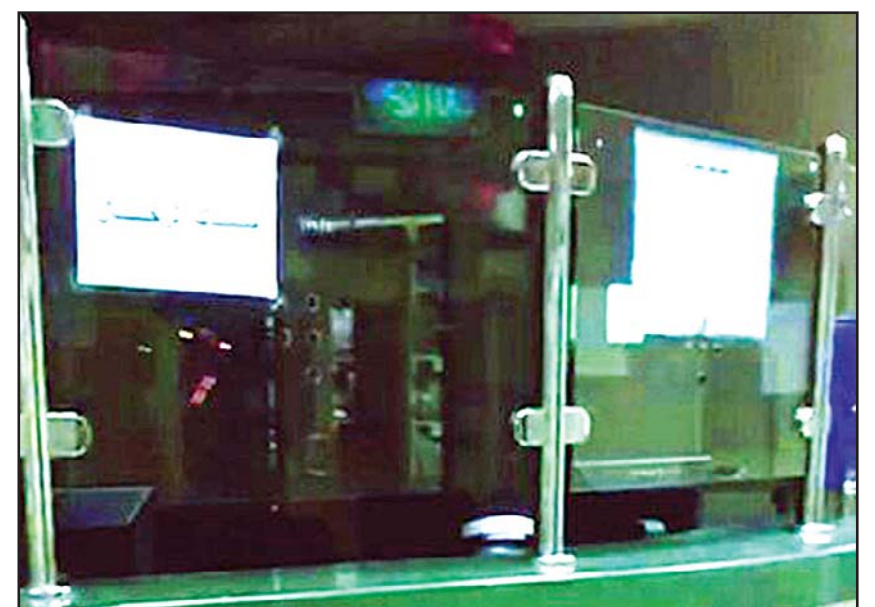
Asphalt for roads: Ministry of Public Works will from March 15 execute its plan to cover the roads of Kuwait with asphalt that was developed recently, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting informed sources.

They explained that the ministry has been working on reviewing the contracts related to road maintenance to determine which ended recently and the new ones.

Three teams will be in charge of covering the roads of Kuwait with the new asphalt. They are the Qatari laboratory team, a team from Ministry of Public Works, and a team from Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).



Dr Al-Azmi



No receptionist at the counter.

Polyclinic 'open' but no staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 4: Believe it or not. The Al-Dhar polyclinic remains open but there are no employees to care for the sick, reports Al-Anba daily.

The stamps vending machines are working, files are handy and pharmacy medicines are available for everyone who enters it, said a Kuwaiti in his complaint to the area police station. A security source said as soon as the citizen filed the report supported by a video clip securitymen rushed to the polyclinic and completed the report.

According to the security source, the citizen in his complaint said he

went to the clinic when he saw the lights on but was surprised when he saw no staff. He added, anyone could remove the files and seals and possibly open the doors to the pharmacy and steal medicines.

For his part, the Director of the Ahmadi Health District, Dr Abdullatif Al-Sahli said the issue of the clinic will be discussed with the officials who were on duty at that time.

He stressed legal procedures will be taken if negligence was proved on part of the staff. He noted there are inspection committees to do their work and the issue will be referred to the legal affairs department.

News in Brief

Fire drill conducted: Marine Fire Department recently conducted an exercise with the General Fire Department in cooperation with Coast Guard, Medical Emergency Department and the Environmental Public Authority (EPA).

The exercise, aimed at developing and enhancing the performance of employees to protect life and property, started with report about an outbreak at the sea port opposite Ras Al-Ard area caused by oil spill in the sea. Acting on information, a team of officers from relevant authorities dealt with the incident, according to plan. The exercise was held in the presence of high ranking officers, security operatives, and EPA representatives.

Cash, phone stolen: Police are looking for an unidentified burglar who broke into the car of an Egyptian, which was parked in front of a bank branch in Sa'ad Al-Abdullah City, and stole KD 800 and an iPhone, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Egyptian has filed a complaint with the area. He added, he went to the bank to deposit money and when he returned to the car he found the car glass broken. Police will see the CCTV footage of the bank and lift the fingerprints to identify the culprit.

Duo caught with drugs: Police have arrested two young men for possessing and consuming drugs, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, the arrest came after the sister of one of the men called police and complained that her brother was consuming drugs with one of his brothers and gave police the address. Police rushed to the spot and caught the men red-handed in possession of the drugs. At the time of arrest the men appeared disoriented.

2 held in verbal assault: Police have detained for interrogation a Kuwaiti and another person for exchanging insults and shouting at each other because of differences between them, reports Al-Anba daily.

Duo nabbed

22 thefts committed

KUWAIT CITY, March 4: Personnel from the Criminal Investigations Department have arrested two thieves – a Kuwaiti and an Egyptian – but the third accomplice is said to have managed to leave for Syria, reports Al-Rai daily.

A security source said the arrests came after police received many complaints and a security team was formed to track the suspects.

Intensive investigations led to the arrest of the Kuwaiti and the latter guided police to his Egyptian partner.

Police have recovered many stolen items from the suspects which they had hidden in their apartments and the car of the Kuwaiti.

A security source most of the crimes included 'snatching' handbags of women. They admitted to committing 22 thefts.

The daily did not give more details. They have been referred to the General Department for Drugs Control.

Blast wrecks ceiling: The kitchen ceiling of a flat in Salmiya area collapsed due to explosion of the gas cylinder. No casualties were reported.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD), when the Control Room of KFSD received information about the collapse of the kitchen ceiling, firefighters rushed to the location with securitymen and paramedics. Upon arrival, they discovered that the ceiling had collapsed due to explosion of the gas cylinder. Even though gas had leaked, there was no fire.

Firefighters removed the cooker and the gas pipe from the kitchen and secured the location. Necessary action was taken thereafter.



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