



Residents of the total lockdown area of Mahboula report at the Kuwait National Guard clinic to undergo test for coronavirus. (Inset): A swab test on one of the residents being done.

CSC okays assigning 69 employees to work as 'supervisors' in co-ops

Ministry of Social Affairs holds training courses



Director General of PAI Abdul Kareem Taqi during the tour of one of the warehouses in Shuaiba area.

Authority chief tours warehouse in Shuaiba

PAI keen about storage of ethanol, other sterilization products – Taqi

KUWAIT CITY, June 18: Director General of Public Authority for Industry (PAI) Abdul Kareem Taqi affirmed the keenness of PAI to ensure there is a proper environment for storing one of the most important health security materials, namely "ethanol", and that the process of receiving, storing and distributing it is carried out as per professional principles and with high levels of safety and ease of handling, reports Al-Anba daily.

Taqi said this during his tour of one of the warehouses of Kuwait Ports Authority in Shuaiba area. He inspected the strategic stockpile of raw materials for the production of sterilizers.

He stressed that all sectors of PAI, especially the Department of Supplies, Stores and Purchases, are playing their role at a high level of professionalism.

Taqi indicated that the authority will

continue receiving consignments of raw materials coming into the country through the same previous mechanism, ensuring that the authority's plan succeeds in achieving strategic security for medical sterilizers until they are distributed to the deserving people.

He expressed his admiration for this aspect of organization carried out by Kuwait Ports Authority in terms of storage of "ethanol" and sterilization products.

Taqi highlighted the success of the authority in providing logistics, which would facilitate dealing with these materials, both in terms of safety and catering to the country's need in the next stage, stressing at the same time the continuous follow-up of the country's need for these materials to ensure there is sufficient stock that could last for at least six months to come.

Kuwait trade surplus with Japan in May down 74.9pc

TOKYO, June 18, (KUNA): Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan plunged 74.9 percent from a year earlier to JPY 18.7 billion (USD 174 million) in May, down for the second consecutive month as sluggish export performance continued, government data showed Wednesday.

But Kuwait stayed in black ink with Japan for 12 years and four months, as exports still offset imports in value, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report.

Kuwaiti overall exports to Japan tumbled 71.5 percent year-on-year to JPY 24.6 billion (USD 229 million) for the second monthly decline. Imports from Japan also

slid 50.5 percent to JPY 5.9 billion (USD 55 million), down for the first time in three months. Middle East's trade surplus with Japan plummeted 77.9 percent to JPY 142.8 billion (USD 1.3 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports from the region declining 72.0 percent from a year earlier.

Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which accounted for 87.9 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, dived 74.3 percent. The region's overall imports from Japan dropped 48.6 percent on weak demand for automobiles, steel, machinery and electric equipment.

KUWAIT CITY, June 18: Undersecretary at the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdul Aziz Shuaib revealed that Civil Service Commission (CSC) has approved the decision to delegate 69 employees from various government agencies to work for the Co-operative Sector of Ministry of Social Affairs, specifically in the Department of Cooperative Oversight and Inspection, with specialized cooperative functions such as financial and administrative supervision of the cooperative societies, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement Tuesday, Shuaib stressed that training courses organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs to qualify supervisors to serve in the Cooperative Sector had resulted in the acceptance of 69 financial and administrative supervisors whose educational qualifications made it possible for them to join in the course.

He added the ministry has since completed all procedures for assigning those admitted from their workplaces in accordance with the applicable regulations of Civil Service Commission by which Ministerial Resolution No. 983 / A of 2020 was issued to start work as of Sunday, June 21, 2020. The officials will distribute them to cooperative societies according to a carefully prepared work plan based on the needs of the societies.

He stressed the importance of the training course in terms of strengthening the cooperative monitoring system to support cooperative work in the country, as well as the ministry's keenness to pay attention to the qualification of the national workforce and the application of the replacement policy in various sectors.

He reiterated the position of Financial and Administrative Controller in cooperative societies is one of the most important jobs, because it has a great role in achieving cooperative oversight and protecting shareholders' funds. He urged the new employees to make more efforts to do their jobs in the best way to enhance cooperative oversight, wishing them success and good luck.

Shuaib concluded by thanking the Civil Service Commission for coordinating and easily completing the procedures in accordance with established regulations, noting "this cooperation and collaboration is not new to the Commission".

DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Kuwaiti investors interests at risk'

'Study demographics issue carefully'

"THERE is increasing talk about modifying the demographics by making the citizens have a majority, or as His Highness the Prime Minister said in his meeting with the editors-in-chief of local newspapers that the appropriate composition, should be citizens 70 percent and the expatriates by 30 percent," columnist *Mohammad Al-Jalal* wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"Of course we do not disagree on the imperative of modifying the demographics because it represents an inevitable next change either we take the steps or the expatriates leave automatically for their countries due to targeting and dispensing their services in the government and private sectors or by reducing their salaries by law even if temporarily.

"Moreover, some private companies are planning to transform their relevant temporary actions into a permanent action as well as into a reality even post the end of corona virus pandemic crisis.

"Moreover, there are companies that will turn the temporary action into permanent one even after the corona epidemic recedes with regard to the fact that the prices of goods are increasing, not decreasing, and rents for apartments in private housing are the same.

"There are explicit claims and invitations that say without any hesitation that migrant workers are obliged to pay their rents in full.

"Besides, some activities which constitute the sole source of earning for many expatriates were shut down and as such they find themselves facing unbearable financial burdens and this means that they will leave the country even before the government issues its plan.

"The salient features of the plan have been revealed by our colleague (Al-Rai daily) according to what the plan includes increasing fees on various services, and the residence permit to be granted to the foreigners should not exceed 15 years in addition to some other actions.

"In other words, more than one million expatriates leaving the country within one year is greatly expected. And if the government, remains true to its pledges based on fighting the visa traffickers in the country, then the country is likely to see 50,000 expatriates arriving into the country to join the labor market and this means the vacuum to be left as a result of the government action will be estimated at 950,000 thousand.

"However, here the complicated problem lies. In other words, we wonder what will happen to the owners of the real estate who have obtained loans to build residential apartments which were occupied by these expatriates prior to the outbreak of the corona virus pandemic. And will these be compensated or they will be ignored and then find themselves unable to pay their relevant installments?

"Apart from the above, we wonder what will happen to the other markets owned by the citizens and engineered to accommodate a great number of peoples. Will they be compensated?

"And what will happen to the idea of transforming the State of Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub? Given the above, I think the issue of getting rid of expatriates, should be studied carefully in order to protect the Kuwaiti investors, real estate merchants and the owners of the various projects from paying an exorbitant price for the mistakes committed by the consecutive governments during the past decades during which they established their projects in accordance with the current number of people and the population structure, as such they were committed themselves with installments and obligations accordingly."

Also:

"Our problem is that we tackle most of our national issues with great impetus, sharp and heated discussions that end with clashes, opinions and solutions that are often extreme and not applicable, resulting in leaving the problems to exacerbate and foster and ultimately explode once again in our faces in the future, but through a bigger shape," columnist *Abdulmohsen Juma'a* wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"There is no doubt that the issue of demographics was the biggest problem that we faced in the corona pandemic crisis, and resulted in an important demand, that it must be resolved through possible means, which do not harm the interests of the country and the conduct of its affairs and basic demands in vital services and facilities.

"However, the decision that has been taken may be aimed at adjusting the population structure and eventually get rid of many expatriates in the country during the next few years, but the sad thing is the state of congestion and mutual insults exchanged between the Kuwaitis and people of some communities in the country which are fed by some members of the National Assembly, celebrities and media men.

"In this context, I would like hereby to refer to some of the parliamentary questions enquiring about the number of the cases that had been filed against those who had offended the State of Kuwait abroad. However, this happened although the relevant offenses in question are 'negligible' cases because states which are self-confident and democratic to pay no attention to these cases.

If we are going to adjust the demographics, we must do so calmly and technically that does not harm our country, and without exchanging insults with anyone, the language of insult and calibration is the argument of the weak and the lack of reason and awareness.

One of the extreme and stupid methods of dealing with

the demographics is talking about limiting residence in the country to fifteen years, and not granting those who have reached the age of sixty years of age a residence in the country, because the experiences gained by those who worked and trained in Kuwait will benefit others.

"The nurse for instance, or computer programmer, electrical contractor ... etc., who has gained experience with us, is a rare currency for other countries, and the country will be a hotbed for those with little experience to learn how to shave our heads."

"Praise be to God, Kuwait still possesses sovereign savings and investments, growth in deposits and a huge cash reserve despite the heavy economic losses caused by COVID-19 in all global markets", *Saud Abdul-Aziz Al-Attar* wrote for *Al-Sayassah* daily.

"This means we should thank God and appreciate Him for His virtuous grace, using it primarily to please God Almighty and serve the homeland and citizens. It does not mean we should take advantage of it as an opportunity to steal from the country and people with such transgressions on public funds and systematic looting without shame. This act surprised, disgusted and frustrated everyone such that no government entity has shown any seriousness or willingness to confront it despite the successive promises of reform and development to eliminate it.

The work of the government, MPs, traders and people are all in totally different tangents; but teamwork is important for achieving the necessary goals and accomplishing the work. This cannot become realistic without solidarity, concerted efforts and dedication to work.

The funny thing is that all these violations, wrongdoings and indicators are done in full view of everyone, including the Public Funds Protection Committee in the National Assembly and the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority "Nazaha", which is backed by a valid law criminalizing anyone who encroaches on public funds. However, "your uncle is shining", just like the slogan "I don't see, I don't hear, I don't speak."

The reason is undoubtedly the power of the influential and the mighty few who dominate the scene with their complete knowledge about the absence of prestige for the law, oversight and accountability, all of which contributed to and encouraged the daring encroachment of the forbidden money. They are quite aware that they will be asked about it on the Day of Resurrection before God Almighty. This is in confirmation of the noble hadith of the Messenger (May God's prayers and peace be upon him and his family) - "A servant will not go away on the Day of Resurrection until he is questioned about his age in what he has destroyed, about his knowledge of what he has done with it, about his money from where he acquired it and on what he spent, and what he did with his body."

Meanwhile, it is wrong for those who believe Kuwait is declaring war against expatriates, and those who think Kuwait do not value those honorable hands that contributed to building Kuwait. However, the time has come for Kuwait to rely on the arms and minds of its loyal children. The country should rely on them because they are the real investment without which the country cannot not rise and develop. The state invested in them by sending them abroad to the best and most prestigious universities to graduate and serve their country, not just to sit in their homes. They need confidence so give them the opportunity. The best proof is what the volunteers did during the COVID-19 crisis and in the past during the brutal Iraqi invasion. God is the best protector."

"We have corruption that the camels cannot carry. Our corruption has representatives in the capitals of Western countries, living as kings with the money stolen from us. No one thought of bringing them to justice. We created a body called Anti-Corruption Authority. Since it was formed, it has not referred anyone to the prosecution, even though it requires all senior officials to submit their financial disclosures every year," columnist *Mubarak Mazyad Al-Moasherji* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"With all these attributes and actions, we started to import corruption from outside through the cleaning companies. Instead of cleaning the country, they corrupted consciences. This is the original corruption bearing a parliamentary character.

"A Bangladeshi MP, who currently works in Kuwait as an official in a cleaning company, admitted that he gave ninety-one luxury cars valued at least \$100,000 each to former and current lawmakers, ministers and senior officials in the Ministry of Interior to help him in procuring suspicious transactions, human trafficking and awarding of tenders to his company.

"The statement of the Bangladeshi MP made us lose confidence in our lawmakers and securitymen. The leaked names are few and we are afraid that the concealed names are greater. Parliamentary elections are coming and we hope the Bangladeshi agents will not return to our next assembly and be removed through the ballot boxes.

"In order to stop any names mentioned in the confessions of Bangladeshi lawmaker, the Public Prosecution should stop him from working and ban him from traveling until his innocence is proven, considering the Bangladeshi Parliament lifted his immunity until he is punished for his actions."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

Awqaf plans financial and administrative incentives for Kuwaitis to become imams

KUWAIT CITY, June 18 : With the opening of registration Tuesday for retired Kuwaiti applicants to apply for imam and muezzin positions, amid the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' plan to attract the largest number of citizens to Kuwaitize the profession, Mosques Sector has developed a package of incentive mechanisms such as official missions, financial increment and financial incentives, besides easing the conditions of acceptance, given that the rate of Kuwaiti appointees does not exceed six percent, reports *Al-Qabas* daily.

Ministry of Awqaf seeks to open doors of the aforementioned profession to citizens by forming a committee for technical interviews, stressing the need to find a mechanism to Kuwaitize the sector while increasing the proportion of Kuwaitis, which will be done with more financial and administrative incentives to attract the Kuwaiti youth alienating themselves from this profession in light of the significant reduction in the number

of male graduates from the College of Sharia compared to the number of female.

Statistics The number of mosques in the country, according to recent statistics, is 1607 across the six governorates, while 3,535 Kuwaiti and expatriate imams and muezzins were appointed and assigned to mosques.

Among the total number of 1,191 appointed imams, 114 are Kuwaitis, and the remaining 1,077 are expatriates, in addition to 595 assigned Kuwaiti imams making a total of 1,786 imams.

The number of Kuwaiti muezzins reached 201, including 11 designated muezzins at a rate not exceeding 1 percent, in addition to 190 assigned muezzins, bringing the number of expatriate muezzins to 1548 and reaching a total of 1759. The rate of Kuwaitis among the number is 13 percent.

Comparing the ratio of Kuwaitis and expatriates, it appears that Kuwaiti imams and muezzins represent

25 percent of the total number of 910 at a time when the number of expatriate imams and muezzins reaches 2,625.

While statistics show the percentage of Kuwaiti imams appointed from the total number of imams is 6 percent, it also indicates that the rate of Kuwaiti imams assigned from the total number of Kuwaiti imams is 84 percent.

In the context of seeking to Kuwaitize the sector, concerned officials in the Ministry of Awqaf confirmed that Minister Dr Fahad Al-Afasy will form a committee for technical interviews. He stressed the need to provide a mechanism to Kuwaitize the sector to increase the proportion of Kuwaitis with more incentives.

Ministry of Awqaf provides all incentives but Kuwaiti youth abstain from the profession of Imam, while the number of graduates is not encouraging, noting the number of females in the College of Sharia is twice the number of males.

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