



STATISTICS BUREAU NOTES DECREASE IN EXPATS

Kuwait warms to some long-term visas

Amir assigns Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled as PM

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): An Amiri decree was issued, Tuesday, assigning His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as Prime Minister and tasked him with forming the new Cabinet.

This order came within the framework and Articles of the Constitution and the Prime Minister will have to inform the National Assembly of the Amir order.

Sponsorship system under review

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: After years of criticism directed at the sponsorship (kafeel) system, this system is gradually entering the cycle of dissolution. The labor market seems to be on the verge of witnessing fundamental changes, as revealed by a source who requested anonymity, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The source explained that these changes are supposed to see the light in the near future, as the concerned authorities are working on them based on a well-studied plan in order to keep pace with the trends aimed at economic diversification and the

transformations taking place in the labor market. Similar to the residency regulations in force in some neighboring countries to promote openness and to support economic diversification, there is a tendency to grant residency periods ranging from 5 to 15 years to expatriate investors, owners of companies and commercial projects, as well as the CEOs in some businesses.

The government is moving towards amending the system of residence permits and work visas, and diversifying the forms of residency in the country, without the need for the sponsorship system, for some expatriates who serve the national economy.

These steps have finally begun in a practical manner with the concerned authorities identifying some aspects related to the beneficiaries of the new residency system. This new system targets investment

owners who wish to implement projects in the country, and owners of existing projects who are under article No. 18 residency. They will be granted residency of up to 15 years on state guarantee. While this step can be regarded as a start to the dissolution of the current sponsorship system, the source indicated that it will enhance the plan to attract investments to the country and grant freedom of movement to company owners.

System

He said it is expected that investors covered under the residency grant system will be separated from the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) and will be granted their own residency based on regulations and legal actions that will be taken soon.

The source went on to explain that the amendment will also extend the mechanism of granting the "self-sponsorship" residency by facilitating the procedures for those who prefer such residencies, especially those who have resided in the country for a long period, provided great services or worked in the government sector and have the financial capability to manage their affairs without the need to work. This approach is still under discussion in the relevant authorities, especially the Ministry of Interior and the Public Authority for Manpower.

In another context, an official source in the Public Authority for Manpower revealed that most of the residents who have reached the age of 60 and hold high school diplomas and below have entered the cycle of violations of the residency law, more than ten months after the implementation of the decision to prevent the renewal of work permits for them.

He explained that this issue has exacerbated their burdens due to the fines resulting from violating the residency law. Despite the issuance of three court rulings that favor them and cancellation of the decision to not renew their residencies, they are still in a limbo. The hope that was given to this category has been dashed by the existence of amendments and exceptions that led to a waiting game, during which the residencies of hundreds of them have expired, in addition to the legal extension of some others.

Law

The Public Authority for Manpower receives on a daily basis dozens of residency law violators, who are above 60 years of age, and are attempting to renew their work permits. However, as of yesterday, the authority has not received any new instructions to allow the renewal of their work permits or implement any mechanism concerning them.

The Central Statistical Bureau has issued its annual statistical report for the year 2019/2020, presenting a summary of the detailed statistical bulletins it issued during the year, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The report included a statistical outline of Kuwait in terms of the geographical, demographic, economic, cultural and environmental aspects.

There were also official statistics regarding the number of expatriates in the country according to residency permits.

The figures showed a decrease in the number of expatriates under government residency (Article No. 17) from 110,245 in 2017 to 100,189 in 2020, which is a decrease of more than 10,000 residence permits.

The rate of decrease of the total number of expatriates in the country under all residence permits was from 3.97 percent to 3.65 percent.

The number of expatriates under Article No. 18 (private sector work permit) decreased from 1,442,608 in 2017 to 1,384,336 in 2020.

Regarding the domestic labor residency under article No. 20, the number of expatriates decreased from 677,592 in 2017 to 667,350 in 2020.

The figures also revealed a decrease in the number of family residence permits from 540,904 in 2017 to 525,659 in 2020.

Opinion

Only creative leaders make a 'renaissance' in their country

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THROUGHOUT history, there have been stories of individuals who created a renaissance in their countries and worked to get them out of crises despite the difficulties they faced.

Some of them managed to change the course of the state, others succumbed to partisan perspectives, or even populism, which led to flooding the country with major problems and pushing it to bankruptcy, just like what happened when the party took control of the country.

This is exactly what happened when the Labor Party took control of the British government after the tripartite aggression on Egypt, which put an actual end to the United Kingdom's control of the Middle East, but caused a stifling unemployment crisis in it.

Until the beginning of World War II, this big country was called the empire where the sun never sets. This island kingdom was able to impose its decision on countries much larger than it. However, the electoral populist calculations of its parties, especially the Labor Party, led to the erosion of hegemony, which weakened its economy.

Subsequently, an unprecedented crisis emerged, which prompted it to request for financial aid from the United States in 1965, which coincidentally was one of its colonies in the 16th century.

At that time, the White House was resentful of the British Prime Minister Harold Wilson's rejection of the Vietnam War. Therefore, his efforts to obtain a loan did not succeed. However, the Queen's sister Princess Margaret, during her visit to Washington, was able to soften the position of US President Lyndon Johnson to lend her country 800 million pounds, which helped revive the economy and overcome the crisis.

Populism has caused many crises for Britain and others. Some of its former colonies were more able to rise due to the ingenuity of its leaders, such as Singaporean Lee Kuan Yew, Malaysian Mahathir Mohamad, and other makers of the modern renaissance including the Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, who within a few years made the largest country in the world become the locomotive of the global economy, and Margaret Thatcher, who worked to revitalize the economy during her 13 years in power.

In the past ten years, the Arab world witnessed toxic winds of the "Arab Spring" which toppled several countries. However, the ingenuity of other leaders succeeded in preventing the spread of its fire to their countries.

We can see what happened at that time in Saudi Arabia, which was a clear target for the planners of the bloody chaos, who had sought help from outsiders and renegades abroad, or

the Muslim Brotherhood Group whose leaders portrayed them as being capable of destabilizing the security of Saudi Arabia.

In March 2011, unknown pages on social media called for a demonstration in the Court of Grievances Square in Riyadh, and in the Allegiance Square in Jeddah. On that day, about 15 people gathered in the capital and ten others in Jeddah. The popular consensus was against such subversive calls, and the people instead renewed their allegiance to its leadership.

At that time, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz had issued 30 royal decrees through which he changed the face of the state economically and politically, and extinguished the chaos that some fugitive agents had fabricated. This is what happened in Kuwait as well when some mobs sought to organize demonstrations under the title "National Dignity".... we all know what happened.

There is no doubt that the major transformations in Saudi Arabia began during the era of King Salman and his young Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. They made this great kingdom the jewel of the Gulf crown, and the pillar of its tent, first for putting the right man in the right place, and second for fighting corruption in a unique and creative manner that has never been experienced in the Arab world before.

In addition, Saudi Arabia launched a series of major projects for creating modern industrial or residential cities, developing education, consolidating the moderation of Islam that the Muslim Brotherhood Group and others tried to obliterate, and taking the Saudi people away from extremism. It is because of such steps that Saudi Arabia is witnessing a new development workshop every day.

As for the Arab world, it is not possible to forget the role of the Egyptian President Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi in renewing his country's renaissance and launching a major modernization process through comprehensive development for all of Egypt based on well-thought-out plans.

Contrary to all that, there are countries that were unable to overcome their challenges because they did not work on correcting past mistakes and taking serious reform, but rather left their affairs to the odds and reactions.

In all of this, the matter of renaissance was linked to an ingenious and creative executive who would manage a serious government, manage public affairs with skill, and take advantage of all available opportunities to advance his country, as well as consolidate development among the people as a way of life.

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Newswatch

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Monday received a phone call from his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, state news agency SPA reported.

During the call, Sheikh Meshal conveyed greetings from Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Prince Mohammed was assured of the Emir's health, and wished him continued good health and wellness.

During the call, the two crown princes reviewed aspects of relations between both countries and a number of issues of common interest. (arabnews.com)

BAGHDAD: The Iraqi Foreign Ministry valued Tuesday the major Kuwaiti role in enhancing bilateral relations.

The Ministry's undersecretary for multi-lateral and legal affairs, Qahtan Taha, discussed with Kuwait's Ambassador to Iraq Salem Al-Zamanan the file of mutual cooperation over the last years, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Moreover, Taha praised Kuwait's efforts in supporting Iraq in diverse fields and its desire to maintain these relations on sustainable basis.

Taha affirmed the Iraqi Government keenness on improving further the bilateral relations, resolving all hanging issues between the two states and establishing cooperation on grounds of balanced bonds and joint interests. (KUNA)

TEHRAN: The head of the United Nations' atomic watchdog met Tuesday with Iranian officials to press for greater access in the Islamic Republic ahead of diplomatic talks re-

starting over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers.

Rafael Mariano Grossi of the International Atomic Energy Agency yet again faces tight-roped talks with Iranian officials as his inspectors remain unable to access surveillance footage and face greater challenges in trying to monitor Tehran's rapidly growing uranium stockpile. In the wake of then-President Donald Trump's unilateral withdrawal from Iran's deal, the Islamic Republic now enriches small amounts of uranium up to 60% purity - its highest ever and close to weapons-grade levels of 90%. (AP)

MANILA: The Philippine navy successfully transported food supplies to Filipino forces guarding a disputed shoal in the South China Sea on Tuesday, a week after China's coast guard used water cannons to force the supply boats to turn back, sparking outrage and warnings from Manila, officials said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the two wooden boats carrying navy personnel reached government forces stationed on a military ship at Second Thomas Shoal without any major incident. President Rodrigo Duterte strongly condemned last week's Chinese blockade of the supply boats, in a regional summit led by Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday.

However, Lorenzana said that while the Philippine navy personnel were unloading supplies from the boats, a Chinese coast guard ship deployed a rubber boat with three personnel who took pictures and video of the delivery.

"I have communicated to the Chinese ambassador that we consider these acts as a form of intimidation and harassment," Lorenzana said. (AP)



One of the islands on which the project will be built (top); educational, cultural development projects as part of the Sheikh Jaber Causeway Islands Development Project (centre); Sheikh Jaber Causeway Islands Development Project (above).

Development of Jaber Causeway part of Kuwait pull to Vision 2035

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait is seeking to attract regional and foreign capital to invest in its economic development projects through its Vision 2035.

Part of the vision is the development of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Causeway's southern and northern banks and two artificial Islands, which will be transformed to hubs of commerce, work, leisure activities, and tourism.

Development of the southern bank of the causeway, Shuwaikh area, will be at an area 635,913 square meters with a construction capacity of 30 percent of the allocated region.

The commercial activities will cover 12 percent with the ability to build eight-story buildings, housing offices, cafes, and restaurants. The southern Island project of the causeway, at an area of 282,355 square meters, would have 20 percent used for four-story buildings and 10 percent for commercial purposes.

The northern Island project, at 283,358 square meters, will utilize 20 percent of its total area, while the northern bank of the causeway in Subiya area, covering 565,504 square meters utilizing 30 percent of space.

The public and private sectors will be welcomed to invest in the development project.

Speaking to KUNA, member of the Municipal Council Dr. Hassen Kamal told KUNA that Kuwait was eyeing ventures providing more leisure and commercial services to citizens and residents alike.

Day by Day

IN ALL countries of the world a prime minister is the powerful person after the head of state, so he must be familiar with the most important issues of his country, in particular the economy and social security.

The Prime Minister must have visions to take firm decisions for the advancement of the nation and be ready to defend them; if not he must leave if he finds obstacles in his path that hinder his course and impede his plans.

... Yet, tomorrow is another day. Zahed Matar

The Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway is operational and now is the time to invest more in the project to revitalize the economy and encourage business and commerce, he said.

The development of the two Islands in addition to the southern and northern banks of the causeway was presented to the Municipal Council and Cabinet's Secretariat for approval.

He affirmed that the municipality was in favor of all lucrative government projects, noting that a special session was held last August to discuss the nitty-gritty of the venture.