

Local

Egyptian authority disputes Kuwaiti figures, stresses 230,803 work permits issued in 2018

Officials split on how to handle bedoons' issue

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Egyptian central department for mobilization and statistics rejected an announcement by Kuwaiti State Minister for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel about the inaccuracy of the Egyptian department's numbers. It affirmed the credibility of its figures of work permits issued - 230,803 - which reflects the number of permits issued to Egyptians working in Kuwait during 2018 officially and documented by concerned authorities, which cannot be doubted.

The department said the numbers include two types of work permits - those issued for the first time and those renewed of people working in Kuwait. It said the number of permits issued for the first time is 98,794, while those renewed number 132,009, which means 8,000 Egyptians entered Kuwait during each month of 2018.

Kuwait's Central Statistical Bureau had issued a statement earlier stating that 62,191 work permits were issued for Egyptians in 2018, and that 23,883 permits were cancelled, with a net total of 38,308 permits for work in the private sector. It said the total number of Egyptian workers appointed in the government sector last year was 577, most of whom are in medical, educational and legal professions.

Bedoons' issue

In other news, information has leaked from the team preparing a solution for the issue of bedoons, as a new law is being prepared by parties from the National Assembly, interior ministry and the central agency for illegal residents. Sources said the law, which will be submitted to the Assembly during the upcoming term, was to be ready by the end of this month to be discussed in September, but it was not completed due to differences of opinion, adding that it may be discussed in November.

The sources said differences are over how to deal with bedoons included in the 1965 census, as hardliners in the team believe those without suspicion of having another nationality and without security restrictions will be naturalized. The number of those falling in this category is about 5,000 and if their children are added, the number will be between 10,000-12,000 only.

"On the other hand, others argue that the agency's record is not fully accurate and supported by documents," the source said, adding that this team calls for naturalizing all those with 1965 census provided they do not have another nationality and have nothing to do with a relative who has another nationality.



Disabled people's exemption

The communications ministry has formed a team to activate the disabled rights law, starting by exemption of public service fees. The team is looking into reviving items of law 8/2010 with regards to the rights of the disabled and its amendments, most notably item 37, which says the disabled will be exempted from government fees for public services.

Social events' ads

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister and State Minister for Municipal Affairs Fahd Al-Shula issued an administrative circular to all heads of sectors and department managers at municipal branches to follow and supervise cooperatives' compliance with the rules related to advertisements of social events, with regards to general and particular decisions mentioned in item 17a of ministerial decision 172/2006 regarding having one

advertisement board at the entrance and another at the exit of the supermarket parking, and one board only in the parking of each branch. The ad should be limited to social events, should be made of six frames on either side on a cylindrical pole of a minimum 2.5 m in height, and should be fixed. No investment or commercial ads should be affixed on it. There should not be stickers of any kind on the boards and anything that will obstruct the view of road signs.



Disabled people exempted from service fees

Install fire alarms at homes: KFSD

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Most houses destroyed by fires in Kuwait do not have fire alarms such as smoke detectors to draw the attention of those in the house, those who are sleeping and even neighbors about the presence of smoke. Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) warned. Alarms enable residents to deal with a fire as soon as it starts, it added. KFSD made this statement yesterday in the wake of two deadly fires reported in Kuwait this week. Two persons had lost their lives in two separate incidents - the first in a Sulaibiya house fire that led to the death of a woman in her 80s, while the second was in Surra, killing a man in his 50s. KFSD urged the public to install fire alarms and smoke detectors in their houses, and make sure that fire extinguishers are always available.



bedoon wife in his Taima house. Police, armed with a warrant, stormed the house and freed the woman. The man denied having a pistol, so the house was searched and the weapon was found. The man was detained and will be sent to the public prosecution for further action.

Wife held hostage

In other news, Jahra detectives freed a woman who was detained by her husband at gunpoint. Police found the gun, which was not licensed, and ammunition in his house. A police source said a call was received about a Kuwaiti man who had detained his

Teen jailed

Separately, the juvenile court sentenced a teenager to spend three years in the juvenile person for running over eight persons in Kabd. The defendant had been arrested shortly after causing the accident which left multiple deaths and others wounded.



KUWAIT: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Minister of State for Municipality Affairs Fahad Al-Shula toured Al-Ahmadi Municipality Branches building to inspect the process of work, and check firsthand the mechanism to issue licenses electronically in the governorate. Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi and other officials were present during the tour.

Labor transfer from small projects soon?

KUWAIT: An official source said the manpower authority is expected to issue a new decision soon related to expat workers in small projects. Al-Qabas daily reported yesterday. The source said the decision will deal with drawbacks of the current decision, especially the transfer of residencies of expats brought in for small projects. The new decision may allow the transfer of some cases of expat labor registered in the sector. The source said new rules are being prepared to regulate exceptional cases that will be allowed to transfer their residencies from small businesses to the private sector, and may include the period, academic qualification, project type and others.

In other news, official statistics revealed 364,500 expat workers entered Kuwait during the past five years, with more than 50 percent registered in the construction and guarding professions, in addition to equipment and machinery operators and drivers, reported Al-Qabas.

Indians formed the largest number of entrants into Kuwait with 175,000 people during the past five years, followed by Egyptians with 80,000 in the same period. Meanwhile, the number of Pakistanis dropped by 12,000 to 80,000, followed by Sri Lankans by 8,500 and Iranians by 4,321 to reach 22,600 residents. State Minister for Economic affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel said remedying the population imbalance continues via a roadmap that starts by giving the required estimation to the manpower authority, in addition to having minimum qualifications for professional and occupational jobs.

Separately, Al-Rai daily reported that while the government is expecting the final year of the National Assembly to be tough and full of polarization, it is convinced that the strategic payroll alternative is dead and its approval in the coming term is impossible. A government source said despite difficulties and expectations of a "hot" year, matters are fine and cooperation will continue with the legislative authority. But he said the government has lost hope in finalizing the strategic alternative, adding that it has been stuck in parliamentary drawers for the past two years.

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