

Local

Domestic helper salary could range between KD 100-120: Indian envoy

Sponsor must provide for helper under new regulations

KUWAIT: The monthly salary for domestic workers in Kuwait has been set to range between KD 100 and KD 120 per month, considering that this amount is equitable to both workers and the Kuwaiti families, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sibi George told local daily Al-Qabas on Saturday.

In a statement on the sidelines of the celebration of the birth anniversary of renowned Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore at the Indian Embassy, George said the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) defines the rights of workers as it seeks to regulate the recruitment of domestic workers to Kuwait. He explained that negotiations with PAM are continuing on bringing down the costs of recruiting domestic helpers to the country for Kuwaiti families.

India and Kuwait had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on labor in June 2021, leveraging cooperation between the countries on recruitment of domestic workers. The MoU brings Indian domestic workers in Kuwait within the ambit of a legal framework, streamlines their recruitment and provides them with protection of law.

Answering another question, George

said the Indian Embassy in Kuwait has recommenced issuance of tourist visas, including multiple-entry visas, to Kuwaitis, adding obtaining an entry visa to India takes only a few hours. He explained India has lifted all restrictions related to the coronavirus and is ready to receive Kuwaiti tourists. He called on Kuwaitis to visit his country this summer, noting that



Sponsorship can be terminated if convicted of sexual harassment

the number of visa applications is expected to rise this year.

New decisions

In other news, Al-Qabas daily also reported on Sunday that Justice Minister Jamal Al-Jalawi issued a ministerial decision amending some regula-

tions in the domestic help law, stipulating that sponsors are required to bear the cost of feeding the domestic helper, as well as providing them with clothing and medical care.

The new regulations, approved by the Public Authority for Manpower, set the conditions under which a domestic helper's sponsorship can be transferred from one employer to another in certain cases, including the sponsor or anyone living in the same house being convicted of sexual harassment of a domestic helper through verbal or physical acts. Other conditions include death of the sponsor, divorce, marriage of the helper in the country, and the sponsor's loss of qualification.

The helper's rights

The new regulations prevent any deduction of financial dues owed to the helper. Furthermore, the regulations ban employers from reporting domestic helpers for absence from work after the worker files a complaint at relevant departments. Instead, the worker must be registered as a resident of the expatriate labor shelter. This ban can be lifted two months after the



complaint is settled or the case is referred to the judiciary. This can help guarantee extra protection to the helpers.

Article 31 fines a sponsor who is late in paying the wages of their domestic helper past the seventh day of the due date KD 10 for each month. The helper is entitled to a paid annual leave of at least 30 days after spending 11 months at work, a weekly paid rest day (24 continu-

ous hours) following six working days, while extra working hours should not exceed two, according to the regulations.

The regulations also set a new condition to issuing licenses for domestic help offices, which is submitting an unconditional and un-revokable financial guarantee letter from a local bank of a value of KD 40,000 for offices and establishments and KD 100,000 for companies.

Kuwait opens recruitment for Palestinian, Jordanian teachers

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ministry of Education announced job opportunities in public schools for teachers of various subjects from Palestine and Jordan. Prior experience is required for application, it said in the announcement.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Education Minister Dr Ali Al-Mudhaf said on Sunday he was eager for a closer rapport with his counterparts across the wider Gulf Arab region, in a bid to set in motion a raft of

education reforms. "I am here to get acquainted with some success stories seen in the Gulf Arab region's education sector," the Kuwaiti minister said on the sidelines of a global education conference in the Saudi capital, saying the gathering is crucial towards plans to further develop the education sector as a whole.

Echoing the minister's sentiments, Dr Jassem Al-Ostath, the Kuwait-based Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's deputy chief for academic services, highlighted the event as a chance to achieve common goals. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which left education systems across the world in tatters, he said it was imperative to keep education reforms rolling again for the sake of students whose academic careers had been upended by the outbreak. More than 200 global education bodies have come together for the talks in Riyadh, which sheds light on some of the most perennial challenges encumbering educational development.



Earlier, the minister stressed Kuwait's keenness on attending such conferences to benefit from these experiences. He pointed out that the conference

contains many important axes of discussion through the many sessions and workshops, as well as the accompanying exhibition. —KUNA



KRCS praises Kuwait's humanitarian efforts

KUWAIT: General Secretary of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr Maha Al-Barjas praised on Sunday Kuwait's humanitarian efforts worldwide. Barjas stated on the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, that Kuwait was always keen to attend the various activities that supported global humanitarian action. Barjas added that KRCS plays a huge role in the International Red Cross and

Red Crescent Movement by adapting various initiatives that support volunteers by training them to develop their skill in humanitarian work.

Barjas also stated that KRCS would keep providing services for families inside and outside of Kuwait, adding that they were committed to that now and the future. She affirmed that this day represents an occasion that supports the efforts and the role of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on the international humanitarian work field. She added that the movement gained a lot of experience and knowledge in intervening during crises and various situations. World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is celebrated on the eighth of May by all associations of the Red Crescent and the Red Cross. —KUNA

Kuwait donates \$2 million to UNRWA

AMMAN: Kuwait donated on Sunday \$2 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), as part of its annual financial aid to support the UN organization. Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Abdulaziz Al-Daihani handed the donation to the UNRWA's representative in Jordan, where he said that the financial aid represented an earnest desire

to help around 5 million Palestinian people who live in misery. Meanwhile, UNRWA's Director of Strategic Communications Tamara Al-Rifai expressed her appreciation to the Kuwaiti leadership and government for this donation, the long-lasting partnership and the continuous support for the Palestinian cause. She also stressed the importance of Kuwait's annual contribution to UNRWA's budget and its role in supporting the agency's operations in the sectors of health, education, and relief. UNRWA was established by the UN General Assembly in 1949 and provides aid to around 5 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. —KUNA

Kuwait lawmaker welcomes talks on youth scout efforts

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti lawmaker welcomed on Sunday his country's hosting of pan-Arab talks to bolster youth scout efforts across the wider Arab region, hailing the initiative as a viable chance for more cooperation on the matter. The talks, which bring together representatives of Arab countries

including host nation Kuwait, Qatar and Algeria, amongst others, aim to prop up scout programs and endeavors geared towards youngsters in the region, the Kuwaiti lawmaker, MP Dr Abdullah Al-Turaiji, said. His remarks came during the inauguration of the general assembly of the Arab Parliamentarians Scouting Union, sponsored by the honorary chairman and Speaker of the Kuwaiti parliament, Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. Up to 170 scouting personalities are taking part in the gathering, "Kuwait capital of Arab scouting," due until Wednesday. Turaiji thanked union member states that approved transfer of the headquarters from Lebanon to Kuwait. — KUNA

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