Foreign Jobs Times Every Friday, September 06, 2019

KSA to launch Tourist visas on 27/09/2019

Saudi Arabia is set to launch a new tourist visa on Sept. 27, which will allow the citizens of 51 countries to visit the Kingdom, a government source told Saudi Gazette.

The source said that the visa fee would be SR300 (\$80 or 70 euros), with the applicant paying an additional SR140 for medical insurance fee thus bringing the total cost of SR440 paid by each applicant for the tourist visa. non-Haj season, entering Makkah, visiting Madinah and any of the Saudi cities as a tourist.

The applicant is required to be at least 18 years of age. Those below the specified age require a companion above that age to be the guardian.

The Saudi ports that receive visitors holding a tourist visa includes King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, King Abdulaziz Airport in Jeddah, King Fahd Airport in Dammam, King Fahd In case of any violation, the authorities have the right to stop the visitor from entering the Kingdom and send the visitor back to the country from where he had come.

The number of countries benefiting from the visa is expected to increase in the first quarter of 2020, while some of the current countries are the United States, Canada, Britain, New Zealand, South Korea, Italy, Iceland, France, Norway, Spain, Greece, Netherlands, Romania,



The validity of the visa is for one year from the date of issuance, and the duration of stay in the Kingdom is three months for each visit and not more than 180 days during one year.

The visa will be obtained through an electronic platform, within 30 minutes, or through the "visa on arrival" process when the tourist arrives in Saudi Arabia.

A return ticket or hotel reservation is not required to obtain the visa; In this case, the tourist address is only sufficient.

A paper copy of the visa is not needed, and a digital copy is preferred. It is also required that the passport be valid for at least six months. The Muslim visitor will benefit by performing Umrah during the Causeway, Prince Muhammad Bin Abdulaziz Airport in Madinah, and Al-Batha land crossing.

The sources said that this move would open the way for the world to see the beauty of Saudi Arabia and increase nonoil revenues to contribute to its prosperity. It is also in line with Kingdom's Vision 2030 aspirations.

The sources stressed that the tourist must issue a signed pledge prior to obtaining the visa. The most important of which is to endorse that the information documented in the application is correct, abide by all Saudi laws and regulations, and to respect the Islamic customs and traditions of its people. Croatia and Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Singapore, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Austria, Belgium, Poland, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Bulgaria.

Paris Verra, a foreign tourist who recently visited the Kingdom, said that the Saudis are the nicest, most accepting and welcoming people.

"I love the people here, and I can't express that enough. I especially love the way they live and how important family is to them. I find life in Saudi Arabia to be extremely safe and respectful — which is very important to me as a foreign woman traveling. Saudi Arabia feels like home to me," she said.

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Iran tanker: US offers captain millions to hand over ship



The US state department has confirmed it offered millions of dollars to the captain of an Iranian oil tanker which is at the centre of a diplomatic row.

Brian Hook, head of the department's Iran Action Group, emailed the captain of the Adrian Darya 1 about sailing it somewhere the US could seize it.

The vessel was suspected of moving oil to Syria, and was temporarily impounded by UK authorities in Gibraltar in July.

It was released last month after Iran gave assurances about its destination.

The US justice department, which had tried to block the release, then issued a warrant to seize the tanker.

Reports of the cash offer first appeared in the Financial Times on Wednesday and have been confirmed by the state department. "We have conducted extensive outreach to several ship captains as well as shipping companies,"

"After seeing a few photos of Al Ula once getting my visa, I didn't want to leave Saudi Arabia until I visited there. I was still traveling full time, but Al Ula became a priority must visit. After spending months in Saudi Arabia without seeing that region, I already ended up falling in love with this country. Al Ula was only a bonus to my experience," she added.

"I have already recommended tons of people to KSA through my social media account. My recommendation is to go with an open mind, have coffee and dates with the locals, and to explore the towns as well as the beautiful landscapes. Once they visit, I highly recommend not leaving without seeing AlUla, Jeddah and Abha," she said.

She described AIUIa as "The vastest beautiful place I have visited in Saudi Arabia and probably in all of the world". It's breathtaking, so much history and beauty here that I visited two weekends in a row and would love to go back soon.

On Abha, she said, "This was the most recent place I visited, and I can easily say it's unlike any of the other sites. Abha has a beautiful green mountainous landscape with incredible sunsets, rich culture, and the most kind, welcoming, vibrant people. In my experience, I think the people of this region are some of the kindest and inviting of all the areas." On Jeddah, she added, "Another one of my favorite spots that I need to go back to explore more. I spent a weekend here, swimming in the Red Sea amongst the most colorful coral sea life I have ever seen. I have been snorkeling in tons of countries - even the Great Barrier Reef in Australia - nothing compares to the reef here. Another highlight is the historical Town of Jeddah.'

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- Understand Plant drawings to develop necessary Tech details of process equipments & responsible for developing TA Work Packages.
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 Knowledgeable & experience on Shutdown works of Static/ Rotary Equipments viz. Heat Exchangers, Reactors, Catalyst bandling, Towers, Vessels, Compressors, Pumps etc.
 - Catalyst handling, Towers, Vessels, Compressors, Pumps etc. Knowledge on other disciplines like Blasting/ Coating/ E&I.
- Expertise in TAProgress reporting, Risk analysis, Look ahead, Delay analysis & Mitigation plans.
- Onsite lead & responsible for all Planning & Scheduling related aspects.

Qualified Candidates email your Cv's to : cvs4hrksa@gmail.com

GCC labor ministers approve draft banning forced labor, discrimination

KUWAIT: State Minister for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel said the meeting of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) labor ministers, which was held in Muscat, Oman yesterday resulted in taking several decisions

including the approval of the final draft of defining and banning forced labor and discrimination in the job place, as thanks were sent to Qatar for its efforts in implementing the initiatives. Thanks were also sent to Saudi Arabia in regards to the national policy to fight discrimination. She said the next meeting will see the board election of the International Labor Organization and it was agreed to back Saudi Arabia's nomination for the permanent seat.

In regards to the governance of professional qualifications, standards, and professional tests at GCC countries, Aqeel said that an agreement was reached to ask the executive office to hold a technical meeting to discuss qualifications and standards at GCC countries, in coordination with the education training committee at the secretariat general of the GCC no later than the first half of 2020. Meanwhile, she said that the budget proposal for the labor

department at the executive office was approved, as well as the participation of GCC countries in Dubai Expo 2020, and it was agreed to have an effective participation at the expo.



Panel Meeting

In other news, the Hawally committee at the Municipal Council headed by Abdullah Al-Roumi approved the Awqaf Ministry's request to expand Shaaban Mosque which has an area of 792 square meters in Salmiya. Meanwhile, it rejected a Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) request to approve investment at Al-Sadd Park in Shaab. It also rejected a letter from the Public Authority for the Disabled in regards to allocating a sandy yard for vehicle parking in Hawally. Furthermore, it referred the proposal of deputy chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri in regards to placing speed bumps opposite Kuwait University and the

Australian College in Mubarak Al-Abdullah (Block 5, Street 5). The committee also postponed the proposal of Abdullah Al-Roumi in regards to dig a car tunnel under Messila Bridge that links Taawon Street with the Sixth Ring Road, as requested by the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART). It also discussed a request by the US Embassy to give it the right to use the buffer zone covering an area of 47,668 square meters.

Market Violations

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry closed four shops at the Sharq Fish Market yesterday for committing violations. The ministry explained that the violations were documented in reports and recommendations by the relevant committee in the ministry. The ministry said inspection teams continue monitoring markets to make sure owners are licensed and do not violate the law.

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Companies in UAE urged to give resting time to workers

Companies in Abu Dhabi employing outdoor workers have been told to stick to the mandatory midday break rule until the end of the stipulated time as temperatures are still prohibitively high.

During a meeting held recently with over 300 company representatives, the Abu Dhabi Municipality raised awareness about the need for resting workers during the hottest period of the day.

Temperatures during the past few days reached up to 45° C in some parts of the country, including Abu Dhabi and Dubai, with high humidity.

As part of the law, employers are required to provide a shaded area for outdoor workers to rest, while anyone who exceeds eight-hours work must also be paid overtime.

Firms caught violating the rule will be fined Dh5,000 per worker and a maximum of Dh50,000 if the case involves a large number of workers. The company may also be degraded and temporarily stopped from operating.

Dr Huda Al Salmi, director of environment, health and safety department at the Abu Dhabi Municipality, said: "It is important for companies employing outdoor workers to continue abiding by the mandatory midday break rule until September 15 so as to give them a respite during the hottest period of the day. In addition to providing shelter and other preventive measures during the rest period, the midday break decision obliges employers to clearly display a schedule of the daily working hours, provided that it is written in Arabic and other languages understood by the workers."

She said the recent meeting with representatives from various firms was intended to boost the awareness of those in charge of construction sites. It also highlighted their role in monitoring the compliance with the workers' safety requirements and protecting them from injuries resulting from exposure to direct sunlight or heat stress due to high temperatures and humidity.

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India auto sector sheds 350,000 jobs in 2019

MANESAR, India: The narrow lanes in Aliyar and Kasan villages in Manesar, an automotive manufacturing hub on New Delhi's southern outskirts, would usually be packed on Sundays with migrant workers employed at the nearby plants enjoying their day off, but not anymore. These are hard times for an area dependent on the fortunes of companies like Maruti Suzuki, the carmaker with the largest market share in India, and motorbike maker Honda Motor Co's local unit. The auto and component makers in and around Manesar. have shed thousands of jobs.

Nationwide, according to industry estimates, automakers, component manufacturers and dealers have laid off about 350,000 workers since the start of the year, in response to plunging car sales. Figures for August, like July, are expected to show a drop of more than 30 percent, making a 10th straight month of decline.

As the crisis in the sector bites harder small businesses in the towns and villages around Manesar, home to one of the three plants where Maruti Suzuki cars are made, have seen a falloff in trade.

"There are already fewer workers in the village and those who still have jobs are either not getting paid for working overtime or are not spending as much out of fear they may lose work and need the money," said grocer Rahul Jain, his shelves stacked with toothpaste and soaps from fastmoving consumer goods companies like Hindustan Unilever, Colgate-Palmolive and Dabur India. Even sales of products like cooking oil and flour have fallen. On the lower rungs of the service sector, barbers and tea stall owners said they had fewer customers. Shoe seller Subhay Singh, in Manesar'sAliyar radiating outwards.

Needing a haircut Before suffering the steepening slump in sales, the auto industry provided one of the few bright spots for manufacturing. Its



village, has days when he doesn't make a single sale.

"My monthly earnings have halved," said Singh, who a year ago made an average 8,000 rupees a day. "I don't know what's happening." In the United States there was an old adage: "When General Motors sneezes, the Wall Street catches a cold."

In India, the impact goes well beyond the stock market. India's automotive industry is the fourth largest in the world, employing more than 35 million people, directly and indirectly, and accounting for nearly half of India's manufacturing output.

The industry has three main centers; Gurugram in the North, Chennai in the South, where among others Ford Motor and Hyundai Motor have plants, and Pune in the West, where Tata Motors and Fiat are located. All of them are hurting, and the pain is troubles stem in part from banks' and non-banking finance houses' reluctance to extend consumer loans, as well as subdued demand, particularly in the countryside, where two-thirds of Indians live. Laid-off workers returning to their villages are now putting more burden on a rural sector already suffering falling income from low crop prices, and dampening consumer sentiment and growth across the country.

Gurmeet Singh had been earning 10,000 rupees a month until he lost his job at auto component maker Bellsonica in Manesar. Six months later, back in his hometown of Ambala in Haryana state, Singh is still looking for a job, and catastrophising about the future.

"I haven't had a hair cut in months, my shoes are torn and I've been using the same pair of clothes since I lost my job. Only I know how I am surviving," said the 26-year-old.

'If I don't get a job, how will I build a house for my family, get married and pay off the loan my parents took to educate me?" he said. His bleak outlook reflects an increasingly grim big picture. India's economic growth slipped to a six-year low of 5 percent in the April-June quarter and Prime Minister NarendraModi, who was re-elected to a second term in a landslide in May, is under pressure to provide a stimulus for an economy that is seriously undershooting the growth rate needed to generate enough jobs for the millions of young Indians entering the labor market every month.

Resisting a biscuit All this is cast against a backdrop of a weakening world economy, and uncertainties arising from the trade war between the United States and China. Things are so manifestly bad that even one of the nation's most popular biscuitmakers, Parle Products Private Limited, is worried about the impact of the auto industry's troubles on sales.

"If the economy is buoyant then even the rural consumer will not mind paying a little extra. But this (slowdown) has acted as a catalyst to the drop in demand," said Mayank Shah, product category head at Parle. Britannia Industries Ltd, which controls a third of the biscuits market in India, said it has "never seen this kind of a slowdown" where people are hesitant to buy a pack of biscuits costing just 5 rupees (\$0.07).

"If the consumer is thinking twice before buying, then obviously, there is some serious issue in the economy," Varun Berry, the company's managing director told analysts in a postearnings call last month. Under pressure from businesses and investors to provide more stimulus, Finance Minister NirmalaSitharaman proposed a series of measures last month to help the economy and financial markets but some economists said it would not be enough to revive long-term demand.

On Aug 23, foreign investment rules were eased for several sectors, and sources say the government is expected to come up with more measures such as tax cuts for autos and real estate. "The real revenue growth for auto and consumer goods sectors started declining nearly two years ago. The slowdown has merely gained prominence now," said ArindamSom, analyst at India Ratings, a Fitch group company, adding that he expects auto companies to further cut production. A year ago, VinodChauhan had no vacancies at all in the 70 rooms he leased primarily to migrant workers in Manesar'sKasan village. Today, over a third of those rooms are vacant and Chauhan fears things could get worse before they get better.

His son won't be getting the new car that Chauhan planned to buy him this year, and the landlord has also shelved plans to build another 100 hostel apartments. "If I am not able to rent out all the rooms I currently have, how will I manage with more?" said Chauhan. -Reuters

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GCC labor ministers approve draft banning forced labor, discrimination

Pharmacy Profession

Health Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Drugs and Food Control DrAbdallah Al-Bader said the Pharmaceutical Profession Development Committee began receiving pharmacists contributions and suggestions to plot the new vision of the pharmacy profession in Kuwait, through the establishment of a contact channel through email: innovationgate@moh.gov.kw. Dr Al-Bader said receiving suggestions is in three fields: the first is the development of pharmaceutical practices, services and activities: the second is in the field of occupational development of manpower in the pharmacy fields; and the third is the development of rules and regulations. Contributions should be received before October 3, he added. He said the committee is keen on reviewing the current situation and account for the needs and effectively be in contact with workers in the field, adding that communication will build a base for pharmaceutical data and clinical pharmacy indicators to follow up projects and programs.

Muscat International Airport now in global top 15

Muscat: Muscat International Airport has proved its mettle after it was declared the 14th best International Airport globally in terms of service quality, according to O m a n A i r p o r t Management Company (OAMC).

The Airport claimed the 14th spot out of the 371 International Airports that were in contention.

A statement by the company read: "The airport managed to leap to the 14th spot internationally from among 371 airports, compared to when it was in the 74th spot among airports of its kind. This

achievement also gave it the award for 'Most Improved Airport in the Middle East.

"This stems from the constant effort by the officials OAMC which began in 2015 when the first seedling of a strategy for Oman's Airports was sown. This is when a goal was set to introduce Muscat International Airport as one of the best 20 airports in the world by 2020," the statement added.

The Airport was given its



ranking at the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards ceremony and gala, that took place in Bali, Indonesia and was hosted by PT AngkasaPura I (Persero).

World Director General of the Airport Council International (ACI), Angela Gittens, said, "The ASQ Awards represent the highest possible customer experience accolade for airport operators around the world.

"In an increasingly competitive environment, these

> airports have recognized that delivering stellar c u s t o m e r experience is an i m p o r t a n t business tool," she added.

> According to OAMC, "Saud Al Hubaishi, Senior Vice President of M u s c a t International A i r p o r t, expressed his

pleasure at the large jump in positions that MIA had achieved and explained that the accomplishment would not have been possible without the massive efforts of all MIA staff and strategic partners who work to deliver achievement after achievement for Muscat international airport."

"The airport's ability to compete to reach this position indicates that the aiports services can compete with what is being offered in the largest airports in the world when it comes to high quality services and professionalism when dealing with people who use the airport,"Al Hubaishi said.

Muscat International Airport is spread over 580,000 square metres and can handle 20 million passengers per year, which is set to increase to 56 million when all phases of the ongoing development project are complete.

The ACI is the trade association of the world's airports and was founded in 1991, and its ASQ programme, which is an indicator for the quality of services in airports, has gained it the trust of over 300 airports and over 60 per cent of the largest 100 international airports in the world.