

BIG STORY  
big story

# Job out of no jobs

Healthcare job scammers thrive as they prey on Asian jobseekers eyeing work permits in Bahrain

● The amount charged by these agencies include recruitment fee, paper processing fee and visa processing fee.

● A WhatsApp message from a social organisation in India warns jobseekers from taking help of these fraudsters.

TDI | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

Fraudsters from Asian countries are using the names of hospitals in the Kingdom to carry out their recruitment scams, it is learnt.

Sources say these scammers have been disguising themselves as recruitment agents of Bahrain hospitals by tricking jobseekers into paying lumps of cash.

Many jobseekers have fallen prey to their scams by paying thousands of dinars in hopes of getting jobs at hospitals in the Kingdom, they added.

The scammers have been mainly targeting qualified nurses, who are allegedly charged a 'recruitment fee' to be placed in Bahrain hospitals.

However, after receiving the payment, these jobseekers are left without a response.

"These recruitment agencies are illegitimate and are in no way connected to hospitals in the Kingdom. This scam has been going on for many years and the main targets are those who wish to obtain a work permit in the Kingdom," sources added.

The amount charged by these agencies include recruitment fee, paper processing fee, and visa processing fee.

Speaking to Tribune, CTM360 chief executive officer Mirza Asrar Baig, who is a leading Bahrain-based cyber-security and scam detection expert, said that many of these fraudsters even run fake travel agencies, from where their victims are asked to purchase tickets.

He said that these fraudsters even create fake websites to carry out the scam. "These types of scams are affecting the whole region. To begin with, they choose a hospital, sometimes a new one or an already established one.

"Then they will create a fake website in the name of this hospital and post vacancies. They would also post these fake vacancies on other job forums through which they would route people to this fake website.

"They even run bogus travel agencies, where you can go and make your bookings. Most of the victims often end up paying visa processing fee, paper processing fee and ticket charges."

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MR ASRAR BAIG

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MR AGHAYAR

getting all industries and not just healthcare," he added.

Tribune contacted one such recruitment agent who has allegedly been bamboozling job seekers. In a telephonic conversation, a representative of the company confirmed that his agency is in charge of recruiting staff to a few hospitals in the Kingdom.

"We are currently recruiting to Bahrain we have interviews taking place here, you can come here and we will tell you the rest," he said.

When asked about the payment needed 'to obtain the job', he said that such details would only be revealed in person after the 'interview' and not over the phone.

A WhatsApp message from a social organisation in India warns jobseekers from taking help of these fraudsters. "Many fake recruitment agencies are charging between rupees eight and 10 lakh for healthcare jobs in the Middle East. As per official sources, the recruitment to fill vacancies in Gulf countries should be free of cost and no applicants are legally bound to make payments," the message read.

Similar scams have been reported in other GCC countries as well. A report published in the UAE-based Gulf News earlier this year revealed how several people were duped by con-artists claiming to be recruitment agents.

The UAE-based diversified global conglomerate Thumbay Group had to issue a notice about bogus recruitment in the name of its Thumbay Hospital.

A veteran in the recruitment sector Abdulrahman Aghayar, said that it is the duty of the people to do a research and use diligence before putting their

trust in any recruitment agency. "I cannot point towards or accuse any particular agency or people because I don't have any proof. This is something for

the authorities to do, but people should be aware that in every industry there are going to be those who are trying to cheat. "For example, you take any product in the market. You will get the two versions, genuine and fake. This is the same with the recruitment agencies also. "Applicants should be careful while choosing the recruitment agencies and meticulously check their credibility before putting trust in them."

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This scam has been going on for many years and the main targets are those who wish to obtain a work permit in the Kingdom.

SOURCES

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