Topics in May 2026

The Cabinet has approved a resolution allowing foreigners to operate certain types of businesses without having to obtain permission.

On 12th May 2026, the Cabinet approved in principle a draft Royal Decree to revise the categories of businesses that foreigners may operate without obtaining a foreign business license. The changes are divided into the following categories:

- Businesses exempted from Item (13) of List Three annexed to the Foreign Business Act B.E. 2542 (1999):
  - Agricultural futures trading on a Derivatives Exchange involving the delivery or receipt of agricultural products in warehouses designated by the Derivatives Exchange.
- Businesses that are still considered “being a broker or an agent of other types” under Item (11)(d) and “other service businesses” under Item (21) of List Three annexed to the Foreign Business Act B.E. 2542 (1999), but are exempted from the requirement to obtain permission:
  - Telecommunications services
  - Treasury center businesses
  - Administrative, human resources, and information technology management services
  - Domestic debt guarantee services
  - Leasing of partial space for the installation of electronic devices used for financial services and automated vending machines for providing services and convenience to company employees
  - Petroleum drilling services
  - Other businesses under the law governing securities and the exchange market
  - Services as agents, dealers, advisers, or fund managers relating to derivatives contracts where the underlying goods or reference variables are not governed by the Derivatives Act B.E. 2546 (2003)

The Cabinet has approved the cancellation of the 60-day visa exemption scheme for tourists from 93 countries

On 19th May 2026, the Cabinet passed a resolution approving the cancellation of the 60-day visa exemption scheme granted to tourists from 93 countries. The original regulations will be reinstated, under which most foreign nationals will be permitted to stay in the Kingdom for no more than 30 days.

This measure is intended to improve the regulation and screening of foreign nationals to ensure maximum efficiency, while maintaining a balance between generating income from international tourism and monitoring foreign nationals who unlawfully enter the country for employment purposes. The measure is in line with the policy of the Immigration Bureau, which emphasizes security and stricter screening procedures.

The 93 countries are as follows:

1. Albania
2. Andorra
3. Australia
4. Austria
5. Bahrain
6. Belgium
7. Bhutan
8. Brazil
9. Brunei
10. Bulgaria
11. Cambodia
12. Canada
13. China
14. Colombia
15. Croatia
16. Cuba
17. Cyprus
18. Czech
19. Denmark
20. Dominica
21. Dominican Republic
22. Ecuador
23. Estonia
24. Fiji
25. Finland
26. France
27. Georgia
28. Germany
29. Great Britain and North Ireland
30. Greece
31. Guatemala
32. Hong Kong
33. Hungary
34. Iceland
35. India
36. Indonesia
37. Ireland
38. Israel
39. Italy
40. Jamaica
41. Japan
42. Jordan
43. Kazakhstan
44. Kosovo
45. Kuwait
46. Laos
47. Latvia
48. Lichtenstein
49. Lithuania
50. Luxemburg
51. Macau
52. Malaysia
53. Maldives
54. Malta
55. Mauritius
56. Mexico
57. Monaco
58. Mongolia
59. Morocco
60. Netherlands
61. New Zealand
62. Norway
63. Oman
64. Panama
65. Papua New Guinea
66. Peru
67. Philippines
68. Poland
69. Portugal
70. Qatar
71. Romania
72. Russia
73. San Marino
74. Saudi Arabia
75. Singapore
76. Slovak
77. Slovenia
78. South Africa
79. South Korea
80. Spain
81. Sri Lanka
82. Sweden
83. Switzerland
84. Taiwan
85. Tonga
86. Trinidad and Tobago
87. Turkey
88. Ukraine
89. United Arab Emirates
90. United States
91. Uruguay
92. Uzbekistan
93. Vietnam