

'Non-violence is not a weapon for the weak ... It is the weapon for the strong'

Indian Embassy organizes Martyrs' Day, pays homage to Mohandas Gandhi

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 31: The Indian Embassy in Kuwait organized a solemn occasion of Martyrs' Day on January 30 to pay tributes and homage to Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the Father of the Nation.

Speaking on the occasion, the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Sibi George said, "Today we remember, Mahatma Gandhi, our Father of the Nation. On Martyrs' Day we also recall the heroic sacrifices of all those great women and men who devoted themselves towards India's freedom and wellbeing of every Indian."

"Gandhiji is an immortal universal treasure whose life actions, values and principles, and words of wisdom continue to be followed by billions of people around the world. In today's turbulent and challenging times, it is imperative that we 'Remember Mahatma Gandhi' and imbibe his noble thoughts, emulate his teachings and follow the peaceful path he has shown us."

Recalling his struggles, standing in front of thousands of Indian laborers in South Africa, Gandhi, a young lawyer then from India said, "There are several causes for which I am ready to die for, but there are no causes for which I am ready to kill for." This was a vow of non-violence in body, spirit and mind. It is with this weapon of non-violence Mahatma Gandhi won India freedom, a freedom that we continue to cherish as the world's largest democracy of 900 million electorates, the Indian



Kuwaiti artist Mahmoud Al-Qattan presenting the painting to the ambassador.



Ambassador paying floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on Martyrs' Day.



Ambassador honors the artist.

envoy said.

He went on to say, "Non-violence is a philosophy evolved over several centuries in India. It is part of the conscience of Indian life and society. Non-violence is not a weapon for the weak. It is the weapon for the strong. It requires greater heroism than of the bravest soldiers. It is the expression of the deepest love for all humans including one's enemies. It is not only the lack of the physical harm towards others. It also lacks hatred and ill will towards them. Non-violence is not running away from the challenges that we face. It is not running away from our responsibilities. It is facing these challenges with courage and discipline."

"In a world dominated by violence

and hatred," the ambassador said, "Mahatma Gandhi reincarnated the Indian concept of non-violence. His example influenced and inspired many later freedom struggles. I recall the words of Martin Luther King Jr. who said, 'Gandhi was inevitable. If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony.' He continues to inspire millions across the world. His catchwords, now or never, do or die continue to evoke fear in the minds of oppressors. His famous words, 'An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind', remain a guiding principle for humanity."

"It is in recognition of this contri-

but ion that, in 2007 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously, I repeat, unanimously adopted a resolution to observe October 2 every year as the International Day of Non-violence," he said.

The ambassador reminded, Gandhiji also laid a lot of emphasis on self-reliant, self-sufficient villages. This idea has special relevance today, as India has now charted on a vision of building a self-reliant nation (Aatmanirbhar Bharat) and turning Gandhiji's dreams into reality.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us a number of lessons and one amongst them is to be self-reliant. I am proud of the fact that we in India have risen to the challenge and have fared admirably.

Our industrialists, technologists, innovators, scientists and researchers worked untiringly during the pandemic, manufacturing thousands of products from ventilators to PPE kits, from medicines to vaccines to finished products in a variety of areas, and have kept our flag flying high. Today, India has come forward and supplying vaccines to many countries across the world. Today, the world is reiterating its acknowledgement of India's credentials as the Pharmacy of the World," the ambassador said.

"On this occasion," the ambassador said, "I am happy to receive the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi today at the Embassy. This portrait is a beautiful collaboration between India and

Kuwait especially since the portrait has been drawn by the renowned Kuwaiti artist, Mahmoud Al-Qattan, who is here with us today.

"I had the honor of visiting the Kuwaiti Artists Association and see the wonderful gallery. I recall the warm welcome extended to me by the President of Kuwait Arts Association, Abdul Rasool Salman and the leadership of the Association.

"We look forward to more collaborative efforts to connect the artists of our two countries, in coming weeks and months when we celebrate the 60th anniversary establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries and also the 75th anniversary of India's independence," the ambassador concluded.

Regulations issued for citizens' right to access 'personal data'

NCCAL discusses GCC joint cultural work

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 31, (KUNA): Minister of Justice Dr Nawaf Al-Yassin on Sunday declared issuance of executive regulations of the Law 12/2020, whereby affirming citizens' right to retrieve information and documents of personal concern.

The decision will be effective in March, the minister said in a press statement, explaining that the law and regulations grant the

right to nationals to have access to information, decisions and documents concerning their rights.

A citizen applying for data collection should pay a KD five for each document.

Minister Al-Yassin noted that the regulations boost transparency and integrity in government and administrative transactions.

The law, minister Al-Yassin, elaborated, is warranted by the UN from the member states. Moreover, it is stipulated in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) (2020). Furthermore, its enactment boosts Kuwait's international status with respect of indices concerning freedoms and combating corruption.

The CPI is an index published annually by Berlin-based Transparency International since 1995 which ranks countries "by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, as determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys."

The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) discussed the cultural programs plan and joint GCC cultural work, during a meeting of the General Cultural Committee of the GCC on Sunday.

The online meeting, chaired by Bahrain, discussed implementing a decision of GCC culture ministers related to the Gulf states' cultural strategy 2020-30, supervisor of NCCAL foreign cultural relations Mohammad bin Redha told KUNA.

Bin Redha, also member of NCCAL's Cultural Committee, added that they also discussed Bahrain's suggestion on celebrating the international Islamic art day, as well as discussing the final statement of the 41st session of the GCC Supreme Council.

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) has recommended a five-year renewal of accreditation of Kuwait University's Faculty of Administrative Sciences, a scholar said Sunday.

Dr. Mohammad Zainal, Acting Dean of the Faculty, said in a statement the renewal would help maintain the Faculty as one of the world's best departments offering administrative sciences studies.

He said a delegation from AACSB was scheduled to visit Kuwait in March 2020 to the accreditation assessment, but the pandemic forced cancellation of the visit.

But the Faculty succeeded in providing virtual assessment for the AACSB including attending lectures online, he said.

AACSB is an American professional organization that was founded in 1916 to provide accreditation to schools of business.



Flowers from the Ministry of Information on the occasion of the Arab Times' anniversary.

Info Ministry congratulates Arab Times

Minister of Information and State Minister for Youth Affairs Abdurrahman Baddah Al-Mutairi congratulated the Senior Management and staff of the Arab Times newspapers on the occasion of the newspaper's anniversary for continued efforts to enrich the media scene and wished the daily more success. The Undersecretary

of the Ministry Munira Al-Huwaidi in her message said the Arab Times occupies a prestigious position among the local and international newspapers because of the distinguished efforts exerted by the staff and their keenness to uphold the values of professionalism. She wished the Arab Times progress and more success.

Field visits to evaluate 'degrees' issued by 80 Turkish universities

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 31: The Kuwait Society of Engineers and the Turkish Embassy in Kuwait have agreed to organize academic trips for the Society's Qualifications Assessment and Accreditation Committee, including field visits to evaluate engineering qualifications issued by universities and engineering and technological colleges in Turkey.

This came during the meeting between the President of the Society, Engineer Faisal Al-Atal and the advisor of the Turkish embassy accredited to Kuwait, Bilal Amira Peral, and the educational attaché at the embassy, Salman Ishik, which was held at the Society's headquarters, in the presence of the Secretary-General, Engineer Fahd Al-Otaibi, the Treasurer, Engineer Ali Al-

Faialkawi, a member of the Board of Directors Dr Shurooq Al-Jasser, and the technical advisor for the Engineering Qualifications Evaluation Committee Dr Ali Al-Shammari.

Al-Atal said the Society is keen to update the evaluation programs for engineering qualifications in Turkey and other friendly countries of the world, pointing out that there are more than 80 engineering universities and colleges in Turkey whose educational programs must be evaluated and their accreditation from international institutions should be reviewed, and that "we are keen to develop relations with their engineering organizations and make available positions for qualified applicants to enter the labor market in Kuwait."

16,355 Kuwaitis looking for jobs in private sector

By Faris Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 31: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) said 16,355 Kuwaitis are looking for an opening in the private sector, seven of whom hold Doctorate degrees and 236 Masters'.

A PAM source told the Al-

Seyassah daily, among them 9,140 are university graduates, 2,818 are diploma holders, 1,154 have high school certificates and have more than two years experience and 154 who hold the same qualification have one year of experience, in addition to 553 who are 'lowly' qualified.

The sources indicated 1,545 of them hold intermediate

qualification and 154 have completed the one-year course in various disciplines, 134 have completed a two-year course, 189 3 years and more and 257 with one year experience, in addition to 811 holders who are lowly qualified.

The sources stated among job seekers 69 have completed vocational training.

Burgan Bank announces names of the daily lucky winners of Yawmi account draw

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In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three

months. The Yawmi Account offers Daily and Quarterly Draws, wherein the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.