

Annual event to celebrate National Youth Day on January 12

Indian ambassador unveils Vivekananda portrait at embassy premises

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 13: On the occasion of the 'National Youth Day' which unarguably marks the birth anniversary of the 'Youth Icon for Ages' Swami Vivekananda, the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Sibi George disclosed that the Swami Vivekananda Address in Kuwait will be an annual event to celebrate the National Youth Day on January 12.

Addressing the invited guests and the media, upon unveiling the portrait of Swamiji at the Embassy premises the Indian envoy said, "We commemorate not just an individual but a phenomenon, which cannot be described in mere words."

"Swami Vivekananda," he said, "was a colossal figure in our history who played a leading role in bringing about a new awakening in India." The ambassador recalled his younger days when at school children would recite his powerful words 'Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached'.

Swami Vivekananda emphasized on the ideals of service and renunciation. His belief in Yuva Shakti was unwavering; which found expression in his iconic saying 'Give me 100 believing youth and I shall transform India'. Belief, here, means belief in oneself, he said.



Indian ambassador paying tribute to Swami Vivekananda.

Addressing the 2nd National Youth Parliament Festival the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Our freedom fighters were influenced by Swami Vivekananda. His works have always been effective in instilling nationalism in the youth. Time passed, the country became independent, but the influence of Swami lingers on."

"What he said about spirituality, nationalism and nation building and his thoughts flow within us with the same intensity."

As a young student, and later as a diplomat, the ambassador said, "I was fortunate to visit many places associated with the life of Swamiji. The Vivekananda memorial in Kanyakumari, the southernmost point of the Indian peninsula where the Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal meet, where Swamiji is believed to have attained his enlightenment."

His ancestral home in Kolkata and the site in Chicago where he delivered the historic 1893 address – the most memorable speech that



Indian ambassador addressing the invited guests and media.

introduced Indianness to the Western world – are preserved for posterity.

"I recall, one of the first places in Switzerland that I visited as India's Ambassador was Saas Fee to pay homage to Swami Vivekananda who travelled to that beautiful town in the Alps Mountain in 1896, and a testimony of this is a memorial and a statue of Swamiji, the envoy said.

The ambassador said, the teachings of Swami Vivekananda will continue to influence the lives of

every Indian, whether in India or abroad. "This portrait will serve as a reminder to us and also to all visitors to our mission of the contributions of Swamiji who energized the young people, made them aware and unleashed their creative energies. I am happy that this would also inspire the students who visit the Embassy as part of our soon to be launched 'Embassy familiarization visit' for children from our 23 Indian schools in Kuwait. It will be a reminder for us all on the Indianness that Swamiji embodied which continues to guide

and inspire us and continue to inspire millions of our young brothers and sisters, the envoy said.

The ambassador took this opportunity to thank HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the Crown Prince HH Sheikh Misha'al Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for hosting the large Indian community in Kuwait and for their leadership in strengthening the bilateral relations between our two friendly countries.

He also expressed gratitude to the government and the people of Kuwait for the personal care and humanitarian support extended to the Indian community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The relationship between India and Kuwait is historic and deep rooted by civilizational affinities tracing back to centuries. At the heart of this relationship are the people-to-people exchanges which have sustained and nurtured this close relationship over centuries. These vibrant exchanges have transformed the relationship substantially into a mutually beneficial long standing dynamic partnership, he added.

The ambassador also thanked Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhdh, President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for delivering the first Swami Vivekananda address and also installed the portrait of Swami Vivekananda in Kuwait.

Ministry of Finance eyes ITAS to implement 'taxation' in Kuwait

Bid to cancel all means of cash payments

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 13: It seems that Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS) will be the password that opens the file of taxes in Kuwait wide open again. The move made by the Ministry of Finance to introduce the practice of supplying ITAS through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) was met with parliamentary reactions of rejection by claiming, "taxes will not pass except on the dead body of the parliament", reports Al-Rai daily.

This raises the slogan of defiance in front of the government's tendency to impose taxes on individuals, as MPs cast responsibility on the government particularly the Minister of Finance for the repercussions of the practice if it is not canceled or with-

drawn permanently.

The documents presented by the Ministry of Finance revealed that the system targets current tax laws and "any laws that may be new in the future" which the informed sources consider as an indication of the government's approach to impose new taxes.

The sources explained, "The project is not new. It was previously presented in the earlier annual plans of the Ministry of Finance, and aims to develop the tax administration in accordance with international systems, in order to cover the current tax laws and any laws introduced in the future. This makes the government ready and willing to apply any type of taxes if approved".

The Ministry of Finance stated that the new targeted system covers the following tax laws:

1. Kuwait Income Tax Decree No. 3/1955, as Amended by Law No. 2/2008
2. Kuwait Income Tax Law in the Designated Region No. 23/1961
3. Law No. 19/2000 in the matter of supporting and encouraging national workers to work in non-governmental entities
4. Law No. 46/2006 regarding za-

kat and the contribution of public and closed joint-stock companies to the state budget

5. Any new laws in the future.

The proposal presented in this regard identified 16 expected benefits, the most important of which are the provision of an integrated central system for tax administration; a mechanism for registering taxpayers and issuing a unified tax number for registrants electronically, checking declarations, a mechanism for collection through multiple payment methods, urging taxpayers to pay dues as soon as possible, tools for detecting tax fraud and reporting suspicious tax returns to avoid lost government revenue, assessing risks in the claims collection process, helping to count unregistered taxpayers, and providing a high degree of electronic work, and avoiding manual intervention.

In other news, in a firm measure to confront the non-compliance of a number of government agencies, the Ministry of Finance will gradually work on eliminating all traditional means of payment (cash) in all government agencies, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting reliable sources.

They affirmed that the development of automated systems for collection in all government agencies has become neces-

sary, and all operations will be 100 percent electronic in the coming period.

The sources explained that the Ministry of Finance issued a new circular to call on all government agencies to develop automated systems for collection of payment. The circular stated the following:

"The state is seeking to simplify procedures, and ensure speedy completion of government transactions. Also, the Ministry of Finance desires to develop a mechanism for collecting state revenues and public fees by linking government agencies' systems with the approved service provider, to access automated electronic collection so that the processes become 100 percent electronic."

"Based on the Cabinet's decisions and Ministry of Finance's circulars related to electronic payment, the Ministry of Finance will gradually cancel all means of cash payment that are not linked to automated systems."

"Therefore, all government agencies must take the necessary measures to develop automated systems for collecting revenues and public fees to facilitate financial operations and control procedures, in coordination with the Central Agency for Information Technology."

'Hiring' of foreign school in Kuwait triggers criticism

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 13: Several parents of students have condemned in strongest terms the imposition of a foreign school in Kuwait to conduct aptitude tests for students in all educational stages because the school has threatened to reduce grades of students in the event that they do not attend, which has aroused panic among parents.

The parents want to know if this school is above the law and above the procedures laid down by the health authorities in the country which have prevented students from attending schools and universities to prevent them from getting infected.

The parents explained to Al-Seyassah daily that writing exams in light of the ongoing Corona pandemic will inevitably lead to the infection of many children, especially since most students will come in contact with their colleagues, drivers and servants outside the school, especially since most of the students accompany drivers and servants while going to and returning from school.

They indicated taking the tests will lead to crowding outside and inside the school and this may have harmful consequences for children and their families, as the infection of the child with "Corona" will inevitably lead to the infection of huge numbers of students and parents.

They said it is high time the Special Education Department of the Ministry of Education step in and take corrective measures.



Gibblins™ Fantasy Builder

Available on AppGallery

Huawei users among the 1st to play 'Gibblins™ Fantasy Builder

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 13: Huawei users can get to build their own fantasy castle in Gibblins™ Fantasy Builder – a brand-new mobile resource management and castle building strategy game –, available from the 10th of December on the HUAWEI AppGallery. Thanks to a continuous partnership between Huawei and game developer Behaviour™ Interactive, HUAWEI AppGallery is one of the first applications in the marketplace to release the game.

"We're very excited to collaborate with Huawei once again to bring the delightful world of Gibblins to AppGallery, and simultaneously to mobile gamers on all platforms" said Wayne Meazza, Executive Vice-President, Behaviour Interactive. "We're confident the game's fantasy imagery, humorous tone, and fun pop-culture references will entice a wide variety of players, bringing fun and excitement right into the palm of their hands."

In Gibblins™ Fantasy Builder, players get to build and manage their ultimate fantasy castle, while amassing a fortune with the help of Gibblins, industrious and mischievous goblin-like creatures. To achieve that, players put their Gibblins to work to gather resources underground, and craft epic gear for courageous Adventurers, who visits the player's very own hand-crafted magnificent castle. From mining for precious minerals, to brewing kombucha and crafting weapons, the Gibblins do it all.

Gibblins Fantasy Builder marks the second time Huawei is working with Behaviour Interactive to bring their labour of love to gamers simultaneously through the HUAWEI AppGallery and other mobile platforms. To bring this partnership to life, developers at both Huawei and Behaviour Interactive worked closely to integrate Huawei capabilities such as Account Kit and In-App Purchases to the new game app to make the experience seamless.

HUAWEI Account Kit allows users to swiftly sign into the

game app to start game play in the shortest time possible, while HUAWEI In-App Purchases (IAP) enable users to purchase extra content and features within the Gibblins Fantasy Builder app. Available in more than 170 countries and regions, HUAWEI AppGallery offers a wide variety of global and local apps across 18 categories including navigation & transport, news, social media, and more. HUAWEI AppGallery is committed to providing its 500 million active users with a high-quality app download experience.

Visit HUAWEI AppGallery now to download Gibblins Fantasy Builder.

About Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG)

Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG) is one of Huawei's three business groups, providing a range of products including mobile phones, wearables, tablets and laptops. Huawei's products and services are available in more than 170 countries and are used by a third of the world's population, ranking second in the world in mobile phone shipments in 2018.

In 2018, Huawei was named number 48 on BrandZ's Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands and number 79 in Forbes World's Most Valuable Brands. Huawei ranked No.5 globally amongst top spending companies in R&D according to EU Industrial R&D Investment (2018).

As a leading technology company, Huawei invests a significant amount of its annual sales revenue to research and development efforts and has established 14 research centers around the world. Among these facilities is the Huawei Aesthetics Research Center in Paris. Huawei's newest R&D center is the Max Berek Innovation Lab in Wetzlar, Germany, where Huawei and Leica are jointly researching technologies to improve mobile device camera and image quality.

For more information please visit: <https://consumer.huawei.com/kw-en/>

ABK Congratulates Winners of the Weekly Samsung Visa Draw



1 st Draw	2 nd Draw	3 rd Draw	4 th Draw	5 th Draw
KHALED YAKHLEF	SAMAR ABDULBAKI	SEAN MENEZES	MOHAMED ALNEMS	FAISAL MANDALI
MAJED ALMUTAIRI	KHALED ALGHAIS	AHMED HAMZA	SAOUD SHAWKAT	ABDULSAMAD ALSARRAF
RANJITH CHANDRAN	FAHAD ALMUBARKI	GHANEM ALGHANEM	MOHAMAD ALJHAHL	JEHAD JUBARAH

The campaign will run through to 27 January 2021, awarding three lucky winners a Samsung Galaxy Watch3 every week when using an ABK VISA credit or prepaid card on Samsung Pay.

To enter the draw, customers must spend a weekly minimum of KD 20, locally or Internationally using their ABK Visa credit or prepaid card through Samsung Pay on any POS terminal. Each KD10 spent automatically earns ABK cardholders one entry point for the draw.

ABK's Samsung Pay offers users a better way to pay, offering a quick and contactless payment solution. The bank will continue to introduce innovative digital solutions, supporting a shift towards a cashless future.