

News in brief

PCR test required
before traveling to US

WASHINGTON: Kuwait's Embassy in Washington has called all citizens heading to the US to do the pre-departure PCR test starting from January 26, 2021. In a statement late Tuesday, the embassy said travellers should have certificate proving that they are not infected with the COVID-19, issued 72 hours before the date of departure, according to the new procedures that will be applied by the US health authorities. For more information visit the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: www.cdc.gov.

Indian Embassy hosts open house

KUWAIT: A digital open house with Indian Ambassador Sibi George will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 3:30 pm, the Indian Embassy announced. The open house will be open to all Indian nationals in Kuwait. Those interested may register by sending their details including full name as in the passport, passport number, Civil ID number and contact number and address in Kuwait, through an email to community.kuwait@mea.gov.in. Questions and comments may also be sent by email. Those registered will be intimated about the meeting ID and other details.

Israel stamp

KUWAIT: Any Gulf national has the right to enter Kuwait even if their passport contains an entry stamp to Israel, Al-Anbaa reported yesterday quoting an informed security source at the border outlets. The source said there is an agreement between GCC countries that guarantees movement of these countries' citizens between them, and Kuwait has nothing to do with bilateral agreements any Gulf country signs with Israel. He said as per the Gulf agreement, any Gulf national can enter Kuwait using their country's passport even if it has Israeli entry and exit stamps, adding many Americans and Europeans enter the country using passports they previously entered Israel with.

Indian embassy celebrates 'National Youth Day'

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: The Indian Embassy in Kuwait on Tuesday celebrated 'National Youth Day' marking the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda -India's 'youth icon for ages'. In a solemn ceremony held at the Indian embassy, Indian Ambassador Sibi George announced the launch of Swami Vivekananda annual address in Kuwait. Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) President Vinay Sahasrabudhe delivered the first 'Swami Vivekananda Address' and unveiled the portrait of Vivekananda on the embassy premises.

The ambassador said the embassy would organize this address annually on the 'National Youth Day' on January 12. "Today, we commemorate not just an individual, but a phenomenon, who cannot be described in just mere words. Swami Vivekananda was a colossal figure in our nation's history who played a leading role in bringing about a new awakening in India," the ambassador said. Swami Vivekananda emphasized on the ideals of service and renunciation. His belief in youth energy was unwavering; which found expression in his iconic saying 'give me 100 believing youth and I shall transform India', he said.

The ambassador thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for hosting the large Indian com-

munity in Kuwait and for their leadership in strengthening the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. "I would also like to express my gratitude to the government and the people of Kuwait for the personal care and humanitarian support extended to the Indian community during the pandemic," he said.

Highlighting the symbiosis between the embassy and the community that exist today, he said the embassy is working very closely with the community; to support those in distress and also collectively celebrate India in Kuwait. "Together we celebrate every important occasion, every festival, every national day of importance; and collectively strive for strengthening of relations between India and Kuwait. Today's event is also part of this endeavor to celebrate India, celebrate the life and contribution of Swami Vivekananda, who is an embodiment of the Indianness in the modern world," he said.

The year 2021-2022 marks the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and India and the embassy is planning to organize a series of events as part of these celebrations. "We also look forward to celebrating the 75th anniversary of our Independence and 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. The embassy, with the support of ICCR, looks forward to working closely with all the Indian community associations in Kuwait and our partners to celebrate these important



KUWAIT: Indian Ambassador Sibi George announces the launch of Swami Vivekananda annual address in Kuwait during a function at the Indian embassy on Tuesday.

anniversaries," he informed.

The ambassador thanked ICCR president, Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhe, for joining the Indian community to deliver the first Swami Vivekananda address and also install the portrait of Swami Vivekananda in Kuwait. "In the last few years, under the visionary leadership of its dynamic president, ICCR has transformed itself as the most important forum in promoting Indian culture abroad and in building cultural partnership with the world, he added.

IDEX, NAVDEX 2021 participants exempt from quarantine in UAE

ABU DHABI: The Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC), the organizer of the International Defense Exhibition (IDEX 2021) and the Naval Defense Exhibition (NAVDEX 2021), held under the patronage of the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, from 21-25 February, has received approval from the Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre for all badge holders to be exempted from the 10-day quarantine procedure on their arrival into Abu Dhabi.

This step has been taken to facilitate the arrival of international delegations from all over the world. International visitors to the UAE must present their event badge, printed on A4 paper, at any border, to be exempted from the quarantine, and they will not be required to wear tracking wristbands. Detailed protocols to facilitate the entry of delegations and support their participation, are being finalized in collaboration with relevant authorities in the UAE, and an update will be published on a later stage.

Matar Saeed Al Nuaimi, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre, part of Department of Health - Abu Dhabi, said: "Through our decision to exempt participants of the IDEX and NAVDEX 2021 exhibitions

from the quarantine period, the Department of Health - Abu Dhabi is keen to promote business activity in the emirate. We worked closely with ADNEC as a strategic partner throughout the pandemic on a number of initiatives that ensured the health of the community. Accordingly, we are confident of their ability to implement rigorous precautionary measures including the necessary PCR tests that ensure the health and safety of visitors and exhibitors attending this event.

"Participants exempt from quarantine procedures still must observe the strict guidelines in place before entering the emirate of Abu Dhabi. In doing so, they will ensure the implementation of preventative measures, safeguarding the highest standards of health and safety for all residents."

"We will co-ordinate extensively with authorities to facilitate the entry of participants to the conference, supporting their attendance by preserving the health of those around them," Nuaimi concluded.

Humaid Matar Al-Dhaheeri, Managing Director and Group CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Company, commented: "This exemption demonstrates how IDEX and NAVDEX are leading the recovery of business activity following the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, it will showcase how Abu Dhabi continues to lead as a regional capital for the business tourism sector. We maintain our support to welcome the world, once again, in spite of the ongoing global conditions caused by the pandemic."

Dhaheeri added: "This stride demonstrates the UAE's and ADNEC's robust range of flexible infrastructure and

operational capabilities, capable of safely organizing a global mega-event. Since the beginning of the pandemic, stringent precautionary and safety measures have been our foremost priority.

"This exemption has been enabled by the continued cooperation and support from our strategic partners and stakeholders. Such support has allowed us to continue to strengthen the position of this event, building on its success and continuing to attract a wider range of visitors and exhibitors. In attracting such a high caliber of international companies, IDEX and NAVDEX will continue to showcase the latest developments in the defense sector."

Through the IDEX, NAVDEX, and the International Defense Conference, ADNEC aims to attract global expertise in the land, sea, and air defense industries, localizing knowledge in the UAE. The 15th edition of the IDEX and NAVDEX exhibitions is a distinguished global platform which highlights the national defense sector and its infrastructure. Further, the exhibitions will showcase the latest in cutting-edge technology in these sectors, following the global innovation trends of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

A wide raft of health and safety measures have been designed and implemented across IDEX 2021, NAVDEX 2021 and the International Defense Conference, ensuring the safety of all participants. All those attending will be required to follow the social distancing measures and the wearing of face masks is being mandated across exhibition facilities, ensuring the safety of all attending the events.

Embassy announces Japanese govt's teachers' scholarship

KUWAIT: The Embassy of Japan is pleased to announce that the Government of Japan offers scholarship to teachers who wish to conduct research on school education at Japanese Universities.

The Japanese Government Scholarship was established in 1954 in order to increase mutual understanding between the people of Japan and other countries as well as to make an international contribution to the intellectual field.

All Kuwaiti citizens who meet the qualifications below are eligible to apply:

- Applicants are those who are born on or after April 2, 1986.
- Applicants must be graduates of universities or teacher training schools and have worked as teach-

ers at elementary, middle or secondary schools for at least five years in total.

c) Applicants should be physically fit to participate in the program.

d) Applicants must be interested in Japan and be willing to deepen their understanding of Japan after arriving in Japan. Applicants must also have the ability to do research in Japanese and adapt to living in Japan.

e) Japanese Embassy will carry out screening, interview and written examinations.

Application forms, detailed information and other conditions can be downloaded from Embassy's page: (https://www.kw.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00117.html).

The deadline for submitting applications is Thursday, February 18, 2021. Only soft copies, PDF format, and sent by email to the Embassy, will be accepted. The application process consists of document screening, written exams, and personal interview. Academic exams will be held on Tuesday March 2, 2021. Inquiries can be made with the cultural section of the Embassy of Japan on 25309426.

DWC bids farewell to Kyrgyz envoy



KUWAIT: The honorary president of Diplomatic Women's Committee Sheikha Halah Bader Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah held a tea gathering at English tea lounge in Sheraton hotel to bid farewell to Madame Samarguil Adamkulova, the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic for her final departure from the country.

Among the attendees were Dr Tarek El-Sheikh, UN Secretary-General Representative in Kuwait with his wife, the spouse of the Austrian Ambassador, the advisor of DWC Madam Narjis Al-Shatti and members of the committee. Sheikha Halah presented new year gifts to all attendees, she also presented a souvenir of Kuwaiti heritage to the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz

Republic, a box that contains many things presenting traditional Kuwaiti heritage.

At the end of the meeting, Her Excellency the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic thanked Sheikha Halah and DWC, specially Madam Narjis Al-Shatti, the advisor of the committee and Fauzia Abdul Basit, the media and public relations officer for their efforts and dedication to make DWC an eventful and a successful organization introducing Kuwaiti culture and heritage to the world through the diplomatic circle, wishing a new year ahead full of happiness, peace and health with special prayers to God to remove the scourge of this pandemic from the whole world.

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E: info@kuwaittimes.net