

KUWAITIS DISPLAY TALENTS AT JAPANESE HOBBY FESTIVAL

FANS SHARE THEIR HOBBIES, PICTURES



By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Japanese manga and anime arts are very popular in Kuwait. Their numerous fans also collect figures of the characters of these cartoons and videogames. Fans sharing this hobby have started groups on social media and share their hobbies and pictures. The Plamo Official Hobby Club is one of these groups and it brought manga fans together at a two-day event. Plamo Official Hobby Club organized a Japanese Hobby Festival over the weekend at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK).

More than 1,000 people attended this festival, including Japanese students and the Japanese ambassador, who gave a speech. The festival included different activities such as an official scale modeling competition, manga art contest, cosplay contest, videogames, figurine collectors and tabletop and role-playing games among others. Young Kuwaiti talents were par-

ticipating as well. Zahraa Sarkhoh was displaying some of her creations. She invented manga characters and printed them to make key chains.

Dalal also printed the characters she invented to be used as bookmarks, notebooks, etc. Some participants selling figures have their own shops while others only have accounts on social media. One participant was even selling some items of his very huge collection of figures as he doesn't have a space in his house anymore.

Furthermore, the festival included activities on the stage of the ACK auditorium. The seats of the theater were not enough to fit the attendees. Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Toshihiro Tsujihara gave a welcome speech along with a short presentation on manga cartoons by people from the field. The audience also enjoyed live music performance of Japanese music and anime music played on guitar by Kuwaiti



fans of manga. The winners of the scale modeling competition and manga art contest were awarded at the event too.

Plamo Official Hobby Club is also offering courses for modelers and scale hobby enthusiasts. People can register on PLAMOQ8@live.com. Anime is a

Japanese animated production featuring hand-drawn or computer animation. The word is the abbreviated pronunciation of "animation" in Japanese. Manga is comics created in Japan, or by Japanese creators in the Japanese language, conforming to a style developed in Japan in the late 19th century.

NOORTEL SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP E-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

KUWAIT: Ayman Al-Bannaw, the Chairman and Managing Director of Noor Telecommunications Co. (NOORTEL) announced yesterday that the company shall participate in the upcoming "E-Government Forum: Recent Trends, Security Risks, and Implementation Challenges" that shall be held by the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad AL-Sabah during the period of Nov 11-13. Al-Bannaw said "This participation conforms to NOORTEL's strategy of supporting CAIT's efforts to develop the e-government program of Kuwait."

The Chairman and Managing Director of NOORTEL said that Kuwait was the first country in the region to introduce computers and implement automated systems in government agencies back in the early seventies of last century. This heritage provides Kuwait with a strong technical and competent IT expertise and a large supporting and trained user community that can efficiently support moving into a futuristic e-government program.

Commenting on NOORTEL's participation in the Forum, Al-Bannaw said "There could be many technical, administrative, and bureaucratic complexities that hinder the development of a comprehensive and integrated e-government program, but we are confident that CAIT is capable to lead the effort. Yet, we have a high sense of responsibility that we should support CAIT's efforts along with all qualified private and relevant public sector organizations." He confirmed that the private sector is



Ayman Al-Bannaw

eager to play his role in developing this nationally vital program.

Concluding his statement, Al-Bannaw said that NOORTEL, and through its five subsidiaries, hundreds of qualified and specialized staff, and a significant heritage of experience derived from many successfully implemented projects, can play an important role in driving the e-government program forward. He finally hoped that His Highness the Prime Minister and the whole political leadership support CAIT's and other government agencies' efforts in developing the e-government program along with the dynamic private sector to end up with more efficient, relevant, and transparent government services that pave the way for a better Kuwait.



KUWAIT: French frigate FLF Aconit pictured during its port call in Kuwait yesterday. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

FRENCH WARSHIP VISITS KUWAIT

KUWAIT: French frigate FLF Aconit called in Kuwait City on Friday. Aconit is currently deployed in the Arabian Gulf on a regular presence mission which sees assets in the area on an almost permanent basis throughout the Indian Ocean. French naval assets are typically deployed on anti-piracy or anti-terrorism missions as an integral part of French activities in the area.

Aconit has, since the beginning of her mission, visited several merchant vessels, provided assistance to their crew and also been involved in different multinational exercises.

Sending French ships to the Arabian Gulf is quite common nowadays. It shows a permanent interest on the part of France, a member of the P5 cautious to fulfil its obligations to an area strategic to resources, free trade and ship-

ping. Aconit is the fourth on a class of 5 warships. Usually sailing alone, she can also be integrated to a task group. Her various capacities including her communication systems and her intensive training enable her to cooperate easily with other international navies.

The Aconit is manned on a complement of 170. She is equipped with several radars, command and control systems and weapons including guns and missiles. Her helicopter Panther fraises extended surveillance range and reporting capabilities. This frigate can also accommodate heavier helicopters. Since she was commissioned, 14 years ago, the Aconit participated in many long term missions to fight terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking and to provide assistance to seamen.

Her pulling alongside in Kuwait



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Journalists wishing to cover this event should take contact with the Public affairs officer on board.



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GOVT OK WITH RAISING KIDS ALLOWANCE TO KD 75

KUWAIT: With the approach of the parliamentary term commencement and the persistence of some MPs on having some public proposals approved, a governmental source stressed that a committee previously formed to study public demands said that in view of soaring prices and the increasing cost of living, the KD 50 allowance citizens get per

child is not enough.

The committee also said that the government has no problem increasing it 50 percent to KD 75 per child. Commenting on the same issue, a number of lawmakers stressed that the majority of MPs demand a 100 per cent increase even though they believe that KD 100 is still not enough for the monthly expenses of one child.

ARAB GROUP TO ISSUE STATEMENT ON SAUDI SEAT IN UNSC

NEW YORK: One week after its first press statement calling on Saudi Arabia to reconsider rejection of a Security Council non-permanent seat it was elected to last week, the Arab group met yesterday to discuss a draft of a second press statement that would reiterate that call.

An Arab diplomat told KUNA that the second statement would urge Saudi Arabia to reconsider its decision and rejoin the Council, as it is the best country to defend the issues of particular interest to the Arab and Muslim people.

The statement would also share Saudi Arabia's reasons for rejecting the seat, mainly the Council's practice of double

standards and its failure to put an end to the conflict in Syria and between Palestinians and Israelis.

It would finally express appreciation to the Asian group for understanding that the seat, although rejected by Saudi Arabia, should still be filled by another Arab-Asian country.

Saudi Arabia reportedly intends to introduce amendments to the second draft press statement. It is not known yet what the amendments are.

Diplomats speculate that Saudi Arabia may eventually reconsider its position, given the fact that it has not officially notified the UN yet of its decision. —KUNA

PAYS AFFIRMS ANTI-DOPING MESSAGE

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Youth and Sport (PAYS) asserted yesterday that anti-doping and combating illegal substances in the athletic field is an honorable and righteous message, adding that Kuwait is keen on combating doping in sports in order to keep youngsters and athletes away from it.

Kuwait's care for anti-doping was embodied by hosting and holding many awareness programs, symposiums, and printed publications and pamphlets that warned of dangerous aspects and impacts of illegal substances, which became enemy number one for clean sports, Faisal Al-Jazzaf, Board Chairman and Director General of PAYS said in a press statement following inauguration of the 11th meeting

of the Anti-Doping Regional Organization (RADO) of the GCC and Yemen.

Kuwait is one of the first countries in anti-doping as it has formed the Kuwaiti Committee for Anti-Doping, in coordination with its international counterparts, to protect Kuwaiti athletes and society from harms of illegal substances on general health, which comes by implementing all rules and regulations issued by international authorities of concern, added Al-Jazzaf.

Also, he expressed hope that the 11th meeting comes out with decisions that contribute in activating anti-doping and combating illegal substances for performance enhancement, expressing his gratitude to all participating international, regional continental bodies. —KUNA

KUWAIT APPOINTS NEW AMBASSADOR IN SENEGAL

KUWAIT: The new Kuwaiti ambassador to Senegal, Muhammad Fadhel Khalaf, presented his credentials to Senegalese Foreign Minister Mankeur Ndiaye on Friday, a statement by the Kuwaiti embassy in Senegal said yesterday.

In the meeting of the two officials, ambassa-

dor Khalaf renewed a Kuwaiti invitation to Senegal to attend the 3rd Afro-American summit to be held in Kuwait Nov 18-20.

The ambassador also applauded the bilateral relations between the two countries, noting Kuwait's keenness on enhancing them.

Likewise, the Senegalese minister extolled bilateral ties and spoke favorably of the results of the recently concluded meetings of the joint Kuwaiti-Senegalese higher committee. The meetings had taken place in Kuwait in the middle of this year. —KUNA

AL-HASHASH SHEDS LIGHT ON KUWAITI WEBSITE

COLOMBO: Kuwaiti engineer Manar Al-Hashash, in her speech delivered at UN-sponsored World Summit Award Global Congress of 2013 on e-content and creativity, held in the Sri Lankan Capital Colombo, shed light on the Kuwaiti website that provides detailed information about the country environment.

Al-Hashash said she spoke about the Kuwaiti website, worked out by Kuwait Public Environment

Authority (EPA), providing "a very rich data bank to everything related to the Kuwait environment."

"Such data and information can be useful for decision makers, experts and various segments of the society."

Kuwaiti project "Beatona" or (Our Environment) will be honored during this ceremony. Beatona is the official environmental portal of Kuwait for the dissemination of

authentic environmental information and data about the State of Kuwait throughout the World Wide Web. Noting the noticeable Kuwaiti participation in the international event, Al-Hashash said she addressed the congress, along with three other keynote speakers, and that she underscored necessity of e-data in the Arab world for various classes and people of diverse concerns. Al-Hashash said the Sri Lankan President opened the week-long congress on October 23rd, speaking in his statement about the State project, "Smart Sri Lanka."

Al-Hashash, who has a long and rich experience in e-content production chairs a session in the second day and a workshop in the third day of the conference.

The WSA Global Congress 2013, held in Colombo from October 23 to 26, involves world's top e-content developers, government repre-

sentatives and leading ICT experts. The conference's objective is to present the most creative mobile and web applications from all over the world and to discuss the crucial role of e-content for the global economy, environment, government, healthcare, education and mobility.

Manar Al-Hashash is a Computer Engineer from Kuwait, holding a master degree MBA with focus on Management of Information Technology. Based on that academic technical background, Manar works in two parallel lines, technical and social. She is the co-founder of DotDesign, a software development company. On the other hand, she embarks on several activities with the main goal of "Promoting ICT in Society".

Since 1999, Manar has been involved in media and public work in many ways to achieve that goal.

She prepares and presents the weekly IT program "Compunet World" on Kuwait Satellite Channel in Arabic as well as preparing and presenting another weekly IT program on KTV2 in English called "Zero Ones".

In 2004, Al-Hashash launched and Managed a Local e-Content Annual Contest under the name of "Ghiras electro Contest" which aims at youths in Kuwait (14-22yrs) competing for best website design, best presentation, best graphic design and best mobile e-greeting card, all focus on local content.

Manar also has a rich experience in the press media publishing for IT, as she wrote a weekly IT page for an official daily newspaper in Kuwait from 2000 till 2005, where she concluded that experience by launching the IT magazine "Dot" of which she was owner and Chief Editor. —KUNA

KUWAIT TO LINK GRADES WITH CLASS ATTENDANCE

KUWAIT: Students' class attendance will be used to determine their grades, a Kuwaiti education ministry official has said.

Under a new decision, students who do not present valid excuses for missing classes will be punished by having their lack of attendance counted against their grades.

The decision was made following reports that indicated that students tended not to show up for classes just before or after holidays and prolong their days off.

Mariam Al Wateed, the ministry undersecretary, said that the decision would be implemented starting the current academic year, adding that the country's education districts have been informed about it and that directives have been given to warn parents and students, local Arabic daily Al Watan reported on Wednesday.

The education ministry has been trying for years to address the phenomenon of student absenteeism after it reached alarming levels.

Various ways to encourage school attendance have been considered, but they have invariably failed to curb the phenomenon, prompting the ministry to opt for using attendance in the determination of grades.

