

## PET PALACE

### people & their pets

Look out for the Arab Times series, the Pet Palace, and read about how people and their animals enrich each other's lives.

The Palace welcomes submissions by our readers. If you'd like to tell the world about your pet, send us a photograph and accompanying article for publication.

— Editor



In this Dec 4, 2018 file photo, Sully, former president George H.W. Bush's service dog, pays his respect to president Bush as he lies in state at the US Capitol in Washington. (AP)

By Michael Casey

Caitlin Hyland's New Hampshire jail cell looks like those of many of her fellow inmates, featuring family photos, a few books and a cot. But one thing sets it apart: the cage on the floor for a 4-week-old puppy.

Hyland, a 28-year-old from Concord, New Hampshire, who is serving time for a drug conviction, is one of four inmates at the Merrimack County jail who are training puppies. In a partnership between a group called Hero Pups and the jail, two male and two female inmates, who are all in the jail's drug treatment program, will raise the puppies for the next two months. They will eventually be handed over to military veterans and first responders who are struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder and other challenges.

"It feels like a second chance," Hyland said of being chosen to raise the chocolate Labrador retriever mix puppy. She must feed the dog three times a day, walk it every two hours for 20 minutes and is giving it obedience training. The dog stays with her around the clock.

"It's just amazing to have that unconditional love," she continued. "I am learning so much about finding the balance. You have to love yourself before you can appreciate the love something else is giving you."

Justin Martin, another inmate, says his dog has given him a sense of purpose.

"Knowing he is going on to help someone else is totally huge for me," said Martin, 33, of Barnstead, New Hampshire. "With me and my sobriety and recovery, it's just really a life-changer. He is really changing two lives."

The program is the first of its kind in New Hampshire but mirrors similar programs around the country in which inmates raise and care for animals, typically dogs.

NEADS World Class Service Dogs works with inmates at seven facilities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island to train service dogs, while Leader Dogs For the Blind works with prisons in Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan in raising puppies that eventually become guide dogs for people who are blind. At one program at the Erie County Correctional Facility in New York, inmates raise pheasant chicks that are then released into the wild.

Supporters of the programs say the puppies get a dedicated trainer while the inmates learn to be more caring, compassionate and enterprising – skills that can help them once they are released. Several studies suggest that puppy programs in prisons and jails have reduced anxiety and depression among inmates and increased morale among staff. Some groups say the programs have lowered recidivism rates, though it's unclear what role the puppies played.

Laura Barker, the board president at Hero

Pups, said she had long wanted to work with prisoners, who typically have "dramatically higher rate of success" in training the dogs. Unlike volunteers outside of prison who must juggle other commitments, inmates can more intensely focus on the animals they are training, and they spend the bulk of their time with the dogs, she said.

"These dogs go on to help people," said Barker, whose group has trained 40 dogs since 2016. "Being able to contribute something positive to the inmate participants just adds another layer of awesomeness."

Also:

**BETHESDA, Md:** Sully, the service dog who symbolized devotion lying by former president George H.W. Bush's flag-draped casket, has a new mission.

The 2-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever on Wednesday joined Walter Reed National Military Medical Center's dog program to help wounded veterans. Sully offered his paw as he was administered an oath streamed on Facebook to "support, comfort and cheer warriors and their families."

Sully received a new vest and is considered a Navy hospital corpsman second class. Sully's Instagram account posted he looks forward to continuing his mission "as my best friend wanted me to." (AP)

### Kuwait



Kuwait City skyline in the horizon during a cloudy day (Shaikha Albasheer – KUNA)

### New Look

dick

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### General

engineers residing in Kuwait are welcome to join the pool of more than 750,000 engineers by becoming corporate or non-corporate members of The Institution of Engineers (India).

IEI, Kuwait Chapter conducts many technical events for the benefits of its members. Please watch for further details in your registered e-mail or announcement in media. The chapter has science club activities for members' children, and ladies wing activities for the member's family. IEI, Kuwait Chapter has facility to register student members for AMIE Examination for those interested in pursuing career enrichment.

For more information and on chapter membership, kindly contact IEI, Kuwait Chapter on Mob: 90098667 or through email to ieikwt@hotmail.com

**Advisory for OCI card holders:** All those having OCI Cards are required to carry both their OCI Card and passport to travel to India so that they do not face any difficulty in immigration clearance.

From October 2018, ICAO will accept only machine readable travel documents, hence, existing PIO Cards, which are handwritten will therefore, become invalid. Thus it will be necessary upon PIO Cardholders to obtain machine readable OCI Cards in lieu of existing hand written PIO Cards before October 2018 to avoid any inconvenience.

**Q8BBall Season 13:** Q8BBall is beginning our 13th season with Boys U13 (ages 10-13) and U17 (ages 14-17). We train three times a week and play regular games throughout the year with schools and clubs. In June 2018, we plan to travel for camp and tournaments in the US. Contact Coach T 97128884 for information.

**Invitation to Grand Mosque:** The Visits Department is pleased to invite you to visit the Grand Mosque, which

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### Makes a strong impression with her talk

## Noor Al Bader an investment analyst and a linguist

This is the first in a series of articles on Noor Ali Al Rashaid Al Bader, an Investment Analyst, writer, a linguist and a Feng Shui expert.

— Editor

By Lidia Qattan

Special to the Arab Times

Noor Ali Al Rashaid Al Bader is an Investment Analyst, writer, a linguist and a Feng Shui expert, a spiritual Eastern philosophical pseudo-science related to the energy fields, brought up in a family encouraging the pursuit of knowledge Noor developed her creative potentials and a strong sense of responsibility.

Her family background delves deep into the history of her country. Indeed "Al Bader" was among the early settlers in Kuwait, which they made it prosperous through commerce and trade by land and sea. The prominence of the merchant Bader family was enhanced by its outstanding generosity, as mentioned in history books dating to the time of Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Sabah, the third ruler of Kuwait (1825-59). The family's ancestral home, "Bait Al Bader" on the sea-front has become part of the national heritage as a museum.

### Heritage

Incidentally members of the family have been actively involved in the democratic strides of their country since the Legislative Council elected in 1938, headed by the Crown Prince, Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Mubarak Al Sabah, in that Council Meshari Hasen Al Bader was one of its 14 members. Other members of the family played a prominent role in the development of Kuwait during its transition from a traditional state into a modern country with a developed economy.

Noor's grandfather from her mother's side, Sayyid Abdulrazzak Razzagi a former judge in India became active in Kuwaiti international politics; in 1963 he headed the delegation that obtained membership of Kuwait at the United Nations. Besides being a skillful diplomat and businessman in the Gulf region, Sayyid Abdulrazzak Razzagi was the first Ambassador of Kuwait in Jordan.

The prominence of Noor's family background spurred her interest in the history of her country and of the region. From early childhood she was encouraged to appreciate the finer aspects of culture through music, taking piano lessons and learning languages, of which Spanish is her favorite. When schooling began, reading became her passion especially poetry and classic novels.

The curriculum of the American school she frequented in Kuwait encouraged her reading about the great masters of the Western literature – novelist and poets, the work of Shakespeare in particular enticed her because of its human portent and physiological depth. But the same curriculum made little mention of the brilliant Arabian writers, poets and novelists of which the Arab world is so rich both in quality and quantity!

The same school curriculum also concentrated on American and European history, instead of the Middle East history, or of the history of her own country; hence she began delving into the subject especially after the Iraqi invasion.

Incidentally at the time her country was invaded, Noor with her fam-

ily were at their summer house in Switzerland, Rashaid, her 18 years old brother and many of her relatives were in Kuwait.

He was 10 years old at the time, too young to understand the severity of the situation, but old enough to realize the fear, the uncertainty and the despair of her co-nationals suddenly deprived of their country.

### Accompanying

She was spared of the immediate worries accompanying such a cataclysmic event in the life of her people, because her father, a man of means provided his family with all it needed and could send Noor to a private school in Switzerland to continue her education.

Studying, interacting with new friends kept her mind busy. Incidentally one of her classmates was the niece of the Iraqi Dictator, Saddam Hussein, but the resentment she felt in her heart towards her was curbed by the wise policy of her teacher, who instructed the girl to take care of the newcomer to the school.

Though deep in her heart Noor could not forget her feeling, nonetheless she accepted the girl as her companion and playmate, for both were of the same tender age when viciousness or malice did not yet spoiled their innocence.

At the same time all through the invasion Noor was taking part in all the activities organized by the Kuwait embassy in Switzerland; she was even presented to Margaret Thatcher when she visited Geneva, to speak of her feeling and of the suffering of her people worrying about their loved ones in Kuwait at their mercy of the invaders.

The five minutes Noor spent talking about her people made a strong impression on the Lady; it also left a lingering feeling in her to know all



Noor Al Bader

about the history of her country.

In the aftermath of the liberation Kuwait was in such a terrible state of devastation and danger from mines lurking everywhere, that no one from abroad was allowed to enter, except teams of engineers and experts to assess the damages, write reports and start the rebuilding process while a train of supplies and water-tankers were being brought in for the relief of the population.

### Abroad

Noor's father, Ali Al Bader and the rest of the Kuwaitis abroad were allowed to return home only when the basic commodities – water and electricity were reestablished.

Though some of the mess was cleaned away, much more needed to be done for life in the country to return to normal.

What worried everyone was how to extinguish the inferno created by the 735 oil wells on fire; this alone was a colossal, dangerous task needing human ingenuity, stamina and sacrifice!

Invasion As soon as Noor finished her schooling the family returned home,

by then the house had been restored and refurbished, as every empty house during the invasion in Kuwait who ever entered it took away everything that could be taken and destroyed the rest.

### Invasion

Incidentally the Iraqi invasion began on the 2nd of August when most people were abroad on vacation, consequently there were plenty of empty houses. From the second day a flood of Iraqi families entered the country to take possession of those houses and keep an eye on the people. At the same time Kuwait was declared a restricted military zone making impossible for those abroad to return home, those who managed to return had to move in with their relatives.

The first glimpse Noor had of her homeland at her return home was the burning inferno at the oil field, when the plane entering the Kuwait air space emerged from the heavy strata, hanging between earth and sky formed by the smoke rising from the burning oil.

Flying in total darkness for few seconds was a strange experience, but when the whole grim landscape came into view, with tongs of fire leaping towards the sky reflecting on glistening lakes of asphalt, she braced herself for more terrible surprises. When she landed the whole panorama was a macabre sight of blackened buildings and dead trees; she felt reassured and happy to be home when entering the house she saw everything was in order.

The whole experience evoked a strong feeling of attachment towards her homeland, and the eagerness to know all about its history became one of her main objectives when she graduated from High School.

To be continued