

What's On

PET PALACE

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 photo taken on Feb 2, 2019, Vaidas Gecevičius, who developed an app helping to match stray dogs with potential owners, poses for a picture with a dog and shows this dog's profile on the app in Vilnius, Lithuania. (AP)

By Liudas Dapkus

Animal lovers in Lithuania have created a mobile application inspired by the popular dating app Tinder to match up dogs in local shelters with new owners.

Called GetPet, the app was launched last month and is getting hundreds of new users daily and already has made a few matches. It joins a growing market of apps for people looking to adopt a pet, including PawsLikeMe and BarkBuddy.

"It is like Tinder, but with dogs," said Vaidas Gecevičius, one of app's creators. "You can arrange a meeting with the dog - a date."

GetPet features profiles of furry four-legged creatures looking up with soft, yearning eyes. Scrolling down reveals more information about the pup, and those interested can then swipe right. But there are limits to the Tinder comparison. It's a one-sided situation and the dogs don't get to have a swiping experience. If you swipe left, another dog profile appears.

Gecevičius said the idea came to creators when they saw a stray dog on the street through the window during a computer workshop. The app only features dogs for now but the plan is to eventually include cats and other animals.

Two friends, Emily and Elena, recently scanned the app and then visited the SOS Gyunai shelter in Vilnius to meet Piff, a medium black-and-gray mongrel. They took him

for a walk in a snow-covered park and said they would return soon to take him home.

"I think it's actually a very great idea because in Lithuania we have a lot of stray dogs and a lot of people who want to adopt," 24-year-old Elena said as dogs nearby ran around in outdoor cages barking.

Ilna Reklaityte, the shelter's founder, said she is very happy about the innovative approach to an old problem.

"I really welcome this new app as it gives us more chances to find our pets new owners and a new home, and that means we can then help other dogs still on the streets," Reklaityte said.

"We have 140 dogs right now. Sometimes we give away one or two of them every day, but now we receive (many) more calls and people are coming more often."

Also:

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: Iditarod race officials say a dog on a racer's team has died of pneumonia, and the musher has been withdrawn from the event.

In a statement, the Iditarod organization announced that Oshi, a 5-year-old female on the race team of **Richie Beattie**, died Saturday evening at an animal hospital in Anchorage from aspiration pneumonia.

Beattie and his team finished the race on Thursday. The organization says that while

people & their pets

carrying out post-race checkups, Iditarod Trail Committee veterinarians examining Oshi noticed signs of pneumonia. The dog was transported by emergency charter flight to Anchorage on Friday. The dog died the next day.

The Iditarod says a necropsy will be conducted by a board-certified veterinary pathologist to determine the official cause of death.

The 2019 race came during a bruising two-year stretch for the Iditarod that included a dog doping scandal and the loss of national sponsors amid protests by animal rights activists.

On Sunday, a leader of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals denounced the Iditarod. **Tracy Reiman** said the race is responsible for the death of Oshi.

"Oshi was just like any family's dog, but the Iditarod forced her to run until she choked to death on her own vomit, just like so many dogs before her," Reiman said in a statement. "Of those who survive, 81 percent are left with lung damage and 61 percent with gastric ulcers."

"PETA is demanding a full veterinary evaluation of every single dog who was used in the 2019 Iditarod, including the 232 who were pulled from the race, so that the public can see how mushers' pursuit of the prize purse under the pretense of loving these dogs shows a complete lack of concern in pushing them to and beyond their limits. If this had happened to human athletes, people would be in jail." (AP)

New Look

click

Drinking problem?: Friends of Bill W. are available to help. Totally confidential. Email: rohsecretary@gmail.com

Narcotics Anonymous: NA can help with addiction problems. Totally confidential: 94087800 English/Arabic.

Cancer online support group: If you are Cancer patient or family member fighting with this deadly disease, come join our online support group. Best way of dealing with this disease is providing support and share our experience with each other. There are lot of things which even doctors can't tell so be member of this website and start sharing your experiences which may help others. October is recognized as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM). The primary purpose is to promote self examination and screening mammography as the most effective way to save lives by detecting breast cancer at early stage. For more information visit: <http://fightingwithcancer.webs.com/>

Latest

March 21

South African Embassy closure: On the occasion of Human Rights Day, the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa will be closed on Thursday, March 21 and will reopen on Sunday, March 24 with its official office hours from 8h00 to 16h00 & the Consular Section operation hours will be from 8h30 to 12h30. For Emergency calls please contact: 94924895.

March 22

Toastmasters annual contest: It is our immense pleasure to invite one and all to the uniquely crafted Division E Annual Contest scheduled for March 22, at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), Mishref, Kuwait.

An apt theme 'Up Your Game' goes on to fuel the passion of speakers, role players and audiences. It is going to be the center stage providing umpteen opportunities to learn grow and excel. Time to pick up your mobiles, laptops and mark your calendars "Friday, 22.03.2019" as you should be catching this once in a year opportunity to witness eloquent speakers when they Up The Game with their captivating and spectacular speeches that will leave us all spellbound. Entry to this event is free of cost, so feel free to get your family, friends, colleagues and other loved ones.

If you too want to become an outstanding leader, a person whom everyone looks up to and is an idol to many, than toastmasters is the right platform for you to develop your personality. Toastmaster international provides a supportive learn-by-doing environment that allows everyone to achieve their goals. It offers everyone an equal opportunity with that help develop and accelerate speaking skills along with honing leadership proficiencies. If you, your family or friends wish to be part of this exciting journey of ever evolving and want to stand out as tall leaders, people who can think out of the box and can speak on any platform then this is just your perfect gateway. Feel free to connect with us at: 65554673, 97200120, 99024673

Published by Farhan, farhan.merchant@gmail.com, 99783130

April 12

'Kalalaya Varnangal 2019': The 'Kalalaya Varnangal 2019' conducted by the Alumni of Bishop Moore College of Mavelikara, (BMC) which celebrates its Golden Jubilee this year will be held on April 12 in Smart Indian School, Abbasiya.

The award for the best teacher "Guru Vandhanam" instituted BMC Alumni Kuwait Chapter in connection with the celebrations will also be distributed at the event. Prof V.C. John has been selected as the recipient of this award this year.

The musical fusion led by Josy Alappuzha and Udayan Anchal who have made their mark in the South Indian music industry and the Ganamela led by Rajeev Kodambally are the main attractions of the 'Kalalaya Varnangal 2019'.

The arrangements for the program are in full swing said the press release from the organizers. For more information please contact 97542844, 97542985.

General

IEI Kuwait membership: The Institu-

In art, artist finds her true purpose in life

Dr Mona promotes therapeutic value of art

Today's article takes a look at Dr Mona Abdul Bari Haidar, a writer, artist with a PhD in therapeutic value of art.
— Editor

By Lidia Qattan

Special to the Arab Times

Dr Mona Abdul Bari Haidar is a remarkable young woman in love with art since she was a little girl, in school she was sought after by the teachers whenever they needed something to be drawn.

In whatever she did or decided to do Mona's greatest support was her father, especially through her experience of an unhappy marriage, which she ended soon after the birth of her baby girl.

Dr Mona was still a school girl, a sixteen years old teenager when



Lidia Qattan

by family arrangement she was married. Unhappy from the start she tried to give the union a chance, but realizing her marriage could not continue except at the expense of her health and peace of mind, she finally decided to end it. It was a tough decision for a young girl of her age, but the family realizing it was the only way she could regain her health and her grip on life, supported her.

Education

Free from her incubus Mona regained her spirit and the will to continue her education. Frequenting evening classes she complete her high school, enrolled at the Institute of Commerce, got her diploma in Business Administration and started her working career in a private company.

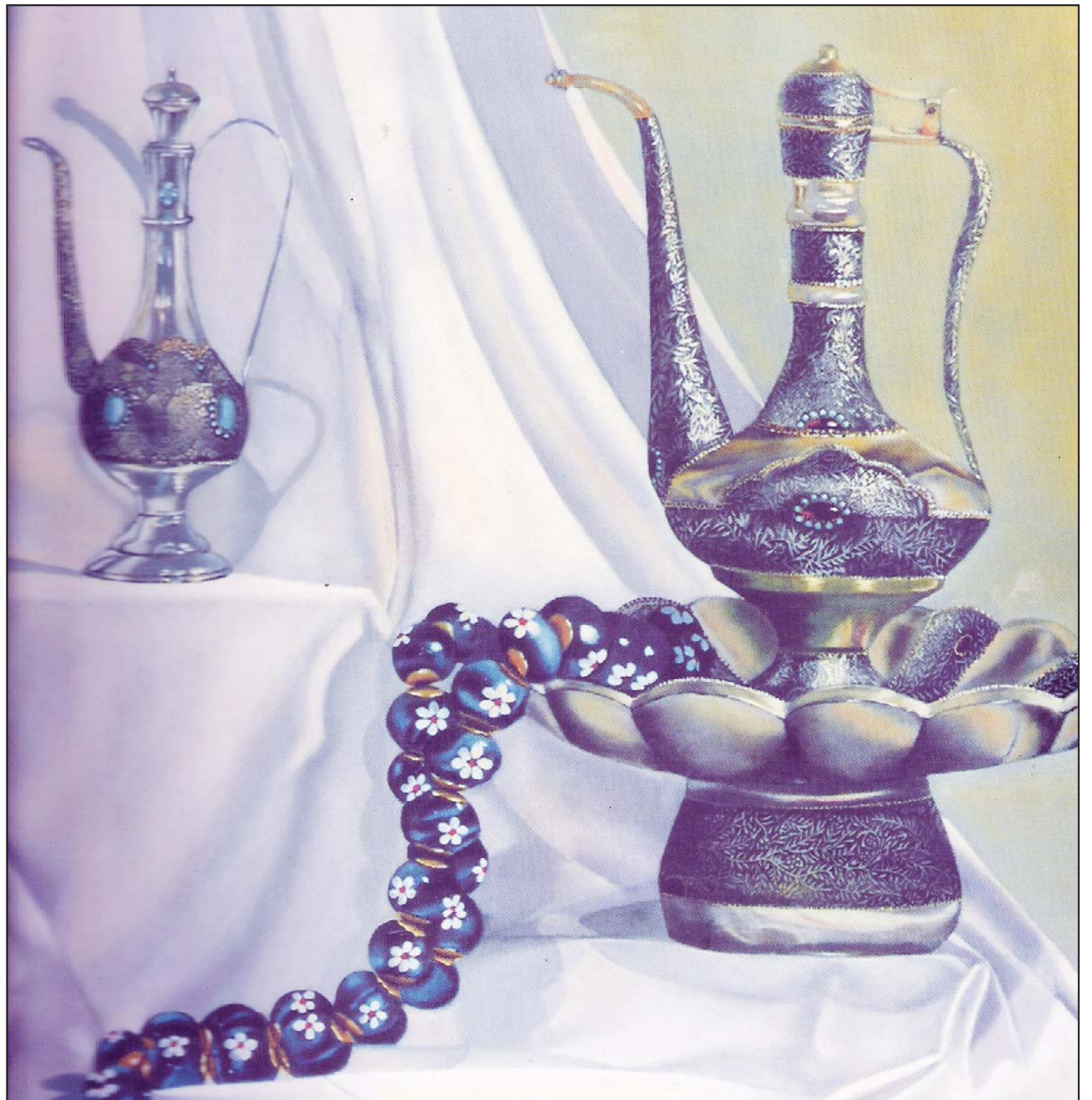
Yearning to return to her old passion, to art, she followed her heart. Paying for her tuition she went to the States enrolled at the University of Georgia and got her Master's in Art. At her return home she became a freelance writer in "Al Taf Al Sabaqa" magazine writing articles on art and articles on social issues in the daily newspaper "Al Ray" (the Opinion).

When her daughter completed her high school education with high marks and got a scholarship to study Medical Engineering in the UK, Mona took the opportunity of fulfilling her long-standing dream of specializing in art. At the University of Georgia she presented her thesis on "Psychological Therapy Through Art" and got her PhD.

Since then her purpose as an art teacher has been to encourage people regain their peace of mind through pinning their emotions and thwarted feelings on canvas.

Through art Dr Mona has found her true purpose in life and the rhythm of her soul following the Neo-classicism trend, and using acrylic, oil, or water colors, her favorite subjects verge on nature and on folklore for which she has a genuine talent.

Talent is important, but it is the passion and the spiritual steam with



One of the paintings by Dr Mona Abdul Bari Haidar

which she reconstructs her experiences into original creations imbued with imagination and mental power that distinguishes her works. Indeed when the flame of inspiration burns high, it lights up a region of the spirit enabling the artist to fuse her experience into a vision that triggers her creativity

Exhibition

From 1999, Dr Mona has been taking part in scores of exhibitions in Kuwait and abroad during which she won a gold medal at the International Art Festival in Tunis and a prize in the Spring Art Exhibition of 2008.

In 2007 she held her first personal exhibition; many of her works are in private collections, some at the Diwan Al Amiri, others at the Bayan Palace complex, at the Modern Art Museum and at a Malaysian

Museum, besides in other private collections.

Always happy to take part in art activities, especially dealing with young artists, Dr Mona supervised on several Summer Cultural Festivals organized by the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters; the first was in 2004; in the next the "Future Generation Festival of 2005 she took part in the workshop; in 2006 she supervised on the course for painting on silk, and on the course of painting for academic students at the Kuwait University; she also took part in the workshop and selection committee in the Khalifa Al Qattan children's exhibition in 2012, the brainchild of Jalila Al Qattan Al Fawaz at the time it was organized by the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters as part of the Summer Cultural Festival for children and youth (2012).

Dr Mona is the Director of the



Dr Mona Haidar

Art Department at the Abul Art and Sport Center, which she organized into an inspiring place for young

artists to practice art, in teaching them she creates an atmosphere that encourages them to open up and relax, helping them to pin their inner anxieties and thwarted expectations on canvas.

Dr Mona is an epitome of those young people whose unhappy experience in life made her stronger. Taking charge of her life when merely a teenager and the mother of a child was not an easy task, but she made it through.

Looking after her daughter, guiding her through her growing gave her the reason for living, while her passion for art gave her the comfort and peace of mind she needed to face the world.

These are such individuals in our midst whose inspiring example can make a difference in the world through their belief in them!

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 is one of Kuwait's most treasured religious

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