

Local

British-Kuwaiti society awards writers on Mideast

LONDON: The British-Kuwait Friendship Society held yesterday a ceremony distributing awards for the best English-language book on studies on the Middle East under the sponsorship of Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Foundation. Names of the winners of Abdullah Al-Mubarak prize were declared during the virtual ceremony and jurors lauded several books on the Middle East history. The top award was divided by the writer Marina Rustow for her book "The Lost Archive: Traces of a Caliphate at a Cairo Synagogue" and Zeina Maasri for her book, "Cosmopolitan Radicalism: The Visual Politics of Beirut's Global Sixties." The first book was published by Princeton University Press and the second one by Cambridge University Press.



Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak

Khaled Al-Duwaisan, the State of Kuwait's Ambassador to the UK, lauded in a statement during the gathering the award role in boosting the Arab-British relations, particularly in the cultural and scientific realms. Managing personnel of the award are keen on holding such a contest annually due to its positive impact on the cultural relations between the UK and Kuwait, he said. Representative of the foundation Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah affirmed in remarks to the press significance of the prize for establishing bridges of understanding and rapprochement among states and promoting the dialogue among civilizations.



Khaled Al-Duwaisan

He has affirmed that the prize is designed to back up valuable researches in English, also indicating that such valuable books can be quite useful in the efforts to bridge the gulf and tackle misunderstanding between the Western and Arab cultures. The prize, which attracts around 50 nominations from some 20 publishers each year, is granted for the best scholarly work on the Middle East. The British-Kuwaiti Friendship Society, headed by the Kuwaiti ambassador, was established in 1996. Among the honorary heads are Sheikh Dr Suad Al-Sabah, and the British Heir Apparent Prince Charles. — KUNA

UAE's anthem, an everyday reality

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

On October 1st, the Dubai 2020 Expo minaret was lit, making the world's skies bright right out of Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates. The UAE had the honor to be selected as the host country to have expo 2020 on its land. Yet, my column will not be about what I saw in the audio-visual art techniques, in a fully integrated show that had the ingredients to reach the world, and it is true that those who brought it to life made it the story of the world.

When I was watching the opening ceremony on TV, I was drawn by the UAE national anthem and its sublime meaning. Not only that, but the beautiful thing is not only the meaning of words, but rather the anthem is a tangible reality with what we have seen through the opening of the "expo of peace".

When the ceremony was over, I looked up the lyrics of the UAE anthem, and found out that it is a patriotic message the forefathers had instilled in their children who continue the mission towards the building of their country and human being. It is so beautiful to see words transformed into reality.

The lyrics of UAE anthem are:

Long live my country, the unity of our Emirates lives. You have lived for a nation whose religion is Islam and guide is the Quran.

I made you stronger in God's name - Oh, homeland! My country, my country.

Allah has protected you from evils of the time.

We have sworn to build and work - work sincerely!

As long as we live, we will be sincere.

The safety has lasted, and the flag has lived - Oh, our Emirates!

The symbol of Arabism.

We will sacrifice for you and give you our blood.

We sacrifice for you with our souls - Oh, homeland!

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