



## DID YOU KNOW?

# BASTILLE DAY

Bastille Day, national holiday in France and its overseas *départements* and territories, marking the anniversary of the fall on July 14, 1789, of the Bastille, in Paris. Originally built as a mediaeval fortress, the Bastille eventually came to be used as a state prison. Political prisoners and detained citizens were held there. Bastille had come to symbolise the harsh rule of the Bourbon monarchy.

During the unrest of 1789, on July 14 a mob stormed the prison and released the seven prisoners held there. The taking of the Bastille signalled the beginning of the French Revolution, and it thus became a symbol of the end of the *ancien régime*. It became an official holiday in 1880. The slogan "Vive le 14 Juillet!" ("Long live the 14th of July!") has continued to be associated with the day.

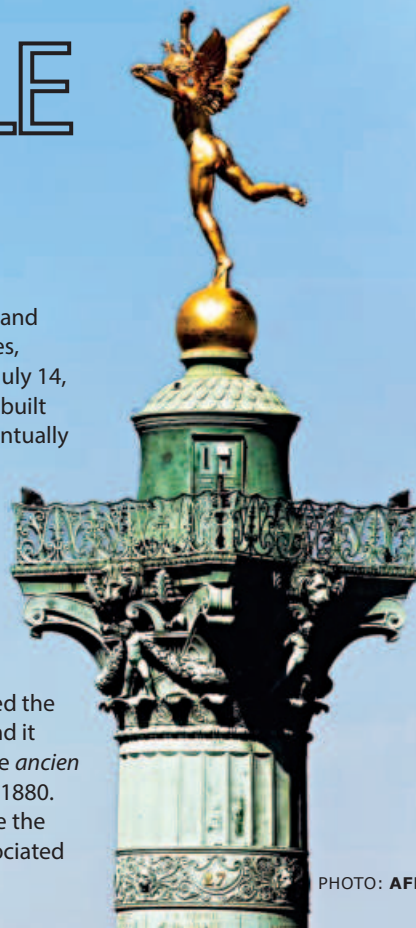


PHOTO: AFP

Editor & Publisher  
**Mahfuz Anam**

Features Editor and Head of  
Content Marketing  
**Ehsanur Raza Ronny**

Rising Stars Team  
**Faisal Bin Iqbal**  
**Syeda Afrin Tarannum**  
**Fatima Jahan Ena**  
**Abir Hossain**  
**Amrin Tasnim Rafa**

Photographer  
**Orchid Chakma**

Graphics & Layout  
**TDS Creative Graphics**

Production  
**Shamim Chowdhury**

Send your articles,  
feedback, and opinion to  
[rs@thedailystar.net](mailto:rs@thedailystar.net)  
Find our content online at  
[thedailystar.net/rising-stars](http://thedailystar.net/rising-stars)

# KAIJU NO. 8:

## THE BREATH OF FRESH AIR SHOUNEN ANIME NEEDED

**AYAAN SHAMS SIDDIQUEE**

When you think about classic *shounen* anime premieres, Luffy's mammoth punch, Itadori smashing through windows, and Denji's epic battles are some of the examples that might come to mind. Overpowered protagonists establishing themselves as a force to be reckoned with is conventionally one of the most effective ways of catching the audience's attention and hooking them in for the rest of the season.

*Kaiju No. 8*, however, is anything but conventional, as it subverts any and all expectations right from the get-go.

Animated by Production I.G and adapted from Naoya Matsumoto's manga of the same name, *Kaiju No. 8* is set in a world where gigantic "kaijus" mysteriously appear across the country and lay waste throughout the dense cities of Japan.

The central character, Kafka Hibino, is starkly different from the flashy, young main characters across the *shounen* trope. He isn't a high school student, a



member of the ultra-futuristic Japanese Defense Force that is in charge of decimating these monsters, or part of the frontline armed forces. Instead, Kafka is a member of the cleanup crew, the team of people entrusted with cleaning up monsters' remains after they have been put to sleep.

The inclusion of a cleanup crew in itself is shocking, because shows rarely ever

focus on the aftermath of monsters running rampage. But making the protagonist an average cleaner and not a hotshot Defense Force officer is definitely a bold approach that deserves appreciation.

Kafka, of course, never wanted to be a cleaner in the first place. He dreamed of joining the Defense Force, but eventually buried that dream after multiple failed attempts. However, after a few chance encounters, his dreams were re-lit for one final time at age 32. The story thus follows Kafka's pursuits at joining the coveted Defense Force and fulfilling promises he made to his best friend and to himself.

One of *Kaiju No. 8*'s strongest points lies in the main character's progression. He is consistently portrayed as the weakest link in any form of combat scenarios and never gets his moment in the limelight. While his significantly-younger peers and fellow candidates are able to bring out their full potential, Kafka lags behind and keeps making a fool out of himself. Despite all this, he keeps pushing himself to be better, lending his intellect and knowledge when his fighting abilities aren't up to par, leading to numerous uplifting and awe-inspiring scenes.

The show has brilliant production quality as well. The animation is dynamic, fluid, and the fight scenes are as seamless as one could hope for. The artwork takes on a modern approach, styling the *kaijus* in a manner that is equally grotesque and also a delight to look at. Energetic and high-spirited tracks complement the action scenes well and provide an even more riveting experience.

In the arguably oversaturated *shounen* market, *Kaiju No. 8* is undoubtedly a breath of fresh air. It is packed to the brim with comedy, action, high-stakes, and a truckload of emotions. Twists and turns exist at every step of the way, making it a series that should definitely be on everyone's radars, and a worthy contender for the best anime this spring season.