

# Lifestyle

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People gather around a depiction of the ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun's death mask made of 7,260 cups of coffee in front of the newly-built Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza, on the southwestern outskirts of the capital Cairo, on Saturday. — AFP

## Egypt sets new world record for largest coffee cup mosaic

At the yard of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) near the Great Pyramids of Giza, Egypt celebrated on Saturday in an open-air ceremony setting a new Guinness World Record for the largest mosaic of ancient Egyptian King Tutankhamun's mask made of coffee cups. "The mosaic of King Tut's mask is made of 7,260 cups of coffee, which is a plus for the GEM whose opening is awaited by the whole world in late 2020," Mostafa Waziri, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, told Xinhua during the ceremony.

The mosaic of Egypt's world-famous boy king's mask was carried out by a group of Egyptian youth. The area of the mosaic is 60 square meters, beating the 2012 world record set by a similar coffee-cup mosaic in the

United States depicting late American singer and actor Elvis Presley's face, which consisted of 5,642 cups of coffee with a total area of 37.24 square meters. The event was attended by the regional director of Guinness World Records for the Middle East and North Africa, Talal Omar, who said that King Tut's mosaic sets a new world record in terms of the number of cups and the total area.

"I'm happy to be in Cairo today to witness a new world record of a portrait (mosaic) made of coffee cups. We are happy about the visit, but feeling happier to be briefed about the Grand Egyptian Museum which will house thousands of ancient Egyptian artifacts. Today, the world record depends upon the total area of the coffee cups or the portrait made of the coffee cups, as it

should be more than 60 square meters. On behalf of Guinness World Records, I am happy to be here to register a new world record for the largest coffee-cup mosaic at the GEM, a great cultural edifice that is expected next year to be jammed with tourists who would love to explore Egypt's history and civilization," Omar told the attendees.

The event was held under the auspices of the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, which used to be two separate ministries before a recent cabinet reshuffle took place earlier in December. "This is the first event to be held after merging the two ministries and it is an important activity for promoting the GEM. Coffee is a welcome drink in Egypt and the cups of coffee in today's

activity signify welcoming Egyptian and foreign tourists to visit this magnificent building," said Ghada Shalaby, deputy minister of tourism and antiquities.

The GEM total area is about 500,000 square meters and it will be the world's largest museum displaying artifacts of one civilization. It is expected to host over 100,000 artifacts, some 3,500 of which belong to King Tut. "Architecturally, about 94.5 percent of the GEM construction is completed, and at least 7,200 square meters of the GEM area will be dedicated to featuring King Tut's artifacts," El-Tayeb Abbas, the GEM's director for archeological affairs, told Xinhua during the event. —Reuters



Syrian singer Asala and Kuwaiti singer Mutref Al-Mutref perform at a concert at the international fairground in Mishref.

## Asala, Mutref headline 'romantic family night'

By Nawara Fattahova

A musical concert titled 'A Night in Life 5' was held at the international fairground in Mishref during the weekend. It was attended by over 3,000 people of different ages and nationalities. The concert - which can be described as a romantic family night - started at 8:00 pm with the young Kuwaiti singer Mutref Al-Mutref.

The audience welcomed him with a huge round of applause, chanting his name. Apart from his new and old songs, he performed one of his father's popular songs on the oud. He concluded at 9:30 pm, expressing his happiness to be performing at the end of the year.

At 10:15 pm, popular Syrian singer Asala came on stage wearing a long white dress. After singing two songs, she announced the surprise of her new upcoming Khaleeji-style album, some of whose songs are composed by Mutref. She then said that she will present a duo with Mutref, who came on stage and sang two songs with her.

After some time, Asala took her shoes off as she felt uncomfortable. "I won't be able to continue singing unless I take my shoes off. I apologize for singing barefoot. I hope you all start the new year in comfort. I'm glad I concluded my musical season with this concert in Kuwait," she noted.

