

APRIL 2001

## Endurance ...

### **100 Km. In the shadows of the pyramids of Giza, Dahshour and Sakkara.**



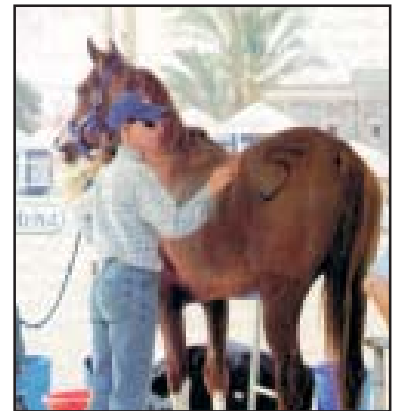
On April 21, 2001 the second annual Al-Ahram Al-Arabi Endurance Race was held. 95 riders started the 100 kilometer course representing Egypt, UAE, Kuwait, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Australia, England, USA, France and Germany.

The event, the second in Egypt to be governed by international rules, began Saturday at dawn in Sakkara, outside Cairo. The 95 riders looped around a hilly course overlooking the pyramids of Giza, Dahshour and Sakkara.

Riding on Fay, Sheik Mohamed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum won the course in 5:46:43 hours, averaging a speed of 18 kilometres per hour. Sheik Hazza' bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, the son of the UAE president, came second, followed by Sheik Rashed bin Mohamed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum.

Abdel-Fattah Ragab, President of The Egyptian Equestrian Federation, commented "It's a new sport in Egypt and both riders and grooms need at least four years training to reach a competitive level in such races."

The 100-kilometer race is divided into four stages. The first is 36 kilometers long followed by a 30-minute break; the second is 30 kilometers with a 40-minute rest period; the third is 20 kilometers after which follows 50 minutes of rest; the last phase is a 14-kilometer stretch. A final vet check-up is then conducted. Mandatory checks by veterinarians are conducted on the horses every 30 minutes on blood pressure, dehydration symptoms and injuries. If a horse is judged to be unsound or physically unfit, for its own sake the animal is taken out of the race. The horses ran in temperatures reaching 35 degrees and could quench their thirst at watering stations every five kilometers. "During the race, out of 95 horses, 14 were eliminated. Most of them came up lame", said Bobby Surendra, one of the race's main veterinarians.



Sheik Mohamed hopes the endurance race will become a medal sport in the 2008 Olympics. "I'm doing my best to make it a spectator sport in Athens in 2004." Abdel-Fattah Ragab assured Egypt's support for Sheik Mohamed's trials to make the endurance an Olympic sport.

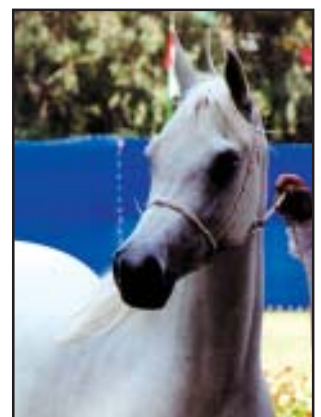
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## **The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Egyptian Arabian Horse Exhibition At El Zahraa Stud**



On April 27 an Exhibition of some of the finest Egyptian Arabian horses in the country was organized by EAHBA on the EAO grounds. The event was a resounding success and was attended by dignitaries and horse lovers from all over the world. Mr. Sakr summed up the theme for this year's event in his opening speech.

"We are not here to compete for honors, but rather to honor the horses that have touched our souls, to appreciate their heritage, to applaud their beauty. We hope you enjoy this historical gathering and share in the camaraderie and good fellowship among breeders who are taking the art of breeding Egyptian Arabian Horses to a new dimension in this millennium."



EAHBA's list of events for the 2001/20002 season include Two Halter Championships, Two Endurance ride competitions, Veterinary seminars in addition to the Short distance races. They also plan to publish the first pictorial Reference handbook of Egyptian Arabian horses in Egypt.