

MO SALAH

**Never stop
DREAMING**



Letter from Cairo

A bi-monthly periodical on the current political, economic, and cultural developments in Egypt.

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Arab Republic of Egypt



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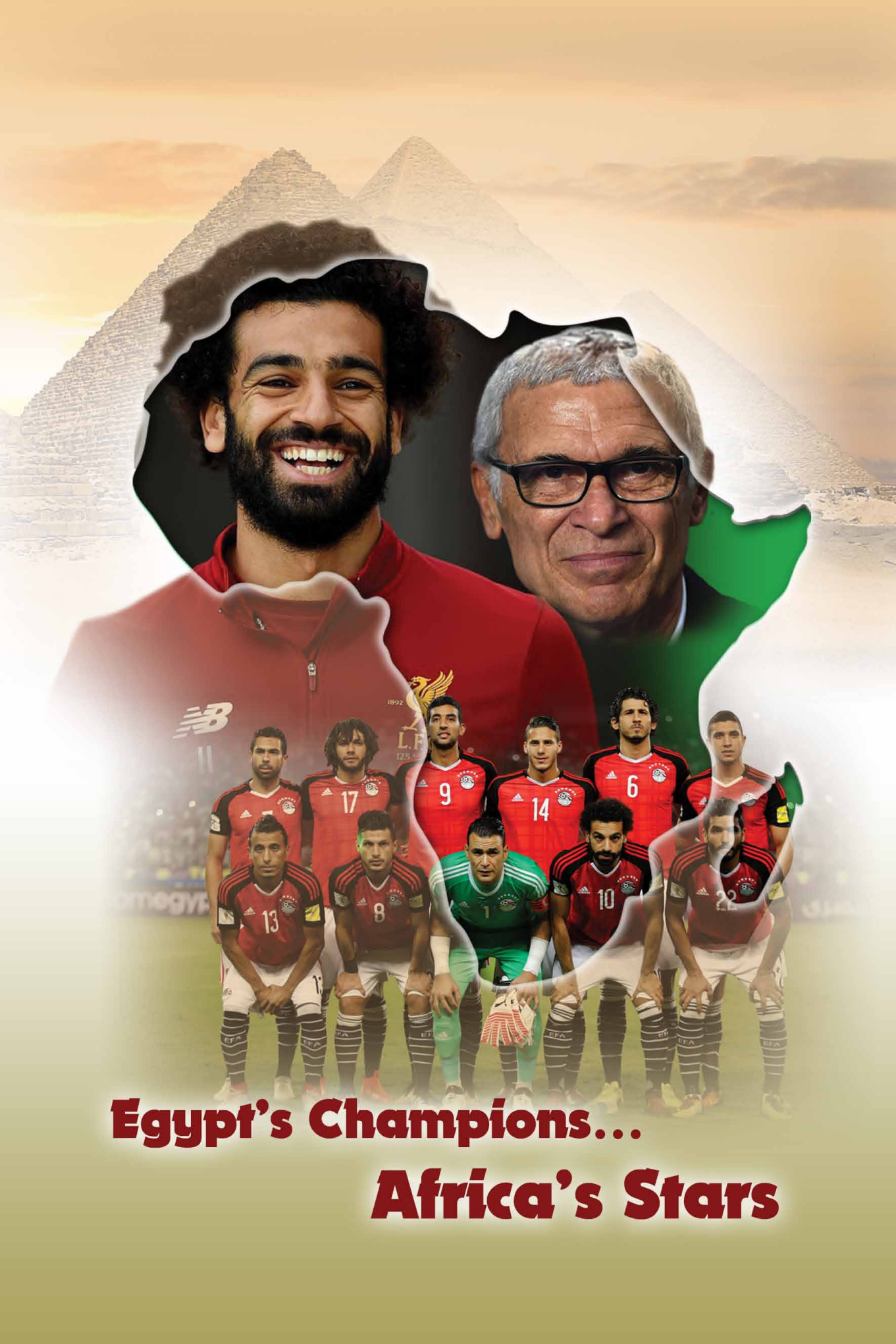
Editorial

2017, Year of Awards & Sports Distinction

The year 2017 was a year of distinction for Egypt on many levels, especially on the security and stability sphere which positively reflected on performance on the economy, development process, mega national projects and urban expansion as well as on other fields resulting in tangible improvement of the lives of Egyptians, their hopes for the future and Egypt's rankings in many international reports.

Sports is part and parcel of Egypt's comprehensive renaissance march currently undertaken by the Egyptian people, as evidenced by the numerous achievements by Egyptian athletes worldwide. Atop of such achievements come the CAF Award of the National Team of the Year as well as Coach of the Year. Egyptian playmaker Mohamed Salah etched his name into football history after being crowned African Player of the Year 2017. Salah fended off opposition from club-mate Sadio Mane of Senegal and Gabonese Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, winner in 2015, to become the first Egyptian to win the most prestigious individual honor in African football. Egypt's sports achievements were not confined to football only but included individual and team sports also. Egyptian male and female champions were crowned winners both regionally and globally. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi honored 32 athletes who won medals and prizes in world sport championships as well as their coaches by bestowing the sport order on them.

Such positive indicators represent just a glimpse of the aspirations of the Egyptian people in the days to come.



Egypt's Champions...

Africa's Stars

2017 CAF Awards:

Egypt biggest winner



World Cup-bound Egypt emerged as the biggest winner of the 2017 CAF Awards in Accra, Ghana, after Egypt scooped the most prestigious African Player of the Year, National Team of the Year as well as Coach of the Year. Egypt beat Super Eagles to take home the National Team of the Year, while their coach, Hector Cuper, denied Super Eagles coach Gernot Rohr the Coach of the Year. Both countries will feature in this year's World Cup in Russia, but Nigeria's undoing in this contest was that they failed to qualify for AFCON 2017 in Gabon, where the Pharaohs were beaten in the championship game by Cameroon.

Egyptian playmaker Mohamed Salah etched his name into football history after being crowned African Player of the Year 2017. The 25-year old, who plays for English side Liverpool picked the topmost prize at the Aiteo CAF Awards Gala 2017,

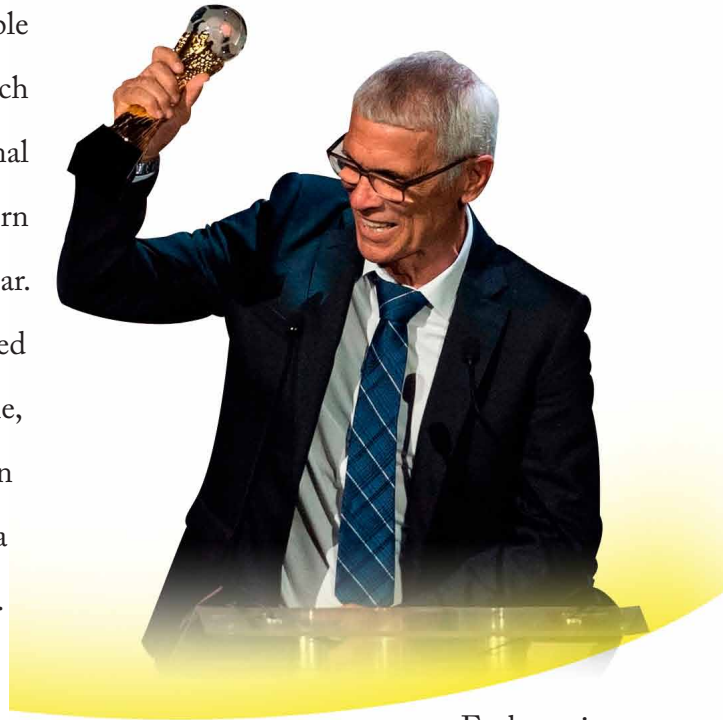
held on Thursday, 4 January 2018, at the International Conference Centre in Accra, Ghana. Salah fended off opposition from club-mate Sadio Mane of Senegal and Gabonese Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, winner in 2015, to become the first Egyptian to win the most prestigious individual honor

in African football. He polled 625 points, against 507 from Mane whilst Aubameyang finished a distant third with 311 points. The feat capped a superb year for the forward who played an influential role for both club and country during the year under review. Salah's feat was the climax of a memorable evening for Egyptian football which saw the Pharaohs being named National Team of the Year and Argentina-born trainer, Hector Cuper, Coach of the Year.

Nigerian Asisat Oshoala was adjudged Women's Player of the Year for the third time, after 2014 and 2016. She beat Cameroonian Gabrielle Aboudi Onguene and Chrestina Kgatlana of South Africa to the top prize. However, Kgatlana took consolation in Banyana Banyana being named Women's National Team of the Year. Patson Daka ensured Zambia was represented on the podium with the Youth Player of the Year, ten years after compatriot Clifford Mulenga was decorated Most Promising Talent of the Year. African champions, Wydad Athletic Club of Morocco deservingly went home with the Club of the Year award.

Former Ghana player Ibrahim Sunday,

a member of the Asante Kotoko squad that won the African Cup of Champions Clubs in 1970 was decorated with the Legend award. CAF Executive Committee member, Ahmed Yahya, who doubles as president of the Mauritania Football



Federation

was named Football Leader of the Year. There were two Platinum Awards, one to Ghana President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and global football icon, George Weah, now President-elect of Liberia.

The ceremony which was beamed live to millions across the world had Ghana President Akufo-Addo, Fatma Samoura, FIFA General Secretary amongst some



high profile attendees. There were also musical performances from Toofan from Togo, DR Congo's Fally Ipupa, and Nigerian septet of Patoranking, Wizkid, Tiwa Savage, Olamide, Phyno and Flavour.

The Confédération Africaine de Football (CAF) Awards is a yearly ritual instituted to honor footballers and officials who have excelled in various departments of the game as well as making meaningful contribution to its development in the continent. The awards which date back to 1992 when the best African Footballer of the Year was recognized, has expanded to other categories with the inclusion of women footballers for their enormous contribution to the game.

Increasingly enjoying great popularity beyond the shores of Africa, the Awards is bestowed on every individual on pure merit for his or her exemplary contribution towards the development and promotion of football, on and off the pitch within the outside and within the continent. Notably, the awards has continued to inspire and enhance the performance of footballers, which is one of the contributing factors to standard and quality of football enjoyed today on the continent. The recipients are worthy ambassadors, projecting the good image of African football within the continent and the World in general, and serving as great role models.



Awards

African Player of the Year	Mohamed Salah (Egypt & Liverpool)	Women's Player of the Year
Youth Player of the Year	Asisat Oshoala (Nigeria & Dalian Quanjian)	Coach of the Year
Club of the Year	Patson Daka (Zambia & Liefering)	National Team of the Year
Women's National Team of the Year	Hector Cuper (Egypt)	Legend
Platinum Award	Wydad Athletic Club	Fans' Finest XI
	Egypt	Defenders
	South Africa	Midfielders
	Ibrahim Sunday (Ghana)	Forwards
	Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo – President of Ghana George Weah – President-elect of Liberia & former World, Africa and European Player of the Year	
	Goalkeeper: Aymen Mathlouthi (Tunisia & Etoile du Sahel)	
	Ahmed Fathi (Egypt & Al Ahly), Eric Bailly (Cote d'Ivoire & Manchester United), Ali Maaloul (Tunisia & Al Ahly)	
	Mohamed Ounnajem (Morocco & Wydad Athletic Club), Karim El Ahmadi (Morocco & Feyenoord), Junior Ajayi (Nigeria & Al Ahly), Achraf Bencharki (Morocco & Wydad Athletic Club)	
	Khalid Boutaib (Morocco & Yeni Malatyaspor), Mohamed Salah (Egypt & Liverpool), Taha Yassine Khenissi (Tunisia & Esperance)	

Sisi congratulates Egypt's national team on **3 CAF titles**

President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi congratulated the national football team on winning the CAF's award for the best national team of 2017 and Mohamed Salah for winning the best African Player of the Year award. "I congratulate the Egyptian national football team for winning the best African national team award, and I congratulate Egypt's devoted son Mohamed Salah for winning the African Player of the Year award. I extend my best regards to the Egyptian people for this victory which highlights the value of effort and sincerity," President Sisi said in a statement on his official Facebook page.

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi greeted the Egyptian people over grasping the Confederation





of African Football (CAF) awards for 2017. In a press statement released by Presidential Spokesman Ambassador Bassem Radhi, President Sisi congratulated the Egyptian people over winning CAF football awards for 2017, especially the Egyptian player Mohammad Salah who won the best African player award.

Sisi described Salah as a model of honesty and handwork as well as an honorable representation for his country worldwide. The president also voiced his appreciation for Salah's role as an example for the promising youth. The president also greeted Hector Cuper for winning the best coach in Africa award for 2017, asserting that the State would continue its support for sport and athletes to honor and place high Egypt's name in all international competitions.

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Ahmed Abu Zeid congratulated Salah and the national team over the titles. "Congratulations to Mohamed Salah for winning the African Player of the Year award, being a role model and a source of honor to Egyptians in front of the world," Abu Zeid said in a tweet, congratulating the national team and its coach Hector Cuper for being named the best African national team and the best coach in 2017.

Salah is the first Egyptian player to take the CAF's player of the year award. Egypt's national team was crowned the best team in Africa as well by the CAF. Egypt competed for the title with Cameroon and Nigeria's national teams. Cameroon team won the African Cup of Nations in 2017 held in Gabon.

Egypt's national team, coach Hector Cuper win



CAF 2017 awards

The Egyptian national team was named African national team of the year, and the Pharaohs coach Hector Cuper was named the continent's coach of the year by the Confederation of African football (CAF) in their annual ceremony in Accra. After missing three editions of Africa Cup of Nations in a row, the Pharaohs went through the continental tournament's final in Gabon earlier this year before losing to Cameroon 2-1. The Pharaohs ended also a 28 year World Cup drought after reaching the World tournament for the first time since 1990. Egypt's coach Hector Cuper of Argentina was named also African Coach of The Year after guiding the Pharaohs to those achievements. "I am very happy for all the people in Egypt and I am thankful and happy for all the player too like Salah and all the players in the national team", Cuper said after winning the award.

Head of the Egyptian Football Association, Hany Abu Reida, was awarded the prize before all the representatives of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and African countries. Hector Cuper, the Egyptian national team's coach, won the 2017 CAF Coach of the Year title while Egypt was named the best team in Africa in 2017. Cuper led the Egyptian national team to the 2018 World Cup after an absence for 28 years. He also led the Egyptian team to the 2017 CAF Cup of Nations' final for the first time since 2010. His biggest achievement of the year under review was leading the Pharaohs to the FIFA World Cup for the first time since 1990. Cuper replaced Bob Bradley in 2015 and immediately led the country to the African Cup of Nations.

The Argentine was crowned the Best Coach of the Year while his Team won the National Team of the Year plus his player; Mohamed Salah is Africa's best for 2017. "I send this trophy for the Egyptian people as well as I thank them for giving me a chance of being here to get these great achievements," Cuper said in a Television

interview, adding "I also thank the Egyptian national team's brilliant players, who love their country, we all are happy with this award". On Salah's triumph, the former Inter Milan and Valencia tactician said it's a win for all Egyptians. "Salah's victory represents all Egyptian as we all represent our country," Cuper noted, adding "We can't ask more than these three awards, we are very happy for pleasing the Egyptian people".

Cuper admits they didn't achieve anything but hopes the awards will offer confidence in Russia. These awards will give the team more confidence so we have to keep calm as we didn't achieve something yet. We will go to World Cup with humility as we didn't achieve our target. Egypt are drawn in Group A of the World Cup finals alongside hosts Russia, Uruguay and fellow Arab country Saudi Arabia.





**Salah to African, Egyptian children:
Never stop dreaming**

Egyptian and Liverpool star Mohamed Salah urged African and Egyptian children to never stop dreaming. He made these remarks after winning the best African player for 2017 award given by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) during a ceremony held in the Ghanaian capital Accra.

Salah expressed his happiness for winning the award, saying it is a great honor to be nominated among the top three players in Africa. He underlined that winning this award is a dream that has

come true in 2017. In addition, he thanked his family for their continued support. Salah overcame his Liverpool teammate and Senegalese national Sadio Mane, and Borussia Dortmund and Gabonese player Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to win the award.

The Egypt international winger scooped the prestigious award by fending off competition from Liverpool teammate Sadio Mane and Borussia Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang. This comes less than a month after he earned the BBC



African Player of the Year award. “It’s an honour to be nominated and to be between these two great players tonight. Winning this award is a dream come true. 2017 was an unbelievable year for me,” Salah said at the awards ceremony held at Ghanaian capital Accra, adding “I had unbelievable moments as Egypt reached the World Cup for the first time since 28 years. I had wonderful moments at Roma and Liverpool.”

“I want to thank my family and all my teammates who supported me. I want

to dedicate this award to all the kids in Africa and Egypt and tell them never stop dreaming and never stop believing,” he added. Salah became the second Egyptian in history to win the prestigious award after Al Ahly legend Mahmoud El-Khatib in 1983. After the ceremony, Salah revealed that he’s looking to win the award again. “If I can win this award twice, three, four times and even 20 times, I want to win it,” the former Basel winger said.

Honours List of Golden Ball Award



▼ **1983**

Mahmoud El-Khatib
First Egyptian winner

Golden Ball award was given out since 1970 by France Football magazine and was changed to the African Footballer of the Year award and has been conferred by the CAF since 1992.

▼ **Arab winners**

Ahmed Firas (Morocco)	1975
Tarek Ziab (Tunisia)	1977
Lakhdar Belloumi (Algeria)	1981
Mohamed Al-Taimomi (Morocco)	1985
Ezzaki Badou (Morocco)	1986
Rabah Madjer (Algeria)	1987
Mustapha Hadji (Morocco)	1998
Riyad Mahrez (Algeria)	2016

▶ **Winning African countries**

Cameroon	11 times
Ivory Coast	8 times
Ghana	6 times
Nigeria	5 times
Morocco	4 times
Algeria & Liberia	3 times
Egypt, Mali & Senegal	2 times
Guinea, DRC, Gabon, Zambia, Tunisia, Togo & Congo	1 time

▼ **2017**
Mohamed Salah

10th Arab, 2nd Egyptian winner

SALAH

wins

2017

BBC African Player of the Year award



Egypt and Liverpool star Mohamed Salah has been named the 2017 BBC African Player of the Year, becoming the third-ever Egyptian to win the prestigious award. The award is annually given to the best African footballer of the year, as voted by fans. The only other Egyptians to have won the award are Mohamed Barakat and Mohamed Abou-Treika in 2005 and 2008 respectively. Barakat and Treika both won the award while playing for Al-Ahly, making the Salah the first Egyptian to win the award playing abroad.

Mohamed Salah had a tremendous year for both club and country. In 2016/17, the

25-year-old had his best-ever season, scoring 19 goals in all competitions for Roma, despite missing almost a month and a half due to his participation with the Egyptian national team at the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON). At the AFCON in Gabon, Salah was involved in four of Egypt's five goals with two goals and two assists as he led the Pharaohs to the final.

Salah's performances earned him a €42 million move to Liverpool. At Liverpool, Salah has been on fire, scoring 13 and assisting three in the Premier League. In addition to this, Salah has five goals and two assists in the Champions League. Salah

also led Egypt to their first World Cup appearance in 28 years after scoring a last-minute winner against Congo to qualify the Pharaohs for the 2018 World Cup.

The Liverpool winger won the award over teammate Sadio Mane, Chelsea's Victor Moses, Borussia Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, and future Liverpool teammate RB Leipzig's Naby Keita.

"I am very happy to win this award," the 25-year-old told BBC Sport. "It's always a special feeling when you win

something. I feel like I had a great year, so I'm very happy." "I want to be the best Egyptian ever so I work hard," added Salah, who is the third player from Egypt to win the award and first since 2008.

Liverpool winger is also the first Egyptian Player of the Month in PL history after netting seven goals in November 2017. Salah has been rewarded for his brilliant run of form in November with the EA SPORTS Player of the Month award.

He scored twice in each of the victories

BBC African Player of the Year: **MOHAMED SALAH**



2017
EGYPT
ROMA | LIVERPOOL



against West Ham United, Southampton and Stoke City, and also netted in the 1-1 draw with Chelsea. Salah, the Premier League's top scorer with 13 goals this season, received the most combined votes from a panel of experts, Premier League captains and fans to claim the prize ahead of six other nominees.

Burnley's Robbie Brady, Manchester City duo Kevin De Bruyne and Raheem Sterling, Ashley Young of Manchester United, Chelsea's Eden Hazard and Arsenal defender Shkodran Mustafi were also nominated.

Salah scores twice as Egypt Qualifies for the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia

A 95th minute goal from Mohamed Salah sent Egypt to the 2018 World Cup in Russia after the Pharaohs beat Congo 2-1 in a Group E qualifier at the Borg El Arab Stadium in Alexandria. The win is enough to see Egypt uncatchable at the top of Group E with 12 points from five matches. Uganda, who drew 0-0 with Ghana, are second in the group with eight points and with



FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018



only one 2018 World Cup qualifying game to go. Ghana are third with six points and Congo last with one point in Group E.

The Pharaohs thought they had found that goal in the 63rd minute when Mohamed Salah found the back of the net with a clinical finish. Egypt looked to be

cruising to victory until Arnold Bouka Moutou equalized for Congo in the 88th minute. The drama, however, was not over with Mohamed Salah converting from the penalty spot in the 95th minute to hand Egypt a 2-1 win and a place in the World Cup next year.

President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi received the Egyptian national football team at Cairo's El-Ittihadeya Palace, following the victory, which put Egypt through to the World Cup finals for the first time since 1990.

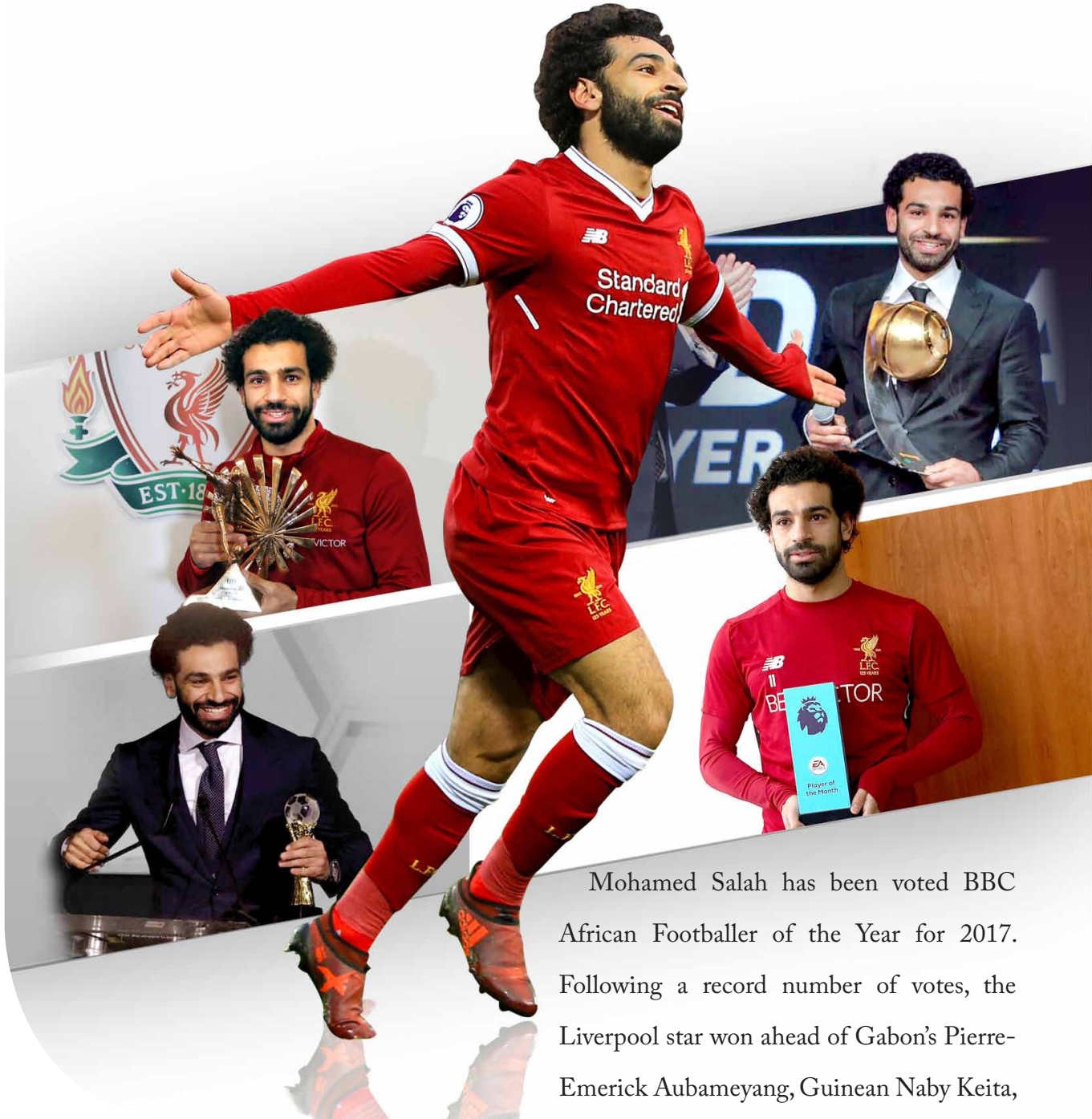
The Egyptian team will compete in their first football World Cup in 28 years, following a dramatic 2-1 victory over Congo at Alexandria's Borg El-Arab Stadium. Egypt became the second African team to secure a place in the FIFA World Cup



2018 in Russia, the other being Nigeria, with three more African sides yet to qualify from the group stage.

Following the game, President Sisi expressed “his happiness at the Egyptian national team’s achievement, thanking the players and technical staff for their great efforts during the World Cup qualifiers,” according to a statement from the president’s office. Sisi said the players and technical staff members set an example to follow with their determination, adding that he anticipates more success from the players in the future.

Salah, an Inspiring Story



Mohamed Salah has been voted BBC African Footballer of the Year for 2017. Following a record number of votes, the Liverpool star won ahead of Gabon's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Guinean Naby Keita,


Sadio Mane of Senegal and Nigeria's Victor Moses. "I am very happy to win this award," the 25-year-old told BBC Sport. "It's always a special feeling when you win something. I feel like I had a great year, so I'm very

happy.", adding "Since I came here, I wanted to work hard and show everyone my football. I wanted to come back to the Premier League since I left, so I am very happy."



Salah has taken the Premier League by storm this season, in contrast to a less impressive spell in the division with Chelsea between 2014-15. "It's well-deserved," said Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp, who handed the trophy to the player at the club's Melwood training academy.

"I am a really lucky person. I had the opportunity to work with a few outstanding players and I am happy that it is now with Mo. The good thing is that he is still young, there is a lot of space for improvement, a lot of potential still that we can work on, but that's how it should be. It's a big pleasure, to be honest, to work with him."

A photograph of Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp embracing Mohamed Salah on the pitch. Salah is wearing a red Liverpool kit with 'Standard Chartered' and 'NB' visible. The background shows a blurred stadium crowd.

By winning the BBC African Footballer of the year prize Salah adds his name to a list of legends including Jay-Jay Okocha (Nigeria), Didier Drogba (Ivory Coast) and Michael Essien (Ghana). “I am very happy to be like them in winning this award,” said Salah, who follows compatriots Mohamed Barakat (2005) and Mohamed Aboutrika(2008) in receiving the trophy.

Salah, the Premier League’s top scorer with 13 goals, has enjoyed a stellar year for both club and country. In early 2017, the forward was the central figure for Egypt as they finished runners-up at the Africa Cup of Nations. He also had a hand in all seven of the goals that took the Pharaohs to their first World Cup since 1990 - assisting two and scoring five, including the stoppage-time penalty against Congo that qualified them for Russia.

Mohamed Salah Awards



UFAA Golden Boy

2012

2012

CAF Most Promising Talent of the Year

SAFP Golden Player – Swiss Golden Player Award for best player in the Swiss Super League

2013

2013

2017

El Heddaf Arab Footballer of the Year

FIFA World Cup qualification top goalscorer:
2014 (Shared with Mohamed Aboutrika and Asamoah Gyan),
2018 (Shared with Préjuce Nakoulma)

2014

2018

2015-16

Roma Player of the Season

Globe Soccer Awards Best Arab Player of the Year

2016

2016

2017

CAF Team of the Year

CAF Africa Cup of Nations Team of the Tournament

2017

2017

BBC African Footballer of the Year

Premier League Player of the Month

November

2017

11-12

2017

PFA Player of the Month

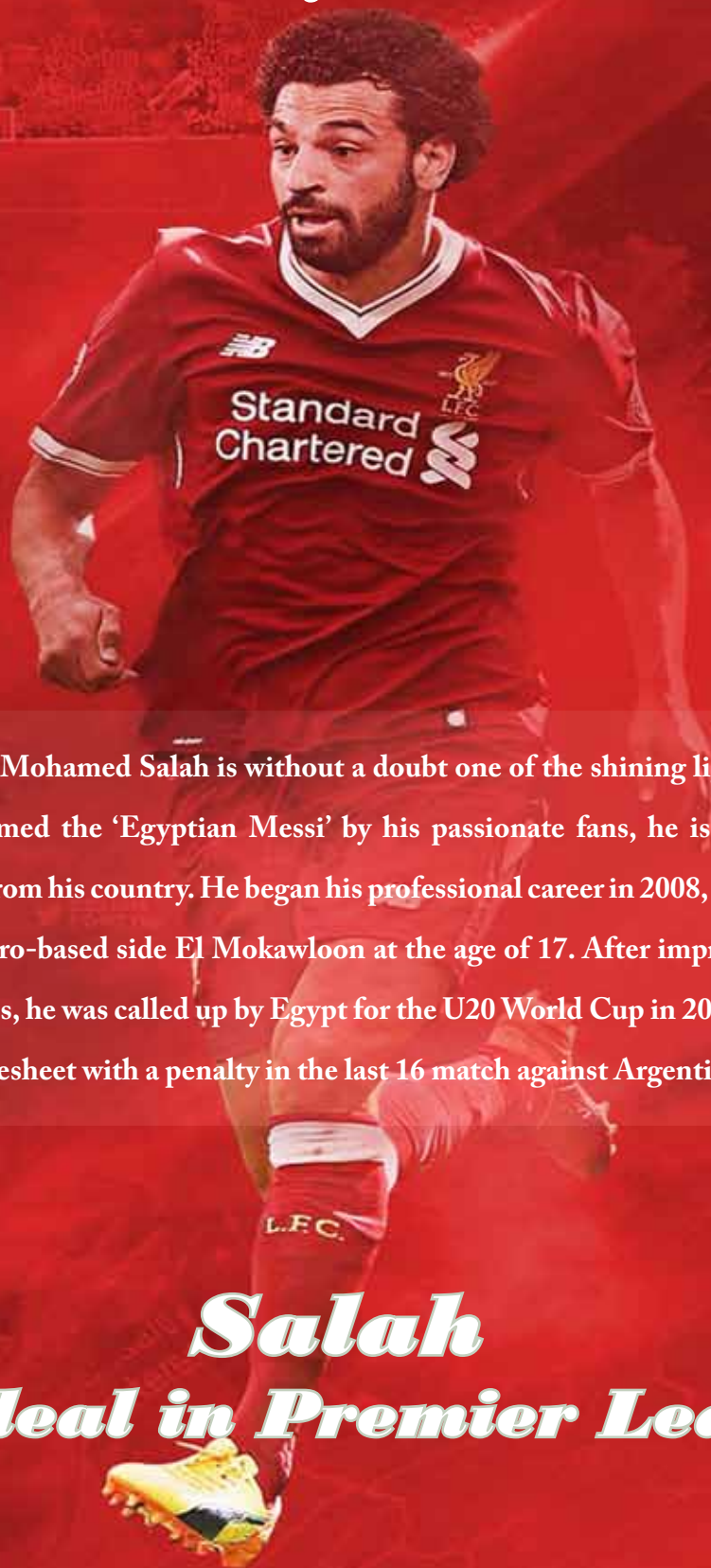
Arab Player of the Year

2017

2017

CAF African Footballer of the Year

From Italy to Britain



Born in 1992, Mohamed Salah is without a doubt one of the shining lights of Arabic football. Nicknamed the 'Egyptian Messi' by his passionate fans, he is currently the standout player from his country. He began his professional career in 2008, when he made his debut for Cairo-based side El Mokawloon at the age of 17. After impressing for the Mountain Wolves, he was called up by Egypt for the U20 World Cup in 2011, getting his name on the scoresheet with a penalty in the last 16 match against Argentina.

Salah
best deal in Premier League

Salah continued to make a name for himself the following season with El Mokawloon, netting seven times in 15 games before the Egyptian championship was suspended following the dramatic events that led to the Port Said stadium disaster.



The early closure of the Egyptian Premier League opened the door for Swiss club FC Basel to pounce, who had been eyeing up Salah for a while. They organized a friendly against Egypt U23s and Salah duly scored twice coming off the bench. Basel wasted no time in inviting him to train for a trial period with the first team. A few weeks later, the transfer was made official.

The script had a familiar feel to it two years later in 2013 when Salah's Basel were drawn against Chelsea in the Europa League. Salah had been scoring with frightening regularity in Switzerland and produced a terrific display against the Blues, who promptly secured his signature in January 2014.

Amid a squad of stellar names at Stamford Bridge, Salah struggled to nail down a regular spot in Jose Mourinho's side. After managing





two goals in 10 appearances for Chelsea, he was sent on loan to Fiorentina in February 2015 in search of regular game-time. He had an immediate impact on the Viola's season, popping up with important goals and putting in top-quality performances in Serie A, the Coppa Italia and the Europa League.

He swiftly built up a reputation as one of the most in-form players in Italy. His efforts did not go unnoticed in the capital, with the Giallorossi bringing him to the Eternal City during the 2015 summer transfer window.

Salah joined Liverpool from Serie A side Roma last summer for £34m. He has been impressive, scoring 23 goals in 29 matches across all competitions. In his 60 official games

in 2017 for Egypt, Roma and Liverpool, he scored 39 goals and provided 19 assists. In fact, Salah, 25, has become the first Egyptian to win the coveted Premier League Player of the Month award after scoring seven goals in four top-flight November matches.



Who is Mohamed Salah?



Clubs



Arab Contractors
(Egypt)



Basel
(Switzerland)



Chelsea (England)



Fiorentina (Italy)



Rome (Italy)



Liverpool
(England)

Goals

12 Arab Contractors

20 Basel

2 Chelsea

9 Fiorentina

34 Rome

28 Liverpool

Awards



2016–2017
Rome
Best Player



2016
Best Arab
Player
of the Year



2015–2016
Roma
Player
of the Season



2015–2016
CAF Team
of the Year



2013
best player
in the
Swiss Super
League



2012
CAF Most
Promising
Talent of
the Year

International praise for Mohamed Salah on winning CAF 2017 award

Head of the European Union Delegation to Egypt Ivan Surkos congratulated Egypt's Mohamed Salah who was announced 2017 CAF Player of the Year. In a tweet, Surkos also greeted Argentina's Hector Cuper who was crowned the best coach, alongside the national team for being the best national team in Africa. Surkos said he eagerly waits to see the Egyptian team playing in the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.

Former Super Eagles manager, Sunday Oliseh, believes Mohamed Salah deserved to be crowned the 2017 African Footballer of the Year, Completesportsnigeria.com reported.



Oliseh: Salah Fully Deserved His CAF Player Of The Year Award

0 January 5, 2018 12:26 pm



By Johnny Edward: Former Super Eagles manager, Sunday Oliseh, believes Mohamed Salah deserved to be crowned the 2017 African Footballer of the Year, Completesportsnigeria.com reports.



The US Embassy in Cairo congratulated Egypt for winning three of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) awards for 2017. The embassy said on its twitter account “ Congratulations to Mohamed Salah, Egypt’s National Team, and Coach Hector Cuper for winning the CAF Awards for 2017!”

The UK Embassy in Cairo congratulated Mohamed Salah for winning the CAF best African player award and Egypt for best national football team in Africa and best coach on its Facebook page.

The European Football Federation (UEFA), through its official website, published a lengthy report on the Egyptian star Mohamed Salah, a professional player at Liverpool Club of England, after being crowned the African Footballer of the

Year for 2017 by the African Football Confederation (CAF), ahead of Senegalese player Sadio Mani of Liverpool, and Gabonese Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang of Borussia Dortmund.

The UEFA report on the Egyptian player, entitled “ Salah is African player of the year: how great is he?”

reviewed the records Salah achieved throughout his career, most notably scoring 17 goals in 59 games played in various European competitions, which made him the top Egyptian goal scorer in the competitions of the whole continent. In the Champions League, Mohamed Salah was able to score 12 goals in 31 games.

UEFA added that Mohamed Salah has continued to break records since moving

to Liverpool, after he became the first Liverpool player to score 20 goals before the start of the Christmas season since Ian Rush in 1986/1987.

Salah also equalized the record of goals of Roger Hunt, one of Liverpool's legends, after scoring 23 goals; 17 goals in the English Premier league and 6 goals in the Champions League before the start of the new year.

UEFA also remembered some of the quotes by coaches, players and friends' of Mohamed Salah.

"Mohamed was willing to sacrifice everything. I told him to keep a timetable: no staying up late to watch TV, not getting out of bed late. He didn't. He lived as he should. He would pray and then go to sleep early. I am not the man who made him but I know he listened to me. He listened to everyone," said Hamdi Nooh, former al-Mokawloon coach.

"He could compete in a race with Usain Bolt," said Murat Yakin, former Basel coach.

"He is still my friend and we are still in contact. He's a top, top, top player. He did not get his chance at Chelsea," said Eden

Hazard, Chelsea midfielder

"We knew about his superb qualities, but we did not expect him to have such an impact on Italian football. Perhaps only Messi is faster than him with the ball at his feet," said Vincenzo Montella, former Fiorentina coach.

"I'm very happy for Mo – he is the king of Egypt! He has done amazingly so far. He has scored a lot of goals, he has played brilliantly. Off the pitch, he is a very good guy. He is an amazing signing for us," said Emre Can, Liverpool midfielder.

"If he had played better at Chelsea, we'd probably not have had him – so I am happy at the situation... His desire to score goals is at the highest level. He is angry at me when I take him off after 65 minutes or so. That's the mentality you need," said Jürgen Klopp, Liverpool manager.



International media celebrates the victory of “The King of Africa”

Arab, African and international media highlighted Egypt’s dominance of the 2017 CAF Confederation of African Football at a large ceremony held in Accra, Ghana, on 4/1/2018, after Egypt’s Mohamed Salah and Liverpool FC won the best player award in Africa .



In London, the BBC noted that Mohamed Salah won the best African Footballer of the Year award in 2017 and named him as the first Egyptian to win the African Footballer of the Year award since 34 years ago. In its report on Mohammed Salah, the BBC also reported that he also won the Golden Lion for Africa's Best Player in the Moroccan newspaper “Al-Muntakhab”, highlighting that Egypt dominated the CAF awards this year and won three awards for the first time in its history, whereas, "The Mirror" said that Liverpool's Mohamed Salah is the winner of the 2017 African Footballer of the Year award, and The "Liverpool Echo " said that Mohammed Salah is celebrating



his incredible year as the 2017 Player of the Year. Also, Sky Sports reported that the Egyptian Mohamed Salah defeated his teammate Sidio Mani of Senegal and Pierre Emeric Obamyang of Gabon and Borussia Dortmund and is dubbed the winner of the best African Player for the Year 2017. Metro newspaper said that Salah's award comes as a genuine crowning of his ideal performance of last season with Roma and the unbelievable start at Liverpool.

In Russia, the Russia Today channel pointed that Salah surpassed Senegalese player Sadio Mani, his colleague in Liverpool and Pierre Emeryk Obamyang of Gabon, and the German star of Prussian Dortmund. The channel also noted that Mohamed Salah is

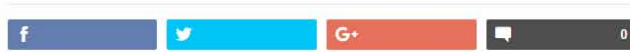
the second Egyptian player to win the award after the legend of the Ahly Football Club Mahmoud Khatib, who was awarded the prize in 1983.

In Madrid, the Spanish news paper "AS" reported that Liverpool's Mohamed Salah who won the 2017 African Player of the Year award, is the first Egyptian to win the award since 1983. The Spanish newspaper Mundo Deportivo said "Salah is the best African player of 2017, he surpassed his teammate in Liverpool, Sadio Mani, and Pierre Amric Uppamyang, and the striker of "Borussia Dortmund".

In Berlin, Germany's "Bild" newspaper said, Obamyang, the top scorer in Borussia Dortmund, lost the best race in Africa to



Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mané and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang were all nominated but the Egyptian scooped the top prize for best African Player of the Year.



As.com Update: 4 January 2018 • 22:52h CET

Liverpool star Mohamed Salah won the African Player of the Year
Thursday, the first Egyptian to achieve the feat since 1983. Fellow Liverpool attacker **Sadio Mané of Senegal was runner-up and 2015 winner Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang of Borussia Dortmund and Ghana third**

Mohammed Salah and only finished third in the race to win the award.

In Switzerland, the official FIFA account tweeted a congratulation for Mohammed Salah on winning the African Footballer of the Year award in 2017 saying " Africa Player of the Year, the Egyptian Mohamed Salah, we are waiting for you this summer in Russia".

In Rome, the Italian club of Rome wrote on its official webpage "Congratulations to our former player Mohamed Salah for winning the 2017 African Player of the Year award".

In Washington, the Associated Press reported that the success of Salah gives hope in Egypt to fans and officials also, and inspires many other people in a country with a population of more than 96 million, and revealed how Salah, a 25 years old who came from one of the Delta villages to his current Liverpool club, has lit up the English Premier League for the first six months. Moreover, Radio "Sawa" reported that "Salah is the tenth Arab player to win this title and the second Egyptian player to score after Mahmoud Al-Khatib (1983), and that Salah spent a special year with

his team Liverpool , led Egypt to the 2018 World Cup finals in Russia and scored 38 goals last year. Under the title "Mohammed Salah won the African Footballer of the Year Award", Al-Hurra channel pointed out that Egyptian Mohamed Salah won the 2017 African Footballer of the Year Award at the annual awards ceremony held by the CAF Confederation of African Football in the Ghanaian capital Accra and highlighted congratulations to President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi for Salah, the national team and the coach, pointing out that this is a golden achievement for Egypt this year.

On its part, Sky News prepared a report in Arabic under the title "Salah .. Golden Year for the best player in Africa" in which it said that after the Egyptian star Mohammed Salah was crowned the best player in Africa for 2017, he became the second Egyptian player in history crowned with this award and described him as the golden player after leading the Egyptian team to qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Sky News also pointed out that the crowning of the 25-year-old Egyptian Pharaoh, comes after a special

year, the best in his professional career so far, whether with Roma or Liverpool.

In Saudia Arabia, Al-Arabiya news channel said under the title "Egyptian Mohamed Salah crowned African Player of the Year award," that Egyptian Mohamed Salah ended an exceptional year for him and his country's national team by winning the African Footballer of the Year award in 2017, ahead of Senegalese player Sadio Mani and Liverpool's Pierre Emeric Obamyang Borussia Dortmund striker in a dazzling ceremony in Accra and pointed out that Salah deserves the victory for his achievements both on the personal level and with the clubs or the Egyptian national team.

In Iraq, "Alsumaria News" channel issued a report under the title: "The Pharaohs" dominate the awards of the best in 2017 , highlighting the news of Hani Abu Reda, the President of the Egyptian Football Federation, receiving award of the best national team in 2017, noting that Egypt beat Cameroon and Nigeria and qualified for the finals of 2018 World Cup in Russia for the first time since 1990, and the final of the

African Nations Cup in Gabon early last year.

As for the African media, it highlighted the event at their front pages. In Nigeria, the site of "Nigeria's Soccer" dubbed Egypt as the biggest winner of the CAF awards, beating Nigeria in the best team award, while Hector Cooper defeated Nigerian coach Gernot Rohr

and won the best coach, and Mohammed Salah won the award for the best player. Nigerian newspaper "Complete Sports Nigeria" said that Salah is the first Egyptian to win the award after Mahmoud Khatib in 1983. In Cameroon the newspaper "Cameroon Online" said "Mohamed Salah is the second Egyptian to receive the award after legend Mahmoud Khatib, while Senegal's "Home view Senegal" predicted that "Salah" has the advantage of winning the title .

The Ghanaian network "Pulse" said that the merciless Egyptian wing Mohamed Salah won the 2017 African Player of

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah wins African footballer of the year

- Liverpool and Egypt forward Salah wins prize for first time
- Sadio Mané was second with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang third



Mohamed Salah has been an instant success at Liverpool since joining last summer. Photograph: Paul Ell / AFP/Getty Images

Egypt forward Mohamed Salah was named African Footballer of the Year for 2017, finishing ahead of his Liverpool team-mate Sadio Mané of Senegal and

the Year award after defeating Mané and Obamyang, adding he also led the Pharaohs to the World Cup after scoring goals against Congo in the Africa qualifiers.

In Uganda, the "Daily Monitor" newspaper said that Mohammed Salah made a remarkable performance either with Liverpool in various competitions, or with Egypt, leading the latter to the World Cup in Russia after an absence of 28 years. Last but not least, in Gabon, the "Gabon Echo" newspaper considered that Mohammed Salah's winning of the CAF award was expected after winning the BBC best player in Africa award.



01



Arab
Contractors

[2009–2010/2010–2011/
2011–2012]

02



Basel

[2012–2013/2013–2014]

03



Chelsea

[2013–2014/2014–2015]

04



Fiorentina

[2014–2015]

05



Rome

[2015–2016/2016–2017]

06



Liverpool

[2017–2018]

Salah Shirts...

Yellow, Red, Blue and colors of

Egyptian Flag



Salah

playing for Arab Contractors

Born in Basyoun on 15 June 1992, Salah fell in love with football when he was seven, honing his skills with his brother as well as his friends. It was at 14 that he first signed with Arab Contractors, also known as El Mokawloon. But with reward came the need for sacrifice and hard work.

Salah was first playing for a club 30 minutes away from his village; that soon became 90 minutes, and eventually a whopping four-and-a-half-hour journey, five days a week, just to get to training. He would spend just two hours at school, reaching training by 2pm. He had an official letter allowing him to do so. In essence, he had to sacrifice his education, but it was the cold-blooded drive to make it as a footballer that kept him going.

His daily routine consisted of school, walk, train, travel, eat, sleep, repeat. Considering the distance, it is no surprise that Salah had to switch between several buses just to get to training and back. But he had a dream and he had the belief. That provided him with the inspiration to get through the difficult



times as a 14-year-old. It was only after his first-team debut that the belief started to materialise into something tangible.

One anecdote, as reported by Bleacher Report, from head coach Said El-Shishini reveals Salah's Gareth Bale-esque transformation from a curtailed left-back to a marauding right winger. In the under-16 Cairo League, Salah once had five one-on-one chances from left-back, but wasted them all due to the energy expended from charging down the flank. His coach gave a crying Salah 25 Egyptian pounds, pushed him forward, and told him he would become the top goalscorer in both the under-16 local

league as well as the under-17 Nationwide League. Thirty-five goals later, his coach's belief was vindicated.

Salah has risen from humble roots, a testament to his character and personality. He has remained grounded, even after becoming a world star and a national icon in Egypt's. After scoring the goal that sealed World Cup qualification, Salah

turned down the offer of a luxury villa from a businessman, instead choosing to convert that into a sizeable donation for his village.

He continues to return to Egypt when he is able to, the sign of a man who appreciates his good fortune. In that sense, he is a role model in more ways than one.

rapidité ont contribué à l'intérêt des médias égyptiens.

Salah playing for Basel



He made his first-team debut in the 2009/10 season, becoming a regular during the following campaign. He

was fast becoming the star of the side but, after the Port Said Stadium disaster in 2012, the Egyptian Football Federation cancelled the remainder of the season. That was then when Basel organised a friendly with the Egypt Under-23 team, and despite Salah playing just the second half, he scored a brace in a 4-3 win. That prompted the Swiss side to invite Salah for a week's worth of training,

which was enough to convince them to make it a permanent four-year contract.

Basel was the perfect place to make the step-up: Switzerland was not as competitive as the bigger European leagues, but Basel still featured in the Champions League with regularity, affording a young Salah exposure to a higher quality of football. It was at St Jakob-Park that he truly impressed, helping Basel defeat Tottenham in the 2012/13 Europa League quarter-finals, with his goal taking the tie to penalties.

He then faced Chelsea, a calibre of opposition that was by far the best he would have even seen. The first leg saw Ashley Cole restrict Salah, largely due to

the gulf in experience and Salah's own lack of confidence. But he managed to regain belief in the second leg at Stamford Bridge, nutmegging Cole once while bagging a goal on the big stage. While Basel lost, it was an education in itself, especially for Salah.

Fate would decree that Basel be drawn with Chelsea in the Champions League the following season. That came after Salah's decisive brace in the playoffs against Ludogorets, which gave them the advantage going into the second leg.

In a group also containing Schalke and Steaua Bucharest, many expected Basel to find it tough against the English giants. Salah, however, managed to showcase his talents on the big stage with a 40-metre spring to receive Fabian Schär's long ball and then slot it in for the winner. Basel found themselves the victors in both Chelsea ties, but lost both Schalke ties as well as drawing both Steaua games, a strange paradox in itself.



Salah playing for Chelsea



Their failure to go forward contributed towards Salah's desire to leave in the winter window, and while Liverpool were in pursuit of the winger, Chelsea swooped in and got their man. Twenty goals and 17 assists in 79 appearances was a strong, promising return from the Egyptian.

Chelsea, however, didn't know how to use their new man. They knew what he was capable of – after his displays against them – but were Chelsea willing to go the long mile and develop Salah into a world-class winger? They weren't. Salah did well in the remainder of 2013/14 season, with his opening of the scoring in a

6-0 derby win over Arsenal a highlight. But he was not ready for the pressure, especially from back home. Egyptians tend to have a large social media presence and it showed.



Salah playing for Fiorentina



However, 2014/15 saw that progress stunted by Mourinho's reluctance to use Salah, contributing to the winger's jitteriness and willingness to try too much in order to curry favour with his manager. That extra effort was counter-productive, and even as Salah continued to hone his game, Chelsea was not the best place for game time. Cuadrado and Salah swapped places, as the Egyptian took his game to Fiorentina.

He hit the ground running in Florence, seemingly with the desire to make amends for lost time, even though time wasn't really lost. He was magical, a real beacon of hope, and an upgrade on Cuadrado. In essence, Salah has goals to his game and is more decisive than the Colombian will ever be. It is churlish to compare the two.

His brace against Juventus in the first leg of the Coppa Italia that season took



the media's hysteria to new levels. Indeed, *Gazzetta dello Sport* had him on the front page with the headline, "Sim Salah Bis". That was a nod to the 1960s American cartoon *Jonny Quest*, whose character Hadji's catchphrase was that. It meant something similar to abracadabra – magic. It described Salah's impact perfectly.

The fans loved him, but he had other plans. He never planned to return, but Fiorentina believed Salah's future was legally with them. Amidst a flurry of contractual issues and complaints, the Egyptian was deemed to be free to choose his next destination, and duly found himself at Roma. It was not the smoothest of arrivals, but Fiorentina's desperation to retain the winger was well justified, and Roma were naturally ecstatic.

Salah playing for Rome



It was a downer at the Scudetto, so he packed up and moved to La Viola's fans, to Rome. who serenaded him His immediate return to the Stadio at home games Artemio Franchi was not as warm. He was with choruses of jeered as he stepped up on to the pitch, but 'Siam venuti fin Salah answered the only way he knew: ending qua per veder segnare Salah' (we came here Fiorentina's unbeaten run with a beautiful to see Salah score). He took selfies with goal. It was written in the stars, and Salah fans, professed his love for them, along celebrated the way he usually does, raising with productivity that read nine goals in 26 his hands to the sky with a prayer. appearances. But Salah wanted a better shot



Salah playing for Liverpool



He was always a goalscorer, but his two seasons at Roma took that to another level, with 15 from 42 appearances in 2015/16 followed up by 19 in 41 the following season. He was their Player of the Season, vindicating Roma's masterstroke of a deal to get him in. There was no Scudetto, but Salah's game was taken to a whole new level. He took up the responsibility of driving the team forward. His game also improved tactically, a common consequence of playing in Serie A. With such progress saw clubs circle around him, and it was Liverpool that gave him his second shot at the Premier League.

This season has been a blur for him – he's

taking the top tier by storm like few others have done. The myth that Salah was a speed merchant, another lazy

comparison to Cuadrado, was dispelled quickly. People desperate for him to fail were themselves ignorant of Salah's progress at Roma. The pre-season provided evidence to the same, his goal against Hertha confirmation of that.

That has been just one of a diverse portfolio of goals scored this season. He's scored tap-ins, long-distance screamers, made runs in between the defenders and curled balls in from absurd angles. He's shown it all, and it's only January. He is an explosive winger and a poacher with a striker's instinct rolled into one.

Liverpool's system is similar to Luciano

Spalletti's Roma, and given Salah's prior experience of England and knowledge of English, the base was there for a smooth adaption. He is now more experienced and has greater strength and balance, both reasons for his success. As a result, he's become the joint-second-fastest player to reach 20 goals for Liverpool, only behind George Allan's 19 games in 1895. It is a stunning achievement for a player in his debut campaign.



Salah playing for Egypt's national team

This season has been a roller-coaster for other reasons too. He has assumed responsibility not only on the domestic

front but for Egypt too. Almost everyone has seen the frenzied celebrations after Salah stepped up to score a 95th-minute penalty that clinched a 2-1 win over Congo

and qualification for the World Cup. He became a nationwide hero, and rightfully so: he scored five and assisted two of the eight goals scored by Egypt. He took a country that has been dominant continentally to the biggest stage there is.

The world is his oyster, and if Salah can continue his red-hot form, records will continue to tumble this season. In 2017, he was both the BBC and CAF African Football of the Year, as well as Arab Player of the Year.

The shoulders of the nation will be carried by Salah in the coming summer. Expectations will be sky-high, as highlighted by their odds for the 2018 World Cup, with many dubbing Egypt dark horses to qualify from their group. It has become Salah's Pharaohs, rather than just Egypt, an achievement in itself. He's united many a partisan fan in his country, and they will all stand

with him as the national anthem rings out in Russia. In a country with such passion as Egypt, Salah is the binding glue.

The 'Egyptian Messi' is a moniker that has never rung truer, but he is just Mohamed Salah, an inspiration for children all over. He's a terrific footballer and humble individual, making it to the top through sacrifice and hard work. In some ways, he is the perfect story. From four-hour bus rides to global awards, all hail the Pharaoh of Egypt, ready to be anointed as one of the best in the world.



Daily Mail: Mo Salah hasn't forgotten where he came from despite his rise to the top

The Liverpool star pays for the gym and pitches in his village... and he even helps couples get married

In an exclusive piece by the Daily Mail from Salah's home town of Nagrig, just over 100km north of Cairo, the extent to which the 25-year-old gives back to his community was revealed. Salah has paid for an all-weather football pitch at his former school and equipment for the community gym. He will regularly visit to present children with football awards, and even contributes towards couples from the area getting married. In an interview with Liverpool's official website earlier this week, Salah revealed that he'd travel for as much as nine hours, potentially using 10 different buses, to get to and from training when he was a youngster .

In Nagrig, a small farming village tucked away off the main route that connects Cairo with Alexandria,

down a dusty path that splits a field of jasmine, the scent of which lingers in the air, little boys are playing football. The pitch,

scorched and bobbly, is squashed in between a row of flats — some are in disrepair, others have been left half-built — the local mosque and a community centre. This is where the local children come to enjoy themselves and be free. Nagrig might be economically challenged but its people are friendly and happy and, today, they have never been more proud. It is from these humble beginnings, after all, that world football's latest star emerged. This is the home of Mohamed Salah. To walk around these quiet streets, you would not think it possible for someone to embark on such a thrilling journey but Salah, the eldest of four children, played on that same pitch, a two-minute walk from his family apartment, believing he could emulate his idols Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane and Francesco Totti. Now this generation believe they can emulate him.

Salah has given many things to Nagrig.



He bought gym equipment for the community centre that now bears his name and paid for an all-weather football pitch to be built at Mohamed Ayyad Al-Tantawy school, where he studied. He gives money to help couples get married and frequently contributes to charity. More than anything, he has given hope.



‘He still comes back to Nagrig, every Ramadan, to present prizes to local kids,’ says Mohamed Bassyouni, a childhood friend. ‘He comes here, he plays table tennis and pool. When he comes back, he signs

every autograph, stands for every picture. He hasn’t changed.’ ‘Here’ is the cafe that Bassyouni owns but ‘cafe’ will not give you the right image. Think of a big garage with a wall missing, next to a football court, that has a large TV to show games from Europe.

But it is charming and is still one of Salah's favourite places.

'He was always going to go far,' Bassyouni continues. 'Why? The left foot! Always left foot! He was so quick, so clever. 'We all used to play together. His brother, Nasr, would join us but we couldn't get the ball from Mohamed. We knew he could get to the top.'

The question Salah faced was how he would get there. It is hard enough getting down the pot-holed bumpy roads from Nagrig to Tanta, the nearest big town, but how would he fulfil his aim? The answer arrived in the form of the Pepsi League, a competition organised by the drinks company for schools. Arab Contractors FC (El Mokawloon) have scouts and subsidiary clubs all over Egypt and they spotted him playing in Tanta when he was 14. He was invited to train with them in Cairo.

Some days his father would take him on the five-hour, 200-mile round trip. Other days he had to get five buses. The long days and tiring journey would not deter him and soon enough he was invited to stay. Zamalek and Al-Ahly are Egypt's biggest clubs but

Arab Contractors believe in youth. They have lodgings built into the main stand of their Osman Ahmed Osman stadium to motivate those with aspirations of playing at the top and we are given a tour of the facility. Salah's simple room, 510, overlooked the pitch. They recall him being 'hadi' (the Arabic word for 'quiet', which crops up frequently), someone who would do his work and then retreat for the evening after having his favourite meal of soup, barbecued chicken and green salad.

On Merseyside Liverpool's players are well aware that a perfect day for him is spending time with his wife, Magi, and daughter Makka. 'Mohamed was willing to sacrifice everything,' says Hamdi Nooh, a former Egypt international who was Salah's first coach at El Mokawloon. 'When he came, it was too much left foot. I looked at him and said, 'You have to use your right'. He replied, 'OK, sir!' Always the same answer, always polite.

'The next morning, he is there: practise, practise. I told him how to change from being an amateur to a professional and to get to the top level. 'The more you practise, the more

you will become famous, the more you'll earn. But you have to carry on when you're not here. 'I called his father when he used to go home. I told him to keep a timetable: no staying up late to watch TV. No getting out of bed late. He didn't. 'He lived as he should. He would pray and then go to sleep early. I am not the man who made him but I know he listened to me. He listened to everyone.'

Yet the journey from Egypt to Europe owed something to another key figure at the club. Before becoming Egypt's Prime Minister, Ibrahim Mahlab was El Mokawloon chairman.

It has been reported Salah turned down a move to Zamalek in 2011, but what is not known is that both Zamalek and Al-Ahly returned with offers for Salah a year later. Mahlab wouldn't consider doing business. 'Mahlab felt he belonged at a club in Europe,' says Alaa Nabil, El Mokawloon's academy director and a former assistant coach of Egypt. 'He was convinced he would succeed. 'Salah was anxious about leaving Egypt, but Mahlab knew he would do it. Now he is a megastar.'

His arrival at Basle in Switzerland would prick the attention of Liverpool scouts in



2013. They watched him in all the important games, particularly in the Europa League against Tottenham and Chelsea. There were missions to watch him in training camps. Then Chelsea signed him in 2014, but Liverpool continued to follow Salah, through spells at Fiorentina and Roma, chief scout Barry Hunter, Dave Fallows, the head of recruitment and sporting director Michael Edwards were adamant Liverpool should act if the chance arose.

It was discovered Salah felt he had ‘unfinished business’ in the Premier League after difficulties at Stamford Bridge and when it was put to Jurgen Klopp — who had also long been a Salah fan — at the end of 2016 that Liverpool should pounce, the verdict was unanimous.

What has happened since his arrival in June has been beyond all expectations, but there is more to it than just 20 goals from 26 games.

Salah is becoming the hero the Kop had craved and, back in Egypt, his popularity has gone off the scale. He carries the hopes of a nation, the bond between player and fans

cemented when he scored a last-minute penalty against Congo in October to send Egypt to a first World Cup since 1990.

‘Salah had a hand in all seven goals that took us to Russia — two assists, scoring five of his own,’ Mahmoud Fayeze, Egypt’s assistant manager, explains.

‘The penalty? It was one of the most unforgettable moments in my life. But we all trusted him. The day before we played Congo, I called him.

‘I told him, “You are the one for the penalty kick if we get one”. The first thing he did was practise. Three or four penalties. When he did it for real, it was amazing. The emotion was incredible.’

Salah was offered a villa as a reward by Mamdouh Abbas, a former president of Zamalek. But the player asked that a donation be made to Nagrig instead. And there is another tale that has not been told.

While Salah was playing in Alexandria, his family were robbed. The thief was caught a couple of days later and it was the intention of Salah’s father to press charges.

When his son heard what happened,

however, he asked him to drop the case. What happened next gives you the biggest insight of all into his character, as Salah gave the thief some money to get his life up and running and tried to help him find a job.

Salah wants everyone to have a chance to better themselves and that it is why the Egyptian is uniting a nation.

‘He is doing an extraordinary job,’ Fayeze says. ‘The secret of his brilliance? It is his modesty.’

‘He is a superstar but he lives as a simple person. He uses his abilities to serve his country and you can see what it means to him when he sings the national anthem.’

‘He fights every second, every moment, every sprint, every tackle, every shot. He fights. This is Salah. This is why he is the hero of every Egyptian.’





Liverpool Echo described Mohamed Salah as a hard-working player, committed to improving himself and dedicated to his family and his country. In the few English-language interviews the player has done, he comes across as a thoughtful and softly spoken person. He doesn't appear to relish the experience of being quizzed, but, at the same time, is polite and open in his responses.

Here he is, in his own words...

**“Football
was an
impossible
dream”**

-MOHAMED SALAH



■ **On his schooldays...**

“I was not a very good student. I was thinking only about football and this was the reason to be there [at school].”

■ **On his favourite Arabic player when he was growing up...**

“We have had so many strong Arabic players since my childhood that it is very difficult to

say which is my favorite. I like many different ones.”

■ **On whether he could have been a professional runner...**

“No, because I had some friends who were faster than me. They were very fast. It was just football [for me].”

■ **On playing football when he was growing up...**

“Football for me was nothing but a game. Maybe it was not even a hobby. Maybe it was a distraction - an impossible dream. I thought, for the first time, it could also become a job when I was 14. I was playing for a club called El Mowkaloon and I was left-back, wearing shirt number three.”

■ **On making sacrifices to become a footballer...**

“My first successes were at the same time as my family having to make sacrifices. It was a very difficult time for them. I used to leave the house early in the morning and I used to come back home very late. I was forced to take five buses to reach my club.”

■ **On his favorite memory growing up in Egypt...**

“When I was at El Mowkaloon, my old club, and the coach told me ‘you will be with the first team tomorrow’. It was, for me, an unbelievable moment and I couldn’t believe it. I was 16 years old.”

■ **On whether he thought he would make it to a big European club when he was playing in Egypt...**

“Honestly, no. But I always tried to improve myself, even when I was a kid. I wanted to play at the top level in Egypt. But in Europe... I didn’t expect this. But when I played in the first team in Egypt, I said ‘why didn’t you play in Europe? You should play in Europe’. Then when I played in Basel, then I said ‘let’s go to bigger club’.”

■ **On what it means to make it in Europe after coming from Egypt...**

“Everything starts there [in Egypt] including the admiration for champions like Zidane, Ronaldo, Totti. For an Egyptian like me, to have entered into the world of professional football, it just means that nothing is impossible.”

■ **On struggling at Chelsea...**

“In England, I struggled to impose myself but

I don't disown that experience. I compared myself with a big club and a big league like the Premier League."

On life in London...

"The weather is very cold but this is the life, you play now in Chelsea and you have to do everything."

■ On why he chose the shirt number 74 at Fiorentina...

"Because I wanted to pay a tribute to the victims of the stadium in Port Said in 2012, where so many fans died because of tragic clashes [a riot following an Egyptian Premier League game led to 74 supporters dying]. And to be clear, no-one has ever asked me to put this number on the jersey. It's something I felt inside and chose to do it."

■ On why he chose to join Roma...

"It's very simple. I want to win with this team, with a club that is so popular in my home country and in this great city with which it's impossible not to fall in love."

■ On why he chose the shirt number 11 at Roma...

"I didn't want to have a crazy number. We don't have a lot of numbers and I didn't

want to go with my Egypt number because number 10 isn't available."

"I always liked the number 11. It was available and I did not hesitate to take it."

■ On playing in the Champions League...

"This is one of the reasons I chose Roma. I like to play in the Champions League."

On his first season with Roma (2015/16)...

"I think it was good but we did not win any titles and this is a problem."

■ On what he wanted to improve in his playing style while at Roma...

"I want to improve my shooting from outside the box, use my right foot more, use my head more and play with more speed."

■ On which player he was closest to at Roma...

"I am very close to all my teammates but I have a very good relationship with Diego Perotti."

■ On playing for Egypt...

"I had the honor to play for the Egyptian national team. The flag of my country will always have a special place in my heart."

■ On his tastes and hobbies...

"I love Italian food, especially pasta with

tomato sauce and rice. I spend my spare time with my family. And practicing my favorite sport - PlayStation. But I have to confess... Salah in the video game is stronger than the real one."

■ **On his message to young people...**

"Always feel your heart. Be loyal to yourself. Always believe in your ability and in your goals. This is the only way you will be able to

reach them."

"During this journey, always respect your mates and your opponents. Respect other people - their origin, religion, and nationality. And finally, never stop improving yourself.

"When someone tells you you're fast, make sure, the next day, you show them you can run faster."

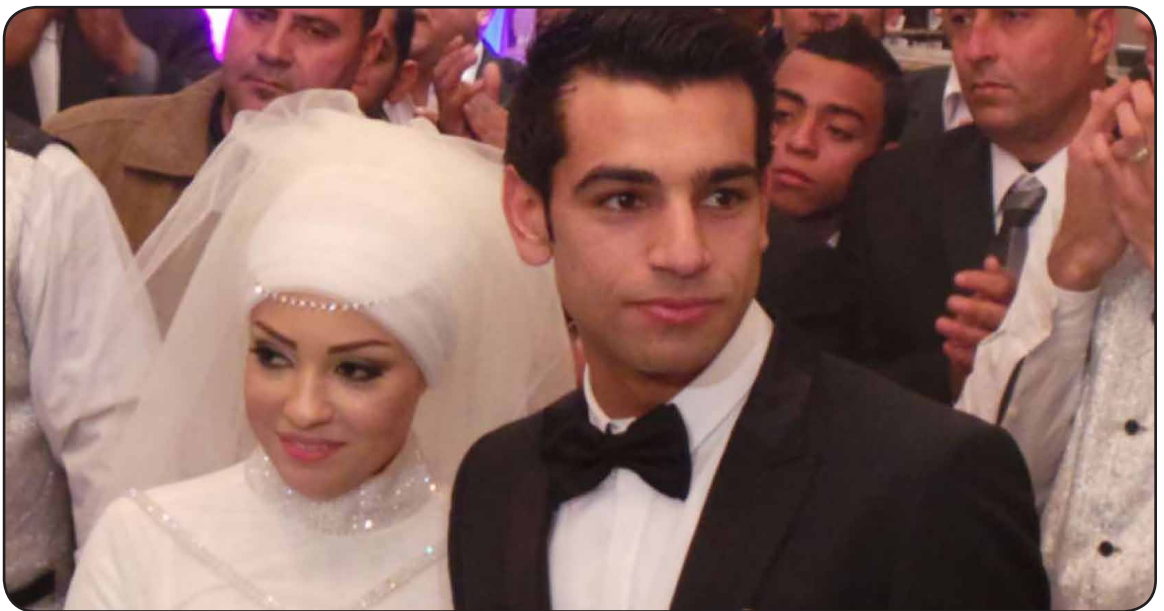


Mohamed Salah, a family man

Mohamed Salah got married on 17 December, 2013 to Magi. He had a large wedding in his village Nagrig, 80 miles north of the Egyptian capital of Cairo. His family made an open invitation to all the people of that village. On the wedding event, popular singers from Egypt such sang different songs. The couple have a little daughter

baby girl is enormous. He is often found with his daughter. Salah's different social profile shared several photos of his daughter.

There are several variations of Liverpool fan chants for Salah, but his name can be heard at every fixture: home, away and in Europe. So, just how much is he enjoying life at his new club? It's good, I'm very



named Makka. Salah's wife gave the name of their baby after the Muslim holy city Mecca. Makka was born last month in the private section of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in south west London. Salah's love for his

happy here, but in all honesty I don't go out much – I just stay at home with family and they really like Liverpool, too. At home, I like to watch TV to relax or read a book. It changes my mood, I'm not just watching



and thinking about football all the time. I like to enjoy my time with family. I was watching English TV mainly since I arrived, but recently I had Arabic TV installed, so now I am starting to watch it. I don't watch TV that much, though— I probably watch more things on YouTube, or read books. I like comedy movies because I like to laugh, and so I'll watch them on our flights. I'll also watch videos about how to improve yourself.

I am happy when the fans sing my name. I can hear them on the pitch and it makes me happy. It makes you feel like, 'wow'. It changes your emotions. I have to thank the fans very much for singing my name. Really, I respect it a lot. It's a big thing for me – to have been here for a few months, but to have the fans singing my name every game, showing me love and respect, it means a lot to me.



Sisi bestows sport medal on athletes winning trophies in championships in New Year

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi honored the athletes who won medals and prizes in world sport championships as well as their coaches by bestowing the sport order on them. The ceremony was attended by Acting Prime Minister Mostafa Madboli, Youth and Sports Minister Khaled Abdel Aziz along with heads of the Egyptian Olympic and Paralympic committees as well as Egyptian sports federations.

At a ceremony at the Presidential Palace, Sisi honored their sporting achievements and thanked them for representing their country. Sisi also listened to their suggestions regarding the development of the sports sector in Egypt, including for athletes with disabilities. During the ceremony, the president hailed the athletes' accomplishments which contribute to honoring Egypt's name in the international arena, wishing

for more sports achievements so as to make Egypt reach the position it deserves at the regional and international levels.

The athletes are considered a good model for the youth as they are an example of persistence and hard work, he underlined. Sisi also greeted the handicapped athletes who surprised the world with their accomplishments. The president gave directives to the sports bodies concerned to provide all the capabilities and support to the athletes in order to allow them to attain more achievements during the coming phase. The athletes expressed their happiness over the honoring which reflects the attention paid by President Sisi and the state to the sports in Egypt.

Egyptian athletes won medals in the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro this summer, as well as the International Military Games organized by the Russian Defense Ministry in Moscow. Egypt gained three bronze medals in the Olympics, and 12 medals in the Paralympics.

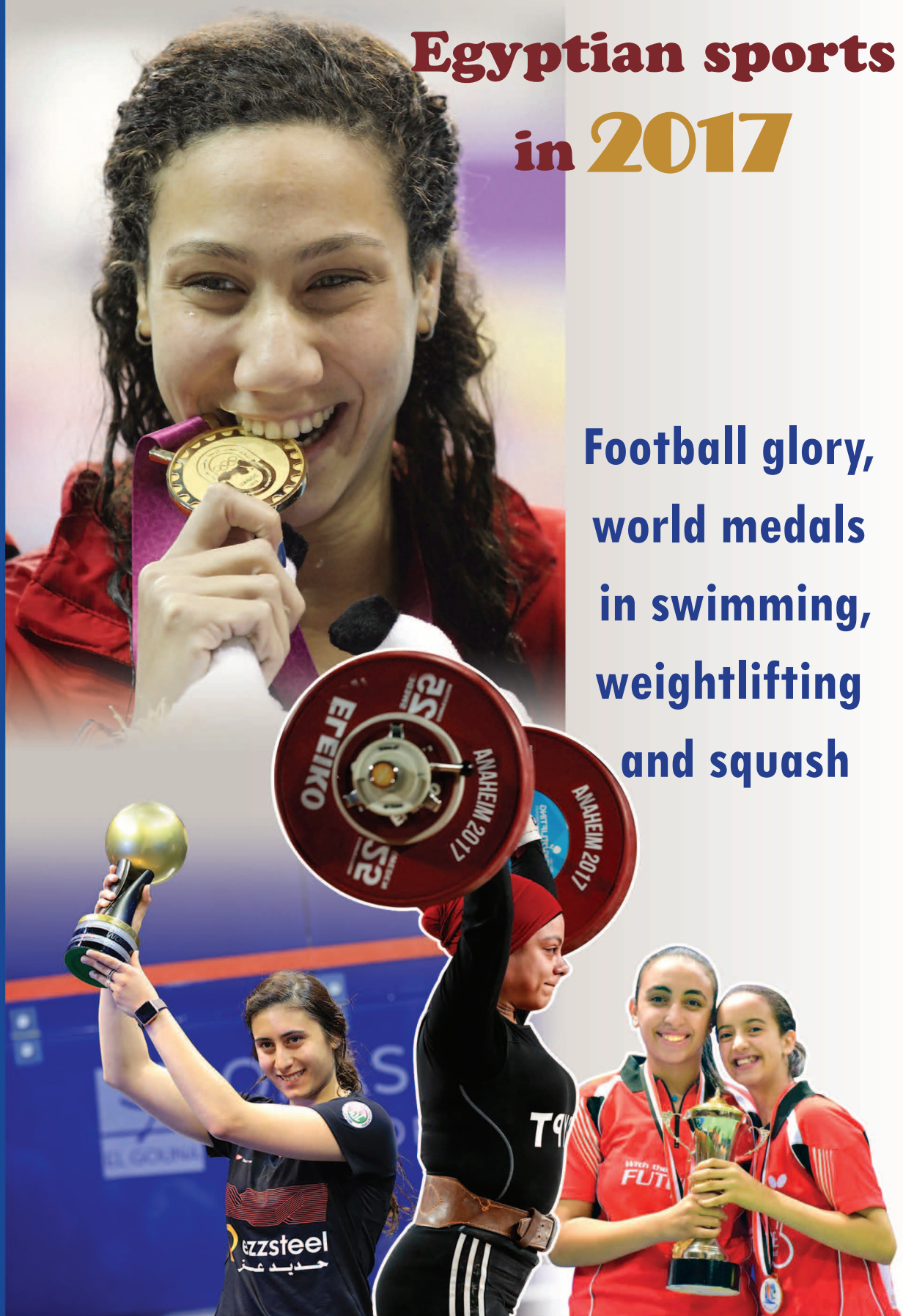


Photos showing President Sisi with honored athletes



Egyptian sports in 2017

Football glory,
world medals
in swimming,
weightlifting
and squash



The Pharaohs back among the elites

They may not have won a trophy but this year was still remarkable for Egypt's national football team, having reached the African Nations Cup final before ending a 28-year wait for a World Cup appearance, making up for six catastrophic years. Despite being held to a goalless draw by Mali in the group opener, they claimed two consecutive wins over Uganda and Ghana to advance to the quarterfinals as group leaders. The Pharaohs booked a last-four berth after laying Morocco's ghosts to rest, defeating them 1-0 via a late goal from winger Mahmoud Kahraba to secure their first win over their North African rivals since 1986. In the semis, Egypt's veteran goalkeeper Essam El-Hadary produced a heroic display in the shootout against Burkina Faso, blocking two spot-kicks as his side prevailed 4-3 on penalties following a 1-1 draw. They looked on course to winning a record-extending eighth title when Arsenal midfielder Mohamed Elneny gave them an early lead over Cameroon following a brilliant move, only for the Indomitable Lions to hit back with two goals after tired legs cost Egypt dearly. Finishing as runners-up was a favourable outcome for Egypt but a bigger feat followed, with the team ending their World Cup jinx to reach next year's finals in Russia. They did so with one match to spare in their group after two near-misses in the 2010 and 2014 World Cup qualifiers, beating Congo 2-1 in a dramatic match in Alexandria in October where Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah scored twice, including a last-gasp penalty after Congo had earlier leveled the score. Egypt ended their qualifying campaign with a 1-1 draw away to Ghana to finish on top of their group with 13 points, four clear of Uganda.



Most popular athletes of 2017

Squash: A year of dominance

Egypt swept the World Championships in Manchester, winning the men, women and teams' contests.

Former world number one Mohamed El Shorbagy is back to his best, winning the world title for the first time of his career after beating younger brother Marwan in December in an unprecedented final between siblings.

Egypt's former World No.1 Ramy Ashour and Women's World No.1 Nour El Sherbini claimed the honors at the 2017 J.P. Morgan China Open, prevailing in two all-Egyptian title-deciders to take the first major honors of the 2017/18 PSA World Tour season. Ashour – who had struggled with injury towards the end of the 2016/17 season – looked back to his best as he saw off tournament top seed and compatriot Ali Farag to take the title. Whilst, in the women's event El Sherbini



saw off compatriot Nouran Gohar in straight games to seal her first title win of the season.

Egyptian couple Ali Farag and Nour El Tayeb wrote their names into the history books as they triumphed at the 2017 U.S.

Open to become the first married couple in sporting history ever to win the same major sports title on the same day. The duo – who married last year – defied the odds to defeat higher seeded and higher ranking opposition to secure the titles, the first PSA World Series titles of both of their careers.

El Shorbagy continued his impressive run of form that has seen him reach the final of every tournament he has played in during the 2017/18 season as he added his third Qatar Classic title of his career to his collection. The Egyptian came up against compatriot and surprise finalist Tarek Momen in the final and claimed a 3-1 victory.

El Shorbagy and El Sherbini triumphed in Hong Kong at the final World Series event of the year. The Egyptians ensured the Hong Kong Open titles remained in Egyptian hands after they beat compatriots Farag and El Welily, respectively.

Egyptian duo Raneem El Welily and Mohamed El Shorbagy claimed the Women's and Men's World Championship titles, respectively, as they triumphed in Manchester.

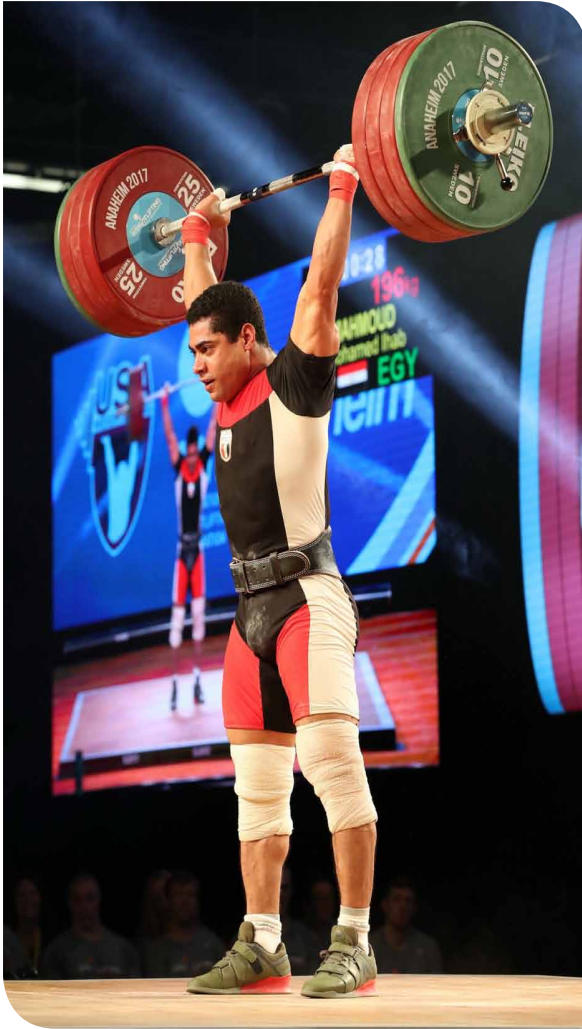
For both it proved to be third time lucky, as the two players had finished runner-up on two previous occasions, however, the duo put on a superb display in the finals to secure the sport's most prestigious title at Manchester Central Convention Complex.

World No.2 El Shorbagy faced his younger brother Marwan in the final in what was the first time two brothers had contested the final of the iconic tournament in its 41-year history.

A nail biting encounter went all the way down to the wire, until 26-year-old Mohamed fired off seven successive points from 6-4 down in the decider to capture the biggest title in squash.

Meanwhile, El Welily came from a game down against Nour El Sherbini – in a repeat of April's final – as she claimed the first World Championship title of her career.

Weightlifter Mohamed Ihab wins three world golds



Egyptian weightlifter Mohamed Ihab etched his name into the history of wrestling by winning three gold medals at the World Championship in Anaheim, the United States early December 2017. The 28-year-old has not only been able to end Egypt's 66-year drought in World Championships, but also became the first world Champion

from Africa in a men's event since 1984. Ihab, winner of a bronze medal at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, lifted 165kg in the snatch and 196kg in the clean and jerk to achieve a total of 361kg in the 77kg category.

The country's last gold medals were back in 1951 when Said Gouda and Ibrahim Shams triumphed in Milan in the 60kg and the 67.5kg contests respectively. Africa's last gold was 33 years ago when Nigerian Orok Oliver emerged the winner in the Snatch of the 100kg category. "A big dream come true. It's a great feeling to be on top of the global ranking," Ihab said in a television interview after returning from the United States.

"It was a tough year as I had to do without any training camps abroad but God wanted to make it easy for me when my main competitors; the Kazakhstani (Rio 2016 gold medalist Nijat Rahimov) and the Chinese (Rio 2016 silver-medalist Lu Xiaojun) missed the tournament." Ihab hopes he will be given more support from the state as he needs to work even harder to have a shot at an Olympic medal in 2020.

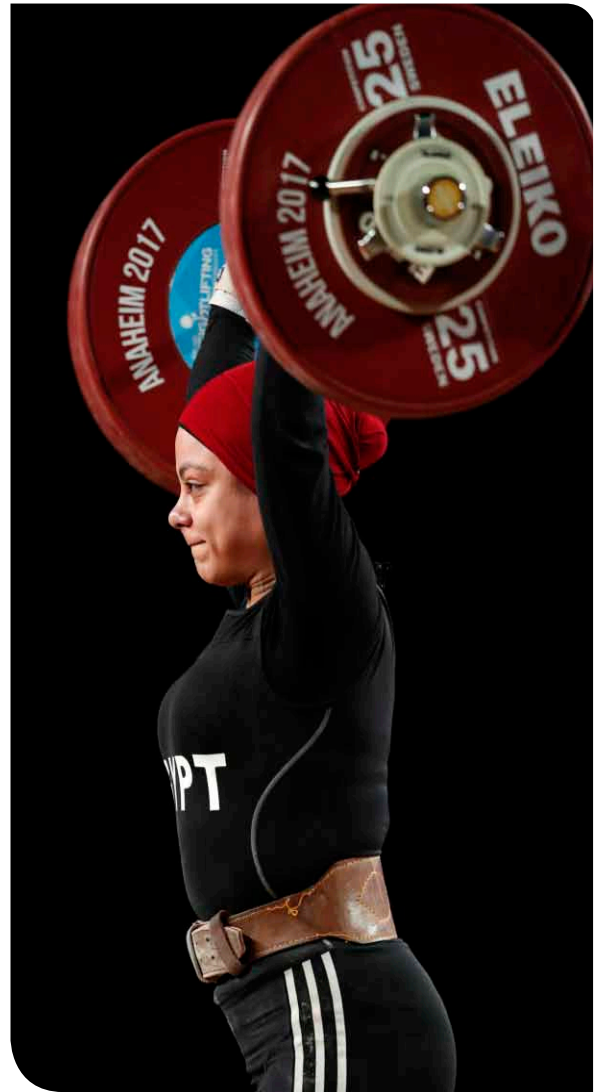
“In weightlifting it’s all about confidence. There are now big surprises because this sport is about numbers and we all know each other’s records. There are no secrets but the event itself is like penalty kicks in football; no matter how often you trained for it, you could always fall in the big event due to various reasons and circumstances. Confidence is the key,” he added.

Sara Samir, first female weightlifter to win gold

After becoming the first Egyptian female to win a medal in the Olympics, Sara Samir secured another accolade by becoming the first female to win a gold medal in the 2017 World Weightlifting Championship in Anaheim, the United States early in December.

Samir, who will turn 20 on 1 January, clinched the gold medal after lifting 136kg in the clean and jerk. However, she could not add further gold medals after failing in her three attempts in the snatch contest.

“I was targeting three medals but I wasn’t lucky in the snatch. I lost the snatch and the total medals,” the 2016 Olympic bronze



medalist explained after the tournament.

“I lifted only 136kg because I ditched training for a whole year after the Olympics because of my high school final exams. I only trained for three months before the World Championship. “I’m asking for more support for individual sports. Yes, football is ok but individual athletes need good care too,” she added.

Golden swimmer

Farida Osman makes history

Since winning the World Junior Championship in 2011, Egyptian swimmer Farida Osman has been steadily turning raw talent into stardom, peaking in 2017. The 22-year-old made history by becoming the first Egyptian swimmer to win a World Championship medal, securing bronze in the 50m butterfly in Budapest. She achieved a time of 25.39 seconds, missing out on the silver, which was won by Ranomi Kromowidjojo of the Netherlands, by 0.01 seconds. The gold was claimed by Sweden's Sarah Sjoestroem, who had a time of 24.60 seconds. Osman broke five African records in the process.

"I am humbled and honored to have represented Egypt in this historic moment for me, the sport and the country," she said after the unprecedented achievement. Few months following the world achievement, Osman won the Best African Female Athlete award granted by the Association of National Olympic Committees in Prague on 3 November. "Being the first Egyptian ever to win a medal at World Championships is so pleasing," she said after receiving the prize at the event. "It's not only a historic moment for me but also for like Egyptian women, Arab and African women in general. "This has been a dream for me and I hope this is



Farida Osman

just the beginning.”

Osman, who competed at the 2012 London Olympics at the age of 17, made it to the semi-finals in the 100m fly at the Rio Games in 2014 and will be looking to have a

shot at an Olympic medal at the 2020 Games in Tokyo. For now, her next big test will be the 2019 FINA World Championship in South Korea where she will be hoping to claim more honors.

Egypt wins 2 silver medals at World Taekwondo in France, acquires first place in 2017 Egypt Open International Taekwondo Championship



Two Egyptian athletes won silver medals during their participation in the 13th French Open World Taekwondo tournament. Hedayta Malak snatched a 67 kg silver medal, while Mohamed Farag yanked a 58 kg silver in the tournament. Malak previously won

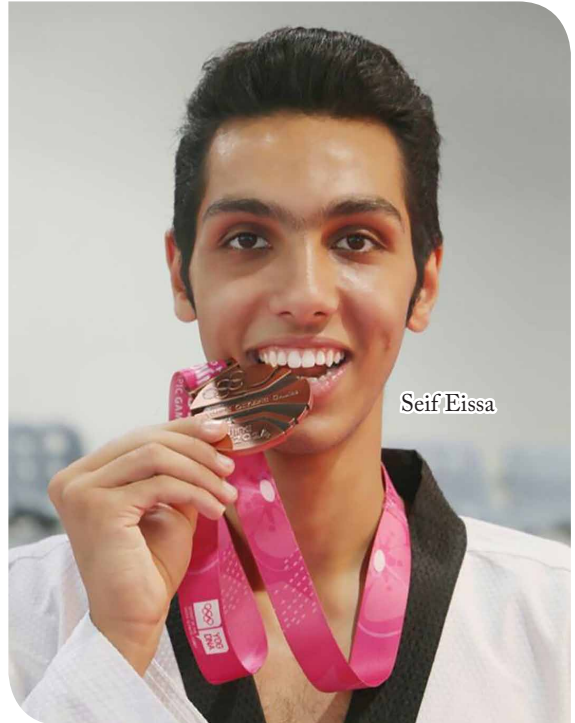
the bronze medal at the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics.

Egyptian taekwondo team placed first in the 2017 Egypt International Open Taekwondo Championship. At the championship—which included 24 countries—Ivory Coast, Italy, and Tunisia’s national teams acquired second, third, and fourth places, respectively. Egyptians Moaz Nabil, Seif Eissa, and Mohamed Ayman, won gold in the men’s competitions of U54kg, U74kg, and +87kg, respectively. Also at the men’s competitions of U63kg, U87kg, and +87Kg, Egypt’s Youssef Aly, Abdelrahman Elgohary, and Mohanad Magdy, won bronze, respectively.

Speaking about the females’ competitions,

Egypt's Nour Hussein won the U49kg competition. Egypt also won two silvers, thanks to Radwa Reda (U53kg) and Maisoun Ehab (U73Kg). Another four Egyptian female players who stood out were Rowan Ashraf, Rawan Refaei, Seham Ibrahim, and Seham El Sawalhy. The four players snatched bronze at the competitions of U53Kg, U62Kg, U73Kg, and U67Kg, respectively.

the bronze medal at the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics.



Seif Eissa

Table Tennis:

Egypt's Omar Assar becomes highest-ranking African in history Dina Meshref maintains Agadir form, wins in Lagos

Egypt's Omar Assar has jumped ten places in the latest monthly Table Tennis rankings released by the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF). Assar, who was crowned African Champion last October, has set a new African record after rising to the 21st place with 2528 points in the latest monthly ranking by ITTF.



Omar Assar

The 26-year-old has earned a deserved progress following his brilliant performances in the Seamaster 2017 ITTF World Tour Platinum Austrian Open held in Linz, which saw him reach the quarter-finals of the World Tour. Assar started his campaign by a seven-game match against Germany's Patrick Baum (11-7, 5-11, 12-10, 11-9, 6-11, 7-11, 11-9) in the preliminary round before topping group 6 in the group stages with victories over Slovenia's Deni Kozul

and Sweden's Elias Ranefur.

Winner in early July 2017 at the ITTF Africa Cup in Agadir, Egypt's Dina Meshref maintained the form displayed in the Moroccan city at the ITTF Challenge Seamaster Nigeria Open in Lagos on 13th August. The no.3 seed, in the final she accounted for Russia's Olga Kulikova, the no.4 seed, in straight games to secure the title (11-4, 16-14, 12-10, 11-6).



2017 a bright year for Egypt's gymnasts

Congratulations to our Artistic who achieved great results , first our Rings Gymnastics Champions coming back from Champion Ali Zahran came in 3rd place the Challenge World Cup in Varna 2017 , and won the bronze medal , then our golden

women artistic gymnast Farah Hussein who won for the first time the 2nd place in the uneven parallel bars and the 3rd place on the floor , then we have our MAG promising champion Abdelrahman el Zamzamy who won in his first participation in a world cup the 5th place in Vault and 7th place in Rings , and last but not least our MAG champion Ahmed Ashraf who came the 8th in Parallel bars , and our WAG African Champ Farah Saied won the 5th Place in Bars and 7th Place on Beam.

The Egyptian national junior rhythmic gymnastics team, U16, won second place at the International Rhythmic Gymnastics Tournament in Luxembourg after the Russian team, which is listed as the world's number one team in rhythmic gymnastics.

Despite coming in second place, the team accomplished the highest score in the competition in the second day, with a total of 13.9 points, defeating the Russian team that scored 13.5. After the total number of points following the second day of the competition, it took second place.

Egyptian team members included Farida



Ali Zahran Aboul-Qassem

Nadir, Perihan Ayman, Nermine Khaled, Malak Selim, and Farah Ihab. The members defeated Norway, which came in third place and Holland, which came in fourth place. Under the individual category, young Aliaa Osama scored first place, defeating 30 female players from Russia, Ukraine, and Germany, while Osama won first place in rope and third place in freestyle. The U16 rhythmic gymnastics team is preparing to qualify for the African Championship expected to take place in 2018 and the Olympics, to be held in Tokyo in 2020.

Egypt wins gold at Tashkent Grand Judo Championship

Egypt's Ramadan Darwish won the under 100 kg gold medal at the 2017 Tashkent Grand Prix after defeating Niyaz Ilyasov of Russia in the final. The 29-year-old Darwish, who won the Grand Prix in Qingdao (2009), Tashkent (2014), and Budapest (2015), is the top seed in his weight class. He had previously represented Egypt in the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games.



3 Gold medals for Egypt's modern pentathletes

Six modern pentathletes from Egypt have been honored for their achievements in 2017 by the Egyptian President of State, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. The six pentathletes honored were Yasser Hefny, Islam Hamed, Ahmed Ashraf, Haidy Adel, Sondos Tarek and Mariam Amer, all of whom won gold or silver medals during the 2017 Senior World Championships in Cairo (EGY). They all received the highest award in Egyptian sport, the Medal of Honor in Sport from the 1st degree, and the honor was extended to Sharif Elerian, President of the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation, and head coach to the senior team, Raouf Hossam.

Egypt won the 6th African Wushu Kung Fu Championship

Egypt won the 6th African Wushu Kung Fu Championship and ranked first in Wushu Sanda and Taolu – martial art styles, at the African championship held in Benin on 19 July to 24 July. The African championship hosted 15 African countries to compete for the title; Egypt triumphed both Wushu Sanda and Taolu competitions.

In the Wushu Sanda competitions, Egyptians won multiple rankings. Mohammed Khaled won 56kg competitions, Islam Najib won 60kg, Gomaa Rajab 65kg, Ayman Galal 80kg, Hagar Ragab 60kg, and Omar Mamdouh in the weight of 85kg, and finally, Frida won second place in the weight of 52kg.

More Egyptian players ranked first in the Chang Quan, Jian Shu and Qiang Shu – martial art competitions – such as Islam Mohammad Mohammed, Hajar Mohammed Al Sayed, Ahmed Hassan Abdel Salam, Amr Ibrahim Abdul Rahman and Abdul Rahman Ihab Khairuddin.

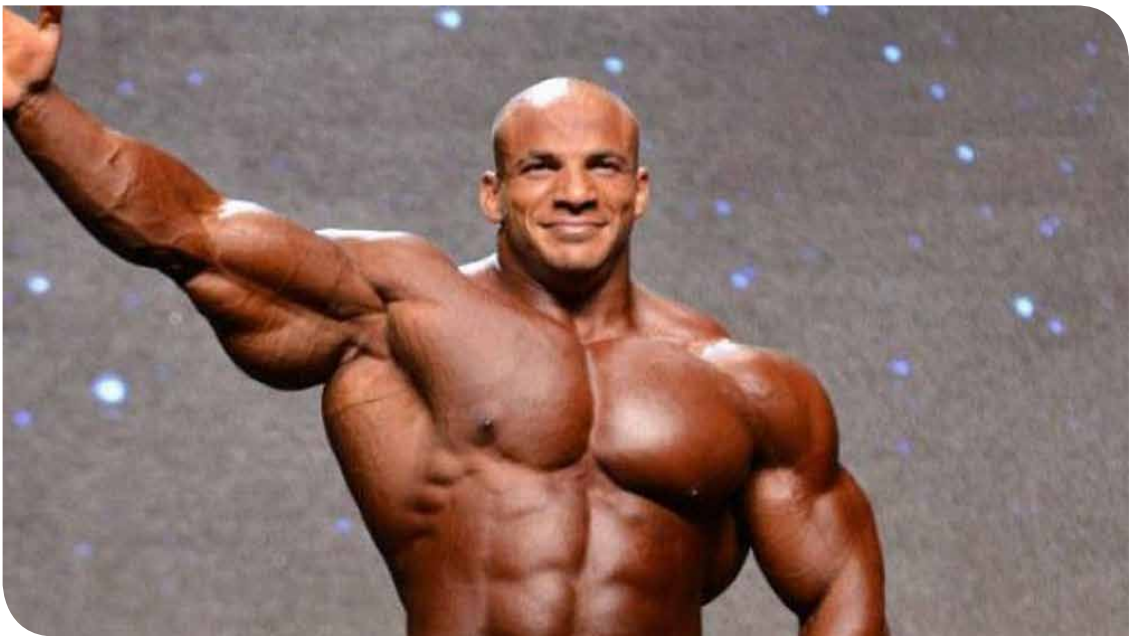


Egypt reaps 15 medals in the World Karate Championship

Egypt came in second place at the World Karate Championships, for youth under 21 and juniors, and won a total of 15 medals at the competitions that took place in the Spanish city of Santa Cruz de Tenerife from 25 to 29 October. The national karate team, which participated with 35 players, achieved seven bronze, five gold, and three silver medals.

Big Ramy won silver medal at Mr. Olympia

Egyptian bodybuilder Ramy Al Sibiay, also known as “Big Ramy”, came second in Mr. Olympia, an international bodybuilding competition that is held annually by the International Federation of Body Building and Fitness (IFBB). The Egyptian champion came second behind Phil Heath, who won his seventh Mr. Olympia title. Ramy’s medal was Egypt’s first in the history of Mr. Olympia.



Hassan wins Junior Wrestling World Championships bronze



Sad, Serbia, according to a report by Bulgarian National Radio. Abdel-Salam had previously won several medals for Egypt, last of which being gold at the African Wrestling Championship and Silver in the Mediterranean Wrestling Tournament.

Egypt's Hassan Mohamed Hassan won the Junior Wrestling World Championships bronze medal after defeating India's Manish Manish 4-3. The Egyptian wrestler was competing for the bronze medal

Egyptian wrestler Mohamed Tarek Abdel-Salam won the European Wrestling Championship's gold medal for Bulgaria after defeating Russia's wrestler and world champion Chingiz Labazanov in Novi

at 60kg after defeating China's champion in addition to Germany's champion in the previous rounds. He managed an uncorked headlock in the final 30 seconds and won the match 4-3.

Other sports achievements

Egypt bodybuilding champs Mustafa El-Iraqi and Samy Abu El-Ezz won top ranks for adults and teens respectively in 2017

NPC USA Championship . Iraqi broke the registered international record.

Egypt was the biggest victor at the 2017

African Fencing Championships, winning a total of 18 medals, six of which were gold. The tournament took place between the 8th and the 12th of June, with the participation of 6 other countries from across the African continent. Olympic silver medallist Alaa El-Din Aboul Kasem won gold at the men's individual foil competition. Egypt also won gold at the men's individual épée competition, and both men's teams competitions. The women's teams also did well by winning gold in both the team foil and team sabre competitions. This is the second time Egypt makes it to first place at the fencing championships since 2012, when Egypt also won 18 medals. Tunisia dominated the top rank since for four consecutive years.

Egypt is the first African team who has won a match in the history of the FIVB Women's U23 World Championship. The team of coach Maged Mohamed overcame Thailand in a marathon match 4-2 (15-9, 7-15, 15-11, 9-15, 16-14, 15-4) at Stożice Arena on Tuesday night.

The Egyptian badminton junior national

team has won two silver medals after occupying the second place in the doubles competitions of the Arab Badminton Championship, held in Bizerte, Tunisia between December 23 and December 28. The male Egyptian team won second place after its victory over Morocco. It then lost to Algeria, who occupied first place. Meanwhile, the female team won second place after defeating the host country Tunisia and losing to Algeria.

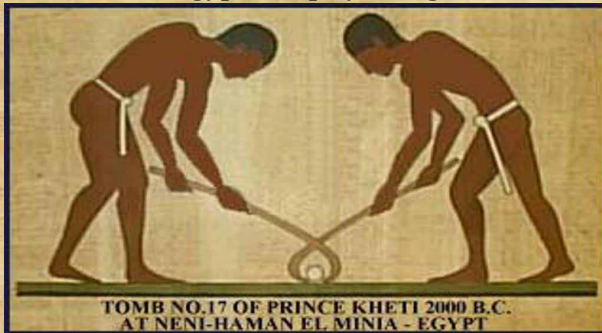
Egypt has achieved three medals, two silvers, and one bronze, at the 2017 World Games held on July 21 till 30, 2017 in the city of Wroclaw, Poland. At the men's competition for billiards sport, Egypt's Sameh Sidhom won bronze. Egypt triumphed with two silver medals at the sumo competitions – the Japanese form of heavy weight wrestling – thanks to Ramy Helal and Misbah Hossam. Helal earned the second place at the heavyweight men's competition, while Hossam ended the second at the middleweight men's competition.

Games, Sports & Recreation in Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egyptian kings, princes and statesmen were keen on attending sports competitions, which they encouraged and provided with the necessary equipment. Drawings on pharaonic monuments tell us that several thousand years ago, the Egyptians had laid down basic rules for games, chosen a neutral referee, a uniform for players, and a means of announcing the winners by awarding them different collars. Both winner and loser were met with ovation, the first for his superiority and the latter for his sporting spirit. Ancient Egyptians of every social class spent a great deal of time outdoors from the time they were young. Artwork and inscriptions, as well as letters, provide examples of children playing in the yard or the street from an early age.

Hockey

Ancient Egyptians played a game that is similar to our present-day hockey. Drawings



on tombs at Beni Hassan in Menya Governorate show players holding bats made of long palm-tree branches, with a bent end similar to that of the hockey bat. The hockey ball was made of compressed

papyrus fibers covered with two pieces of leather in the shape of a semicircle. The ball was dyed in two or more colors.

Handball

Drawings of this sport are found on the Saqqara tombs, five thousand years old. The ball was made of leather and stuffed with plant fibers or hay, or made of papyrus plants in order to be light and more durable. It was seldom used for more than one match. The painting shows four girls playing handball. Each team throws the ball to the other at the same time.

Players can either be on their feet or on top of their teammates' backs while exchanging balls.

Archery

Archery was a well-known sport in Ancient Egypt and was often recorded on plates in ancient temples. These plates show the kings' and princes' skill in accurate aiming at the target, and their strength in pulling the bow. Archery competitions were common. In the 21st century BC King Amenhotep II boasted that he pierced the middle of a thick brass target with four arrows. He then set a prize for anyone who could do the same.

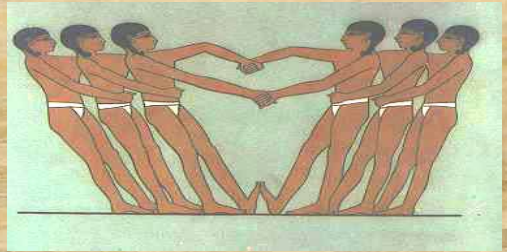
Gymnastics: Consecutive Vault

Pharaohs practiced gymnastics. The players performed consecutive vaults without touching the floor with their heads and making more than one complete turn in the air.

At the end of the exercise the players stand firmly upright, which is one of the basic rules of floor exercise applied in today's Olympics.

Tug of War

One of the ancient Egyptian plates at the "Marorika tomb" shows teams standing in two opposite rows, with the first players of each row holding hands and pulling back each other while



the other members of each team hold each other tightly by the waist and try to pull back the opposite team. The first contestant in the front has one foot supported by that of his opposite number. This sport is still practiced in the Egyptian countryside.

Javelin Throw

Javelin throwing during the Pharaonic age was first linked to hunting. Drawings show how the hunter could hit his prey by one single throw despite its speed. The javelin differed in

length according to the kind of prey. The javelin is thrown upwards lightly so that it revolves in quick spins until it returns to the player to be used again. The javelin is a stick with a twisted end.

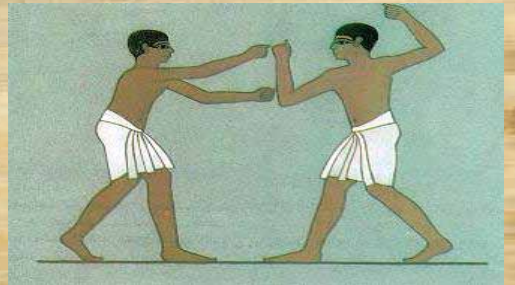


Fishing

Fishing was one of the sports practiced by kings, princes and commoners. There are many drawings of scenes of fishing as a hobby on the Saqqara tombs of the Old Kingdom as much as there are on the New Kingdom monuments. The Egyptian Museum in Cairo comprises numerous kinds of fishing rods and hooks of various shapes, which indicate the advance of such a sport in ancient Egypt.

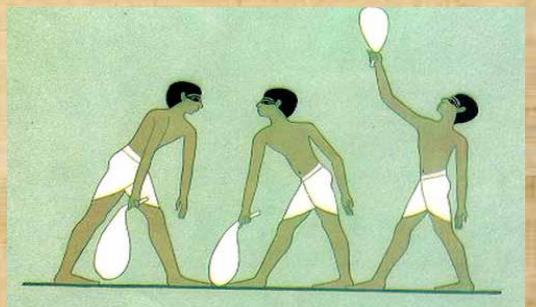
Boxing

Some ancient Egyptian scenes of boxing as a game were found in the tomb of “Mery Ra” in the Minia Governorate and in the “Ptah Hotep” tomb in Saqqara. Pharaohs and princes watched the boxing match, which indicates that it was an organized contest.



Weightlifting

Weightlifting was one of the sports known by the ancient Egyptians. One method of weightlifting was the attempt to lift a heavy sack of sand with one hand (clean and jerk lift) and keep it high in a quasi-vertical position. The player had to stay in that position for a short period. This is one of the rules of weightlifting applied till now.

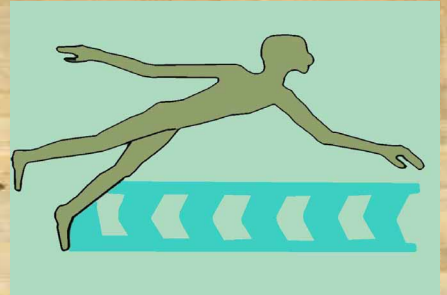


High Jump

Ancient Egyptians practiced field and track sports such as the high jump. Two players sat opposite each other with legs stretched, with one player's feet on top of the toes of the other. If the third player managed to jump over that barrier, the two sitting players placed their palms on top of their feet to heighten the barrier which the third player had to jump across without touching. This game is still practiced in the Egyptian countryside and is called "goose steps".

Swimming

Swimming was the favorite sport of the ancient Egyptians, who made use of the River Nile to practice it. The Nile was not the only place for swimming contests. Noblemen's palaces had swimming pools in which princes learnt the sport. The calm waters of the Nile encouraged youths to hold swimming competitions in which they could show their skills.



Rowing

Rowing was one of the sports that required most physical strength on the part of the ancient Egyptian. Plates recorded team-rowing in which the players depended on harmonizing their rowing according to the directives of their leader who held the rudder. The leader also controlled their movement through a high-pitched systematic call to unify the moment when oars touched the surface of the water and that helped to push the boat forward more steadily and swiftly - a method still being adopted in rowing nowadays.

Gymnastics (floor exercise)

The ancient Egyptians invented many sports, some for entertainment, and others for

keeping strong, physically fit, and slim. The picture dates back to 2000 years BC. It shows a gymnastics drill in which the body is bent backwards until the hands touch the ground, revealing bodily flexibility. It is one of the most commonly practiced exercises today.

Rhythmic Gymnastics

Pharaonic paintings show four players performing rhythmic gymnastics in different positions. The one on the left stands on one foot, stretching his two arms horizontally, and lifting one leg as high as possible to the front to help him revolve swiftly and lightly. The two players in the middle are standing facing each other, bending their arms near their shoulders while twisting their waists towards the left and right. The fourth player stands on his head upside down in perfect equilibrium, without touching the floor with his arms. All these positions are close to some practiced in today's rhythmic gymnastics.

Tug of Hoop

This is an ancient Egyptian game in which two players compete in pulling the hoop swiftly. Each contestant fixes a hooked staff to hinder any snatch of the hoop by the other player. This game needs sharp physical maneuvers and strict observation, particularly because the hooked staff is used both to pull the hoop and support it from falling flat on the floor.

Marathon

Marathon races were of the utmost importance in ancient Egypt, particularly during celebrations marking the assumption of power of new kings. One of the rituals of these celebrations was to hold a marathon run by the king around the temples before spectators to reveal his physical strength and his ability to rule using his bodily as well as mental capabilities. History records that the Pharaoh, together with those who were born on the same day of his birth, participated in hectic marathons. No one was allowed to have a meal before covering 180 stages of his race.

Senet

The most popular board game was Senet, which is most commonly depicted as the ‘typical’ ancient Egyptian game. The game dates from the Early Dynastic Period and remained popular throughout Egypt’s history. Senet was a game for two players who faced each other across a board of thirty squares using five or seven game pieces. The objective seems to have been to move all of one’s pieces to the opponent’s end of the board while preventing them from doing the same. The game is depicted in artwork from the New Kingdom showing royalty playing Senet, the best example being the wife of Ramesses II, Queen Nefertari (c. 1255 BCE) from her tomb painting.

Senet boards have been found in royal tombs from the Early Dynastic Period through the Late Period of Ancient Egypt (525-332 BCE) and in regions beyond Egypt’s borders, attesting to its popularity. From the New Kingdom on, it was considered a representation of one’s journey from life to eternity as evidenced by texts, inscriptions, and engravings on actual game boards. In *The Egyptian Book of the Dead*, Senet is mentioned in the early section of the lengthy Spell 17 which firmly links it with the afterlife and the gods.





Photo by:
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