

# Egypt tycoon jailed for diva murder freed



Suzanne Tamim, Hisham Talaat Moustafa (Courtesy of Berlingske)

**Cairo**  
An Egyptian real estate tycoon jailed for the murder of a Lebanese pop diva was freed yesterday as part of a presidential pardon for hundreds of detainees, security officials said.

State television said President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi pardoned a total of 502 prisoners to mark Eid al-Fitr holiday at the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Hisham Talaat Moustafa, who was sentenced to 15 years in jail in 2010 for the murder of Suzanne Tamim, was among those pardoned on health grounds, an interior

ministry official said.

Moustafa was released from prison on Friday, he said. A police official at the Torah jail south of Cairo confirmed the tycoon had been freed.

Tamim, Moustafa's lover, was murdered in July 2008 at her Dubai apartment by former policeman Mohsen al-Sukkari.

The court which sentenced Moustafa to jail accused him of having paid Sukkari \$2 million to cut Tamim's throat. Sukkari was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Tamim's killing sparked an outcry in the region, particularly in Egypt where Moustafa was a respected

figure and a businessman associate of ousted president Hosni Mubarak's son and heir apparent Gamal.

Moustafa was also a member of Mubarak's now-dissolved National Democratic Party.

In May 2009, Moustafa was sentenced to jail but a year later an appeals court overturned the verdict on procedural grounds and ordered a retrial. In 2010 he was handed a 15-year prison sentence.

State television said those pardoned by Sisi included people jailed in connection with "demonstrations". It did not elaborate. (AFP)

## Einstein's marriage formula

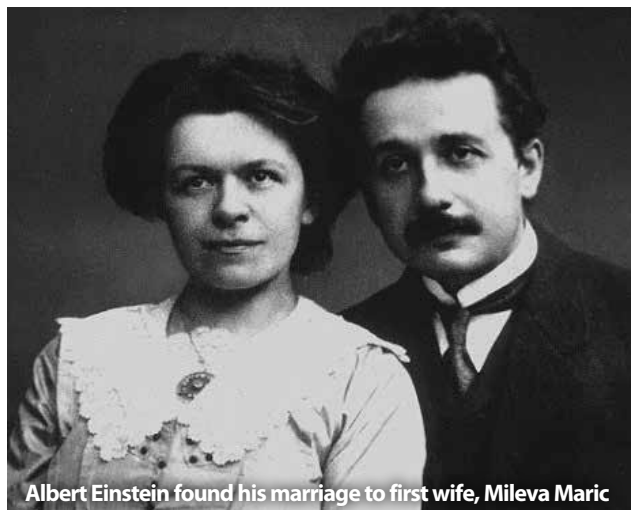
London

Albert Einstein may have been a genius when it came to the world of physics -- but the magic formula for marriage eluded him, according to letters up for auction at Christie's.

The man behind the theory of relativity was on less solid ground when it came to relationships, according to a series of letters to his lifelong friend and collaborator Michele Besso.

"What I admired most in him as a man was the manner in which he managed to live for so long peacefully but also durably with a spouse -- an enterprise in which I piteously failed twice," Einstein wrote to Besso's family on March 21, 1955, just after his friend's death, which preceded his own only by weeks.

In an emotional final paragraph, Einstein wrote



Albert Einstein found his marriage to first wife, Mileva Maric

of Besso: "Now he has again preceded me a little in parting from this strange world.

"This has no importance. For people like us who believe in physics, the separation between past, present and future has only the importance of an

admittedly tenacious illusion."

Besso provided moral support to his close friend since their student days in Zurich in the 1890s as Einstein endured marital difficulties with first wife Mileva, from whom he separated in 1914.

### #PollToday



UAE has issued stern warnings to Qatar to accept demands placed by its Gulf neighbours. Do you think Qatar will change its attitude?

Yes  No  Cant Say



I mean we're going to have to see in terms -- look, there has been no obstruction. There has been no collusion. There has been leaking by Comey,"

Donald Trump,  
US President  
on Russia probe chief

### Rest in sight

Assange lawyer says UK breaking intl law



Julian Assange's lawyer accused Britain on Thursday of breaking international law by denying the WikiLeaks founder safe passage out of the country if he leaves Ecuador's embassy in London.

'It's a girl!': Tokyo zoo announces panda's sex

A baby panda recently born in Japan is a girl, a Tokyo zoo said yesterday, adding that the little cub appeared to be in good health.

Yellowstone grizzly bear removed from endangered list

Grizzly bears native to Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding area are being removed from the endangered species list, the US government said.

California man visits Disneyland 2,000 days

Disney is used to adoring fans but one man has topped them all, visiting its California theme park 2,000 days in a row.

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## Tourist bus hits Paris bridge, four injured

Paris

A double-decker tourist bus became stuck under a central Paris bridge on Friday, injuring at least four passengers, firefighters said.

The bus crashed into the Alexandre III bridge, a tourist magnet due to its ornate structure and views over the Eiffel Tower and River Seine. The Paris fire service said one of the

injured was seriously hurt.

The crash came during a large-scale event on the Seine to promote the French capital's bid for the 2024 Olympics, with a floating running track installed across the river just next to the bridge.

A police source said the bus was not travelling along its usual route, having been diverted because of the Olympic event.

## Man arrested for selling lizard parts as rare root



Picture shows dried monitor lizard parts allegedly being sold online while being claimed to be rare plant roots

New Delhi

An Indian man has been arrested for selling dried monitor lizard genitals online as a rare root plant believed to bring good luck, Indian forest department officials said yesterday.

The news comes days after Indian and British investigators said they had uncovered a scam in which Indian internet retailers were passing off the lizard parts as the plant, known as Hatha Jodi. The monitor lizard is protected under the Indian Wildlife Act.

Officials believe the

arrested man, Kalki Krishnan, was sourcing the parts from central India's Madhya Pradesh state.

"We have made seizures (of the monitor lizard genitals) and sent them to the lab for tests. We will also ask the court for the arrested man's custody to further our investigations," a divisional forest officer, H.V Girish, said.

Other banned wildlife items were also seized from Krishnan, an official at the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau told the Hindustan Times.

## Police mull manslaughter charges over London blaze

London

Manslaughter charges could be filed over London's deadly tower blaze, police said yesterday after finding that exterior cladding on the building had failed safety tests and that the fire started with a faulty fridge.

The government ordered immediate checks on the Hotpoint FF175BP fridge freezer model blamed for the June 14 blaze in west London, which left 79 people presumed dead.

Hotpoint-branded fridge freezers were manufactured by Indesit between 2006 and 2009, before Indesit was bought by current owner

Whirlpool.

"We are addressing this as a matter of utmost urgency and assisting the authorities in any way we can," US-based Whirlpool said in a statement.

It also urged owners of Hotpoint fridge freezer models FF175BP or FF175BG to contact them "so that we can register their details and contact them with further information".

In an update on the investigation, Fiona McCormack from London's Metropolitan Police said: "We are looking at every criminal offence from manslaughter onwards."