

Beat: Politics

## Death toll among Egyptian pilgrims rises to three

### Daily News Egypt

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**USPA NEWS** - The Egyptian Ministry of Health announced on Wednesday the death of the third Egyptian pilgrim in Saudi Arabia, as a result of a cardiac arrest.

The Head of the Egyptian Medical Pilgrimage Mission Mohamed Shawki, said that Shawqia Shehta, an Egyptian pilgrim died as a result of a cardiac arrest at the General Heraa Hospital in Mecca.

Shawqi announced earlier this week the deaths of two other Egyptian pilgrims. One of them was Mahmoud Ibrahim Abdel Karem, 61, who died last Monday because of a sharp drop in blood pressure that led to a heart attack while performing the Umrah, or religious rituals. The other death is that of Galal Saad Mohamed Marzouk, 56, who died last Thursday of similar reasons.

Last year, the Ministry of Health said that the final number of total deaths among Egyptian pilgrims to Saudi Arabia are 110 deaths, among them 105 died in Mecca, while the rest were in Medina.

Old age, heart attacks, heat related illness are common death causes among Egyptian pilgrims.

The total number of Egyptian pilgrims this year is 78,000, including 36,000 pilgrims travelling through tourism companies, while the rest is divided between lottery pilgrims and pilgrims travelling via Egyptian civil society programmes.



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