

# A Royal Marriage....

BY: Ola ElSeouini

Jordan's Princess, *Haya* engaged to Dubai's Crown Prince,  
Prince Mohammed *Al-Maktoum*



“The prince and the princess have a great passion for horses”

In an extraordinary royal ceremony, Jordan princess Haya daughter of the late King Hussein and Half-sister of Abdullah was married to Dubai's crown prince General Mohammed bin Rashed Al-Maktoum. The private ceremony took place in the al-Baraka palace in Amman and was attended only by close family members. Among the royal inviters was the king and male members of the royal family, notable crown prince Hamzeh, half-brother of the princess, Prince Faisal, brother of the king, and prince Ali, the princess' brother.

The prince and the princess have a great passion for horses. The prince is a keen horse woman and has taken part in sev-

eral international competitions. Due to her great interest in horses, she spent time on a stud farm in Ireland after graduating. Princess Haya has endless contributions to the show jumping world; HORSE times had had the privilege to publish articles written by her highness through which she tried to pass on her equestrian experience to the Egyptians and the entire Arab world. In one of her letters to our editor she commented on HORSE times saying "I was most excited by this publication 'HORSE times', and its implications for our equestrian future".

Princess Haya was born on May 3, 1974; the princess is the elder of two children from the third-marriage of the king Hussein. Her mother was Alia Toukan, a Jordanian of Palestinian origin

who died in a helicopter accident in February 1977. She graduated from Oxford University. Interesting enough, she was the first woman in Jordan with a license to drive heavy vehicles.

The groom, General Mohammed bin Rashed al-Maktoum is 55 years old. The royal is the crown prince of Dubai and the Minister of Defense of the United Arab Emirates. Sheikh Mohammed has earned international recognition as a horse owner, and he is also an exceptionally gifted rider. Moreover prince Al-Maktoum dominates the endurance race world; he won almost every race he participates in ■

