

12th Asian Physics Olympiad, 1-9 May, 2011, Tel-Aviv, Israel

Physics



What's on your mind?

News Feed

Tel-Aviv ▶ Tamar Amir



A cloudy morning in Jaffa made our tour around the Old city and its rich historical sights pleasant.

Beginning at the Clock Tower at the entrance to Jaffa, we continued our circuit into the old part of town, passing by many places of interest—The Arab Hebrew Theatre of Jaffa, the Wishing Bridge of luck-ridden astrological signs, the Tiroche Amphitheatre, the Ilana Goor museum, and a maze of sand-stone walled alleyways that are host to countless artist galleries, all leading to the Jaffa port.

A touching two minutes of silence had us stop in our paths to commemorate the Holocaust, marked by a country wide siren at 10 am.

After innumerable stories and insights, laughter and photo snapping, we all met for lemonade refreshments and typical Arab-Israeli snacks courtesy of Jaffa's 'Abulafiah' restaurant. There, we also learned some Hebrew—namely useful street slang, such as yala!, sababa!, rak rega!, oof mi po! This was perhaps a perfect preamble to the kind of attitude we needed to summon up in order to sharpen our bargaining skills for the following flea market visit! Once our pockets were a bit lighter and our backpacks slightly fuller, we rolled on over to Gordo restaurant for a buffet lunch by the sea.

A visit through Neve Tzedek showed us the “mother and father” of Tel Aviv, and brought us to the “Tahana”, an outdoor shopping complex built into what once was Yaffo's train station, seeped with culture and history.

A day's walk about town gave us a taste of Tel Aviv, and certainly inspired our appetites!



People You May Know

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Lin Sen ▶ Singapore

How has your arrival and participation in the Olympiad been up to now? I feel surprisingly relaxed...this is a competition after all, but I'm not tense or worried at the moment. It is fantastic to be here! It is the one chance we have to tackle the world of Physics at the end of highschool...which is great, since Physics is interesting and fun.

about an hour ago • Like

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Alix Verdon ▶ Australia

What do you think about the exam questions? How do you think the students will do? And how do you feel about them being out and about, enjoying themselves today while you are hard at work preparing their exam materials? So far, so good—we've only looked at one exam question and it looks very good. As for how they'll do...it's hard to say... Today we are working, but we're not worried, we will have our fun tomorrow!

about an hour ago • Like

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Chandrika ▶ India

The questions are quite good. I am feeling well and enjoying myself here. I have faith in the students...they are all very hard-working and intelligent, and have studied much to prepare themselves. And I don't mind about being indoors...it is why I came...we will have our chance to enjoy Israel soon enough!

about an hour ago • Like

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The Wonders of Graphene

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In 2010, A Nobel Prize was granted to two University of Manchester scientists for the ground breaking research they conducted on graphene. This achievement was awarded because of the astonishing nature of this material. It is a veritable two-dimensional sheet composed of one-atom thick matter, and, stronger than a diamond and as flexible as rubber—is considered one of the lightest and most conductive structures known to man. Auspicious attributes in a material thinner than paper make graphene the new hype—it sees a future in several industries and finds yet more praise in the fact that it is less wasteful than other materials used up to date, and safer for the environment.

Graphene is a formation of carbon; a single layer of the atom densely packed in alignment, within a “honeycomb lattice” arrangement. It is a single atomic sheet of graphite, having originally been produced by stripping layers away from the former with adhesive tape to achieve a sin-

gle atomic plane of carbon. It is a potential replacement for silicon (being a possible host to smaller and faster circuits) and it is the smallest of existing transistors. Possessing a remarkably large electron-carrying capacity amongst its strength and stretch, graphene’s eco-friendly and inexpensive nature make it the number one material to be experimenting within the hi-tech, automotive and aviary fields.

Much research is going into graphene at present. It is up there amongst the most innovative and interesting physics-related inquiries at the moment, and deserves all the attention it’s getting. It is being explored for its use in storing hydrogen in fuel cell powered cars, for example, as well as in sensors to diagnose disease. Its multi-faceted range of malleability to suit varying purposes is inspiring, with much more to be said about its accessibility and various effects.

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Jerusalem is Israel's holy claim to fame, and, at its heart, the Old City. Here, within the ancient walls built during the Ottoman Empire that surround the area (of about one square kilometer), beats the spiritual engine that is sacred to Jews Christians and Muslims alike. Four quarters separate the Old City into visit-worthy historical gems that tell rich stories both cultural and religious.



The Western Wall, considered to be the most sacred place in the world to Jewish people, was once part of the magnificent support to the Temple of Herod. Today, the holy sight, also called the Kotel, invites countless worshippers to place notes of prayer and asking between its ancient stones and cracks.

In the Muslim Quarter are two shrines that dominate in importance, built in the seventh century and mentioned in the Koran as being located in the "Remote Place" that is Jerusalem. The Dome of the Rock, stunningly beautiful from near as from afar, is considered one of the architectural glories of the world. It is the only early Islamic sanctuary to have remained intact, and is the third holiest place in Islam.

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher is the site where Jesus Christ was buried and resurrected after his death, and therefore a place of unequalled importance to the Christian religion.

The Armenian quarter, occupying roughly one sixth of the Old City, is of optimal significance to the Armenians living in Jerusalem. Their "city within a city" is a walled compound that surrounds the Church of St James, a monastery, the Armenian Patriarch residency and the Convent of the Olive Tree.

31 Today's Program

May 3, Tuesday [Like](#) • [Comment](#) • [See Freindship](#)

Students

07:10-07:50 Transportation to [Tel Aviv University](#)
 08:00-08:15 Division to exam stations & explanation of exam
 08:20-13:20 Theory exam
 13:20-14:30 Lunch [Palm tree grove at the University](#)
 14:30-15:30 Transportation to [Jerusalem](#)
 15:30-16:00 Guided tour of the [Mount of Olives](#)
 16:00-16:20 Transportation to [Jaffa Gate, Old city](#)
 16:30-19:30 Guided Tour of the [Old city, Jerusalem](#)
 19:30-20:00 Transportation to dinner
 20:00-21:00 Dinner "[Neurra restaurant](#)", [Abu Gosh village](#)
 21:00-22:00 Transportation to [Ramat Gan](#)
 22:00-22:30 Summation of day
 23:30 Lights out

Leaders, Observers and Visitors

09:15-09:30 Transportation to [Jaffa](#)
 09:30-11:00 Guided tour [Jaffa](#)
 11:00-11:30 Refreshments break
 11:30-12:30 Free time at [Jaffa Flea Market](#)
 12:30-12:45 Transportation to [Crowne Plaza hotel](#)
 13:00-13:45 Lunch [Crowne Plaza hotel](#)
 14:00-15:00 Transportation to [Jerusalem](#)
 15:00-15:30 Guided tour of the [Mount of Olives](#)
 15:30-16:00 Transportation to the [Old City](#)
 16:00-19:30 Guided tour of the [Old City, Jerusalem](#)
 19:30-20:00 Transportation to dinner
 20:00-21:00 Dinner [Abu Gosh Village](#)
 21:00-22:00 Transportation to [TLV](#)
 22:30 Distribution of Student [Crowne Plaza hotel](#)

“” Sentence of the day

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TOV SHEM MI SHEMEN TOV This Biblical phrase states 'A good name is better than fine oil', meaning a person's reputation and honour are more valuable than wealth and property.
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Featured



Wednesday Weather

Sunny

Max. Day Temperature 24°C

Min. Night Temperature 17°C

UV Index 10 Very High