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MATRUH DELEGATION NOT REPRESENTATIVE

Takwa protesters claim they were excluded from a meeting with President Mohamed Morsy

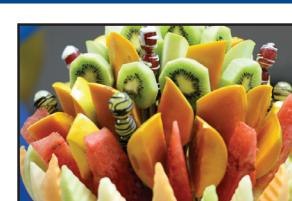
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Administrative court postponed a case filed by residents of Ramlet Boulaq against the Cairo governorate

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FAKEEHA: FRUIT BOUQUET SPECIALIST

Imagine a healthy fresh bouquet of locally-grown, handpicked, perfectly ripe fruit and you have envisioned Fakieha

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Sinai attacks continue

JIHADISTS ACCUSE POLICE OF PLANNING THE ATTACKS

By Nouran El-Behairy and Nasser El-Azazy

Masked gunmen launched an attack on a police patrol in on the bridge of the Wadi El-Arish in Sinai on Tuesday. Three soldiers were killed last week in the same place.

The attack resulted in the injury of Colonel Selim Gamal, inspector of security of the Ministry of the Interior in the North Sinai region. Gamal was shot in the neck, according to a medical statement.

Gamal was transferred to Cairo to receive treatment in Agouza police hospital.

Major General Ali Azzazy, a high ranking security official in North Sinai, said the gunmen opened fire on the officer which led to a serious shoulder injury. The gunmen took the officer's car and fled.

This comes after the deployment of Egyptian military forces across Sinai after demonstrations by policemen. The protesters denounced the killing of three of their colleagues at the hands of unidentified gunmen on Saturday.

A group named the Salafi Jihadists released a statement on Monday titled "latest police violations." It claimed the police unjustly killed four



Egyptian security forces stand by their armoured personnel carriers ahead of a military operation in the northern Sinai Peninsula (File photo)

Sinai residents, which led to the attack on the police patrols.

The statement explained that policemen had shot a taxi driver, killing him and the passenger who was next to him. Another truck driver and passenger were shot by a policeman, who dragged the driver out of the vehicle in an "inhumane" way.

"People demanded justice but au-

thorities ignored their demands... the attack [on the police patrol] was followed by a media campaign to show that the police were targeted and the security was loose" the statement read.

It went on to say that the Salafi Jihadists were accused of targeting police, "but our weapons target only our nation's enemies, the Jews," add-

ing that the attacks were planned by authorities to justify tightening security over Sinai.

Finally they said the major problem in Sinai was the marginalisation of the people by the authorities and the lack of their basic needs.

They described authorities as "inside enemies" who want to bring back tyranny and injustice.

Salafis storm church property

Coptic groups criticise government for inadequate security

By Basil El-Dabh

The diocesan headquarters of the Coptic church in Shubra Al-Kheima was stormed by Salafis on Monday after afternoon prayers. The group raised a banner reading "Rahma Mosque" and remained on the premises until prayers at dawn, when the interior ministry intervened and removed the group.

The Salafis took over an area of the diocese headquarters used for services, that had been governmentally licensed, and claimed it as a Muslim place of worship, said Bishop Morsos of Shubra in a telephone interview on Al-Tahrir channel. "We want to know what the government will do."

"They claimed that the land is owned by a Muslim, despite the issuance of permits for the service building of the church," said the Maspero Youth Union (MYU) in a statement.

"As a party and coalition we refuse any assaults, because they provoke sectarian strife," said Amir Boshra, a member of the Free Egyptians Party (FEP) and the MYU. "We don't want things to escalate, but there are Muslims and Christians and parties who are against this situation, and will resolve it by force if necessary."



Banner that reads "Rahma Mosque" erected by Salafis over the Coptic church in Shubra Al-Kheima

Islam Abdellah / The movement to protect the Egyptian identity

The Salafi group left after dawn prayers, said Ishak Ibrahim, a researcher for the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR).

"This episode is part of a series of attacks surrounding the role of Christian worship after the revolution," the MYU said. The group blamed the government and security apparatus of being slow to act and sustaining their complicit-

ity in attacks on Copts and their churches.

The Coptic youth feel intense anger and disappointment as a result of the recklessness of the regime in dealing with such incidents and perpetrators," said the MYU.

The Coalition of Copts in Egypt called on President Mohamed Morsy to act against the perpetrators and pre-empt future similar situations,

asking him and the interior ministry to implement frameworks that would allow them to act more rapidly to sectarian incidents.

The Egyptian Social Democratic Party condemned Monday's events

in a statement, calling for the intruders to be punished, but also expressed appreciation for police and security forces that had worked to remove the Salafis early Tuesday morning.

Bishop Tawadros, who was selected as the Coptic Orthodox Church's 118th pope on Sunday, stated in a television interview on Monday that the state needed to take stronger steps to make Egypt's Christians feel safer, calling the displacement of Copts "unacceptable."

Sectarian incidents have increased since the revolution last year, including cases of Christians being displaced from their homes. Christians in Rafah left their homes after being threatened in September. The Giza village of Dahshur was the site of sectarian clashes in August that resulted in roughly 100 Christian families fleeing, as their homes and businesses were burned and looted.

In both incidents, most of the Christians returned to their homes after the government provided adequate security.

Corruption accusations at Al-Qasr Al-Eini

Patients sceptical of report accusing Heba El-Swedy and others of profiteering

By Rana Muhammad Taha

Lawyer Mustafa Sha'ban has filed a report to the prosecutor general accusing a number of public figures of corruption charges, concerning the treatment of patients injured during the revolution.

Sha'ban allegedly attached with Monday's report a letter from Gad to the revolutionary patients' fund demanding all the money that the hospital and Heba Al-Swedy had paid in treating the patients; a sum of almost EGP 3 million.

A copy of Gad's letter was posted by Sha'ban on Facebook; the letter details all the expenses made on behalf of the hospital and the civil society. The paychecks in question and a list of all those treated at the expense of the hospital and the civil society (mainly Heba Al-Swedy) were also attached.

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Press Union rejects draft law

Members say law is against human rights

Some Press Union board members released a statement on Monday, rejecting a new draft law for the body.

Board members said they had not been consulted in creating the draft, reported state-owned Al-Ahram.

The draft laws were written by a committee of lawyers and judges, which was created following last year's board elections.

"This law is not recognised by any journalist," union vice chairperson, Abeer Sa'dy, said, "it's not just that we reject the laws, but we reject the

way they came through."

Sa'dy stated the laws were drafted by a group of judges and lawyers, led by Hatem Zakareya, the union's rapporteur on legislation.

"We have been repeatedly asking to see the nine articles drafted by Zakareya, only to be told the legislation committee hasn't convened yet," Sa'dy said. "Then during the Eid vacation, almost two weeks ago, all journalists were surprised by this draft law."

Continued on page 2

Refugee for refugees



Children at St. Andrew's Refugee Services get the benefits of an education that would otherwise be denied to them. The centre fosters an atmosphere of tolerance and acceptance

"The reason that St. Andrew's and organisations like it are so important," says former executive director, Fiona Cameron, "is because of the community involvement of people who might never otherwise work together or even meet together. St. Andrew's is a place where refugees, westerners, and Egyptians all work together with a single aim." The centre not only helps people with daily life, it also in-

spires and nurtures people to achieve brighter futures. By integrating nationalities from all over the world it fosters a positive social environment, transforming it into a part of Cairo's social fabric.

Brooke Comer writes about the vital and fascinating work that takes place at St. Andrew's.

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Currencies	Buy	Sell
CHF	6.3695	6.677
USD	6.105	6.135
EUR	7.6996	8.0713
GBP	9.6131	10.0771
SAR	1.619	1.6393

Egyptian Stock Exchange		
	Closing	Daily Change
EGX 30	5,567.55	1.78%
EGX 70	515.73	2.10%
EGX 100	852.78	1.83%
EGX 20	6,424.51	1.31%

Commentary

Dr H A Hellyer writes:
People have died as part of the Arab awakening all around the Arab world, but the price has been dearer in Syria. The price will continue to increase as long as this uprising is forced to continue

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Matruh delegation to president not representative

PROTESTERS CLAIM THEY WERE EXCLUDED BY SALAFIS

By Joel Gulhane

Around forty members of the United Revolutionary Movement of Matruh (Takwa) gathered outside the presidential palace on Tuesday, claiming they were excluded from a meeting with President Mohamed Morsy. The protesters claimed they were excluded by local Islamist groups in discussions of their governorate, Matruh.

The demonstration outside the palace started at midday. The chants of "down with military rule, down with corruption" were led by Ayman Ghazee, an accountant from Marsa Matruh.

Ghazee said, "we object to the formation of the delegation that is speaking to the president. We object to the governor because he has not changed the military staff of the governorate office."

Khaled Al-Senini said, "I was invited to the mosque last night by the Salafiya representatives. They offered to represent Takwa in the meeting with the president but I refused; we are not for sale."

Takwa has members across the Libya-bordering governorate. Among the group were protesters from Dabaa, whose main concern is the plan to build a nuclear power plant next

to their town.

Khadr Sluma, a resident of Dabaa said, "we refused the money that the president offered us. We want them to build infrastructure for us not a nuclear power plant. We went to the land where they are building the nuclear plant but there is nothing happening there."

"The land in Dabaa is like a sponge and a nuclear plant will remove a lot of water from the land, which will weaken it. This increases the risk of damage from an earthquake," Al-Senini said, adding they fear a nuclear power plant would be detrimental to their health.

Ezz Al-Din Jubran, a citizen of Marsa Matruh said, "we have so many problems in our governorate. We need clean water, better health care, jobs for the youth and the roads need repairing. These are only a few of our problems."

Ghazee led the chanting as the protest was moved across the road. The group were confronted multiple times by a woman who did not agree with their protest. She approached them angrily and accused them of being terrorists. The protesters were not provoked by the woman and continued to chant peacefully.

During his visit three weeks ago,



Ayman Ghazee, centre, and other members of Takwa, the United Revolutionary Movement of Matruh, protest outside the presidential palace in Heliopolis, Cairo

Morsy promised the people of Matruh that he would address their problems in a meeting with them in Cairo. This prompted the end of a month long sit-in outside the governorate building in Marsa Matruh. Morsy responded to residents' demands for a new governor and appointed Major Gen-

eral Ahmed Helmy Fathi Al-Hatimi to replace General Taha Mohamed Al-Sayed. There is concern that a civilian governor was not appointed but the people of Matruh are willing to give Al-Hatimi a chance.

Takwa have complained they were not included in the final list of delega-

tes to meet the president. Khaled Al-Senini, a member of Takwa, alleges a former MP from the Salafi Al-Nour party punched him at a governorate meeting over this issue.

The delegation of Islamists arrived on Monday night for their meeting on Tuesday, according to Al-Senini.

They were inside the palace while Takwa's protest was taking place. Al-Senini said "the Salafiya and Muslim Brotherhood people inside are from Matruh and they know the problems. They will tell the president about the problems. We are protesting because we should be in there too."

Al-Senini added, "we are angry because we spent a month outside the governorate building in Marsa Matruh. We took the first step and they have taken our cause from us so they will be false heroes."

Ghazee believes this problem is not only in Matruh. "We need change around the whole country, we need a proper economy, we need to change the way the country is managed and we need development and freedom for everybody." He added, "if that is too much then I will sum it up, we need justice."

Al-Senini said, "I do not believe that there has been a revolution in Egypt. All around the country there has been no change. The military still run Matruh, the Salafiya and the Muslim Brotherhood act the same way as the previous regime. We need a real revolution."

Daily News Egypt could not contact Salafiya or the Matruh Muslim Brotherhood.

Teacher sentenced for cutting students' hair

Six month suspended sentence predictable, says lawyer

By Fady Salah

Luxor misdemeanour court, headed by Chancellor Mohamed Al-Tamawy, handed the female teacher accused of cutting the hair of two students a six month suspended prison sentence.

Eman Abou Bakr Kilany was accused of cutting the hair of 12 year olds Mona Berbesh and Ola Mansour for not wearing the hijab, at the Hadadeen primary school. She did not attend the court session but was represented by five of her lawyers, in addition to some members of her family.

The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood filed the initial lawsuit against Kilany. They could not be reached for a comment on the verdict.

Kilany admitted to cutting almost seven centimetres of the two girls' hair.

Ramy Ghanem, human rights lawyer, said that the verdict was predictable. He explained that it stressed the notion of punishment by issuing the sentence, while on the other hand it maintained and protected the prestige of teachers in general, by suspending the sentence.

Ghanem suggested that laws and regulations should control the relations between students and teachers to avoid such incidents. "Many teachers are insulted and disrespected by students, while other teachers preach the liberty and dignity of students. Laws should be imposed to control this hectic situation."



Eman Abou Bakr Kilany was accused of cutting the hair of two 12 year old pupils for not wearing the hijab at the Hadadeen primary school in Luxor

The previous session witnessed extensive security precautions, although the defendant did not attend.

First secretary of the Ministry of Education in Luxor, Zekaria Abdel Fatah, deducted one month from the teacher's salary as a fine. Abdel Fatah also transferred the teacher and the principal of the school to Al-Qarnia administrative unit.

Mohamed Abdel Salam, director of information department in the National Council for Women (NCW), said the council issued statements condemning the teacher's actions. He added that the council visited the school where the incident took place, in addition to the girls' families. Abdel Salam refused to comment on

the verdict, saying that verdicts of judiciary should be respected.

Abeer Aboul Ella, director of the press office at the NCW, said the charges were pressed to protect the dignity of students and to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future. Regarding the verdict, Abeer said it was not possible to have a stronger verdict, as the current laws dealing with women and children's rights in Egypt do not allow harsher punishment.

"I wish the teacher would apologise to the students in front of their colleagues, just like they were humiliated by her in front of them. This is more important than the verdict," said Abeer.

Press Union rejects draft law

Continued from page 1

Sa'ady believes this law, which she describes as the union's constitution, cannot be written without the input of practicing journalists.

The board members also said in their statement they do not approve of some articles within the draft. The draft law necessitates anybody applying for the union's membership must be Egyptian, with good qualifications and reputation. They must never have been sentenced for an offence involving moral misconduct, except in the case of opinion offences. They must be skilled at IT and foreign languages, and be no less than 21 years-old and no more than 30 years-old.

"This article is both unconstitutional and against human rights," Al-Sa'ady said.

Alongside Sa'ady, the statement was also signed by Gamal Fahmy, Karim Mahmoud, Alaa Al-Attar, Hisham Younes and Gamal Abdel Rahim, according to Al-Ahram.

The draft law also includes articles which prohibit arresting or holding any journalist on remand, limiting the journalists' punishment to a fine ranging from EGP 5000 to EGP 10,000. The new draft reserves the right to discipline journalists for the union, prohibiting the practice of forcing journalists to reveal their sources and the expulsion of journalists, without first notifying the union of the reason for expulsion.

Corruption accusations at Al-Qasr Al-Eini



The report accuses public figures of confiscating public money intended to provide medical care to those wounded during the 2011 revolution

Continued from page 1

"The EGP 3 million was returned to hospital and Al-Swedy through two installments," Sha'ban said. "The first installment has already been paid, while the second was due to be paid on Tuesday; it was stalled after my report was filed."

Accordingly, Sha'ban accuses Gad and Al-Swedy of taking back all the money they had paid for treating the patients.

"One of two things happened, Gad did deliver Al-Swedy's share of the money back to her and she is only claiming having treated the patients on her own expense, or Gad took Al-Swedy's share without delivering it to Al-Swedy. If the latter is the case, then Al-Swedy should accuse Gad of the charges she's currently facing."

Ayman Abdel Meguid, a member of the revolutionary patients' fund, denied that Al-Swedy collected any money from the fund.

"Al-Swedy did not retrieve any of the money she had paid in treating the patients," said Rabie' Abdel Ra'ouf, a revolutionary patient who has been undergoing treatment since February 2011 at the expense of Al-Swedy. "The crisis was resolved following negotiations between Mahmoud and Minister of Justice Ahmed Mekki."

Mahmoud was recently the centre of a crisis between the presidency and the judiciary, when he rejected a presidential decision to appoint him ambassador to the Vatican. The crisis was resolved following negotiations between Mahmoud and Minister of Justice Ahmed Mekki.

"The funny thing is that the lists include my driver, for whom I had covered hospital expenses, as one of the revolutionary victims," Al-Swedy said in a tweet.

"All those accusations are there to stop Al-Swedy, who acts as a barrier for anybody who tries to exploit the patients," Abdel Ra'ouf said. "And I want to ask Sha'ban: who ever authorised you to file reports on behalf of the revolutionary patients?"

In the report, Sha'ban also accuses former Prime Minister Kamal Al-Ganzouri of facilitating Saber's confiscation of public money by giving away the Sports Hospital, a property of the Ministry of National Council for Sports and thus state property to Saber's charity organisation Amar Ya Masr following a request from Saber.

"Saber supported his request for the hospital with claims that he could raise funds worth \$1 billion for treating the revolutionary patients; nobody has been treated in this hospital though," Sha'ban said.

Two weeks ago clashes erupted between patients injured in the revolution and hospital staff. Activist Asmaa Al-Gredley, who was present during the clashes, stated that President Mohamed Morsi's legal adviser, Mohamed Gad Allah, and the new head of the revolutionary patients' fund, Khaled Badawy, both assured the victims that they would be treated at the expense of the state.

Patients injured during the revolution have been facing difficulties in their treatment process since the revolution. Most of them cannot afford treatment.

Former parliament members defy prosecutor general

By Nouran El-Behairy

Mohamed Al-Sawy, Essam Sultan, and Hatem Azzam, members of the now-dissolved People's Assembly, have accused the prosecutor general of abusing his power and issuing threats.

The report was filed at Qasr El-Nil police department on Monday.

Prosecutor General Abdel Meguid Mahmoud threatened Al-Sawy over the phone, according to Sultan's Facebook page. Mahmoud was allegedly angry over a court case Al-Sawy and others had filed against him. The ex-parliamentarians had filed a case with the president of the Supreme

Council of the Judiciary and minister of justice. They demanded an investigation into the lawsuits launched against figures from the former regime. The parliamentarians wanted to ensure the cases were being properly conducted.

Sultan ended his post, "honourable prosecutor general we can't be threatened, we're not afraid and will not be silenced. The law will be applied upon you."

Legal groups like Together to Hold the Prosecutor General Accountable and the National Campaign to Document Mubarak's Crimes have announced their solidarity with Al-Sawy and Azzam.

On Monday, Sultan submitted a memorandum to Ismailia Criminal Court against Mahmoud. He accused Mahmoud of not bringing to trial two orchestrators of the Port Said massacre.

Al-Husseiny Abo Amar and Gamal Omar, an NDP member and businessman with links to the former regime respectively, are allegedly involved in planning, managing and financing the massacre. The event claimed the lives of 72 people during a football match in Port Said.

In his complaint, Sultan said he might file a lawsuit against Mahmoud.

Sultan also questioned Mahmoud on Thursday via Facebook about former MP Moustafa Bakry.

Sultan claimed Bakry lied about a meeting he had with Mahmoud, saying Bakry met the prosecutor general to ask him to help his brother, who had been dismissed from the judiciary. Bakry has claimed the meeting was over a presidential decision to arrest him.

Mahmoud was recently the centre of a crisis between the presidency and the judiciary, when he rejected a presidential decision to appoint him ambassador to the Vatican. The crisis was resolved following negotiations between Mahmoud and Minister of Justice Ahmed Mekki.

"Not a single cheque was released by the fund for Al-Swedy," Abdel Ra'ouf said. "Even if she did take all the money she's paid in our treatment back, where's the crime in that?"

Al-Swedy tweeted that the lists of patients attached with the report include people who are not revolutionary patients.

Patients injured during the revolution have been facing difficulties in their treatment process since the revolution. Most of them cannot afford treatment.

Court postpones Ramlet Boulak case

RESIDENTS DEMAND REVERSAL OF CAIRO GOVERNOR'S DECISION TO SEIZE THEIR LAND

By Ahmed Aboul Enein

An administrative court postponed on Tuesday a case filed by residents of Ramlet Boulak against the Cairo governorate until 18 December. The governor issued a land seizure order on their land last year.

The trial was postponed after lawyers representing the residents requested a court order allowing them to obtain government documents on a deal between the Cairo governorate and the Slum Areas Renovation Fund. The court granted the request.

The residents' lawyers demanded the government lawyers present these documents in the last session in October but the government lawyers failed to do so in Tuesday's session.

"These documents do not exist and we know they do not, that is why the government lawyers were unable to present them today. If we can't find them then the court is obliged to get them or rule that they don't exist," said lawyer Malek Adly.

Adly, an Egyptian Centre for Economic and Social Rights lawyer representing Ramlet Boulak residents, added if the documents prove nonexistent then Cairo governor's land seizure order automatically becomes null and void.

"A land seizure decision is temporary and usually taken when the government plans to renovate, restore or generally improve an area. In this case the Cairo governorate plans to do none of these things, it just plans on removing the houses there, which

means the governor should have issued an eviction order not a seizure order," he said.

An eviction order requires the government to pay evicted citizens fair compensation. A land seizure order does not require the government to pay such compensation, since the area is supposedly being improved for its residents.

"This is all just the government trying to do [communications tycoon and billionaire] Naguib Sawiris a favour," said Adly.

Sawiris is part owner of the upmarket Nile City Towers next to Ramlet Boulak's Kafray Shacks. The Nile City management has been trying to acquire the land for a long time now but most residents refuse to sell at what they say is an unfair price.

They say the governor's decision is a ploy so the government could bulldoze the shacks, which have been their homes for decades. After the government gives them back the land with their homes removed, the residents would be under even greater pressure to sell.

The case proceedings do not freeze the seizure order, meaning legally the Cairo governorate is allowed to take over the land until the court repeals the order, but Adly does not believe the governorate will implement the order any time soon.

"The entire Ramlet Boulak case is currently hot. There are huge tensions between the residents and the police, with the police arresting and beating these people's sons on a regular basis.



Residents of Ramlet Boulak launched a lawsuit against the Cairo governorate to fight a land seizure order

since construction started on the Nile City Towers project, but the crackdown started in August following violent clashes between police and residents.

The Ramlet Boulak popular committee say the residents were willing to sell the land, but only if offered a fair price. The land on which their shacks are built is located in a prime downtown location with a market value of over EGP 30,000 per square metre. They have been made offers as low as EGP 5,000.

The area lacks adequate water, electricity, sanitation and other basic utilities. The residents are demanding the government improve the area and an end to police harassment.

The committee held a press conference in September complaining of arbitrary arrest, only for a resident to be arrested immediately after. He was quickly released following pressure from the residents and journalists present.

Residents also staged a march from Ramlet Boulak to the prosecutor general's office in the High Court building downtown, demanding the case of the 2 August clashes be reopened. They say dozens of their relatives were arrested unjustly because of this case.

"They want to kick us out, well where are we to go? They want to throw us all the way in the mountains? They have taken away all their children, what are we to do?" asked Rashida Mohamed, an elderly widow.

A court date for reopening the criminal case regarding the clashes is yet to be set, but it will be sometime in December.

Besides, the governorate is in no rush to implement this order; the decision was made last year and there have been no moves to implement it," he said.

Ramlet Boulak residents, especially those who live in the Kafray Shacks area, say they have been subjected to a campaign of police brutality, arbitrary arrest and attempted eviction by se-

curity forces, the Cairo governorate and the owners of the nearby Nile City Towers.

Attempts to buy the land by the management have been ongoing ever

Egyptian immigrant attacked in Greece

By Luiz Sanchez

An Egyptian man was found by residents of the Greek island of Salamina, chained to a tree and beaten. His employer, a bakery owner, admitted to beating the unnamed Egyptian, telling police he suspected the man had been stealing. The Egyptian was hospitalised but not in a life-threatening condition.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs demanded an explanation from Greek officials on Tuesday. According to a ministry statement, the ambassador to Greece, Tariq Adel, has requested that Greece act immediately to provide maximum protection for Egyptian citizens and their property.

Police have refused to comment on the incident, but the ministry identified the victim as Taleb Mohammed Walid. Adel confirmed the details of the incident, which occurred on Sunday, and that charges would be brought against the employer.

This is not the first of such incidents directed at Egyptians in recent months, the ministry statement read. Greece has witnessed an increasing amount of violence aimed at migrant workers since its economic depression saw tough austerity measures placed on its citizens.

"Over the past few months," Adel said, "there has been a rise in racist/fascist groups and the [Golden Dawn] party has been gaining influence." He blamed many recent attacks on foreigners on Golden Dawn, but stressed these attacks do not deliberately target Egyptians. "There are thousands



Far-right groups in Greece have sought to target immigrants with increasingly vociferous hate campaigns

of Egyptians living in Greece," he said. "Because of this the probability of an attack on an Egyptian is high. This trend, these phenomena, is very negative and unfortunate." He said attacks have been made against Nigerians, Pakistanis, Algerians, and Afghans, among others, and was not unique to Egyptians.

As the economic situation in Greece has become increasingly dire, the far-right Golden Dawn Party has gained momentum, securing 18 seats in parliament. Golden Dawn is known for its stanch anti-immigration stance and has been accused several times of propagating hate crimes against immigrants.

"[Golden Dawn] have groups on the streets and we are concerned about our community in Egypt," Adel said. "Whatever the Greeks decide in

their elections is their own choice but we do not want to see immigrants being attacked by anyone." He said the immigrants have nothing to do with the current economic situation and many of these Egyptians are second or third generation Egyptians who have been living in Greece legally, have jobs and have managed to co-exist peacefully.

"We want to be very clear with the Greek authorities that whatever happens we do not want violence spilling over into the Egyptian community," Adel said. He also confirmed the embassy had issued several warnings in the past to Egyptians and has recently warned them of escalating violence this coming week, due to a series of protests set to take place.

Egypt scores low in gender equality

By Connor Molloj

Egypt was ranked 126 out of 135 countries in a report that measured gender inequality. The report was released by the World Economic Forum and casts a light on Egypt as the country attempts to deal with gender issues in the field of economics, education and politics.

The first category of measurement was economic participation and opportunity. Mouna Mounir Rizk, the secretary-general for the Women's Committee within the Free Egyptians Party, said in the current economic downturn, women are suffering the most, "especially those women in the lower class. We have 41 per cent of women here in Egypt who are in charge of their families; they are the ones carrying their families. They are finding it increasingly difficult since the revolution to support their families and the places they are being forced to live are horrible."

Doctor Nagla Al-Adly, general manager of the statistics and research department at the National Council for Women, said her organisation seeks to address this problem through their social development fund, giving women money to establish their own business. She claimed the fund reached 30 per cent of Egyptian women last year.

A top priority for female heads of household, according to Rizk, is education, which is another metric used by the Economic World Forum. Al-Adly said women in Egypt start off at a massive disadvantage with many girls not sent to school. "It's related to various factors



Despite protests and campaigns to highlight the rights of women in Egypt, the country ranked 126 out of 135 in a gender inequality report

in Egyptian culture, among them is the preference of families to send their boys to school. They want the girls to stay at home, especially young girls, to stay at home and help their mothers."

Doctor Nagla Al-Adly, general manager of the statistics and research department at the National Council for Women, said her organisation seeks to address this problem through their social development fund, giving women money to establish their own business. She claimed the fund reached 30 per cent of Egyptian women last year.

The World Economic Forum also measured political empowerment. Rizk, heavily involved in politics herself, directed her comments at the current Constituent Assembly and its current draft constitution. "We are against the current make up of the Constituent Assembly that has no liberal women as members," Rizk said.

said the women involved are from Islamist groups and other liberals are few and far between.

"Liberal women are committed to changing the situation, to break these barriers," said Rizk. "We are trying to create more pressure on the ground to have people demand their rights and let people know that there will be no rights for women as long as these people are in power."

Nordic countries; Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden topped the list. However, Egypt's fellow African states, Lesotho, South Africa, Mozambique and Burundi all made it into the top 25.

Egypt's ranking at 126 put the country one place behind Oman and one ahead of Iran. Yemen rounded out the rankings at 135.

Youth activists shun meetings with president

By Luiz Sanchez

Various youth representatives from established political parties have refused to meet with President Mohamed Morsi's assistants to discuss the draft constitution. On Tuesday a youth member of the Free Egyptians Party, Amir Boshra, said it was not the constitutional draft they were opposing, but rather the current formation of the Constituent Assembly.

"The current formation [of the assembly] does not represent the Egyptian people as a whole," Boshra said. "In-

stead they represent a specific sector of Egyptian society and the draft have so far been tailored to fit that sector."

On Monday, youth representatives from the Dostour Party, Socialist Popular Alliance Party, Egyptian Social Democratic Party, Egyptian Current Party, Free Egyptians Party and the Free Egypt Party issued a joint statement refusing the current formation of the assembly. In their statement, the groups refused to meet with Morsi's assistants and members of the assembly, saying the current state of the assembly "does not

reflect any respect to our point of view or position, and does not provide an opportunity for serious dialogue with opposition forces to form the assembly."

Jermeen Nasr, a founding member of the Dostour Party, said previous meetings with Morsi ended with him denying any mistakes on his part, without any result or action being taken.

The statement called for a restructuring of the assembly to ensure balance and representation for all Egyptians.

The youth leaders apologised for not meeting with the assistants and said they

"are waiting for the announcement by the president of the republic for his position on the proposals that we have put forward in ongoing dialogue with him."

Nasr said the assembly should ideally represent all sectors of society and include scientists, authors, religious moderates, both Coptic and Muslim and women who are "well educated and who could present women's rights and their role in the society." People with disabilities should also be included, she argued, as should prominent youth.

The Socialist Popular Alliance Party also said they would not be attending any meetings with the president, as the youth form an integral part of their party and are not a separate entity.

A member of the Egyptian Social Democratic Party's executive bureau, Mohammed Naeem, conveyed the youth's message during their meeting with the president on Monday. Naeem agreed with many of the points the youth had made in their statement, saying that if the president wanted

to hold serious talks then dialogue should have been established with all political parties and presidential candidates from the beginning.

"The far left, the far right and the parties in the centre have all refused the constitution," Naeem said. "If the liberals and the Salafis are both refusing it, then dialogue is obviously needed."

Naeem said that the time for dialogue was now, and "when it comes to such serious discussions it should not be left to the youth."

US votes in nail-biting presidential race

By Stephen Collinson (AFP)

Washington - Americans head to the polls on Tuesday after a burst of last-minute campaigning by President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney in a nailbiting contest unlikely to heal a deeply polarised nation.

After a long, expensive and fiercely negative campaign, voters will decide whether to re-elect Obama despite the plodding economy or hand the reins to Romney, who has vowed a return to prosperity through smaller government.

Democrat Obama, 51, leads his Republican foe by a whisker heading into polling day as he seeks to defy historical precedent that suggests incumbent presidents fail to win a second four-year term at times of high unemployment.

Romney, 65, a former Massachusetts governor blasted by critics as a rich plutocrat indifferent to middle class pain, would make history as the first Mormon president and promises to ignite economic growth and job creation.

Both men, exhausted by the last manic Monday of a campaign that has raged for two years, made their final, heartfelt plea to voters in late night rallies attended by fervent supporters.

"Tomorrow, from the granite of New Hampshire to the Rockies of Colorado, from the coastlines of Florida, to Virginia's rolling hills, from the valleys of Ohio to these Iowa fields, we will keep America moving forward," Obama said.

As he spoke in Iowa, the state



People prepare to cast their ballots inside polling booths just after midnight on 6 November in Dixville Notch, New Hampshire, the very first voting to take place in the 2012 US presidential election

that first nurtured his White House dreams in 2008, a single tear rolled down the president's face as he wrapped up what was, win or lose, his last-ever campaign event.

Romney put an exclamation mark on his campaign with his own, rowdy late night rally, at a sports arena in New Hampshire, capping the most expensive campaign season in US history, which cost \$6 billion.

"Tomorrow is a moment to look into the future and imagine what we can do, to put that past four years behind us and build a new future," Romney said.

"Walk with me. Tomorrow, we begin a new tomorrow."

Voters are not solely picking a president for the next four years on Tuesday.

They will also cast judgment on a third of the Democratic-led Senate and the entire Republican-run House of Representatives. But with neither chamber expected to change hands, the current political gridlock will likely linger.

In a quaint slice of Americana, the people of the hamlet of Dixville Notch, in northern New Hampshire, played their traditional roll of casting the first votes in the election as the clock struck midnight.

And in a possible precursor of the tight race to come, Obama and

Romney were tied at five votes, a historic first.

A dispiriting and negative White House race, so different from Obama's euphoric change crusade of 2008, produced the election both sides expected; a down-to-the-wire scrap for thin victory margins in a clutch of swing states.

Obama, America's first African American president, on Tuesday led by the slimmest of margins in averages of national polls, which measure the likely popular vote, possibly helped by his leadership during superstorm Sandy.

The president's polling leads in battleground states also stirred a quiet

confidence in his campaign team.

Romney aides, however, predicted a surge of enthusiasm for the Republicans could confound state polls, which they said overestimated the likely Democratic turnout and did not register the undercurrent of antipathy for Obama.

The central message of Obama's campaign has been that he saved America from a second Great Depression after the economy was on the brink of collapse when he took over from president George W Bush in 2009.

He claims credit for ending the war in Iraq, saving the US auto industry, killing Osama bin Laden, offering almost every American health insurance and passing the most sweeping Wall Street reform in decades.

Striking a populist theme, Obama said he would not rest until every American got a "fair shot" in an economy not controlled by the rich, and with a negative advertising barrage sought to disqualify Romney as a potential president.

Romney sought to mine frustration with the slow pace of economic recovery and argued that the president was out of ideas and had no clue how to create jobs, with unemployment at 7.9 per cent and millions out of work.

No president since World War II has been elected with the unemployment rate above 7.4 per cent, and Obama is hoping to avoid the fate of a host of European leaders who paid for the economic crisis with their jobs.

It appears that the US economy, the top issue in voters' minds, is neither so

bad that Obama is inevitably doomed, nor so good that the president is safe, leading to a nervous night on Tuesday as results come in.

US elections are not directly decided by the popular vote, but require candidates to pile up a majority, 270, of 538 electoral votes from the 50 states and Washington, DC, calculated indirectly on the basis of population.

A candidate can therefore win the nationwide popular vote and still be deprived of the presidency by falling short in the Electoral College.

Obama seems to be clinging on to a last line of defence in the Midwestern states of Ohio, Wisconsin and Iowa, which would, in conjunction with safe Democratic states, guarantee him re-election.

In poll averages calculated by the RealClearPolitics website, Obama led in Iowa (by 2.4 per cent), Ohio (2.9 per cent), Wisconsin (4.2 per cent), Virginia (0.3 per cent), New Hampshire (2.0 per cent), and Colorado (1.5 per cent).

Romney led by 1.5 per cent in the biggest swing state, Florida, and in North Carolina, which Obama won by just three per cent, or 14,000 votes, in 2008.

Voters will also weigh in on more than 170 state-wide ballots for everything from gay marriage to marijuana and abortion to electoral maps.

Florida will vote on banning funding for abortions or insurance covering the service, while Maine could legalise same-sex marriage. Three states, Oregon, Washington and Colorado, will vote on totally legalising marijuana.

Bombs, air strikes shake Syria after worst violence in weeks

Damascus (AFP) - Fresh bombings and air strikes shook Syria on Tuesday, a day after nearly 250 people died in the country's worst violence in weeks and rebels launched one of their deadliest attacks yet.

As the opposition met in Qatar under pressure to form a truly representative government-in-exile, the Syrian regime was reeling from a wave of rebel car bombs and attacks that killed nearly 100 soldiers and pro-government fighters on Monday.

Another car bomb struck early Tuesday, causing injuries and significant damage in the city of Mudamia near the capital, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Fighting and military shelling also hit the area, said the Britain-based Observatory, which relies on a countrywide network of activists and medics in civilian and military hospitals.

The regime also renewed a campaign of air strikes pounding rebel positions, with fighter jets dropping at least two bombs in the heart of the town of Douma, 13 kilometres northeast of the capital, the Observatory said.

Air raids also hit the northern town of Al-Bab near the Turkish border and in the central Homs province, it said.

The rebels have scored significant gains in recent weeks and hold swathes of territory in the north, but have come under intense bombardment from the air as President Bashar Al-Assad's regime seeks to reverse its losses.

The Observatory said the army was shelling areas in the western Latakia region, in Homs and in Quneitra, near the Golan Heights, where the Israeli army said Monday that gunfire from the Syrian side had hit an Israeli military vehicle.

The Observatory said 247 people were killed on Monday, including 93 soldiers and pro-regime fighters, in the deadliest day in Syria since an attempt to impose a ceasefire for the 26-29 October Eid Al-Adha Muslim holiday collapsed.

In one of the most devastating attacks on Al-Assad's forces since the start of the Syrian uprising, a rebel car bomb killed 50 pro-regime fighters at a military post in the central province of Hama on Monday.

Fighting was raging Tuesday in

northern commercial hub Aleppo and around Damascus, where residents said heavy explosions could be frequently heard while warplanes and helicopters flew over the city.

A Syrian security source told AFP that regime forces had over the past two days repelled a major rebel attack on the capital.

"During the last 48 hours rebels carried out a massive offensive to move into Damascus, which failed.... They were repelled," the source said, adding that about 4,000 opposition fighters had been involved on different fronts.

Pro-government daily Al-Watan also reported "heavy clashes between the Syrian army and armed bands" in Damascus over the previous 48 hours.

"More than 120 terrorists were killed by the Syrian army, without significant losses registered within its ranks," the newspaper wrote, citing security sources.

Syrian state television said Tuesday that Mohammad Al-Laham, brother of parliament speaker Jihad al-Laham, was "assassinated by terrorists" in

Damascus, but provided no other details.

In the Qatari capital Doha, members of the opposition Syrian National Council (SNC) were to hold talks Tuesday on a proposal to create a new political body to represent the opposition, folding in the SNC and other anti-regime groups.

After repeatedly expressing frustration with the SNC for failing to unite Syria's fractured regime opponents, Washington is pushing for a new body that would be more reflective of the country's diverse make-up and better represent on-the-ground activists and fighters.

In a bid to counteract such criticism, on Monday SNC members approved a restructuring that will see the organisation add 200 new members representing 13 different political groups.

The Observatory says more than 36,000 people have died since the uprising against Al-Assad's rule broke out, first as a protest movement inspired by the Arab Spring and then as an armed rebellion.

West African army chiefs meet on Mali intervention



Guinea's former transition leader General Sekouba Konate, who was charged by the African Union with leading the standby force, walks past soldiers in Bamako during a meeting with West African army chiefs

Bamako (AFP) - West African army chiefs met Tuesday to study a proposal drafted by international experts on how their troops could expel Islamic extremists who have occupied northern Mali for months.

The meeting comes seven months after radicals linked to the north African Al-Qaeda branch took over the vast arid north, triggering fears in the region and among Western powers that the zone could become a new haven for terrorists.

Diplomatic efforts for a military solution have intensified, but negotiations are also under way to get the main Islamist group Ansar Dine to cut ties with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, with talks in Algiers and Ouagadougou.

Military bosses from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) need to approve the details for an eventual military operation which were drawn up during a week-long meeting of international experts in Bamako.

"It is about coming to a rapid agreement on an operational concept to help Mali quickly reconquer its north," said Ivory Coast's army chief General Soumaila Bakayoko.

The plan will then be passed to regional heads of state for approval before being presented to the UN Security Council on 26 November.

The United Nations wants clarification on the makeup of a regional force, the level of participation from various west African states, and the financing and military means available.

"It also reflects the security council's commitment to use and enforce sanctions against those who threaten peace in Afghanistan, in conjunction with a strong commitment to support Afghan-led peace and reconciliation."

Konate said, "Mali can count on its friends, its partners from the standby force, to respect its territorial integrity."

Mali, once one of the region's most stable democracies, rapidly imploded after a Tuareg rebellion for independence began in January and overwhelmed the state's poorly equipped army.

Angry over the government's handling of the crisis, soldiers staged a coup in March, which only made it easier for the rebels to seize a string of desert towns.

The secular separatists were quickly sidelined by Islamists fighting on their flanks who had little interest in their aspirations for an independent homeland and set about implementing strict sharia law.

Ansar Dine ("Defenders of Faith" in Arabic) and AQIM splinter group the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) have stoned people to death, whipped them, amputated limbs and forced women to cover up.

However in talks in Ougadougou, Ansar Dine delegates insist their group -- made up mainly of Malian Tuareg like its chief, Iyad Ag Ghaly -- has not committed "any act of terrorism" and favours a negotiated settlement to the crisis.

"We have nothing to do with terrorism. We condemn those who kidnap hostages," a source close to the Ansar Dine delegation told AFP.

"We want direct discussion with our brothers in Bamako," he said.

Their team in Burkina Faso will on Tuesday meet the country's President Blaise Compaore, who is the lead ECOWAS mediator.

The 16-nation west African bloc has demanded that Ansar Dine end "terrorism and organised crime" in the region, abandon its allies and engage in a dialogue to re-establish a unified Mali.

UN orders global sanctions against Haqqani network

By Tim Witcher (AFP)

United Nations - The UN security council on Monday ordered global sanctions against the Haqqani militant network in Afghanistan, a move welcomed by Kabul but dismissed as meaningless by the Taliban.

The Haqqani group, whose leaders are based in Pakistan, is accused of carrying out a string of major attacks in Afghanistan including strikes against the United States and Indian embassies and a major hotel in Kabul.

The outfit and its chief suicide attack organiser Qari Zakir were added to the UN's Afghanistan-Taliban sanctions list. This means nations must apply an assets freeze and travel ban on Zakir and seize any assets belonging to the network as well as impose an arms embargo.

The US put the Haqqani network on its terror blacklist in September, with the Pentagon saying the group represented a "significant threat" to national security, and added Zakir to its list of terrorist suspects on Monday.

Founded by Jalaluddin Haqqani, a CIA asset turned Al-Qaeda ally who

was close to Pakistani intelligence, the network is considered one of the most dangerous militant factions fighting US-led NATO forces in Afghanistan.

The UN designation said that the group was linked to Al-Qaeda, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and a string of militant groups in Pakistan including Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Lashkar-i-Jhangvi and Jaish-i-Mohammed.

The Haqqanis have been blamed for spectacular attacks on Afghan government and NATO targets across Afghanistan as well as kidnappings and murders.

The US ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice, said operatives trained by Zakir attacked two NATO bases in 2010, the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul in June 2011, an attack which killed 11 civilians and two Afghan police, and the US embassy in Kabul in September 2011, which killed 16 Afghans, including at least six children.

It has also been blamed for an attack on the Indian embassy in the Afghan capital.

"Though it is late, the sanctions by the UN security council are well-

comed by our government and we hope the necessary pressure is made on regional and global levels so this terrorist network is eliminated," Siamak Herawi, spokesman for Afghan President Hamid Karzai, said.

The network is led by Jalaluddin's son Sirajuddin and in August Afghanistan's spy agency said another son, the group's operational commander Badruddin, had been killed in a US drone attack.

The Taliban dismissed the UN sanctions, as they did with the US move in September.

"It's all meaningless and it will have no effect on our operations," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed told AFP.

The designation could embarrass Pakistan, which is currently a member of the UN security council. Many Haqqani members are sheltering in Pakistan. The US wants Pakistan to get tough with the Haqqani network as well as cut its financing from other Muslim nations, diplomats said.

Former US chief of staff Admiral Mike Mullen said last year that the Haqqani network had become a "veritable arm" of Pakistan's Inter-Services

Intelligence (ISI), though other American officials later distanced themselves from the remarks.

In the past Pakistani officials have admitted to contact with the Haqqanis as a means of maintaining influence in Afghanistan when US forces leave, but they deny supporting their operations and downplay the group's importance.

Ties between Islamabad and Washington have been rocky for years, and have only just resumed after being dealt a major blow by the secret operation that killed Osama bin Laden and an air raid that accidentally killed 24 Pakistani troops.

But the sanctions have been welcomed by the US.

Rice said the UN move expands upon the US measures and "confirms the international community's resolve to end the Haqqani network's ability to execute violent attacks in Afghanistan."

"It also reflects the security council's commitment to use and enforce sanctions against those who threaten peace in Afghanistan, in conjunction with a strong commitment to support Afghan-led peace and reconciliation."

"The crises which Mali is facing are detrimental to peace in the sub-region,"

Seesawing foreign reserves since 25 January uprising

By Mohamed Salah Eldin

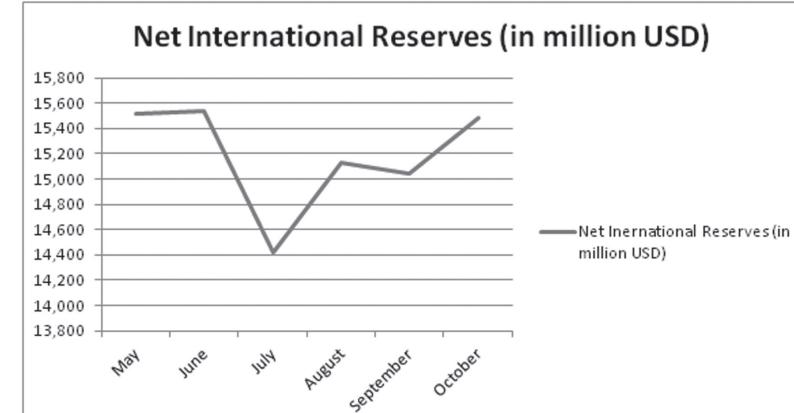
Net International Reserves (NIR) have risen at the end of October to reach \$15,483.8 million after a slight unexpected decrease in September.

The \$441 million increase is mainly attributed to the second instalment worth \$500 million of the promised \$2 billion Qatari loan.

The delay of the instalment, which was due in September, was caused by a dip in the reserves last month against all expectations; the decline was amplified by the increasing "importing appetite" of the government and the private sector, according to experts.

The first tranche of the deposit that materialised in August, fuelled the reserves' biggest gain since the 25th of January revolution, during this month, the net reserves rose by \$705 million to reach \$15.1 billion, according to Central Bank data.

In July 2012, the NIR plunged by nearly \$1,111 million because of the repayment of a €1 billion bond and \$606.5 million trimester payment of Egypt's external debt to the Paris Club member countries, as mentioned on



the bank's website.

In June the reserves witnessed a slight increase of only \$19 million despite the fall in foreign currencies from \$1,146 million to \$1,026 million, the gain was a result of revaluation of the gold reserves

at the end of the fiscal year 2011/2012 pushing its value from \$2.7 billion to \$3.3 billion. The stagnant growth ended a three month increase starting in April, which reversed the continuing negative trend triggered by the political unrest following the January revolution.

On the revolution's eve, the reserves stood at \$36.1 billion, they lost \$1 billion in January 2011 and \$1.7

billion in February of the same year and kept dwindling till March 2012, by then they had lost approximately 58 per cent of their value.

The Egyptian foreign reserves are composed of convertible foreign currencies (the main bulk of the reserves) divided into securities and currency deposits at different banks, gold deposits, IMF reserve position, financial derivatives and special drawing rights.

The international reserves are used to finance the country's exports; they can also be sacrificed to preserve the national currency's value.

Misr Al-Mustaql leading the mutual fund market

An equity fund with a civic-minded twist outperforms the rest of the market

By Noah Chasek-Macfroy

The Misr Al-Mustaql Investment Fund, managed by HC Securities and Investments, achieved the highest rate of return so far this year among all 22 Egyptian equity funds currently investing in the Egyptian Stock Exchange (EGX), according to a report by The Egyptian Investment Management Association. Misr Al-Mustaql provided a 52.6 per cent rate of return during the period from the start of the year and ending on 25 October, more than four percentage points greater than any other fund.

The Misr Al-Mustaql Investment Fund is an uncommon example in the financial industry of a fund inspired by a sense of patriotic and social responsibility. Founded after the 25 January Revolution in May 2011, the mutual fund was intended as an avenue of investment to bolster the recovery of the financial sector.

There is no minimum subscription, and a single certificate is priced at a mere 10 EGP. At the fund's inception, Hussein Choucri, chairman and managing director of HC Securities and

Investment, said that "stemming from its patriotic duty and fulfilling its responsibility for promoting investment growth at this critical juncture, and with a fund of such paramount importance expected to significantly contribute to boosting the economy, we decided to waive the fees of managing the fund in its first year of operation." Even the fund's name, which means Egypt of the Future, reflects its broad aspirations.

As much as the fund sought to reinvigorate the battered post-revolution financial sector, it also benefited from the unstable condition it began in. The fund's current success is attributable to its entrance into the market at the trough of the business cycle.

The decision to invest when other funds were overwhelmed by negative returns after weathering the revolution in the market was smart, according to an asset management expert who declined to be named. "Their money was outperforming the market when it was sleeping in the bank," the source said.

An additional factor contributing to Misr Al-Mustaql's strong performance, the unnamed expert source

mentioned, is the fund's decision not to provide redemption payments to subscribers during the first year, meaning that the entirety of the fund's capital was reinvested in the market.

Choucri told CPI financial, "we relied on our trust in the anticipated quick recovery of the Egyptian stock market. We always strive to serve Egypt's economy." Whether it is a cause or a symptom, Misr Al-Mustaql's strong performance is evidence of the EGX recovery.

At the beginning of September, the largest portion of assets, over a quarter, was in cash, with the remaining assets mostly distributed between the real estate, financial, telecom and chemical sectors. HC Securities and Investments manages the largest share of the equity funds invested in the EGX, managing six out of the 22 funds.

Subscription to the fund in Egypt can be made through six banks: the Commercial International Bank (CIB), the United Bank, the Arab Bank, the Union National Bank, Misr Iran Development Bank and the Watani Bank of Egypt.

Greece general strike ahead of austerity vote

Athens (AFP) - Tens of thousands of Greeks poured into the streets Tuesday as mass strikes paralysed Athens in the latest show of anger over a new austerity bill aimed at securing international aid needed to prevent the debt-crippled nation from defaulting.

Lawmakers were debating the controversial austerity package, which proposes 18.5 billion euros (\$23.6 billion) in new spending cuts and other reforms by 2016, adding to previous rounds of painful measures as the country heads for its sixth year in recession.

Police and anti-riot troops were out in force around parliament and government offices in Athens, in case trouble arose from a demonstration called by the country's two main unions to coincide with the start of a 48 hour general strike.

The demonstration, however, ended without incident.

Many flights were cancelled or rescheduled as air traffic controllers staged a three-hour work stoppage. Ferry services were also crippled, with ships linking to Greece's islands remained docked.

Judges and lawyers also joined the strike while publicly run museums, archaeological sites and post offices were shut.

Police estimated that 40,000 people turned out at the Athens rally on Syntagma Square near parliament, with banners screaming "No to measures of impoverishment" and "The people above everything else, not numbers and measures." In the northern city of Thessaloniki, 20,000 joined a march.

"The people came here today to protest against the measures that bring us back centuries. They are abolishing our rights, and depriving our children's future," said teacher Thanassis Pargas in Athens.

Alexis Tsipras, leader of the main radical left opposition party Syriza

who took part in the protest, said Greece's coalition government was "ridiculing" the constitution.

Aleka Papariga, who leads the Communist Party, called for "systematic and well-organised disobedience not only to the government's decisions but to the overall system".

The austerity bill was submitted to parliament on Monday and will be voted on Wednesday.

Measures include a rise in the retirement age to 67 from the current 65, and cuts of five to 10 per cent in pensions of more than 1,000 euros a month.

Civil servants' 13th and 14th month pay would be scrapped, and further salary cuts imposed on academics, hospital doctors, judges, diplomats and members of the armed forces.

"These measures essentially bring us many years back. All the labour rights the Greek people won post-World War II and post-dictatorship are taken back," said union activist Marie Laurentiadiou.

"The measures will be voted in tomorrow, but the measures are not voted in the conscience of the Greek people and they can be ousted," she charged.

Implementing the austerity plan is a condition for Greece to receive a 31.5 billion euro tranche of bailout funds from its troika of international creditors, the European Union, International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank.

"Without it, Greece risks running out of money on 16 November when a debt repayment falls due."

Securing the next aid tranche is "necessary to avoid default and bankruptcy," Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras said Tuesday.

Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, battling to win support for the austerity bill from reluctant coalition partners, had warned at the weekend that Greece could exit the euro, declaring "we must

save the country from catastrophe."

Jean-Claude Juncker, head of the Eurogroup finance ministers, voiced optimism about the prospects of Greece implementing the necessary reforms.

"Our Greek friends don't have different options or another choice. They have to do it," he said in Singapore.

Eurozone creditors were due to make a decision on the bailout funds, part of a massive rescue package for Greece, at a 12 November meeting of finance ministers.

"Both the eurozone and the IMF and the Greek government and parliament are now on track in order to be able to take the decision next Monday," EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn said on Monday after a Group of 20 meeting in Mexico City.

Investors were banking on the austerity bill passing, allowing Greece on Tuesday to raise 1.3 billion euros in a six-month bond issue at a slightly lower rate of 4.4 per cent.

Stournaras last week unveiled the 2013 budget, which predicts that the economy will shrink by a worse than expected 4.5 per cent next year and the debt mountain will swell to 346 billion euros or 189 per cent of economic output.

While deeply resentful of the new cuts, some Greeks acknowledged that there may not be a better solution.

"We are in a state of compromise and we must bear the austerity measures as there is no turning back from the memorandum," said Mary Sturgepoulou, an 18-year-old university student.

"The main opposition criticises everything that is happening, it is just that I don't believe there is another solution. It would require a great effort for the measures to be overthrown."

Yannis Levas, 34, who works at a recruitment company aimed at finding jobs for Greeks abroad, called the measures "a double-edged sword."

Barclays Bank Egypt appoints Edward Marks as Managing Director

Barclays Bank Egypt Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Edward Marks as Managing Director.

With a history of remarkable accomplishments, Edward Marks was most recently appointed as Interim Managing Director, a position he has successfully held since October 2011 and concurrently with his responsibilities as Corporate Banking Director for Barclays Egypt.

Edward Marks is a rare talent and his appointment ascertains Barclays commitment and continued invest-

ments in the Egyptian market. The breadth and wealth of expertise he is bringing to the role will surely allow the bank to achieve further success and to build upon its 150 years of strong presence in Egypt.

Prior to his appointment in Egypt, Edward occupied a number of leading positions, such as the Head of Structured Finance, Marine & Corporate Jets for Barclays and was a Senior Vice President at Citibank in addition to various senior roles in Omega Leasing Limited and ING Lease, where he leveraged his solid

and determined banking experience.

Over the period of 25 years, Edward has amassed a balanced experience including people management, operation, and resource management and is a skilled business and market developer with strong leadership and project management skills. Edward also has over six years of accumulated work experience in the Egyptian market place.

Born and educated in the United Kingdom & the USA, Edward is a member of numerous civic, educational and community organisations.

Daily EGX30 index performance

Company Name	Reuters Code	Sector	Last Price	Close Price	Returns		Daily Performance		Turn Over (EGP Mill.)	Volume Trade	Market Cap (EGP Mill.)
					Daily	YTD	12-Mths.	Max. Price			
Commercial Bank	COMI	Banks	37.99	37.88	2.91%	102.57%	41.98%	38.10	37.05	33.79	892,172
NSGB	NSGB	Banks	43.87	44.06	-0.83%	116.94%	68.23%	44.80	43.63	5.700	129,357
Ezz Steel	ESRS	Basic Resources	9.29	9.34	2.98%	150.40%	55.67%	9.44	9.17	15.92	1,704,625
ELSWEDY ELECTRIC	SWDY	Industrial Goods and Services and Automobiles	25.41	25.46	1.15%	22.76%	21.76%	25.79	25.36	2.612	102,591
MRRIDIVE	MOIL	Industrial Goods and Services and Automobiles	1.04	1.05	0.96%	-13.12%	-36.53%	1.06	1.04	1.51	234,000
AIC Contracting	AIND	Financial Services excluding Banks	0.51	0.51	0.00%	-1.92%	-17.74%	0.53	0.51	2.156	4,203,710
Amer Group Holding	AMER	Financial Services excluding Banks	0.66	0.67	0.00%	21.82%	-17.62%	0.68	0.66	4.32	6,455,407
EK Holding	EKHO	Financial Services excluding Banks	1.20	1.21	1.68%	23.47%	17.48%	1.22	1.20	0.885	119,765
EFG-Hermes	HRHO	Financial Services excluding Banks	11.2	11.29	1.16%	12.79%	-13.29%	11.50	11.16	20.19	1,788,457
Pioneers Holding	PIOH	Financial Services excluding Banks	4.75	4.73	-2.47%	113.06%	48.28%	5.07	4.48	11,116	2,350,586
Citadel Capital	CCAP	Financial Services excluding Banks	3.77	3.80	1.33%	49.02%	14.80%	3.95	3.72	12.92	3,402,758
Raya Holding	RAYA	Technology	5.80	5.88	2.44%	68.97%	35.48%	6.00	5.76	3.430	582,932
Telecom Egypt	ETEL	Telecommunications	14.23	14.20	3.20%	7.49%	-3.66%	14.30	13.82	8.91	627,648
Orascom Telecom Media And Technology	OTMT	Telecommunications	0.57	0.58	0.00%	67.98%	53.09%	0.60	0.57	19.186	33,010,850
Orascom Telecom	ORTE	Telecommunications	3.57	3.56	1.42%	105.97%	87.70%	3.59	3.53	14.09	3,959,732</

Columnists tackle retail curfew and Shari'a

The failures back off
Amr Al-Shobaki
Al-Masry Al-Youm newspapers



The government's unwise approach while announcing the retail curfew law could be the main reason for its U-turn on the decision, says Al-Shobaki. Although Al-Shobaki's opinion pieces are usually supportive of the government, he denounces the cabinet's "Mubarakite" method in this regard. He condemns the government's lack of comprehension of shop owners' feelings and considerations before announcing the law. He says he accepts the proposal to close shops at 10pm, arguing that the move could have helped Egypt appear more organised.

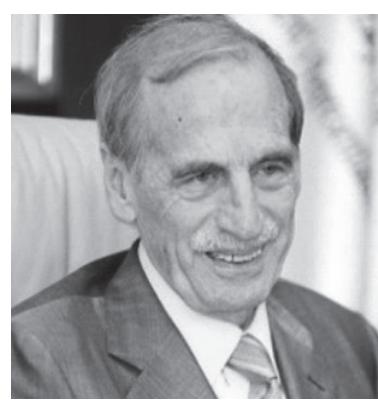
Quoting one of the comments posted under his column, Al-Shobaki cites questions that aim at interrogating the exact mechanisms through which the government tended to implement the decision and how a law as such could have drastic effects on traffic. The message pushed Al-Shobaki to think again about the government's ability

The government's U-turn on the proposed law to close shops early has attracted the attention of many Egyptian columnists, with many describing the cabinet's approach as an imitation the Mubarak era methodology, while ignoring the shop owners' concerns.

In the Arab region, other writers deplored a number of pressing issues, with a focus on the recent appointment of a Jordanian ambassador to Israel from Jordan's influential Obeidat tribe.

to carry out decisions regardless of its fluffy statements. Although the retail curfew law sounded acceptable to Al-Shobaki, the government's hazy attitude and the lack of presidential interference led to the failure of its application. If the government had opened dialogue with ordinary Egyptians, especially shop owners, such a law could have been successful, states Al-Shobaki.

Gehad Al-Khazen
Eyes and ears
Al-Hayat newspaper



Al-Khazen starts off his column condemning extremist Islamic preachers who blindly call for

the application of Shari'a without listening to liberal arguments. In Egypt, the columnist supports Al-Azhar's position, which is to demand a secular democratic state guided by Shari'a. Islamic Shari'a, in Al-Khazen's opinion, is a thousand times better than Jewish jurisprudence. The columnist then switches his attention to Jordan where he commends the Obeidat tribe, one of the most influential tribes in northern Jordan, for disowning one of its members as envoy to Israel. Al-Khazen praises the Jordanian women's reaction to the move as they dressed in black as a sign of protest. From this point, the columnist calls upon Egypt and Jordan to cancel the peace treaty with Israel, after its new government has proved being a new sort of Nazism and prejudice that does not care for peace in the world. The writer brings his piece to a close after mentioning the recent crackdown on a terrorist cell composed of a number of extremists in Britain. He writes that radicals should be combated exactly like terrorists. Radicalism and terrorism are two faces of the same coin.

FROM THE OTHER SIDE

Judges and the rule of law

The list of journalists, talk-show hosts and members of the media who have been investigated regarding allegations of insulting the judiciary may reach thirty-eight individuals.

Of course, nobody wants the judiciary insulted. But this is not exclusive to judges or any other profession whether it be journalism, law, medicine, engineering or otherwise. Insults are not conducive to discussion. However, what is the intent of these insults? And what is the standard on which we can base our measurements?

I understand that libel and defamation are clear and accurately definable. But, how about insults? What are the boundaries between criticisms and insults?

What phrases are considered criticisms and what phrases are considered insults? If we wanted to categorise them, it would be difficult to find clear and distinct differences.

Due to the nature of the roles played by religious men and judges in society, they must enjoy independence and respect in order to be able to carry out their roles without undue influences and pressures that could lead to decisions that impact the entire society and fates of its members.

However, when a judge or religious man enters the realm of politics, he voluntarily renounces this special dispensation and accepts that his opinions may be subject to contention, criticism and even refusal and ridicule. These actions do not reflect upon the judge or religious man as a person but rather to the position or stance that he is expressing as a political actor. For without this contention, politics loses its meaning and becomes mere hypocrisy. Is this logical and undisputed? I think so.

The reports, in which more than one thousand judges have accused journalists and members of the media of insulting the judiciary (or of remaining silent while their talk-show guests did so), and the investigation – which we assumed to be just and transparent – will establish whether or not the accusations of insulting the judiciary are correct and deliberate. To date, the accuracy of the accusations has not yet been established.

All of the above is an introduction to an important question: Are judges above the law? Is it right to investigate a journalist or a member of the media regarding allegations that he or she insulted the judiciary, when there is no investigation of the facts that have established that some judges have violated the law?

The response is no. Judges like everyone else are subject to the law; in fact, they ought to be role models of respect for the law. Why then, are there no investigations of judges violating the law?

Why haven't Ashraf Al-Ashmawy and Samih Abu Zaid been investigated? They are the judges charged with investigating the foreign funded NGO case.

Though it is not permitted for judges directing an investigation to come out and publicise any facts or decisions relating to an undecided case, in a press conference held by Al-Ashmawy and Abu Zaid in February 2012, they disclosed unproven actions and attributed them to a civil society institution. If these actions were found true, this institution would have been subject to legal punishment.

It is surprising, however, that this institution has not been investigated or faced any accusations. To date it is not even amongst the institutions or individuals that have been prosecuted.



So, who holds these two judges accountable for violating the principles and sanctity of justice by holding a press conference in which they decided whom the guilty party was prior to receiving the decision of the court?

Who holds these two judges accountable for challenging the credibility of a civil society institution by publicly attributing actions to it, when it has become clear that these actions were mere accusations?

Who will encourage complaints against these two judges as the months pass? Who will await an apology from the judges, for the injustice done to the institution whose credibility was challenged? Until we are confident that judges are not above the law, who will direct the investigation of this injustice? Those affected by it have the right to an investigation and the Supreme Judiciary Council has an obligation to investigate.

For all those complaining about any judge, do so not because it is your right but so that people may have confidence that doing so presents a model of respect and equality before the law.

Gamal Eid is a human rights lawyer

Defeatism cannot be allowed to overcome Syria

"Today our revolution enters its toughest stages and the cruelty of the regime against our people is proven limitless."

For all the issues that the Egyptian revolution has yet to solve, Egyptians did not pen the above words. Representatives of the Local Coordination Committees in Syria did, and even as Egyptians have continued to be invigorated and energised for their own political struggles, Syrians are dying for theirs. Not in hundreds, or even thousands, but tens of thousands. Hundreds of thousands of refugees and prisoners; millions internally displaced; billions of dollars wasted in the destruction of infrastructure and the crippling of the economy.

It is a difficult situation, to be sure. The difficulty does not arise from considering what a good outcome would be for the people of Syria, in fact, on that, things could not be more clear. The departure of the Baathist regime of Bashar Al-Assad and the transition to a government that respects the fundamental rights of all the Syrian people; on that level, things could not be clearer. The question, of course, is how to get to that outcome.

The complications could not be more complex. The uprising in Syria did not have the support of the majority of the Syrian people when it began, but the reaction of the regime against the slightest dissent turned large swathes of the population against it. Almost two years later, it is hard to find more than a minority of people who would support this government, after all the blood that has been spilt. But what is also very true is that many who might otherwise support the revolution wholeheartedly, fear what might come if the government comes crashing down.

For many, those fears have been swept to one side; fears of what might happen, overcome by fears of what actually is happening at the hands of the Baathist regime. But outside Syria, many are still wringing their hands, confused as to what they should now do.

Syria is not Libya. The rebels in Syria were not successful early on in the same way that they were in Libya. There was no equivalent to Benghazi, where the rebels took control of an identifiable geographic space and were supported by the local population.

While many opposition activists have been arguing for an intervention of some sort, what intervention would that be? From which parties, and to where in Syria precisely? Would it be the Turks? Not likely, not at the moment. Public opinion in Turkey is dead set against intervening and becoming embroiled in

what is turning into an ugly civil war between the regime and the opposition. Would it be the United States? Perhaps there might be movement on that score in the coming months, after the new elections are settled in the US, but reports indicate that the administration is actually trying to slow down the transfer of weapons to Syrian rebels, out of fears that those weapons may fall into the wrong hands.

Those 'wrong hands' were not there a year and a half ago when this began, but Al-Assad's warnings that this was a 'radical jihadist terrorist uprising' has become a partially self-fulfilling prophecy. Radical Islamists have indeed gone to Syria, particularly in the last few months, where they see this as a clear-cut war against a tyrant, on behalf of innocent Muslims. They take with them, however, a message that does not bode well for the Alawite community of Syria, that offshoot of Shi'a Islam that Al-Assad and his coterie hail from. Indeed, Syrian opposition activists have been arguing that not only does this extremism exist, but that it exists due to the inaction of the international community.

Of course, when people argue against 'intervention', it needs to be admitted that foreign intervention has already taken place and from day one. The military and economic aid to the Baathist regime from Russia and Iran cannot be described as otherwise. The international community's inaction is partly due to the Chinese and Russian vetoes at the United Nations security council, who feel they were cheated somewhat over the NATO intervention into Libya.

The situation remains dire and complex. But there are three things that could not be clearer. There can be no reconciliation with the top figures of Baathist regime; the downfall of this government cannot be deemed to be an optional extra.

Its continued oppression of the Syrian people is unsustainable and must end. It would be preferable for that to end by peaceful means, but it seems clear that the Baathist regime would sooner destroy Syria before allowing that to happen.

The second: Syrian opposition activists have been clear that the representation of the forces in support of the uprising must be, indeed, representative. It does not bode well that a new representational body is being born in Qatar, midwived by foreign powers, but it does appear, at present at least, that this body might be able to genuinely represent all sectors of the opposition. If it does not, then something else must emerge; a body



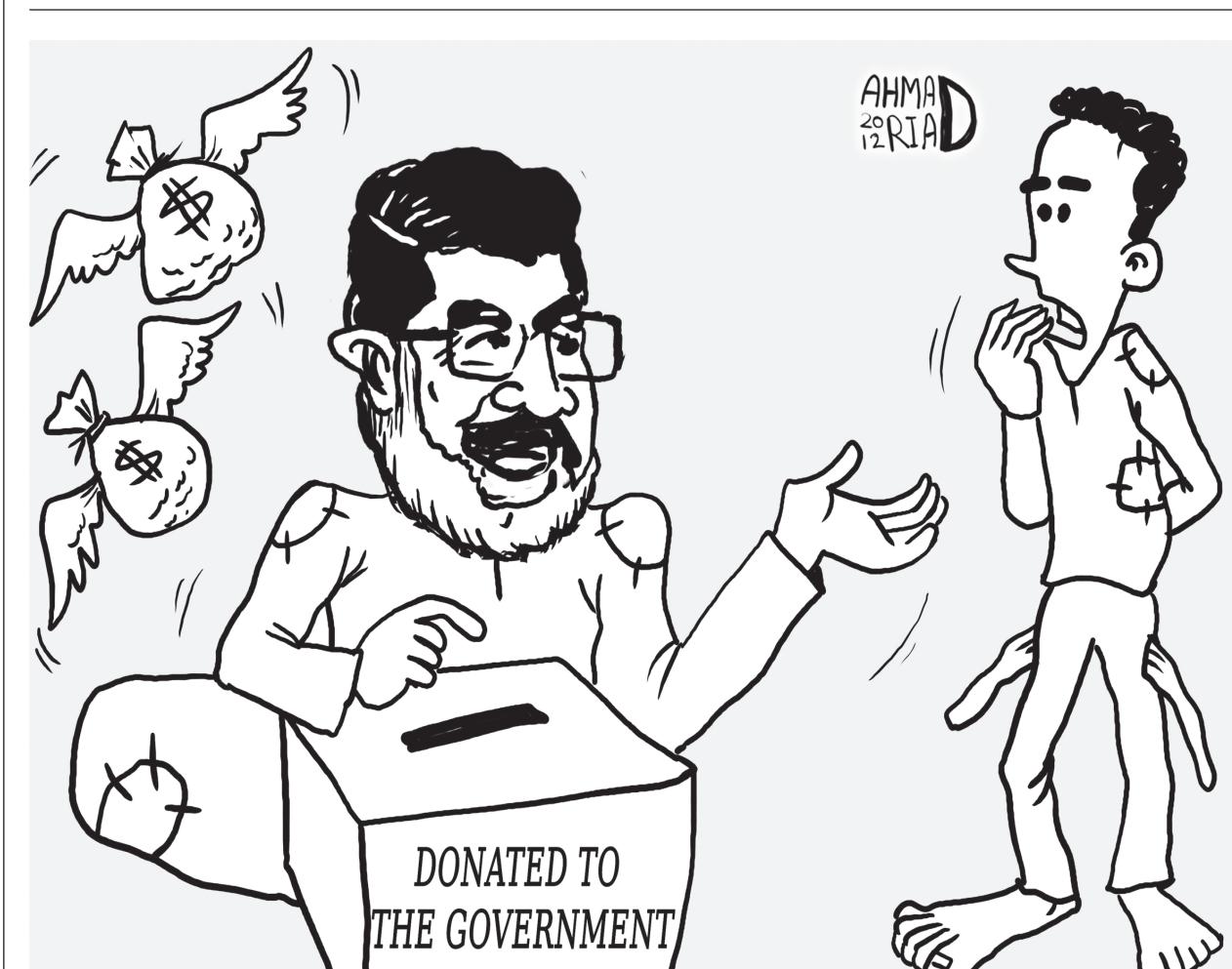
DR H A HELLYER

that will be answerable to the Syrian people and be able to count on their support. Within that body, all Syrian communities must be clearly and manifestly involved. That includes religious, cultural and ethnic minorities, including the Alawites.

Which leads to the third and final aspect of any next phase: the realisation that an intervention of some sort into Syria is necessary for two very simple reasons. The success of the revolution and the rescue of the Alawite community. The permanent rule of Al-Assad is, it seems, unthinkable. Eventually, one way or another, he goes. Perhaps it will be due to the Turkish-Syrian border becoming unstable and Turkey being forced to intervene or perhaps it will be because a NATO force will militarily intervene if the casualties increase much more; who knows? But at some point, Al-Assad will have to come down. The farther in the future that it happens, the more certain it becomes that the Alawite community becomes subjected to a series of revenge attacks and reprisals. The sooner this conflict comes to an end, the easier it will be to ensure the survival of the Alawite community, who do not bear communal blame for the crimes of its most infamous member.

People have died as part of the Arab awakening all around the Arab world, but the price has been dear in Syria. The price will continue to increase as long as this uprising is forced to continue, but that price can be reduced, and the suffering of the Syrian people minimised. But only if the international community shakes off its paralysis of defeatism and respects the dignity, the sacrifice and the struggle of the people of Syria.

Dr. H A Hellyer, a nonresident fellow at the Brookings Institution, is a Cairo-based specialist on Arab affairs, and relations between the Muslim world and the west. He was previously senior practice consultant at Gallup, and senior research fellow at Warwick University. Find him online at hahellyer.com.



St. Andrews' Refugee Services

By Brooke Comer

St. Andrews' Refugee Services (StARS) is housed in an unassuming stone church in the Ramses area of Cairo. The area it encompasses is small, walled, and gated, yet within the compound, a myriad of services are offered. From education, to legal, to psychosocial services, StARS helps many of Cairo's estimated 44,899 displaced people, according to the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees, cope with the alienation and stress of displacement. StARS is a faith-based organisation, run out of the interdenominational church. It does not discriminate on grounds of nationality, gender or religion. Of the estimated 3,000 refugees who are served annually, around fifty per cent are Muslim. The StARS mission is to serve the refugee communities of Cairo, and so the organisation does not participate in Egyptian domestic policy or affairs.

A mix of Egyptians and foreign nationals perform services at StARS, fostering an atmosphere of tolerance and acceptance. On weekdays, the compound, with its garden shaded by trees, a few prefabricated classrooms, and an asphalt playground, hosts a spirited football game when classes are not in session. It is vibrant with the sound of children's voices. After the school day is over, silence claims the courtyard as adults fill the classrooms with an intermittent array of courses that vary from term to term, and can include English and Arabic language courses, information technology, and other skills.

Adult education is as important as the primary and secondary grades at StARS. Matthew Bedford, Administrator of Education Programs, explains, "it can be difficult for refugees to integrate and make a life for themselves in Cairo, especially if they don't speak Arabic." Sometimes, he points out, "people who were successful business owners, teachers, farmers in their home country are forced to come here with nothing. The Adult Education Program is a place that people can come together and learn skills and build confidence, and that will make living in Cairo easier not only for them but also for their families."

If, in Egypt, the word "refugee" connotes Sudanese nationals, dark-skinned Southerners who escaped the horrors of the civil war that raged from 1955 to 1972 and from 1983 to 2005, as well as Darfuri, who continue to flee the ongoing genocide in western Sudan, it's because these groups comprise the majority of displaced people currently living in Cairo. The Comprehensive Peace Treaty, or CPA, signed in January 2005, officially ended the war between North and South Sudan, and the subsequently South Sudan became independent in 2011. Despite this, tribal tensions in the homeland and the post-war lack of infrastructure there keep families in exile. But northern and southern Sudanese are only one group who seek asylum in Cairo; the classrooms at StARS reflect a diversity that directly correlates to crises in neighboring, as well as distant, countries. Currently Syrian asylum seekers are growing in number, and a significant population of Iraqis have been in Egypt for years. African countries defined by political turmoil, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, and the Congo, are also represented at StARS.

What Shane Bristow, StARS executive director, values most about the organisation is, "that so many different kinds of people are here to help each other; Egyptians, refugees and foreign volunteers. Christians and Muslims. There are teachers who have lived in Cairo for decades, and students who may have just arrived. And these people are more than just co-workers; they become great friends who provide support for one another, especially those who are far from home."

Bristow takes the reins from former StARS executive director, Fiona Cameron, who resigned in order to focus on asylum seekers in the UK. Cameron came to StARS in 2005 as a volunteer English teacher and was promoted to head of the Children's Education Program. One of the most respected aid workers in Cairo, and known for her dedication to the people she served, Cameron is arguably known best for stabilising and organising the StARS pro-



St. Andrews' Refugee Services fosters an atmosphere of tolerance and acceptance

grammes during the upheaval of the revolution, and bringing the English house system to the Education Centre, which helped to make StARS a leading learning institution.

In recognition of her efforts, she was named executive director in late 2011. "The reason that St. Andrew's and organisations like it are so important," says Cameron, "is because of the community involvement of people who might never otherwise work together or even meet. St. Andrew's is a place where refugees, westerners, and Egyptians all work together with a single aim."

Through StARS and other centres that offer services to asylum seekers, displaced people can find dignity and hope, regardless of their refugee status. The centre is a testimony to Egypt's willingness to help neighbours who seek shelter from persecution. The definition of a refugee is someone who cannot return home because of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a particular social group.

Asylum seekers need to prove that if they are forced to return home, they are likely to face persecution or death. When an asylum seeker approaches UNHCR, they are given a refugee card that provides "temporary protection", the right to stay in Egypt and not be deported. UNHCR then conducts a Refugee Status Determination hearing to assess the situation of the individual or family and decide whether or not they qualify as a refugee. If so, the temporary protection becomes permanent. If UNHCR decides that the case does not meet the definition, then the file is closed and the individual or family receive no benefits or protection, and cannot obtain a residence permit. St. Andrew's offers a safe community for all isolated and vulnerable displaced people from 32 different countries, to come together for empowerment, education, community development, and social services.

Maelle Pelletier, who leads StARS psycho-social programming, works daily with people who have suffered serious psychological and physical trauma before coming to Egypt. Pelletier says clients come from situations where there is no safety or security and many have been tortured, beaten, raped, or seen family members killed. "People come to Cairo suffering from depression or post-traumatic stress. We help them find the medical, social, and financial support that is available." Her team also hosts art groups and outings; events where her clients can enjoy themselves and be part of a community. "Sometimes, our clients need someone to just talk to," says Pelletier. The psycho-social team serves StARS overall goal of treating students and clients as people, not just refugees.

The psychosocial programme was launched in January 2011 in response to the increasing number of refugees in Egypt, the sometimes complex and difficult to navigate network of refugee service providers, and the general lack of resources available in refugee communities. The psychosocial team is now composed of five staff, three casework-

ers and two group coordinators, under the supervision of the team leader. The team mission is to provide emotional and social support to refugees in Cairo, and focus on the general well-being, so that refugees have increased access to housing, medical care, psychological counselling, and group activities that foster a sense of community and self-empowerment. During the past year, the psycho-social team has assisted more than 400 individual and family cases in accessing mental health, medical, or educational services. Group workshops and activities like art and photography workshops, youth sports activities, and day trips around Cairo also constitute an important part of the team's work and enables staff to reach out to more beneficiaries.

StARS opened its doors on 11 October 1979 when members of St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo set up a refugee centre in the church's spacious Guild Hall. Sudan was still united and technically at peace; the waves of refugees seeking asylum in Egypt from Darfur and South Sudan hit a peak in 1985. But there were still a significant enough number of asylum seekers to warrant a centre, where in its nascent days, StARS hosted as many as 115 people each day for basic social services. A rudimentary attempt at English literacy courses began, and took off during the 80s, a decade that saw the numbers of persecuted people rise significantly. At this point, StARS expanded its refugee services to include education and assistance, offered purely on need and without discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, national origin, tribe, or religion.

A key component in the work StARS undertakes, according to Bristow, is enabling refugees to carry out services themselves. "We have refugees teaching primary education, English and Arabic, providing psycho-social services, serving as interpreters, and offering their time in other ways to help their community," he explains. "We hope that over time refugees will be more and more equipped to help themselves find solutions and support."

Since its inception, St. Andrew's Refugee Education Centre has been a sought-after option for refugee parents who seek a quality education for their children. Legally, children who have refugee status may enroll in Egypt's government schools, according to Article 22 of the Geneva Convention, a treaty to which Egypt, the US and European countries initially signed in 1951 after World War II, and which was expanded in 1968. But government schools cannot accommodate all Egyptian children, thus displaced people who cannot afford private schools find refugee centres such as St. Andrew's are their only hope for an education.

St. Andrew's has maintained its status as a respected centre due to the relatively high quality education that children receive. This is achieved through small classes of twenty students, teachers with at least some training in the field, English-language instruction, the well-

stocked Susan B. Meteh Library, physical education, and art classes through the Nora Sadat Art Centre. Community involvement is provided through the Townhouse Gallery, a multicultural arts centre whose Saturday programs serve all children and youth in Cairo.

Until 2009 there was no fixed curriculum at the children's school and students studied English language with some science and maths along with recreational activities. In that year, for the first time, and thanks in no small part to the dedication of a group of refugee teachers who formed the South Sudanese Teachers' Union, students of any nationality were able to study for the Sudanese national curriculum. Despite having drawbacks, including an academic rigour quite new to informal learning centres like St. Andrew's, a few students have gone on to college. In addition to having six teachers from the refugee community, the AEP relies extensively on volunteers who come to teach.

There are a number of other refugee schools in Cairo, and each has their benefits for prospective students. Those who choose St. Andrew's do so because of convenience of location, low cost, and the availability of the Sudanese curriculum. StARS works with UNHCR, partner organisations, and other refugee schools, to coordinate and develop opportunities for all refugees. Sandra, Madit, and Ismail are among three of StARS student success stories. Sandra was 15 when she won a scholarship to Dunn School, a small, co-educational college prep school in California. There, she maintained high grades and went on to Berea College, in Berea, Kentucky, a highly competitive institution, which offers full scholarships to all applicants who are accepted.

Madit, now 20, came to St. Andrew's Children Education Program as a displaced youth and has gone on to win a scholarship at African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg, South Africa. His chances of finding a full scholarship at a leading US or UK university next autumn are excellent. Madit credits his success to self-discipline and the opportunities StARS offered him. "I retained my hope when I thought I was hopeless and had no means to get access to education as a refugee child in Cairo. StARS hosted me when I had nowhere else to go. Its small kitchen fed me when I had no food to eat. The dedicated and selfless staff and teachers made me realise the value of hard work, perseverance and gratitude. The small, but strong educational program helped find and maintain my passion for education and without St. Andrew's Refugee Services, I would not be at ALA."

Ismail, a 19-year-old northern Sudanese refugee, who joined StARS in 2005 and was granted auditing privileges at AUC, thanks to the late Provost Madhat Haroun, believes that the centre was valuable in terms of exposure to different cultures and traditions, as well as studying essential academic subjects. He cites collaborative learning as one of the most important things he learned.

What is more, women are burdened with double duty, taking paying jobs to provide for families, whose needs they must also serve.

In general, Sudan, Somalia and Iraq represent the most significant number of nationalities seeking aid at St. Andrew's. There are now bi-weekly Iraqi women's group in 6th October, where the majority of Iraqi refugees reside, and also in Nasr city, aiming at enhancing peer-support between participants, providing them with accurate information about the various services available as well as a safe space to share any problems they face in their host country.

StARS' Resettlement Legal Aid Project (RLAP), assists recognised refugees who qualify for resettlement to a third country. These clients include refugees with severe and life-threatening medical conditions who require surgery overseas, or family reunification cases, which involve a refugee in Cairo, who has been separated from his or her family who are now living in another country. Reunification brings displaced family members back together.

The countries that accept the highest numbers of refugees for resettlement are the United States, Canada, and Australia. Countries within the European Union also accept a significant number of refugees. Resettlement acts as a way for host countries to share the costs associated with supporting refugees. The majority of refugees worldwide are from the developing world, and when they leave their home country, they flee across the nearest border to a country that may offer work in the informal economy yet not have the ability to accept a high volume of displaced people. Resettlement increasingly serves as a way to offer more places for refugees to find a permanent, peaceful home.

The resettlement process, however, can be very lengthy and difficult to navigate for refugees. RLAP provides legal counselling and representation for candidates' resettlement candidates in the process at UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). RLAP also seeks to educate refugee communities about resettlement. In September, RLAP hosted six workshops for refugees interested in learning more about refugee law and the resettlement process. The RLAP team is made up of refugee interpreters and volunteer legal advocates from around the world.

Volunteers are an important part of StARS work. Refugees, Egyptians and visitors offer their time to lead a variety of activities from language training to leading sports and music groups. In general, the StARS mission is one of increased understanding and community. "Though they come as visitors to Egypt," says Bristow, "refugees often have to stay for a very long time. They want the same things that anyone wants: food, shelter, peace and security for themselves and their families. StARS work to help foster the sense of community amongst refugees so that the problems that they face are not faced alone."

Albino Yai, who came to Cairo in 2001 and sought out StARS for art classes, is now the school's art teacher. He notes that St. Andrew's is important for refugees in two ways. "In a humanitarian way [StARS] is a place for peace and love," Yai observes. "We have refugees from Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and all over Africa. They get together to communicate, and share emotional experiences. When this happens, the energy becomes powerful, to have that shared love and sense of unity and belonging. In the context of education, it is very helpful for children, teenagers and parents to share and encourage not only the hope of a better life, but the means by which to acquire and sustain it. Even though parents might not be educated themselves, they want a better life for their children."

St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo continues to support the StARS program through the use of their property. Erin Odgers-Chew, chairperson of St. Andrew's Church of Cairo states "as a church, St. Andrew's is committed to the support of refugees in Cairo. Hospitality is an important aspect of the church as well as the Egyptian culture. Egypt has a history of welcoming refugees. In this same spirit of hospitality, we too welcome refugees to receive service and education on our property."

ART & CULTURE

Art should make a statement and Culture is what surrounds us.

EVENTS

THEATRE

'J'aurais voulu être Égyptien'

Watch this adaptation of renowned Egyptian author Alaa El Aswany's novel 'Chicago', a big commercial success since its publication in 2006. The adaptation titled 'J'aurais voulu être Égyptien' or 'I wish I were Egyptian' is by Jean-Louis Martinelli and tickets are available from Al-Gomhouria and the Cairo Opera House's ticket offices. *El Gomhouria Theater*, 12 Al-Gomhouria St., Abdin, Downtown, Cairo. Tel: (02) 23907707. 7 November 8pm

MUSIC

21st Festival and Conference of Arab Music

The 21st Festival and Conference of Arab Music honors Arab musical heritage through a week at the Cairo Opera House and the Al-Gomhouria Theatre where tickets will be available from both ticket offices. *Cairo Opera House*, El Borg Gezira, Zamalek, Cairo. Tel: (02) 2739 0114. 7 November 8pm

Rock of Asia

Nikki Matsumoto has been all around the world and now he is stopping at the Savvy Culture Wheel. Matsumoto is a Japanese musician who mixes western styles like rock with more traditional sounds from Japan. Tickets are EGP 20 for members and EGP 25 for non-members. *El Savvy Culture Wheel*, Wisdom Hall, End of 26th of July Street, Zamalek, Cairo. Tel: (02) 2736 6178. 7 November 8pm

Mazaher

Right across from Saad Zaghloul landmark neo-phaaraonic mausoleum is Makan which will be hosting a night of Zar music with Mazaher. Tickets are EGP 30 or EGP 20 if reserved. *Makan*, I, Saad Zaghloul St., Downtown, Cairo. Tel: (02) 27920878. 24 October 9pm

Michelle Rounds

No one does it better than Rounds with her unique voice and her mix of Jazz and Soul. Her lively performances will engage you in a great night that should be on your top list of events anyway. *Jazz Bar, Kempinski Nile Hotel*, 12 Ahmed Raghib Street, Corniche El Nil. Tel: (02) 27980000. 24 October 9pm

EXHIBITION

Feminine

Natalia Baykalova's solo exhibition features the beauty of everything feminine. *Cala Art Gallery*, 140, 26th July Street, Zamalek, Cairo. Tel: (02) 2738 0154. 6 November 10am

Fakeeha: Egypt's fresh fruit bouquet specialist



Fakeeha's Mango Kiwi Delight

By Omar El Adl

Imagine a healthy fresh bouquet of locally-grown, handpicked, perfectly ripe fruit and you have envisioned a fruit bouquet from Fakeeha.

Fakeeha is a 100 per cent Egyptian initiative designed to bring a healthy alternative to whichever occasion you choose. They offer bouquets and boxes, of a sophisticated and eye-catching design, using only the freshest ingredients and exercising a degree of quality control that will put even the fussiest mother at ease.

"We custom make all our bouquets by hand and use the freshest ingredients possible. We do not store fruit, so if we have a bouquet that requires two apples, then we order two apples. This way, no fruit is left behind and we can guarantee freshness," said Nadia Hassaballah, founder of Fakeeha.

Fakeeha makes beautiful handcrafted bouquets that are as delicious as they are aesthetically and visually appealing. Coming in a variety of colours and using mouthwatering ingredients such as milk chocolate, hazelnuts, co-

conut, pistachios, and biscuit crumbles. The offerings can vary between the more healthy options such as the Mango Kiwi Delight or their more indulgent such as their Apple Bites, which feature apples covered in delicious chocolate and coconut.

The inspiration for Fakeeha came in 2006 when Hassaballah was visiting her sister in Boston and saw the concept first-hand. "It was a great way for kids to be eating delicious healthy fruits in a fun, tempting way," she said. Hassaballah then sought out the owner of a similar business in Lebanon and worked with her to train her staff and help her implement the idea in Egypt.

They officially started in February and began delivering in June. "Fakeeha is the Arabic word for fruit and has a distinctly Egyptian sound. I wanted the name to imply an Egyptian business because after all this is what we are about, and I am very happy with it," said Hassaballah.

The company relies on fruit that is in season and their bouquets change depending on what is available. One of

Fakeeha's biggest successes has been mango, so keep up with the changing seasons and be sure to ask Hassaballah or her staff what fruits are in season. Payment is made upon delivery, but you can ask for the bouquet to be delivered as a gift to another address and have the bill delivered to you.

"We have more than one supplier, and with experience we know which deliver the best oranges or cantaloupes. We require orders to be placed 24 hours in advance because we want to guarantee the freshest fruits possible and the most efficient system," said Hassaballah.

"One hundred per cent natural, 100 per cent delicious, 100 per cent Egyptian" is how Fakeeha defines itself and its fresh, handcrafted and beautifully designed bouquets and boxes are fit for any occasion. "We have done birthdays, wedding centrepieces, bachelorette parties, gatherings. Fakeeha can work with anything," said Hassaballah. Fakeeha can be found online and be sure to ask about this season's offerings for a fun and guiltless way to enjoy any gathering.

Bite Me Cairo: The Best of the Best - Part 1

By David Blanks

And the best restaurant in Cairo is...? Yep, you guessed it, Don Quichotte. Wait, what? Yes it is. You know it is because it says so on the website 10 Best: Trusted Advice for Travellers. It is, according to the reviewer, "the perfect place for a romantic dinner." Even more impressive, and this is my favorite part, "the menu of French classics might be on the small side, but the execution of dishes such as lamb stewed in eggplant is brilliantly judged."

If an execution is pending, then undoubtedly you want the best judge available, especially when it comes to French classics like lamb and eggplant stew. I wonder if they are using the Escoffier recipe? Or if it's more of a Parisian-style lamb and eggplant stew like you find at bistro on the Champs-Élysées?

And if our hapless traveler is not into French food that's okay, because the second best restaurant in Cairo is Lai Thai at the Four Seasons First Residence, followed by the Revolving Restaurant at the Grand Hyatt, Cedars, Kandahar, Spectra, Maison Thomas, La Bodega, Abou El Sid, and Mojo's Lounge and Grill. So there you have it. If you have friends travelling to Cairo in the near future, send them the link. I'm just glad to see that Mojo's made it on there this year: no newcomer to the city should be denied the pleasure of a visit to Road 90 in New Cairo.

Do not fear that all tourists will be led astray; the savvy ones will know to look at the local listings. Cairo-dining.com sets the record straight. Their top five restaurants in Cairo are Cucina (JW Marriott), Lan Tania (Fairmont Helipolis), Oak Grill (Conrad), Richoux (City Stars) and Kamala (Conrad). They must not have visited Don Quichotte. Still, it's an impressive list. I



Foodist at work

need to look into getting a job over there: the reviewer's expense account is phenomenal.

If you don't trust the websites, ask the people. One of my go-to travel sites is TripAdvisor, where travelers rate and comment upon their favorite hotels, restaurants, sightseeing excursions, etc.

According to these folks, Kebabgi (next to the Sofitel Gezira) is the best in town. Followed by Shogun Japanese Restaurant (Intercontinental City Stars), Maestro Italian Restaurant (Intercontinental City Stars), Indira Indian Restaurant (Intercontinental City Stars), the Little Swiss Restaurant, an anomaly: they must have had relatives in Maadi, then Birdcage (Semiramis Intercontinental), Masala (The Karvin Hotel), Four Seasons Hotel Garden City, and Osmanly Restaurant (Kempinski Hotel). Are we starting to see a pattern here? It seems tourists these days are too nervous to venture outside their hotels.

Remarkably, at number 10 on the TripAdvisor list, we finally get some genuine Egyptian food; ranked immediately after these nine five-star

restaurants is our very own Koshary al-Tahrir, followed closely at #11 by Koshary Abou Tarek. Well, at least that gives us Cairenes something we can argue about.

The New York Times Cairo Travel Guide likewise lets travelers speak for themselves, so that might be useful, except that in the past five years there have been a grand total of only fourteen readers' comments/recommendations. Less than three per year. The one I like best is the following:

"I went to the recently opened Aperitivo Bar. A stunning interior by Hedaya Islam, mosaics by Martin Brown and lighting by Nadim Spiridon, it captures the spirit of fin de siecle Cairo. Chef Giorgio Bottazzi, creates a stunning Italian menu contains antipasti, pasta, risottos; fish and meat dishes with flavours typical of regional Italian cooking. And to top things off, pastas, breads and even ice creams are all hand made by Bottazzi himself."

Signed: Martin Brown. Nice review Martin. We'll definitely give it a try.

Oh, and the editors of this page have made their own list where they denote their New York Times Picks. There is only one. There should of course be a clear favourite by now given the exhaustive research you've done. But no; of the twenty-two establishments they name, the only one they deem worthy of a Times pick is Sequoia. They must not have gone to Don Quichotte either.

So you see we have a problem. After studying four different Best Restaurant in Cairo rankings, not a single restaurant appears on any list twice. Next week I'll see if the local websites can do any better.

Just as a preview, only two of the above-named restaurants show up on Cairo 360's Top Ten list. Don Quichotte wasn't one of them.

ON THE TOWN



Mohamed Lotfy, director of business development, Maha el Kady, PR Manager and Ahmed El Nahas welcoming Hisham Zaazou, the minister of tourism

Minister of Tourism at Ramses Hilton

The Ramses Hilton was chosen to host the meeting of Hisham Zaazou, the minister of tourism, with representatives of the government, public and private tourism sectors.

In the meeting the recommendations of the committees installed to design an immediate action plan to encourage and restore the flow of tourism were discussed.

The meeting was attended by Elhamy El Zayat, chairman of the Travel Agencies Association, Ahmed El Nahas and a number of tourism and media figures.



The wives of Asian ambassadors who participated in the charity event

Conrad Cairo hosted the Asian Diplomatic Wife Association

The Conrad Cairo has been chosen by the Asian Diplomatic Wife Association to hold the Adwa charity Bazaar for the second consecutive season. The choice of Conrad Cairo came as a result of its distinguished service, facilities, friendly staff and comfortable ambience.

BITES FIL BEIT

By Iman Adel Abdel-Fattah



We love food. We love the real, down to earth, tried-and-tested, handed-down-through-the-generations, local Egyptian food. Here is your chance to learn how to make these local delicacies in your own home. And just so you know what to ask for, we have added how to say the ingredients in Arabic. No more excuses, off to the souq!

Cake b'aseer bortooan we loz -

Cake with orange juice and almond

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 cups orange juice, strained – *a-seeer bor-oo-an*
- 125g butter, softened – *zib-da*
- 1 1/4 cups sugar – *soo-kar*
- 1 1/2 cups almonds, crushed and ground – *loz*
- 2 eggs, beaten – *beid*
- 3 tsp orange peel, grated – *ashr bor-oo-an*
- 1 cup semolina – *se-mo-lee-na*

Directions

- Pre-heat the oven to 180 C. Butter a 20 cm diameter cake pan.
- Beat the butter and 3/4 cup of sugar in a bowl until creamy. Add the beaten eggs gradually while beating. Add the orange peel and continue beating.
- Stir in the almonds and 2 tbsp of orange juice. Stir in the semolina

Note

- Do not open the door to the oven during the first 30 minutes after you placed the cake in the oven to allow the cake to rise.

Weather



Wednesday, November 7

Alexandria	26°C / 20°C
Aswan	37°C / 25°C
Cairo	30°C / 20°C
Hurghada	32°C / 22°C
Luxor	35°C / 21°C
Sharm El-Sheikh	36°C / 23°C
Suez	27°C / 17°C