



# DAILY NEWS

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## EGYPT

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**CONSTRUCTION WORKERS CLOSE POWER PLANT**

Minister of Electricity and Energy holds talks with workers in Ain Sokhna

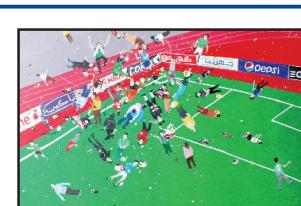
2



**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR RESHUFFLED**

Human rights organisations say there is no real change

3



**ASA7BY**

Documenting Egyptian internet culture through art

8

## March against IMF loan

POLITICAL PARTIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY REJECT LOAN DEAL, FEAR NEGATIVE EFFECT ON SOCIETY AND ECONOMY, ANGER AT LACK OF CONSULTATION

By Joel Gulhane

Around 150 civil society groups and political parties marched from the Egyptian stock exchange to the Cabinet building expressing their opposition to the possible loan that Egypt is looking to secure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The groups, including the Socialist People's Party, the Egypt Strong party, the Popular Current, the Socialist Alliance and the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights published a statement online, which was addressed to Prime Minister Hesham Qandil and Christine Lagarde, managing director of the IMF. They believe to accept the loan would constitute an abuse of power by President Mohamed Morsy, since he currently wields full legislative powers only in the absence of parliament.

The statement also claims "the public consultation carried out by the government so far... has been exclusionary" and "the government do not explain how this loan will contribute to the national economic plan for inclusive growth and social justice."

Ramy Sabry, a member of the Socialist People's Party (SPP) said "we are marching against the loan because it will not be good for our country. The acceptance of the loan is a reflection of economic policies of the Hosni Mubarak regime which depended on international loans. If we accept the loan it means we will be follow the wishes of the United States and the IMF and become dependent on them again."



Protesters demonstrate against the IMF loan being considered by the government

Sabry offered a number of alternatives to the loan, "the government can change the taxation system, for example they could tax businessmen. The government could save money by stopping unnecessary projects and unnecessary government jobs. The government employs many people who are well paid but do not do very much."

Negotiations are ongoing between the IMF and the Egyptian government about the \$4.8bn loan. It is hoped that the loan will help to solve the Egyptian economy's problems, such as the bud-

get deficit (which is at 11 per cent of gross domestic product), widespread youth unemployment, and dwindling foreign reserves.

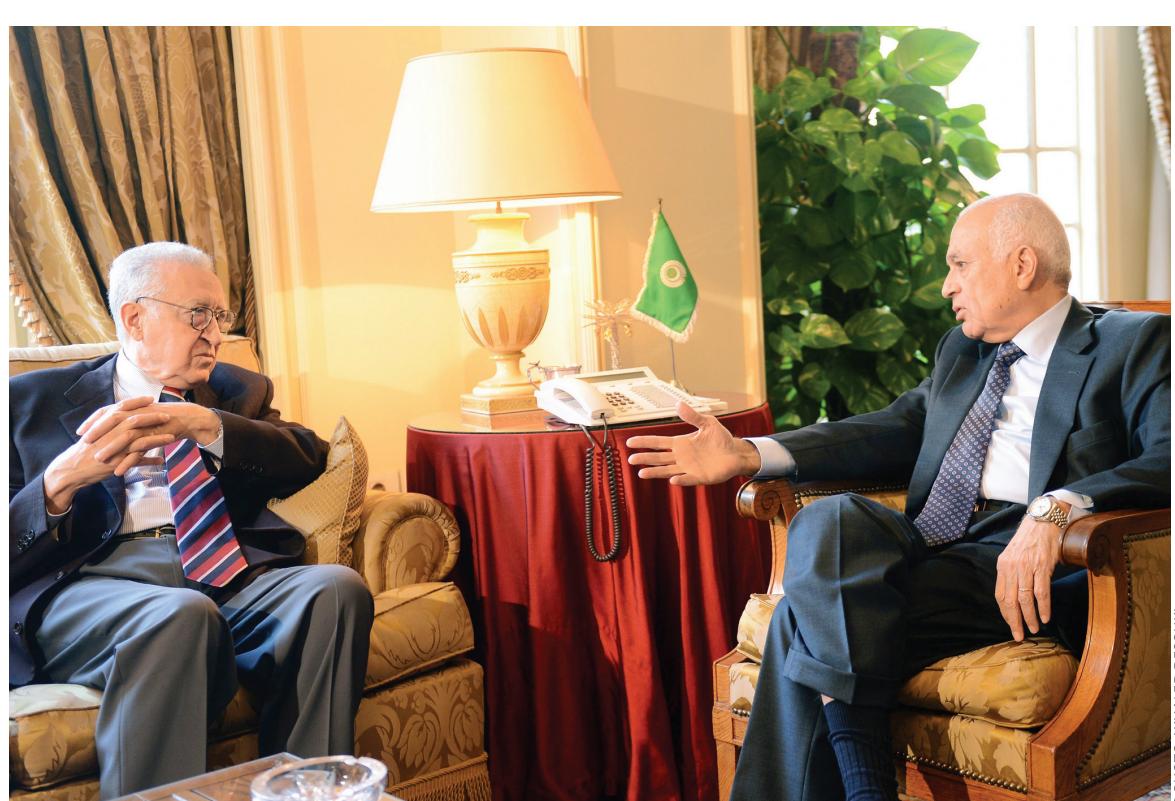
Sammy, one of the protesters unaffiliated with any political group, said he was marching because there is a lack of transparency in the negotiation process. "The loan," he said, "would have a drastic and negative social and economic effect on the country."

Mohamed Hatam, another unaffiliated protester, said he thought the loan would only serve to increase

Egypt's debt. "And in repaying the debt," he said, "it will be the poor who suffer." He also said that so much money from the old regime was lost to corruption that the country must work to reclaim it in order to aid the economy.

An agreement with the IMF would also help to unlock \$1bn in aid that has been offered by the US and Europe under the Deauville Partnership framework. The European Union and the G-8 group set up the framework to provide financial support to the Arab Spring countries.

### Brahimi stops in Cairo while fighting continues in Syria



Arab League Secretary General Nabil al-Arabi (rights) meets with UN-Arab League peace envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, in Cairo to discuss the situation in Syria. Deadly fighting flared on Syria's borders with Turkey and Jordan on Monday while Israel fired across the ceasefire line on the Golan Heights for a second day stoking fears of a spillover of the 20-month conflict

### Security forces in Sinai attacked

By Nasser Al-Azazi

Masked gunmen attacked a Central Security Forces camp in the North Sinai town of Rafah on Monday. The attack resulted in no deaths or injuries and no arrests have yet been made.

The attack is the second in 24 hours and the fifth since the 25 January 2011 uprising. Eyewitnesses said the gunmen drove a four-wheel drive vehicle and that they shot at the camp from the same area they used to attack it on Sunday.

The gunmen fired a medium-calibre machine gun into the camp, located in the Ahrash area on the Red Sea coast, a police source said on condition of anonymity.

He added that three armoured personnel carriers left the camp in pursuit of the assailants but the gunmen escaped. The security forces then patrolled the area in a bid to catch the attackers.

Continued on page 2

## €82 million of European investments

EU Egypt Task Force Business and Tourism Summit make deals in Cairo

By Mohamed Salah Eldin

The joint task force met for the first time in Egypt and sealed a series of agreements that will generate at least €82 million of investment from the EU.

The summits organised by the Egyptian business unions will be followed by a series of meetings between representatives from the Egyptian and the European sides.

The joint task force, already put into practice in Jordan and Tunisia, is a new mechanism for dialogue implemented to foster cooperation between Europe and the Arab Spring countries. This innovative mechanism is intended to complement the already existing exchange channels; the Egyptian-European association council and technical sub committees.

Among the agreements that are expected to be signed during the summit, there is a €20 million trade and domestic market enhancement programme, a €22 million agreement for support through agricultural small enterprise and a €40 million fund to support the third metro line going from Imbaba to the Cairo airport.

The meetings will be attended by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, the European Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, Antonio Tajani, the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Stefan Fule, the President of the European Investment Bank, Werner Hoyer, the foreign ministers of eight EU countries, the head of the European chambers union and more than 150

chairmen of European companies, as stated by the president of the Egyptian European chambers union Nader Riad.

Egypt will be represented by Prime Minister Hisham Qandil, and the ministers of foreign affairs, investment, industry and foreign trade, planning and international cooperation, electricity and energy, and facilities and transportation, said the chairman of the Egyptian chambers union, Ahmed El Wakil.

The tourism summit will be headed by the minister of tourism, Hisham Zaazou, and Antonio Tajani in the presence of the leaders of the unions of tourism, hotels and ships and the presidents of the big European countries working in the field. The meetings will discuss an action plan for attracting European tourism and touristic investment focusing on the sustainable tourism and tourism development in Upper Egypt, clarified the head of tourism chambers union Ilhamy El-Zayat.

The chairperson of the Egyptian industries union, Galal El-Zorba, added that this summit is a part of the EU's programme to provide growth opportunities for the Egyptian economy, and to create jobs for Egyptians. He added the objective of the meeting is to put a roadmap for development, to open communication channels between companies on both sides of the Mediterranean, to create investment and commercial partnerships, and to maximise the benefit from the aid and finance mechanisms available for the Mediterranean area, which exceed €22 billion.

Continued on page 5

## Child's dream: a struggle to cope



The Child's Dream Centre helped Islam's condition to improve with therapy and attention to his needs, where as other medical services told his father to just increase the doses of medication

Adam Rostdy

Currencies	Buy	Sell
CHF	6.3257	6.6311
USD	6.09	6.12
EUR	7.6225	7.9905
GBP	9.5289	9.989
SAR	1.615	1.6353

Egyptian Stock Exchange		
	Closing	Daily Change
EGX 30	5,638.71	0.51%
EGX 70	513.59	0.22%
EGX 100	851.5	0.24%
EGX 20	6,481.59	0.75%

### Commentary

Judge Sang-Hyun Song writes:

Ten years ago, history was made. The International Criminal Court emerged as the centrepiece of a new system of international justice, carrying the hope of a future free of impunity and mass atrocities.

Page 6

Around 500 disabled children, living below the poverty line, cannot receive proper health care or rehabilitation. Child's Dream Centre was established to help them.

The rehabilitation centre for disabled children is unable to cover all the disability cases in the rural area, and a villager filing a lawsuit against the cen-

tre is just one of many obstacles the non-governmental centre is facing.

Daily News Egypt visited Kafr Hakim village, where Child's Dream Centre is established, to uncover the obstacles restricting the rehabilitation of disabled children.

Feature on page 7

أبرق ودر أصوات مصر

## Security forces in Sinai attacked

ATTACK COINCIDES WITH HIGH LEVEL US DELEGATION VISITS SINAI TO INSPECT SECURITY

Continued from page 1

The Central Security Forces camp in Rafah was previously attacked with machine guns, rocket launchers and other weapons after the 25 January 2011 uprising.

Security forces stationed in Rafah have raised their alert level in anticipation of attacks by unknown assailants who are opposed to the police and military presence in the border town.

The latest attack coincides with the visit of a high-level American delegation to North Sinai to inspect security, according to sources who wish to remain anonymous.

The delegation, made up of 10 people, is headed by Derek Colt, the assistant to the United States secretary of defense for international security affairs, and was accompanied by the communication spokesman of the Ministry of Defence, General Osama Abdelaziz. The delegation met with leaders of the Multinational Force and Observer (MFO) peacekeeping forces and inspected the peacekeepers and several border areas.

This is the delegation's second visit to North Sinai. The presidency has however denied any relation between the visit and the latest attack.

The delegation was protected by heavy security. It arrived in North Sinai on a US embassy aircraft which



Despite reinforcements from the army into the Sinai, security forces are frequently attacked by gunmen

landed in a military airport near Sheikh Zawid run by the MFO forces in Sinai.

Rafah residents meanwhile are demanding faster work on the con-

struction of a new police station. Work on the station has been suspended for months after the contractor handling it received death threats.

Military units are now securing the construction site perimeter, guarding the workers and incomplete site with an armoured personnel carrier, manned by an officer and 10 soldiers.

## Morsy pushed to prosecute those who cut communication

By Connor Molloy

The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI) is lobbying President Mohamed Morsy to hold to account those who cut off communication networks during the 25 January violence at the beginning of last year's revolution.

"Our organisation works for the right to have access to telephone and internet and we believe that a lack of that access was one of the main reasons for the high number of martyrs and injured on 25 January," said Rawda Ahmed CEO and lawyer at ANHRI. "They couldn't get in contact with ambulances or any other help. The government took advantage of the protesters who were there."

The letter focuses on two periods in late January when communication lines were turned off as Hosni Mubarak's government scrambled for a way to subdue the growing uprising in the centre of Cairo. ANHRI and others have pointed to this act as stoking the chaos that caused so many protesters to die.

Ahmed said those responsible have been allowed to avoid prosecution for 20 months now.

"We are now trying to get the president's name involved, especially because in all of his speeches he talks about the 'blood of the martyrs' and avenging their deaths," said Ahmed. "We wrote him a letter on 6 November, and in the coming days we await recognition. He doesn't have the space to say we didn't inform him."

ANHRI have worked for over a year with the protesters who suffered that day. The organisation sat down with

people who attended the protests and helped to draft a complaint that was then filed by each of the individuals. ANHRI also filed an additional grievance as an organisation. After these reports were filed the case was moved to a military court and no information has since been given to ANHRI.

Enad Mubarak, a human rights lawyer, confirmed that in April 2011 there was an administrative court order aimed at finding Ahmed Nazif, then Prime Minister, and Hosni Mubarak guilty of cutting communication.

"This was an administrative decision," said Mubarak. "It didn't include any investigations; if this letter [from ANHRI] is actually calling for investigations that would mean interrogating the ministers who attended a meeting the day the communications were cut. The prosecutor general would have to interrogate the minister of the interior, the minister of defence, the minister of communications, as well as the prime minister."

Mubarak said Morsy's position limits him from taking the case directly to the prosecution. "The president doesn't really have that authority. He could refer the letter to the Ministry of Justice and they would be able to open an investigation."

ANHRI is instead directing their appeals to President Morsy as supreme commander of the armed forces. In this role, they say, he can both pressure the military courts to be transparent, revealing the progress and results of their investigations thus far, and also "hire a new military prosecutor who has justice as his top priority and can move this case toward a resolution."

## Minister of transportation may resign

By Hend Kortam

The minister of transportation may resign over the recent deadly Fayoum train crash.

Mohamed Rashad Al-Mateeny told independent newspaper Tahrir that if investigations prove the deadly head-on train collision in Fayoum was caused by negligence, whether in labour or equipment, then he will consider himself responsible and resign.

He added the decision to resign is a personal one and he hadn't discussed it with Prime Minister Hesham Qandil yet.

Mohamed Abdel-Meguid, head of the operations room in the governorate of Fayoum, said investigations into Saturday's incident have already started. A technical committee formed by the National Railways Authority (NRA) will investigate the incident.

The train crash left three people dead and 43 injured. "Only four people remain hospitalised and are in stable conditions. The rest have been discharged," he said.

## Construction workers close power plant in Ain Sokhna

Minister of Electricity and Energy holds talks with workers

By Joel Gulhane and Hassan Ghonema

Workers at the construction site of a power station in Ain Sokhna have been striking since Saturday over the appointment of a large number of workers from Ismailia. The Minister of Electricity and Energy, Mahmoud Balba, held a meeting on Monday with representatives of the workers to try and resolve the strike.

The strike began as the workers are demanding that the ministry employ them with a fixed contract. The workers from the ministry are paid better than the workers employed by the construction companies.

Striking workers, chanting "employ us or kill us", have closed the site and have not allowed engineers to enter.

According to one striking worker, "the strike reached a climax when the decision was taken to employ work-



Workers at the construction site of a power station in Ain Sokhna maintain a picket line outside the site

ers from Ismailia without taking into account the demands of the people of Suez who are entitled to these jobs."

The East Delta Electricity Production Company (EDEPCO), a state

owned company is overseeing the construction of the site. The chairman of the Ain Sokhna branch of the company, Hamdy Ibrahim, said, "the striking workers want to work in the

company but we need workers with particular skills which we could not find in the local area." Ibrahim added "I expect the workers to go back to work tomorrow. The ministry will make a decision and the workers will have to accept it. Unfortunately I cannot employ everybody."

A statement published on the ministry's website expressed concern over the consequences of the strike were it to continue. It said, "such strikes could lead to the suspension of foreign companies' contracts and the departure of foreign experts working in Egypt will cause the project to fall behind schedule."

The statement also said when completed, "the plant will have a capacity of 1,300 megawatts and there are investments in the plant of up to EGP 10 billion. The first unit is scheduled to be operational before the summer of 2013 and the second by 2014."

## Injured revolutionaries attempt suicide

Protesters say they lost hope after being denied rights to compensation for injuries, Morsy and legal adviser accused of not recognising legitimate demands

By Fady Salah

Two men wounded during the 25 January Revolution attempted suicide on Sunday, after not receiving their promised welfare packages.

Abdallah Sayed Ahmed, injured during the Cabinet clashes, attempted suicide by drinking a bottle of detergent, while Ahmed Elsayed Ibrahim, injured in the eye during the Friday of Anger (28 January), set himself on fire before being rescued by other demonstrators. Both said they attempted suicide after losing hope of getting their rights.

Ahmed said two of the demonstrators met President Mohamed Morsy on Sunday, when he said he knew nothing about their sit-in or demands. He added that other demonstrators met Mohamed Fouad Gadallah, the president's legal adviser, said he will do nothing for them.

This comes as dozens of people wounded during the revolution entered the eighth day of a sit-in on Monday, inside the premises of the National Council for the Welfare of the Injured and the Families of Martyrs. Some entered their third day of hunger strike.



Abdallah Sayed Ahmed attempted suicide by drinking a bottle of detergent



Ahmed Elsayed Ibrahim, injured in the eye during the Friday of Anger, set himself on fire but was rescued by other demonstrators

The sit-in prevented the council's employees from doing their jobs.

Magdy Ahmed, also injured in the eye during the Friday of Anger, said the council did nothing for the families of the injured and the dead. He said many of them were treated harshly by the employees.

Ahmed said he received EGP 20,000 after he was injured. He said the money was some sort of a subsidy given to the wounded, but not an indemnity. He added that the government promised the wounded an indemnity of EGP 50,000, in addition to an apartment and a job in a gov-

ernmental institution, which he has not received.

Khaled Badawi, secretary general of the council, could not be reached for comment.

"I want to deliver a message to Sheikh Morsy, you said you would quit if you couldn't fulfil the de-

mands of the people. You said you would take care of the martyrs and injured. This is not a welfare council; it is a torture council. Leave your position and go back to the mosque," said Ahmed.

The six hunger strikers said they

were ready to continue their fast.

"We were injured trying to protect the rights of others, but others are not willing to help us. We will only leave this room when we receive our dues or when we are dead," said one.

Some of the demonstrators were injured during the Friday of Anger, while others were injured during the Mohamed Mahmoud Street incidents.

Sherif El-Masry, injured during the Friday of Anger, said they are holding the sit-in to achieve their legitimate demands, which include punishing those who injured them and killed others, compensation, and to be allowed to work by being excused from military service.

El-Masry said several demonstrators did not submit their documents to the military before they were wounded, and now that some of them have received jobs in governmental positions, they are not allowed to start work because they have not completed their military service.

"It is wrong to try to avoid military service, but when you have a family to feed, you are obliged to do that," El-Masry said.

## Constitution roundly rejected

Judges' club uphold decision to boycott referendum



Maher El-Beheiry, the Supreme Constitutional Court President, holds a press conference after the release of the draft constitution document (File photo)

By Ahmed Aboul Enein

Egypt's judges will boycott monitoring the constitutional referendum and go on an open-ended strike unless their demands for the draft are met.

The decision of the Judges' Club general assembly to boycott the referendum on the constitution is supported by most judges and not just those in the club, said spokesperson Mohamed Abdel Hady in a statement on Sunday.

The club held an emergency meeting on Thursday to discuss the Constituent Assembly's refusal to adopt the judges' suggested changes to the section of the constitution on the judiciary.

Members voted to boycott the referendum if the assembly does not allow the club's board and the Supreme Council of the Judiciary to draft the section themselves.

Abdel Hady's statement was in response to comments made by Minister of Justice Ahmed Mekki on Sunday.

Mekki said that the referendum on the constitution would be held on time and that Egypt's judges would monitor the referendum, despite the call of the board of the Judges' Club for them to boycott.

"It is not within the rights of the executive branch, represented by the minister of justice, to interfere in the decisions of the general assembly of Egypt's judges."

will have their membership revoked from the club, which acts as a quasi syndicate for judges.

The Judges' Club held an emergency meeting on Thursday with 6,852 judges in attendance including the complete membership of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary and the prosecutor general.

They voted to reject the judiciary section in the current draft constitution and called for it to be removed until it is amended.

**"It is not within the rights of the executive branch, represented by the minister of justice, to interfere in the decisions of the general assembly of Egypt's judges"**

The general assembly also recommended that the club's board, led by Chairman Ahmed Al-Zend in coordination with the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, be allowed to draft the section so that they may ensure the complete independence of the judiciary, so neither the executive or legislative branches may interfere with it.

The judges declared their refusal of any "meddling" with the prosecutor general or public prosecution's powers in the new constitution.

The members voted that if the Constituent Assembly were to reject the club board and Supreme Council of the Judiciary's draft, judges across Egypt would declare an open ended strike and suspend work in all courts, in addition to not monitoring the referendum or the parliamentary elections that will follow.

NGOs reject draft constitution



Around 220 NGOs have joined forces to reject the draft constitution and call for the removal of restrictions on civil society

By Hend Kortam

Around 220 NGOs have joined forces in the Civil Par Excellence campaign, which rejects the constitution and calls for the removal of restrictions on civil society.

When it was launched, the campaign had the support of 205 NGOs but Haggag Nayel, one of the coordinators of the campaign said on Monday, "I've just received signatures of 15 more organisations."

The campaign wants the regime to declare Egypt as a civil state, accommodating all cultures, religions, and races. They think the concept of citizenship should be the basis for obtaining rights and freedoms in the constitution. Nayel said the issue with the constitution is much larger than the use of the word Shari'a (Islamic law), the constitution is not representative of the people.

"The constitution doesn't represent society with all its classes and segments.... It differentiates between people based on ethnicity and religion," Nayel said. He described the constitution as a "secular constitution."

"It differentiates between the rich and the poor and infringes on the freedom of the judiciary, the press, the parties, unions and the civil society," he added.

"The only people who are pleased with the constitution are the ones who have put it together," he said. Nayel doesn't feel that the people writing the constitution are the most qualified for the job. "They were appointed based on percentages... rather than qualifications and competencies... For example they said, the Muslim Brotherhood will get 20 seats, the Salafis 10 and the liberals three."

"The constitution has no mention of the word 'human rights' or Egypt's commitment to human rights treaties," he added.

The campaign asks that the Constituent Assembly stop work until its fate is decided by the Supreme Constitutional Court, as a sign of respect to the law.

The campaign also called on the regime and the ruling party to stop their "policies of control and domination." It wants restructuring of the Ministry of Interior. It demanded the drafting of laws, which govern the right of society and the freedoms of the citizen without one coming at the expense of the other.

The campaign also calls for a law to govern civil society, which is based on international treaties and civil law.

The campaign was launched on 8 November and has not yet chosen an executive office but, "the campaign will hold a meeting on 17 November to choose the executive office for the campaign," said Sabry Maso'd, secretary of the campaign and head of the training and communication unit in the Arab Programme for Human Rights Activists (APHRA).

APHRA is responsible for gathering signatures of NGOs who would like to be a part of the campaign.

On 17 November, details for the activities and events of the campaign will be determined. "But the activities will be peaceful," Nayel said, adding that the activities could range from seminars and press releases to peaceful marches.

If the constitution is passed in its current form, the campaign pledges to urge people to vote "no" to the constitution, which will be put up for referendum after the assembly has finished drafting it.

Defence ministry rejects draft constitution



The Ministry of Defence rejected the draft constitution because of an article banning military trials for civilians despite public opposition to them

By Ahmed Aboul Enein

The Ministry of Defence sent its formal rejection of the constitution draft to the Constituent Assembly on Sunday, noting specifically its opposition to an article banning military trials for civilians.

The ministry's rejection, a memo signed by Chief of Military Justice Major General Medhat Ghazy, stated two reasons the ministry was opposed to the clause "no civilian may be tried before a military court" in the constitution.

The phrase, which is part of Article 62 in the freedoms section of the constitution, is redundant, argued Ghazy. He said the System of Governance Committee in the assembly initially drafted a similar clause in the section on the judiciary that read, "no civilian may be tried before a military court except in matters specified by the law."

The clause Ghazy refers to has since been removed from the draft. All articles on the military judiciary have been moved from the judiciary section of the draft to the section on the military, another reason the Ministry of Defence rejects the constitution draft.

The military judiciary should remain in the section on the judiciary and not be moved to the one on the military, argued Ghazy. He said the inclusion of the military judiciary alongside other judicial bodies has been "constitutional convention" since the 1923 constitution and that not doing so would be "against the concept of separation of powers."

The main reason the Ministry of Defence opposes Article 62, however, said Ghazy was that outright banning all military trials of civilians without providing for some exceptions removes 14 of the military judiciary's jurisdictions.

"It is unsuitable to have this phrase without providing for any exceptions

due to the impact it will have on the military judiciary's jurisdiction in matters of the security and safety of the armed forces, which are closely related to the country's national security," wrote Ghazy.

He added that the clause should either provide for exceptions that are to be regulated by the law, or have the actual exceptions all outlined in detail in the constitution itself.

Military courts and the military judiciary are outlined in Article 200 of the current draft. Since the matter is still unresolved, the draft contains two different versions of Article 200 and the assembly will vote to adopt one of them.

The first version leaves the actual structure and organisation of the military judiciary up to the regulations of the law but reiterates what Article 62 specifies about how military courts may only try military personnel and not civilians. Ghazy indicated in his memo that the Ministry of Defence rejects this version.

The other version adds that civilians may be tried in front of military courts in certain exceptional cases. Ghazy said that the Ministry of Defence rejects both these versions and the placement of the military judiciary with the section on the armed forces and national security.

He said the ministry demands the return to the original article drafted by the System of Governance Committee, the modification of Article 62 accordingly, and the placement of the military judiciary in the section about the judicial authority.

Over 12,000 civilians have been put on trial in front of military courts since the 25 January 2011 uprising and during the rule of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, many of whom were protesters demonstrating against military rule.

## Ministry of Interior reshuffled

Human rights organisations say there is no real change

By Luiz Sanchez

The largest reshuffle of the Ministry of Interior in years was made on Monday, the state news agency MENA reported.

Major Marwan Mustapha, ex-media relations assistant, was given the position of assistant to the minister for legal affairs. Major General Khalid Ghoraba, ex-assistant minister for security in Alexandria, will now be the assistant secretary for the social security sector.

Major General Osama Ismail was appointed the general director for Management and Administration and assistant to the minister of the Media Sector and Public Relations. General Saleh El-Masary was promoted to the position of assistant secretary to the Sinai region.

Haggag Nael, the Arab Program for Human Rights Activists (APHRA) director said, "the same officers and generals that committed torture before the revolution are still controlling the ministry, with the same policies and behaviour." Speaking from a recent personal experience, in which he says he was abused by the police trying to defend a client at a police station, Nael did not think President

Mohamed Morsi had the best interests of the nation at heart. "There is no change and no real political will for reform. I have warned Morsi and Ahmed Gamal El-Din if they do not change the way the ministry works the people will rise up again."

Karim Ennarah researcher in the general justice unit at the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) dismissed the reshuffling as a cosmetic change. "The reshuffling is irrelevant as far as reforms go," he said, adding that the ministry reshuffle has not been done with any intention of reform. Ennarah pointed to Ghoraba's promotion as an example. "The fact that he has been allowed to keep his position and receive a promotion is a reminder that the ministry is run as an independent organisation without the faintest shadows of reform."

Currently, Ennarah said, "the Ministry of Interior and the security apparatus have stalled security reforms since the beginning of the revolution." He says the ministry still operates in an environment of impunity and it will be a long struggle to reform the ministry.



Despite reshuffling personnel at the Ministry of Interior several human rights groups are concerned that real change is still a distant prospect

"There is a lot of anger regarding the police," Ennarah explained. "Specifically the deteriorating human rights record and increasing cases of police violence, and that has generated a lot of pressure from political groups."

"For other people they are concerned about security and do not see any improvement in the competency of the police and the ministry," Ennarah said. He believes there are people within the president's circles that are genuinely interested in reform "but it is not the priority in their agenda. They are simply afraid of losing control if they shake things up too much within the ministry because the situation is so fluid."

There were further appointments made, which included the appointment of Major General Abubakar Abdul Karim to the position of assistant minister for Social Networking. Major General Hussein Fikry Osman was appointed secretary for the human rights sector and General Mohammed Attar to assistant secretary for the administrative affairs sector. Major General Mohammed Ibrahim was promoted to assistant minister of the prison sector.

## Israel weighs harsh military action against Gaza

By Sara Hussein (AFP)

Jerusalem - After 24 hours of violence on its Gaza border, the second such flare-up in less than a month, Israeli officials and commentators on Monday weighed the prospect of a major new military operation against Gaza.

A truce floated overnight appeared to be unravelling Monday morning, with militants firing another dozen or so rockets over the border, and the military saying it had carried out several overnight air strikes on targets in northern and southern Gaza.

The violence has prompted tough talk from Israeli leaders, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warning the Jewish state was "prepared to escalate" its response, and Defence Minister Ehud Barak saying Gaza rulers Hamas would pay a "heavy price."

Commentators said the warnings reflected discussions within the gov-

ernment about how to respond to the violence, with options ranging from a large-scale military operation to increased air strikes and the targeting of top militants under consideration.

"In his statements in the cabinet meeting [on Sunday], Netanyahu tried in effect to prepare public opinion for the possibility of such an operation," Yossi Yehoshua wrote in the *Yediot Acharonot* daily.

"He was also shown plans that were prepared... in advance of a possible operation," he added, saying Netanyahu was to meet foreign ambassadors on Monday in a bid to build an international consensus for any course of military action.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior Israeli official confirmed Netanyahu was meeting the ambassadors "to prepare them for the possibility that, if need be, Israel will act in a more robust manner to protect our people."



An Israeli policeman inspects damages at a house that was hit by a rocket launched from the Gaza Strip in the southern city of Netivot

Israeli officials, current and former, said a tougher military response was necessary, though few seemed in favour of a large-scale operation similar to Operation Cast Lead, the devastating 22-day operation in Gaza which

began at the end of December 2008.

Speaking to army radio, former military chief of staff Dan Halutz said it was time to "renew the targeted killings of Hamas's senior leadership."

"Before embarking on a broad mili-

tary operation you need to try other things," he said, recommending "targeted killing and attacking all assets belonging to Hamas."

And former national security adviser Giora Eiland suggested halting imports to Gaza, and cutting its electricity supply.

He agreed that military action should target assets used by Gaza's Hamas rulers, but not necessarily the Islamist movement's leadership.

"There is a state, it has a government," he told army radio. "It is responsible for what happens in its territory... Israel should react."

Netanyahu's confidant and fellow Likud party member Ofir Akunis told public he had "no doubt that a comprehensive military operation is just a matter of time."

But *Yediot Acharonot* analyst Alex Fishman said it was "doubtful whether the political echelon has any interest in becoming entangled now... with a ground war."

"The dilemma... is how to create a limited military operation, so as not to lead Hamas to a situation in which it feels that it is losing its hold on power."

"The targets should be government and infrastructure," he added. "We should avoid targeting the political echelon."

Fishman said Washington had "given the green light" for Israeli action, noting that US ambassador Dan Shapiro had on Sunday reiterated support for Israel's right to self-defence.

"These are code words that mean: We will accept an Israeli operation in Gaza," he said.

Writing in the Israeli *HaYom* free-sheet, which is considered close to Netanyahu, commentator Yoav Limor said the current plan would involve "a number of response stages."

"If Israeli fire encounters Palestinian fire, the IDF [Israel Defence Forces] will go up to the next stage. If Israeli fire encounters Palestinian restraint, quiet will be achieved."

## Gaddafi's ex-PM faces Libyan judges for first time

By Dominique Soguel (AFP)

Tripoli - Muammar Gaddafi's last prime minister became the highest ranking former regime official to go before Libyan judges, in a brief but sullen court appearance on Monday.

Dressed in a traditional white robe and brown vest, Al-Baghdadi Al-Mahmudi sat in stony silence within a caged section of the Tripoli criminal court, where figures of the toppled Gaddafi regime are facing justice.

The judge did not read out the charges but Taha Baara, the spokesman for the prosecutor general, said Mahmudi "is accused of committing prejudicial acts against the security of the state and financial crimes."

Two other defendants being tried along with Mahmudi were not brought to court, triggering

protests from the defence team, which also requested more time to study the case.

"It is a big file. I need more time in order to get myself ready for the defence," lawyer Ali Dabba told AFP.

The session lasted about 10 minutes before the trial was adjourned until 10 December at the request of both the defence and the prosecution.

Mahmudi fled to neighbouring Tunisia in September last year shortly after rebels seized Tripoli and effectively put an end to more than four decades of iron-fisted Gaddafi rule.

He was extradited to Libya to face justice on 24 June, despite warnings from rights groups that he could face the death penalty.

In July, Mahmudi protested his innocence to journalists visiting his prison.

"I am not guilty, not guilty, not guilty," he told reporters during a visit organised by the authorities in an apparent bid to quash rumours he had been tortured.

"I am ready to be tried by the Libyan people. I am sure of myself and of my innocence," he said at the time.

Mahmudi had appealed his extradition from Tunisia on the grounds he had applied for refugee status and could face execution if sent back to Libya.

Along with Seif Al-Islam, the toppled dictator's most high-profile son, Mahmudi is one of the few remaining keepers of the many state secrets under Gaddafi, who was killed on 20 October last year.

A physician by training, Mahmudi was loyal to Gaddafi until the end,

serving as premier from 2006 up to the final days of his regime.

From 5 March 2006 through the war of 2011, Mahmudi was the secretary of the General People's Committee, the equivalent of the country's prime minister.

He held a series of government posts before that, including health minister from 1992 to 1997, as well as shorter stints as minister of human resources and minister of infrastructure.

Mahmudi oversaw vast fortunes in the oil-rich nation as chairman of the Libya Investment Authority, one of the largest sovereign wealth funds in the world which was created in 2007 to restructure state enterprises.

He also oversaw the Libyan Oil and Gas Council which was created in 2006.

## Afghan massacre "too big for lone US soldier"

By Andrew Winner (AFP)

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington - A lone shooter could not have committed the massacre of 16 Afghan villagers blamed on a US soldier, a witness testified late Sunday, stressing the scale of the atrocity.

The defence witness said the extent of the carnage, wrought overnight in two villages near a US army base in March, was too great for it to be the work of only Sergeant Robert Bales, facing a possible court martial.

"One person cannot do this work," said Khudai Dad of the Afghan Uniform Police, who searched the scene of the killings the next morning. "One person doesn't have the courage to go from one village to another in the night."

Bales, balding with close-cropped blond hair and wearing standard army combat uniform, showed no emotion as he watched the testimony on a small monitor placed in front of him.

He faces 16 counts of murder, six of attempted murder, seven of assault, two of using drugs and one of drinking alcohol. Seventeen of the 22 victims were women or children and almost all were shot in the head.

The 39-year-old allegedly left his base in the Panjwayi district of Kandahar province on the night of 11 March to commit the killings, which included nine children. He allegedly set several of their bodies on fire.



In this picture from March, an Afghan villager points to a spot where a family was shot, allegedly by US soldier Staff Sergeant Robert Bales (File photo)

Prosecutors at a pre-trial hearing, held on an army base south of Seattle, have alleged that Bales left the base twice to carry out the killings, returning in between and even telling a colleague what he had done.

For the last three nights it has heard testimony by video link from southern Afghanistan; held at night to allow witnesses to give their accounts during the daytime.

Dad, the last witness to appear by video link, said he believed the two attacks must have happened simultaneously.

He said he went first to the US base, then to what was described as

struck by the impression that more than one person would have had to be involved.

"I was thinking this is not a thing that one person can do," he said, while adding that he believed the attacks occurred at the same time as each other, somewhere between midnight and 3am.

Bales was flown from Afghanistan back to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas shortly after the alleged massacre, before being moved back to Fort Lewis-McChord recently, home base of the US 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment.

His wife and two children were moved to the sprawling military base south of Seattle for their security, and to shield them from the glare of the media in the wake of the killings.

Before the hearings, Bales' wife reiterated her belief that he was innocent, saying he did not remember the shootings and was shocked when he was told details of the allegations against him.

The massacre is thought to be the deadliest crime by a US soldier during the decade-long conflict and tested Washington and Kabul's already tense relationship to the limit.

The so-called Article 32 pre-trial hearing, to decide whether Bales should face a court martial, started on 5 November and is expected to wrap up this week, in theory on Tuesday.

## Pakistan plans 'Malala schools' for poor children

Islamabad (AFP) - Pakistan plans to honour Malala Yousafzai, the school-girl education campaigner shot by the Taliban, by opening special schools in her name for poor children, officials said on Monday.

The "Malala Schools" are planned for 16 areas around Pakistan affected by conflict or natural disasters, Nafisa Shah, chairwoman of the National Commission for Human Development, told AFP.

The aim is to give children in these areas, who often have little in the way of educational opportunities, a chance to go to school, Shah said, but added that money for the scheme had not yet been found.

"We have identified the places and [will] soon launch a fundraising scheme to generate finances for these schools," Shah said.

Each school will have two classrooms, a veranda, a toilet and space

to extend the building if needed. It will cost 800,000 rupees (\$8,220) and provide basic education to both girls and boys.

The Pakistani government has announced a plan to pay poor families to send their children to school and UN education envoy Gordon Brown held talks in Islamabad at the weekend to begin a plan to bring more than five million out-of-school youngsters into the classroom.

Taliban hitmen shot Malala on her school bus a month ago in Mingora in Pakistan's northwestern Swat Valley in a cold-blooded murder attempt for the "crime" of campaigning for girls' rights to go to school.

Miraculously the 15 year-old survived and her courage has won the hearts of millions around the world, prompting the United Nations to declare last Saturday a "global day of action" for her.

## Kuwait opposition leader seeks end to travel ban



Kuwaiti former opposition MP Mussallam al-Barrak (centre) arrives to attend a protest outside the National Assembly in Kuwait City

Kuwait City (AFP) - Prominent Kuwaiti opposition leader and former MP Mussallam Al-Barrak called on the lower court Monday to allow him to travel for medical treatment, his lawyer Thamer Al-Jadaei said.

The request came during the first hearing in Barrak's trial where he faces charges of making public remarks deemed offensive to the Gulf state's ruler, who under Kuwaiti law cannot be criticised.

"It was a procedural hearing. We requested a delay to read the case documents and the court set the next session for 10 December," Jadaei told AFP.

He said the defence team would submit medical reports on Barrak's health within two days and that they expected a quick response.

Barrak was arrested on 29 October and remanded to 10 days in custody, sparking violent demonstrations in which more than 30 protesters and several policemen were injured.

He was eventually freed on 1 November on bail of \$35,700.

Jadaei said Barrak was charged with insulting the emir and undermining his status. He faces a jail sentence of up to five years if convicted.

Three other former opposition MPs, Falah Al-Sawwagh, Khaled Al-Tahas and Bader Al-Daham, are to appear in court on Tuesday on similar charges. They were detained for five days last month before being freed on bail of \$17,800.

A fifth former lawmaker is to appear in court on 26 November while a sixth ex-MP is facing similar charges but no date has been set for his trial.

Kuwait's Islamist, nationalist and liberal opposition has been staging protests against a decision by the emir to amend the electoral law.

The opposition claims that the change is not legal and is aimed at electing a rubber stamp parliament when voters go to polls on 1 December.

Three major protests in the past three weeks have turned violent but a massive rally on Sunday passed peacefully. The opposition has said it will continue protesting until the law is repealed.

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## Oil demand to surge as US becomes biggest producer



AFP Photo

North America's role in the global energy trade is changing as US oil and gas production grows

Paris (AFP) - The global thirst for oil will grow in the next two decades driven by demand from emerging nations and the rise of the United States as the world's top producer, the International Energy Agency said on Monday.

Oil demand will increase by 14 per cent between now and 2035 to reach 99.7 million barrels a day, the OECD-linked energy watchdog said in its annual assessment of the energy markets of tomorrow.

This was 700,000 bpd more than the IEA forecast a year ago and signals that the world is still figuring out how to put the global energy system on a more sustainable path, the IEA said.

Oil prices will rise too, it said, reaching \$125 per barrel by 2035 (\$215 in nominal terms), from about \$107 this year, and instead of the \$120 forecast earlier.

"Growth in oil consumption in emerging economies, particularly for transport in China, India and the Middle East, more than outweighs reduced demand in the OECD, pushing oil use steadily higher...," the IEA said.

Transportation "is responsible for almost 40 per cent of the increase in

global oil demand," the agency said with oil use for trucks, mainly diesel, increasing much faster than that for passenger vehicles.

In its new scenario, the IEA believes the US will become the world's top oil producer by 2020, overtaking Saudi Arabia until the mid 2020s.

"The recent rebound in US oil and gas production... is spurring economic activity... and steadily changing the role of North America in global energy trade," the agency said.

Up until 2035, "the United States, which currently imports around 20 per cent of its total energy needs, becomes all but self-sufficient in net terms, a dramatic reversal of the trend seen in most other energy importing countries."

The US energy market is going through radical upheaval sparked by the development of new technologies, especially the extraction of shale gas through a controversial process called "fracking" that has been limited or banned in other countries.

On the supply side, the IEA sees a decade long decline in the dominance of OPEC on the back of unconventional production from non-cartel countries.

Non-OPEC oil supply should reach 53 million bpd after 2015 (from 49 mbpd in 2011) in a supply rise that should end in 2025 when OPEC production will again dominate.

"Output from OPEC countries rises, particularly after 2020, bringing the OPEC share in global production from its current 42 per cent up towards 50 percent by 2035," the IEA said.

The key to OPEC output over the coming decades is Iraq, the IEA said, which could make the "largest contribution by far to global oil supply growth."

The IEA believes that if political stability is achieved, Iraq will become "a key supplier to fast-growing Asian markets, mainly China, and the second-largest global exporter by the 2030s, overtaking Russia."

"Without this supply growth from Iraq, oil markets would be set for difficult times, characterised by prices that are almost \$15 higher" than the level tabled in the outlook.

Natural gas demand worldwide will grow in any scenario, though the outlook varies per region, the IEA said.

## €82 million of European investments

Continued from page 1

The president of the investors' associations union, Mohamed Farid Khamis, said the summit is in line with various activities that aim to create alliances between Egyptian business unions to attract investments, promote exports and to innovate in the industrial and

services sectors. These activities include participation in international exhibitions and conferences and the connectivity between Egyptian and European companies targeting joint industrialisation or common action to enter regional markets, as well as many meetings aiming to resolve the problems of Egyptian and foreign investors

and exporters and opening foreign markets for Egyptian products.

Promoting joint investments, technology transfer, human resources development, attracting European tourism mechanisms and megaprojects in infrastructure are on the agenda of the meetings, said the secretary general of the summit Alaa Ezz.

## EGPC: Egypt sees slight bump in hydrocarbon production figures

October's production figures of crude oil and condensate witnessed a slight 1.3 per cent bump compared to September's numbers, according to a report by the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC).

The increase is attributed to adding the output of several new developmental wells, situated in the Western Desert, to the overall production figures. Collectively, the new wells produce 14,000 barrels per day. Daily domestic consumption of gasoline has increased by two per cent, reaching 23.7 million litres, while diesel fuel consumption rose to 45 million litres per day.

Average daily consumption of (Liquified Petroleum Gas) LPG cylinders reached 796 thousand per day, currently being produced by 50 factories. The current amount would fulfil the demand of 13.5 million households, with an average of 1.5 cylinders per month per household.

A total of eight new LPG distribution centres have been brought online, located in the provinces of Cairo, Giza, Gharbeya, Assiut, Sohag and Minya, bringing the total distribution centres to 2,897, in addition to 182 centres that belong to Botagasco.

Consumption of natural gas also increased by 2.3 per cent, standing at 7.2

million tonnes of oil equivalent. Electricity consumption amounted to 4 million tonnes, representing a four per cent rise. Natural gas has been extended to additional 75,447 households, bringing it to a total number of 5.1 million homes.

The report indicated that Al-Sukkary's gold mine produced about 1.4 tonnes of gold last month, the royalty tax of which was EGP 2.3 million. During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, public sector petroleum companies have generated revenues totalling EGP 14.7 billion, a nine per cent increase from fiscal year 2010-2011. Net profit before tax amounted to EGP 1.765 billion, 515 million of which were paid in taxes.

## A breakthrough in the treatment of advanced liver cancer

The Egyptian Society for Liver Cancer (ESLC) held a press conference revealing highlights of its third annual meeting 'Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Current and Future Prospects'. Participants discussed advances in liver cancer treatment, the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide, emphasized updates in targeted therapy offering for the first time evidence-based survival improvement and shed light on treatment guidelines.

"The burden of HCC has risen

alarmingly in Egypt; incidence has

more than doubled over the past 12

years from almost 4% of total can-

cer cases in 1993 to 8.5% in 2005,"

said Dr Ashraf Omar, Professor of

Gastroenterology, Cairo University,

ESLC Secretary General and Con-

ference President. "HCC in Egypt

affects between 5 and 7 cases per

100,000 annually with a mortality

rate of 6 per 100,000 reflecting a

high disease fatality. Primary risk

factors include hepatitis C, accounting

for a large percentage of liver cancer

cases, hepatitis B, dietary aflatoxin

exposure, and chronic alcohol con-

sumption."

Treatment options for liver can-

cer depend on the stage of the

disease, liver functions and the pa-

tient's overall condition. In general,

treatment options include surgery,

radiology, cancer treatments and

percutaneous ethanol injections.

"The discovery of RAF Kinase

proteins, present in 60% - 80% of

HCC cases, and their role in prompt-

ing tumor cells to grow or helping

new blood vessels is a treat-

ment breakthrough," said Dr Hamdy

Abdel Azim, Professor and Head of

Oncology Department, Cairo Uni-

versity. "For the first time we have

unequivocal evidence of a treatment

that significantly improves advanced

HCC patient survival. Sorafenib, a

targeted therapy known as a kinase

inhibitor helps stop the growth of

cancer cells. Approved by the FDA

and the EU as the first effective HCC

treatment, over 600 late-stage HCC

patients participated in the SHARP

trial revealing that sorafenib increases

one-year survival rates by 31% com-

pared to the placebo group. Sorafenib

also halted disease progress in 42%

of cases. ESLC is currently working

to raise these rates by undertaking a

comprehensive study that is the first

of its kind worldwide, the results of

which are yet to be revealed."

Dr Ahmed El Dorry, Professor of

Interventional Radiology, Ain Shams

University and ESLC President,

highlighted another development in

treatment options, "ESLC success-

fully introduced radio embolization

in Egypt, a treatment in which radio-

active particles are delivered to a tu-

mor through the bloodstream emit-

ting radiation that kills cancer cells.

To further boost the efficacy of radio

embolization, latest protocols com-

bine it with targeted oral therapy."

Elaborating on the importance of

treatment guidelines, Dr Mohamed

Aly Ezz El Arab, Head of the Cancer

Treatment Unit at the National Liver

Institute and ESLC Treasurer, said "Top

liver experts participated in two ESLC

conferences in 2011 to develop the

Egyptian guidelines for the treatment of

primary liver cancer. Aligned with global

standards and taking into account local

factors, the guidelines tackle means of

prevention, early detection and diagno-

sis, and staging thereby recommending

the appropriate treatment protocol

whether by surgical intervention, ra-

diation or liver therapies."

"Surgery remains the most effec-

tive treatment option for HCC pa-

tients," said Dr Mahmoud El Meteiny,

Director of the Organ Transpla-

ntion Unit, Ain Shams University. "The

past 10 years witnessed tremendous

progress in HCC diagnosis and sur-

gical treatment. In line with the Milan

criteria for selecting liver transplan-

ation patients, average four-year

cure rates range from 75% to 80%."

Dr Gamal Esmat, Professor of

Gastroenterology and Liver Dis-

eases, Cairo University and Head

of the National Committee for the

Control of Viral Hepatitis shared the

committee's efforts to eradicate vi-

ral hepatitis. "Preventing the spread

of infection is the foundation of the

Committee's efforts to eradicate

hepatitis C and B, two main causes

of liver cancer. Early detection and

treatment are essential to prevent

the disease from progressing to cir-

rosis and liver tumors. Over the

past five years, the National Com-

mittee made substantial strides to-

ward achieving its mission; 23 treat-

ment centers were inaugurated

nationwide and more than 200,000

patients were treated achieving cure

rates in line with global estimates."

## Daily EGX30 index performance

Company Name	Reuters Code	Sector	Last Price	Close Price	Returns		Daily Performance		Turn Over (EGP Mill.)

## COMMENTARY

**Disclaimer:** Commentaries published by Daily News Egypt do not reflect the position of the paper, but the independent opinions of their authors.

## Have faith, son!

After reading my latest column, my 12 year old son emerged from his room with a frustrated look in his eyes, asking "is there nothing good about Egypt that you can write about?" The question was like a slap in the face. I suddenly realised that I have been consumed by my anger at the state we are in, consumed by the frustration of post-revolution events. The disappointment that followed a time of being so close to the fantasy of rebuilding a once-great country hand-in-hand with my fellow Egyptians.

At the age of ten, my son witnessed the revolution and what it had done. To him, to me, and to everyone he knows. Suddenly, a little boy who was surrounded by western culture, woke up to his own. For the first time in his young years, he admired his countrymen and was proud to belong to those people who were spoken of on every TV channel, every newspaper and every world leader's speech.

All his family were pro-revolution, no matter how different they were. They stood united in Tahrir. His perception changed. My perception changed as well.

I had lost faith in the Egyptian people and I had lost faith in myself. Over years and years of reading the news and the books and the columns of everyone who dared hold a pen, I felt that words were in vain, and no action was possible. I believed that we

were incapable of rising up, incapable of greatness. Then 25 January came along, and in my heart I apologised to every Egyptian I had wronged by my disbelief.

I do not intend to make the same mistake twice. I will have faith in my fellow Egyptians, I will take in my stride those who humiliate us by their mere existence. I will swallow the disgrace they are bringing to our freedom square, because there is hope yet in this country. There is hope because those who "do" are more than those who "speak." If the state is not doing its job, is not caring for its sick and needy, Egyptians will do that instead until further notice. They were doing this anyway during the Mubarak era, and they continue under the Brotherhood one.

I will put my faith in the poor taxi driver who gives money to a beggar. I will put my faith in the truck driver who clears the road for me to pass. The sweet old man who had the thought of congratulating our European Arts Editor for the Coptic Pope election (!). The garbage collector who lifts as much garbage as humanly possible. The governmental school doctor who took the time to examine the kids and detect their illness early on. The enormous number of doctors who treat patients for free and travel to rural areas to do surgeries. The microbus driver who flickers the light to warn us



RANA ALLAM

of the upcoming road accident. I will trust my people.

Those who think that they can beat us and force us into their set of beliefs are always welcome to try. They just need to remember that almost every empire and great country in the world has tried before, and we remained the same. This country has been colonised for almost all of its history, and yet we remain unaffected. The Hyksos, the Hittites, the Greeks, the Romans, the French, the British and the Turks were here and left. Egyptians were exposed to Judaism, Christianity and Sunni and Shi'a Islam... and the Egyptian man remained as spiritual as his Pharaonic ancestors.

We have survived folly after folly, and we will survive this one.

Have faith, son!

r.allam@thedailynewseypt.com

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## On the ICC's Birthday: Give the Gift of Hope

Ten years ago, history was made. On 1 July 2002, the International Criminal Court (ICC) emerged as the centrepiece of a new system of international justice, carrying the hope of a future free of impunity and mass atrocities. To turn this hope into a firm reality, the ICC needs the support of nations everywhere.

In 1950, war broke out in my home country, Korea. For three months, during the battle for Seoul city, my family was hiding in a hot and humid underground bunker. At nine years old, I had to walk 16 km every day to find food and to bring it back to the bunker. As bombs fell from the sky, I ran for cover, dropping the groceries I held in my arms. I will never forget walking past the hundreds of dead bodies lying on the streets. To this day, I can still smell the horrible stench of the corpses decomposing in the blistering heat.

Sixty years later, in my capacity as President of the ICC, I met with victims in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Some were former child soldiers grappling to rebuild their lives. Some had suffered sexual violence. Others were missing arms or legs, or lips or ears, which had been intentionally cut off. I asked myself: how can such cruelty be committed in the 21st century? Does humanity ever learn?

Unfortunately, crimes against humanity and other mass atrocities continue to occur. These crimes tear societies apart and leave scars that take generations to heal. Such acts should not and must not go unpunished. Justice needs to prevail if we wish to put an end to such crimes one day.

This is the hope that the International Criminal Court embodies. It arose from the determination of people on all continents to put a stop to monstrosities that have

poisoned our planet for too long. To prevent mass violence and genocide, our response must be global and unified. We must summon the hopes and commitments of new generations around the world. We need wide-ranging, diverse and vocal support from all countries to generate the vigilance that makes the rule of law strong and prevents such heinous crimes.

For all those who seek a lasting peace and a safe future for the humankind, the ICC is a natural avenue. Ratifying the Rome Statute is a powerful demonstration of a State's commitment to peace, justice and the rule of law.

The ICC currently has 121 States Parties, and many more are actively considering joining this evolving system of international criminal justice. Every country that ratifies the Rome Statute adds another brick to a wall that protects future generations from unspeakable atrocities.

The ICC is not a substitute for national courts, prosecutors or police. Under the Rome Statute, States and their national jurisdictions retain the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute atrocity crimes. But if that is not possible for any reason, the ICC is there to help, as a safety net.

After ratification of the Rome Statute, anyone intending to commit genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes on your territory would risk prosecution by the ICC and arrest in any of the 121 States Parties. In this way, the Rome Statute offers important legal protection to each State Party's population.

Membership in the ICC can be a powerful deterrent against the worst atrocities. Recently, a government minister from one of the States Parties told me that the prospect of ICC intervention was a crucial factor that helped prevent large-scale violence during the country's elections. The Rome Statute system of jus-



SONG SANG-HYUN

tice is not only about punishment; it is also about helping communities and empowering victims. For the first time in the history of international criminal justice, victims have the opportunity to apply for reparations and to participate in proceedings with the help of legal representatives. The Trust Fund for Victims created by the Rome Statute is assisting more than 80,000 victims, providing reproductive health services, vocational training, trauma-based counselling, reconciliation workshops, reconstructive surgery and more.

I invite all nations to make justice universally accessible for victims of the gravest crimes. Tomorrow, on 14 November 2012, the ICC's member states will gather in The Hague, Netherlands, for their annual meeting, to take important decisions concerning the ICC as well to renew their determination to end impunity. Every year, the family of ICC nations grows. Your country has a place in it, too.

**Song Sang-Hyun** is a South Korean lawyer, and the President of the International Criminal Court. He taught as a professor of law at Seoul National University Law School and a number of other law schools. Song was re-elected President of the Court on 11 March 2012 for a second three year tenure.

## The rights of the martyrs

As the first anniversary of the clashes of Mohamed Mahmoud approaches, my social media timelines are bombarded with the images of the martyrs who died there and how we should never forget until we get back their rights. As the pictures and the names keep rolling in, it becomes impossible to distinguish the faces and the names anymore, and all that you are left with is a blurry memory and a sense of helplessness and guilt for being alive and unable to get their rights back. You are then left with two questions: 1) how do we get the rights of the martyrs back and, more importantly, 2) what does that even mean?

When revolutionaries talk about it, it's placed in the following context: desire for justice for those who died, a quest for revenge and accountability against those who killed them. However, nobody wants to publicly admit that both are impossible at this point. Judicial justice would require having real investigations into the conditions of their deaths from the day they died, which didn't happen, and would also require non-corrupt police and judicial institutions to transact this justice, which we don't have either, and it doesn't seem like we will have any time soon, since we haven't made any real efforts in that area for the past year and a half. And once you reconcile those two realisations, you are then hit with the third: in the context of the revolution, there is really no such thing as the rights of, or justice for, the martyrs.

When we took to the streets in 18 days or in the subsequent events of the revolution, we knew that we were placing ourselves in the face of mortal danger; and we had implicitly reconciled ourselves with the fact that we might die for the cause of getting rid of Mubarak/military rule. We were soldiers in a war, not looking for martyrdom but knew that death was always a possibility with the regime we are dealing with. And we were also OK with that, if our death was the price that needed to be paid for a better Egypt: one with functional institutions, better governance, and a future. The



MAHMOUD SALEM

time: they didn't have the desire, capacity, knowledge or experience to rule or build institutions; they just wanted to stay as the opposition. If you think I am too harsh, consider this: they are the same people who told us to vote for Morsi, a president whose values and goals have nothing to do with us or theirs, so we can oppose him later, and are now opposing him. Joy.

The martyrs wanted accountability, not just for their deaths, but for those who die daily due to our governments' ineptitude. They wanted justice, not just over their murder, but for every single Egyptian who would survive them. They wanted not to be forgotten, but not as our fallen comrades, but as the price we had to pay for our complacency towards tyranny and corruption. The martyrs died for a better Egypt, one that they entrusted us to build and wanted their memory to fuel our desire to do so, and we didn't. And we did, had we done the work, built the state we wanted, we could've had a shot to actually bring justice to their killers, instead of simply demanding it. The battle to bring justice to them is a symptom of a disease, not the disease itself, and we occupied ourselves with the symptoms instead of treating the disease. We are not responsible for their deaths, we didn't kill them, but we did nothing real to bring true justice to them, and that is our guilt. That's what we have to live with.

**Mahmoud Salem** is a political activist, writer, and social media consultant. [www.sandmonkey.org](http://www.sandmonkey.org)

## REBEL ECONOMY WRAP

## The government's "fix-all" economic proposal, retrieving corrupt money

The government has proposed tax changes and energy subsidy reforms to cut a budget deficit running at around 11 per cent of gross domestic product, Reuters reported in a broad story outlining the austerity measures.

An IMF team is in Cairo to negotiate a \$4.8 billion finance package for Egypt. Talks are scheduled to end on 14 November. Some of the key details are as follows and mostly concern the biggest weight on the economy, ie energy subsidies:

- total elimination of the 95 octane petrol subsidy, a step that will be officially announced this week;

- raising the price of natural gas to homes, which will come into effect next month. The price increase would be "tiny," officials have said;

- the government has delayed a programme to use smart cards to distribute canisters of cooking gas, or butagas, by several months to ensure the system works properly;

- the government would not touch the price of subsidised diesel; and

- the government had drafted a law to raise the sales tax on both commodities and services from 10 to 11 per cent. That includes tax on telephone services, and sales tax on other goods such as cars, cigarettes and tobacco, beer and alcoholic drinks, non-alcoholic beer, soft

drinks, coffee beans, water-resistant cement and reinforced steel.

All these measures have already taken a long time to enforce, so it's lucky Egypt's lenders are putting up cash support.

The government said on Sunday it had received a third tranche of \$500 million from Qatar, according to the same Reuters story; part of a \$2 billion loan secured in August to help stave off a financial crisis and which Qatar is depositing at Egypt's central bank.

The state news agency MENA quoted Finance Minister Momtaz El-Saeed as saying the third tranche of the loan arrived on 30 October and that the last tranche was expected to arrive "soon" but did not give an exact date.

...  
But if donors fail to show up Egypt can rely on the thorough corruption investigators to retrieve billions of dollars and deposit in President Mohamed Morsi's special "renaissance" account (into which generous citizens can also donate).

Egypt has recovered around \$1.8 billion in funds and lands corruptly appropriated by Mubarak-era figures, Ahram Online reports.

The only other detail in the report is that governmental authorities are working on collecting up to around



\$9 billion from specific persons associated with the former regime and who have been found guilty of corruption.

The report, which is quite fuzzy on details, does highlight an important fact: Mubarak and his cronies were not as rich as initially thought. In fact, to insist that the former president and his family are worth at least \$70 billion only serves to glorify a regime whose biggest failing was to neglect rather than shrewdly steal mountains of cash.

**Farah** is a business journalist and founder of Rebel Economy, a blog focused on how regional economies are rebuilding after the Arab Spring.



## A struggle to cope

By Adham Roshdy

"I wish that one day my son will walk," said Om Mahmoud, mother of a disabled child.

In the village of Kafr Hakim some parents are unable to provide proper treatment and rehabilitation for their disabled children. A new initiative has offers support and care to the villagers and was surprised to find the population of disabled children was larger than expected.

A centre was established in the village to take care of the disabled children, and empower the parents enduring financial, as well as emotional stress. Unfortunately, the centre has been facing several obstacles in providing its services to the children, which threatens the centre's existence and the rehabilitation of the children.

Child's Dream Centre for Disabled Children provides free-of-charge rehabilitation services to the children of Kafr Hakim and the surrounding area, through life-skills development, speech therapy, psychology and physiotherapy. Kamel Hamam, director of the centre, established Child's Dream just outside Kafr Hakim in March 2011 in order to provide appropriate care and rehabilitation services for the impoverished disabled children in the area, around half of whom are orphans. When the initiative was first announced, the centre identified around eight disabled children in the village and provided transportation for them to the centre.

The staff quickly identified more cases in the area (at least 500 children), so decided to relocate to the village, rather than transporting the children to the centre, outside of town. Haj Mustafa Abu Al-Gheit Kelany donated the basement of his house, an area of 170 square metres. Unable to afford tiling the cement floor, second-hand carpet was used instead. They built wooden walls, dividing the basement's space into rooms, and covered them with carpet to save on the cost of painting.

Initially the centre recruited four specialists in its skills development unit, later adding the speech therapy and psychology units. A neighbour donated the floor of a neighbouring building, to be used as a physiotherapy unit. The centre now has 22 rooms for rehabilitating disabled children, besides the physiotherapy unit.

Child's Dream serves an area around the village of about 10 kilometres.

It provides the children with equipment like wheelchairs, walking sticks, walking frames and orthopaedic shoes to enhance their rehabilitation. Children with multiple sclerosis and other spinal curvatures are provided with chest braces or straps for spinal correction.

### Progress

When Dr Mahmoud El-Rawy, a physiotherapist at the centre, was asked whether children with cerebral palsy could be rehabilitated he replied, "it is possible...but it needs time, nursing and care." El-Rawy said many children's conditions had improved since joining the centre and some children are now walking independently.

Mustafa, one of the disabled children with cerebral palsy, has diplegia due to a lack of oxygen reaching the part of his brain responsible for the lower half of his body, resulting in

A RURAL REHABILITATION CENTRE FACES FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL BARRIERS IN ITS STRUGGLE TO PROVIDE CARE TO DISABLED CHILDREN



Islam has benefited from physiotherapy sessions at the centre

quasi-paralysis. When Mustafa first came to the centre, he could not take more than one step without falling. Now, Mustafa is capable of taking up to 10 steps on his own.

Om Jana, a mother of a disabled child, was just one of many parents who confirmed that their child's condition had improved since they joined the rehabilitation programme.

Abu Islam used to take his son to Nasser Institute for treatment, but he was disappointed and worried because the officials there simply used to give his son medication rather than taking him to a doctor. "Every time I told them that I needed to take my son to a doctor because his condition was getting worse, they just advised me to increase the medication instead," said Abu Islam. However since Islam attended the centre, his father noticed a marked improvement in his condition.

### Problems

There are serious problems associated with village life that contribute directly to the rate of disability in the area, and others which restrict parents' ability to provide their children with the care they need.

Most of the mothers (who are usually the primary carers for the child) live below the poverty line and are registered at charity services which cover shelter, food and water needs. They cannot afford the cost of physiotherapy sessions at health care facilities. For example, a physiotherapy session at the nearby children's polio hospital costs EGP 15 and a speech therapy session costs EGP 10. Many families cannot afford the transportation costs from the village to the hospital, let alone these fees. Of most concern however, is when parents' unforgiving financial situation, meaning they cannot afford the cost of medication, or the sustenance their children need. The families do their best with what they have, but even a mother's love cannot transform a stock cube dissolved in boiling water into a nourishing meal.

Many parents view their inability to provide care for their disabled children as a source of shame. In September, a disabled child died but his father did not announce it to the public in any of the village's mosques and did not want people to participate in the funeral march. "He was embarrassed at being unable to afford his son's medication, which would have calmed his seizures and improved his

condition," said Hamam.

There is an increase in the rate of disabled children in the area, with genetic disorders being one of the main causes of cerebral palsy. Specialists said other causes include pregnancy complications, malnutrition and pollution. More than half of the agricultural land that belongs to the village is irrigated with industrial sewage. In addition to the poverty and the poor hygiene of the village, healthcare is below acceptable standards.

"We suffer from a lot of doctors' mistakes," said Hamam, describing the village medical centre. He went on to relate a case in which a woman received test results without the centre having conducted any tests; the official simply predicted the results based on an epidemic in the area.

### Stigma

Beyond the obstacles imposed by poverty, there are social issues. Some parents abandon their children and seek divorce when they realise their children's condition.

Many mothers in the village cover their disabled children with a blanket when their relatives or neighbours visit, in an attempt to protect their children's dignity and safety. Hamam said the mothers prefer to act as though their disabled children "do not exist" rather than have them handled "like a toy" by other children.

Some mothers in the village tie up their children to protect them from harm. Hamam told me of a mother who left her house for a while without

tying up her disabled son and when she came back she found him lying dead beside an electrical socket.

### Charity

In order to take care of the area's disabled children and support their parents, the centre needs financial support, but the villagers' perception of charity is a major problem. Local people often prioritise giving donations to help other causes, rather than donating to help disabled children, because they believe that the children are unlikely to be treated successfully.

The attitude of local imams frustrates the centre, because they do not share their understanding of the need for charity for disabled children. "We try to address the village's imams because most of them cannot recognise charity as anything but building mosques," said Hamam.

The village has 44 mosques and some people want to even build more. Hamam added, "there is not one mosque that gets full, even on Friday prayers." For Hamam, the value of charity depends on how far the needs of the disadvantaged are met. He tells the imams that the village is in need of other services, ones that feed the hungry, support sick children and take care of the poor.

Child's Dream sought out several village clerics to help raise awareness about the centre, but the clerics' proposed solution to the centre's problems was to shut it down. "Ashraf Abd Al-Satar came here asking us to close down the centre," Hamam said, "he

Child's Dream Centre logo, the caption on the bottom reads "Together .. to achieve the dream"

asked us why we are taking care of [the children] when the government could do that instead."

Most village clerics feel embarrassed when asking people for donations, because often they are refused. "So they tell us to close down the centre instead," said Hamam.

### Financial problems

Child's Dream faces drastic financial problems in striving to provide support for the growing number of disabled children in the area. Recently, the Kafr Hakim for Development and Charity Work Foundation ended a partnership with the centre. "They told us that children and disabilities are not considered under the foundation's specialisation," Hamam said. "They are not convinced that this is charity work."

The foundation requested the centre start their own foundation, so Hamam established the Mo'sasat Safeenat Nooh le Aamal Al Bir (Noah's Ark Foundation). The centre is currently funded by charitable people, mosques and churches, but not yet by businesspeople.

Their monthly expenses range between EGP 30,000-40,000, which is not covered through funding. This includes the staff salaries as well as EGP 4,000 per month for renting a bus to transport staff members. "If we do not provide a bus for the specialists, no one could come to Kafr Hakim because the village is distant and hard to reach," said Hamam.

Lack of financial support forms a huge obstacle in rehabilitating disabled children in the area. Of the 500 disabled children registered with the centre only 82 children receive services due to insufficient funds. People on the "waiting list" have recognised the positive progress in the children engaged with the rehabilitation and have started asking "why aren't you helping us?"

Even those receiving care at the centre are not treated as well as they ought to be. Mustafa only receives physiotherapy because the centre is

unable to provide him with a complete rehabilitation programme. "The centre's space is not enough to cover the number of cases registered with us," said El-Rawy. Financial problems also affect the availability of assistive devices.

Despite the financial issues encountered by the centre, the staff and many villagers agree it must continue to provide care. Money problems have meant delaying the salaries of the specialists, but they still put helping the children first. In order to keep Child's Dream going, the director and others at the centre are in debt.

"Sometimes people donate second-hand appliances, like computers or water heaters, which is very helpful because the children benefit from them," said El-Refay. However, donated goods cannot pay the bills. Child's Dream has appealed to the Ministry of Social Affairs for help, which offers EGP 50 per month to each disabled child. "What could EGP 50 do for a disabled child?" asked Hamam, pointing out that the money is not a donation to the centre but it is given directly to the child's family after a lengthy bureaucratic process. "[The Ministry of Social Affairs] does not have a clause that endorses centres like ours," said Hamam.

They have sought help from the Ministry of Health too, requesting the ministry cover the salaries of the specialists, but the ministry told them that they lack the capacity to do so. "We've contacted some private foundations but they told us that they do not offer help to centres who have been established for less than two years," said Hamam.

A group of young people from the village, with a low monthly income, contribute to the centre by donating EGP 10 to EGP 15 a month. In July they met with Hamam and asked him "why don't we seek out animal welfare organisations for help?" Due to a severe lack of funds, the director of the centre agreed to their suggestion. The call for help from such organisations reflects the pressure he is under to find funding to help the children.

Though Child's Dream wishes to expand their services to reach out to all the disabled children across the country, the centre struggles to provide help for those registered in the area. Building a larger facility that could help all those in need, through a set of integrated services, and is only one of the goals the centre aims for. The centre is calling out for financial support that could secure its existence and the continued care for disabled children in the villages.

Mo'sasat Safeenat Nooh le 'Aamal El-Bir (Noah's Ark Foundation)  
Markaz Helm Tefl (Child's Dream Centre)  
Account Number: 110186  
Faisal Islamic Bank, Giza Branch



Islam is helped by a centre worker during a physiotherapy session

Courtesy of the Child's Dream Centre

Adham Roshdy



معاً .. لنحقق الحلم

Courtesy of the Child's Dream Centre



# ART & CULTURE

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

## EVENTS

### MUSIC

#### Hassan Ramzy and Spunky Dynamite

Hassan Ramzy may not have made it through Arabs Got Talent but trust us, he will be good enough for you! Followed by the very cool Spunky Dynamite's rock n' roll, you have no excuse not to be there. Reservations at the Cairo Jazz Club are recommended.

**Cairo Jazz Club**  
197, 26 of July Street  
Zamalek, Cairo  
Tel: (02) 3345 9939  
13 November 10pm

#### Ahi Cairo

Enjoy one of Egypt's many contemporary pop bands, Ahi Cairo, in Sawy's River Hall, where they have become a recurring attraction. Tickets are EGP 20.

**El Sawy Culture Wheel**  
River Hall  
End of 26th of July Street  
Zamalek, Cairo  
Tel: (02) 2736 6178  
13 November 8pm

### FILM

#### The Edge of Heaven

Go see this wonderful Turkish drama by Fatih Akin which won the prize for best scenario at the Cannes Film Festival. The film is about a young man trying to find his father's former girlfriend, and we will not say more less we spoil the plot.

**Mosireen**  
19 A, Adly Street, Flat 34  
Downtown, Cairo  
Tel: (02) 2395 1386  
13 November 8pm

### EXHIBITIONS

#### Asa7by

Enjoy Hany Rashed's take on post-revolution internet comics and memes, where he uses the same techniques that have become common on the internet today to produce something truly fresh.

**Mashrabiya Gallery**  
8 Champollion Street  
Downtown, Cairo  
Tel: 010 0170 4554  
13 November 10am

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Turath opening

The Egyptian Heritage Co. Turath celebrates the opening of its first shop of traditional Egyptian handicrafts in Zamalek. All products are handmade and support local communities.

**Turath**  
114 26th July Street  
Zamalek, Cairo  
13 November 6pm

#### Meditation Session

The District in Maadi is hosting a free rooftop meditation session where everyone is welcome! Relieve that work stress in Maadi where you can find tons to do before or after the session!

**51B Misr-Helwan Agriculture Road**  
Maadi, Cairo  
Tel: (02) 2380 2120  
13 November 6pm

Weather	
Tuesday, November 13	
Alexandria	24°C / 18°C
Aswan	27°C / 18°C
Cairo	24°C / 17°C
Hurghada	26°C / 20°C
Luxor	27°C / 16°C
Sharm El-Sheikh	29°C / 19°C
Suez	22°C / 12°C

## Asa7by: documenting Egyptian internet culture through art

By Omar El Adl

Loud chatter, clinking glasses, and strong opinions on art voiced in a dozen languages marked the opening of Hany Rashed's exhibition *Asa7by* at the Mashrabiya gallery. A huge painting of a football field with a score of what seems to be exploding people in vivid colours dominated the gallery, clearly a reference to the infamous Port Said massacre.

"The exhibition is divided into three parts; Mubarak, the military, and the Brotherhood," said artist Hany Rashed. "Memes became very popular in the military rule period and they became the way we observe and relate to current events. Social networks like Facebook are important in that they connected us all during the time of the revolution and helped this kind of humour evolve and stay relevant."

To understand the artwork displayed you will not only have to have a basic knowledge of popular memes and of the many jokes that show up on the various social media but also



Hany Rashed's painting about the Port Said massacre

of Egyptian pop culture and politics. To be specific, by internet humour we mean internet memes, and one of the more famous ones in Egypt is known as 'Asa7by', from where the exhibition gets its name. For the sake of this exhibition a meme can be defined as a recurring image that spreads virally through the internet and incorporates pop culture references or common social interactions which people then use for commentary on everything cultural, and in the case of the exhibition, political.

The exhibition has a particularly local flavour since most of the humour is inspired by jokes circulated mainly by Egyptians and often containing linguistic and cultural features. Since a large portion of the crowd was foreign, some of the humour was lost on them and some asked for translations of text that featured in some paintings.

"The exhibition is targeted towards a certain demographic, namely those on social networks like Facebook, and it is accessible enough for

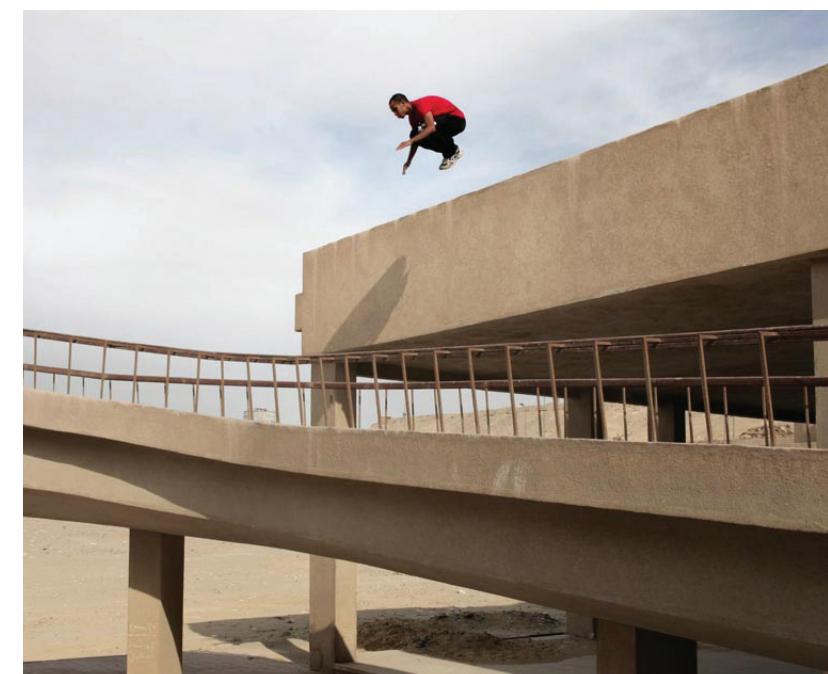
people who are not into art to be able to understand it without much effort," said Rashed.

The use of memes is very different on the internet than in the exhibition. On the internet, memes are organic, open, popular and are almost never made with an aesthetic purpose in mind. Though some of that has been inevitably sacrificed, Rashed is still inventive and playful with his use of memes in an artistic manner.

When asked if the Port Said painting was insensitive, Rashed responded, "no, the painting does not have any humourous references like 'Asa7by', it serves to remind us of how this famous incident created an enormous response in our collective internet presence."

Rashed's plans for the future include a collaboration with famous graffiti artist Ganzeer; an exhibition in the form of a graffiti museum, where they will gather different materials on the art form and approach other artists to display their relevant works.

## PhotoCairo 5 to open across seven different venues



Parkour in Egypt

By Omar El Adl

The Contemporary Image Collective (CIC) is launching a new initiative titled PhotoCairo: More Out of Curiosity Than Conviction on 14 November. The programme includes a lineup of exhibitions, a symposium, two screening programmes, a mentorship programme and a publication.

CIC says the project explores "paradigm shifts" and how reality is reshaped and splintered into what they call shifts of subjectivity.

"I would hesitate to say it is about something in particular. The idea came from the revolution and the inability to represent this major event or paradigm shift. Yet we could not deny that there is a real connection between those 18 days and the impulse to create art. To represent a paradigm shift, you need to reproduce it to do it justice; you cannot paint a paradigm shift. But in exploring the feeling it provokes in you, and how it moves you, you can transmit its essence. From here is where the idea started but the project explores this idea in a more general sense and the revolution is not a main focus of the works," said Mia Jankowicz, artistic director of CIC and curator of the project.

The opening weekend will feature a symposium at the Goethe Institute as well as two screening programmes; one of Harun Farocki at Beirut and The Edge of the Image at Cimatheque. Farocki is a German filmmaker best known for experimental documentaries that draw attention with a critical eye to the everyday complexities of life.

Farocki's films will be screened as part of an ongoing project with a theme of Labour In A Single Shot started by film critic and curator Anja Ehmann, which entails a series of filmmaking workshops in Cairo.

## Online gallery ArtsMart launched

By Adel Heine

The art scene in Egypt is brimming over with initiatives and last Thursday saw the launch of the latest addition in the form of the website ArtsMart. Based on a concept from Lina Mowafy and Dina Shaaban, the website aims to create a community where artists and prospective buyers can interact easily without the often rigid rules that established galleries adhere to.

"We had the idea in 2009 to create a space where up and coming artists could display their work, since it is hard to find galleries that will show work of young artists," Mowafy said. "At the same time it is not easy for interested buyers to find affordable art; many people are looking to find something to hang on their wall but are not in the market to buy investment art."

ArtsMart is designed to be a meeting point for these two groups and features a wide variety of styles of artwork. Artists can apply to showcase their work on the website and Shaaban and Mowafy act as curators for the collection. "We screen the artwork on artistic value, style and the condition that the work is in, since we only put up the work that we have in our warehouse."

The team of ArtsMart includes marketing experts Hatem Zaaouk, Khalid Ragab and Sherif Fatthalla. "While the artists and their work are the core of our website, the potential buyers are just as important. For ArtsMart to succeed it is important that people know about us and the combined experience of these three men is invaluable."

Building up a good reputation started long before the website was launched. "In the beginning we had to buy the artwork ourselves, invest in them personally, because the artists did not know us and would not just give us their work to hold for a few years before maybe it would be sold," Mowafy said.

Mowafy, Shaaban and partners had



The ArtsMart team during a street show

street shows where they display the artwork in their collections during events that attract a lot of people but are not traditional places where people can buy art. "The response of the public is encouraging, some paintings are sold on the spot and we have received requests from people a few days after the event," Mowafy said.

It is possible to commission pieces, "we mediate between the buyer and the artists if they would like to commission a piece, both for private as well as commercial requests," Mowafy said. "We hope that we can create more work for our artists so eventually they can sustain themselves by doing what they love."

The artworks are shipped worldwide and they include a return policy if the artwork upon arrival is not what the buyer had hoped for, provided it is returned in perfect condition.

## The white gold of Egypt



Women picking cotton in rural Egypt

Egyptian cotton is renowned the world over for its quality. It is transformed into sumptuous bed sheets or made to measure, button-down shirts that are worn by the world's rich and famous and are sold in glittering high-end stores for small fortunes.

The cotton starts much more humbly though and this time of year the fluffy white balls are dotted all over the plants that grow in the fertile soil of the Egyptian countryside. Scores of women swarm over the fields, picking the cotton, one little ball at a time.

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