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ARAB WORLD'S FIRST DWARF RIGHTS NGO

Ministry of Social Solidarity to grant not-for-profit organisation status to disability charity in Alexandria

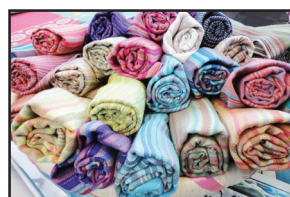
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Stresses Egypt's support for Palestinian UN non-state membership

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TURATH: OASIS OF RURAL EGYPTIAN BEAUTY

The glass storefront allows it to blend in with its Zamalek surroundings

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EU-Egypt pact signed

LARGE DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE LENDS WEIGHT TO JOINT TASK FORCE, VOW COOPERATION AND PROMOTION OF SMES

By Mohamed El-Bahrawi

The EU Egypt Task Force Business and Tourism Summit kicked off yesterday amid a strong presence from diplomats, European businesspeople, Egyptian ministers and the high-level executives of financial institutions from Europe and Egypt.

The objective of the summit is to provide a platform for future European investment in Egypt with focus on lending and the development of small and medium sized enterprises.

Ministers giving their opening remarks focused on comforting investors as to the safety of the investment climate in Egypt. "We assure you that Egypt respects all extent stable contracts, as long as they're corruption-free," Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade Hatem Saleh declared in his speech. "Egypt is undergoing democratic transformation and, as opposed to the pre-revolution circumstances, we guarantee you that we operate in full transparency and



Hatem Saleh, Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade, right, and Antonio Tajani from the EU Task Force sign an agreement

we will make sure that all our obligations and contractual agreements are respected so long as they're lawful, and preserve rights and justice"

Saleh added, Osama Saleh, minister of investment, praised the long ties between the EU and Egypt, extolling the merits the "strategic partner-

ship" between the EU, Egypt, and Middle East.

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Qandil presents three month report

PM highlights cabinet successes and challenges

By Basil El-Dabbh

Prime Minister Hesham Qandil outlined the achievements and challenges facing his cabinet in a press conference on Tuesday afternoon.

President Mohamed Morsy met with Prime Minister Hesham Qandil and his ministers to review a three-month report put together by the Cabinet. The report, which is the first of its kind under Morsy and Qandil, stated the administration's achievements over the past months and provided a roadmap moving forward.

Qandil said the cabinet addressed four central points when assembling the report, including the goals of the revolution, the implementation of concrete actions, the engaging of the Egyptian people, and the government's ability to self criticise.

The prime minister affirmed that the four goals of his cabinet were "bread, freedom, human dignity, and social justice."

"The government's plan for the integrated development will not

deviate from the four goals of the revolution, and it fully understands that as long as it makes those goals a reality that touches every citizen, it will continue to gain confidence in its citizens," said Qandil.

The prime minister acknowledged the high expectations set by Egyptians due to the long wait for an improvement in quality of life following the 25 January Revolution.

The country faces a budget deficit of 10.6 per cent this quarter and an unemployment rate exceeding 26 per cent. He said although the country faces unprecedented local, regional, and international challenges, there would be light at the end of what he called Egypt's "short tunnel."

Qandil provided a number of indicators for the state of the economy, saying Egypt is currently ranked 101 out of 144 countries in the Global Competitiveness Index, and vowed to institute changes that would allow the country to rise in future updates of the index.

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Britain snubs Brahimi's plan at the Arab League

President of the Syrian opposition requests weapons

By Joel Gulhane

Foreign ministers from the European Union and Arab states met on Tuesday at the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo. The UK and French foreign ministers welcomed the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, which called for world powers to arm the opposition in Syria.

The recently formed national coalition seeks to unify the fractured Syrian opposition movement. It is hoped to act as a conduit to fund opposition forces on the ground.

In his speech at the meeting, UK Foreign Secretary William Hague welcomed the formation of the opposition coalition saying it "gives the opportunity for a united, inclusive and credible political alternative to the Assad regime." He also announced that Britain "will increase [its] support to Syrian opposition groups."

French Minister of Foreign Affairs Laurent Fabius also welcomed the formation of the coalition, after a meeting on Tuesday with its president, Ahmed Moaz Al-Khatib.

In an interview with AFP on Tuesday, Al-Khatib said that the opposition need weapons to "cut short the suffering of the Syrian people." He said that the opposition are not sufficiently armed to deal with "bombardment from Bashar [Al-Assad]'s warplanes" saying that they need "specialised weapons."

Hague thanked the joint United Nations and Arab League special envoy to Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, for his



British Foreign Secretary William Hague arrives for the ministerial meeting of the Arab League and European Union in the Arab League headquarters in Cairo

efforts to solve the Syria crisis. Hague said Britain supports Brahimi's effort to push a UN Security Council resolution on Syria but pointed out that "there is no indication that the outcome now would be different," in reference to Russia and China using their veto to block past resolutions.

The British foreign minister also stressed the need for increased aid to Syria because winter is coming.

Hague also addressed the Middle East peace process and urged the

United States to lead "a major revived diplomatic effort to restart negotiations over the coming months."

In a separate meeting on Monday evening, foreign ministers of the Arab League agreed the national coalition is the "legitimate representative of the aspirations of the Syrian people." This differs to a statement released by the Gulf Cooperation Council, which said that it recognises the opposition coalition as "the legitimate repre-

sentatives of the Syrian people." Algeria and Lebanon both expressed reservations on the decisions made regarding Syria.

Aside from condemning the violence by government and opposition forces, they called on the UNSC to punish Syrian forces and government loyal militants for what they consider to be "crimes and massacres."

Attacks on Syrian and foreign journalists by Syrian security forces were also condemned and it was said that this is "contrary to the laws and regulations concerning the protection of journalists in conflict." The league added that these attacks are "a breach of the obligations of the Syrian government."

The group also expressed concern over the worsening humanitarian situation in Syria and "the displacement of more than two and a half million of the population inside Syria and the migration of hundreds of thousands to neighbouring countries to escape the violence and genocide." The states that have hosted the people fleeing the violence were commended and it was agreed that support should be provided for those countries.

In addition to discussions on Syria, the group of foreign ministers also discussed the issue of Palestine's bid for non-member UN status, the Israeli bombing of a factory in Khar-toum, and preparations for the 2012 conference on the establishment of a nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction free zone in the middle east.

Constitution gives citizens "license to discipline"

By Ahmed Aboul Enein

The draft constitution as it is currently written gives citizens "license to discipline" each other according to Amr Moussa.

The former Arab League secretary general made the criticism at the Constituent Assembly's Monday meeting, at which it approved 14 constitutional articles in the basic principles of state section and referred them to the drafting committee for finalisation.

The assembly is set to discuss and vote on the remaining 14 articles of the section on Tuesday afternoon in the second of a series of sessions

designed to complete the constitution draft by the 19 November deadline.

Heated debate surrounded several articles before they were voted on, the first of which was Article 10, which reads: "The state and society are obliged to sponsor and protect ethics and public morals, empower authentic Egyptian traditions, take into account a high level of nurturing, religious and patriotic values, scientific facts, Arab culture, the historical and cultural heritage of the people, as regulated by the law."

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Daily News Egypt talks journalism



Journalists claim to be arbiters of truth, and therefore their work is always the object of scrutiny. This is no less true in Egypt in 2012.

Some of our news team explore the intricacies of reporting and writing. What happens when the Ministry of Interior receives a phone call from a foreigner? Why do policeman glare at our notebooks? Why does the strik-

ing worker care that the journalist is a woman or man? How do we find balance when only one side is vocal?

It is a fast paced industry to be a part of, yet there is no room for error. A journalist's work is in the public eye and in the public interest. So what is it like to be part of this cohort?

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Currencies	Buy	Sell
CHF	6.315	6.62
USD	6.09	6.12
EUR	7.6087	7.9761
GBP	9.5337	9.994
SAR	1.615	1.6353

Egyptian Stock Exchange		
	Closing	Daily Change
EGX 30	5,684.25	0.81%
EGX 70	519.30	1.11%
EGX 100	860.10	1.04%
EGX 20	6,537.14	0.86%

Commentary

Gamal Eid writes:

The revolution broke the fear in our souls which is the most important thing, regardless of other details. He who breaks free of fear is able to achieve his dreams and true democracy

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أسود أصفر أحمر أزرق

Sexual harassment case a small victory for women

MAN IMPRISONED FOR ASSAULTING WOMAN IN MAADI

By Luiz Sanchez

A man who sexually assaulting a woman in Maadi in July was sentenced to two years in prison, ordered to pay compensation of EGP10,001 and fined a further EGP 2,000. According to the Nadeem Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence, the verdict was a small victory.

The incident occurred on 17 July. The victim said she was standing outside Cilantro cafe on Nasr Street when a man attacked her from behind. She quickly regained her composure, grabbed the man, and began yelling to draw attention.

The man was taken to a nearby police station and, with the help of an eyewitness, an investigation was launched.

The centre praised the judiciary for Sunday's verdict and for protecting the rights of the woman, and called on prosecutors to respond to

"such heinous crimes, which occur almost daily to most girls and women without exception."

Nadeem centre's lawyer, Michael Raouf, who worked on the case was expecting a better result but said it was nevertheless satisfying. He said few cases of this nature actually make it to court. "If a woman files a report, often the police don't follow up with an investigation or fail to arrest anyone," he said.

Farah Shash, the Nadeem centre's psychologist, said she was hopeful things would improve for women over time. She pointed at the growing trend of emerging rights groups defending women both legally and with a physical presence, such as the anti-harassment campaign over Eid Al-Adha. "We are trying to help women by informing them about where to get help for such incidents," Shash said.

While there are many organisations advocating for women's

rights, Raouf does not see a tangible change coming from the government. "Whatever they are currently doing," he argued, "is not enough."

Samira Ibrahim, a woman subjected to virginity tests last year for her involvement in protests, was critical of both the government and society, saying the response to harassment had been a "fiasco."

"In terms of sexual harassment," Ibrahim said, "the situation is getting worse. Children are growing up thinking it is a way for them to have fun." She said this phenomenon is on the rise and children in primary schools are becoming involved in sexual harassment.

"The government does not want to introduce a law governing sexual harassment and this is very disappointing," Ibrahim said. She argues a part of the problem is that "the media portrays these [sexual harassment] incidents in a light-hearted manner."

Coptic women attacked on the metro

Women wearing niqab cut the hair of two Coptic females

By Fady Salah

Two unveiled women have been attacked in the Cairo Metro in the past week.

Media reported that a woman wearing a niqab (veil and face covering) cut the hair of Magy Melad, a Coptic 13 year-old girl, on Monday. Melad said the woman threatened her saying "you can't imagine what I am going to do to you" and then Melad was surprised to see some of her hair lying on the back of her jacket.

In another incident, the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) reported two women wearing niqab cut the hair of Nari-man Samuel, a 30 year-old Copt, before dragging her out of the Metro carriage.

Naguib Gabriel, chairperson of the Egyptian Federation for Human Rights, said Samuel was attacked when she tried to help a pregnant woman to sit on one the Metro seats. He added the attackers called her an "infidel," before throwing her out of the carriage, injuring her.

Tarek Zaghloul, executive director of EOHR, said Samuel was attacked by the two women for no apparent reason, adding that the incident took place in the early

morning when few passengers were in the carriage. Zaghloul explained that Samuel was thrown out of the carriage as she tried to escape from the women.

Zaghloul said the government should provide female security officers inside every female Metro carriage, in order to prevent such incidents

Gabriel said Samuel's husband filed a complaint with the police, which was referred to the prosecution office, and investigations are taking place.

Zaghloul said the government should provide female security officers inside every female Metro carriage, in order to prevent such incidents. He added as nobody saw the face of the attackers, "we don't even know if they were actually women or men."

Abeer Aboul Ella, director of the press office at the National Council

for Women (NCW), said they could not reach any of the two girls. However, she asserted that they contacted the Ministry of Interior and the Metro authority to confirm the occurrence of the incidents.

Mohamed Abdel Salam, board member of NCW said they also called on the Ministry of Interior to intensify its efforts to arrest the attackers.

A similar incident took place in Luxor a few weeks ago, when Eman Abou Bakr, teacher at Al-Hadadeen primary school, received a six-month suspended sentence for cutting the hair of two 12 year-old students for not wearing the hijab. Abou Bakr also wore the niqab.

Malek Adly, human rights lawyer, said these incidents are new forms of extremism in Egypt. He added that wearing niqab prevents authorities from identifying criminals, as it hides their faces.

"How can we live safely when we have black tents [referring to women wearing niqab] everywhere around us? I am not against women's freedom to wear niqab, but it is the government's responsibility to identify and arrest criminals attacking citizens, whoever they are," concluded Adly.

Ain Sokhna power plant reopened

Security forces faced no resistance from striking construction workers

By Hassan Ghonema

The director of Suez security ordered a group of policemen to reopen the construction site of the Ain Sokhna

power plant at 7am on Tuesday after striking workers closed the site for three days.

Major General Adel Raffat, director of Suez security, announced that he

sent police to reopen the power plant, led by Major General Hassan Eid, assistant director of security for the site. He said the security forces faced no resistance from the striking workers.

Raffat said, "the demands of workers must not interfere with the workflow within the production sites, especially one like the Ain Sokhna power plant, which is in a race against time to be completed." He added, "the establishment of the plant will be a pillar of Egypt and the Arab world as a whole."

The striking workers have left their picket line outside the site to discuss what action they will take next.

A meeting was held on Monday between the Minister of Electricity and Energy, Mahmoud Balbaa, and representatives of the striking workers. Balbaa said after the meeting that he will look at the matter and added that the workers had no right to close the site.

Raffat stressed that an urgent memo, outlining the workers demands, was sent on Tuesday to the construction companies involved in project, the Governor of Suez Samir Ajjan, and Balbaa. The demands will be discussed in order to resolve the strike.

Additional reporting by Joel Gulhane



Police reopened the power plant construction site near Ain Sokhna after strikers blocked access

Constitution gives citizens "license to discipline"

Continued from page 1

Moussa objected to the phrasing, saying that it gave people the "licence to discipline" others and called for the removal of the word "society" and entrust only the state with these duties.

Other members said the article allowed citizens to take on positive roles and that Islamic Shari'a preaches "promoting virtue and preventing vice" as a duty of all people. The article was approved without amendment.

Several members signalled their disapproval of Article 11, which states: "The state protects the cultural, civilisational and linguistic unity of Egyptian society, and works towards Arabisation of sciences and knowledge."

They called for the replacement of the word "unity" with "pluralism" to express Egypt's cultural diversity. Salafi Al-Nour Party member Younes Mekhion objected to that suggestion. "The Egyptian people are a people with only one culture," he said.

"The Egyptian people have a lot of cultures and you need to realise that there are sectors of the people who speak different languages," said assembly Chairman Hossam El-Gheriany.

Mekhion responded that this was only El-Gheriany's opinion and that he opposes the word pluralism be-



The Constituent Assembly is finalising 14 articles and prepares to complete the first section of constitution (File photo)

cause it would allow groups like the Nubians to demand their language be officially recognised by the state.

The article was amended so that "unity" is replaced with "elements" and approved.

Article 7 was amended to include the phrase "within the limits of the law" at the end. It originally read: "Egyptian society is based on justice, equality, freedom, mercy, social solidarity, camaraderie be-

tween its members regarding protecting their lives, honour and money, and achieving sufficiency for all citizens."

The phrase was added since the article entrusts society with protecting lives, honour and money, so the law should govern the way in which citizens do this protecting. Moussa suggested "society" be replaced by "the state" so that groups or militias do not take law enforcement into their own hands but

the suggestion was turned down.

"It was popular committees that protected Egypt in the absence of security," said El-Gheriany.

The remainder of the first 14 articles were passed without much debate. They were referred to a newly created smaller drafting committee for final phrasing. The assembly is set to finalise the first section of the constitution Tuesday afternoon.

Arab world's first dwarf rights NGO to be established in Alexandria

Protection of people with disabilities still severely lacking



Members of the Association for the Welfare for Dwarves attend a meeting in Alexandria

An organisation defending the rights of dwarves in Egypt is set to receive formal recognition next Monday, after the Ministry of Social Solidarity announced it would grant its permit as a legitimate not-for-profit organisation.

The Association for the Welfare of Dwarves in Alexandria has operated without a permit for the past 12 years, and once accepted it will be the first formally recognised organisation protecting the rights of dwarves in the Arab world.

According to its founder, Essam Shehata, the organisation has operated since 2000 but was never given permission by the government to operate legally. "So far we have no partnerships or funding from any business or ministry," he said.

Shehata said dwarves are one of the most marginalised groups in society. "Dwarves face two major problems in Egypt," he said. "The first is that the Egyptian people do not accept them and so they treat them harshly." The problem is compounded by the government, which he says does not recognise them as disabled but also do not provide them with jobs akin to that of non-disabled people. They are, as he described, treated as disabled people without any of the benefits that the law is meant to provide, such as employment quotas.

In Egypt, there are an estimated 10-15 million people with a physical or mental disability. Amana El-Saie, a

co-founder of the Helm foundation for people with disabilities, said this figure does not include people affected by dwarfism. "The way they are treated by the general society is simply horrific," she said, explaining that the general attitude is to "look, point and laugh." Such behaviour, she argued, has a hugely detrimental effect on their lives, forcing them to seclude themselves even further.

"We live in a disabling society," El-Saie said, pointing to the government's failure to help person with disabilities. "This government is not focusing on the issue and they say it is because they do not have the budget to tackle the problem, which is bad because they are a part of our society."

Shehata wants to pressure the government into recognising their plight and providing them with a form of identification that would grant them some degree of recognition. Through social awareness campaigns he hopes to create an atmosphere of acceptance in society.

"Most dwarves are not educated because the educational system makes it impossible for them to engage," Shehata said. He "would like to see an educational system set up" to cater for their needs.

"Currently there are 1,500 dwarves in Alexandria," Shehata said. "I want to propose an article be drafted in the draft constitution that guarantees fair treatment and opportunity for dwarves."



POLITICS

Israel ponders incursion into Gaza

By Hend Kortam

Israel is considering possible operations into Gaza.

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said on Tuesday that Israel will not allow the continued threat to its citizens and that it is studying the options it can take to put the threats to an end. Rockets attacks on southern Israel, by armed groups including the Islamic Resistance Movement, commonly referred to as Hamas, have disrupted the lives of around one million Israelis.

According to an Israeli Defense Forces' (IDF) spokesperson, over 120 rockets have been fired in the past three days. Early on Tuesday morning Israel reacted with an operation to target three military sites in Gaza, Reuters reported. So far the violence has left seven Palestinians dead and four Israelis injured.

Israeli officials told local TV channels that they may target bureaus of politicians in Gaza and headquarters of political groups, or resort to assassinations and destruction of private property in retaliation, Egyptian state-run news agency MENA reported. The officials added that if these methods fail, it may launch a major operation.

Saeed Okasha, an expert on Israeli affairs in the Ahran Centre for Political and Strategic Studies said that the possibility of a major operation like the one Israel launched in 2008 which left over 1,000 Palestinians dead, is unlikely. "The level of threat that the people of Sderot [Southern Israel] are facing hasn't reached the point that makes Israel would launch such an



AFP Photo / Mohammed Abed

A Palestinian youth shows the remains of an Israeli missile following air strikes in the Jabalia refugee camp

operation," Okasha said.

The Freedom and Justice Party, political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, said in a statement Tuesday that the operations against the Gaza Strip and Golan Heights were related to the upcoming January elections in Israel.

Okasha however said he didn't believe the violence is part of an election campaign. He added Israel does have an interest in "showing that the Muslim Brotherhood [through its affiliation with Hamas] is threatening the security of Israel and that Morsy is not doing his job."

Hamas has the largest interest in the recent violence, according to Okasha, after reports emerged that they were negotiating with Israel. "Hamas is trying to prove that it is still on the path of resistance," he said.

Earlier this month, Palestinian Authority officials said that they possessed information on talks between Hamas and other Arab groups with Israel, according to Ynet news service.

Gaza has been under a siege, enforced by Egypt and Israel, since 2007.

Last month, 72 hours of similar violence took place, until an unofficial ceasefire was brokered by Egypt.

Qandil presents three month report

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He said steps to lower subsidies on petrol, which is one of the largest government portfolios, were made in an effort to alleviate costs.

Qandil promised the government would refocus efforts to deal with problems of water shortage, electricity and food prices, especially in rural areas that have been hit hard during Egypt's economic hardships.

He highlighted security as one of the most successful points in the government's plans, pointing to success in cracking down on the drug trade. He thanked the "martyrs" who had died over the past eleven months, claiming police now respect human rights and the dignity of all Egyptian citizens.

Presidential spokesman Yasser Ali provided Morsy's comments following the Qandil meeting. The president demanded a timeline for the cabinet's short term goals, which are set to expire in June 2014. He told Qandil to prioritise executive decisions in his plans, taking topics such as national security, corruption, and employment into account. Morsy asked Qandil to include tangible guarantees and goals within the framework of the report.

Morsy also pointed out to his prime minister that special emphasis needs to be placed on the security and development of Sinai. He indicated that continued efforts to attract investments and international agreements need to be achieved.

Additional reporting done by Ethar Shalaby

EU talks politics and economics with Egyptians

Task force lands in Cairo to focus on transition and assistance

By Connor Molloy

The European Union is in Cairo to talk politics, economics and the future of Egypt. High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton is leading the Egypt Task Force, which is holding a Tuesday summit as well as other meetings to facilitate dialogue between Egyptian representatives and their European counterparts.

"It's economics meets politics," said Michael Mann, the chief spokesperson for Representative Ashton. "We're trying to bring them all together under one hat. The idea is that at the starting point of a successful political transition, you need economic stability."

The task force is a recent EU initiative. While similar task forces have taken place in Tunisia and Jordan, Egypt's is considerably larger. The idea was born out of a revamping of European policy, born partly by the Arab revolutions, toward the EU's eastern and southern neighbours. As Mann put it, "the more countries reform, the more they can hope to receive assistance and cooperation from the European Union."

The centerpiece of the Egypt Task Force is a Business and Tourism Summit in Cairo on Tuesday. However, Mann said important meetings will be taking held outside the summit, including one between civil society representatives and another between members of the Shura Council and the European Council. Said Mann, "the whole idea of this is to reach out to the counterparts be-

tween the EU and Egypt. There are more than 120 European business leaders here, so there will be plenty for them to talk about."

In addition to this private sector activity, there is an effort to get various actors in the economic sector under one umbrella. The EU, its member states, European banks, and international financial institutions are attempting to work together for Egyptian assistance. Mann said new pledges from this cooperative will come out in the coming days.

The morning discussions focused on politics, with an emphasis on EU representatives listening to Egyptians, both from government and civil society.

"We very much support the transition," said Mann. "But there is lots of work to be done."

When asked about the new constitution, Mann made sure to say the EU was not trying to meddle in the process. Rather, the EU believes that a new constitution should respect the aspirations of those who rose up to overthrow Hosni Mubarak. "We believe that human rights, the rule of law, the role of the press, and women's rights all need to be a part of the constitution. Women were very involved in the uprising and they need a full place in the new constitution."

"The point we would make is that it is only for the Egyptian people to draw up their constitution. But we would also say that we believe in the values the EU was founded on and we think those should be reflected in the constitution."

ElBaradei meets with Morsy

By Ahmed Aboul Enein

Al-Doustour party chairman, Mohamed ElBaradei, expressed his reservations over the Constituent Assembly and explained his party's political vision to President Mohamed Morsy in a Tuesday meeting.

"ElBaradei had some reservations over some constitutional articles and the Constituent Assembly itself. He also presented the president with Al-Doustour party's vision," said Presidential Spokesperson Yasser Ali.

Ali would not elaborate as to which constitutional articles in particular El-Baradei spoke to Morsy about.

"This comes as part of the series of meetings President Morsy is having with leaders of national and political forces in an attempt to achieve constitutional stability in the country," added Ali.

Morsy has previously met with

presidential candidates Hamdeen Sabahi Abdel Moniem Aboul Fotouh and Amr Moussa. His meeting with ElBaradei was postponed due to the latter having other engagements at the time.

The Nobel laureate is an outspoken opponent of the Constituent Assembly, tasked with drafting the new constitution, long maintaining it that it is unrepresentative of the Egyptian people.

He issued a statement in September in collaboration with presidential runner up Hamdeen Sabahy, and other groups and parties, calling for a boycott of the assembly and urging its secular and liberal members to resign.

Al-Doustour Secretary General Emad Abu Ghazi released a statement prior to the meeting, saying ElBaradei's comments about former members of the disbanded National Democratic Party at an Aswan rally

had been misinterpreted.

ElBaradei said that the defunct party, led by former President Hosni Mubarak, had three million members and that it was impossible that they were all corrupt, calling for national reconciliation.

Abu Ghazi said the comment was interpreted to suggest in that ElBaradei was for an alliance with remnants of the former regime, but really he only was referring to those not involved in corruption or wrong doing.

He added that some people were "misguided" in joining the party but not corrupt, and that a national reconciliation process like that of post-apartheid South Africa was needed.

Abu Ghazi denied that party Deputy Chairman Ahmed El-Borai or any other Al-Doustour officials were meeting with former National Democratic Party members to discuss electoral alliances, or anything at all.

Morsy confirms UN Palestine bid support

By Joel Gulhane and Ethar Shalaby

President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, said on Tuesday that President Mohammed Morsy has confirmed Egypt will support the Palestinian bid for non-state United Nations membership. Morsy and Abbas agreed that the bid will be presented to the General Assembly on 29 November at the UN headquarters in New York.

Abbas made the announcement alongside Foreign Minister Mohamed Amr after a meeting with Morsy at the presidential palace. Abbas said, "the discussions were brotherly and open-hearted. President Morsy said that Egypt will give full and complete support to the Palestinian cause."

During the meeting Morsy told Abbas that Egypt will encourage other countries to support the bid.

Abbas expressed uncertainty over how successful the bid will be, saying "we do not need a large number of votes to win the bid but we will face some challenges."

A statement released yesterday by the White House confirmed that United States President Barack Obama spoke to Abbas on the telephone. According to the statement Obama "reiterated the United States' opposition to unilateral efforts at the United Nations."

Abbas rejected this criticism and



AFP Photo / Abbas Momani

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, pictured here in Ramallah, met President Morsy in Cairo and received assurances of support for Palestine's UN bid

pointed out that the building of Israeli settlements on Palestinian land was the first unilateral act in the Israel-Palestinian conflict. He also denied that Hamas had criticised the bid and said "the bid is for the benefit of all Palestinians."

Israel has also confirmed that it is preparing a counter bid.

Abbas commented on Amr's recent visit to Turkey where he "met with his counterparts and discussed the best way to support the Palestinian bid." Amr also met with Palestinian representatives two weeks ago and assured them of Egyptian support.

If the bid is successful, Abbas said, "our hearts will be open to start peace

negotiations. We cannot call ourselves an independent state, we are an occupied state." He added, "there are six or seven issues in the final stages of negotiations with Israel. If we can finalise these we can say that we are a stable state."

Abbas also talked about the Palestinian refugee issue, he referred to UN resolution 194 which confirms the right of return for refugees and stresses that those who do not wish to return should be compensated for the loss of their property. He also pointed to the 2004 Arab peace initiative which said that the refugee problem will not be solved without an agreement from both sides.

Rights centre demands transparency on IMF loan

A hearing was held for a case demanding the government publicise the conditions of the International Monetary Fund loan on Tuesday in front of the Administrative Judiciary.

Malek Adly, one of the lawyers of the centre that filed the case, the Egyptian Centre for Economic and Social Rights, claimed the loan will affect the prices of housing and goods, as well as exchange rates.

"Our problem with Mubarak is that he was not transparent... Right now, there is no People's Assembly and Morsy has legislative powers," he said, saying this caused a problem for the decision on the loan. In order for the loan to be taken, it has to be approved through legislation but since the People's Assembly

is now dissolved, Morsy will be the one who decides.

ECESR lawyer Mohamed Mostafa, who attended the session today, said the centre requested the government disclose the national economic plan it offered the IMF, as well as records of all meetings. In addition, the centre demanded that the government disclose all conditions and recommendations the IMF will impose on Egypt if the loan is taken out.

"It is well known that the IMF demands austerity policies from the countries it gives loans too... Examples include, Greece, Algeria and Iraq," Mostafa said. He said that these austerity measures affect Egyptian citizens. "When subsidies are lifted off fuel... the citizen has the right to know," Mostafa added.

Adly said that once the information is out and the conditions of the loan are made public, then political, economic and social groups can respond to it. "When the people know, this will affect their support for borrowing," Mostafa said.

The final ruling on the case has been postponed to December.

The proposed IMF loan, worth \$4.8 billion, has come after President Mohamed Morsy held a meeting with Christine Lagarde, managing director of the IMF, in August. However, several protests by activists and political parties against the loan have occurred. The latest protest to the loan came on Monday from 17 groups who sent a letter to Lagarde and Prime Minister Hisham Qandil announcing their opposition to the loan.



Mohamed Omar

Strike action by Cairo metro workers threatens transport misery for commuters

by Basil El-Dabh

The Cairo metro has confirmed that it expects its workers to close down its two lines on Wednesday.

The threats to stop operation of the metro represent the most recent development in an ongoing protest. After workers staged peaceful protests at the stops of Damerdash, Shubra, and Al-Marg, the demonstrators plan to move their sit-in to

Al-Shohada station, formerly named "Mubarak," on Ramsis Street.

Cairo's two main lines intersect at this station, enabling the group to completely halt the movement of trains to all of the network's stations.

The Egyptian Company for Metro Management and Operation has attempted to negotiate with workers and come to a settlement to avoid the strike, but has not been successful. A representative from the company said it had taken

steps to request the government to provide security on Wednesday.

The workers have demanded the resignation of Ali Hussein, the chairman of the Board of Directors. The protesters also demand health care provisions and the repair and maintenance of a number of stations that lack adequate upkeep.

A closure of the Cairo metro would add to the already notorious street traffic that residents of the city continue to suffer from.



Terror suspect Abu Qatada released from British jail

by Guy Jackson (AFP)

London – The United Kingdom on Tuesday released terror suspect Abu Qatada from prison on bail after judges ruled that the man dubbed Osama bin Laden’s right-hand man in Europe should not be extradited to Jordan.

The radical Islamist preacher, who is in his early 50s, was driven out of the high-security Long Lartin prison in central England in a black van at high speed, television pictures showed.

Abu Qatada was expected to be taken to his home in northwest London where he will be under a curfew 16 hours a day but can leave his home between 8am and 4pm.

He will have to wear an electronic tag and he will be restricted regarding the people he meets.

The Jordanian of Palestinian origin has been in jail in Britain for the past seven years fighting extradition, and also spent much of the time between 2002 and 2005 in detention or under house arrest.

Abu Qatada was convicted in absentia in Jordan in 1998 for involvement in terror attacks.

The decision by senior judges on Monday to uphold his appeal against extradition to Jordan was a major blow for the British government, which has fought for seven years to deport him.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said on Tuesday that the government was determined to deport Abu Qatada.

“We strongly disagree with the court ruling. We are going to challenge it, we are going to take it to appeal,” Clegg told ITV television.

“We are absolutely determined to see this man get on a plane and go back to Jordan, he does not belong here,” Clegg said.

Home Secretary Theresa May said she had ordered Abu Qatada’s extradition after she was given assurances by Jordan that no evidence gained through the torture of two other men would be used against him in a retrial.

But the Special Immigration Appeals Commission, a semi-secret



Terror suspect Abu Qatada arrives at his home in northwest London after he was released from prison

panel of British judges that deals with decisions on national security, said that could not be guaranteed.

May told parliament after Monday’s decision, “Qatada is a dangerous man, a suspected terrorist, who is accused of serious crime in his

home country of Jordan.”

She said she believed that the judge who made the final decision had applied the “wrong legal test” in finding in Abu Qatada’s favour, adding, “it is deeply unsatisfactory that Abu Qatada has not already been deported to Jordan.”

“Successive governments have tried to remove him since December 2001. He has a long-standing association with Al-Qaeda. British courts have found that he ‘provides a religious justification for acts of violence and terror.’”

The European Court of Human Rights had ruled earlier this year that Abu Qatada could not be deported while there was a “real risk that evidence obtained by torture will be used against him” in a possible retrial.

May then travelled to Jordan to secure guarantees from Amman that he would receive a fair trial and the European court subsequently gave the go-ahead for him to be extradited.

But the immigration tribunal ruled Monday that statements from Abu Qatada’s former co-defendants Al-Hamasher and Abu Hawsher, which were alleged to have been obtained by torture, created a risk that any trial would be unfair.

The cleric, a father of five whose real name is Omar Mohammed Oth-

man, arrived in Britain in 1993 claiming asylum and has been a thorn in the side of successive British governments.

Videos of his sermons were found in the Hamburg flat used by some of the hijackers involved in the 11 September 2001 attacks. He has also defended the killing of Jews and attacks on Americans.

A Spanish judge once branded him late Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden’s right-hand man in Europe, although Abu Qatada denies ever having met bin Laden.

Britain first ordered his deportation in 2005 and his appeal against that order was rejected in 2009. May then signed a fresh deportation order and Abu Qatada appealed to the European court.

He was briefly freed on bail earlier this year but then re-arrested.

In October Britain extradited another radical Islamist preacher, Abu Hamza, and four other terror suspects to the United States.

Rival worshippers clash at South African church

Johannesburg (AFP) – Rival congregations at a South African church have clashed in a dispute over the preacher, reportedly brandishing sticks, whips, machetes, batons and firearms, police said on Tuesday.

Angry Methodists in the south-eastern village of Mazizini became involved in a standoff after one faction opposing the church’s preacher set up a marquee in the yard and held a rival Sunday service.

Police spokesman Mzukisi Fatyela told AFP that police rushed to the scene

after being notified that worshippers had drawn a host of weapons in confrontation, though only sticks were recovered when they arrived at the scene.

“We were told they were using pangas [machetes], sticks and firearms,” said Fatyela, adding that no serious injuries occurred and no charges were filed.

Police quelled the clashes and got one group to pull down its tent and erect it elsewhere, away from the church.

A long-running leadership feud appears to have sparked the skirmishes,

which according to local paper, The Dispatch, sent bible-clutching women, sporting the trademark Methodist Church red-black-and-white uniforms scampering for cover.

“It’s something that started some time, two years back. Sometimes we resolve it by speaking to them, sometimes they fight saying they don’t want this reverend, they want this *umfundisi* [priest],” the police spokesman said.

The church could not be reached for comment.

Palestinians begin work to open Arafat grave

Ramallah (AFP) – Palestinians on Tuesday began work to open the grave of iconic leader Yasser Arafat ahead of an exhumation of his body for a murder probe, a source close to his family told AFP.

“Today they started removing concrete and stones from Arafat’s mausoleum and the work will last for almost 15 days,” the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

“There are several phases,” he said, referring to the opening of the tomb ahead of a visit by French, Swiss and Russian experts to forensically test Arafat’s remains over suspicions he was poisoned with radioactive substance polonium.

“It starts with the removal of stone and concrete and cutting the iron (framework) until they reach the soil that covers the body, which will not be removed until the arrival of the French prosecutors, Swiss experts and Russian investigators,” the source said.

On Monday, Arafat’s mausoleum, which is located at the Muqataa presidential headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah was screened from public view with blue tarpaulins ahead of the operation to open the grave.

The process of taking samples is expected to begin at the end of the month after the French and Swiss delegations arrive on 26 November, officials have said.

“Because of Arafat’s position and his status, no-one will be allowed, under any circumstances, to photograph his body while the samples are taken,” the source told AFP.

When Arafat died at the age of 75 in a French military hospital near Paris on 11 November, 2004, French doctors were unable to say what had killed him.

Many Palestinians are convinced he was poisoned by Israel.

French prosecutors opened a murder inquiry in August after Al-Jazeera television broadcast an investigation in which Swiss experts said they had



Work has begun to open the grave of iconic leader Yasser Arafat

found high levels of radioactive polonium on Arafat’s personal effects.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the eighth anniversary of Arafat’s death on Sunday, Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas said Russia would also be helping the investigation, although he did not specify how.

“We hope for new facts that we can tell our people and the public,” Abbas said.

The new investigation, he said, was “bigger and more important” than the uproar created by the Al-Jazeera inquiry.

Polonium is a highly toxic substance rarely found outside military and scientific circles which was used to kill former Russian spy turned Kremlin critic Alexander Litvinenko, who died in 2006 after drinking tea laced with the poison at a London hotel.

The French murder inquiry was opened in late August at the request of Arafat’s widow Suha, but it has caused a split within the family, with the veteran leader’s nephew Nasser Al-Qidwa on Saturday condemning the exhumation plans as “a hateful idea.”

Somali parliament endorses new government

Mogadishu (AFP) – Somalia’s new parliament endorsed on Tuesday all 10 ministers appointed by the prime minister, approving one of the smallest ever cabinets for the war-ravaged nation.

Two women are among the 10, including Somalia’s first female foreign minister, Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan, who hails from the self-declared independent state of Somaliland.

“Lawmakers have endorsed the new cabinet with a majority vote, 219 members out of the 225 who attended the session gave the ‘yes’ vote to the new cabinet,” said parliament speaker Mohamed Osman Jawari.

Three others rejected the cabinet, and three abstained.

“The lawmakers have endorsed the new cabinet, and now they have to face the difficult tasks ahead,” lawmaker Aweys Al-Qarni told AFP.

The new government faces tough challenges as it seeks to install order in a country racked by decades of war,



Somali children standing in front of their homestead in a derelict building in the Abdul-Aziz district of the Somali capital Mogadishu

and with Al-Qaeda-linked Shebab insurgents vowing to overthrow the Western-backed administration.

Somalia has been in political chaos and deprived of an effective central government since the fall of

President Siad Barre in 1991.

The new administration led by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who took office in September, ended eight years of transitional rule by the corruption-riddled government.

Undocumented foreign nationals abused in Libya

Tripoli (AFP) – Undocumented foreign nationals in Libya are at risk of exploitation, arbitrary detention and beatings that sometimes amount to torture, advocacy group Amnesty International said in a report released Tuesday.

Libya is heavily reliant on migrant labour and it is both a destination and transit point for refugees and asylum seekers from sub-Saharan Africa, lured by better economic opportunities in Libya or the chance of passage to Europe.

Migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees risk being arrested by Libyan militias on the streets, markets, checkpoints and their homes. Some are intercepted while trying to board boats to Europe, Amnesty said.

“It is shameful that Gaddafi-era abuses against foreigners, especially those from sub-Saharan Africa, have not only continued but worsened,” said Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui, deputy Middle East and North Africa director at Amnesty.

During the 42 year reign of slain dictator Moammar Gaddafi foreign



Immigrant Nigerian girls walk past the head of a slaughtered cow left in the yard of Tripoli’s Janzur Port (File photo)

nationals faced similar abuses but their plight has only deteriorated in the wake of the 2011 conflict that toppled him, the watchdog said.

“Their situation has worsened amid the general climate of lawlessness, with powerful armed militias

continuing to act outside the law,” Amnesty said in the report, which was based on visits to nine detention centres across the country.

It urged the new Libyan authorities to rein in militias and tackle racism and xenophobia, which it said was inflamed by

the widespread belief in Libya that “African mercenaries” helped the ousted regime try to crush the 2011 uprising.

“The Libyan authorities must acknowledge the extent of the abuse by militias and put in place measures to protect all foreign nationals from violence and abuse, regardless of their origin or immigration status,” Sahraoui said.

“Individuals entitled to international protection are caught-up in Libya’s mixed-migration flows,” said Amnesty pointing to those fleeing conflict and poverty in countries like Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.

Between May and September, the organisation visited nine detention centres, holding 2,700 foreign nationals, including pregnant women, women with young children and unaccompanied minors, over migration offences.

Amnesty said the detainees reported being tortured and beaten with instruments like wires and rubber hoses. Many showed scars and bruises to corroborate their testimonies.

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BUSINESS

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EU-Egypt pact signed

Continued from page 1

Demonstrating its commitment to finance and in order to further nurture Egyptian-European cooperation, the Director General for External Operations of the European Investment Bank Tamsyn Barton, announced the bank's plan to double its investment in Egypt to an annual €1 billion. "We plan to step up our investment here, and we have a pipeline of projects in both the public and the private sectors as we believe both are equally important," said Barton. She announced the signing of a €600 million infrastructure project, which will be used to complete the construction of the new Metro line. The bank is also interested in community development, water, and traffic infrastructure projects, renewable energy, microfinance and working with banks to support SMEs.

In a panel discussion, the director of the Joint Managing Authority of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument Cross-Border Cooperation in the Mediterranean (ENPI CBC-Med), Anna Catte, highlighted the importance of addressing common challenges and realising the potential of Mediterranean territories. She announced the approval of 65 projects in Egypt worth €114 million. Without going into detail, she said they would promote good governance for territorial planning and development, strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and cultural dialogue and sustainable tourism. "Thirty Egyptian organisations are part of 22 of the 65 projects, with investments totalling €70 million," she said.

"I am very confident in the future of fruitful opportunities in Egypt," the president of Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Alessandro Barberis, told Daily News Egypt, commenting on the potential gains of the Egyptian European mutual cooperation.



By Mohamed Omar

Lines of Credit, Grants and Technical Assitance panel discussion of the EU-Egypt Task Force Summit

"I strongly support the European Commission in this effort, in particular in the field of financing SMEs, as big companies don't need the promotion of chambers of commerce. With this new government and the new spirit, I am sure we can work collaboratively towards creating a good atmosphere for investment, which would benefit both Egypt and the EU."

In spite of the assurances given by keynote speakers, investors remain wary of the high risk they would be assuming in making large investments in Egypt in the current climate. Given the lack of clarity and stifling bureaucracy, investors are waiting for the government to take more decisive action to attract their interest.

"Bureaucracy is the main problem facing Egypt," the managing director of the Egyptian Greek for Clay Bricks and Roofing Tiles, Petros Avgoustidis, told Daily News Egypt. "I operate a business that employs 300 people in Upper Egypt and I would like to expand that number to 600, but due to the air of uncertainty, I can't take that step yet."

"Egypt has a golden opportunity but the government needs to start facilitating procedures for investors," he added. "If I can expand, my compet-

itors in Greece would see the benefit of investing in Egypt and hence they too would invest here."

The majority of investors shared more or less the same concerns regarding risk and guarantees protecting contracts. "The most important challenges we're facing are for the government to maintain respect for contractual agreements, respect legal obligations and make us feel safe so we can relay that to our partners so we can further expand in Egypt," the managing director of the Italian Union Fenosa Gas, told Daily News Egypt.

"The message that Egypt needs to send to the outside world is that it is capable of protecting foreign investment," the Greek Counsellor for Economic and Commercial Affairs, Evangelos Daiertzis, said. "I want to invest in this country because it's obvious there are a lot of opportunities, but if I see that investors here are getting properties confiscated, why would I come? Egypt, just like Greece, is socially flexible; it has a long history and has been through many changes, but Egyptians still adapt. This is why I am very optimistic that Egypt will survive the current stumbling blocks."

Orascom Telecom signs an agreement with Huawei And Alcatel-Lucent For modernising the nationwide mobile network of Mobilink, Its Pakistani subsidiary

Telecom Holding SAE ("Orascom Telecom") announces the signature of a five year agreement with Huawei and Alcatel-Lucent to provide for the design, purchase, deployment, and maintenance of next-generation mobile network equipment and supporting services from two of the world's leading global providers. With this investment, Mobilink expects not only to further enhance the data and voice services it provides to its customers throughout

Pakistan, but also to pave the way to introducing 3G services as soon as these are licensed in Pakistan.

"As part of our commitment to the Pakistani telecom market, this strategic investment will allow Mobilink to continue to provide cutting-edge, high-quality mobile broadband and voice services to our customers in Pakistan while reducing costs associated with operating the network", said Ahmed Abou Doma, Group Chief Executive Officer of Orascom Telecom.

In addition to better network performance, Mobilink also expects that the improved capabilities of the latest generation of equipment from Huawei and Alcatel-Lucent will allow the company to significantly increase network efficiency and reduce operating costs. More specifically, Huawei was awarded 50 per cent of the radio network and 100 per cent of the core and value added services networks, while Alcatel-Lucent was awarded the other 50 per cent of the radio access network.

Subsidies on prime gasoline to end as IMF delegation leaves

Morsy government set to take steps toward economic reform although a formal economic plan to secure an IMF loan has not been released.

By Noah Chasek-Macfoy

The IMF delegation sent to study and negotiate a \$4.8 billion loan is set to leave today after two weeks in Egypt. Finance minister Momtaz Saeed announced on Monday that Egypt would sign a preliminary memorandum of understanding before the delegation left, according to Reuters.

In the same interview, Momtaz Saeed announced that the government will fully eliminate subsidies on 95 Octane gasoline either today or Thursday, a step that has been anticipated for months.

The delegation's arrival in Egypt was delayed in order to allow the Egyptian government time to work on an economic reform plan. IMF officials including director Christine Lagard have stated that granting the loan depends on the government's ability to demonstrate an economic reform plan that can address the country's growing budget deficit and poor GDP growth, which plummeted from 5.1 percent in 2010 to 1.8 percent in 2011.

On Tuesday President Morsy met with his cabinet to discuss the nation's "comprehensive development plan." Despite months of comments

on a range of policy suggestions, no formal plan has been announced. The IMF loan and Morsy's administration's handling of it have attracted criticism including a rally held Monday evening. Critics denounce the lack of transparency in the negotiation process, in addition to fears of foreign dependency and manipulation.

The director of the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia department, Masood Ahmed, told the Wall Street Journal on Sunday that the Egyptian government still has not presented a final economic reform plan. Counter to the Finance Minister's statement about an imminent deal, Mr Masood said "The timetable really depends on how quickly the Egyptian authorities are ready to move...We can't approve a plan that is not there; that is why it is important that we take our time."

According to Reuters, analysts see the decision to end subsidies on 95 octane gasoline as an attempt by the Morsy administration to prove to the IMF that they are making concrete steps toward economic reform.

95 octane is the most highly refined and most expensive gasoline on the Egyptian market, mostly used by owners of more expensive cars. Nonetheless 95 octane is currently subsidised

to sell for a fixed price of EGP 2.75 or \$0.45 per litre. All other gasoline formulations will remain heavily subsidised.

Professor Magdi Nasrallah, chair of the Department of Petroleum and Energy Engineering at American University Cairo predicts that without government subsidy the price on 95 octane will increase to around five pounds. Regular gasoline in the US is currently sold for \$3.49 per gallon, equal to 5.62 EGP per litre.

There is a danger gas subsidy reform in the proposed structure will back fire. Nasrallah warns "If the price [of 95 octane] increased much beyond five pounds people will move to using 92 octane" eliminating the money the government would have recouped from the raised subsidy and increasing demand on 92 which might in turn increase instances of smuggling and black market sales.

In addition to the elimination of the 95 octane subsidy, Morsy administration officials have mentioned higher taxes on telephone calls and purchases of passenger cars, cigarettes, alcoholic drinks, carbonated mineral water, coffee beans and water-resistant cement as further elements of the economic reform plan.

Sawiris to buy shares in Telecom Italia

By Mohamed Salah Eldin

The Egyptian telecom tycoon Naguib Sawiris has made an offer to buy a stake in Telecom Italia.

The deal is intended to help fund the acquisition of a Global Village Telecom unit in Brazil which is being sold by Vivendi, reported Reuters.

The French communications company is trying to raise €7 billion from the sale of GVT.

According to the Italian press, Sawiris intends to invest €3 billion in the deal which will allow him to re-enter the Italian market after selling Wind Telecomunicazione SpA last year.

The shares of the company rose by 4.2 per cent in reaction to the news, bringing its market value to €13.4 billion.

The deal may put Sawiris in conflict with Telecom Italia's controlling shareholders led by the Spanish telecommunications provider Telefonica S.A.

The Spanish company along with other Italian investors, who own 22.4 per cent of Telecom Italia through the holding company Telco SpA, is likely to resist the deal because it will dilute



AFP Photo

Egyptian telecom tycoon Naguib Sawiris

their share of earnings, commented the analyst at Espirito Santo Research in Lisbon, Nuno Matias.

The analyst added: "I don't see why Telefonica would be keen on a transaction like that, on top of that the government's opinion on such a deal can't be ignored," reported Bloomberg.

The chairman of Intesa Sanpaolo's (one of Telco's main shareholders) management board stated Monday at a conference in Milan that he had no comment on Sawiris's offer, while the Italian industry minister Corrado Passera said: "Each time institutional investors say they're interested in Italy, I'm happy."

Daily EGX30 index performance

Company	Reuters Code	Sector	Last Price	Close Price	Returns			Daily Performance		Turn Over (EGP Mill.)	Volume Trade	Market Cap. (EGP Mill.)
					Daily	YTD	12-Mths.	Max. Price	Min. Price			
Commercial Bank	COMI	Banks	38.42	38.60	-0.44%	106.42%	53.11%	38.91	38.42	24.34	630,524	23,154.51
NSGB	NSGB	Banks	44.49	44.65	-1.37%	119.84%	81.28%	45.85	44.20	10.360	232,026	20,078.87
Ezz Steel	ESRS	Basic Resources	9.4	9.37	2.52%	151.21%	67.02%	9.44	9.15	12.09	1,290,734	4,965.44
ELSWEDY ELECTRIC	SWDY	Industrial Goods and Services and Automobiles	25.50	25.53	-0.74%	23.10%	30.39%	25.70	25.50	0.372	14,564	5,746.31
MRRIDVE	MOIL	Industrial Goods and Services and Automobiles	1.06	1.06	0.95%	-12.29%	-29.33%	1.07	1.05	1.05	162,330	376.32
AIC Contracting	AIND	Financial Services excluding Banks	0.52	0.52	1.96%	0.00%	-10.34%	0.53	0.51	1.853	3,566,746	272.66
Amer Group Holding	AMER	Financial Services excluding Banks	0.67	0.67	1.52%	21.82%	-2.90%	0.68	0.66	2.18	3,237,150	2,006.20
EK Holding	EKHO	Financial Services excluding Banks	1.20	1.21	0.00%	23.47%	22.22%	1.22	1.20	0.773	104,685	1,015.55
FG-Hermes	HRHO	Financial Services excluding Banks	11.22	11.25	0.63%	12.39%	-11.21%	11.31	11.19	16.06	1,427,912	5,347.34
Pioneers Holding	PIOH	Financial Services excluding Banks	4.97	4.91	3.81%	121.17%	79.20%	5.00	4.79	10.431	2,122,878	2,365.00
Citadel Capital	CCAP	Financial Services excluding Banks	3.86	3.90	1.30%	52.94%	29.14%	3.95	3.85	10.33	2,650,309	2,516.82
Raya Holding	RAYA	Technology	5.89	5.80	2.11%	66.67%	50.26%	5.90	5.70	2.692	464,038	364.79
Telecom Egypt	ETEL	Telecommunications	14	14.02	-0.21%	6.13%	-1.27%	14.10	13.92	2.72	193,935	23,984.36
Orascom Telecom Media And Technology	OTMT	Telecommunications	0.60	0.61	3.39%	76.67%	68.75%	0.63	0.58	24.456	40,406,115	3,094.96
Orascom Telecom	ORTE	Telecommunications	3.72	3.73	1.91%	115.81%	106.12%	3.76	3.69	22.77	6,099,959	19,199.23
Sidi Kerir Petrochemicals	SKPC	Chemicals	13.40	13.45	0.45%	12.93%	11.43%	13.50	13.33	0.878	65,294	7,029.75
Egyptian Financial and Industrial	EFIC	Chemicals	10.78	10.80	1.12%	21.21%	0.65%	10.90	10.70	2.50	231,018	704.14
AMOC	AMOC	Oil and Gas	77.02	77.05	-0.06%	15.10%	21.70%	77.50	77.00	0.079	1,029	6,638.31
Juhayna Food Industries	JUFO	Food and Beverage	7.39	7.55	0.53%	93.59%	67.78%	7.64	7.31	3.78	501,198	5,302.46
Orascom Construction Industries (OCI)	OCIC	Construction and Materials	263.02	262.01	1.49%	30.26%	14.19%	264.43	258.00	18.013	68,751	53,941.63
Delta Construction & Rebuilding	DCRC	Construction and Materials	7.05	7.11	0.99%	-7.54%	-24.04%	7.19	7.03	0.67	94,251	162.67
Modern Co. For Water Proofing	WATP	Construction and Materials	2.12	2.13	1.43%	-7.39%	-3.62%	2.15	2.11	0.987	464,246	214.20
Palm Hills	PHDC	Real Estate	2.63	2.64	1.54%	142.20%	116.39%	2.67	2.60	24.65	9,335,545	2,725.63
TMG Holding	TMGH	Real Estate	4.75	4.76	1.71%	60.81%	47.83%	4.80	4.68	10.038	2,109,687	9,657.47
National Real Estate Bank	NRPD	Real Estate	24	23.95	2.70%	22.07%	2.39%	24.23	23.35	2.59	108,044	91.01
Six of October	OCDI	Real Estate	20.72	20.79	2.21%	160.85%	64.61%	21.24	20.45	5.033	242,079	1,844.36
El Kahera Housing & Development	ELKA	Real Estate	5.82	5.81	3.20%	49.74%	32.65%	5.88	5.69	1.26	216,391	527.81
Arab Cotton Ginning	ACGC	Personal and Household Products	4.03	4.00	3.09%	89.57%	53.26%	4.07	3.90	10.533	2,630,749	1,050.77
Oriental Weavers	ORWE	Personal and Household Products	23	23.25	-0.17%	-16.08%	-18.71%	23.30	22.81	1.09	47,002	2,096.10
Egyptian Tourism Resorts	EGTS	Travel & Leisure	1.11	1.10	0.92%	30.95%	14.58%	1.11	1.09	1.240	1,125,988	1,144.50

Market indices performance

Index	Value	Daily Ch.	YTD Ch.
EGX 30	5,684.25	0.81%	56.92%
EGX 70	519.30	1.11%	24.95%
EGX 100	860.10	1.04%	33.75%
EGX 20 Capped	6,537.14	0.86%	66.53%

Market Brief

Markets	No.	Volume	Value(LE)	Trades
Listed	171	103,648,433	441,962,064	19,133
Stocks	170	103,570,133	351,841,840	19,128
PDBonds	1	78,300	90,120,224	5
Bonds	0	0	0	0
Nilex	7	304,123	1,406,501	218
OTC	16	2,868,035	21,273,947	45
Deals	16	2,868,035	21,273,947	45
Orders	0	0	0	0
Total	194	106,820,591	464,642,512	19,396
Total Market Cap		389,705,011,003		

Direction	No.	Volume (000's)	Value (LE 000's)	No. of Trades
Listed stocks	170	103,570	351,842	19,128
Gainers	114	100,531	303,660	17,259
Decliners	33	2,386	45,939	1,618
Unchanged	23	653	2,243	251



COMMENTARY

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

O' Army, save us?

By Sara Abou Bakr

This is where we are probably heading and it frightens the hell out of me. The self-proclaimed Islamists refuse to see it.

The situation in Egypt has taken a downturn in the last three months in ways that are hard to describe; prices of almost all basic food items have skyrocketed, and talks about a price hike in gas and oil and the possibility of removing subsidies are the main concern; police are barely present on the streets while a continuous flood of "fresh" torture cases blamed on police forces are piling up; a wave of attacks of veiled women on non-veiled women has mothers warning their daughters against riding the Metro; unemployment has caused a new wave of emmigration etc...

The situation is dire to say the least.

People are getting angrier and more frustrated every day. "This is not the Egypt we know" and "People did not die in a revolution for this to be the situation" are two of the most common sentences heard in any conversation among Egyptians nowadays.

The failure of the current political powers to unite over a course of action, a weak government with no vision, and contradictory statements and declarations by some rabid Islamists - as seen in last Friday demonstrations in Tahrir square, on taking up arms and implementing their version of Islamic Shari'a by force - have caused the majority of Egyptians to agree on one thing: there is no future plan for Egypt.

There is a well-known idiom in Egypt: "he who does not have an elder should buy one." It is a telling metaphor. The need of a leader is a must, someone who provides vision and a plan.

A guy, who is poorer than most, asked me, "why won't the army intervene and just grab hold of the country?" For a minute I lost the ability to talk. I was stunned, "did you not see what they did to the country during the transitional period? They have blood on their hands; Maspero, Mohamed Mahmoud and even Port Said!" He appeared unfazed and said, "Well it was better than the conditions now."

This man is not alone in his way of thinking and here lies the dangerous cycle into which we are about to fall; incapable government followed by the army, again! Large segments of the population are now more than willing to fall into the deceptively loving bosom of the Egyptian army. Think about what is happening in Sinai nowadays, with reports on militants and Jihadists filling Sinai and killing police and army officers, on a bi-weekly basis. Headlines in the international press say that the army wants to capture and kill the militants in Sinai, but Morsy wants to negotiate with them!

This fuzzy approach to politics, lead by Morsy, has to stop. The unspoken deal the Muslim Brotherhood brokered with SCAF (initiated during the meeting held with Omar Suleiman in February 2011, in the throes of the revolution) will not hold when the Egyptian people, tired, hungry and more impoverished, take to the streets demanding the downfall of Morsy and his weak government. The inability to provide for your family is a major motivator for action. And who will be ready with a plan and a huge organisation to support the people? Which single apparatus is more than willing to come in and act as the Egyptian's knight in shining armour? Yes, the Egyptian army. That's the correct answer; you get a gold star!

The Egyptian army has a lot to answer for; from the people massacred

in Maspero and Port Said, to their personal budget and the food, cement and steel companies they own. Morsy made the generals "untouchable" by honouring Tantawi and Anan who both have cases against them for killing protesters. It's a carte blanche to anyone wearing the khaki uniform to do as they will, broker a deal and have the safe exit they seek.

We made a revolution and had high hopes, we didn't wish for this mess of a situation. Not even 5 per cent of our expectations have been met. Besides this we are now facing extreme poverty.

The next wave of the revolution will not be guided by the middle class, but by the poor whose one demand is "food." It will be violent to say the least. The people will be frightened out of their wits and will ask for "control." Who can offer this control? The Brotherhood? The police? No, the army and it will be done at the demand of the people, for protection. Remember: "the Egyptian army belongs to the Egyptian people and is to serve them." This sentence alone, which is the supposed creed of the army, is daunting under current conditions.

The army (among other organisations) has refused the draft constitution, written by an Islamist majority. The future does not bode well for Morsy and his posse. Three weeks ago he fired the chief editor of state owned Al-Gomhoria after one of his reporters dared to write that Tanatwi and Anan will be referred to the Illicit Gains Authority.

The circle is tightening and they refuse to see it, still protecting the "deal."

I never previously quite understood the phrase, "History is boring as it tends to repeat itself." Does it ever! We are heading back to the transitional period (11 February 2011 - 30 June 2012) and it scares me to death!

The nurseries: a dutiful father goes AWOL for Arabic

When my wife and I were choosing nurseries in Cairo, we wanted, naturally, the best education for our child that we could afford. Of course, our choices were not the same as most Cairenes; we were, admittedly, looking at the same nurseries which are the choices of the economic elite of Egypt. Therein, I came to realise, lay part, actually most, of the problem.

Here is the thing. I have this weird, wacky, wonderful, wild, way out (you get the idea) notion that in a country whose national language is (wait for it) Arabic, it should not be particularly difficult to find a decent nursery that uses the language. My unscientific surveys of friends and colleagues in Egypt indicate that many have the same idea. Even those who were born and raised in Egypt shared this notion: a notion we all later realised, alas, was incredibly romantic.

As I suffer from this type of romantic delusion (I call it "sanity"), I saw fit to question the nurseries I happened to visit, as to why Arabic is not taught in the best nurseries of this "Arab Republic."

I received a wonderful array of answers to this query: "We do not think that children can learn two languages at this age; so, we prioritise English," was a common one. I thought that was stupendous, particularly when it was expressed in such obviously non-native (read: bad) English. I'm not sure if any of those nurseries realised that around the world, children learn, incredibly easily, more than one language with complete fluency, particularly at younger ages. But clearly, Egyptian children are, it seems, somewhat deficient in that basic intelligence (Nasserites and Arab nationalists: please note the sarcasm).

One of my favourite responses, I have to say, was the insistence that children, "learn Arabic in Egypt on the street anyway, so why should we teach them in the nursery?" Of course. How utterly dense of me to assume using Arabic in nursery could be useful in an Arabic-speaking country.

Never mind that most nurseries and schools in Egypt do precisely that, which just betrays the classist bias that these nurseries have. Never mind that it is not "Arabic" that children learn on the street, but a dialect of it, which will never provide them access to the great tomes of Arabic literature. Never mind that this approach has already led to several generations of many 'upper class' (a misnomer if ever there was one) Egyptians to be essentially illiterate in their mother tongue. Never mind that as far as many young Egyptians are concerned, Arabic is an uncivilised language to be used only with maids and porters. How silly of me to have even brought this up.

The irony of all this was that as a native English speaker, from England, I was having these discussions in English and in Arabic, demanding to know why my daughter would be kept from her right to know the language of Egypt, with Egyptians who certainly did not know English as a mother tongue, and never would.

One response to my bizarre mental condition (remember: I call it, "sanity"), was the suggestion of a cure. "Umm, perhaps you would prefer, then, an Islamic nursery?" I call that as a "cure," as the impression I was given was that any person fluent in a European language (Egyptian or not) had a university degree & the resources to pay for a nursery such as the one I visited, and wanted their child to learn Arabic seriously could only be... well, sick in some way.

The "sickness" could only be one thing - I'd have to be a Muslim religious fundamentalist of some kind (as the Qur'an is in the Arabic language), and would thus only be satisfied in an "Islamic" nursery. (I'm not entirely sure what an "Islamic nursery" is, incidentally - is there a bismillah on the front door as you walk in?)

Needless to say, there was not much evidence to support that diagnosis. Conversely, I am also not quite sure that anyone would assume it would be abnormal to learn *Arabic* in, gasp, an Arab country that is responsible for more Arabic cultural expression than any other country in the world.

Finally, we found one nursery where, if they did not offer Arabic as much as they did English, they were at least honest. It did not do much to increase my faith in Egypt's overall educational structure, though.

My hope is that my child, like any parent, will have the choice to go to any university she pleases in the future. In order for her to have a better chance to do so, I could not risk a national school, although I wouldn't think twice in other countries. How could I, where the amount of investment into national education in Egypt is so meagre and the government's interest in improving education has been so lackluster? One hopes that the new Islamist government might take a few steps in that regard. After all, I'm fairly sure that the first revelation in Islam was related to, umm, "reading," and that the Prophet said something that seeking knowledge was a duty on every Muslim. So, one hopes... but one also does not want to suffocate from holding one's breath (a virtual certainty in this case).



DR H A HELLYER

So, in Egypt, either a parent chooses home schooling (hardly viable in Egypt), or international schools. Herein lies the proverbial rump, which this last nursery let me in on: those schools have entrance exams. Those exams are in English, or French, or German... but never, ever, in Arabic. That's not a condition of entry, not from the Ministry of Education, nor out of a sense of educational responsibility. Thus begins the cycle: the nurseries feel they have to drill one of those languages in for the exams.

This is the reality in modern Egypt. The country's economic elite has developed an incredible cultural inferiority complex, and the Ministry of Education is perfectly content to leave it as such. As a result, entire generations of Egypt's economic elite have been, and will continue to be robbed of a connection to their own cultural legacy. That economic elite, incidentally, disproportionately figures in all realms of influence in this country.

It is, of course, beyond the realm of imagination to consider a paradigm where Arabic is honoured as a language for cultural reasons, and where a European language is honoured so that Egyptians might participate more effectively on the world stage. Such creativity is beyond the pale, it seems.

I hasten to remind you, this is about the nursery. When I get round to choosing schools... well, the first nurseries I went to were glad to see the back of me, which embarrassed my wife to no end. When it's time for schools, I have a feeling she's going to save herself the trouble, and keep me at home. I reckon the schools will be eternally grateful, and might admit my daughter on that basis alone.

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

FROM THE OTHER SIDE

Marxist-Leninist!

"Marxist-Leninist" ... like that he introduced himself before we entered the hall in which we would give a lecture in the Italian University of Pisa in Tuscany, central Italy.

I smiled while I shook hands with him. How many years have elapsed since I heard someone sound proud like that introducing himself. Despite my leftist background, I expected to hear from that Moroccan man, who was over seventy and still proud of his Marxism, an emotionless theoretical lecture on the impact of the Arab revolutions on people, like Moroccans, who are still striving to catch up with the Arab Spring.

I asked the head of the political science division at the university to postpone my speech so that my Moroccan Marxist friend could speak first, before my speech about the Egyptian revolution.

The Marxist spoke proudly and enthusiastically about the effect of the Arab revolutions on Moroccan people. He asserted the role of Egypt as a "big brother" among Arab nations, even if that brother does not pay much attention to that role. Part of his address went as follows:

I am an engineer and I have lived during the rule of King Mohamed V, King Hassan II and now under the rule of King Mohamed VI. I was imprisoned during the regime of King Hassan II.

I know well the meaning of fear; when it penetrates in the soul of an Arab citizen and when that citizen mulls it over before uttering a word critical of a king, president or leader.

I do not know why the Makhzen [a word which means the Moroccan government] left me alive. I think I am lucky

to live until the present to see how the Moroccans turned from subjects to citizens. The Moroccan king is still known by the law as the 'prince of believers' and the Moroccans as his subjects, not citizens.

A true revolution has occurred in the Arab world, because it toppled the fear from souls of youths, women and citizens. You can see anger, exhaustion and suspense in the eyes of citizens of Morocco or of other Arab countries but you can't see fear.

What we saw in Egypt's Tahrir Square brought back our pride in the Arab identity and confidence in our ability to accomplish much. It revealed that these regimes pretend to be strong and coherent but, in fact, they are vulnerable, corrupt and weak.

Many of you do not know the February 20 youth movement! It is an image of Egypt's April 6 Movement, but in a broader way and it has more ability to present social and democratic programmes. The movement includes different generations who are united against fear and are confident that they can make a change.

Egyptians and Tunisians may need to move away from their countries to see the big picture clearly. I know well after my long life that the corruption, suppression and bids to please the west and America were not the most important and dangerous misdeeds of the Arab regimes over the past long decades. Instead it was making Arab citizens lose their self-confidence until their highest dream became to live docilely and not in prison.

This was what the Arab revolutions rejected. The policeman is no longer the master who should be obeyed. The ruler, president, king or prince, is no longer a



GAMAL EID

demigod. The Arab revolutions removed that mask and brought the ruler back to his natural image as a tyrannical and corrupt dictator who should be toppled and held to account.

The Islamists no longer have a pretext. They have assumed power but through their confusion they have become human beings with visions they attributed to the religion. They have to prove their visions and carry out their slogans that they have been chanting for decades.

The 'democracy' that was created by the Arab revolutions was the force through which the Islamists rose to power and it is also the democracy that is capable of replacing them if they fail.

Whether or not Islamists succeed in achieving social justice, Arab societies will benefit from either scenarios, as their claimed 'magic solutions' to problems will be proved one way or another.

Thanks to the Marxist-Leninist who made me think the matter over from that point of view. Yes the revolution broke the fear in our souls which is the most important thing, regardless of other details. He who breaks free of fear is able to achieve his dreams and true democracy.

Gamal Eid is a human rights lawyer

AHMAD RIAD



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The Daily News Egypt talks journalism

While writing is an individual task, the production of a newspaper is very much a team effort. Over the past several months Daily News Egypt has worked to establish a business, a public identity, and an honest check on Egyptian politics and society. Some of us have a knack for finding sources, some have a way with narrative and composition. We provide each other with translation help and technical assistance. Throughout the day facts are checked and discussions are held over the low, transparent cubicles that separate our work space. Then early the next morning, the broadsheet is printed and distributed. Below are the stories of five reporters offering an insider's perspective.

Trial by fire: learning on the job as a rookie reporter

By Joel Gulhane

Coming in to the newsroom as a newbie is not something that can be done with a "softly-softly" approach; the lessons are learnt on the job. The endless phone calls, adapting to a new style of writing, and the pressure of the deadline necessitates a jump straight into the deep end and there is definitely no time to complain.

One of the first lessons I learnt was to never assume a story you are following is true. One such instance occurred when I saw a story on a news website (which shall remain nameless) announcing the arrival of a Hamas delegation in Cairo for high level talks with government figures. An interesting story I thought, but not a confirmed source. The day was spent attempting to confirm the story and gain fresh information. After being passed from one department to another, I finally got through to the prime minister's office and was told, "there is no Gaza delegation coming to Cairo today." Story killed and most of a day wasted.

Another lesson that has proved to be useful is to take a bit of time for background research on the details, you never know what you might find. The workers at Sokhna Port had closed the docks for almost 10 days and two ships were effectively being held hostage. An administrator claimed that the port was to be blacklisted by the International Maritime Organisation unless it re-opened. A little digging around the IMO website revealed that there is no such thing as a blacklist in the IMO. The IMO confirmed this. It appeared to be pressure tactics by the owners of the port to end the strike. Many other news agencies had run with the story assuming that this threat was true. Proving

it to be false was a good feeling. We had a unique angle on the story.

I have come to enjoy how much some people appreciate it when you tell their story. One such case was the month long sit-in when Marsa Matruh was calling for a new governor. While speaking to people involved in the sit-in I could hear the desperation in their voices as they described the issues they wanted to be addressed.

It was not until I met these men face-to-face in Cairo that I really understood how grateful they were. A group had come to protest outside the presidential palace and I went to meet them. They all shook my hand and thanked me. They told me how much they appreciated me taking an interest in their story. It goes to show that however small a story might appear, it probably means a lot to somebody.

Being the newbie in the newsroom has not been easy, but even when it gets stressful, it's still exciting. The great moments outweigh the bad moments. I found it difficult not to feel like an excited child when invited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I was left in awe after attending a joint press conference held by the Russian foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, the secretary general of the Arab League, Nabil El-Araby, and joint UN-Arab League special envoy to Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi. I had gone from seeing these people on television to bumping in to El-Araby on the way out of the press conference. A big jump from the sofa, if you ask me.



Frequently underestimated never disheartened

By Nouran El-Behairy

I'm always running, usually with a side bag, through the busy streets of Cairo, a notebook in one hand and a camera in the other. This time I was in a hurry to get to a protest by retired military personnel. I was anticipating how the event would go and wondering if I would meet interesting people, get a scoop, or even enjoy some action.

After a lot of running and dodging between the racing traffic, I finally got to the protesters and started asking questions.

"We will not talk to the press" a protester said. Since I'm used to this sentence I didn't lose hope. I approached other protesters but their comments were even stranger.

"What is a girl like you doing here?" an old protester said.

"I'm a journalist and I'm here to cover your story" I replied.

"You mean you are here to take our words and twist them. And besides, don't they have men in your newspaper?" he said.

While many Egyptians see journalists in a negative light, as opportunists trying to get a scoop at any expense who stir the public through sensationalism, it is worse for a female journalist. On the societal level, she's criticised by a large sector of people who claim that reporting is a dangerous job for women, requiring long working hours and risk taking, lessening her chances of getting married.

On the professional level, she is often underestimated, just as the protester underestimated me. She is vulnerable to harassment during news coverage, sometimes even from sources. Some Islamists refuse to talk to a female reporter because a woman's voice is *awrah* and shouldn't be heard by a strange man.

On the other hand, being a young female journalist have never got in my way when I have covered press conferences. Sometimes it has actually helped.

Press conferences can be quite boring or quite fun, either way it's a part of any journalist's daily schedule. Every day there's a press conference announcing, denouncing, or explaining stances.

The first press conference I covered was for the Maspero Youth Coalition. I sat in the second row looking around and recognising faces like that of George Ishak and Mostafa Al-Guindy, and there were others who seemed rather important.

I was one of the very few women in the conference and probably the youngest attendee, as most were middle-aged. I was nervous, but everybody who passed by my chair looked at me and smiled, this time they seemed sympathetic and some even looked proud.

One press conference I'll never forget was by the Egyptian Students' Union, who mostly belong to the Muslim Brotherhood. Some of the attendees, especially girls, gave me strange looks. I thought it was maybe because I'm not veiled, but that didn't stop me. I asked the ushers questions and they were very helpful.

The conference ended in chaos though when the students' union board wrapped up without giving journalists the chance to ask questions. I dare to say the hall witnessed a mini press revolution; journalists were standing on their chairs yelling and chanting against the speakers. Even when they were forced to leave the room they carried on fighting for "their right to question," with the chants led by two female journalists.



The other side of the story

By Rana Muhammad Taha

The abc in journalism is producing balanced stories. Finding someone eager to share a newsworthy story with you is not even halfway to getting it done. You need to keep it balanced by checking out the other side. And in a country where the concept of free flow of information is almost non-existent, you're left at the mercy of the "other side's" whims. And if that other side happens to be a governmental office; then it's not a question of whims as much as a question of bureaucratic sloth.

Governmental offices' work strategy seems twofold; they're trained to pass you from one line to another under the myth that you're being transferred to the person who'd be able to answer your question best. When you finally reach the person who does hold the key to your question, they deal with the little information they have as if it's some sacred treasure they've sworn to take to their grave.

I was once doing a story on the air stewards' strike and I had to find out whether it had disrupted the airport flights. The story had me on hold and being hung up on the whole day as I tried to get through to anyone speaking officially on behalf of the airport management. I ended up with an unbalanced story with the classic line "the airport administration could not be reached for comment."

Yet, getting through to the airport authority is a picnic when weighed against trying to get any articulate phrase from the Ministry of Interior. A phone interview with the Ministry of Interior's spokespeople is the worst form of oppression a journalist could face. They have the incredible power



of seeing the innocent way you greet them as a trap you've set up to find them at fault. Any question you ask, regardless of the way you phrase it, to them makes absolutely no sense at all. And if they start making any sense of it, it miraculously it turns into an offensive question, which has you busy dodging their defensive responses.

Even when you steer clear from governmental offices, balancing out your story doesn't get any easier. One of my ugliest moments with a source was when I was doing a story about those killed in the Maspero Massacre. Their families released a statement denouncing the Maspero Youth Union and accused them of collecting donations on behalf of the dead without transferring the donations to the victims' families.

I had to call the union's media representatives to get "their side of the story." During my last call, the representative suddenly started yelling at me. She asked me why I was interrogating her. She addressed me with rudeness, which surpassed that which the Ministry of Interior's spokespeople use.

Be it obstinacy to release a statement, the lack of acknowledgement of the concept of the flow of information, or a defensive attitude, the result is you are faced with a greater challenge in balancing out the story.

Struggling for objectivity in a subjective world

By Luiz Sanchez

As journalists, one of our biggest challenges is remaining detached from the stories we cover, but more often than not a good journalist will immerse him or herself into a specific topic with some personal meaning to them. The longer we cover a specific issue or cause, the more attached we can grow to these topics. Yet, a question we all must ask ourselves is how involved have we become?

Last year I covered several protests in and around Tahrir square, where protesters demanded the army keep their promises of reform, elections and a constitution. The more I was on the streets, the more I found myself sympathetic to their cause, chanting snippets of the slogan under my breath, yet mindful of my disconnect with the people. "I am a foreigner, this is not my fight, I am here to do a job," became my mantra.

On 19 November, in the aftermath of the largest protest Egypt had seen in over six months, police surrounded the square in an overwhelming display of force. I had been sitting in a tent with a few activists who had spent the night in the square, when a young man entered our tent and told us, with a look of sheer terror on his face, to "prepare for battle."

Shields raised and batons at the ready the police charged the tents, demolishing everything in their wake and beating protesters into submission with the help of civilians sympathetic to the police.

I found myself immersed in the thick of things the following



few days. At first I had my pen, paper and a pathetic excuse for a camera handy. By the second day I committed the events to memory rather than stop and write. By the third day I had disregarded the camera, hoping to absorb the full spectrum of the conflict, knowing my camera could not capture it. I was committed to the story, but I was ultimately also committed to the cause. I wanted to help, but had to be sure to do so in a way that would not run against journalistic ethics.

I had become emotionally invested, having seen people die or dying, and children flinging rocks at men armed to the teeth who responded in kind with buckshot. Only a monster could be unmoved.

As the days rolled by I met many friendly activists who were interested in having a journalist tag along. Some had brought molotovs to the square, others came with nothing but their fists and voices. One jokingly asked if I wanted to hold a flaming molotov, "tempting, but no" I replied.

My level of attachment grew to the point where I found myself in increasingly dangerous situations, by mere happenstance I managed to come out of every scenario relatively unscathed.

At what point do we draw the line between activist and journalist? Was the line crossed when my friends and I decided to supply the field hospitals with medicine?

Some may say so, yet to me a journalist is at their best when they are to some degree emotionally invested in their subject matter. With this attachment also comes a distorted sense of perspective that can lead to putting oneself in danger. Striking the balance between commitment and safety allows for quality reporting.

Journalism: the fourth authority or a living tragedy?

By Fady Salah

In addition to the executive, legislative, and judicial authorities, some perceive journalism as the fourth authority of the state. Journalists are responsible for monitoring the performance of the three branches and exposing them to public opinion. Journalism and media has the potential to serve as a sounding board for truth, enhancing the transparency and accountability of society.

If journalists provide such an important role for Egyptian society, how does Egyptian society treat journalists in return?

This November, well after the revolution, I parked my car on the pavement of Al-Gama'a Bridge. While trying to relax and enjoy the sight of the Nile, I heard a knock on my window. It was a police officer. He checked my driving license and treated me surprisingly well. He then asked to search my car and suddenly his attitude changed dramatically.

"I see you have lots of books and newspapers in there. What do you do?" he asked. I responded that I was a journalist. He began to write a ticket for parking in an restricted area, and said, "I bet you'll try and expose me for writing you this."

Protesters also have the feeling that journalists are



their enemies. They perceive our questions as threatening, and most of the time do not give honest answers.

The corrupt are afraid of journalists because we might investigate and expose their corruption, while others simply perceive us as parasitic creatures seeking to acquire confidential information.

Such attitudes are inherited from the former era of dictatorship, which perceived journalism and media as a threat. Accordingly, the dictatorship spread stereotypes about journalists, which eventually led to the current situation.

Historically, undermining journalism and spreading false stereotypes about journalists were effective methods of manipulating the masses. As the Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels put it: "if you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it."

A fear of journalists reaches its peak when you approach a source, and tell him or her that you are working for Daily News Egypt: an English newspaper. It drives people to treat us as if we were spies working for the intelligence body of their enemies. We can always feel the suspicion of our sources once they hear the word "English." Explaining that we are in fact Egyptians, working for a truly independent Egyptian newspaper is something we need to clarify in almost every conversation we have with sources.

We might be swimming against the tide, treated as parasites, but no matter what, we will keep digging: the truth needs a true fighter to reveal it.



ART & CULTURE

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

EVENTS

MUSIC

International Day for Tolerance

Leading up to, and celebrating, the international day of tolerance, Savvy Culture Wheel is hosting a band that is all about tolerance and speaks of the diversity of Egypt, Ana Masry. Tickets are EGP 20. El Savvy Culture Wheel River Hall End of 26th of July Street Zamalek, Cairo Tel: (02) 2736 6178 14 November 8.30pm

Star Academy Reunion

AUC hosts Star Academy winner Nesma Mahgoub and her less fortunate friends who include Lara Scander, Mahmoud Shoukry, Gilbert Simon, Mohamed Kamamah and Mohamed Maghraby at the Bassily Hall. Entrance requires photo ID. The American University in Cairo AUC Avenue New Cairo, Cairo Tel: (02) 2615 1000 14 November 7pm

21st Festival and Conference of Arab Music

The 21st Festival and Conference of Arab Music honours Arab musical heritage through a week at the Cairo Opera House and the Al-Gomhouria Theatre where tickets will be available from both ticket offices. Cairo Opera House El Borg Gezira Zamalek, Cairo Tel: (02) 2739 0114 14 November 8pm

Eshara Gharby

Egyptian, down-to-earth, contemporary music with a little dabbling in the fusion genre. Do not miss Ehsara Gharby in Downtown's After Eight. Minimum charge is EGP 60. After Eight 6 Qasr El Nil Street Downtown, Cairo Tel: 010 0339 8000 14 November 9pm


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. Mashrabia Gallery 8 Champollion Street Downtown, Cairo Tel: 010 0170 4554 14 November 10am

Roh

Shaymaa Kamel shows you into the depths of her soul with her very personal and intimate Roh, or soul in Arabic, where a selection of her works will be on display. Designopolis Km 38 Cairo/Alexandria Road Cairo Tel: (02) 3857 2232 14 November 1pm

Weather 	
Wednesday, November 14	
Alexandria	24°C / 15°C
Aswan	28°C / 21°C
Cairo	26°C / 17°C
Hurghada	25°C / 18°C
Luxor	28°C / 18°C
Sharm El-Sheikh	31°C / 20°C
Suez	22°C / 13°C

Turath: oasis of rural Egyptian beauty opens in Zamalek

By Connor Molloy

Turath is tucked away, just south of 26 July Street, on Hassan Sabry in Zamalek. Its glass storefront and sleek white shelves allow it to blend in with its Zamalek surroundings, but wood flooring, a rocking chair and piles of rural crafts give it an honest and homey feel.

"It is a place where people can come in and relax, even if they do not buy anything," said owner Nada Nossier. "A place where you can get away from the noisy streets of Cairo and look at all the beauty of Egyptian art."

Turath is filled, but not cluttered. "I wanted to have a place where you can buy everything that is handmade in Egypt, but different than the other craft shops." Nossier selected every item in the shop, even helping to design some of the signature scarves that are the centerpiece of the store. This personal touch adds the feel of a boutique to a store that is equal parts fashion, culture and social awareness.

One thing that makes it unique is the care that is taken with display; something Nossier learned while taking courses in museum studies in Florence. "You learn how to display things, so that stuff pops out. I want people to see the scarves for the craft that they are, not just a fashion accessory. I also like to tell the story, that these are people that you are helping, you are helping a community."

The story of Turath starts with Nossier's mother. She was successful in a family business but she wanted to give something back to Egypt. A friend of hers recommended she take a trip to the village of Naqata. The village is located eight hours south of Cairo and the villagers are famous for the weaving they have been doing for over a millennia.

Nossier's mother started bringing back scarves and selling them to friends and family and before long, the Industrial Modernisation Centre asked her to represent Naqata at international trade fairs. Around this time, Nada joined her mother in the new



Courtesy of Turath

The beautiful scarves of Turath

family business. The opening of Turath this week is the latest iteration of the company.

Though Turath has sent Nossier to locations such as New York, Dubai and Milan, its heart is still in Naqata. Said Nossier, "it is run down and there is a lot of work to be done on the infrastructure but the people are extremely giving and hospitable. When you are walking down a side street, people who do not know you will call out *itfadaly* to invite you for a cup of tea."

Nossier worries about the craft of weaving. "There are only 48 weavers left in Naqata, both women and men." The young generation has little interest in weaving, which used to be a family business where everyone would take their turn at the household loom; now they prefer to work in the tourism industry. Nossier and her mother are looking for funding to establish a training centre where a new generation of weavers can be trained.

Presently Turath has relationships with a few suppliers and other weavers that they work with directly. This is not always easy said Nossier; "one thing you learn is that common sense is not always common. Something that seems beautiful to me may seem very plain to them. But

when I ask for a design, and it sells, they think, 'maybe she knows what she's talking about.'"

Nossier loves working on designs with the villagers. "When I see my friend put on a scarf I designed, it makes it all worthwhile. You see something you did, someone else gets enjoyment and the money gets put to good use."

In addition to the scarves from Naqata, the shop has jewelry from Dendera, and napkin holders from Hegaza. It has a line of books from AUC press and baskets from Dakhla Oasis. Some of Nossier's favourite products are the batiks from the Ramses Wissa Wassef Centre. Nossier said the serenity of Wissa Wassef is something she is trying to replicate with her shop. The batik works are large cloths where the artist drips hot wax in a design and then dips the cloth into different dyes for colouring. Nossier is in awe of the skill this takes. "You need to work so fast, and have a plan for your entire design ahead of time."

Turath blends the care and thought of museum displays with the intricate brilliance of ageless craftwork, a perfect oasis for a shopper in Cairo and celebrates the opening with a gala on Wednesday from 6-10pm.

Bite Me Cairo: The Best of the Best - Part 2

By David Blanks

In 2007 Time Magazine's Scott Macleod published an article claiming that the "the world's best hamburger is in Egypt." No; it's not. We do have some choice burgers, especially at some of the newer places like Grizzly Diner, Trio, The Snug, Mince—and I'm keeping my eye on the soon-to-open Burger Factory. Mr Macleod found the "best burger in the world" at Lucille's. I wouldn't put Lucille's burger in my top ten in Cairo, let alone the world.

So what gives? Well, to a certain extent, taste is subjective, but that's not the issue here; it has more to do with journalism and how restaurants are rated and ranked and how those top ten lists are created.

Last week I looked at travellers' websites and discovered one that claimed that the best restaurant in Cairo was Don Quichotte. This sent me on a wild goose chase trying to find out how the Cairo dining scene is perceived from the outside. What I learned was that no two websites or publications agree on the best food in Cairo. In fact, their top ten lists did not overlap at all. Each one had ten completely different restaurants.

Taste is subjective, sure, but as in art, literature and music there are also standards and a professional reviewer should know what they are. Most of these international best-in-Cairo lists have been compiled in one of three ways: by someone sitting at a desk in Brooklyn who has never been here and cadges his info off the internet because he has a deadline to meet; by someone who did a touristy walkthrough five years ago and is completely out-of-touch with the current scene; or by someone whose salary comes from the advertising revenues that are paid



Foodist at work

in part by the same food and beverage outlets they are reviewing.

Or in the case of Mr Macleod, someone who found a quirky angle, a heart-warming story, and a headline that was just too cute to pass up. Readers and savvy travelers need to know this though, if you are planning a trip and go online looking for restaurant recommendations, you will undoubtedly be disappointed. When you arrive at the airport you don't trust the taxi driver standing outside the arrivals hall and you shouldn't trust these charlatans either.

The solution to this is to go to the local sites. This too can be tricky, because they suffer from some of the same journalistic pitfalls as the international ones. So you have to approach them with some common sense scepticism, but if you do your homework you can find some true treasures. First rule of thumb, skip the commercial sites and go to the independent food blogs, Facebook pages and look on Twitter. This is where you'll find the insider conversations about the local

food scene. Second, read reviews in the local newspapers. Third, know that some local sites, even the commercial ones, are actually pretty good (like Cairo 360 and Cairo Scene).

Others? Not so much. Many hire random amateur freelancers who think that spring rolls are a seasonal dish and can't tell their head cheese from their aspic. Worse, some of these sites rely upon civilians to do their reviewing for them. This leads to some truly bizarre suggestions.

If our hapless traveler logged on to TotallyEgypt, she would be told that Sequoia is the best restaurant in Cairo based upon reviews that are years out-of-date; that Roy's Country Kitchen is the second best restaurant in Egypt based upon the enthusiasm of a single well-meaning customer who found that the open buffet there was reasonably priced when compared to Chili's; and that Lai Thai in the Four Seasons Giza ranks number six based upon a five-star review by a guy whose other five favourite restaurants in Cairo were also coincidentally all located at the Four Seasons. At least when Chophouse Bistro gave itself five stars, which landed it at number eleven on the TotallyEgypt list, they were honest enough not to hide it.

And yet, returning to my burger theme, some of the readers' comments can be insightful. On Dalili.com, whose motto is "local search, my way," I couldn't help but be impressed with the lovely youngman who, after visiting the food court at City Stars, wrote in to say that the best burger he had ever eaten in the world was at Burger King. The best fries too. This was useful to know and led me to click on Dalili's best of the best list. It turns out that Egypt's highest rated restaurant is McDonald's (the one near the Itihad Club Wall, El Shatby, Alexandria). I've definitely got to check that out.

ON THE TOWN

Sheraton Montazah awarded recognition



Roland Voss, president Starwood Hotels and Resorts, Hassan Ahdab, vice president Africa and Indian Ocean Region, Frank Braun, Six Sigma Black Belt Africa and Indian Ocean, Atef Wilson, general manager Sheraton Montazah and management team

Roland Voss, president of Starwood Hotels & Resorts International has granted Sheraton Montazah Hotel special awards as the best hotel in Africa and the Indian Ocean region in implementing the Six Sigma methodology and the environmental calibrations. The Sheraton Montazah developed several initiatives to implement the environmental programmes in their hotel operations because eco-friendly hotels have become the preference of many travelers these days. The saved 19 per cent of energy and 28 per cent of water during 2011; considered a remarkable achievement amongst other region's hotels. Moreover, Sheraton Montazah introduced the Six Sigma methodology which aims to reducing expenses, increasing revenues, improving guest and associates satisfaction and developing operation processes. As a result of the Six Sigma Council and teams' efforts, the hotel achieved 23 projects in year 2011, resulting in incremental revenue of \$142,150.

First place for Hilton Pyramids Golf of Hilton hotels Middle East and Africa region



Ahmed Salama, general manager, with the blue energy team members

The Hilton Pyramids Golf Blue Energy team won the Blue Energy 2nd quarter award 2012 for Hilton Middle East and Africa region. This is a prestigious award presented to hotels on quarter bases for their blue energy committee. The Blue Energy Committee is the driving force behind our entire hotel team's effort to excel in guest satisfaction, respect our environment and be actively involved in our community. The Blue Energy 2nd quarter award is attained based on how the hotel lives up to the Hilton values; delivers the brand's promise to guests as measured in a brand promise report; celebrates stories at the hotel level; activates its Blue Energy Committee; embraces sustainability; and serves its community.

BITES FIL BEIT

By Iman Adel Abdel-Fattah

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



Baskoot be 'aseer limoon we vanilya - Biscuits with lemon juice and vanilla

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp lemon juice – *a-seer li-moon*
- 1 cup of butter, or margarine – *zeb-da* or *sam-na*
- 1 tsp salt – *malh*
- 3 cups flour – *di-ee'*
- 1 tsp baking powder – *ba-king pow-der*
- 1 tsp vanilla – *va-nil-ya*
- 1 cup sugar – *su-kar*
- 3 eggs, beaten – *beid*
- 2 tbsp lemon peel, grated – *ashr li-moon*

Directions

- Preheat the oven to 190C. In a medium bowl, sift the flour, baking powder and salt.
- Mix the butter and sugar with a

Note

- When arranging the biscuits on the baking sheet, leave 3cm between each biscuit to allow space for them to increase in volume during baking.