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News Coverage

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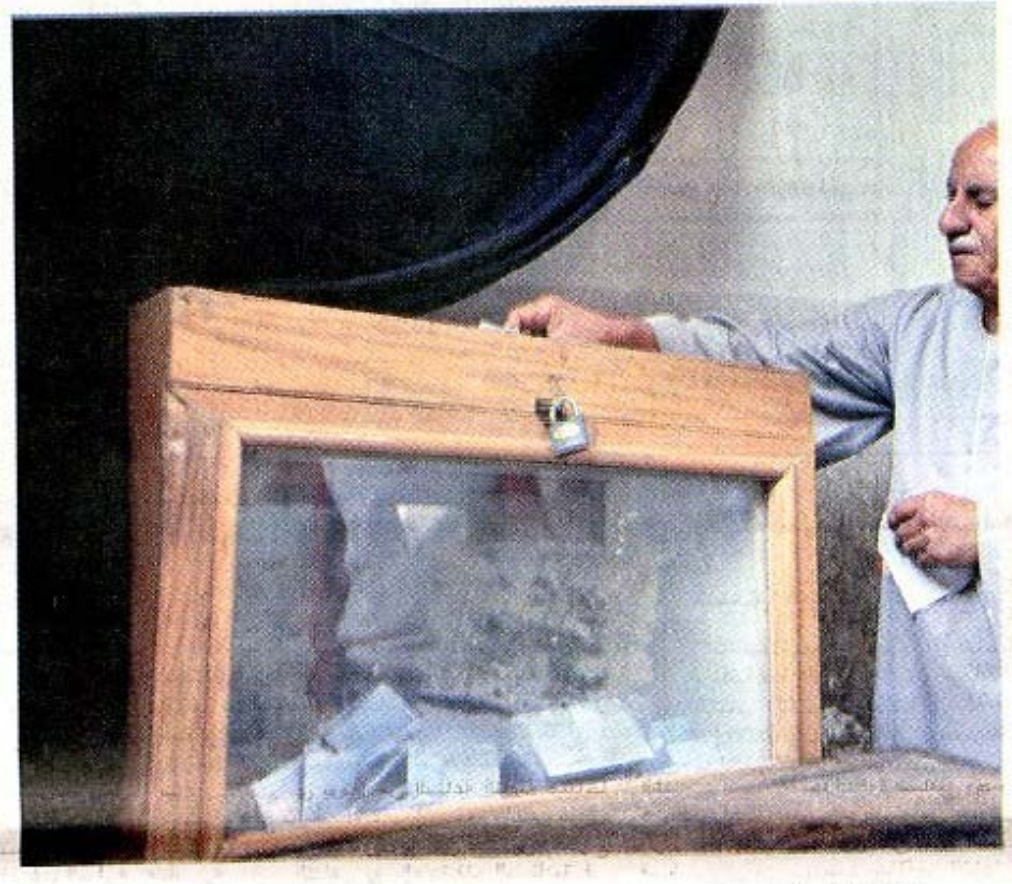
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Newspapers (28/11/2011)

❖ Elections Coverage





Al-Akhbar Newspaper:

Page: 3, 14 and 15

Authors: Khaled Merey, Zeinab Youssef, Abdel-Elah Mohamed, Mohamed el-Bahnasawi, Gamal Hussein, Ahmed Abdel-Hamed, Akram Naguib, Ahmed Daoud, Mohamed Hamdi, Daa Abul-Safa, Nabil el-Tafahani and Maher Naguib.

The first phase of the historic parliamentary elections kicks off today. About 18.5 million voters are eligible to vote in this phase. They will be choosing 178 members of parliament.

The Armed Forces and police have been securing ballot stations. A military source said thugs' attempts to disrupt the election process will be handled with no leniency at all.

In a press conference, SCAF head Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi urged the Egyptians to cast their votes in the elections. He also underlined the importance of the role of popular groups in securing ballot stations.

Al-Azhar Grand Imam Ahmed el-Tayyeb, Mufti Ali Gomaa and Chairman of the International Union for Muslim Scholars Youssef el-Qaradawi encouraged the citizens to actively participate in the parliamentary elections. They also urged voters not to sell their votes. Casting their votes in the elections is an obliged duty, they said.

Caretaker Prime Minister Essam Sharaf also urged the citizens to vote in the elections.

The first phase of the parliamentary elections kicks off today in nine governorates across Egypt: Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Damietta, Kafr El-Sheikh, Fayyoun, Assuit, Luxor and the Red Sea.

Chairman of the High Electoral Commission (HEC) Abdel-Moez Ibrahim said that deposed president Hosni Mubarak and all regime officials, who were imprisoned over several counts, do not have the right to vote in the elections.

Those who were not indicted, such as Mubarak's wife Suzanne Thabet, have the right to vote, Ibrahim said.

The vote counting for Egyptian expatriates starts today. Ballot papers will be counted in the presence of community representatives.



The Alexandria Security Directorate has been coordinating with popular vigilante groups to secure ballot stations in the governorate. The Armed Forces are also partaking in the process.

Meanwhile, 400 armored vehicles were deployed in Luxor constituencies to secure ballot stations.

Qena Security Director Major General Mohamed Halima instructed that 100 police officers be sent to the Luxor security director to enhance security capabilities during the elections.

Assistant Interior Minister Major General Mohamed Refaat Qomsan said 17.5 million people are eligible to vote in the first phase of the parliamentary elections.

As many as 9,840 judges will supervise the first phase of the elections in nine governorates, said Head of the HEC Technical Office Yousri Abdel-Karim.

They will be assisted by 11,216 civil servants in 18,536 sub-stations, Abdel-Karim said.

Abdel-Karim warned voters against three mistakes that could cost them their ballots:

- Choosing more/less than two individual candidates or more/less than one party list.
- Rearranging the order of candidate names written in ballot papers.
- Putting any marks that could reveal the identity of the voter or using a pencil in the vote.

A fine of EGP500 will be levied on eligible voters who abstain from voting, he said.

The Armed Forces started, Saturday, deploying Special Forces to secure the first phase of the polls. A military source said the Armed Forces have laid down a security plan in this regard. Any attempts to break the law will be dealt with strictly, the source said.

The Armed Forces, military police and civil police forces along with army commandos will work together to secure ballot stations, the source said.

Interior Minister Mansour Essawi held an expanded meeting with his top aides to put the final touches to plans to secure the elections.

Police officers will be entrusted with securing ballot stations on the outside, said Assistant Interior Minister for Security Major General Sami Sedhom.



Police forces will not enter ballot rooms unless asked by the presiding judge, Sedhom said.

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) has set up an operations room to receive complaints relevant to the elections. Voters can send an SMS naming the governorate and the location of ballot stations where the violations were reported.

The NCHR operations room will be working around the clock to receive any complaints. Voters can contact the room via the landlines.

The NCHR Elections Unit has delivered permits to civil associations to supervise the elections in the 27 governorates, said unit Chairman Hazem Mounir.

The Military Production Ministry has delivered 10,000 modern voting cabins for the first stage of the elections, said Minister Ali Sabri.

In Cairo's third constituency (Al-Darb Al-Ahmar, Al-Zaher, Bab El-Shariya, Manshiyet Nasr, El-Gamaliya, Boulaq, El-Azbaqiya, Abdeen, El-Mouski, El-Zamalek and Qasr El-Nil), nine party lists are vying in the elections.

In Cairo's first constituency (comprising Roud El-Farag, Shoubra, El-Sahel, El-Zawya and El-Sharabiya), 149 individual candidates and 14 party lists are competing.

- Port Said: 122 individual candidates and 12 parties competing.
- Fayoum: 245 individual candidates and 10 parties competing.
- Damietta: 55 individual candidates and 14 party lists.

Tagammu Party member and parliament candidate Saad Abu-Batiha was shot when four masked men fired against him, said party spokesman Nabil Zaki. The police remained idle, he criticized. Abu-Batiha was injured in the left leg.



Al Ahram Newspaper:

Pages: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15

Authors: Mamdooh Shaaban, Ali Sham, Ali Mohamed Ali, Sabry El-Mougy, Abd El-Gawad Tawfeek, Fatma Shaarawy, Magda Ghandour, Sabry El-Mougy, Ayman Farouk, Sameera Ali Ayad, Mohamed Hamdy Ghanem, Mohamed Abd El-Khaleq, Khaled Ahmed El-Mataany, Mohamed Tolba El-Shafie, Ssayed Hegazy, Hossam Zayed, Amany Maged, Mahmoud El-Nooby, Abd El-Sattar Barakat, Mohamed Hegab, Soad Tantawy, Emad Hegab, Fekry Abd El-Salam, Nasser Gowaida, Tarek Ismail, Ramy Yassein, Samy Khayr-Allah, Alaa Abdullah, Ahmed Talaat, Wael Sameer, Abd El-Rahman Saad, Heba Hassan, Mohamed Kazzaz, Arafat Ali, Abd El-Hady Tammam, Khedr Khodeir, Osama Sedeeq, Ahmed Talaat and Rania Abd El-Atty

The Starting Point

The first phase of what Ahram's front page described as "Democratic Transition Elections" has started today. The first phase of the elections will continue until tomorrow evening in Cairo, Alexandria, Fayoum, Port Said, Damietta, Kafr El-Sheikh, Assuit, Luxor, and the Red Sea. Those governorates include 18536 substations, 16 slate constituencies, and 28 independent constituencies. Ten thousands judges and over 8,000 supervisors will be responsible for observing the elections. For the 498 People's Assembly seats, 6951 candidates are running as independents in 46 constituencies, and 590 on party lists in 83 constituencies. Two-thirds of the parliament; 332 members will be from the party list candidates and one-third; 166 from the independents. The election race is taking place now as a sit-in continues in Tahrir against SCAF for the 11th day. Information Minister Osama Heikel reportedly announced that the state-run TV will provide full live coverage of the elections, in addition to the Radio stations.

"The Armed Forces will completely secure the election process in cooperation with the Interior Ministry," stated Tantawi, Head of the Military Council, "I call on the great people of Egypt to go to the polls. The success of the elections depends on the people's keenness to vote (...) The status of the Armed Forces under the new constitution will not be different from its status in previous constitutions," he added.

Cairo includes 815 polling stations, 3591 voting centers, and 6810 substations with 4 slate constituencies and 9 independent constituencies. Fayoum includes 353 polling stations, 896 voting centers, and 1631 substations with 2 slate constituencies and 3 independent constituencies. Luxor includes 170 polling stations, 385 voting centers, and 694 substations with 1 slate constituency and 1 independent constituency. Port Said includes 95 polling stations, 236



voting centers, and 462 substations with 1 slate constituency and 1 independent constituency. Damietta includes 238 polling stations, 493 voting centers, and 886 substations with 1 slate constituency and 2 independent constituencies. Alexandria includes 485 polling stations, 1754 voting centers, and 3349 substations with 2 slate constituencies and 4 independent constituencies. Kafr El-Sheikh includes 534 polling stations, 1189 voting centers, and 2258 substations with 2 slate constituencies and 3 independent constituencies. Assuit includes 495 polling stations, 1188 voting centers, and 2228 substations with 2 slate constituencies and 4 independent constituencies. The Red Sea governorate includes 109 polling stations, 109 voting centers, and 218 substations with 1 slate constituency and 1 independent constituency.

Ahram quoted a Ministry of Interior source as announcing finalizing their strategies for securing the elections. They coordinated with all security directorates in the 9 governorates. The polling boxes will be transferred in armored vehicles. They will secure the inside and the outside of the voting stations in addition to the roads leading to them. However, Criminal Court Head expressed his concern over the security measures, saying that sealing the doors and windows of those polling stations is not enough. The vote count must take place daily to make sure the ballots are not tampered with, he added. Presidential candidate, Amr Moussa, called on civil society organizations to cover the elections.

Assitant Interior Minister, Refaat Komsan told Sameera Ali Ayad there are 18.5 million eligible voters in today's polls. All Egyptians who are over 18 years old and are enlisted in the voters' lists have the right to vote today. The Ministry of Health has 683 ambulances on standby in case of any emergency during the election process.

Grand Sheikh of al-Azhar Ahmed al-Tayyeb urged Egyptians to take part in the parliamentary vote, warning that people who fail to attend the polls are "sinners." The nation's Grand Mufti, Ali Gomaa, described voting as "a religious testimony.", "Your voting is deposition that should be given to those who deserve it," he said.

State Council Judges said that they are fully committed to performing their part in supervising the elections and sticking to the high standards required from them in such situations.

Yesterday evening was the third and last day for expatriates' voting process. The vote count started this morning in 27 committees with representatives from expatriate communities and representatives of parties and candidates. It was the first time expatriates had the right to vote in legislative elections. 127 committees were formed in Egyptian embassies all over the world. One hundred sixty six thousands registered in the first round of polls, while only 108,000 of those printed the voting form.



Abd El-Sattar Barakat followed up on the voting process in Athens, reporting that yesterday witnessed a high turnout to the Egyptian Embassy in Athens. Egyptians went in person to turn in their voting envelopes. Al-Ahram also reported the high turnout in Paris. Expats were able to download a blank ballot paper from the Internet, pick their candidates, and then send it over by mail or head to the Egyptian embassy in Paris to cast their votes. There was a poor turnout in Indonesia; only 35% because the country encompasses over 17,000 islands which made it difficult for Egyptians to reach their embassy. In addition, many Egyptians in Indonesia have not acquired their residency permit yet.

The National Coalition for Media Freedom issued the first guideline handout to help journalists and reporters to neutrally cover the elections. A media centre was established to help foreign media representatives cover the Egyptian elections; around 834 reporters are now in Egypt for this purpose.

In Alexandria, candidates are competing over 8 independent seats and 32 slate seats. The Marine Forces are participating in securing the elections there. In Fayoum, party slates are competing over 18 slate seats. Public committees there are backing up the Army and police in protecting the electoral centers. In Assuit, candidates are competing over 16 slate seats and 8 independent seats. Two independent seats are the target of many candidates in Port Said. Kafr El-Sheikh's governor vowed to quit his post if he failed to secure the elections. He warned the city and village heads of favoring any candidate. In the Red Sea, a military aircraft is assigned to transfer voting boxes to and from the south of the governorate. In Cairo, schools near Tahrir were transformed into secured polling stations and started receiving voters today. Heba Hassan interviewed a number of Cairo voters who said that the polling stations assigned for them were far from their homes, which is a great discomfort and might discourage many from voting.

Ali Abd El-Aziz a member of Egypt's shadow government said that the public committees set to protect the polling stations are a necessity for protecting the election process; they are not meant to replace the Army or the police but to help them perform their role.

The Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice has 177 independent and slate candidates in the first round of the polls. Their slogan is "We Bring Good (Things) For Egypt." It heads the Democratic Alliance that includes 11 parties.



Al Yawm Al Sabea'a:

Pages: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Authors: Ibrahim Kassem, Mohey El-Abady, Sahar Talaat, Khaled Salah, Loai Ali, Mahmoud Saad El-Din, Sarah Allam, Nader Shoukry, Mahmoud Othman, Mahmoud Abd El-Ghany, Ihsan El-Sayed, Nora Fakhry, Nermeen Abd El-Zaher, Mohamed Ismail, Basma El-Mahdy, Dana El-Hadidy, Jacqueline Mounir, Hanaa Abu El-Ezz, Abd El-Rahman Youssef, Basma El-Mahdy

Elections are the Solution

A few hours before Egypt's first post-revolution parliamentary elections, seen by many as Egypt's way out of its crisis, thousands of blank ballot papers were distributed in a number of governorates, proving that this round of elections will be free from rigging. The ballot papers had the stamp of the Head of HEC on them and the signature of the head of the substation. In Hurghada, Red Sea, three thousands of those ballots were distributed. Yom7 reported that a candidate member got those ballots with the intention to fill them in with his name to increase the number of votes in his favor. HEC Head Abd El-Moez Ibrahim, when asked about this incident, said they had not been informed of the matter. The newspaper also listed the number of constituencies, polling stations, centers, and substations in each governorates of the first phase, which were also mentioned in Al-Ahram.

Assistant Interior Minister Refaat Komsan told yom7 "success of the elections reflects the success of the revolution. Protecting the voting process is the responsibility of the Ministry and the Army. The Armed and Security Forces will be only in charge of securing the polling stations on the outside. They are not allowed inside." The Ministry of Health announced that it prepared 558 ambulances and another 130 as a backup in the 9 governorates of the first phase.

Yusuf al-Qaradawi, chairman of International Union for Muslim Scholars (IUMS), was quoted by Loai Ali as saying that voting is "a religious duty" and a "mundane prerequisite". Qaradawi drew an analogy comparing vote casting to giving testimony in Islam.

Yom7 reported that the Coptic Orthodox Church prepared a slate of candidates they encouraged Copts to vote for. Khaled Salah comments on this, saying "it opens the door for mixing politics with religious." He considered it a bad move on the Church's part.

Kameel Sadeeq, from the Coptic Council in Alexandria confirmed the Church's support to a particular slate of candidates in the elections. Analysts warned that such a step is "dangerous," decrying it as "an example of sectarian voting". Kameel Sadeeq, who considers voting for the Egyptian Bloc slate a legitimate move, said that it only makes sense when Christians vote for candidates "who accept the other." It is expected that they would never vote for the parties that portray them as "infidels," referring to the Noor Salafist party and MB's Freedom and Justice.



A state of vagueness overshadows Cairo's third constituency, which includes Mohamed Mahmoud and Tahrir Streets. The polling stations there are within the sit-in zone. In the same constituency, Gamila Ismail faces a heated competition with former NDP members. This constituency had always been known as one of the most coveted by the members of the dissolved National Democratic Party.

Wafd Party expects to win 10-15% of Cairo's seats; around 20 seats. Wasat Party intensified its preparations for the polls. The party considers providing buses for voters to facilitate their transportation to the polling stations.

Since SCAF announced the elections would be held on time, activists on Twitter have been recommending their favored candidates who mostly belong to the Revolution Continues Alliance.

The Egyptian Bloc resumed its electoral campaign after the announcement that the elections would be held on time. However, political activists such as Asmaa Mahfouz announced they are dropping from the electoral race as a protest to the way Tahrir events have been handled. Asmaa said it was her personal choice and that she did not encourage others to follow her lead.

Yom7 dedicated half a page for elections updates in Alexandria, 98 candidates, mostly independents, compete in the first constituency, while 92 independents compete in the second. The most prominent of the slate candidates in the second constituency are those of Wafd, Noor and Democratic Alliance. Reformation and Development party enters the competition with Khaled Saeed's uncle among its candidates. The third constituency witnesses many "old and familiar faces" in the elections; many former NDPs run for its seats. The fourth constituency is considered to be Alexandria's most important, where 98 independents run for the two seats.

Freedom and Justice Party started a campaign, a few days ago, called "Participate Even if You Are Not Voting for Us". They gave out to voters consumer goods like sugar. Enraged by this approach, Facebook users accused them of buying votes. Activists said they are now following the NDP's footsteps.

"We are all Khaled Said" Facebook page called on all voters to wear black to the polling stations in a gesture of mourning all the martyrs who died in the revolution.



Al-Shorouk Newspaper :

Page: Front page, 6, 7, 8 and 9

Author: Hoda el-Saaty, Samar el-Gamal, Mohamed Salem, Mamdouh Hassan, Younis Darwish, Youssef Ramez, Hatem el-Gahamy, Ahmed Abul-Hagag, Walaa el-Hodini, Essam Amer, Shimaa Hamdi, Ahmed Fathi, Nivene Ashraf, Khaled Moussa, Michel Abdullah, Mostafa Hashem, Dalia el-Akaad, Nancy Attiya, Aliaa Hamed, Doaa Mekawi, Nivene Kamel and Ahmed Ismail.

The first stage of the parliamentary elections kicks off today in nine governorates across Egypt: Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Damietta, Kafr El-Sheikh, Fayyoun, Assuit, Luxor and the Red Sea.

The voting process will start at 8am until 7pm in the first day, and until 12am in the second.

Interior Minister Mansour Essawi had said the police was committed to securing ballot stations and protecting ballot boxes.

The Cairo Security Directorate declared emergency state in preparation for the first day of the elections.

Ballot papers were seen in the streets of the Red Sea governorate, raising concerns among candidates and their supporters about the credibility of the polls.

In Assuit, residents complained that relatives of candidates were appointed as observers in some ballot stations.

Former culture minister Mohamed Abdel-Moneim el-Sawi rejected calls to boycott the elections, describing them as "disastrous". "The polls are the only guarantee that SCAF will leave power," he said.

Mufti Ali Gomaa called on Egyptians to stand united to render the electoral process successful.

The Coptic Orthodox Church urged the media to stop dragging its name in false reports. A news website had reported that the Church issued a list of parliamentary candidates for Copts to choose from.



The Alexandria Administrative Court ruled that a voter can elect two “professionals” in the parliamentary elections. A voter was not obliged to elect a farmer/worker and a professional candidate, the court said.

The parties making up the Egyptian Bloc and Revolution Continues coalitions called for postponing the elections for two weeks due to the “second wave” of the revolution. A new government should be formed first, so the polls can be held in a “calm and safe” atmosphere, they said.

At the end of election day, heads of ballot stations will close ballot boxes with encrypted codes, said Chairman of the Higher Electoral Commission Abdel-Moez Ibrahim.

Assistant Interior Minister Major General Mohsen Mourad said security was stepped up across Cairo in preparation for the elections.

Popular vigilante groups were formed in Luxor villages and towns to assist police and Army forces in securing ballot stations.

The Coalition of Alexandria Administrative Prosecution Counselors expressed concerns over extending the elections to two days, Monday and Tuesday, referring to the complicated situation in the country.

Parties comprising members of the dissolved National Democratic Party have been bracing for the elections. Leader of the Egyptian Citizen Party Salah Hassaballah said his members have been distributing flyers to “expose the Muslim Brotherhood.” Meanwhile, leader of the Freedom Party Nasser Qatmash said party representatives were dispatched to ballot stations, wearing a uniform with the party’s logo on.

The “We Are All Khaled Said” Facebook page called on voters to head to ballot stations while putting on black attire to mourn the revolution victims. The page also urged the people to cast their votes “because the elections were the first step towards transferring power from the military rulers.”

Schools in Tahrir Square, to be used as ballot stations in the elections, were completely secured and ready to receive voters.

The Justice Party stressed it was going to continue a sit-in in Tahrir Square, despite its intention to partake in the elections. Political bureau member Ahmed Shokri told Al-Shorouk that the party had fielded several candidates in the elections.



Hours before the start of the parliamentary elections in Fayoum governorate, Copts seemed to be inclined to elect the Revolution Continues Coalition after the Egyptian Bloc withdrew its Free Egyptian Party candidates in the governorate.

The Freedom and Justice and Al-Nour parties continued their electoral campaigns in the first constituency in Fayoum.

Residents in Fayoum have said that Muslim Brotherhood supporters took their ID cards to ensure that they vote for MB candidates. MB supporters also distributed food on the people.

Chairman of the Cairo Court of Appeals Hisham Genena called for forming an independent body to oversee the parliamentary and presidential elections and any coming referendums to replace judicial supervision. He said the idea can take place when the situation in the country stabilizes.

Assistant Interior Minister Major General Mohamed Refaat Qomsan said the latest statistics put the number of eligible voters at 50 million instead of 40 million.

Assuit Security Director Major General Mohamed Ibrahim, along with the Armed Forces, prevented popular vigilante groups from securing ballot stations in the governorate.

Civil society organizations have finalized preparations to supervise the parliamentary elections. They distributed their observers on ballot stations across the governorates, where the first phase of voting will take place.

Egyptian embassies and consulates abroad started counting votes today. The Foreign Ministry announced that 110,000 Egyptians abroad have printed out the ballot papers online.

The advertisement industry has witnessed a boom during the second half of 2011. Egyptian parties have expended over EGP25 million on advertising, according to figures disclosed by a major advertising agency. Four parties: Free Egyptians, Freedom and Justice, Wafd and Reform and Development have reportedly spent EGP18 million on TV advertising.



Al-Gomhourya Newspaper :

Front Page, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Authors: Muhammad Zain al-Abidin, Essam al-Qalla, Mahmoud al-Usairi, Ra'fat Hassounah, Muhammad al-Full, Hamzah al-Husaini, Rafeeq Yasin (and others)

Egypt Votes

Protesters' tents in Tahrir and queues at polling center mark the dominant features of the political and public scene in Cairo today.

The opening stage of the first parliamentary elections in post-Mubarak Egypt started today in nine governorates: Cairo, Alexandria, port Sa'id, Damietta, Kafr al-Shaykh, al-Fayyoun, Assyout, Luxor and the Red Sea.

2357 candidates compete for 56 independent seats, while 1452 slate candidates vie for 112 seats, al-Gomhouriya reported.

The High Electoral Commission (HEC) announced that the ballot boxes will be sealed today at 7 p.m. to be officially reopened tomorrow at 8 in the morning.

Sources from the General Elections Directorate said 517 million eligible voters will vote in 3307 polling centers. 3809 candidates compete in this phase for 168 seats. 2357 candidates compete for 56 independent seats and 1452 candidate compete for 112 slate seats.

The caretaker government's Minister of Interior Mansour al-Essawi held a meeting with senior aids to revise the final plan to ensure security in the elections.

Al-Essawi asserted that the police task would be limited to ensuring the security of the polling stations, and that the police would not step a foot inside the polling stations or interfere in the election process.

Al-Essawi also assured providing a suitable environment for civil society and human rights organizations and the media to fulfill their tasks, emphasizing the police neutralism.

A high-ranking police source told al-Gomhouryya about confirmed investigations and information on saboteurs who will allegedly try to create troubles to hinder the electoral process in some polling stations. These stations are referred to as "inflamed polling stations," and a high-level security plan was drawn up in cooperation with the Armed Forces to deal with any potential situation.



Al-Gomhouryah's Intisar al-Nimr reported that the Ministry of Interior campaigns to "clear" the atmosphere before the elections ended with the confiscation of 200 guns that were allegedly to be used to terrorize voters. Two guns were found with two passengers on Sohag-Cairo train 869.

Abd al-Nabi al-Shahat reported that eight masked men attacked Usamah Darweesh, a parliamentary candidate and secretary of al-Ghad Party in al-Qalyoubiyah. Darweesh and two of his companions were robbed, and his car was stolen at gun point. Then they blackmailed him, asking for 30 thousand pounds to give back the mobile phones and the car.

In Damietta, and in the shadow of the recent violent incidents in the city, 104 candidates on 13 slates and 103 independent candidates compete for seats.

Al-Sa'id al-Shiti of al-Gomhoryyah reported that Islamist parties seemed to be the strongest and most capable of sweeping seats. Al-Shiti argued that people of Damietta were so religious and the Muslim Brotherhood and Salafists enjoyed wide popularity in the city. However, the majority of Damietta's people support al-Wasat party as it is regarded more moderate than the MB and Salafis. A number of former members of the dissolved NDP will also vote for al-Wasat to fail the MBs.

On the same page, Muhammad Zain al-Abidin reports on men of religion's consensus over deeming abstention a major sin.

General al-Sayyid al-Bura'i, governor of Assyout, however, considered abstention to be "a crime."

Competition intensified in al-Fayyoun over the past few hours. 249 candidates compete for 18 seats. Al-Gomhouriyah mentioned 11 seats in the headline and 18 in the article. Once again, Islamists seem to dominate the scene on the top of slates.

Kafr al-Shaykh witnesses fierce competition as 56 candidates are vying for seats. However, Hamzah al-Husaini reports on five main parties that will be in the most heated competition circle. These are the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice, the Democratic People Coalition, al-Wafd al-Jadid, Salfai al-Nour and Misr al-Qawmi.

Essam al-Qalla reported that ten thousand policemen and 1300 officers will be responsible to ensure the security of the polling centers in the city.

In Port Sa'id electoral campaigns intensified. 165 candidates compete; 113 independent candidates, and 52 candidates on slates of 13 political parties.

Al-Gomhouryah's Ra'fat Hassounah expected a reputation in South Cairo constituency, reporting on bribes and violations.



Elections started today in spite of the critical situation and the ongoing protests in Tahrir Square.

The Egyptian press focused on elections-related issues, keeping protests against and reactions to the appointment of the Prime Ministers-designate Kamal al-Ganzouri in the spotlight.

Al-Gomhouryya reported on Tahrir demonstrations and the demonstrators stances towards the elections. Members of 6 of April Movement said they would still vote in the elections without giving up on the Tahrir protests against the SCAF's appointed governments.

Other protesters in Tahrir called for postponing the elections until the current crisis is resolved.

Contradictory news was reported about Salafis stance. Al-Gomouryyah reported an official announcement by the Salafi Front that protests in Tahrir hinder elections. In another article, by the Salafi potential presidential candidate Hazim Salah Abu Isma'il reportedly stated that he will stay in Tahrir to protect protesters.

On his part, head of the ruling Supreme Council Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi has stated that Egypt is "at a crossroads." "Either we succeed - politically, economically and socially - or the consequences will be extremely grave and we will not allow that," Field Marshal Tantawi said in a statement on Sunday.



Al Tahrir Newspaper

Front Page, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Authors: Muhammad Majli, Tareq Abd al-Jalil, Ashraf Misbah, Huda Abu Bakr, Isma'il al-Wasimi, Amirah Ibrahim (and others)

Egypt Votes

On its front page, al-Tahrir reported on Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi's statements. Tantawi said Egypt was "at a crossroads".

"Either we succeed - politically, economically and socially - or the consequences will be extremely grave and we will not allow that," Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi said in a statement on Sunday.

Al-Tahrir singled out many pages to cover the updates of Tahrir Square and other protests in Cairo.

A lawsuit was filed at the Administrative Court, calling for toppling SCAF and appointing a civil presidential council to rule the country until a president is elected. The Administrative Court is expected to pronounce the verdict tomorrow.

Human Right Watch reportedly stated that the state had no right to force voters to vote while blood is being shed.

Ahmad Mahmoud reported on New York Times arguments that thugs were threatening the electoral process.

Al-Tahrir also focused on the elections. Observers in polling centers will be wearing special badges and the ballot box secretary a red vest.

17 million eligible voters are expected to vote in nine governorates in the first stage of the elections.

Polling centers close to Tahrir Square will be functioning normally. Strict security measures have been taken to ensure the security of all polling centers.

Ministry of Health announced its readiness and prepared 683 ambiances for any emergency.



Muhammad Majli referred to some Islamist dominance in Alexandria.

Tareq Abd al-Jalil headlined: "MB vs the Church," referring to some strong sectarian elements in the first constituency in Assyout.

Al-Tahrir authors reported on Upper Egyptian governorates' competitions. Family and tribal belongings have a significance influence on voters' stances.



Al-Masry Al-Youm:

Front Page, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11

Authors: Yosri Al-Badri, Mounir Adib (and others)

On the Road to Democracy

Egypt takes today its very first steps on the road of democracy as 17.5 million voters will elect their representatives in 9 governorates, Al-Masry Al-Youm wrote. This will be the first of three phases of the first elections to be held since the January 25 revolution. Many religious and political figures encouraged people to participate in the coming elections.

Major General Ismail Etman, member of SCAF, said that they have made plans to secure parliamentary elections and that 95% of the Army Forces were assigned the task of safeguarding elections and ensuring the safety of voters. "We will take decisive measures against any violations made by thugs or rioters," Etman told Al-Masry Al-Youm. He confirmed that SCAF places the best interest of the country above all else.

Minister of Interior Major General Mansour Eissawi presented to the ruling Supreme Council of Armed Forces his final plans to secure the elections in 9 governorates; Cairo, Port Said, Red Sea, Kafr Al-Sheikh, Damietta, Assiut, Alexandria and Fayoum. He held a number of meetings with his senior aides to examine the security plans proposed for the coming elections to ensure the safety of voters particularly in problematic areas. There is a thorough coordination with the Armed Forces to secure elections without any interference in the electoral process itself for the benefit of any party or candidate, Eissawi said. Security plans were taken in all 18.500 substations in 9 governorates to ensure security forces' readiness for any unexpected events. The Minister also gave orders to the security officers to remain unbiased = during the elections and to fulfill their duties by protecting polling centers externally.

The Higher Electoral Committee authorized 25.510 permits for representatives of various organizations and groups who will be observing elections. Elections-support unit at the National Council for Human Rights said they created a new system to document violations during elections and report them immediately. They will be available 24 hours to receive any complaints. Also, the International Republican Institute declared that they will send international observers, from the US, Canada, Macedonia, and Poland, to monitor the first phase of Egypt's elections. IRI said they are coordinating their task with a delegation of US Congressmen.



Senior Judge Yosri Abd Al-Kareem, head of the technical office at the HEC, said that ballot boxes will remain in polling stations on the first day of elections and will not be transferred to any other place. A number of judges had warned against the dangers of leaving ballot boxes unattended by judges for a period of 11 hours. They said SCAF's decision to extend elections to a second day undermines the judicial supervision of elections. HEC hired private security agents to participate in organizing the flow of the electoral process inside polling centers and provide information for citizens on their constituencies and substations.

Free Egyptians Party denounced documents attributed to the Coptic Orthodox Church, which call on Coptic Christians to vote for certain blocs and parties, including the Egyptian Bloc, on the grounds that they refuse to meddle religion in political affairs. The party demanded an explanation from the Church over spreading this document. They called on Coptic Egyptians to participate in politics departing from the principle of citizenship and put an end to the paternalism imposed upon them by the Church.

According to Al-Masry Al-Youm, Islamist parties made their preparations for the first phase of the parliamentary elections. Freedom and Justice Party created a follow-up committee for the elections in coordination with the Democratic Alliance. "Representatives of candidates will be monitoring ballot boxes at night after the voting process is completed until the next day," said Wahid Abd Al-Megid, general coordinator of the Democratic Alliance. Also, Al-Nour Salafi Party announced that they organized popular committees to secure polling centers in different governorates.

Egypt's Grand Mufti Dr. Ali Gomaa called on all Egyptians to unite to make the elections successful, saying that it is one of the first steps to reach political and economic stability in the new era. In his statement, the Mufti said the coming parliament will shoulder the huge responsibility of writing the state's constitution and this requires people to be careful while choosing the person they elect. "Your votes are testimonies of truth, so give them to the person who really deserves them," said Gomaa.



Al-Dostour:

Front Page, 4, 5, 6, 7

Authors: Tareq Roshdi, Mohamed Faisal (and others)

Tahrir Revolutionaries: Our Chances in Winning Elections are Minor

Around 16 million citizens are expected to cast their votes today in the first phase of parliamentary elections after the January 25 revolution. This comes amid a state of confusion as rumors of postponing elections circulated, as a result for the continuous protests in Tahrir Square. Al-Dostour gathered opinions of groups of voters, hours before they head to their polling centers. Many voters objected to the large fine that is levied on those who abstain from voting. They said that it is impossible for everyone to vote at this critical time amid security chaos and fierce competition between political parties, particularly Islamist political forces.

Young revolutionaries who are running in elections said their chances in winning are very minor. Recent events in Tahrir Square put those young candidates in a dilemma; either they continue their sit-in in Tahrir until their demands are achieved, or they get involved in elections and gain as many votes as they can. They have decided to continue their struggle in elections despite the unfavorable conditions and to return to Tahrir as soon as the elections are done. "It is now up for the voter who should cast his/her vote to achieve parliamentary legitimacy and then protest in Tahrir Square to achieve his revolutionary legitimacy," said a statement for the Revolution Continues Alliance.

In serious statements, judges said that SCAF's decision to extend voting to a second day is a catastrophe that threatens the entire elections and the legitimacy of the new parliament, Al-Dostour journalists wrote. Judges suggested a number of solutions to deal with this situation. Some of them proposed providing a place for each judge to spend the night in the polling station. Others said ballot boxes should be put together in polling centers and not in substations because it is easier to secure them in this way. "The people entrusted judges with this huge responsibility and we will fulfill our duties in good conscience," Senior Judge Assem Abd Al-Gabbar said.



Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayyeb called on all Egyptians to cast their votes in the coming parliamentary elections, confirming that their participation in elections is an obligation to rebuild the institutions of the country on solid grounds. These statements were given during a meeting between Al-Tayyeb and Dr. Yousef Al-Qaradawi, head of the International Union of Muslim Scholars, in which they discussed the current political situation. Al-Tayyeb pointed out that voting in elections is equivalent to giving a testimony of truth; hence those who hide their testimonies will be considered sinners. All violations, such as elections rigging or buying votes, are prohibited according to Islamic principles, he stressed.

Islamist political forces strongly rejected the statements made by Major General Mamdouh Shahin, Assistant Defense Minister for Legal Affairs, in which he said that the coming parliament will not be able to form the government or to withdraw confidence from the existing government. Engineer Assem Abd Al-Maged, spokesman of Al-Jama'a Al-Islamiyya, said that cooperation between SCAF and the majority party in the coming parliament is necessary to ensure the ability of the government to function properly. Dr. Nader Bakar, spokesman of Al-Nour Salafi Party, demanded Shahin to take back his statements, describing them as "unjustified" amid all political tension the country is going through.



Program: Al-Hayat Al-An (News Program)

Host: Maha Bahnasy

Field Marshal Tantawi said that no one can put pressure on SCAF and SCAF's status is not different than it was under the old constitution.

Tantawi urges the Egyptians to take part in the elections in order to form a Parliament that represents all the current political forces.

Tantawi continue holding meetings with all political forces to discuss the current events.

Tantawi said: I met with Al-Baradei and Amr Moussa upon their request.

Tantawi urges everyone to support Dr. Gamal Al-Ganzory.

Al-Ganzory continues his discussions with the political and Youth movements and coalitions to form the new government.

Al-Ganzory meets with representatives from low-ranking police officers and police officers coalitions to choose the new Minister of Interior and both coalitions nominated the following:

Major General Hamed Abdullah

Major General Sameh Seif Al-Yazal

Major General Abdulla Al-Wateedy

Al-Ganzory guarantees handing over of power to a civilian authority maximum by 30 June 2012.

17.5 million Egyptians are voting tomorrow to elect the first parliament after the revolution.

HEC Head said elections will not be delayed in any of the first phase governorates.

Head of Judges Club said: 4765 judges and public prosecutors will supervise the first phase of the elections.



Minister of Interior decided to transfer police officers who are relatives of any candidate in a certain governorate to another one.

Ministry of Health allocated 683 ambulances to be prepared for any medical assistance during the elections.

Cairo governor said: 763 buses will transfer ballot boxes, Phosphoric ink and Police and Military forces will secure the elections.

The Country's Mufti said: Voting is a testimony and who doesn't vote is a sinner.

Head of Wafd Party decides to allocate 10 acres in Sudan for each of the martyrs' families in Tahrir and Maspero incidents.

Vice Editor-in-Chief of Wafd Newspaper said: Dr. Gamal Al-Ganzory decides to merge Youth and Sports council and call them, Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Interrogations of 13 officials from the Ministry of Interior in Tahrir incidents is delayed.

Cairo Prosecution starts a secret interrogation of the "Eye Sniper" in Tahrir incidents, in order to keep his life safe.

Head of Cairo Security Directory said all polling stations around Tahrir Square will be working normally.

Presidential Candidates Hamdin Sabahy and Abdol-Moneim Abu Al-Fotouh apologize for not attending the meeting with Field Marshal Tantawi.

Ministry of Interior guaranteed that they will secure the Parliamentary Elections.

Dr. Essam Sharaf holds a meeting for the current government to discuss the plan to secure the elections.

Major General Ismail Etman said: The military will secure 95% of the elections and will face thugs with strict actions.

Program: Al-Hayat Al-Yom

Host: Sherif Amer, Dr. Amr Hashim Rabea

Guests:

Judge Yousry Abdel-Kerim, Head of Executive Office of HEC,

Major General Abu Bakr Al-Gendy, Head of Central Agency for Development and Statistics.



Ashraf Hassan Abdol-Wahab, Acting Minister of Administrative Development.

Ann Paterson, U.S Ambassador to Egypt.

Tantawi meets with political forces today.

Over the phone, Mamdouh Hamza:

The suggested advisory council will be aiding SCAF.

SCAF said that the decision of assigning the new government to Dr. Gamal Al-Ganzory is final.

SCAF meeting with the political forces was to discuss the most important procedures of the elections and stressed the necessity of conducting the elections on time to abide by the schedule of handing over the power to a civilian authority.

News about forming the new government next Wednesday and appointing 5 ministers from the previous government are confirmed.

Al-Ganzory continues to meet with political coalitions and parties representatives to discuss nominations for the new government.

Over the phone, Fatouh Al-Shazly: Wafd Newspaper Vice Editor-in-Chief" said:

Al-Ganzory said he hasn't started his discussions regarding forming the new government yet.

Al-Ganzory said he is ready to be held accountable in what relates to the cabinet performance after 2 months from its formation.

Field Marshal Tantawi urges the Egyptians to vote in the elections so that the new parliament represents all political powers and movements.

Tantawi added that the military forces will join forces with police forces to secure the elections.

Tantawi said he met with Amr Moussa and Al-Baradei upon their requests.

Tantawi alluded to a conspiracy seeking to destroy Egypt.

Mohamed Abdol-Alem Dawood, Former Parliament Member, said: I didn't withdraw from the elections.

A file reported against the Egyptian Bloc.

Head of HEC Executive Office said:



National ID card is the only tool that can't be tampered with.

It is only rumors what has been said about voting papers found thrown outside polling stations.

SCAF is in charge of taking decisions while the Parliament is not functioning.

Separating Peoples' Assembly and Shura Council elections was meant to provide Judicial Supervision over the elections.

We don't reject Civil Organizations monitoring the elections. They reached 25 thousand organizations.

Head of Central Agency for Development and Statistics said: Total number of voters in Egypt amounts to 49.2 million.

Over the phone, Major General Hamdy Baden, Head of Director of Military Police: We secured all the ballot stations in coordination with Ministry of Interior and all the people were relieved that we have a plan to secure the ballot stations and boxes.

Acting Minister of Administrative Development" said:

Voting by National ID was discussed with ex-regime and rejected.

71% expatriate Egyptians casted their votes in the elections.

Major General Refaat Kamsan, Assistant Minister of Interior and the one in charge of securing the elections, said: All of us have to be keen to help elections succeed.

He added that Political Rights Law states that counting votes will be in the Public station.

US Ambassador said: USA is ready to support the Egyptians in order to help the success of the transition to democracy.

She added that they are trying to communicate with all the political powers.

Her statement regarding the handover of power was before assigning the government to Al-Ganzory with wider powers than the government before.

She also added that the SCAF will hand over power to a civilian authority before the end of June 30.



Program: Masr Al-Gadedda (Talk Show)

Channel: Al-Hayat 2

Host: Moataz Al-Demerdash

Judge Hisham Mokhtar , Member of HEC said:

Military and Police forces will secure the elections.

There will be exception cases that will not be fined EGP500 for abstaining from voting.

SCAF discusses forming an advisory council comprising 50 members.

11 coalitions in Tahrir accept Al-Ganzory.

Major General Abdol-Moneim Kato Security and Strategic Expert said:

We can know the percentage of the people who will vote in the elections if we compare it to the opinion poll which was held in March 19. That means that 60% of the Egyptians will vote.



Program: Masr Tantakheb

Channel: CBC

Host: Lamis Al-Hadidy, Khairy Ramdan

Guests:

Dr. Osama Al-Ghazaly Harb ,writer and political intellectual.

Dr. Nagah Ibrahim, Islamic Preacher.

Dr. Selim Al-Awa, Presidential Candidate.

Tagamou Party urges investigations into the acts of violence that occurred to candidates during your their electoral campaigns.

According to Al-Masry Al-Yom Newspaper:



Tantawi decides to form an advisory council of 50 public figures including military members, presidential candidates, party heads, and representatives of revolution youth, to help the government with its duties.

The following Ministers who haven't been replaced in the new government are:

Justice Minister

Foreign Minister

Electricity Minister

International Cooperation Minister

Petroleum Minister

Hundreds continue their sit-in in front of Cabinet Headquarters, refusing the Al-Ganzory as a Prime Minister.

Administrative Court said: Criminal Court is responsible for Corruption of Political Life cases.

The status of the military under the new constitution is not different from its status before.

Ministry of Health: 43 dead and 60 injured in Tahrir incidents are receiving treatment.

Foreign Ministry: 7 Non-governmental International Organizations are monitoring the elections.

Today, expatriate Egyptians voting ends and counting the votes will start tomorrow.

Presidential Candidate said:

Tomorrow is the first step towards the transfer to democracy.

If Tahrir Square forms the transitional council, this will be a betrayal for Egypt.



Program: News All Day

Channel 1: National TV

The guests are (Dr. Al-Sayed Al-Badawi Head of Wafd Party, Vice of Wafd Editor-in-Chief Newspaper, Abdol-Kawy Khalifa Cairo Governor, Major-General Refaat



Kamsan, Egypt's deputy interior minister and the man in charge of securing the upcoming parliamentary elections, Mohsen Morad Head of Cairo Security Directory)

Tomorrow is the first day in the Parliamentary elections.

Tantawi meets several political forces.

Al-Azhar Sheikhdom urges all the citizens to take part in the upcoming elections.

Tahrir sit-in continues and more than 20 political parties in Tahrir Square call for a million-man demonstration under the title of 'The Legitimacy of the revolution'

Mohamed Allam (Coordinator of The Egyptian Revolution Union) said: Soon a Revolution Parliament will be formed to represent all the revolution forces not the political ones.

Al-Baradei agrees on forming a National Rescue Government and is willing to give up presidential candidature.

HEC Head assures that the delay in issuing isolation law will not invalidate the elections.



Program: Al Youm (Talk Show)

Host: Dina Abbol-Rahman

Tantawi said: The upcoming elections are a burden but we can bear it.

Armed Forces will not be an alternative to the legitimacy of the people.

Links

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Radio Coverage (27/11/2011):



Program: News Bulletin

Field Marshal Mohamed Sayed Tantawi continues his meetings with political forces to discuss the current crisis. *(Repeated in Al-Barnameg Al-'Am and Al-Sharq Al-Awsat)*



Al-Ganzouri continues his deliberations to form the new government by holding meetings with political and youth coalitions and movements.

Tahrir protesters continue their sit-in and call for a million-man march today under the title of "Revolution's Legitimacy." They demand forming a revolutionary national rescue government that enjoys full powers. *(Repeated in Al-Bernameg Al-'Am and Al-Sharq Al-Awsat)*

Tomorrow begins the first round of parliamentary elections.

Al-Azhar Grand Imam calls on all Egyptians to cast their votes in the coming elections.

Calls made for protests next Friday in Al-Abbasiya Square in support of SCAF.

Channel: Al Barnamej Al Aam
Program: News Bulletin

Protesters continue their sit-in in front of the cabinet headquarters demanding a revolutionary government headed by one of the figures of Tahrir Square and not by El-Ganzouri

Grand Mufti: Voting is a testimony of truth and those who hide their testimonies are considered sinners.

SCAF provides security plans to safeguard the elections and ensure the safety of voters

Links

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Internet Coverage (28/11/2011)



Facebook

We all are Khaled Saeed

Between November 19th and 24th, Kasr Einy Hospital alone received 49 eye injury cases. The elections represent a milestone in Egypt's democratic transition. The upcoming parliament will decide Egypt's future. We must always remember those who sacrificed their lives for this moment, dreaming of social justice in Egypt.

Being a citizen entitles you to supervise the elections by reporting any violations. You can download the "Public Supervisor" form and send it to the HEC.

The role of a parliament member is to:

Choose Constituent Assembly members who will be responsible for drafting the constitution.



Supervise the government's performance and develop strategies to reform Egypt's political and economic affairs.

Issue laws and legislations to regulate life in Egypt.

That is why you must choose someone who is capable of achieving those three goals.

Today starts the Egypt's post-revolution parliamentary elections in Cairo, Fayoum, Luxor, Port Said, Damietta, Alexandria, Kafr El-Shekh, Assuit and the Red Sea.



Arabawy

#OccupyCabinet The sit-in in front of the ministerial cabinet headquarters continues for the third day

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKGHNQWEEbQ&feature=player_embedded



▪ Publication overview

❖ **Al-Ahram: Egyptian state-run official daily newspaper**

Founded in 1875, is the most widely circulating Egyptian [daily](#) newspaper, and the second oldest after al-Waqa'i`al-Masriya (English: The Egyptian Events, founded 1828). It is majority owned by the [Egyptian government](#).

❖ **Al-Akhbar: Egyptian state-owned semi-official daily newspaper**

It was founded in May [1952](#) as a part of [Akhbar El Yom](#).

❖ **Al-Gomhoria: Egyptian state-owned daily newspaper**

An influential state-owned [Egyptian Arabic language](#) daily [newspaper](#). It was established in 1954.

❖ **Al-Shorouk: Egyptian daily independent newspaper**

is a prominent Arabic newspaper published in Egypt^[1] and several other Arabic nations. It is a daily independent newspaper, covering mainly politics, militant affairs and sport.

❖ **Al-Masry al-Yom: Independent daily newspaper**

On 7 June 2004, it published its first edition. The paper initially circulated primarily amongst Cairo's intellectual elite, providing objective news coverage in the belief that good news would beat sensationalist reporting found in other Egyptian print media. After 3 years, it was challenging *Al-Ahram* for the status of being the national paper of record. Though

❖ **Tahrir: Daily independent newspaper**

❖ **Dostor: Daily independent newspaper**

❖ **Yom 7: Daily independent newspaper**



Table of Contents:

<u>Newspapers</u>	2-22
Elections Update	2-22
<u>TV Coverage</u>	23-30
Al Hayah TV Channel	23-26
Al Hayah TV 2.....	27
CBC Channel.....	27-28
Channel 1.....	28-29
Al Tahrir.....	29
Links.....	29-30
<u>Radio Coverage</u>	30-32
Radio Misr.....	30
Al Bernamej Al Aam.....	31
Links.....	31-32
<u>Internet Coverage</u>	32-33
Facebook.....	32-33
Arabawy.....	33