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News Coverage

Prepared for: **The European Union delegation to Egypt**



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Newspapers (29/11/2011)

❖ Election Coverage





Al Ahram Newspaper

Page: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9

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Since the early morning of Monday, people have been lining up to cast their ballots in the first phase of the parliamentary elections, probably the first time in their lives.

According to preliminary indications in the nine governorates, where the first stage of the elections are taking place, the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice (FJP) and Salafist Al-Nour Party led the race in Cairo.

Al-Nour Party seemed to be strongly competing in Alexandria, Fayoum and Kafr El-Sheikh.

In the Southern Cairo constituency, voters stood in lines that lasted for over one kilometer.

In Alexandria, vehicles belonging to candidates, wandered the streets to wake up voters since the small hours of Monday to cast their votes.

SCAF member Major General Mokhtar el-Molla said the parliamentary elections were the first step to carry out the SCAF commitment to transfer power.

The steps start with holding the elections of the lower and upper houses of parliament and issuing a constitutional declaration and ends with the election of a new president to assume power, Molla said.

Port Said Security Director Major General Sami el-Roubi refuted media reports that supporters of parliamentary candidates, Akram el-Shaer and George Ishaq, clashed outside ballot stations.

Roubi said tightened security measures were taken to secure ballot stations by the Armed Forces and civil police.

In Alexandria, el-Sayed Farag Osman, a citizen who died in 1998, was found registered in voter lists.



Al-Azhar Grand Imam Ahmed el-Tayyeb, presidential hopeful Amr Moussa, Arab League Secretary General Nabil el-Arabi, Prime Minister designate Kamal el-Ganzouri and former Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq cast their ballots on Monday.

Presidential candidate Abdel-Moneim Abul-Fotouh expressed hope the turnout in the elections will hit 90%.

The Free Egyptians Party expended EGP 30 million on election campaigns, said businessman Naguib Sawiras. He said he covered one third of the expenses.

Bishop of the Youth Father Moussa denied that the Church has distributed lists of voters for Copts to choose from.

The Egyptian Iftaa House issued a fatwa to forbid selling votes.

SCAF member Major General Ismail Etman said the people were more encouraged to cast their votes in the elections when they found the Army securing ballot stations.

A campaign was launched Facebook calling on voters to wear black attire when heading to ballot stations in remembrance of the revolution's martyrs and victims.

The Egyptian Center for Women's Rights said 367 female candidates are running in the first stage of the elections.

The center also received complaints during the voting, all of them pertaining to the absence of ballot forms and phosphorous ink in several ballot stations.

Sweden's Ambassador to Egypt has inspected a ballot station in Al-Zaher neighborhood, Cairo, after the presiding judge allowed her in.

The executive office of Al-Wafd Party held an emergency meeting, in which it condemned several practices committed by other parties during the elections.

Al-Wafd accused the FJP of abusing religion to achieve personal interests. It also said the Church had circulated a list of candidates for Coptic citizens to choose from.

The Egyptian Social Democratic Party, a founding member of the Egyptian Bloc, filed complaints to the Higher Elections Commission (HEC) over unsealed ballot forms in several governorates.

A civil servant in Alexandria was referred to the Public Prosecution over a forgery incident.

US Ambassador to Egypt Anne Patterson hailed the high turnout observed in the Egyptian parliamentary elections.



"Whoever wins, that is a choice of the Egyptian people. The government of the United States will work with whomever the people of Egypt choose to represent them. We are encouraged by Egypt's election process," she said.

A delegation of the European Union and the Dutch Embassy in Cairo inspected a Cairo school to follow up the electoral process.

UNDP Assistant Resident Representative Naglaa Arafa hailed the electoral process in Cairo.

Israeli newspaper Haaretz said the Arab Spring has given a push to democracy in the region, but raised Israeli concerns over an Islamist rising power in Egypt and Tunisia.

The Guardian said the Muslim Brotherhood supporters were voting in the elections, while being absolutely sure that the group will be winning.

Al-Gomhoreya Newspaper

Front page, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Authors: Muhammad Mursi, Khalid Abd al-Alim, Khalid Musa, Samiah Zaki, Muhammad Isma'il, Mu'tazz al-Hadidi (and others)

Egypt Votes

Polling centers witnessed an unprecedented turnout of voters. Thousands of people queued yesterday at polling centers waiting for their turn to vote in the first phase of parliamentary elections to the Lower House of Parliament.

Elections started yesterday in nine provinces including Cairo. Candidates on 16 slates and in 28 single constituencies compete in 3294 polling centers and 18356 sub-centers.

In a press conference, Head of Judicial Elections Commission Abd al-Mu'izz Ibrahim said Egypt was at a historical turning point, referring to the unprecedented free elections with full judicial observation. Ten thousand judges are observing the elections.

No major violations or irregularities were reported on the first day.

Judge Ibrahim said voting started at eight in the morning in 90 percent of the polling centers. He said minor problems took place and were fully under control. Delay was



However reported in some centers in Cairo because some judges were lost on their way. Ibrahim also blamed the delay on the late arrival of ballot papers and a shortage of administrative officers. Ibrahim said the Ministry of Interior, not the High Elections Commission shouldered the responsibility of this shortage.

The High Elections Commission extended voting time to nine in the evening.

Ibrahim also said that Tahrir protests did not influence the polling centers in downtown Cairo.

Ibrahim expressed his surprise at the unprecedented turnout, "thank God," he said.

Al-Gomhouryyah's Muhamma Mursi reported on clashes between voters in three polling centers, namely Mustafa Kamil In al-Sharabiyah, De la Sale School in al-Dahir district, Ahmad Shaqwi Elementary School in Matayyah. Voters seized papers, and the voting was suspended to be continued today in the morning.

Election papers did not arrive to six polling stations in the Commercial Institution in Ain Shams. And the stations were closed.

A center was also closed in Armant al-Het in Luxor when a police officer was caught forging ballots in favor of a candidate.

Assistant Minister of Health Adel Adawi reported on three minor injuries in nine provinces; a soldier in Hilwan and two other women. A 59-year old man however, died of a heart attack in Shubra, Cairo.

In al-Marg popular district in Cairo 500-meter queues were formed in front of polling centers. Delay was also reported in these centers. Many girls reportedly lost consciousness in the crowds and sexual harassments were also reported.

Minor clashes broke out in front of the 12,000-voter district of al-Izbah al-Beda. Al-Gomhouryyah marked the high turnout in the district that had reportedly being ignored in the candidates' electoral campaigns.

In the eighth constituency in Cairo, some queues were a kilometer long in al-Muqattam and al-Sayyiah Zeinab.

Egyptian officials also voted. Amr Mussa was the most energetic and optimistic, showing up at eight in the morning, Khalid Mussa and Muhammad Imam reported.



The appointed Prime Minister Kamal al-Ganzouri also voted.

The Azhar grand Imam Ahmad al-Tayyib also voting reiterating that a patriotic duty is a religious duty.

400 complaints were filed at Egypt Judge Club. Complaints were mainly related to the late arrival of ballot boxes and papers and an alleged insufficient security forces presence at some centers.

Egypt Judge Club had formed an operations room to follow up with the observers at polling centers. Ahmad al-Zind, head of the Egypt Judge Club stated problems were solved through communication with the Ministry of Interior and the High Elections Committee.

It was also reported that's Salafis and the Muslim Brotherhood went on campaigning in front of the polling centers in a blunt violation of the elections law that prohibits campaigns 28 hours before the elections and I in front of polling centers.

Al-Gomhouryyah also reported on news on elections in the different Egyptian governorates. High turnout was reported in all governorates.

Muhammad al-Full and Jamal Qutb headlined: "Mb members, Salafis e Revolution Youth were on hand in al-Fayyoun. Some delays were also reported.

In Kafr al-Shakh crowds waited under the rain. It was reported that a number of candidates hired cars and minibuses to drive voters to the polling centers. Some candidates prepared laptops at the entries of polling centers to provide voters with information about the candidates.

In Damietta, unprecedented turnout was reported. Voters chanted slogans thanking the Supreme Council of Armed Forces, reported al-Sa'id al-Shiti.

In Alexandria heavy rains did not prevent the people from voting.

In Upper Egyptian Luxors, the electoral process reportedly tuned to a festival; people cheered up and a remarkable women presence was noticed.

The same atmosphere was reported in Port Sa'id where people went to vote in the rain. However, George Ishak, however, criticized the change in candidates' code number on night before the beginning of votes.



Head of al-Wafd Party al-Sayyid al-Badawi hailed the elections as a turning point in Egypt's history towards democracy. However, he complained about the abuse of religion in electoral campaigns. He complained to the High Elections Commission about using Islamic slogans.

The Muslim Brotherhood tried to pull voters by distributing meat and grocery.

Vote counting of expatriates' votes will take place today under the supervision of ambassadors and in the presence of representatives of the Egyptian communities. Results will be reported to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today and repetitions have been scheduled on December 5.

161 thousand expatriate Egyptians voted in 127 stations in Egyptian embassies over the world.

Al-Gomhoryya also reported international reactions to the elections. Washington welcomed this "development" through White House Press Secretary Jay Carney.

UN also hailed high turnout through Naglaa Arafa, resident representative for the UN Programme for Democratic Ruling.

Meanwhile, some protesters continued their sit-ins in Tahrir and in front of the Cabinet Headquarters. Some of them voted and others refused. Sit-ins are staged in protest against prime Minister-designate Kamal al-Ganzouri. Al-Ganzouri will announce the names of members of his cabinet on Thursday.

Al-Masry Al-Youm

Front Page, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13,

Authors: Haitham Dabour, Dalia Othman (and others)

Egyptians Succeed in Democracy Test

Egypt's first day of parliamentary elections after the January 25 revolution witnessed a huge turnout in all 9 governorates, yesterday, Al-Masry Al-Youm wrote. People queued in long lines extending 10 meters long, and were quite determined to cast their votes in the elections despite the lack of organizing, violations made by candidates or parties, absence or delay of some of the judges. Polling centers closed their doors at 9 PM after the decision of the Higher Electoral Committee to extend voting for an additional two hours due to the unexpected turnout by voters. The HEC also provided substations with 3000 additional ballot boxes.



Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, Head of the ruling SCAF, inspected a number of polling stations in Nasr City, Misr Al-Gadida, and Al-Waili, yesterday. He gave orders to invalidate the work of the polling center in Al-Waili because the employees started to collect votes before the judges arrived to the polling center. Tantawi also assigned a military plane to transfer ballot boxes and judges to remote areas. SCAF members inspected the work of some of the polling centers. Major General Ismail Etman, member of SCAF, said Tantawi gave orders to military leaders to visit polling stations in the 9 governorates to supervise the flow of the electoral process.

Competition between the Muslim Brotherhood, other parties and candidates characterized the scene on the first day of elections. A number of candidates accused MB members and Salafis of manipulating voters by claiming that their members are only spreading awareness among voters, while they actually attempt to polarize them to vote for the Freedom and Justice Party. Dr. Ahmed Abu Baraka, legal adviser of the MB party, said that these accusations are the expected outcome of 60 years of tyranny. He totally rejected talks about elections fraud, describing them as “illogical.”

Many reports of violations of the rules of the HEC were received. Freedom and Justice Party violated the HEC rules, which stipulate that electoral campaigns should be suspended on the day of elections. However, they reportedly rented cars and minibuses that carry the slogans of the party to transport voters to their polling centers. “The driver asks the person if he/she is going to vote for the MB party or not, and if he/she said they won’t, he doesn’t allow them to get into the car,” said one of the voters. Meanwhile, Coptic Orthodox Christians expressed their support for the Egyptian Bloc. However, many of them said they made their decisions away from the paternalism of the Church.

Protesters in Tahrir Square were divided in views over their participation in the elections. Dozens of protesters demonstrated and called on people to boycott the elections because it will result in a parliament with no powers. Others, meanwhile, organized themselves in groups and headed to polling centers, considering elections as a first step towards the handing over of power to civilians. “Revolutionary forces and coalitions in Tahrir Square share the same point of view regarding Al-Ganzouri’s new government as they all reject it. As for elections, revolution’s youth are divided; however, the majority of them went to cast their votes and return back to Tahrir Square. They formed groups to follow up on the integrity and transparency of the electoral process,” said Ibrahim Al-Shihabi, member of the Revolution Youth Coalition.

Al-Masry Al-Youm also reported some fights that occurred due to the delay in some of the polling centers. Hundreds of citizens in Al-Matariya stood in front of their polling centers in long lines. They waited for nearly 6 hours for the polling stations to open and were told that the ballot papers arrived late which made them very angry. Army forces tried to calm people down



But voters quarreled with them. There were also delays in other areas such as Al-Marg, Al-Sha'riya and Ain Shams, causing many voters to go home before they manage to vote.

Youm 7 Newspaper

Page: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 14

Author: Noura Fakhri, Mohamed Ismail, Hanaa Abul-Ezz, Ahmed Mostafa, Loai Ali, Rami Nawar, Ahmed Hassan, Mahmoud Nasr, Mohamed Reda, Alam Abdel-Ghafar, Mostafa el-Nagar, Eman Ali, Mahmoud Osman, Mohamed Hagag, Ali Hassan, Jacklene Mounir, Abdel-Rahman Youssef, Noha Mahmoud, Moataz el-Sherbini, Ibrahim Qassem, Mohamed Farag, Mahmoud Mohiey, Hatem Attiya, Doha Saleh, Gamal Abdel-Nasser, el-Abbas el-Sokari and Mostafa Gabr.

A huge turnout was observed at the first day of the parliamentary elections, the first to be held after the Revolution of January 25.

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

At the first day of election, the Armed Forces imposed tight security measures to secure ballot stations against thuggery acts.

Voting was delayed in some polling stations as ballot papers were not available and judges had not arrived. The Higher Electoral Commission (HEC) extended voting deadline to 9pm instead of 7pm.

The HEC received 70 complaints, mostly over the delay of opening ballot stations.

SCAF Head Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi approved the allocation of military jets to transport ballot boxes and judges to remote areas.

As Tahrir protesters threatened they will invalidate their votes, Muslim Brotherhood and Salafist parliamentary candidates continued to rally supporters to vote for them.

The Assuit Administrative Court halted voting in a constituency after a candidate's attribute was misprinted on the ballot cards.

The operations room of the Free Egyptians Party, which runs in the election as part of the Egyptian Bloc, accused members of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) of filling in ballot papers for voters in the Cairo neighborhood of Roud El-Farag.



It also recorded a number of violations, including the absence of phosphorus ink and ballot cards.

It also said an armed attack took place against a ballot station (El-Salam School) in El-Zawya, Cairo, forcing voters to flee the scene.

Meanwhile, the FJP accused the Egyptian Bloc of electioneering outside ballot stations. It added the Bloc has been paying cash money to buy votes in violation of the law.

Egyptian Bloc candidate Mohamed Abu-Hamed continued election publicity inside a ballot station when his supporters showed up wearing T-shirt bearing his photo, the FJP said.

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) received 161 complaints, only two hours after the voting process commenced.

The complaints ranged between the late arrival of ballot cards and the prevention of some observers from entering ballot stations.

Voters also complained that FJP voters continued campaigning outside ballot stations in violation of the law.

Some complaints were filed over the use of religious slogans near a mosque in Nasr City, Cairo.

The NCHR operations room it received the complaints from Cairo, Alexandria, Fayoum, Kafr El-Sheikh and the Red Sea.

The Egyptian Association for Supporting Democratic Development (EASD) recorded some violations regarding the expulsion of observers, delay in opening ballot stations and publicity activities.

FJP sources revealed that initial counting results of votes in Saudi Arabia showed that the FJP gained between 75% and 80% of valid votes. The counting process in Saudi Arabia started in the early hours of Monday.

Al-Azhar Grand Imam Ahmed el-Tayyeb, presidential hopeful Amr Moussa, NCHR Chairman Boutros Boutros Ghali, Arab League Secretary General Nabil el-Arabi and former Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq cast their ballots on Monday.

The family of Khaled Said, a young man who was beaten to death by police officers during the Mubarak era that is believed to have sparked the revolution, announced boycotting the parliamentary elections.



In Alexandria, several altercations erupted between voters waiting in line outside ballot stations. Rumors spread in the city that Youssef Sabra, a parliamentary candidate, was shot by unidentified people in the morning.

Voters complained that candidates' numbers in the ballot papers has changed, causing confusion among many. Al-Nour Party member were seen campaigning outside a ballot station.

Alexandria Governor Osama el-Folli engaged in serious conversations with other voters waiting in line with him. Folli waited for two hours for his turn to enter the polling station.

Salafist members were seen outside ballot stations in the governorate putting on a uniform.

The Shehab Center for Human Rights said the Armed Forces have secured 1,754 ballot stations and 3,349 substations in the governorate. Police was remarkably absent from the scene, the center said.

The center reported the absence of ballot papers in 19 ballot stations in Alexandria.

US Ambassador to Egypt Anne Patterson hailed the high turnout observed in the Egyptian parliamentary elections.

Chairman of the Egyptian Exchange (EGX) Mohamed Omran said the stock exchange will work during the second and third phases of the parliamentary elections and during the run-offs.

High voter turnout was also marked in Damietta, Port Said, Assiut and Fayoum.

The judge supervising the polls in an Assuit ballot stations suspending the voting after clashes broke out between supporters of the FJP and Al-Wasat Party. A high-ranking military officer intervened to separate the two sides.

HEC Chairman Abdel-Moez Ibrahim said the Interior Ministry has suspended a police officer for not delivering ballot boxes to five ballot stations in Cairo.

The results of individual seats will be announced on the next day following the election day of each phase, Ibrahim said.

The results of party-based lists will be announced at the end of the three stages of the elections, he said.

Israeli media claimed that the Egyptian elections were held amid concerns over possible violence and forgery.

Israeli newspaper Haaretz said that protesters in Tahrir Square have boycotted the polls.



Despite measures taken by SCAF to secure the elections, Egyptians still fear corruption and violence during the process, Yediot Ahronot reported.

Several Egyptian TV satellite channels covered the elections professionally, while the state-run TV remained traditional.

Al-Hayat was the most neutral and distinguished when it came to covering the polls.

It was followed by CBC, Al-Nahar, OnTV and the Egyptian state-run TV.

In Luxor, Copts flocked to ballot stations in response to instructions given by the Church, a number of voters told Yom7.

US Congressman David Dreier inspected a number of ballot stations in the Cairo neighborhood of Zamalek. He said he will have talks with SCAF over the domestic scene and the electoral process.

Al Akhbar Newspaper

Pages (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15)

Authors: Khaled El-Meery, Ezzat Mostafa, Ragaa El-Nemr, Salah El-Salhy, Nabil El-Tafahny, Mohamed El-Bahnasawy, Thanaa youssef, Ahmed Abd El-Hamid, Diaan Abul-Safa, Waleed Diab, Nader Ghazy, Alaa Hegab, Hossam Abd El-Aleem, Ahmed Khalil, Bahaa El-Mahdy, Yasmine El-Tayar, Abd El-Galeel Mohamed, Eissa Morshed,

A New Egypt

In an unprecedented turnout, the first phase of the parliamentary elections started yesterday in 9 governorates: Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Damietta, Kafr El-Sheikh, Fayoum, Assuit, Luxor and the Red Sea. Women's high participation rate was one the most noticeable remark about yesterday's voting process. The main complaint was the slow-moving lines and the late arrival of ballot papers in some constituencies. Al-Akhbar reported that yesterday's polls prove SCAF's success in running the country and establishing security. There were almost no violations during the day except for an attempt to fire guns in front of a polling station in Assuit. The crowdedness in front of the polling stations resulted in one death and 25 injuries, according to the Ministry of Health.

Head of the Higher Electoral Commission, Abd El-Moez Ibrahim, announced in a press conference that Tahrir sit-in did not affect the elections turnout. He stated that three substations have been closed after a policeman was caught filling in empty ballot papers for a certain candidate in Luxor. Another station witnessed a huge fight between voters and a group of



Citizens who stole ballot papers, which compelled the station head to close it. The station will resume its work tomorrow.

A state of confusion was caused by the ballot papers that arrived late in some constituencies. Those harmed due to publicity in front the polling stations need to resort to the law, said Abd El-Moez. He added that expatriates in the Gulf countries had the highest turnout of all Egyptian expatriates. Some judges arrived to their stations late as they were unable to find them. He announced that now is not the time to discuss whether some entities have received foreign funding or not. "All those matters will be tackled after the elections," he said. He declared that those who are not to vote in the elections will be fined 500LE. The HEC decided to extend the voting hours till 9pm instead of 7pm due to the high turnout.

Judges' Club Chairman, Ahmed El-Zend said that the operations room for supervising judicial performance in the elections has received 400 complaints and was able to solve all of them.

Head of the Military Council, Mohamed Tantawi followed the election process yesterday from the operations room of the Armed Forces. He assigned military aircrafts to transfer the ballot boxes and judges to remote areas during the 3 phases of the elections. Major General Ismail Etman said they have rapid deployment forces to use in case of any crisis. Military Police Commander Hamdy Badeen announced that there are military forces in charge of securing the boxes in the evening.

Egypt's Dar al-Iftaa, the board of muftis, issued a religious decree that prohibits candidates from buying votes. "Vote-buying is a sort of bribery prohibited by Islam," the fatwa said.

Pope Shenouda III stressed that Coptic Christians should vote, but did not say who they should vote for. Instead, Pope Shenouda said that they should cast their votes for "a suitable candidate" be it a Muslim or a Christian.

Ahmed El-tayeb, Imam of Al-Azhar mosque, while waiting in line to vote, was asked by a citizen about vote buying. He told him that if a candidate offered him money to buy his vote, he could take the money but still vote according to his own free will.

US state department deputy spokesman Mark Toner was reported as saying that the independent US observers said there was a high turnout on Monday, with no violence or irregularities. "What they've been able to see so far has been quite positive," he added.

Director of the Egyptian National Council of Human Rights, Boutros Ghali visited some constituencies to follow the election process.



Kamal El-Ganzouri, appointed prime minister, cast his vote yesterday. He announced that the government names will be announced day after tomorrow. He said “Egyptians have proven they are capable of creating democracy.”

US Ambassador to Egypt, Anne Paterson, stressed the importance of the role of civil society organizations in the parliamentary elections in Egypt. In her visit to the National Council for Human Rights yesterday, she said that those organizations have trained thousands to perform this role. The EU Ambassador, Marc Franco, said it is too early to answer any questions about Islamists reaching power, adding that this choice is now in the hands of Egyptians.

Presidential candidate, Ahmed Shafiq, while voting yesterday, said that Kamal El-Ganzouri is a suitable choice for heading the government now. Amr Moussa, presidential hopeful, described these elections as “the first step towards democracy”. Abul-Fotooh, another presidential hopeful, denied making any deals with Kamal El-Ganzouri, appointed PM, while calling on citizens to assist the Army and police in securing the elections.

Most protestors in Tahrir square left the sit-in to cast their votes yesterday while the rest decided to boycott the elections. Those who participated said that this was one of the revolution demands and they will never give up their right.

New York Times described it, saying “Largely peaceful Egypt elections draw huge turnout.” Al-Akhbar also reported the newspaper’s description of the process, “Unexpectedly large crowds of Egyptians on Monday defied predictions of bedlam and violence to cast votes in the first parliamentary elections since the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak.” The Independent said “the election will be a strong indicator of whether Egypt is heading towards Islamism or secularism.”

Al Dostour:

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

Authors: Ahmed Amer, Tareq Roshdi (and others)

Egyptian People Set an Example for Patriotism

The first round of parliamentary elections began with unprecedented participation from voters in the first elections after Mubarak’s ouster, Al-Dustour wrote. Elections, which will be held on two days in nine governorates, witnessed a huge turnout by voters including the elderly. The first day was not very problematic except for some quarrels that took place in governorates. Confusion and chaos were characteristics of the electoral process in various polling stations due to the delay of some judges and the lack of sufficient ballot papers. This led



The HEC to extend voting for two additional hours so that everyone will be able to cast their votes.

Le Figaro confirmed that elections represent a chance for the Muslim Brotherhood to seize power in one of the most important countries in the Arab world. The newspaper mentioned that Tahrir Square now represents the biggest of all challenges for the Supreme Council of Armed Forces. It also mentioned that results of elections in Egypt will be to a great extent similar to elections held in Tunisia and Morocco in which Islamists obtained majority.

Protesters in Tahrir Square refused to participate in parliamentary elections, saying that those who participate in elections are betraying the revolution and the Tahrir protests. They criticized parties and candidates that compete for parliamentary seats and forget the blood of innocent people who were killed in Tahrir Square. "Elections are nothing but a farce. Those assuming power in the country wanted to fool Egyptians by convincing them that they are handing over power. I will not go to elections that brings NDP former members again to the parliament," one of Tahrir protesters said.

Members of "Participate and Monitor" campaign mentioned that there was heavy security presence of army and police forces in polling centers. The campaign said there were some drawbacks on the first day of elections such as; delay in opening some of the polling centers, ballot papers and phosphorus ink arriving late, and delay of some of the judges. The campaign also pointed out that campaigns continued to take place in front of and inside polling stations, in a clear violation of the HEC rules. Campaign observers reported other violations such as buying votes in Alexandria and Northern Cairo mostly by members of Freedom and Justice Party, Al-Nour Party, and Free Egyptians Party.

The National Council for Human Rights also mentioned in a report published yesterday that in spite of the huge turnout by voters in polling stations, the operation room of the elections-support unit of the council received 161 complaints at least 81 of them are related to delays in opening polling centers or lack of ballot papers. The council said they received dozens of complaints reporting violations made by the Freedom and Justice Party by campaigning in front of polling centers and using religious slogans.

Kasr Al-Nil district was a hot-spot area as voters headed to their polling centers amid a state of anxiety and heavy security presence. This area had witnessed severe clashes between protesters and security forces near Tahrir Square. Campaigns continued even after voting began by members of the Freedom and Justice Party and supporters of Gameela Ismail and Nehal Ahdi. Members of their campaigns stood in front of polling centers and in streets that witnessed clashes last week and called on people to vote for them.



Al-Dustour also reported that thousands of Coptic Christians were determined to cast their votes yesterday. Christian youth formed popular committees to help voters by organizing them in lines and answering their questions on candidates and their backgrounds. Bishop Moussa said the church does not support any specific party or candidate and that Pope Shenouda III advised Christians to choose their representatives based on their efficiency not their religious backgrounds.



TV Coverage (28/11/2011)



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

Genre: News

Channel: Al-Hayat

Host: Yasmin Saeed

HEC said: Judges didn't arrive late as the police forces are responsible for responsible for the late arrival of the ballot papers.

Guests:

Reda Abol-Aziz "Head of National Human Rights Council Operations Office"

Major General Khaled Gharaba "Head of Alexandria Security Directory"

Judge Khaled Roshdy "Head of one of Fayoum Ballot stations"

Dr. Gamal Salama "Political Science Professor in Suez Canal University"

Gamal Barakat "Head of National Human Rights Council Complaints Office"

Dr. Ahmed Kenawy "A member of Operations Office in Judges Club"

Major General Ahmed Abu Deef "Head of Luxor Security Directory"

Major General Salah Okasha "Head of Kafr Al-Sheikh Security Directory"

Ali Hassan "Vice MENA Editor-in-Chief Head"

Dr. Abol-Kawy Khalifa "Cairo Governor"

Abdul-Rady Seddik "Head of one of Asyut Ballot Stations"

Judge Ahmed Ali "Fayoum Governor"

HEC Head said: Ministry of Interior is responsible for HAC seal and delivering it to the ballot stations.



He added that he has full confidence that the military forces can secure all the elections.

HEC Head said that there are no posters for candidates inside the ballot stations. 1800 officials from 37 Rights Organizations are monitoring the elections.

1801 Hadaek Al-Kobba residents accuse candidates of the second constituency of bribing the voters.

A stand-in in Fayoum's First constituency protesting that the Judge responsible for the ballot station didn't show up until 2:00 pm CLT.

Head of Alexandria Security Directory said: The security status is stable and unprecedented turnout of voters.

Suspending a ballot station after the responsible Judge fainted.

Closing station number 2 in Frères School in Al-Daher area.

HEC Head sent a publication with the amendment of the political attribute of a candidate in Asyut second constituency.

Foreign Ministry denies that any Party got a majority of votes in expatriate Egyptians voting.

State Council Operations Office didn't receive HEC contestation on Administrative Court decision to suspend the elections in the second constituency in Asyut governorate.

HEC Head said: We were surprised with the strong turnout of voters in the parliamentary elections.

Suspension of a ballot station in Al-Wayly area in Cairo as the Judge wasn't there.

Essam Sharaf meets with Major General Mansour Al-Eissawy in a sudden meeting to discuss the security status in all first phase elections governorates.

- HEC Head said: Voting for 2 Labors or 2 Bracket candidates doesn't make the vote invalid.

HEC decided to extend voting period today to be until 9:00 CLT.

Guests:

Judge Ahmed Al-Zend "Head of Judges Club"

Major General Mohamed Al-Assar "SCAF member"

Georget Kelnny "Former NDP member"

Judge Abdulla Fathy "Vice Court of Cassation Head and a member of Judges Club Operations Office"

Abu Al-Ella Mady "Head of Wasat Party"

Detention of 5 Judges in a ballot stations in Ain Shams.



HEC gave extra 3000 ballot boxes due to the voters' strong turnout.

Ministry of Interior denies the rumors about the police forces withdrawal from a ballot station in Matareya area.

Port Said Administrative Court to discuss tomorrow a law suit to stop the elections. Military forces arrest the secretariat of one of Luxor stations due to his manipulation in the flow of the elections process.

Military Police is ruling Ain Shams police stations after the sheriff of the police station refused to receive the ballot papers.

Minister of Interior said: The security status is stable in all ballot stations.



Program: Masr Al-Gadeeda (Talk Show)

Channel: Al-Hayat 2

Host: Moataz Al-Demerdash

Head of Judges Club said: Any mistake that judges did is an individual case.

SCAF member said: Police and military forces are securing the ballot boxes with the candidates' representatives and all the stations are fully secured.

HEC Head said: Ballot stations will be opened tomorrow until voting ends.

He added that 3 stations witnessed violence acts which lead to suspending work in the stations.

He also said: We increased security in Sharabeya, Mostafa Kamel, and Al-Daher stations.

A lot of Tahrir protestors voted today.

Head of Wasat Party said: Ballot stations with problems must be suspended.



Program: Misr Tantakheb

Genre: Talk Show

Channel: CBC

Host: Lamees Al Hadidi, Khairi Ramadan



Guests:

Chairman of the Cairo Court of Appeals Hisham Raouf

Director of Al-Nakib Center for Training and Democracy Support Salah Salman

Managing Editor of Yom7 newspaper Akram el-Qasas

15 candidates in Cairo's seventh constituency filed complaint at Al-Zaher police station because ballot boxes did not have lock pads.

The Armed Forces took control of the situation in Assuit after gunfire shots were reported outside ballot stations. The Assuit Administrative Court nullified elections in Assuit's second constituency because candidate symbols were changed.

Field Marshal Tantawi inspects several ballot stations in the Cairo neighborhoods of Heliopolis, Nasr City and El-Wayly. (Also mentioned in Channel 1 News)
Protesters in Tahrir and outside Cabinet HQ divide themselves into groups to vote in the elections.

Tantawi tackles with el-Ganzouri formation of advisory council. (Also mentioned in Channel 1 News)

Ganzouri: Consultations on government line-up to conclude before end of the week.

By phone: SCAF member Major General Mohamed Assar calls on protesters in Tahrir Square to meet him.

Abdel-Moez: Unstamped ballot forms are not a problem. Judges were permitted to sign them instead.

Abdel-Moez: Problems reported during elections pertained to the delay in the arrival of ballot forms, late arrival of judges and presence of unstamped ballot forms.

Steel fences erected to secure Tahrir Square entrances.



1- Program: News Bulletin
Genre: News
Channels: Channel 1

Unprecedented voter turnout.

One of the important violations in the first day in the elections is opening the ballot stations and some political forces continue their publicity.

Al-Azhar Sheikhdome stresses on the importance of voting in the elections and it's a national duty.

Al-Ganzory said: What happened today makes Egyptians proud of themselves.

Sharaf holds a Cabinet meeting to follow the elections.

Tahrir sit-in continues.

Tantawi visits some ballot stations in Masr Al-Gaddeda and Al-Wayly.



Program: Tahrir (Talk Show)
Channel: Al-Yom
Host: Dina Abdol-Rahman

Guests:

Judge Ahmed Al-Zend "Head of Judges Club"

Major General Mohamed Al-Assar "SCAF member"

Georget Kelnly "Former NDP member"

Judge Abdulla Fathy "Vice Court of Cassation Head and a member of Judges Club Operations Office"

Abu Al-Ella Mady "Head of Wasat Party"

Al-Ganzory announces that the forming of the new government most probably to be next Thursday.



Buying votes is one of elections negatives that is still happening and the most prominent parties which did that are:

- Al-Nour
- Freedom and Justice
- Wafd
- NDP members
- Peace

Dar Al-Eftaa "Board of Muftis" said that buying votes is against the religion and votes brokers are considered sinners.

HEC Head said: From the reasons of Judges late arrival that they didn't know the location of the station so that's why they had to go to the police stations first.

Detention of 2 judges in Badrawy district in Asyut and 11 judges in Ain Shams.

Military forces prevented some thugs who tried to break into an Islamic school in Asyut.

Links

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Radio Coverage (28/11/2011)



Radio Misr

Program: News Bulletin

The first round of parliamentary elections began today in nine governorates. Voting will last for two days.

Armed Forces deployed their troops to secure polling centers in coordination with police forces.

Ministry of Interior confirms that their role will be limited to securing polling stations externally.

Unprecedented turnout by voters in polling stations to participate in elections. Higher Electoral Committee provides 3000 additional ballot boxes to meet the unexpected increase of the number of voters.



Voting in elections is scheduled to begin at 8:00 AM and end at 9:00 PM.

Head of the Higher Electoral Committee evaluated the first day of elections. He said it proved to be very successful and that work will continue until the last individual casts his/her vote in the polling station.

Suspending work in some of the polling stations in Sharabiya, Al-Zaher and Al-Matariya due to clashes.

The White House and the UN praised the electoral process in Egypt and said it is on the road to democracy.

Coptic Church denies directing Christians towards voting for a particular bloc. They said they only provided information for them on the steps of voting.



Al Sharq Al Awsat

1- Program: News Bulletin

The voting process in Darb El-Ahmar, Sayeda Zeinab, Kasr El-Nile went smoothing under full judicial supervision and intensive security presence.

The Foreign Ministry will form an entity of ministries and concerned bodies to lay down a mechanism for examining the requests submitted by non-Egyptian civil society organizations interested in following the elections.

Kamal El-Ganzouri, appointed PM: Discussions over the formation of the government ends this week.

Tantawi discusses with El-Ganzouri the formation of an advisory council.

The voting process in the first post-revolution elections continues with high turnout.

HEC Head asserts that were problems in only 10% of the polling stations.

The Ministry of Interior sets an operations room to follow the election process and receive complaints.

The UN and Britain praises the turn in the Egyptian elections.

Expatriates' vote count in Yemen, Nigeria and Ethiopia is over.



Program: News Bulletin
Channel: Al Barnamej Al Aam

Hamdy Badeen, Military Police Commander: The Armed Forces will be in charge of guarding ballot boxes and polling stations at night.

Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi inspected some of the polling stations in Misr Al-Gadida and Nasr City to make sure the electoral process is on the right track.

Two political parties violated the rules of the HEC by campaigning in front of polling stations in Alexandria.

Field Marshal Tantawi gave his orders to transfer judges and ballot boxes on military planes to remote voting areas.

Head of the Higher Electoral Committee confirmed that 90% of polling stations started receiving votes on time.

Minister of Interior Mansour Eissawi issued order to suspend Sheriff of Ain-Shams police station following his delay in delivering ballot papers.

President of the National Council for Human Rights inspected polling stations in Cairo and praised the course of the electoral process and the security provided in polling centers.

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Internet Coverage 28/11/2011



Arabawy

#OccupyCabinet Sit-in in front of the ministerial cabinet headquarters

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

Protesters continued their sit-in for the fourth day in a row, in front of the ministerial cabinet headquarters, to block Kamal el-Ganzoury, the newly appointed PM from taking office, calling for forming a revolutionary cabinet instead.

Tahrir Square November 28th

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Ky0CtIrwsgM

http://farm8.staticflickr.com/7003/6420033121_97b446c73b_z.jpg

http://farm8.staticflickr.com/7164/6420335679_5b753753f1_z.jpg

It was a relatively quiet day in Tahrir on Monday compared to the past few days, owing to the heavy rains throughout the night and the elections. The sit-in yet continues.

The Egyptian Federation of Independent Unions

http://farm8.staticflickr.com/7015/6420303067_f14e0c698b_z.jpg Banner in support of social justice and revolution in Tahrir Square.

Tahrir Graffiti

Revolutionary graffiti in Tahrir Square, the one above is on the wall of Mugamaa and the one below is in Qasr el-Aini Street...



http://farm8.staticflickr.com/7012/6420227815_e01b4818eb_z.jpg

http://farm8.staticflickr.com/7149/6420107029_33171563ef_z.jpg

Mohamed Mahmoud Graffiti

http://farm8.staticflickr.com/7001/6420047963_c8a0a26554_z.jpg

http://farm8.staticflickr.com/7166/6420068861_c22afdef91_z.jpg



Face book

We are all Khaled Saed

We now tell those who say Egyptians do not deserve democracy; you are the ones who do not deserve to be Egyptians.

Distributing publicity in front of the polling stations is illegal. If you ever see this, report it to the people in charge of securing the station.

Freedom Queues in Egypt:

https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash4/s320x320/389894_295401667176371_104224996294040_717191_645157335_n.jpg

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For all those against Tahrir: Had not it been for Tahrir

You would not have had the right to vote because you have no electoral identity card.

You would not have been able to wait in the voting queue because NDP thugs would have prevented you.

You would not have seen 100 candidates running for the same seat, with all of them believing they have a chance

Expats would not have had the right to vote.

HEC decides to extend the voting hours till 9pm because of the high turnout



Egyptian Cabinet

Dr. Essam Sharaf said:

He put up with what beyond his bearing to see the day these elections are held. He expressed his gratitude for the Egyptians who casted their votes.

HEC Head said:

90% of the ballot stations were working effectively despite the recent unrest.

10% of the stations had some problems such as:

Ballot papers arrived late.

Judges arrived late.

The huge turnout of the people who came to vote.

HEC Head added that the stations solved the problems immediately and the voting period was extended for 2 extra hours due to the enormous turnout of voters.

Sub operations Offices in the governorates had orders to secure the ballot boxes, the boxes locations and those in charge of the elections supervision.

Cooperation between the governorates, police and military forces continues, until the election ends and the final results are announced.



Twitter

Asmaa Mahfouz

We should not at least give up on our demand to present those who killed Tahrir revolutionaries to trial. It has been 10 months since the beginning of the revolution and they are still killing us. Talk to people and ask them not to forget or give up.

How can we accept to be ruled by the military when they are killing us?

Al-Tayar Al-Masry Party did not withdraw from elections but we only suspended our campaign. I am their candidate in Misr Al-Gadeeda district. We will be waiting for you in Tahrir Square after you cast your votes.

Monasosh



We should quit arguing about elections and talk to people and convince them that the Tahrir sit-in is pursuing the revolution's demands.

How come we never heard of an armored vehicle that mistakenly hit voters or an officer who slipped and fired at them? Why does this happen only to protesters in Tahrir or Maspero?

We should not drive out street vendors who are in Tahrir Square and find a way to deal with those who cause troubles only.

Gsquare86

VIDEO from Tahrir on Egypt's Election Day. Watch injured man speak to Hossam Al-Hamalawi on the Muslim Brotherhood while Ramy Essam (formerly detained and tortured by the military, famous for writing and singing revolutionary songs decrying the regime) is singing.

Man injured in police clashes #Nov19 <http://flic.kr/p/aMtSVc>

I am boycotting elections. Under SCAF's rule, elections are a scam and will not achieve anything good for our revolution, plus this parliament won't last anyway.

Iyad_ElBaghdadi

Today the world asks for social welfare without big government. Capitalism without extreme inequality. Democracy without special interests.

What is contradictory about one system becoming the next system's selling point?

It seems that scaring people of the Muslim Brotherhood is a policy that works well. After Mubarak used it for years, some resorted to the same policy after the revolution.

WaelAbbas

Bribes in elections (prices to buy votes) are as follows: Al-Wafd Party: 100LE, NDP former members: 50LE, and Freedom and Justice Party: 50LE plus half a kilogram of meat!

Two and a half tons of birdshot pellets were imported through Cairo Airport a couple of days ago.

Suez customs officers refused to receive shipment of seven tons of teargas the Ministry of Interior imported from the US.

Arabist

Detention of Egyptian blogger Alaa Abd El Fattah extended: Even though he's referred to a civilian court.

Voting was extended until 9 PM by HEC decision.



Muslim Brotherhood Site

Egypt's Parliamentary Elections: FJP Press Release No. (1)

Polling stations in 9 governorates opened their doors for the first parliamentary elections after the January 25 Revolution. We regard these elections as a blessed portal through which Egypt shall cross safely to democracy and the transfer of power to the Egyptian people.

The Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) confirms its absolute confidence in the Egyptian judiciary, who oversees the entire electoral process.

The FJP calls upon the Egyptian people to defend their right to peaceful transition of power by participating in the elections positively and effectively. They also urged Egyptians to protect ballot boxes and to support the Armed Forces that undertook the task of protecting these elections.

We believe that in this experience, whoever the winner is, the main losers are the the former regime and its loyalists, who tried, over the past months, to kill this revolution.

FJP Press Release No. (2), Parliamentary Elections, 2011

The following is a report on the latest developments:

First: Voters

Reports from our representatives confirm that, in the majority polling stations, there is a heavy turnout for voting, since the early morning. Indeed, queues in front of some stations extended over a whole kilometer.

Second: The Legal Dimension

Up till this hour, the electoral process has moved smoothly, in a satisfactory manner, in all constituencies. However, some polling stations delayed the start of their activities because voting forms were not available yet. Nevertheless, judges were in the polling stations already. The central control room reported this in a limited number of polling stations in the entire first phase.



Third: The Security Situation

No reports were received regarding excesses by security forces or acts of bullying or violence near the polling stations, with the exception of some attempts which were promptly dealt with by the military and police forces as well as popular committees. Only one case of violence was reported in Assiut (Upper Egypt) where a candidate – excluded for being a member of the former corrupt regime – started some bullying action, but was quickly quenched.

Fourth: The Judges' Role

It was noted that the judges were all set in their allocated places in the electoral polling stations, since the early morning, and even before the start of the electoral process.

Fifth: Media Performance

Some TV channels still launch smear campaigns against the candidate lists of the Democratic Alliance and Freedom and Justice Party, which violates the norms of the press.

FJP Press Release No. (3), Parliamentary Elections, 2011

The Egyptian people are still turning out heavily to polling stations, in this first parliamentary election after the revolution, prompting Egypt's High Judicial Elections

Commission (HJEC) to extend the voting until nine in the evening.

The following is a report on the latest developments:

First: Voters

Initial indications, up to this hour (7PM, Egyptian Time), show that turnout is nearly 20% of the total number of electorates expected to participate in this round. Highest turnouts were in the governorates of Kafr El-Sheikh and Damietta (30%). Those are followed by Assiut and Cairo. Meanwhile, participation in the Red Sea governorate was no more than 11%. We expect rates of participation to increase overall by the end of ballot on Tuesday evening. It was noted that there is a growing number of voters before the stations where the voting process has been slow: up to 12 minutes per citizen.



Second: Polling Stations

Until now, some polling stations are still closed, especially in Helwan and Matareya districts. There are various reasons for failure of those polling stations to open for the electorate, such as missing official seals on the ballot papers, the absence of some electoral list or individual candidate's representatives, or a shortage of ballots allocated for each polling station.

Third: The Security Situation

The security situation remains stable. No tensions or violence were reported.

Fourth: Media Performance

There is much false rumors that circulated regarding the FJP and the Democratic Alliance, that were later proven incorrect.



▪ 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**



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