



News Coverage

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



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➤ Thematic Headlines

➤ Domestic Scene

- ✓ Tantawi Interferes to Defuse Govt-Parliament Tension
- ✓ Bribes Reported in Presidential Endorsements
- ✓ 375 Presidential Hopefuls on 3rd Day of Candidacy
- ✓ Wasat Party Seeks To Convince Abul-Fotouh or Awwa to Withdraw From Polls
- ✓ Divisions among MB, Salafists Ranks over Youth Endorsements
- ✓ Abu al-Naja Criticizes U.S.A's Conditional Aids
- ✓ Facilitating Nomination Procedures
- ✓ Presidential Elections Updates
- ✓ Life Imprisonment against a Ukrainian and Two Israelis
- ✓ A Claim against US Ambassador
- ✓ The Muslim Brotherhood Considers Banning Demonstrations
- ✓ SCAF-MB Communication Postpones the Withdrawal of Confidence
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- ✓ Al-Jamaa' Al-Islameya Holds a Conference
- ✓ Abul-Naga: Washington Refused Cancelling Aid to Egypt
- ✓ FM Calls Britain to Expedite Extradition of Fugitive Egyptians
- ✓ 350 Presidential Hopefuls So Far
- ✓ Supreme Judicial Council to Start Investigations with Abd El-Moez
- ✓ Female March in Solidarity with 'Virginity Tests' Victim
- ✓ PA Votes to Expel Israeli Ambassador, Halt Gas Exports
- ✓ 17 MPs Approve Shafiq's Presidential Candidature
- ✓



Newspapers (13/03/2012)



Pages: 1

Author: Khalid Abu al-Izz and Suad Tantawi

Facilitating Nomination Procedures



The High Presidential Elections Commission provided new facilitations for the public to support their potential candidates.

The commission highlighted a low turnout to get the nomination forms if compared with the first two days.

Pages: 1

Author: Sayyid Ibrahim

Life Imprisonment against a Ukrainian and Two Israelis



The Ismailia Criminal Court sentenced a Ukrainian and two Israelis to life imprisonment. The culprits were uncharged of smuggling arms to Egypt through Taba.

The culprits were also fined with 50 thousand Pounds for each and 13 thousand EGP taxes. The smuggled arms were all confiscated.



Pages: 5
 Author: many authors

Presidential Elections Updates



The Muslim Brotherhood finally announced that it had achieved an agreement on the presidential candidate it would support. The group has not announced the name, but declared that the candidate was a public figure.

Spokesman of the group said the candidate was chosen depending on patriotic and ethical measures, stating that other players would support him.

Al-Ahram's Jamal Abu al-Dahab said that 14 Wafd MPs were working on a petition to support Amr Mussa.

Ismail Jumaah reported on Potential Presidential Candidate Hicham al-Bastawisi's statements about the difficulties of granting people's support and petitions, alluding to some transgressions committed by a number of candidates by bribes.

Al-Ahram also reported that potential candidates Amr Mussa, Abd al-Munim Abu al-Futouh and Hazim Abu Ismail were about to reach the minimum number of supporters in some governorates.

Hamadah Said reported on a high turnout to get nomination documents in Asyout where people think taking part in the nomination process is a national duty.

Pages: 6
Author: Not mentioned

Abu al-Naja Criticizes U.S.A's Conditional Aids



Dr. Fayzah Abu al-Naja, minister of planning and international cooperation called for limiting the US aid to issues related to development, technology, science and scholarships.

Abu al-Naja statements were in a meeting held by the People's Assembly's committee for international relations.

Abu al-Naja stated that the U.S.A's conditions to offer aids to Egypt served America's and Israel's interests.

Tantawi Interferes to Defuse Govt-Parliament Tension



Head of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi meddled to assuage tension between the government of Kamal el-Ganzouri and the People’s Assembly, lower house of parliament, over the NGO foreign funding case.

The crisis erupted as MPs were enraged by the government’s stance regarding the NGO foreign case, where foreign suspects were allowed to leave the country despite being on trial.

Since then, several parties have sought to withdraw confidence from the government, especially the majority parliamentary bloc, the Freedom and Justice Party, the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood.

According to well-placed sources, Tantawi had a phone conversation with parliament Speaker Saad el-Katatni to defuse the tension.



Pages: 3

Author: not mentioned

Al-Jamaa' Al-Islameya Holds a Conference

الجماعة الإسلامية: غير المسلمين لهم الحق في الاحتكام لشرائعهم في الدستور الجديد

أعلن الدكتور عصام دريالة، رئيس مجلس شورى الجماعة الإسلامية، ٦ مبادئ أساسية قال إنها حاکمة عند وضع الدستور الجديد، هي: الهوية، وتتضمن ما يتعلق بالمادة الثانية من الدستور، وأن تكون الشريعة الإسلامية مصدراً للتشريع، وأن يحتكم غير المسلمين لشرائعهم، وأن يكون نظام الدولة رئاسياً، مع احتفاظ مجلس الشعب بالحق في تشكيل الحكومة. وأيضاً الثالث القضاء على الديكتاتورية، وعدم وضع السلطات في يد واحد كما حدث في عهد الرئيس السابق حسني. وقال «دريالة» إن المبدأ الرابع يؤكد على ما يتعلق بعيداً اختيار الشعب لمن يقوده في جميع المؤسسات، واعتبر «دريالة» استقلالية القضاء في الدستور وعدم وضعه أداة لرئيس الجمهورية خامس المبادئ الأساسية، أما المبدأ السادس فهو الإشكالية المتعلقة بالقوات المسلحة، وهو أن تكون ميزانية المؤسسة العسكرية مغلقة وتحت رقابة مجلس الشعب، جاء ذلك خلال المؤتمر الذي عقده الجماعة الإسلامية بالتعاون مع حزب البناء والتنمية بالمنايا أمس. وقال «دريالة» إن المجلس العسكري ليس لديه القدرة على وضع الدستور الجديد في ظل وجود اللجنة التأسيسية التي تضم ١٠٠ عضو، مؤكداً أن اللجنة سوف تنتهي من وضع الدستور قبل التوجه المحدد لها.

Al-Jamaa' Al-Islameya held a conference in which it declared that the Islamic Sharea [Islamic law] is the source of legislation. And the non-Islamic citizens can get back to their religious rules in the new constitution.



Pages: 3
 Author: Mohamed Haroon and others

Petrol Crisis Continues



Petrol and propane tanks crisis rose again, so The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) decided to raise the amount of gas provided daily to 40 million tons by the end of the upcoming month.

375 Presidential Hopefuls on 3rd Day of Candidacy



As many as 375 people have gotten their presidential candidacy applications since opening the candidature, the Presidential Elections Commission said.

The most well-known candidate on the third day of candidature was Abdullah el-Ashaal.

In statements to reporters, Ashaal called on the media to be impartial in its coverage of the presidential elections and not to take sides with a certain candidate.



Page: 5

Author: Hamdi Dabsh, Hani el-Waziri and Ghada Abdel-Hafez

Divisions among MB, Salafists Ranks over Youth Endorsements



Harsh disagreements erupted among the ranks of the Muslim Brotherhood group and Salafists as their young members issued endorsements for presidential candidates Abdel-Moneim Abul-Fotouh and Hazem Salah Abu-Ismael despite orders given to them not to.

Bassam Qotb, a young MB member, said he rejects the idea of a consensus candidate as proposed by the group and that he had given his signature to Abul-Fotouh.

He said he would tender his resignation, as will a large number of young MB members, if the group insisted on a consensus candidate.

The youths also launched a Facebook page to express their support of Abul-Fotouh.

Salafist Al-Nour Party spokesman Khaled Saeed said 95% of the party's youths headed to notary public offices to issue endorsements to Abu-Ismael, ignoring the party's orders not to back any candidate.

The members are supposed to represent Al-Nour Party not their own personal opinions, he said.

Wasat Party Seeks To Convince Abul-Fotouh or Awwa to Withdraw From Polls



Al-Wasat Party decided to form a commission to mediate between presidential candidates Abdel-Moneim Abul-Fotouh and Mohamed Selim el-Awwa to convince one of them to withdraw from the polls in favor of the other.

The move aims to prevent the scattering of votes between several candidates, the party said in a statement.

It also comes as the concerned bodies refuse to amend Article 28 of the constitution, which bans contesting the results of the presidential elections.



Page: 5.

Author: Salah Morsi.

Heavy Campaigns for Presidential Candidates



Notary Public offices in Al-Waili and Hada'ek Al-Qobba districts in Cairo have received a crowd of citizens who came to give their endorsements to their preferred presidential candidates. Employees said that the most prominent presidential candidates were Sheikh Hazem Salah Abo Ismail and Dr. Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh.

Documentation offices around the country were full of citizens who rushed to give powers of attorney to various presidential candidates.

Coordinators of electoral campaigns toured the cities calling on people to give support to their candidates by giving them powers of attorney. Each presidential candidate should secure 30 MPs signatures or the recommendations of 30.000 voters to be considered eligible to run for presidency.

A delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited the headquarters of the Presidential Elections Commission yesterday to meet Senior Judge Hatem Begato, secretary general of the commission, to agree on the details of the process of receiving Egyptian expatriates' votes.



الدستور
للإعلام

Pages: 1, 5

Authors: Sobhy Abd El-Salam, Mohamed El-Ads

Abul-Naga: Washington Refused Cancelling Aid to Egypt



The International Cooperation Minister, Fayza Abul-Naga vehemently denied allegations of squandering public funds from the foreign aid that Egypt receives.

She delivered a statement before the Foreign Affairs Committee inside the People's Assembly, headed by Essam El-Erian, in which she said that any remaining funds are returned to the donating countries.

She added that America is the only country that places stipulations on its aid to Egypt, while the government totally rejects that.

FM Calls Britain to Expedite Extradition of Fugitive Egyptians



Foreign Minister Mohamed Amr assured the importance of forging an agreement with the British authorities to extradite Egyptian fugitives. Amr discussed the matter with the British Foreign Office Minister, Alistair Burt.

Egypt gives a lot of importance to speeding up this agreement, said Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Amr Roshdy.



Page: 1.

Author: Al-Walid Ismail.

NGOs Case Judge: I Presented Detailed Memorandum for Supreme Judicial Council



Senior Judge Mohamed Mahmoud Shokri, judge who recused himself from the case of the NGOs accused of receiving foreign funds, told Al-Tahrir newspaper that he submitted a memorandum to the Supreme Judicial Council in which he explained the reasons behind his recusal.

“My reasons for relinquishing the NGOs case are explained in full details in the memorandum,” said Shokri, refusing to mention his reasons because the law does not allow him to declare them.

“No one has asked me to present a memorandum for the investigations into the circumstances that surrounded the NGOs case. Senior Judge Reda Shawkat has not contacted me or informed me of anything related to an investigation. I am willing to present everything required from me to explain the truth of what happened because I fear no one but God.”

The Supreme Judicial Council announced earlier that it will open an investigation into the circumstances of the NGOs case and the decision to allow foreign suspects to travel before their trial ends.



Pages: 1, 3.

Authors: Hoda Abo Bakr, Eman Abd Al-Moneim (and others).

Muslim Brotherhood Discusses with Church Preferred Presidential Candidate



Presidential race is heating up on the third day of submitting candidacy applications as deliberations continue between major political parties to select the candidate who will receive their support.

Informed sources inside the Muslim Brotherhood, who preferred not to be named, revealed that the MB reached an agreement on supporting Senior Judge Hossam Al-Gheriani, head of the Supreme Judicial Council, for presidency as a “consensus candidate.” Prominent MB members tried to convince Al-Gheriani of running for presidency. Sources said that Salafi political parties agreed with the MB on the preferred presidential candidate.

Dr. Mahmoud Hussein, Secretary General of the Muslim Brotherhood, refused to comment on Al-Gheriani. “We will not announce the presidential candidate who will receive our support except after all candidacy applications are submitted,” said Hussein. He denied there were any disagreements inside the Guidance Office on the choice of the “consensus candidate.” He warned that the MB will take decisive measures against those who will support Dr. Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh against the MB’s decision.

Dozens of MB members have already given their support to Sheikh Hazem Salah Abo Ismail. One of the MB youth said that they refuse the presidential candidate chosen by the organization and they will not respond to threats.

Mansour Hassan, potential presidential candidate, told Al-Tahrir newspaper that the “consensus candidate” is nothing but “a naïve idea and an insult to presidential candidates.”

Al-Wasat Party began deliberations to reach some sort of agreement between Islamist candidates, Dr. Mohamed Selim Al-Awa and Dr. Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, to persuade one of them to withdraw from presidential race in order to prevent fragmentation of votes given to Islamist candidates.



Pages: 4, 5.
Interview by: Mona Selim.

Virginity Checks Victims will Resort to International Law



“We are studying the possibility of resorting to the international law after we have exhausted all legal means to pursue Samira’s rights,” said Ahmed Hossam, Samira’s lawyer and a member of the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights. “Filing a complaint to the International Criminal Court became our last resort because the national judicial system did not restore the victim’s rights,” said Hossam.

He confirmed that there are many reasons that drive him to questions the reasons of the acquittal. He also said all medical reports made for the female protesters detained in the military prison are fabricated.

“The court ignored the testimony of Rasha Abd Al-Rahman and chose to focus on one point of weakness, which is inconsistent names Rasha and Samira provided for the female warder, and this matter cannot be explained. The victims are requested to identify the criminals, not mention their names, particularly during an incident of this nature because it becomes very difficult for victims to recall the names of their offenders. Both Rasha and Samira identified the defendant in the courthouse,” explained Hossam.

Calls to stand in solidarity with Samira Ibrahim went viral after the news spread of the doctor’s acquittal. Many youth movements call for a protest to the Ministry of Defense today. Feminist groups have called for another protest on Friday to support Samira.



Page: 1

Author: Mostafa Eid

Supreme Judicial Council to Start Investigations with Abd El-Moez



Judge Hossam El-Gheryany, head of the Supreme Judicial Council, started unofficial investigations with Head of the Appeals Court Abd El-Moez Ibrahim to discuss his mistakes in handing the NGOs case.

A judicial source described the investigations as “seeking clarification” after a number of members of the Court of Appeals submitted



Pages: 1, 8, 9
 Author: Mohamed Basal

350 Presidential Hopefuls So Far



The number of presidential hopefuls has mounted to 350 after 39 citizens headed to the headquarters of the Presidential Elections Commission yesterday to withdraw candidacy applications.

Former Deputy Foreign Minister, Abdullah El-Ashaal has joined the presidential race.

Educational expert Bassem Khafagy is being promoted as MB's secret candidate. He said that he would not attempt collecting the approvals of 30,000 eligible voters but he'd rather work for the approval of 30 MPs.

36,000 expatriate Egyptians registered on the commission's website for the presidential elections making the total number 391,000. Sources at the Supreme Commission consider the number to be extremely low as they expected at least a million.

Female March in Solidarity with 'Virginity Tests' Victim



Under the slogan “Egypt’s Girls are a Red Line,” a number of activists called for a peaceful march today in solidarity with virginity checks victims, Sameera Ibrahim.

The march will take place on today’s afternoon from Tahrir square to the Ministry of Defense to protest acquitting army doctor from the accusation that he performed those checks on female political detainees, Ahmed Adel.

April 6 Movement announced its support to Sameera Ibrahim declaring that this statement revealed the real face of the military regime.

PA Votes to Expel Israeli Ambassador, Halt Gas Exports



The People’s Assembly unanimously voted yesterday on expelling Israel’s ambassador in Cairo and halting gas exports to the Jewish state.

The vote is considered a reaction to the bombing of Gaza Strip that left a number of deaths and injuries. The Arabic Affairs Committee inside the Parliament called for a vote to expel the Israeli ambassador and withdraw his Egyptian counterpart.



Pages: 4

Author: Dandarawi al-Hawwari, Nour Ali and Muhammad al-Jali

SCAF-MB Communication Postpones the Withdrawal of Confidence



Al-Yom al-Sabei knew that “sovereign sources” intervened to end the crisis of confidence in al-Ganzouri’s cabinet.

Members of the people’s Assembly threatened with withdrawing the confidence from Ganzouri’s government. A numbers of ministers tried to agree on a resignation to avoid the withdrawal of confidence.

However, al-yom Sabei reported on communications between SCAF, the Muslim Brotherhood’s Saad al-Katatni, Speaker of the people’s Assembly, PM Kamal al-Ganzsour, Muhamamd Mursi, head of the Freedom and Justice Party and Muhamamd Badei the general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood to solve the crisis.

Cabinet sources told al-Yom al-Sabei that Ganzouris was performing his tasks and would go on until a president is elected.



Pages: 3

Author: Midhat Wahbah, Muhammad Mitwalli and Ahmad Said

A Claim against US Ambassador



Attorney Genral Abd al-Majid Mahmoud referred a claim against the US ambassador in Cairo to be investigated.

The claim was filed by Ahmad Saadawi, head of the Justice and Equality Organization. Saadawi accuses the American ambassador of interfering in Egypt's interior affairs and accused the former head of the State Security Apparatus and Farouq Uqdah, president of the Central Bank of Egypt of covering the American NGOs in Egypt.

The claim also calls for interrogating Mubarak for his responsibility for the access of foreign NGOs in Egypt.



Pages: 7
 Author: Nour Ali

The Muslim Brotherhood Considers Banning Demonstrations



The Muslim Brotherhood is to apply a demonstration draft law to the people's Assembly.

The law indicates informing the authorities about the place and date of any gatherings and bans demonstrations in schools and houses of worship.

The law also punishes people who call for demonstrations without getting the authorities permission.

The people's Assembly's legislative committee has finished discussing the draft that would finally be presented to be considered by the parliament.



TV Coverage (12/03/2012)



Program: Al-Hayat Al-An
Channel: Al-Hayat
Host: Maha Bahnasy

Crisis escalated between the government and the People's Assembly after Prime Minister Kamal el-Ganzouri did not respond to the interpellation.

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Fayza Abul-Naga said: The US aid is not part of Egypt's Gross Domestic Product and we can boycott it.

Ministry of Finance: The elections caused a budget deficit of EGP 150 billion.

Prime Minister Kamal el-Ganzouri skips the People's Assembly session on the NGOs case and holds a ministerial meeting.

347 candidates got their presidential applications in the last 3 days.

Program: Al-Hayat Al-Yoom
Channel: Al-Hayat
Host: Lobna Assal and Sherif Amer

People's Assembly agrees to raise the compensations to the revolution martyrs' families to EGP 100,000.

Advisory Council chooses a new head tomorrow as Mansour Hassan is running for president.

Stock Market loses EGP 4.9bn.



Program: Hona Al-Asema
Channel: CBC
Host: Lamis Al-Hadidy

There are news reports that SCAF might attempt ending the crisis between the government and MPs.

Disagreements inside Wafd Party over supporting presidential candidates.

Wafd Party supports Mansour Hassan and 14 Wafd MPs support Amr Moussa.



التولى

News Channel 1 "State TV"

The joint committee of the lower and upper houses of parliament will issue today its final report regarding the Constituent Assembly. 3:00 AM

The Presidential Elections Commission resumes opening its doors and 385 candidates received their applications in the last three days. 3:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Program: Sabah Al-Kheir Ya Masr Channel 2 "State TV"

The Parliament starts measures to withdraw confidence from the Kamal el-Ganzouri government.

258 presidential aspirants along with Abdel-Moneim Abu Al-Fotouh, and Mortada Mansour received their candidacy application forms.

On the second day of issuing proxies for presidential candidates, bribery was reportedly conducted.

The Muslim Brotherhood is trying to convince some qualified figures to run for president.

Notary Public employees in the 10th of Ramadan city refuse to issue proxies for any candidates other than Hazem Abu-Ismael.

MB spokesman said: we will dismiss anyone from the group if they joined Abdel-Moneim Abul-Fotouh presidential campaign.

الثانية

News Channel 2 "State TV" Time: 26:00:00

People's Assembly Speaker approved the criteria for choosing the Constituent Assembly members. The members will be chosen on April 24.



العربية

Al-Arabeya channel

11-3-2012

Program: Noktet Nezam

Guests:

Bothayna Kamel, potential presidential candidate:

Egyptian women have proven that they are courageous when they faced violent acts.

I conducted calls with a number of political forces to ask for their support in presidential elections.

Some MB members welcomed my nomination in the presidential elections.

Mubarak didn't care about the Egyptians.

Bribery was the method used in the elections before and after the revolution.

Egyptian Intelligence Apparatus spends millions in order to tarnish the image of the revolution and Tahrir protesters.

I demand the dismissal of the Public Prosecutor.

I don't entrust SCAF with the task of administering the transitional period.



Al- Jazeera channel

10 - 3 - 2012

158 candidates withdrew candidacy applications on the first day of the presidential race.

Presidential Elections will be held for the first time since the outbreak of the January 25 revolution.



Radio Coverage (12/03/2012)



News

Channel: Radio Misr

Time: 25:00:00

People's Assembly approves to increase the compensations given to the families of the revolution's martyrs to be EGP100.000.

385 presidential candidates withdrew their applications within the last two days.



News

Channel: Al-Sharq Al-Awsat

People's Assembly demanded withdrawing Egypt's ambassador from Israel and the explosion of the Israeli ambassador from Egypt. 23:00:00

Egyptian Foreign Ministry: 388.000 Egyptian expatriates registered for voting in the presidential elections. 19:00:00



Internet Coverage (13/03/2012)



Twitter

@AsmaaMahfouz

There will be a stand today at 4:00PM in front of the Journalists Syndicate to support Samira Ibrahim.

@iyad_elbaghdadi

"Update: Sitting with our project manager now, drafting project plans for a documentary on #Homs with viral potential. Want in, email me."

"Their consciences have shriveled up and died. #Syria"

"Pro Assad douchebags are blaming yesterday's massacre on the#FSA. Well at least they didn't say the dead bodies were toys. #Syria"

"Anyone else notices Algerian terror war techniques being replicated by #Assad in #Syria? Striking similarity."

@Arabist

"New on Arabist: Did Qadhafi finance Sarkozy's election campaign?<http://arb.st/zR2VpL>"

"New on Arabist: Idlib, Syria <http://arb.st/ypyZPY>"

"The fascinating thing about the dispute between KAS and AMAF is that it's mostly about money and transparency."

"Last April, I wrote a LRB essay on Libya's history of divisions. Seems relevant now: <http://arb.st/zszYd9>"

@Monasosh

Khaled Ali's data for giving him the power of attorney:

Name: Khaled Ali Omar Ali. ID Number: 27202261200493. ID Copy:
<http://khaledali.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/website12.jpg> #KhaledAli

I received a phone call saying that security forces broke up the sit-in of the Ministry of Finance employees.



It is important to note that we did not file the “virginity checks” case against the military. The Military Justice took the decision to refer the doctor accused to the military prosecution after the November events.

@WaelAbbas

Revolutionary spirit will always be in my heart.

First page of Al-Qabas newspaper has an image of two children who peed on themselves from fear before they were slaughtered in the Homs massacre :(((



▪ 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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