



# News Coverage

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



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## ■ Thematic Headlines

### ➤ Domestic Scene

- Islamist Powers Will Not Control State Newspapers
- Sheikh Hazem Abu Ismail Leads a Huge March
- Fuel Crisis Likely to Continue
- MB Puts More Pressures on El-Ganzouri's Government
- Al-Azhar Representatives Pull Back from Constituent Assembly
- Army's Wall Blocking Kasr Al-Aini's Street Down
- Political Parties Say SCAF's Statement Are Disappointing
- Britain Requests Guarantees from Egypt to Hand Over Former Regime Figures
- Calm in Tahrir during Friday Protests

## Newspapers (31/03/2012)



Pages: 1, 6.

Authors: Ahmed Amer and Sameh Lasheen.

### Islamist Powers Will Not Control State Newspapers



Dr. Tarek Al-Sahri, Shoura Council deputy and a member of Al-Nour's supreme committee said that Islamists do not have any intention to control state newspapers. He confirmed that the Shoura Council has a role to support state newspapers and institutions without compromising their freedom or changing its leaders in a biased manner.

In a seminar held at Al-Ahram, Al-Sahri said that the Shoura Council will not impose its hegemony state newspapers or "walk on the footsteps of the former regime." The Shoura Council seeks to create a national news industry that reflects the values and demands of the society, he said. He added that any changes made to the leadership of these institutions will depend on criteria of efficiency and competence.

Al-Sahri denied rumors that claimed that 48 heads of state newspapers will be replaced. He also confirmed that the Shoura Council created special committees to conduct a financial and administrative study of state newspapers to improve their performance and resolve its debts to the council.



المصري اليوم

www.almasyalyoum.com

Pages: 1, 7.

Authors: Hamdi Dabsh, Haitham Al-Sharqawi (and others).

### **Sheikh Hazem Abu Ismail Leads a Huge March**

Sheikh Hazem Salah Abu Ismail, potential presidential candidate, presented his nomination papers yesterday to the Presidential Elections Commission. He arrived to the commission's headquarters leading a huge march of thousands of his supporters.

Large number of Abu Ismail's supporters participated in the march. Many of them came from different governorates around the country to express their support to the presidential hopeful.

Abu Ismail's campaign formed "human chains" that extended for as long as 17 kilometers. Young supporters wore white t-shirts, carrying Abu Ismail's posters and chanting "The people want to apply God's rules." Also, a march of women wearing niqab (full-face veil) took off to express women's support to Abu Ismail.

Senior Judge Hatem Bagato, secretary general of the Presidential Elections Commission, confirmed that the commission is coordinating efforts with security forces to protect the headquarters as Abu Ismail's march was coming their way. The Presidential Elections Commission addressed the Ministry of Interior asking for an investigation into the huge amount of Abu Ismail's posters that spread around the country during the elections silence.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Shorouk: Page 6.





Page: 1.

Authors: Mohamed Abd Al-Maqsood and Ibrahim Zaytoun.

### MB Puts More Pressures on El-Ganzouri's Government



Thousands of members of the Muslim Brotherhood organized more than 15 demonstrations in Alexandria to demand dismissing Kamal El-Ganzouri's government. MB leaders in Alexandria held a press conference and criticized SCAF's decision to keep El-Ganzouri's incompetent government.

The MB issued a statement in which they listed their demands; on top of them was dismissing El-Ganzouri's government. They accused SCAF of fabricating many crises in the country.

Hamdi Hassan, leader in the Freedom and Justice Party, said the escalation against the government will continue and more protests will be organized within the coming days. "If SCAF wants to teach us history, we tell military generals that history teaches us that victory belongs to the peoples. They must realize that their president is now lying in prison. It is wrong to think that the revolution will move backwards or that the people will give up their rights once again. Egyptians have sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom," said Hassan.

FJP/MP Gamal Hishmat denied any threats by the Muslim Brotherhood to SCAF. "SCAF has its authorities and powers and deputies have their authorities and the only disagreement is on how to best serve our country," said Hishmat.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Shorouk: Page 5.



Pages: 1, 7.

Author: Al-Shimaa Abd Al-Latif and Peter Magdi.

## Al-Azhar Representatives Pull Back from Constituent Assembly



Many politicians and intellectuals confirmed that the withdrawal of representatives of Al-Azhar, the Coptic Orthodox Church and the Supreme Constitutional Court undermines the legitimacy of the Constituent Assembly. Many believe that these resignations represent popular refusal of a unilateral constitution-drafting committee.

Kamal Zakher, coordinator of the Secular Copts Front, said the withdrawal of these institutions from the Constituent Assembly is an important step to prevent the hegemony of one political power over writing the new constitution. "It seems clear now that radical Islamist groups, which dominated the work of the Constituent Assembly, are attempting to write a constitution based on a religious reference," said Zakher.

MP Dr. Ehab Ramzi described the withdrawal of representatives of religious institutions from the Constituent Assembly as "a declaration that this assembly does not meet the demands of Egyptians. It indicates that the people are discontented with the work of this assembly."

Dr. Amna Noseir, professor of Islamic philosophy, praised Al-Azhar's decision to withdraw from the Constituent Assembly. Noseir said that all official institutions should take the same step so that the parliament realizes that they cannot impose their one-sided constitution on all Egyptians.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Dostour: Page 1; Al-Shorouk: Page 5.





Page: 5.

Authors: Ahmed Fathi, Doha Al-Gendi (and others).

### Political Parties Say SCAF's Statement Are Disappointing



The non-binding recommendations issued from SCAF’s meeting with political parties did not succeed in solving the deadlock of the Constituent Assembly.

Leaders of political parties who attended the meeting with SCAF generals said the results of the meeting were “disappointing and far less than what they expected.”

The Free Egyptians Party, Egypt’s Social Democratic Party, and the Revolution Continues Alliance announced that they have reservations on the statement and that they will issue a statement today to explain the withdrawal of their representatives from the Constituent Assembly.

“The situation is very vague now. We want to pursue the interests of our country, not those of a certain political party,” said Mona Makran Ebeid, one of the resigned members of the Constituent Assembly and a member of the Advisory Council.

## Britain Requests Guarantees from Egypt to Hand Over Former Regime Figures



Informed judicial sources said British authorities sent the files related to fugitive figures of the former regime to Egypt; including Yousef Boutros Ghali, Rashid Mohamed Rashid and Magdi Rasekh.

The source said the matter will be resolved within the coming few months after the new president comes to power.

According to the source, British authorities requested new guarantees from the Egyptian government to ensure that the defendants will be tried before a civilian court, the execution sentence will be excluded, and that their human rights will be protected.



Page: 6.  
 Author: Ahmed Ref'at.

### Calm in Tahrir during Friday Protests



Tahrir Square witnessed four protests yesterday to express various demands. Dozens of protesters stood in Tahrir Square after the Friday prayers to demand a “constitution for all Egyptians.” They said that all the segments of Egyptian society should participate in writing the country’s constitution so that it can be considered a new basis for democracy.

Protesters also demanded retribution for the blood of the revolution’s martyrs who died in all the clashes that took place since the beginning of the revolution. They chanted slogans demanded the execution of former president Mohamed Hosni Mubarak and his cronies because of their responsibility for killing the January 25 protesters.

There was a stand in front of the US Embassy, which is close to Tahrir Square, to demand expelling the US ambassador to stop the US interference in the internal affairs of the country.

### TV Coverage (30/03/2012)





**Channel: al-Hayah TV**  
**Program: al-Hayah al-Yom**  
**Broadcaster: Sharif Amer**

Calm prevails in Tahrir after postponing the mass demonstration.

The Muslim Brotherhood in Suez postpone the mass demonstrations against the government.

Confrontations between the Muslim Brotherhood and political activists in front of the Leader Ibrahim Mosque.

News about a Freedom and Justice Party's intention to replace 10 of the Constituent Assembly members by non Islamist members.

The Constituent Assembly represents all Egyptians and the withdrawal of the Azhar is of no importance, said Dr. Ala al-Din al-Bahai, deputy of the Health Committee at the People's Assembly and member of al-Nour Party..

Al-Nour Party refuses to withdraw confidence from the Ganzouri government and try to change the Freedom and Justice's opinion.

**Channel: al-Hayah 2**  
**Program: Muntaha al-Saraha**  
**Broadcaster: Mustafa Bakri**

Hazim Salah Abu Ismail is an official presidential candidate.  
14 out of 19 parties agree on a clear political vision about the Constituent Assembly.





**Channel: CBC**  
**Program: Bi Hudou'**  
**Broadcaster: Imad Adib**

Egyptians should solve the problem of the Constituent Assembly by themselves, said the American ambassador in Egypt Anne Patterson.



**News**  
**Channel 1 "State TV"**  
**Time: 27:00:00**

Demonstrators in Tahrir Square reject the People's Assembly decision to have 50% of the Constituent Assembly members from the parliament.

**Channel: CH1**  
**Program: Sabah al-Khair ya Masr**

Following Field Marshal Tantawi's meeting with the different parties, an agreement was achieved to form committees to help the Constituent Assembly.

The People's Assembly starts procedures to withdraw confidence from the Ganzouri's government.

[Links](#)



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**Radio Coverage (30/03/2012)**



News

Channel: Radio

Hazem Salah Abu Ismail is the first official presidential candidate with more than 30 approvals from the Parliament. **23:00:00**

Al-Nour Party asserts that all the withdrawals from the Constituent Assembly were verbal. **23:00:00**

In the second meeting of the political players with head of SCAF, the majority of the political players agree on three principles to end the Constituent Assembly crisis. **17:00:00**



Channel: Al-Sharq Al-Awsat

Time: 17:00:00

Demonstrators in Tahrir Square and Alexandria reject the 50% of Parliament members at the Constituent Assembly.



Channel: Al-Barnameg Al-Am

Time: 17:00:00

Confrontations between the Muslim Brotherhood and activists in front of Leader Ibrahim Mosque in Alexandria.

[Links](#)



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**Internet Coverage (31/03/2012)**



### We are all Khaled Saeed

Freedom shall come.

Despite all the hindrances, we will frustrate frustration. The future is ours and the youth are coming!

### Egyptian Cabinet

Prime Minister Kamal el-Ganzouri decided to form a commission under his chairmanship to examine an initiative launched by the youth coalition of Al-Lewaa land that aims to make use of 14 feddans in the region and transform the area into a public service region like Al-Azhar Park.



### Wael Abbas:

Did Okasha supporters go to Tahrir Square today???

Did the Muslim Brotherhood cancel the planned million-person protest???

Kuwait arrested five Twitter users for offending the Emir!

<http://dostorasly.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=30032012&id=05fc20de-5e02-48a4-abc3-4e8645a956a2>

Calm outside the US embassy after clashes erupted between Okasha supporters and SCAF opponents.

<http://www.masrawy.com/news/Egypt/Politics/2012/March/30/4907707.aspx>

The Interior Ministry issues a statement without an apology. It confirms that a number of its officers have raped a girl.

[http://www.elfagr.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=152265:%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AE%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%AF%D9%85-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%AE%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B9%D8%AA%D8%B0%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%A4%D9%83%D8%AF-%D9%81%D9%8A%D9%87-%D9%82%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%85-](http://www.elfagr.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=152265:%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AE%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%AF%D9%85-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%AE%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B9%D8%AA%D8%B0%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%A4%D9%83%D8%AF-%D9%81%D9%8A%D9%87-%D9%82%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%85-)



<https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/news-analysis/2014/03/18/Is-it-true-that-Balkimi-was-a-Tuc-Tuc-driver?catid=1&Itemid=51#.T3bMq8wXS-Z.twitter>

Is it true that Balkimi was a Tuc-Tuc driver?

Istanbul University students pelt shoes at the environment minister to protest economic laws.

### Asmaa Mahfouz:

I just arrived in Colorado – Denver to attend the annual conference of Amnesty International. I will be back on Sunday.

### Monasosh:

Why are Hamdeen Sabahi's flyers including the soldier carrying a child??!!

<http://yfrog.com/h7rzesuuj>

I just passed by the sit-in venue. Everything is fine; the youths are playing football, nothing worrisome. #E3tsam\_UA07

### Iyad elbaghdadi:

Whenever a friend tells me that he's taken up mountain climbing or sky diving, first question is ask is: "Boring job?"

It seems to me that we have a "cramming culture". We fail to infuse enough inspiration and adventure daily so we "cram" it once a year.

I've lived a refugee all my life but you know what's worse? Being a refugee & on the run in your own country. #Syria

Too many initiatives in the Muslim world seek to cure the sickness by killing the patient.

When you look at #Libya the real question to ask isn't why there's violence still, but why things aren't nearly as bad as they could be.

The most deeply significant #ArabSpring revolution is one that hasn't happened yet. Palestine.

## ■ 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 U 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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