



News Coverage

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



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▪ Thematic Headlines

▪ Domestic Scene

MB: We Will Only Support Morsi for Presidency
Suleiman Issues a Statement to His Supporters
From Tahrir Square to SCAF: Revolution Will Not Move Backwards
55.000 Polling Stations to be prepared for Presidential Elections
Al-Tayyeb Calls on Political Forces to Adopt Al-Azhar's Document
Abu Ismail's Supporters Begin an Open-Ended Sit-in
Anan Meets Experts to Discuss Solutions to Crisis of Constitution
Experts: SCAF Cannot Amend Article 28 of Constitutional Declaration
Al-Khodeiri: Talks will be Held to Discuss Proposals of Constituent Assembly Formation
Political Isolation Law Ignites Controversy

▪ Regional Development

80 Islamic Scholars Demand Dismissing Egypt's Grand Mufti



Newspapers (21/04/2012)



Pages: 1, 6, 7.

Author: Amany Maged.

MB: We Will Only Support Morsi for Presidency



Saad Al-Husseiny, member of the executive bureau of the Freedom and Justice Party, declared that the FJP and the Muslim Brotherhood will discuss with other political forces giving their support to a single Islamist presidential candidate, as long as this candidate is FJP's leader Mohamed Morsi. "The Muslim Brotherhood is unanimously supporting its presidential candidate," Al-Husseiny told Al-Ahram newspaper.

Amr Moussa, potential presidential candidate, said that Egypt needs a firm president who has sufficient political background. He said that Islamist political powers will benefit the most from excluding the ten presidential hopefuls. "Read the successful stories of Turkey and Malaysia and you will realize that in order to reach development, we must build our own Egyptian model of development, one that takes into consideration all the specific needs and problems of our country," said Moussa during an electoral conference.

Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, presidential hopeful, requested that all presidential candidates put forward a financial disclosure statement. Aboul Fotouh warned against buying votes and called on people to spread awareness among farmers and workers of the dangers of these actions. "The only alternative we have now is to unite our efforts to build this country and prove our loyalty to the blood of the revolution's martyrs," said Aboul Fotouh.

Another presidential hopeful, Hamdeen Sabbahi, ruled out the possibility of running as a vice president. He said it is too early to talk about negotiations with other presidential candidates. "The Constituent Assembly must reflect all the political movements, intellectual currents, and segments of the Egyptian society. I completely refuse the domination of one political power over the process of drafting the constitution, even if it relies on a parliamentary majority," said Sabbahi.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Gomhoria: Page 3.



Page: 6.
 Author: Not mentioned.

Suleiman Issues a Statement to His Supporters



Major General Omar Suleiman issued a statement to thank his supporters and campaign managers who were determined to convince him to take this step. He told his supporters that he will refrain from giving any responses to those who threatened or undermined him.

Suleiman confirmed that he will dedicate his long years of experience for the benefit of this country. “I answered your call when I saw your insistence and enthusiasm to collect the endorsement forms required to submit my candidacy papers before the deadline set. Your huge efforts succeeded miraculously in presenting my candidacy papers; however, a minor mistake led the Presidential Elections Commission to exclude me,” said Suleiman.

The Presidential Elections Commission disqualified Suleiman for failing to collect a sufficient number of endorsement forms from one of the governorates (Assiut).

Similar news was reported in: Al-Akhbar: Page 3; Al-Gomhoria: Page 3.



المصري اليوم
www.almasryalyoum.com

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

Authors: Mohamed About Einen and Ahmed Ali.

From Tahrir Square to SCAF: Revolution Will Not Move Backwards



Thousands of revolutionaries, belonging to different ideologies and political backgrounds, united in the Friday protests titled “Saving the Revolution and Self-Determination.”

More than 50 political parties and movements had called for these protests to denounce SCAF’s rule and demand the military junta to hold presidential elections on time and hand over power before June 30. The demands of protesters also included preventing figures of the former regime from running in presidential elections and amending Article 28 of the Constitutional Declaration, which gives immunity to the decisions of the Presidential Elections Commission.

Tahrir Square was alive yesterday, as it was during the 18-days that ousted former president Hosni Mubarak, containing the million-man march of Islamist, liberal and youth political forces. Around eight stages were erected in the square yesterday; three for Islamists, two for liberal and nationalist forces, and two for New Labor Party and the General Taxing Authority employees.

All protesters chanted slogans against the ruling Supreme Council of Armed Forces and demanded putting into effect the Political Isolation Law and amending Article 28 of the Constitutional Declaration.

Sheikh Safwat Hegazy, prominent Islamic preacher, called on all national political forces to unite and form a coalition government that can overthrow SCAF and which enjoys full powers.

There were few quarrels and disagreements in Tahrir Square between supporters of different ideologies. However, around 10 marches roamed the streets of Cairo heading towards Tahrir Square to support the protests and reaffirm the importance of unity.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Akhbar: Page 1; Youm 7: Page 1; Al-Gomhoria: Pages: 1, 4; Al-Shorouk: Pages 1, 4, 5; Al-Tahrir: Pages 2, 3.

55.000 Polling Stations to be prepared for Presidential Elections



Today begins the preparations of nearly 55.000 polling stations for the upcoming presidential elections.

Each governorate will have a committee headed by the secretary general to coordinate the work in sub-stations to ensure a better performance than that of the parliamentary elections.

Minister of Local Development Senior Judge Mohamed Attiya addressed the governors to form operation rooms to follow up on the necessary measures to prepare these polling stations and provide them with all the means that ensure the success of the electoral process.

Al-Tayyeb Calls on Political Forces to Adopt Al-Azhar's Document



Al-Azhar issued a statement yesterday following a meeting between members of the Islamic Research Council which was headed by the Grand Imam Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayyeb. Al-Azhar called on all political movements, activists and coalitions to put the general interest of the country ahead of any narrow partisan or ideological interests.

Al-Tayyeb also demanded adopting Al-Azhar's document, which gained the approval of the majority of political forces, and consider it as the basis for the work of the new Constituent Assembly. The document contains principles and ideals that would create a modern, democratic, constitutional nation state, said Al-Azhar's statement.

On the other hand, Speaker of the People's Assembly Dr. Saad Al-Katatni confirmed that there is no previously-written draft law on the criteria of selecting the members of the Constituent Assembly. He said he assigned the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee with the task of holding discussions with representative of various national, political and religious forces to reach a consensus in this regard.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Shorouk: Page 3.



Page: 3.

Authors: Bessan Kassab, Khaled Werby (and others).

Abu Ismail's Supporters Begin an Open-Ended Sit-in



While the majority of protesters decided to go home at the end of the Friday protests in Tahrir Square, supporters of Hazem Salah Abu Ismail, disqualified presidential candidate, decided to begin an open-ended sit-in in Tahrir Square to demand allowing their presidential hopeful to run in the upcoming elections, eliminating Article 28 of the Constitutional Declaration and replacing judges of the Presidential Elections Commission.

A march of nearly 300 protesters arrived to Tahrir Square yesterday at night, headed by Mohamed Al-Zawahri, brother of Al-Qaeda's Ayman Al-Zawahri, chanting "An Islamist State." Mohamed Al-Zawahri declared his support to Abu Ismail from the stage of his supporters.

Despite of their various affiliations and political backgrounds, protesters were unified by the anti-SCAF slogans and they chanted against Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi and Prime Minister Dr. Kamal El-Ganzouri. "Speak, do not fear, SCAF has to leave," and "Down down with military rule," were among their chants.



Page: 1.
 Authors: Mohamed Abd Al-Hafiz and Ahmed Fathi.

Anan Meets Experts to Discuss Solutions to Crisis of Constitution



Egypt's ruling Supreme Council of Armed Forces called a number of constitutional and legal experts for a meeting today, Saturday, to discuss possible solutions to the crisis of the constitution.

Informed sources told Al-Shorouk newspaper that the meeting will include Lieutenant General Sami Anan, Chief of Staff and Deputy Head of SCAF, and a number of constitutional experts including Dr. Ahmed Kamal Aboul Magd, Dr. Ibrahim Darwish and Tharwat Badawi. Sources mentioned that Anan will discuss with experts a number of possibilities such as; restoring the 1971 Constitution, after adding the articles amended by the March 2011 Referendum, or issuing an annex to the Constitutional Declaration that limits powers of the coming president and give more powers to the parliament and the government.

Sources explained that SCAF generals did not consider any of these alternatives except when all political forces failed to reach a consensus on the Constituent Assembly's formation.



Page: 3.

Author: Hoda Al-Sa'ati.

Experts: SCAF Cannot Amend Article 28 of Constitutional Declaration



Dr. Mohamed Bahi, professor of constitutional law, told Al-Shorouk newspaper that SCAF does not have the power to amend Article 28 of the Constitutional Declaration unilaterally. This article gives immunity to the decisions of the Presidential Elections Commission, preventing any appeals or contestations in case there was any fraud. “The article was approved by a referendum and no one has the right to amend or eliminate it except after holding another referendum,” said Bahi.

Head of Alexandria’s Administrative Court Senior Judge Hosni Al-Salamoni had the same opinion as he explained that Article 28 is a clear constitutional statement that cannot be amended by the executive authority.

Page: 3.

Author: Mostafa Hashem.

Al-Khodeiri: Talks will be Held to Discuss Proposals of Constituent Assembly Formation



Head of the Parliament's Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee Senior Judge Mahmoud Al-Khodeiri said that Speaker of the People's Assembly Dr. Saad Al-Katatni assigned him the task of holding discussions on the rules and procedures of the Constituent Assembly's formation. He said the first round of these meetings will begin tomorrow.

MP Hatem Azzam told Al-Shorouk newspaper that it is expected that political forces from various backgrounds will meet to agree on the formation of the Constituent Assembly to prevent SCAF's interference in forming the constitution-drafting assembly.



Pages: 1, 7.

Authors: Mohamed Ismail, Loai Ali (and others).

80 Islamic Scholars Demand Dismissing Egypt's Grand Mufti



Nearly 80 Islamic scholars and intellectuals demanded dismissing Dr. Ali Gomaa from his position as Egypt's Grand Mufti, following the Mufti's visit to the occupied city of Jerusalem.

The Islamist Forces Coalition issued a statement signed by the 80 scholars demanding the Grand Mufti to apologize for his action and submit to a hearing in the parliament.

Writers' Union, headed by Dr. Mohamed Salmawi, dropped Gomaa's membership in the union as they denounced his visit to Israel, which clearly violated the anti-normalization principles.

The statement described Gomaa's visit to Israel as "shocking" to the feelings of Muslims all over the world. "Islamic scholars from the East and the West agreed to reject any form of normalization with the Zionist entity and enforce a boycott on it," said the statement.

Students of Al-Azhar University threatened the Grand Imam Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayyeb of holding a sit-in in front of his office in case he did not issue a decision to remove Gomaa from his post.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Tahrir: Page 1.



Page: 3.
 Authors: Not mentioned.

Political Isolation Law Ignites Controversy



Political analysts confirmed that there will be serious negotiations among some presidential candidates to join their campaigns and run as president and vice within the coming days. Observers say that some politicians are trying to unite Islamists to support Dr. Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh for presidency; however, these attempts are heavily opposed by the Freedom and Justice Party and leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, who officially declared supporting Dr. Mohamed Morsi for presidency.

Speculations point out that the Muslim Brotherhood does not agree to support Aboul Fotouh due to serious disagreements between him and Deputy Supreme Guide Khairat Al-Shater.

There are also indicators that Ahmed Shafik might pull out from presidential race in favor of Amr Moussa.

SCAF's decision to refer the draft Political Isolation Law to the Supreme Constitutional Court ignited controversy among politicians and legal experts.



TV Coverage (20/04/2012)



Channel: al-Hayah
Program: al-Hayah al-Yom
Presenter: Sharif Amer

Excluded Presidential Candidate Umar Suleiman played down the attacks against him stating that those who insulted him made him more solid.

A meeting of political players at al-Wafd Party to discuss the principles of the formation of the Constituent Assembly.

Guest: MP Muhammad Kamil: what happened today expresses an intention to go back on the right track.

Guest: Ahmad Maher, general coordinator of the 6 of April movement: "today's mass demonstration aims at reviving the spirits of the revolution."

Guest: Adel Afifi, head of al-Asalah Party: "today's mass demonstration is successful and united the liberals and the Islamists."

Guest: Usamah Yassin, assistant general secretary of the Freedom and Justice party: there should be a dialogue between the different political players.



Channel: CH 1
Program: news in 24 hours
Time: 25:00:00

Demonstrations in Egyptians governorates in solidarity with the Self-determination mass demonstration in Cairo's Tahrir Square.

Channel: CH 1
Program: Sabah al-Khair ya Masr

A tendency to revive the 1971 Constitution. The Constitution crisis goes back to square zero.

Khairat al-Shater hands over the presidential campaign to Mursi and announces alleged communication between SCAF and the high Presidential Elections Commission to exclude a number of candidates.



The Islamic Research Academy confirms its rejection to visiting Jerusalem under the occupation.



Channel: CH 2

Program: Yeseid Sabahak

Presenter: Sarah al-Hilali and Ahad al-Sawi

Tens of thousands of people participate in the "Self-determination Friday, and Abu Ismail's advocates stage a sit in while the Muslim Brotherhood end theirs.



Radio Coverage (20/04/2012)



Channel: Radio Masr
Program: News

Ten thousands of people participate in the Self-demonstration Friday and Abu Ismail's advocates stage a sit-in while the Muslim Brotherhood ends theirs. (17:00:00)



Channel: Al shark al awsat
Program: News

Demonstrations are organized in the governorates in solidarity with the self-determination Friday. (25:00:00)



Internet Coverage (21/4/2012)

facebook

Facebook

We are all Khaled Saeed

https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash3/s720x720/576644_390810600968810_104224996294040_918452_710679916_n.jpg

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjTHAnfo1vs&fb_source=message

A great song. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LX9InXj44I>

A nice way to evaluate presidential candidates.
<http://sootelthawra.com/#presidentSurvey2012>



Twitter

Wael Abbas:

Finally, someone does something about this stupid photo. https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash3/549330_341126622607883_163279800392567_904157_1362274531_n.jpg

If I were in charge of anything in Egypt, God forbidden, the first thing I would do is form a secret assassination squad to avenge the country, just like what the Mossad did to the Gestapo.

I could not stop laughing.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=uRcYjIgLX4U

Sheikh el-Mahlawy's apology does not deny the fact that he is a "dog" as Sadat had described him, God bless his soul!!!

https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-prn1/s720x720/541087_347698998620512_101679696555778_944019_134048379_n.jpg

Activist Ali Latifa Fakhri arrested in Lebanon for drawing graffiti. https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-prn1/s720x720/546241_10150823298865289_565035288_11976964_955790298_n.jpg

Asmaa Mahfouz:

The problem is we lost the most important thing: Dialogue.



Why are we opposing each other? Every person has the right to express their own opinion but why disrespect each other? Why Egyptians always think they are “right” and everyone else is wrong??

My deep condolences to Ahmed Shafiq for the death of his wife.

Monasosh:

Where to go this morning: 10am at Zenhom Court to support Hend Nafea, who was subpoenaed. 12pm at the Fifth Settlement Court to support the youth who are being tried by the Emergency State Security Court.

Where to go this morning: 11am in Tahrir Lounge about SCAF violations against children (torture, military trials...) help us make this call to the media.

Iyad elbaghdadi:

Meet Helen Brashatsky, Holocaust survivor, who has 8 Palestinian children and 31 grandchildren:
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i3KXyINBbyzfXO0js7aK423HmhQA?docId=CNG.12d7487934542dc627d4bcbd66c48b3b.151>

Take this small political test! Interested to know where my followers red dots appear on the chart. <http://www.theadvocates.org/quiz>

A bit more sophisticated but take this test too: <http://bit.ly/HR2neh> - interested to know the real economic philosophy of my followers.

In case you're wondering, I'm libertarian (first quiz) and Austrian (second quiz).

I'm still waiting for someone to sell me on the idea of having kids, by the way.

Many people who write about poverty do not distinguish between extreme, moderate, and relative poverty. I want to write more about this.

Extreme poverty is more like Malawi or Mozambique; moderate poverty more like Bangladesh or Bolivia; relative more like India or Egypt.

Importantly, all three kinds of poverty can often exist in the same country, a testament to inequality of wealth and opportunity.

Arabist:

I don't see why Egyptian prez candidates insist the prez will be above parties, etc. 1) It's a lie 2) It doesn't make sense.



Headline almost betrays disappointment.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304331204577355910798770738.html?mod=googlnews_wsj

Gsquare86:

The Socialist #RevSoc -<http://flic.kr/p/bP9Krt>
We march for freedom #Egypt <http://flic.kr/p/bP9W4H>
We won't forget SCAF's crimes - #April20 <http://flic.kr/p/bAfwwC>
The Muslim Sisterhood #April20 #Fail <http://flic.kr/p/bPaeHg>
Spraying anti-SCAF #Graffiti #April20 <http://flic.kr/p/bAfKvU>
No flooding around - <http://flic.kr/p/bAfNay>
People at the march chanting "down with Tantawi" #April20 <http://flic.kr/p/bAfWru>
Giza march to Tahrir at its peak on Doki st #April20 <http://flic.kr/p/bPaGhc>
GUC Comrades at Giza march #April20 <http://flic.kr/p/bAgngs>
#MSA Students Movement #EgyStudents - [بيسقط حكم العسكر #April20 http://flic.kr/p/bAgnMJ](http://flic.kr/p/bAgnMJ)
#RevSoc flags in Tahrir #April20 <http://flic.kr/p/bAgsLs>
Elections for a puppet president #April20 <http://flic.kr/p/bPb7GR>
Nawal Sadawi at women's march in Tahrir #April20 <http://flic.kr/p/bPbn6x>
Women's march in Tahrir #April20 <http://flic.kr/p/bAgKXC>
The Nile #Photography #Egypt <http://flic.kr/p/bAhbBm>
#CairoTraffic we have three rows bus parking in a major street..only in #Egypt #Fail
<http://flic.kr/p/bPbPXE>
A Down Town #Artist ..I want to know her hmmm.. <http://flic.kr/p/bPbwaT>

Wael Ghonim:

A nice way to evaluate presidential candidates.
<http://sootelthawra.com/#presidentSurvey2012>



▪ 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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