



News Coverage

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



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▪ Thematic Headlines

➤ Domestic Scene

- ✓ Proposals to Solve Crisis of Constituent Assembly
- ✓ Shafik Out of Presidential Race after Passing Political Isolation Law
- ✓ Parliament Raises Stakes against Government
- ✓ Salafi Call to Determine Presidential Candidate to Receive its Support
- ✓ State Commissioners Authority to Finish its Report on Parliament
- ✓ Coptic Church Mourn Late Pope Shenouda III
- ✓ Aboul Fotouh and Hamdeen Sabbahi Level Sharp Criticism against Moussa
- ✓ Salafi Women Join Abu Ismail Supporters' Sit-in

➤ Regional Development

- ✓ Saudi Embassy Surrounded by Popular Protests

Newspapers (25/04/2012)



Pages: 1, 6

Author: Amani Maged

Proposals to Solve Crisis of Constituent Assembly



Hours before the meeting between representatives of political forces and SCAF, efforts continue to reach a solution for the crisis of the Constituent Assembly.

Dr. Wahid Abd Al-Megid, Member of Parliament, said that disagreements continue to exit between various political forces; however, negotiations are underway.

In a statement for Al-Ahram newspaper, Abdel Megid said, "Closed meetings are held between representatives of the Freedom and Justice Party, Al-Nour Salafi Party and Al-Wasat Party to reach a solution for the current crisis. They are currently discussing the issue of parliament's representation in the Constituent Assembly with withdrawn members."



Page: 1
 Author: Not mentioned

Shafik Out of Presidential Race after Passing Political Isolation Law



Amendments made to the Political Rights Law, recently known as Political Isolation Law, were finally put into effect following the approval of Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, head of the ruling SCAF.

The Presidential Elections Commission, headed by Senior Judge Farouk Soltan, held a meeting yesterday and took the decision to exclude Ahmed Shafik, former prime minister, from presidential race. In a swift reaction, Ahmed Shafik's campaign declared their respect for the commission's decision and said their candidate will pursue his right to run for presidency only through legal means including pleading the constitutionality of these amendments. "We will not resort to protests," said one of the coordinators of Shafik's presidential campaign.

"I have approved this law because it was issued from the People's Assembly which came to power by a general will," said Field Marshal Tantawi. The Presidential Elections Commission reaffirmed its commitment to implement the Political Isolation Law.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Tahrir: Page 1; Al-Dostour: Page 1; Al-Gomhoria: Pages 3, 4, 5; Al-Ahram: Page 6; Al-Shorouk: Pages 1, 7.



Page: 3

Author: Mohamed Fathallah

Parliament Raises Stakes against Government



Speaker of People's Assembly Dr. Saad Al-Katatni declared the parliament's refusal of the government's statement, a decision which was based on the response prepared by a specialized parliamentary committee.

Al-Katatni confirmed that according to Article 133 of the 1971 Constitution the government must present its resignation to the head of state when the parliament refuses to approve the government's statement. However, El-Katatni failed to refer to the fact that the Constitutional Declaration did not provide articles that determine the government's position in cases when the parliament refuses its statement.

The People's Assembly is expected to hold a session in which the majority of MPs will declare their refusal of the government's statement. The parliament will then ask the ruling SCAF, headed by Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, to dismiss El-Ganzouri's government or accept his resignation.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Akhbar: Pages 1, 7; Al-Shorouk: Page 1.

Saudi Embassy Surrounded by Popular Protests



The Saudi authorities’ decision to arrest Ahmed Al-Gizawy, political activist and lawyer, continued to cause popular outrage in Cairo.

Dozens of political activists organized a stand in front of Saudi Arabia’s embassy in Cairo demanding the immediate release of Al-Gizawy. Khaled Ali, presidential candidate, supporters of Dr. Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, members of Hamdeen Sabbahi presidential campaign, and Samira Ibrahim, revolutionary who exposed virginity checks, all participated in the stand.

Protesters raised their shoes and chanted slogans against the Saudi King and the ruling SCAF. A number of families of other Egyptians detained in Saudi Arabia also participated and demanded a fair trial for their sons.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Masry Al-Youm: Page 3; Youm 7: Pages 1, 4; Al-Ahram: Pages 1, 8; Al-Shorouk: Page 1.



Page: 1
 Authors: Eman Abd Al-Moneim and Salah Laban

Salafi Call to Determine Presidential Candidate to Receive its Support



The Salafi Call held extensive meetings for the past two days with Dr. Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh and Dr. Mohamed Morsi, Islamist presidential candidates, to determine who will receive its support during the upcoming presidential elections.

According to sources within the Salafi Call, the meeting with Dr. Aboul Fotouh aimed at reaching a compromise between the presidential hopeful and the Salafi Call, particularly after the exclusion of Khairat Al-Shater and Hazem Abu Ismail from presidential candidate. The Salafi Call also excluded Dr. Mohamed Selim Al-Awa from these meetings over his position from Shiite Muslims.

Dr. Aboul Fotouh confirmed earlier that Salafis' votes are twenty times more than the Muslim Brotherhood's votes.

Dr. Morsi said the goal of his meeting with the Salafi Call was to gain the support of Salafi leaders, particularly Sheikh Yasser Borhami and Sheikh Abdel Moneim Al-Shahat. He explained that similar meetings were held with previous MB candidate Khairat Al-Shater. Dr. Mohamed Al-Moqadem, a Salafi leader, discussed with Morsi the possibility of reaching an agreement with Aboul Fotouh; however, his proposal was refused by Morsi.

Opinions of Salafis varied between supporting Aboul Fotouh and supporting Morsi.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Masry Al-Youm: Page 1.



Page: 1
 Author: Rana Mamdouh

State Commissioners Authority to Finish its Report on Parliament



Head of State Commissioners Authority Senior Judge Hatem Bagato said the authority did not yet finish its report on the possible unconstitutionality of the previous parliamentary elections.

“We are still preparing a detailed report on the possible unconstitutionality of the Parliament’s Elections Law. We are examining the argument of the Supreme Administrative Court which suggests that the electoral law is unconstitutional because it violated the principle of equal opportunity between candidates on party lists and others competing for single-member constituencies,” Bagato told Al-Tahrir newspaper.

He also confirmed that the State Commissioners Authority will examine in detail whether or not the electoral law violated the rights of some of the candidates. As soon as the report is complete, according to Bagato, the authority will refer it to Head of the Supreme Constitutional Court Senior Judge Farouk Soltan to schedule a session for examining it.

Similar news was reported in: Youm 7: Page 1.



Page: 3
 Author: Ahmed Saadawi

Coptic Church Mourns Late Pope Shenouda III



The Coptic Orthodox Church commemorated the 40th day since the death of the late Pope Shenouda III.

A large number of politicians, intellectuals and public figures attended the ceremony.

“The Coptic Orthodox Church has lost a great man who was able to restore good relations between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches through visiting the Vatican in 1973 and inviting Pope John Paul II,” said the Vatican’s ambassador to Cairo.

Ali Al-Samman, deputy head of the International Federation for Culture and Peace, demanded during the ceremony that the ideas of the late pope be presented to educational syllabi to teach students how to love and denounce hatred and fanaticism.

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



Page: 1

Authors: Mohamed Hagag and Mohamed Reda

Aboul Fotouh and Hamdeen Sabbahi Level Sharp Criticism against Moussa



Dr. Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh and Hadeem Sabbahi, presidential candidates, leveled sharp criticism against Amr Moussa in response to his recent statements.

Amr Moussa had described Aboul Fotouh of being “a man of religion who is away from politics,” Aboul Fotouh responded by saying, “Do not offend others because I have not offended you.” Aboul Fotouh also said, “I do not receive any foreign funds for my presidential campaign. I challenge anyone to prove otherwise.”

Also, Sabbahi confirmed that he “realizes very well the needs of Egyptian citizens and that he does not need anyone to guide him or give him advices,” referring to Moussa’s statements in which he criticized Hamdeen’s lack of vision in the fields of economics and security.



Page: 4

Author: Ahmed Al-Tahawi, Doaa Sami (and others)

Salafi Women Join Abu Ismail Supporters' Sit-in



Hundreds of supporters of Sheikh Hazem Salah Abu Ismail, disqualified presidential candidate, resumed their sit-in in Tahrir Square for the fourth day in a row. Protesters refused to be named “Abu Ismail supporters,” and said they are only pursuing justice for the country.

Tahrir Square witnessed many quarrels between protesters and passers-by over blocking the traffic.

Sheikh Gamal Saber, one of the protesters, declared that they will call for protests titled “Million-Man March to Save Egypt” next Friday to demand fulfilling the revolution’s goals. He said the sit-in is no longer supporting the disqualified candidate only but “it is an attempt to defend the cause of the Egyptian people who are manipulated and whose revolution are being suppressed.”

Dozens of Salafi women have joined the sit-in to supporter Sheikh Abu Ismail.

[TV Coverage \(24/04/2012\)](#)



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

SCAF refers political isolation law to the parliament after approving it. The High Presidential Elections Commission is discussing the possibility of enforcing it on presidential candidates.

Similar news was reported in:

Program: Masr Al-Gadeeda, Channel: Al-Hayat 2, Host: Moataz Al-Demerdash

Program: Akhbar Masr, Channel 2"State TV"

Program: Baladna Bel-Masry, Channel: ON TV, Host: Reem Maged

Program: Al-Hayat Al-Yoom
Channel: Al-Hayat
Host: Sherief Amer

Field Marshal Tantawi said SCAF approved the political isolation law and referred it to the People's Assembly.



Program: Momken
Channel: CBC
Host: Khairy Ramadan

The Administrative Court refers the cases of excluding presidential candidates Omar Soliman, Khairat Al-Shater and Hazem Abu Ismail from the High Presidential Elections Commission to the State Council.

The Interpol rejects Egypt's request to arrest the suspects of the NGOs case.

Yasser Al-Borhamy, Deputy of the Salafist parties, said Salafists have no specific presidential candidate.



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

Law experts said presidential candidate Ahmed Shafik has the right to file a lawsuit against excluding him from the presidential elections.

The High Presidential Elections Commission excludes presidential candidate Ahmed Shafik from the presidential race in accordance with the political isolation law.

Similar news was reported in:

Program: Al-Hayat Al-Yoom , Channel: Al-Hayat, Host: Sherief Amer

Program: Masr Al-Gadeeda, Channel: Al-Hayat 2, Host: Moataz Al-Demerdash

Program: 24 hours news, Channel 1"State TV"

Program: News Brief, Channel 2"State TV"



Program: Sabah Al-Kheir Ya Masr
Channel 1"State TV"

Law experts say that SCAF will not hand over power until the constitution is drafted.

The High Presidential Elections Commission disagrees with Muslim Brotherhood.

Disqualified presidential candidate Hazem Abu Ismail files a lawsuit against Hatem Begato, the High Presidential Elections Commission Secretary General, accusing him of forging.

The government refuses to provide approvals for eight US NGOs in Egypt.



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

The People's Assembly rejects Prime Minister Kamal Al-Ganzory's government policy statement.

Similar news was reported in:

Program: 24 Hour News, Channel 1"State TV"

Program: News Brief, Channel 2"State TV"

Program: Baladna Bel-Masry, Channel: ON TV, Host: Reem Maged

Program: Yesed Sabahak
Channel 2"State TV"
Host: Ghada Abdel-Salam and Hany Tawfik

Head of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi said the Armed Forces would punish anyone who tries to destroy Egypt.

The People's Assembly condemns Israeli threats and supports a decision to suspend gas exports to Israel.

Planning and International Cooperation Minister Fayza Abu Al-Naga said Egypt is ready to negotiate a new gas deal with new terms and new prices with Israel.

The High Presidential Elections Commission decided to allow international and foreign NGOs, which are specialized in monitoring the elections, to monitor the upcoming presidential elections.



Radio Coverage (24/04/2012)



News

Channel: State Radio

The High Presidential Elections Commission excludes Ahmed Shafik from the presidential elections. 23:00:00

Similar news was reported in:

News, Channel: Al-Shark Al-Awsat, Time: 25:00:00

News, Channel: Radio Masr, Time: 25:00:00

News, Channel: Al-Shabab w AlReyada

The People's Assembly refuses Prime Minister Kamal Al-Ganzory's government policy statement. 17:00:00

Similar news was reported in:

News, Channel: Al-Shark Al-Awsat, Time: 25:00:00

News, Channel: Radio Masr, Time: 18:00:00



News

Channel: Radio Masr

Time: 18:00:00

The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) refers the political isolation law to the parliament after approving it. The High Presidential Elections Commission is discussing the possibility of enforcing it on presidential candidates.



Internet Coverage (25/04/2012)



We are all Khaled Saeed

Good morning to 3,000 Palestinian prisoners, who are going on a hunger strike for their freedom and the freedom of Palestine.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/middleeast/2012/04/120424_ramallah_strike.shtml

Today is Sinai Liberation day, which marks the exit of the last Israeli soldier from Sinai's land. This is Wikipedia's page talking about the day but unfortunately, it is uninformative. Let us enrich the page.

http://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF_%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1_%D8%B3%D9%8A%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A1

Glory to the martyrs, glory to the heroes, we will never forget them! A photo showing Egyptian soldiers and officers buried alive in the 1967 War. https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash3/582014_393842290665641_104224996294040_925596_1368376242_n.jpg

Have you visited North or South Sinai before?

<https://www.facebook.com/questions/393826460667224/>

Al-Jazeera's Ahmed Mansour will host People's Assembly Speaker Saad el-Katatni today. The discussions will take several critical issues related to the current situation in the country and the parliament's role in the coming period. https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-prn1/551970_414627911890125_164540296898889_1596622_506599034_n.jpg

Egyptian Cabinet:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesman said: The Egyptian Embassy in Riyadh and the Egyptian Consulate in Jeddah contacted Saudi Arabia authorities, which are responsible for reviewing Ahmed Al-Gezwy case, who was arrested for allegedly smuggling drugs to Saudi Arabia, in order to identify his situation and needs and offer any legal support that he needs.



Wael Abbas:

Late Iraqi president Saddam Hussein meets Egyptian struggler, Hamdeen Sabahi, a presidential candidate in Egypt's 2012 elections. Let everything get out of the closet.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8SpGn2QztY&feature=youtu.be>

The State Commissioner's Authority upholds referring civilians to military courts if "they threatened the security of the society and the state".

<http://gate.ahram.org.eg/News/199882.aspx>

Israel, Cyprus gas finds spur Med. JPost - Diplomacy and Politics.

<http://www.jpost.com/DiplomacyAndPolitics/Article.aspx?id=266767>

Gas truck going wrong way on Mehwar.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lz13rW8QaGk&feature=youtu.be>

A "popular" Hamdeen Sabahi. https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash4/301860_283044071782425_101945636558937_614353_332361315_n.jpg

[https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-](https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash3/557773_215389791908386_134718376642195_369801_806807425_n.jpg)

[ash3/557773_215389791908386_134718376642195_369801_806807425_n.jpg](https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash3/557773_215389791908386_134718376642195_369801_806807425_n.jpg)

Abdel-Moneim Abul-Fotouh: We occupied a university classroom to prevent holding an impudent party in 1973.

Asmaa Mahfouz:

The bright side of today's events is Egyptpreneur's pavilion at the Egyptian fair ICT 2012, which will be held on Thursday through Sunday.

Egyptpreneur's pavilion at Cairo ICT. <https://www.facebook.com/events/304223809647634/>



Iyad elbaghdadi:

I'm giving a workshop on negotiation tomorrow in Dubai. Final call if anyone wants to attend.

Back when I was young, I remember coming home to my mom from Friday prayers after hearing truly misogynistic sermons, blood boiling.

There was this particular Imam who just had to take a jab at women at every Friday sermon. I would watch the faces of men for reaction.

How would I see the men reacting to his female-bashing sermon? Smirking or laughing. I was horrified. I was maybe 15 or 16 back then.

Imagine coming back from this very misogynistic sermon to my wonderful, loving, deeply religious mom.

I would come back home and, both mentally and emotionally, reaffirm my love for my mom and my disdain for that so called "sheikh".

Mona's recent article sent me back there, but no in the usual way. I truly felt like I did coming back from those sermons, only in reverse.

After those sermons I used to scream, inside, that "No, women are not like that, you chauvinist. I reject your extremism."

After reading Mona's article, I felt the same swell, but it said: No, men aren't that bad. Women aren't that weak. I reject your extremism.

Till today, it's my mom who'd take me aside and whisper to me: "I raised you to be free and dignified. Do what you believe is right."

My mom doesn't have a college degree and hasn't worked outside the house. But she is not weak or helpless. My strength is what she gave me.

When my first company crashed back in 2004, it was three women in my life: my mom, my sister, and my future wife, who held my hand.

At a time when I was broken, they reminded me of who I am. I still remember them saying that if everyone turns against me, they're with me.

My women aren't weak. They're not helpless. They are doing the best with what they were given. I go to them for strength and wisdom.

Looking back at that misogynistic sheikh & the sea of beards in the mosque, do you know what I see? I see children. Yes, children.

I see 50- and 60- year old emotional children with beards and turbans wearing flowing robes.

They try to infantilise women but only betray their own emotional and intellectual immaturity.

And we're supposed to go to them for wisdom & guidance? No thanks, I was raised by a woman far more wise than you. I'll go to my women.



Arabist:

Maan News Agency: Clampdown on Palestinian media spreads to the Web:

<http://bit.ly/IGwqpN>

Arab Reform Initiative | Yemen after the Elections: A Fragile Agreement and a Complex Situation: <http://bit.ly/JyTUB8>

Tribal Governance and Stability in Yemen - Carnegie: <http://bit.ly/IGwqWA>

Libya bans religious parties under new law: <http://bit.ly/InntiN> Surprising.

THE DAILY STAR :: Israel to start work on Lebanon border wall: <http://bit.ly/IakAIk> Nor surprising.

Is a Unified Yemen Possible? - Al-Monitor: <http://bit.ly/Inntz8>

Sudan's Bashir, in Heglig, vows no peace talks as jets hit Bentiu in South Sudan |

McClatchy: <http://bit.ly/IakAIp> The war is on.

Rare inside view of Syria's rebels finds a force vowing to fight on | McClatchy:

<http://bit.ly/IakAIw> Great reporting on the FSA.

The motives and consequences of legislative intrusion - Ahram Online: <http://bit.ly/JzlaQ9>
Nader Fergany.

Headline in MB newspaper says old rent contracts (stuck at 50s prices) are against Sharia. I might vote for them now...

On previous tweet - not MB newspaper, financial daily alam al-youm citing FJP

MB courting Dawa Salafiya of Alexandria vote - quite a lot up north.

So some Islamists in Egypt's parliament are objecting to the use of family coupons for subsidized cooking gas - guess why? 1/2

Because such a system would discriminate against polygamist families. 2/2

re: Qatar influence: Qatar Investments about to buy 60% of EFG-Hermes, biggest investment bank in Egypt close to former regime.

I love how T. Friedman thinks SCAF is being manipulated by remnants of the old regime.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/25/opinion/defendant-no-23-has-her-say.html?_r=3

Virtually every candidate is meeting with the major Salafi movements. Looks like the Salafists are the kingmakers the MB decided not to be.



Gsquare86:

So i finished writing my post but now wordpress can't open grrrrr #slowInternet
Mona: did you know that a woman in parliament Azza el Garf wants to legalize female
gentile mutilation? explain that through ur "theory" plZ
can someone of Mona's friends tell Mona my question since we blocked each other
It is NOT about your gender it is about your politics and please Mona stay out of Egyptian
women politics #forthesakeofwomen
As long as we have SCAF in power running circus elections and ruling with an iron fist, we
will not see a free human being not just women
It is not about your gender, color, religion, or favorite ice cream flavor, it is all politics which
Mona just crossed that one out
Québec students in the streets <http://is.gd/Nt5cxj> #Canada #Students

Wael Ghoneim:

Greetings to Sinai residents on Sinai Liberation Day.
Sanabel and We Are All Khaled Saeed page:
<https://www.facebook.com/WaelGhonim/posts/353967587996738>



▪ Publication overview

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

❖ **Tahrir: Daily independent newspaper**

❖ **Dostor: Daily independent newspaper**

❖ **Yom 7: Daily independent newspaper**



Table of Content

Newspapers:	3-11
<u>Al-Ahram Newspaper</u>	
Proposals to Solve Crisis of Constituent Assembly	3
<u>Al-Masry Al-Youm Newspaper</u>	
Shafik Out of Presidential Race after Passing Political Isolation Law	4
<u>Al-Gomhoria Newspaper</u>	
Parliament Raises Stakes against Government	5
<u>Al-Dostour Newspaper</u>	
Saudi Embassy Surrounded by Popular Protests	6
<u>Tahrir Newspaper</u>	
Salafi Call to Determine Presidential Candidate to Receive its Support	7
State Commissioners Authority to Finish its Report on Parliament	8
<u>Al-Shorouk Newspaper</u>	
Coptic Church Mourns Late Pope Shenouda III	9
<u>Al-Youm Al-Sabea Newspaper</u>	
Aboul Fotouh and Hamdeen Sabbahi Level Sharp Criticism against Moussa	10
<u>Akhbar Newspaper</u>	
Salafi Women Join Abu Ismail Supporters' Sit-in	11
<u>TV Coverage</u>	12-14
AL-Hayah TV	12
CBC	12-13
Channel 1	13
Channel 2	14
<u>Radio Coverage</u>	15
Al-Barnameg Al-Am	15
Radio Misr	15
<u>Internet coverage</u>	16-20
Face book	16
Twitter	17-20