



News Coverage

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



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▪ Thematic Headlines

➤ Domestic Scene

- Egyptian Expatriates Head to Polls to Vote for New President
- Spanish Court Issues a Final Decision to Extradite Hussein Salem
- Protests Supporting Armed Forces Spread Across Egypt
- Al-Nour: MB's Presidential Candidate Not Likely to Win
- Increased Support for Hamdeen Sabbahi
- 3 Presidential Candidates Compete for the Support of Sufi Leaders
- Activists Tweet and Blog against SCAF
- Behind the Scenes of El-Ganzouri's Negotiations with SCAF
- Leftist Presidential Candidates Fail to Reach an Agreement



Newspapers (12/05/2012)



Pages: 1, 4, 5.

Authors: Khaled Aboul Ezz, Tareq Ismail (and others).

Egyptian Expatriates Head to Polls to Vote for New President



Egyptian expatriates headed to embassies and consulates yesterday to vote in the first presidential elections in post-revolution Egypt. Nearly 586,000 Egyptian expatriates are eligible to vote, according to recent statements published by the Presidential Elections Commission.

There was a huge turnout of voters during the first few hours, particularly in Saudi Arabia as Egyptians lined up to cast their votes. However, in other countries, such as Yemen and France, there was a low turnout.

This is the first time Egyptian expatriates spreading across 166 countries vote to choose Egypt's new president. Embassies and consulates will receive expatriates' votes for a full week. They are allowed to vote using their ID cards or passports.

Head of the Presidential Elections Commission Senior Judge Hatem Bagato said that ballot papers are available online on the commission's website to facilitate voting by mail.

The first round of presidential debates was held on Thursday between presidential candidates Amr Moussa and Dr. Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, marking a significant step in the presidential race as the debate caught the attention of millions of Egyptians. During the debate, Moussa refused to reveal his financial situation, instead he said that he presented the documents to the commission and he will reveal them once he is elected. He accused Aboul Fotouh of working to achieve the interests of the Muslim Brotherhood instead of the country's interests. Aboul Fotouh accused Moussa of being "Mubarak's secretary." He denied any involvement in acts of violence previously committed by members of the Muslim Brotherhood.



In Alexandria, supporters of Mohamed Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood's presidential candidate, leveled criticism against Salafis during an electoral conference held on Thursday. Salafis responded strongly by denying that they supported the Mubarak regime, as the MB accused them, and confirming that they were arrested and suppressed during the former regime.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Masry Al-Youm: Pages 1, 4; Al-Gomhoria: Pages 1, 3; Al-Dostour: Pages 1, 5; Al-Tahrir: Page 1; Al-Akhbar: Pages 1, 6, 7, 8.



Spanish Court Issues a Final Decision to Extradite Hussein Salem



Egypt’s Ambassador in Spain Ayman Zein Al-Din said that the Spanish Supreme Court has upheld the decision to extradite fugitive businessman Hussein Salem, his son Khalil and daughter Magda, to Egypt.

In a statement for the Middle East News Agency, Zein Al-Din said “Spanish authorities do not have any reasons to refrain from handing over Salem and his children to Egypt based on previous agreements signed by the two countries.”

A judicial source confirmed that Public Prosecutor Abdel Megid Mahmoud is following up on Salem’s extradition.

Assistant Minister of Justice for Illicit Gains Senior Judge Assem Al-Gohari confirmed that the court’s decision is final; however, it still needs a “political decision” from the Spanish government to hand over Salem as he and his children still carry the Spanish nationality. In a statement for Al-Masry Al-Youm, Al-Gohari said that the Illicit Gains Authority is examining the extradition procedures and reassurances of holding fair trials for Salem and his family.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Ahram: Page 1; Al-Dostour: Page 1; Al-Shorouk: Page 1; Youm 7: Page 1.



الجمهورية

Page: 2.

Authors: Khaled Moussa and Mohamed Imam.

Protests Supporting Armed Forces Spread Across Egypt



Hundreds of Egyptians participated in the protests organized by an organization called “Rise up Egyptians” to support the Armed Forces and the political role the military institution plays. Several movements and coalitions took part in the protests chanting slogans such as “The army and the people are one hand,” “Anan should tell Tantawi that legitimacy is not from Tahrir Square,” and “We are all the Egyptian army.”

Dr. Ahmed El-Sherbiny, head of the “Rise up Egyptians” organization, said the protest calls for a period of calm and an end to sit-ins and million-man marches in Tahrir Square to prevent bloodshed and protect the integrity of the Egyptian state. El-Sherbiny stressed that the Egyptian army is the most important element in the country as it protects the country’s national security.

The pro-army protests took place in Giza and Kobri Al-Qobba Square in Cairo, in addition to some protests in other governorates.

Meanwhile, calm prevailed in Tahrir Square after Sheikh Hazem Abo Ismail cancelled the call for protests and his supporters announced suspending their sit-in in the square. Sheikh Mazhar Shahin, preacher of Omar Makram Mosque, gave the Friday sermon to a small group of protesters who were in Tahrir Square. Mazhar confirmed that the revolution will continue until it achieves all its goals including retribution for the blood of all its martyrs and handing over power to a civilian elected authority.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Ahram: Page 1, 7; Al-Masry Al-Youm: Pages 1, 5; Al-Shorouk: Page 1.



Page: 1.

Author: Abd Al-Rahman Abo Auf.

Al-Nour: MB's Presidential Candidate Not Likely to Win



Disagreements arose between the Muslim Brotherhood and Salafi leaders as the exchange of heavy criticism began over the presidential candidates supported by each of them.

Safwat Hegazy, a preacher, questioned the role played by Salafis who support Dr. Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh for presidency, saying that they “were loyal to the Mubarak regime as they prohibited a revolution against him and even supported him to stay in power.” Hegazy said the support some Salafis are giving to Aboul Fotouh is due to their fear of applying the rule of God or submitting to the truth.

Al-Nour Salafi Party condemned such remarks confirming that they are very far from the reality of Salafis. Dr. Mohamed Nour, official spokesman for Al-Nour Salafi Party, said that such statements undermine the role and position of Hegazy among Islamist groups. Nour stressed that Salafis have continuously suffered under the Mubarak regime yet they never stroke secret deals with former regime figures.

Nour said that Hegazy’s harsh criticism only reflects the fact that the Muslim Brotherhood and their supporters do not tolerate disagreements or differing opinions. He also confirmed that the MB is living in a state of tension due to the weak position of its presidential candidate and his limited chances in winning the presidential race.



Page: 5.
Author: Rabab Nour Al-Din.

Increased Support for Hamdeen Sabbahi



The prospects for Hamdeen Sabbahi in winning the upcoming presidential elections are steadily increasing as he continues to receive the support of various intellectuals, revolutionaries and media figures.

Prominent poet Abd Al-Rahman Al-Abnoudi and award-winning novelist Alaa Al-Aswani declared giving their support to Sabbahi hours before voting begins for Egyptian expatriates. Also, prominent figure of the revolution, Dr. Ahmed Harara, who lost both his eyes during the clashes in January and November, said he will support Sabbahi for presidency.

Several intellectuals agreed that Sabbahi has a long history of supporting Egypt's poor classes and his electoral platform is the most suitable for achieving development in the country at this critical phase. Also, a large number of families of the revolution's martyrs gave their support to Sabbahi, including Khaled Said's mother.



Page: 1.

Author: Khaled Moussa.

3 Presidential Candidates Compete for the Support of Sufi Leaders



Al-Shorouk newspaper received information confirming that leaders of Sufi orders will declare the presidential candidate who will receive their support after holding their general assembly next Sunday. Their support will most likely be to one of three candidates; Ahmed Shafik, Amr Moussa or Hamdeen Sabbahi.

Alaa Al-Din Mady, leader of the Azmiya Sufi Order, announced his personal support for Ahmed Shafik, saying that he considers him the most suitable for leading the country at this critical phase. Mady said the Egyptian society needs a sense of security and Shafik can restore that sense to the country.

Tarek Al-Rifa'i, leader of Al-Rifa'iya Sufi Order, warned against dividing the votes of Sufis and called for uniting their support to a single candidate who can serve the society of Sufism and Egyptians in general.



Page: 1.
 Author: Nada Al-Khouli.

Activists Tweet and Blog against SCAF



Young political activists and bloggers did not find a better way to celebrate the World Bloggers’ Day except by sharing pictures and videos of political prisoners who were detained and tortured by the military.

They tweeted and blogged to honor the memory of the January 25 revolution’s martyrs and injured. They leveled harsh criticism against the ruling Supreme Council of Armed Forces, placing full responsibility on SCAF for all the massacres that took place since the beginning of the revolution.

“We Will Not Forget,” was the title of dozens of blogs written to expose the crimes of the military against revolutionaries and innocent civilians. They wrote about the pressures families of martyrs are facing to abandon the cases against police officers, the army’s atrocious crimes of killing and running over peaceful protesters, the use of chemical tear gas against protesters, the army’s violence against women, etc.

The “No Military Trials for Civilians” campaign demanded freedom for all political prisoners and dropping all the false charges against them.



Pages: 1, 4.
Author: Mohamed Al-Gali.

Behind the Scenes of El-Ganzouri's Negotiations with SCAF



The limited change to El-Ganzouri's government was the outcome of negotiations with SCAF to put an end to the tensions between the government and the FJP-dominated parliament.

SCAF generals were divided over the cabinet reshuffle as some of them supported making minor cabinet reshuffle, while others saw that this will not help solve the deadlock with the parliament. Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, Head of SCAF, took the decision to support those in favor of minor cabinet reshuffle.

Informed sources confirmed that El-Ganzouri submitted to SCAF's decision but requested that he chooses the new ministers.



Page: 10.
 Author: Hend Abd Al-Rahman.

Leftist Presidential Candidates Fail to Reach an Agreement



Attempts to form a presidential council through uniting the campaigns of leftist candidates, Hisham Al-Bastawesi, Aboul Ezz Al-Hariri, Hamdeen Sabbahi and Khaled Ali, have all failed.

Several meetings were held throughout the past two months between the four leftist candidates but none of them succeeded in uniting their efforts.

“I hoped that these attempts succeed and result in forming a presidential council that serves the interests of the country and gains the support of different groups. It would have been a strong rock in the face of a possible tyranny of the majority,” said Dr. Hossam Eissa, professor of law at Ain Shams University.



TV Coverage (11/5/2012)



Channel: CH 1

Program: Sabah al-Khair ya Masr

Expatriate Egyptians start voting in presidential elections.

The Parliament committees discuss hot issues in Sunday session.

Following an unprecedented Shiite activity in Cairo, Islamist players call on the Azhar and SCAF to face the dissimulation of the Shiite beliefs.

Channel: CH1

Program: news

Time: 27:00:00

Demonstrations in al-Qubbah Square in Cairo and in different governorates to support the Army.

Egyptian expatriates cast ballots in the UAE.



Channel: CH 2

Program: Yeseid Sabahak

Presenter: Hind Rashad and Ahmad al-Sawi

The High Presidential Elections Commission meets presidential candidates on Sunday.

The High Presidential Elections Commission appeals a ruling to annul referring the political isolation draft law to the Supreme Administrative Court.

Presidential Candidate Issam Sultan demands the High Presidential Elections Commission to exclude presidential candidate Ahmad Shafiq.



Radio Coverage (11/5/2012)



News

Channel: Radio Masr

23:00:00

Spanish judicial authorities approves handing Hussein Salim and his son to Egypt.

The European Union welcomes Egypt's decision to allow international observers to observe the presidential elections.

(25:00:00)



News

Channel: Al-Shark Al-Awsat

Time: 25:00:00

A decision was issued to lift the curfew in Abbasiya neighborhood.



Internet Coverage (12/5/2012)

facebook

Facebook

We are all Khaled Saeed

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mKjHN_RmDI

https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash3/540291_407453959304474_104224996294040_952091_1060867997_n.jpg

Dear next president, forget these things! https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash3/558681_407471829302687_104224996294040_952222_102252603_n.jpg

The chaos of freedom is better than the organization of suppression – Tunisian post revolution President Moncef Marzouki.

<http://2mforegypt.org/>

A message to the supporters of presidential candidate Ahmed Shafiq: You are supposed to thank the revolution because without it and without the sacrifices of the revolutionaries, you would have seen your candidate watching on TV Gamal Mubarak, the candidate of the National Democratic Party, winning the presidential elections.

Egyptian Cabinet:

The Foreign Ministry: The foreign minister instructed all Egyptian diplomatic missions abroad to extend working hours to 12 daily until the end of voting for the presidential elections.

Prime Minister Kamal el-Ganzouri approved additional emergency allocations to Sharqiya governorate to complete projects related to drinking water and sanitary.



Twitter

Wael Abbas:

https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-prn1/s720x720/564766_10150957078955477_671395476_12017746_323829883_n.jpg

<https://p.twimg.com/AsqEESgCAAQXuD.jpg>

https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash3/526066_383232025061336_246289305422276_1120237_1489476906_n.jpg



Iyad elbaghdadi:

#AMF inspired me to step up work on the #ArabSpringManifesto. Doing a round up and then heading off to writing.

It's tough to work on four or five large projects at the same time, but I have to pull it off. I hope to be able to form teams to help.

I had predicted earlier that an atmosphere of freedom will see segmentation in the Islamic movement, and we're seeing it. #Egypt

The Islamic scene may seem confusing to those who aren't well aware of how it got here. One thing I can say is that it's a wide spectrum.

The Islamic scene has liberals and illiberals; radicals and reactionaries; some colluded with colonial forces and some violently opposed it.

Bottom line, Islamists read from the same book but often come to diametrically opposite conclusions.

The Islamic scene may seem static & entrenched on the surface, but under it it's percolating and ready to burst with change.

In such a confused & confusing Islamic scene, whoever embodies a paradox may seem ambiguous, but that would be shallow analysis.

A paradox is often contradictory only under shallow analysis; deep analysis reveals it to be deep truth rather than oxymoron.

I'm an Islamic libertarian. This seems to be a paradox but it's not an oxymoron. Islam to me demands rather than opposes liberty.

In #Egypt, Abulfutouh seems to be saying different things to each party; but in fact he's saying the same thing in different "languages".

When Abulfutouh speaks to Islamists/liberals he's speaking in different "languages"; but the message is not inconsistent. #Egypt

During #AMF, I realized that we're past the vertigo of 2011 and are looking for a vision. I'm back to working on the #ArabSpringManifesto.

I dream of the day in which "Islamist" becomes redundant because "Muslim" suffices, but we're not there yet.

Some people consider intellectual evolution a sign of intellectual instability, and that's BS.



Consistency is overrated. Don't hesitate to dump an old idea if you no longer feel it's true. It's not flip-flopping, it's evolution.

Religious reform and political reform are two sides of the same coin. When one takes place the other follows. #ArabSpringManifesto

Many of those who "leave religion" still believe in God. They're just disgusted to their guts with what society defines as "religion".

Since I'm talking about the #ArabSpringManifesto again, may I point you to the intro vlog: <http://bit.ly/oMmMz5>

Aalam Wassef:

From our Jan25 perspective choosing Aboufotouh or Moussa = choosing from 2 evils. Over 4 or 8 yrs, what evil will allow us to achieve jan25?

Gsquare86:

British WWII fighter found in Egyptian desert <http://is.gd/t0jQ3w> #Egypt #UK #WWII

After years in captivity, dolphins released <http://www.cnn.com/2012/05/11/world/europe/turkey-dolphin-release/index.html> this was animal torture in my view #AnimalRights #Turkey

Spanish court ratifies verdict to deport runaway Mubarak-era tycoon <http://is.gd/ho55yN> #Egypt #Spain

100s of local residents prevent officials from leaving military club to demand authorities search for kidnapped child <http://is.gd/i5IKU1>

Egyptian satirists laugh at presidential candidates <http://is.gd/1xwOkb> #EgyCircus #Egyelections #Egypt

Bringing the Revolution to Campus: An Interview with March 9 Activist Laila <http://is.gd/2o41yj> #EgyUniversities

Students kick off mass protests in Spain <http://is.gd/SBowu7> #Spain #Students

India pilot strike <http://is.gd/8aX8Gl> #India #Strike

Mass defection of Sudan troops to South Sudan <http://is.gd/grEa8b> #Sudan

Protests in Philippines over China dispute <http://is.gd/iHSfE8> #China #Philippines

When soldiers would know that the detained are doctors, he would beat him/her more brutally <http://twitpic.com/9k9ufa>



▪ 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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