



News Coverage

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



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➤ Domestic Scene

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- ✓ Al-Ahram's Updates on Presidential Elections
- ✓ Ahmad Shafiq and Issam Sultan Exchange Accusation
- ✓ The New Constitution Grants Non Muslims their Rights
- ✓ Al-Shurouk's Updates on Presidential Elections
- ✓ The Constituent Assembly Crisis
- ✓ Al-Gezawy Case
- ✓ Abu Ismail Supporters Accused of Killing the Protestors
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- ✓ Egyptian Intelligence Ends Palestinian Prisoners' Crisis
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- ✓ Parliament's Legislative Committee Limits Powers of Public Prosecutor
- ✓ Al-Shater's Exclusion from Presidential Race Was a Setback for MB
- ✓



Newspapers (15/5/2012)



Pages: 1, 5

Author: Sana Abd al-Ati, Naji al-Jirjawi, Samah Mansour and Hazim Abu Doumah

Ahmad Shafiq and Issam Sultan Exchange Accusation



The Public Fund Prosecutor started heard the testimony of MP Issam Sultan against presidential candidate Ahmad Shafiq. Issam accused Shafiq of facilitating the selling of 40 thousand square meters of state owned lands to ousted Mubarak’s sons Jamal and Alaa Mubarak for 75 pennies for each square meter instead of 8 Pounds actual price. The Attorney General Abd al-Majid Mahmoud had referred the claim to the Public Funds Prosecution.

On his part, Shafiq denied the accusations and asserted in a press conference that he held yesterday that he had never been president of al-Nusour Association who was the owner of the plots of lands when they were sold to Alaa and Jamal. He added that he only documented the contracts signed by previous presidents of the association in November, 1993; namely eight years after the deals was made.

Moreover, Shafiq pronounced dangerous claims against MP Issam Sultan, accusing him of working for the dissolved State Security Apparatus from Tahrir Square during the Jan 25 revolution. He asserted that the State Security Apparatus assigned Sultan to communicate with Muhammad al-Baradei to prevent the latter’s contact with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Shafiq also accused Sultan of fabricating the money laundering cases against former Muslim Brotherhood’s potential presidential candidate Khairat al-Shater. He also accused Sultan of communicating Kifaya movement’s activities and those of the Muslim Brotherhood to the State Security.

Reacting to Shafiq’s accusations, Sultan issued a stamen in which he called on Shafiq to explain his sudden zeal for the Muslim, Brotherhood, Kifaya movement, the National Front for Change and Muhammad al-Baradei and his attacks against the State Security Apparatus. Sultan said Shafiq was confused and called shim the “Mubaraks’ candidate.”



Pages: 1

Author: Muhammad Abd al-Khaliq

The New Constitution Grants Non Muslims their Rights



The Azhar Grand Imam Ahmad al-Tayyib said the spirit of Shariaa [the Islamic Law] implies providing descent life for people before starting to apply its provisions.

“Our cause now is to realize freedom and social justice; democracy and equality and guarantee the respect of human rights, mainly citizenship rights,” said the Grand Imam during a meeting with the Netherlands ambassador in Cairo.

Al-Tayyib also added that the Azhar was the honest guardian of the spirit of Islam and its moderation, and the mouthpiece of people’s will.

Al-Tayyib said that the new constitution would include an addition to article two to reserve non Muslims’ rights. The second article of the Egypt constitutions since 1981 stipulated that the Islamic Shariaa is the main source of legislation. The addition al-Tayyib talked about admits non Muslims rights to refer to their religious laws in personal status issues.

Pages: 4, 5

Author: many authors

Al-Ahram's Updates on Presidential Elections



Al-Ahram published three presidential candidates' stances from Israel. Amr Mussa said he was fully aware of Israel's hostile stands towards Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular, and that it was not serious about realizing peace. "We disagree with Israel on many issues, but one must be responsible when giving declarations," said Shafiq.

Presidential Candidate Salim al-Awwa, however, reiterated Egypt's commitment to the treaties and agreements signed unless Israel violated them.

"We will rule according to our own decisions and not those of the Zionists," said presidential candidate Hamadain Sabbahi.

Al-Ahram's Mahmoud Makkawi also reported on the dozens of million Pounds wasted on posters, signs and other publicity related issues in the presidential campaigns of the different candidates. The posters and signs deformed the streets and buildings.

Sheik Muhammad Abd al-Maqsoud of the Salafi Call said he would not vote for Abu al-Futouh, stressing that he would vote for Muhammad Mursi because according to the Islamic law one should not vote for someone who asked for leadership (Muhammad Mursi was asked by the Muslim Brotherhood and did not nominate himself like Abu al-Futouh).

Meanwhile, the Salafi Cal and its political wing al-Nour Party started a campaign to support Abd al-Munim Abu al-Futouh in the presidential race.

In a related context, al-Ahram published the result of the third public poll conducted by the Egyptian Cabinet's Think Tank about the most popular presidential candidate. According to the poll, Shafiq came first followed by Amr Mussa then Abd al-Munim Abu al-Futouh.

The poll showed an increase in public support for the Muslim Brotherhood's candidate Muhammad Mursi and also candidate Hamadain Sabbahi.



Pages: 4
Author: MENA

A Lawsuit to Stop the Presidential Elections



An urgent lawsuit was filed against head of SCAF, the Minister of Interior and the head of the High Presidential Elections Commission, calling to stop the presidential elections by annulling the administrative decision to distribute the ballots and the polling stations in schools to the judicial observers.

The lawsuit depends of a claim that article 28 of the Constitutional Declaration gave unlimited authorities to the High Presidential Elections Commission.



Collective Resignations in "Ghad Al-Thawra" Party



“Ghad Al-Thawra Party’s” bureau in Beheira governorate announced its resignation from the party due to the criteria adopted in supporting a candidate in the presidential elections.

The party members have rejected the possibility of supporting Amr Moussa in the second round of the polls.

Six party members in Alexandria called for freezing their memberships until the end of the presidential elections.



Page: 4
 Author: Alaa Sarhan

Free Egyptians Party Not to Support Candidate in 1st Round of Elections



The Free Egyptians Party announced it would not support any of the presidential candidates in the first phase of the polls, which will take place on May 23 and 24.

The decision was made after an inside opinion poll was conducted.



Page: 7

Author: Not mentioned

Saudi Ambassador Meets Abul-Fotouh



Saudi Ambassador in Cairo Ahmed Abdel-Aziz al-Qattan met on Monday with Egyptian presidential candidate Abdel-Moneim Abul-Fotouh.

Saudi Arabia will be neutral toward all presidential candidates in Egypt, a statement issued by the Saudi Embassy quoted Qattan as saying.

All what matters to Saudi Arabia is Egypt's stability and security to be able to continue its leading role at the Arab and Islamic levels, he said.

Parliament's Legislative Committee Limits Powers of Public Prosecutor



The People's Assembly Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee approved amendments proposed to Penal Code No 58 for the year 1937 and Criminal Procedures No 150 for the year 1950 related to torture.

The committee also parts of Article 63 of the Penal Code which gave the Public Prosecutor solely the right to file a lawsuit or a complaint against an official.

Page: 3.

Author: Not mentioned.

Al-Shater's Exclusion from Presidential Race Was a Setback for MB



Some political analysts ruled out the possibility of winning of the Muslim Brotherhood's candidate in the presidential elections. They said he lacks popularity outside the circle of the members of the MB.

Deputy Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood responded by saying that Dr. Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh also does not have a huge chance in winning the elections because he lost the support of both Islamists and liberals.

Political observers said the exclusion of Khairat El-Shater from the presidential race represented a serious setback for the MB.



Pages: 1, 4.
Author: Raba Nour Al-Din.

Revolutionary Youth Support Hamdeen Sabbahi for Presidency



The presidential debate held between Amr Moussa and Dr. Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh is still casting a shadow on the prospects for Hamdeen Sabbahi. Various opinions of revolutionaries and intellectuals supported the idea that Sabbahi won increased support and popularity following this debate.

Nearly 500 intellectuals and young revolutionaries declared supporting Sabbahi for presidency and some of them joined his presidential campaign. Also, many artists and media figures officially declared supporting Sabbahi in the presidential race in a conference held yesterday at his presidential campaign headquarters.

“After a long series of discussions with presidential candidates from various intellectual and ideological backgrounds, we have decided to choose a candidate who can drive our revolution forward and achieve all our demands of freedom, social justice and retribution for the blood of the martyrs. We have read and closely examined the electoral platforms of all the presidential candidates and followed their statements before and after the January 25 revolution and we declare supporting the revolutionary presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabbahi,” said Khaled Telema, a representative of the Revolution Youth Coalition.

Page: 2.
 Authors: Mohamed El-Khouli and Gamal Essam Al-Din.

MB Comes to Terms with El-Ganzouri's Government



After nearly two weeks of continuous attempts made by the parliament to withdraw confidence from El-Ganzouri's government, it is becoming clear now that reconciliation took place between the government and the parliament.

Al-Nour MPs Ahmed Khalil and Adel Al-Azazi and FJP MP Akram El-Sha'ir requested a hearing on the government's involvement in covering up cases of corruption related to former leaders in the dissolved NDP.

MP Ahmed Khalil said they have the necessary documents which prove cases of corruption and stealing state-owned lands; however, "due to the country's unstable conditions, Al-Nour Party will delay decision to withdraw confidence from the government and the request of hearing will be changed into a motion," he said.



Page: 11.
 Authors: Mohamed Magli, Ibrahim Moussa (and others).

Strikes Spread in Various Governorates



Few days before the beginning of presidential elections, several strikes spread in many governorates.

Workers in Cleopatra Ceramics factory in Suez and 10th of Ramadan City went on strike and filed lawsuits against prominent businessman Mohamed Aboul Enein.

In Alexandria, employees working in the Ministry of Manpower continued their strike which extended to other offices in the governorate? They demanded receiving their incentives and 50% compensation for occupational hazards.



Page: 6.
Author: Mostafa Zahran.

Sufi Votes Are Going Backwards



Many presidential candidates have recently visited the headquarters of Sufi Orders; however, it was clear that leaders of Sufi Orders gave special attention to presidential candidates who belong to the former regime; namely Amr Moussa and Ahmed Shafik.

Sheikh Alaa Abo El-Azayem, leader of Al-Azmiya Sufi Order, announced giving his personal support to Ahmed Shafik, which indicates that Sufis are probably heading towards supporting candidates who are considered part of the former political regime.

Sufi Sheikhs refused to give their support to Islamist candidates such as Mohamed Morsi or Aboul Fotouh, considering them to be ideologically different.



Pages: 8, 9, 10

Author: different authors

Al-Shurouk's Updates on Presidential Elections



Al-Shurouk reported on a high turnout of expatriates on the fourth day of presidential elections. 243 Egyptian expatriates cast their ballots.

Ibn Khaldoun Center reported that the TV debate between Amr Mussa and Abd al-Munim Abu al-Futouh gave candidate Hamadain Sabbahi a boost among expatriate voters.

On page 9, al-Shurouk published an evaluation of the different candidates' platforms, describing them as "weak" platforms that need to be more realistic, especially with timing.

According to the average of the platform evaluations, Abu al-Futouh came first, followed by Sabbahi who preceded Khalid Ali. Amr Mussa came fourth followed by Muhammad Mursi, and Ahmad Shafiq came in the last position.

Meanwhile, presidential candidates resumed their campaigns in the different governorates. From Upper Egyptian Qina, Candidate Hammadain Sabbahi promised to improve people's life conditions, stating that no one will eat from the garbage if he was elected president.

In a related context, 500 public personalities and a number of the players of the Revolution Coalition announced their support to Hamadain Sabbahi.

Candidate al-Awwa called the Muslim Brotherhood to reconsider the "baiaah" (the full obedience to one person; namely the general guide).

In Asyout, the Muslim Brotherhood's candidate Muhammad Mursi declared that the Muslim Brotherhood could lead tens country with the slogan "Islam is the Solution."



“One trend will not be able to shoulder the responsibilities of leading Egypt,” said Salafi Sheik Muhammad Hassan addressing the Muslim Brotherhood.



Pages: 3

Author: not mentioned

Cabinet Opinion Poll



The Cabinet’s Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) conducted an opinion poll to know who will the citizens vote for president, and the results were as follows:

- Ahmed Shafik got the first place.
- Amr Moussa got the second place.
- Abdel-Moniem Abul-Fotouh got the third place.
- Mohamed Morsi got the fourth place.
- Hamdeen Sabahy got the fifth place.
- Khaled Ali and Selim Al-Awa equally got the sixth place.



Pages: 3
Author: Nour Ali

The Constituent Assembly Crisis



Parliament Legislative Committee will hold a meeting today, after reviewing the suggestions of around 200 public figures and law and constitution experts to discuss the final criteria of the membership and functions of the Assembly members.

All the suggestions said the Assembly must include members from all the political and religious parties in order to represent all the citizens.

Disagreements took place about the number of MPs in this Assembly, but nothing has been decided yet.

Pages: 3

Author: Ibrahim Badawy

Al-Gezawy Case



Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Ragheb said that lawyer Ahmed Al-Gezawy, who is accused of smuggling drugs to Saudi Arabia, was receiving proper medical treatment.

He added that Saudi Arabia vowed to review the cases of the 31 Egyptians imprisoned in Saudi Arabia for security reasons.

Pages: 3

Author: Mohamed Abdel-Khalea and others

Abu Ismail Supporters Accused of Killing the Protestors



Abbaseya residents seized two of Hazem Abu Ismail’s supporters, who had guns and were involved in injuring several Abbaseya residents.

They were referred to the Public Prosecution and were accused of killing the protestors, possessing guns, vandalizing public properties, and causing traffic jam in the late Abbaseya incidents which lead to 10 deaths.

Pages: 1
 Author: Mohamed Ismail and others

New Muslim Brotherhood Group



A group of youth announced forming a new committee under the name of “Muslim Brotherhood”. Khaled Abu Elewa, head of the committee said that the committee included a lot of January 25 Revolution Youth.

Elewa added that they had the right to form a committee under this name and to be monitored by law.

Abdel-Moneim Abdel-Maksood, Muslim Brotherhood group Members (MB) said they would file a lawsuit against this new group if it was really formed, as the legal stand of the original MB Group is valid.



Page: 3

Author: Not mentioned

Egyptian Intelligence Ends Palestinian Prisoners' Crisis



The Egyptian General Intelligence Services (GIS) succeeded to end the problem of Palestinian prisoners going on a mass hunger strike in Israeli jails.

The GIS, under Mouraf Muafi, reached a settlement to the crisis to end solitary confinement of all Palestinian prisoners and improving prison conditions.

Families will be allowed to visit their relatives in prison, an official source said.

Page: 3

Author: Not mentioned

Egypt Denies Rigging in Expat. Voting



The Egyptian Foreign Ministry denied that vote rigging took place in the votes of Egyptian expatriates abroad in the presidential elections.

The claims were precisely made over the embassies in Dubai and Jeddah but are baseless, Assistant Foreign Minister Ahmed Ragheb said.

The truth is that two vote rigging cases were reported in the embassy in Dubai and one in Jeddah, he admitted.



TV Coverage (14/5/2012)



Program: Misr Tantakheb Al-Raees
Channel: CBC
Host: Adel Hamdooda and Lamis Al-Hadidy

Guest: Amr Moussa, a presidential candidate, said Egypt is facing a challenging phase and the new Egypt must be based on democracy.



Program: 24 Hours News
Channel 1"State TV"

High turnout observed in Egyptian expatriates voting.

Similar news was reported in:
Program: Al-Hayat Al-Yoom, Channel: Al-Hayat, Host: Lobna Assal and Sherief Amer
Program: Akhbar Masr, Channel 1"State TV"

MP Essam Sultan lodged a complaint against presidential candidate Ahmed Shafik, which was referred to the Public Funds Prosecution.

Similar news was reported in News, Channel 2"State TV", Time: 26:00:00

Presidential candidate Ahmed Shafik denies selling lands to ousted president Mubarak sons.

Similar news was reported in News, Channel 2"State TV", Time: 26:00:00

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

No confrontations between the government and the Parliament took place after changing some ministers.



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

Egyptian expatriates vote for the fourth day in the presidential elections.



Radio Coverage (14/5/2012)



News

Channel: Al-Sharq Al-Awsat

Egyptians expatriates continue to cast their votes for the fourth day in the presidential elections. 23:00:00

MP Essam Sultan filed a lawsuit against presidential candidate Ahmed Shafik, which was consequently referred to Public Funds Prosecution. 17:00:00



Internet Coverage (15/5/2012)

facebook

Facebook

We Are All Khaled Saeed:

Ahmed Shafiq: I'm not just someone who came from the street, I am a fighter, who created his own history and served it as no one else!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9GRsHgTkbI>

https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash3/560460_426004770757939_152436011448151_1455795_923204624_n.jpg

Egyptian cabinet

Minister of Endowments urged the mosques' preachers to be neutral and not to allow any kind of campaigning for any presidential candidate in the houses of worship. The Minister also said that anyone who violates the above mentioned rules will be punished.



Twitter

@AsmaaMahfouz

The people are changing and one day they will be able to change the regime.

Everyone is talking this morning about elections, presidential candidates, and they are asking questions like "What will we do if?" All this makes me optimistic because there should be no room for frustration now.

In the past, we used to exert a lot of effort to spread awareness among the people of the importance of their votes in elections, now when I meet new people they try to convince me of the importance of my vote, when they know that I am boycotting elections. This is a real change!

@Ghonim

"#Youtube is becoming the #1 public enemy for today's politicians. It archives their past lies & what will become their future false promises"

@Monasosh

You must watch this video: Who is tried before military courts? The entire country is! No\tomilitarytrialsforcivilians!

[#Nomiltrials](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5_boSchwe0&feature=share)



Our brothers who are in prison over Al-Abbasiya clashes began an open-ended hunger strike starting from Sunday: <http://www.nomiltrials.com/2012/05/4-2012.html>

@Iyad_ElBaghdadi

"Hate speech" and incitement is not free speech, but what's considered "hate" or "incitement" differs by situation and society."

"Any statistics on how many journalists are in jail or on trial around the world? With a country breakdown?"

"If anything it shows how politicians can get stuck in a hole, and keep digging."What to do about Greece?" #Infographic <http://bit.ly/J4NBF3>"

"Monarchies are often more stable because there's less politics."

"Morality to me is a gold standard that is unchanged regardless of public acceptance or rejection of it."

"However, don't ask me to explain my theory of morality in 140 chars."

"The greatest loser in the #Pal Hunger battle is the idea that only violence and violence alone can guarantee dignity."

"The idea of non-violent resistance is taking root once again among Palestinians. Salute to the strikers. #Pal Hunger"

"There are other Arab news networks that will struggle with this next wave of social media journalism, but eventually manage to ride it."



▪ 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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