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Badrashein train crash sparks outrage

ACTIVISTS ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTING TO STOP TRAINS IN PROTEST WHILE OPPOSITION BLAMES GOVERNMENT FOR POOR RAILWAY SYSTEM

By Ahmed About Enein

Police arrested 12 activists in Alexandria after they attempted to stop trains departing from the Egypt Railroad Station in protest at the Badrashein train crash that killed 19 and injured almost 120 police conscripts early on Tuesday morning.

Five human rights lawyers intending to defend the protesters were also detained. The lawyers and protesters were later released said defence lawyer Mohamed Massoud.

"The activists were trying to stop the train in protest at the Badrashein incident when police arrested them. The train left on time. Police clashed with other activists who gathered in support of their arrested colleagues," said Massoud.

He added that 10 of the activists were protesting at the Egypt Railroad Station and two at the Sidi Gaber station and all had been released.

"The police also did not allow us [lawyers] to leave although they did not formally arrest us. They said we were detained and would not release us until the police chief came and ordered them to. It was a clear threat that they could arrest us whenever they wanted," Massoud said.

A similar protest took place at the Egypt Railroad Station in downtown Cairo but there were no arrests. Hundreds gathered at the station near Ramses Square chanting against President Mohamed Morsy and the Muslim Brotherhood.



Egyptian workers remove the wreckage of a train in the Giza in Badrashein where at least 19 people were killed and injured 105.

"All officials should be punished for this, starting from the president all the way to the railway workers. Negligence has increased since Morsy took over," said protester Mahmoud Hesham.

Hesham added that he believed Prime Minister Hesham Qandil and the entire cabinet should resign.

The train crash in Badrashein, Giza left 19 Central Security Forces conscripts dead and 120 injured according to figures from the Ministry of Health.

The train was transporting the conscripts, all born between 1990 and 1992, to their camps when the last

carriage derailed and smashed into a stationary freight train.

Eyewitnesses said ambulances were quick to respond but they were the only government service to do so.

Civil defence units and tractors needed to extract injured people trapped under the train were late to arrive while by-

standers attempted to help the injured.

The prosecutor general ordered an investigation into the accident and the train's driver will be detained for four days on charges of negligence leading to death.

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Egypt stock exchange hemorrhages

Train crash expected to push EGX30 down to 5,600 points

By Shaimaa Turkey

Egypt's stock exchange dropped for the third day in a row, a trend exacerbated by Tuesday morning's Badrashein train crash. The market's main index declined 43.1% by 8,567 points on Tuesday, heading towards the market's support level of 5650 points.

The EGX70 dropped 51.2% declining 26.12 points to 90,475 points. Meanwhile the EGX 100 dropped by 3.2% to 49,809 points.

Islam al-Batrawi, trading manager for Al-Naim financial securities company, expected that the stock exchange would continue to drop towards the support level of 5550-5600 points, until a judge's ruling was made on the accident. This he said, would have a large effect on the market's performance at the end of this week's session and into next week.

Osama Nagib, logistical trading analyst for the Arab Finance company for financial securities, said the market's corrective movement will continue in the medium term hitting 5500-5900 points until the anniversary of the January 25th Revolution.

Market capital lost nearly EGP 9.4 bn, hitting EGP 4.4 bn compared to EGP 3.4 bn in losses on Monday.

The value of transactions rose EGP 8.4 m after 1.1 m shares were traded in a total of 1,230 deals, while the market's total value, that included key traders and the transfers market hit EGP 8.4 m, trading 99.1 m shares in a total of 3,230 deals.

Protesters demand Al-Gizawy's release

Security stand off with protesters demanding the release of Ahmed Al-Gizawy outside Saudi Embassy in Cairo

By Daily News Egypt

Security scuffled with protesters and media outside the Saudi Embassy in Cairo where protesters had gathered to demand the release of Ahmed Al-Gizawy on Tuesday.

Al-Gizawy is an Egyptian lawyer who has been sentenced to five years in prison and 300 lashes by the General Court of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. The lashes will be administered 50 lashes at a time.

While the media interviewed protesters, plain clothed security men asked them to step back and stand behind metal barriers. The situation became tense when a couple of young protesters decided to pull the metal barriers away to let the media approach the protesters.

A brief scuffle ensued and the media managed to get back to the protesters.

Following the scuffle Shereen Al-Gizawy, Ahmed's sister, gave an emotional speech to the media: "When we first started our protest,



Protesters gather outside the Saudi Embassy in Cairo demanding the release of Ahmed Al-Gizawy

Egyptian security stopped us and I think you took pictures of them when they were going to beat me, Ahmed's wife and my brother."

Morsy had promised Al-Gizawy would be with his family by August 2012 for Ramadan.

Al-Gizawy's brother Hesham said: "We are planning to hold a sit-in to-

day and if that does not work, we will escalate using other methods."

Al-Gizawy was arrested on 17 April 2012. He was on his way to perform Umrah (minor pilgrimage) in Mecca but was detained in the King Abdul Aziz airport. He was accompanied by his wife, Shahenda Al-Gizawy.

Saudi authorities convicted Al-Gizawy of smuggling over 20,000 pills of the anti-anxiety drug Xanax.

During her statement outside the embassy, Shereen said the drugs were found in milk cartons dated 20 April 2012. "Which means that the case is fixed," she said.

Al-Gizawy has denied the charges against him, state-run news agency MENA reported.

The Egyptian consulate in Jeddah is appealing the verdict. Hesham said: "We know it is pointless because they are targeting Ahmed because he worked on a case about Egyptian detainees in Saudi Arabia."

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Egypt concerned over Mali intervention

Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes military escalation damages peace efforts, offers alternative solution.

By Joel Gulhane

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed concern over the conflict in Mali and said recent events could damage international peace efforts. The statement offered a three point plan to solve the crisis.

The ministry's official spokesperson published a statement shortly before midnight on Monday asserting Egypt's position on the conflict, "which emphasises the need to preserve the unity of Mali and its territorial integrity."

The spokesperson also outlined an Egyptian plan to end the crisis. The plan is based on three pillars. The first is "the need to exhaust all means of peaceful settlement to the crisis, the use of

military intervention is a last resort."

The first pillar also included stricter border control to contain the conflict.

The second pillar is "to mobilise all possible resources to support development efforts" in Mali. The spokesperson pointed out: "Investing in development is an effective option in the medium and long term."

The third pillar emphasises the need to "activate the role of intellectual, educational and cultural institutions." The spokesperson suggested that Al-Azhar could weigh in on the crisis "to confront and isolate extremist ideology and spread the concepts of moderate Islam."

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Pitched battles



Ultras protesters gather in Mohamed Mahmoud Street during clashes

Armed with years of experience fighting riot police, Egypt's ultras played a key role in securing places of protest when police moved in. Partly reacting against the status quo, and mostly due to their hatred

of the armed forces, the ultras have time and time again appeared when protesters have needed them most.

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Currencies	Buy	Sell	Egyptian Stock Exchange		
			Closing	Daily Change	
CHF	7.0142	7.3682	EGX 30	5,657.08	-1.43%
USD	6.5827	6.6128	EGX 70	475.90	-2.51%
EUR	8.658	9.095	EGX 100	809.49	-2.03%
GBP	10.4171	10.9428	EGX 20	6,509.83	-1.80%
SAR	1.746	1.7669			

Commentary

H.A. Hellyer writes: Those who have sought the power to govern, and have succeeded at the ballot box, have the responsibility of governance, and cannot explain or reduce the magnitude of their failings by looking elsewhere

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FJP spokesperson referred to investigation

PRESS SYNDICATE QUESTIONS AHMED SOBEI OVER ALLEGED COMPLICITY IN THE KILLING OF PROTESTERS DURING PRESIDENTIAL PALACE CLASHES

By Rana Muhammad Taha

Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) spokesperson Ahmed Sobei was sent to investigation at the Press Syndicate on Tuesday.

Sobei is accused of inciting violence against anti-Morsy protesters during the Presidential Palace clashes, which took place on 5 December. Denying the allegations, Sobei accused syndicate board members of settling personal scores with him by referring him to investigation, reported Ikhwan web.

The investigation was carried out by syndicate board members Gamal

Fahmy and Karem Mahmoud. Neither could be reached for comment.

Journalists for Reform movement condemned Sobei's investigation, describing it as a "gagging" attempt. In a statement released Monday, the movement stated that the accusations Sobei is facing are "malicious." They added that Sobei was taking part in a live television interview at the time of the Presidential Palace clashes and thus couldn't have incited violence. The movement launched a campaign in solidarity with Sobei called "We are All Ahmed Sobei."

The movement said: "The Press Syndicate is not a branch of the National Salvation Front (NSF)," adding that Fahmy, who is affiliated with the NSF, was the one who referred Sobei to investigation. It furthermore demanded that Fahmy step down.

The presidency legal affairs administration filed a complaint against Fahmy on Wednesday, accusing him of writing articles offensive to President Mohamed Morsy. Fahmy is a prominent critic of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Journalists for Reform participated in two protests on Monday; one was held in front of the embassy of the United

Arab Emirates, demanding the release of Egyptian journalist Ahmed Ga'far, who is held in UAE and accused of being part of a Muslim Brotherhood cell working to overthrow the Emirati regime.

The other protest was held in front of Media Production City, in solidarity with media practitioners working at ultraconservative Islamist Al-Hafez channel. The Administrative Court suspended the television programme Fi Al-Mizan for 30 days and forbade two of its presenters, Abdallah Badr and Atef Abdel Rashid from making television appearances on Saturday.

Additional reporting by Basil El-Dabh

POLITICS

Maadi City Centre & Alexandria City Centre Malls Celebrate 10 Years in Egypt

This month marks the 10 year anniversary of Maadi City Centre and Alexandria City Centre shopping malls in Egypt. Both properties, owned, developed and managed by Majid Al Futtaim Properties, have been leading the retail sector in Egypt since 2002. The month-long celebration will be marked by competitions and prizes for shoppers.

"We are delighted to be celebrating our tenth anniversary of successful operation in the Egyptian market. The Egyptian market is quite diverse with an increasingly discerning customer and we pride ourselves on being able to provide our visitors with

a variety of unique brands, fun activities and quality dining options under one roof," said Abdulla El Nockrashy, Majid Al Futtaim Properties Country Manager for Egypt.

"Our vision at Majid Al Futtaim Properties is to always provide visitors with a memorable experience each time they visit our malls, an experience that satisfies all family members. We have achieved numerous milestones over the last ten years in Egypt and we are committed to ensuring that the next ten years continues to provide our customers with the best shopping and entertainment experience possible."

Israeli arrested in Egypt receives extended detention

Palestinian sympathiser was arrested allegedly en route to Gaza through Egypt

By Luiz Sanchez

An Israeli who was detained last December has had his detention extended by a further 15 days. The Israeli ministry of foreign affairs confirmed on Tuesday that the prisoner, Andre Pschenichnikov, is serving his second extended detention.

By law, Egypt may detain a suspect for 15 days, and may also extend this in 15 day blocks for up to a total of 45 days before the prisoner must be released or charged.

Paul Hirschon, the Israeli foreign ministry media spokesperson, said the government is providing the usual legal assistance and attention offered by the embassy to any Israeli citizen in Egypt. He said that the process is a commonplace procedure and Israel "does not interfere in a country's internal affairs."

"We provide our citizens with the legal representation and any religious comforts they may need such as kosher food," Hirschon said. "If and when a person is convicted, depending on any agreement between both nations and what that person is convicted of, it is standard procedure to have that person do the jail time in their home country."

Hirschon added that Israel was doing what it could on a consular level according to Israeli, international and bilateral laws.

Pschenichnikov is a Russian-Israeli believed to be sympathetic to



AFP Photo
Egyptian authorities renewed the detention of Andre Pschenichnikov by a further 15 days

the Palestinian cause. He was arrested by Israeli troops attempting to cross the border into Egypt and had his passports confiscated. After being released and told not to attempt the crossing, he was caught by Egyptian security forces near the Taba border where he was reportedly caught with no documentation asking local drivers for information about the area.

It is rumoured that Pschenichnikov had asked for political asylum in Egypt out of fear for persecution in Israel. When he was arrested it was reported he had been attempting to cross into Gaza via Egypt because Israelis are not permitted to do so from Israel for security reasons.

Britain and Egypt to explore internal security cooperation

British minister and interior minister discuss ways their two ministries can cooperate in fighting crime

By Joel Gulhane

British minister of state for crime prevention Jeremy Browne, met with Minister of Interior Mohamed Ibrahim on Tuesday to discuss methods for Egypt and Britain to cooperate on security issues.

A statement published on the State Information Service following their meeting said that Ibrahim and Browne reviewed the interior ministry's policy on fighting crime and aim to "restore the discipline of the Egyptian street in the framework of respect for the principles of human rights."

Ibrahim embraced the initiative to strengthen cooperation between Egypt and Britain in this area. He highlighted "the importance of exchanging information and strengthening international efforts to confront all forms of organised crime."

Reports of police brutality are rife in Egypt. During the 25 January revolution the world witnessed Egyptian security forces using excessive force against protesters. The El-Nadeem

Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture published a report that documented 88 cases of torture carried out by police and 34 deaths at the hands of the police, all within the first 100 days of President Mohamed Morsy's time in office.

Browne is currently visiting Egypt in his capacity as the head of the British Asset Recovery Taskforce, which is tasked with recovering Egyptian money overseas, allegedly stolen by former President Hosni Mubarak and members of his regime.

In a press conference on Monday, Browne said the process of recovering the assets and money would not be quick. He emphasised that the rule of law must be respected and that the British government is doing everything it can.

British Prime Minister David Cameron told Morsy in September 2012 that Britain would work to unfreeze \$160m of Egyptian assets. He also said that Britain would seek to influence changes to EU regulations to allow for more information sharing in the process of unfreezing assets.

Prime Minister supports Zewail Science City

The current government's decision to support Ahmed Zewail's claim to disputed land is contested by the Nile University

By Luiz Sanchez

Prime Minister Hesham Qandil met with Nobel laureate Ahmed Zewail on Monday to discuss the progress being made on the Zewail Science City since its inauguration in November 2011. The land upon which the centre is built has been disputed by the Nile University, which was gifted the same land back in 2000.

During the meeting the prime minister reiterated the government's support for the project, adding that education and scientific research are the foundations of progress and development in Egypt. According to the state-run news agency MENA, government investment allocated towards scientific research in the 2012-2013 budget is expected to reach up to 0.7% of the Gross Domestic Product, equivalent to three-quarters of previous allocated budgets.

Nancy Mustafa, a Nile University student, said they would not be accepting the government position, and has plans to counter the decision: "We are planning something, but we cannot say what it is at this moment in time because we do not want them to be prepared," Mustafa said, add-



AFP Photo / Khaled Desouki
Ahmed Zewail, pictured addressing members of the constitutional committee, met with Prime Minister Hesham Qandil to discuss the Zewail Science City project (File photo)

ing their plans will likely be unveiled sometime next week.

A statement released Tuesday by the Nile University Student Union criticised the excessive use of force used by Zewail supporters under the guise of law enforcement, while simultaneously ignoring court rulings which granted the university the land.

The statement demanded the government comply with three demands.

The union demanded the implementation of the court ruling which granted the Nile University use of the land, and also demanded Nile University be recognised and ratified by the president as a civil university rather than a private one. Thirdly, the union demanded a new headquarters for the Zewail Science City be established elsewhere, so that research projects are not compromised.

Beni Suef security officials acquitted

Former security chief and other security officers found not guilty of killing protesters

By Fady Salah

The former director of Beni Suef security authority and 10 police officers have been acquitted of killing protesters during the 25 January revolution.

Beni Suef criminal court issued the verdict of acquittal on Tuesday, finding no evidence that General Ahmed Shawky, former security director, and the other police officers were responsible for killing protesters on 28 January 2011, commonly known as the Friday of Anger.

The session was held at Minya courts complex, after Beni Suef criminal court transferred its sessions there for security reasons.

The previous session was postponed to hear the testimonies of General Ahmed Gamal El-Deen, former director of the general security authority and former minister of interior, and General Ahmed El-Naghy, director of Giza security authority, as they were responsible for the preparation of a general security report in February 2011.

Nineteen people died and 26 were injured in Beni Suef during the violent clashes of the 25 January revolution, according to Anadolu Turkish news agency.

Many security officials around Egypt faced charges of killing protesters during the revolution. However, except for security officers at Alexandria who were found guilty, almost all were acquitted for lack of evidence.

Badrashein train crash sparks outrage



Hassan Ibrahim
Crowds gather at Ramses station in Cairo to demonstrate against the poor safety record of the railway system

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An earlier train crash in Assiut last November left over 50 children dead. The transport minister at the time tendered his resignation citing his political responsibility.

Morsy, and the defence and health ministers all visited hospitals where the injured were being treated.

Morsy offered his condolences to the Egyptian people and said those responsible would be dealt with. "We will wait for the results of investigations and those responsible will be punished," he added.

He later went to the presidential palace where he met Qandil and Minister of Transport Hatem Abdel Latif to discuss "ways to stop the spilling of Egyptian blood," according to a presidency statement.

The Muslim Brotherhood also expressed its sorrow at the accident.

"The Muslim Brotherhood offers its deep condolences to the families

of the martyrs and the injured. The frequency of these accidents and the continuation of Egyptian bloodshed drives us to call on officials to cooperate and conduct investigations into the accidents and punish those responsible," the group said in a statement.

The Brotherhood's political wing, the Freedom and Justice Party, also released a statement through its chairman Saad El-Katatny.

El-Katatny called the incident "tragic" and added that it was "a wake up call to all political forces over the priority of overcoming differences and cooperating together in order to start building."

The FJP leader blamed "years of Mubarak corruption" for the "decay of Egypt's infrastructure" which led to the accident and several others.

He added that the "Egyptian people deserve hard work and achievements not [political] arguments and conflicts."

The National Salvation Front, the largest opposition bloc, said the accident and the Assiut train crash that killed over 50 children last November both affirmed the need for Morsy and his government to re-evaluate their priorities.

"The January 25 Revolution happened in order to serve the interests of citizens and affirm the state's responsibility in serving their needs, especially the majority of Egyptians who are poor," said an NSF statement.

They added that there had been six train accidents since Morsy's inauguration and that this should prompt him to make railway reform a pressing priority.

The front sent a delegation led by Egyptian Social Democratic Party leader Mohamed Abu El-Ghar and National Association for Change leader Abdel Geliel Mostafa to offer condolences to the families of the victims and affirm the need for taking the necessary steps in order to prevent such incidents from occurring again.

Constitutional court delays rulings

SCC SENDS SHURA COUNCIL CASE TO COMMISSIONERS, POSTPONES CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY RULING



An Egyptian opposition protester holds a tyre symbolising President Mohamed Morsy's nickname 'spare tyre' during a gathering in front of the Supreme Constitutional Court

By Ahmed Aboul Enein

The Supreme Constitutional Court has ruled to refer the Shura Council dissolution case to its panel of experts for a detailed report, and postponed the Constituent Assembly dissolution case to 3 February.

The constitutional court referred the Shura Council case to the commissioners' authority since the status of the upper house of parliament changed after the adoption of the new constitution.

Several lawyers filed complaints calling for the dissolution of the coun-

cil, arguing that the law its elections were based upon is unconstitutional. The court had in June dissolved the People's Assembly, the lower house. It ruled the elections law, which was the same for both houses, unconstitutional.

The court was meant to rule on these cases on 2 December but Islamist supporters of President Mohamed Morsy surrounded the building and prevented judges from getting in, forcing the court to suspend activity.

By the time the court reconvened the new constitution had passed. Another effect of the delay was that

the court had three options when it came to the Shura Council; either rule on the elections law as per the constitutional decree in effect at the time of the election, make a ruling rule based on the constitutional decree Morsy released as the case was on-going, or rule based on the new constitution.

The new constitution transfers full legislative authority to the Shura Council until a new lower house, renamed the House of Representatives, is elected. The constitution also bestows new legislative powers on the council in general, in addition to the ones it holds during the transitional period.

Egyptian delegation in UAE

Joint commission to discuss increased cooperation, rights of Egyptian detainees and the rights of migrant workers

By Luiz Sanchez

The assistant to the minister of foreign affairs Aly Al-Asheery left to Abu Dhabi on Tuesday in order to participate in a second round of dialogue as part of the joint United Arab Emirates-Egypt consular commission. State-run news agency MENA reported that the Egyptian delegation will be holding talks with representatives of the ministries of interior, labour, immigration, education and health.

The commission was first held in January 2011 and is meant to be a line of communication between both governments to discuss topics of interest surrounding Egyptian and UAE expatriates, including visas, residency permits, sponsorship and deportation. The Egyptian delegation is expected to request that the UAE inform the Egyptian embassy in Abu

Dhabi of the arrest of any Egyptian citizen in accordance with international conventions.

Al-Asheery said: "We will be discussing the issue of Egyptians currently detained pending investigations.

"In addition we demand the presence of a representative of the embassy in investigations and to enable the prisoners to communicate with their loved ones and their families in order to reassure them."

The delegation will discuss cooperation between both nations in the field of manpower, where Egypt is proposing improved communication between the respective ministries to facilitate the process of contracting foreign workers.

Cooperation in the field of education is also on the agenda. The delegation aims to discuss cooperation between universities and other higher

education institutions, which would include grants for Egyptian and UAE students.

In the field of health the delegation will discuss establishing research projects and a memorandum of understanding between the respective health ministries. Al-Asheery stressed that the meetings represent an eagerness on the part of the UAE to strengthen relations between.

Relations between both nations took a dive recently, after the UAE arrested 11 Egyptians suspected of being part of a Muslim brotherhood cell. The government has attempted to extradite the 11, which sparked UAE officials to question why the alleged Brotherhood members were of greater concern to the Egyptian government than the 350 other Egyptians currently detained in the UAE.

"Centrist" coalition formed

A diverse coalition, headed by Al-Wasat Party, announced in an effort to end polarisation

By Basil El-Dabh

A group of parties with various alignments announced a "centrist" coalition on Tuesday at Al-Wasat Party's headquarters in Moqattam.

The coalition is comprised of six parties including Al-Wasat Party, the Ghad Al-Thawra Party, the Civilisation Party, the Virtue Party, the Reform and Renaissance Party, Al-Asala Party, the Egyptian Current, and the Al-Sarh Al-Masry Party.

Members of each party attended a press conference, announcing that the new coalition would run together in parliamentary elections drawing strength from the moderation that comes from the wide range of political alignments across the coalition.

Chairman of Al-Wasat Party Aboul Ela Madt told reporters that the group's

aim was to overcome the polarisation from which the Egyptian political sphere suffers. He stressed that the list of parties participating in the coalition was not final, and that they were open to other groups that might want to join.

Mohamed Mahsoub of Al-Wasat Party stressed that the group is not only an electoral coalition that will cooperate during parliamentary elections, but stands as a political coalition that will remain united. Mahsoub said the group was also a "cultural" coalition that seeks to capture the spirit of the nation's identity, and move it away from polarisation so that problems experienced by all Egyptians could be the main focus.

Mahmoud Al-Khudeiri said the candidates fielded by the group would represent Egyptian society and would not discriminate against anyone based

on gender, religion, or political affiliation when making its selections.

Hisham Abdel Aziz of the Reform Party claimed the party represented an alliance of Egyptians without discrimination, saying that the group's diversity provides a "bright future" and "great hope" for Egypt.

Al-Asala Party joined Al-Nour Party in the Islamist Bloc in the last parliamentary elections. Al-Wasat ran independently and won roughly 3.7% of the vote. Ghad Al-Thawra and the Civilisation Party were part of the Democratic Alliance with the Freedom and Justice Party, and each won two seats.

The timing for elections for the House of Representatives will be determined by next month, and a new Shura Council will be elected approximately six months later.

Two military trials postponed

Amid protests at military courts, trials postponed until next week

By Rana Muhammad Taha

Two military trials of civilians Mohamed Sabry and Sherif Al-Hosary were postponed on Tuesday until next week.

Al-Hosary's trial was briefly resumed, only to be postponed till 22 January. Mamdouh Ismail, Al-Hosary's lawyer, said that next week's session will be dedicated to hearing the witnesses testimonies.

Al-Hosary was arrested on 19 November 2012 when military intelligence personnel raided his home. He is charged with withholding confidential information about the armed forces on a computer hard-drive; the hard drive was confiscated upon Al-Hosary's arrest alongside other personal belongings.

Bailed out of jail two weeks ago, Al-Hosary is not in custody throughout the trial. Ismail said he was optimistic about Al-Hosary's acquittal.

A protest was held outside the C28 military court in Nasr City, where Al-Hosary is being tried. No Military Trials movement called for the protest, as well as another protest at the Ismailia Military court, where journalist Sabry is being tried.

Sabry's trial was postponed until 21 January due to the absence of prosecution witnesses, reported the Egyptian Centre for Economic and Social Rights (ECESR). He was arrested in Rafah while reporting on the killing of army soldiers in the Sinai. Sabry is charged with being in a military zone and taking pictures of a military facility.

Article 198 of the new constitution prohibits the trial of civilians in military courts "unless they commit charges deemed as harmful to the armed forces".

Additional reporting by Ahmed Aboul Enein

Protesters demand Al-Gizawy's release

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Shereen demanded the immediate halt of the verdict and Morsy's immediate involvement. Al-Gizawy's wife also demanded an investigation with the security.

Earlier this week, the assistant to the minister of foreign affairs Aly Al-Asheery met with Al-Gizawy's family and updated them on Al-Gizawy's case. During the meeting, Al-Asheery received a plea from Al-Gizawy's family to the King

Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to grant Al-Gizawy pardon.

"We are the wronged people and we are the ones who demanded mercy," Al-Gizawy's sister said.

In addition to Al-Gizawy, Egyptian national Islam Bakr and a Saudi national and were also tried in the same case. Bakr was sentenced to six years in prison and 400 lashes.

Smuggling drugs can be punishable by 15 years in prison or even death in Saudi Arabia.

Al-Gizawy's arrest led to ten-

sions between Egypt and Saudi, sparking widespread protests in Egypt. Following the protests Saudi Arabia temporarily recalled its ambassador and closed its embassy and consulate in Egypt.

There are over 1.7 million Egyptians living in Saudi Arabia, making the expatriate community there the largest Egyptian expatriate community in a single country.

Three delegations have travelled to the United Arab Emirates to resolve the recent tensions caused

by detention of 11 Egyptians in the Gulf country. They are accused of being part of a Muslim Brotherhood cell.

Al-Gizawy's sister asked: "I am sorry to say this to the families of the people in the Emirates, but why did Morsy move for you and not move for Al-Gizawy?"

Following her speech, the protesters started chanting for Al-Gizawy's release. Among the chants were anti-Muslim Brotherhood chants.

McCain visits Egypt

US Senator John McCain to meet with Morsy, government officials, and opposition groups during his three-day visit

By Basil El-Dabh

US Senator John McCain arrived to Cairo on Tuesday and is expected to meet a number of Egyptian officials, including President Mohamed Morsy, and opposition figures during his three day visit.

McCain will meet with President Mohamed Morsy, according to state-owned MENA. The senator will also meet with Essam Al-Haddad, Assistant to the president on foreign relations, who met with high ranking US government officials in Washington DC last month.

Members of the Shura Council and opposition figures will also sit down with McCain. He is expected to discuss Egypt's democratic transition and will participate in exchanges with government officials about regional issues, especially the conflict in Syria and the situation in Palestine.

McCain was critical of President Morsy in November after his 22 November constitutional decree by calling it a "power grab," saying the decision "is not what the United States and American taxpayers expect, and our dollars will be directly related to



US Senator John McCain on a previous visit to Tahrir Square in Cairo in 2011

the progress towards democracy," in response to debt relief offered by the US administration to Egypt.

Media spokesperson of the National Salvation Front (NSF) Khaled Dawoud confirmed that the opposition group had assembled a committee that plans to meet McCain.

However, not all parties plan on meeting the US delegation. Media spokesman for Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh's Strong Egypt Party, Mohamed Al-Mohandes, said in a statement that McCain's killing of Vietnamese during the Vietnam war as a US soldier, his support for the war in Iraq, and his "absolute" support for Israel

were good enough reasons for no political forces to meet with the senator.

Al-Mohandes added that McCain's visit last year with the Muslim Brotherhood carried a bad connotation of the US's role in Egypt's internal politics, and enhanced the perception US meddling in Egyptian political affairs.

Hussein Salem seeks reconciliation

RUNAWAY ENTREPRENEUR PROPOSES RECONCILIATION INITIATIVE WITH GOVERNMENT

By Fady Salah

Hussein Salem has proposed a new initiative for reconciliation with the Egyptian government.

A famous entrepreneur, Salem was affiliated with the former regime and fled to Spain after the January 25 Revolution before being accused of graft and owning properties illegally. Now he wants to come home and his lawyer, Tarek Abdel Aziz, has proposed an initiative to allow this.

During a phone interview with Al-Jazeera TV channel, Abdel Aziz said the initiative does not entail Salem paying a specific amount of money to the government. He explained that the initiative is to provide the government with a statement of Salem's funds and assets in Egypt and abroad, in addition to giving them authority to investigate

his assets and bank accounts abroad.

Salem would forfeit a percentage of his assets to the government, retaining a small percentage to "secure his living".

"This applies to all assets and money mentioned in our statement. The government would have the right to seize any money or assets not mentioned in the statement," Abdel Aziz said.

The lawyer claimed that the media had overstated the wealth of former regime figures and their estimates lacked any factual basis. "The exaggeration was encouraged by those who had an interest in escalating the situation," he said. "It is not logical to claim that a former regime figure has a wealth of \$70bn and Hussein Salem has another \$40bn."

He added that this led to unrealistic expectations among citizens, who started calculating the amount of money they would receive after top-

pling the former regime. "The overestimated inflated figures led people to refuse any attempt at reconciliation and instead demanded the execution of former regime figures."

Ramy Ghanem, a lawyer and human rights activist, explained that reconciliation initiatives are legal, adding that, by law, an entrepreneur cannot be imprisoned for graft as long as he accepted to reconcile with the government. "This is not the case for people working within the public sector, who can be imprisoned once they are found guilty of graft," he said.

Of Salem's initiative, Ghanem said it is legal as there is no specific form for reconciliation agreements. He explained that such initiatives are considered by the illicit gains authority, which decides whether to accept or amend them.



Hussein Salem's lawyer proposed an agreement with Egyptian authorities that would allow for an investigation of his assets abroad

Egypt concerned over Mali intervention

Continued from page 1

The spokesperson also reiterated that Egypt is willing to provide financial support to the government of Mali to help it overcome the crisis.

The ministry's statement follows the start of French military intervention.

African-led forces are set to enter the conflict in the coming days with the mandate of a United Nations security council resolution.

On 13 January France launched Opération Serval, which carried out airstrikes on rebel targets and preparing for the African forces to join the operation. The French operation has received logistical support from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Spain, Belgium and Denmark.

French intervention began in reply to a request for military assistance by Mali president Dioncounda Traoré, according to the French ministry of foreign affairs.

The conflict in Mali began in January 2012 between the government and Islamist rebels who seized the north of the country. In March 2012 the Malian military staged a coup d'état which was condemned by the international community. Following



French army soldiers based in N'Djamena, Chad, carry munitions at the 101 military airbase near Bamako, as part of the "Serval" operation in Islamist occupied northern Mali

negotiations, Traoré assumed the presidency and pledged to fight the rebels in order to regain control of

the country. The United Nations reported on Monday: "Over 412,000 people have

been forced to flee the north, and an estimated five million people have been affected by the conflict."

Russia against referring Syria to ICC



A Syrian man stands in the debris following an explosion outside Aleppo University, between the university dormitories and the architecture faculty

Moscow (AFP) - Russia said Tuesday it would be "counterproductive" to refer war crimes committed in the Syria conflict to the International Criminal Court as proposed by dozens of states led by Switzerland.

"We view this initiative as untimely and counterproductive to solving today's main goal -- an immediate end to the bloodshed in Syria," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Switzerland sent a petition on Monday demanding referral from the 15-member UN Security Council -- the only body that can send the case to the ICC but where Russia wields veto power.

The letters' signatories included many European and Latin American nations as well as Australia and Japan.

Only the Security Council has the right to refer the Syria case to the Hague-based court because Syria is not an ICC member.

But Russia, a traditional Syria ally that has vetoed three prior council resolutions sanctioning President Bashar Al-Assad, argued that a war crimes referral could only escalate the crisis.

"We are convinced that speculation on the subject of international criminal prosecution and a search for the guilty will only entrench the two sides' irreconcilable positions and complicate a search for a political settlement of the Syrian conflict," the Russian statement said.

Moscow also once again reaffirmed its support for a Syrian transition plan

agreed by world powers in June that was never implemented because of the fighting.

That deal called for the quick creation of an interim government with full powers. But it never assigned a clear role for Assad and was interpreted differently by Russia and the west.

Russia argued on Sunday that Assad's removal from power was impossible because outside players had no right to meddle in the conflict under the terms of the June pact.

That comment and Tuesday's decision not to refer the Syrian case to the ICC are likely to further complicate Russia's relations with Western and Arab nations that view Moscow as Assad's last meaningful ally.

Gunmen kill four policemen in attacks in Nigeria's Kano

Kano, Nigeria (AFP) - Gunmen have killed at least four policemen in the last two days in attacks in the northern Nigerian city of Kano, which has been repeatedly hit by violence blamed on Islamists, authorities said.

The latest attack occurred Tuesday morning when gunmen opened fire on a police patrol in Kano, the largest city in the country's mainly Muslim north.

"Two policemen lost their lives when some gunmen in a vehicle opened fire on their patrol van around 8am today at Yanawaki area," police spokesman Magaji Maja told AFP.

He said another policeman was seriously injured in the attack, the latest in the city where Islamist extremist group Boko Haram has been active. Maja said no arrests were made as the gunmen fled after the attack.

The attack came after a similar incident on Monday, when gunmen killed two policemen and injured two civilians at a police checkpoint in another area of Kano, according to a military spokesman.

Violence related to Boko Haram's insurgency has left some 3,000 people dead since 2009 in Nigeria, including killings by the security forces.

The group's deadliest ever attack was in Kano in January 2012, when some 185 people were killed in coordinated gun and bomb attacks.

Criminal gangs and imitators however also carry out violence under the guise of the group.

Suicide bomb kills Sunni Iraqi MP and six others

Fallujah (AFP) - A militant posing as a construction worker killed a Sunni Iraqi MP and six others on Tuesday, wrapping his arms around the lawmaker before blowing himself up, as a political crisis engulfs Iraq.

The killing of Ayfan Saadun Al-Essawi comes just two days after Finance Minister Rafa Al-Essawi, a fellow Sunni and a member of the same tribe and political bloc, escaped an apparent assassination attempt as his convoy passed near where Tuesday's attack took place.

No group immediately claimed responsibility, but Sunni militants often target officials and high-profile individuals in a bid to destabilise the government and push the country back towards the bloodshed that raged from 2005 to 2008.

Essawi's killing is likely to further enflame tensions, with Iraq already grappling with a political crisis pitting Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki against Essawi's secular Sunni-backed Iraqiya bloc.

Essawi, 37, had been inspecting a road being paved south of Fallujah when the attacker, who was dressed as a construction worker, came up to him.

"The moment he stepped out of the car to check out this road between Fallujah and Amriyah, at this moment, there was a man," said Sohaib Haqi, the lawmaker's office chief. "He came to him, hugged him, said Allahu Akbar (God is greatest), and blew himself up."

Fallujah hospital's Doctor Assem Al-Hamdani put the overall death toll at seven dead -- Essawi, four of his bodyguards and two civilians. Another six were wounded, including four of the lawmaker's guards.

Essawi was also a former leader of the Sahwa, a collection of Sunni tribal militias that turned against Al-Qaeda and sided with the US military from

late 2006, helping turn the tide of Iraq's bloody insurgency.

He was himself inducted into parliament after another Sunni MP, Khaled al-Fahdawi, was killed in a suicide attack at Baghdad's Umm Al-Qura mosque in 2011.

One MP voiced fears the killing could further raise tensions.

"It aggravates the political conflict," independent Kurdish MP Mahmud Othman told AFP. "I hope these crimes and incidents will urge political leaders to meet and try to find a solution, because there is no other way."

Weeks of anti-government demonstrations in Sunni Arab majority areas, supported by Iraqiya and other groups, have hardened opposition against Maliki, a Shi'a.

The premier is at loggerheads with Iraqiya, which remains a part of his national unity government, over its accusations of Maliki acting in an authoritarian and sectarian fashion in the run-up to key provincial polls.

Kurdish parties and powerful Shiite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr, whose movement counts 40 members of parliament and five ministers among its ranks, have also publicly opposed Maliki.

The demonstrations in Sunni areas have decried alleged misuse of anti-terror laws to detain members of the minority community, and claim Sunnis are being targeted by the Shiite-led authorities.

In a bid to placate the demonstrators, a top minister publicly apologised on Monday for holding detainees for prolonged period without charge and said Baghdad had released 335 prisoners in the past week.

The crisis comes with barely three months to go before provincial elections, a key barometer of support for Maliki and his opponents ahead of a general election next year.

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Van Rompuy: IMF deal will restore international trust in Egypt



Van Rompuy (centre, no badge) poses with representatives of the European Chamber of Commerce in Egypt

By Mohamed El-Bahrawi

The president of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, has underlined the significance of Egyptian-European relations and the critical importance of the IMF loan during a business dinner organised by the Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations (CEEBA).

"The EU continues to support democratic change in Egypt but it's essential to restore faith in this process and trust among political and

social forces. Democracy requires dialogue and inclusiveness as well as respect of the rights and views of others," said Van Rompuy during his speech, stressing that he was not here to give lessons, as each country has its own circumstances.

Chairman of CEEBA, Nader Riad, stated that the democratic process has placed the political agenda at the forefront, which overshadowed the economic one; a problem he hoped would be resolved with the formation of a new House of Representatives. He emphasised the importance of

the private sector in the development Euro-Mediterranean ties, which he described as the fastest way to stimulate the economy and create employment, as opposed to the public sector.

President of the federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce, Ahmed Al-Wakil, stated that the EU is Egypt's number one trade partner and called for the reinforcement of Egyptian-European bilateral relations.

Van Rompuy added: "As we all know too well in Europe, some reforms have difficult social costs and

for the governments involved and finding the best way to implement them is a difficult task. Even more so in situations of high political intensity such as the one Egypt is currently living. Nevertheless, we also know that postponing action is not a good option. The agreement with the IMF will continue to restore international trust in Egypt's financial management, it will open new lines of credit, including from the EU. More importantly, it will establish a solid base for further growth and development."

Delegation of American businessmen to visit Egypt in March

The American Chamber of Commerce in Cairo is set to receive a delegation of American businessmen from the country's medical and industrial sectors this March, in the hopes of increasing joint levels of investment between the two countries.

Gamal Moharam, head of AmCham, said that during the visit the chamber would seek to reach agreements with American investors aimed at injecting liquidity into Egypt's markets, particularly considering recent political events witnessed in Egypt and their effect on the economy.

He emphasised the need to bring about political and economic stability, especially in light of the recent decision of an American company to withdraw a \$100m investment deal as a result of the Egypt's political and economic crisis.

A number of Egyptian and Arab investors have entered into negotiations with a series of financial institutions present at a recent conference hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce in the Middle East, in order to secure the necessary funds needed to expand

their operations in the region's markets.

Abdulrahman Shehadeh, Executive President of the Jordanian company Philadelphia Solar, said that during the conference his company met with a number of international financial institutions such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and that he is close sealing deals worth \$200m.

He added that his company sought this financing for the purpose of constructing wind energy plants in Jordan and Egypt starting next year.

A report by the American Chamber of Commerce in the Middle East said that Egypt ranked fifth in terms of the number of its exports to the United States, at \$2.44bn, and third in American imports at \$4.249bn.

Egypt's exports to the United States have decreased since the signing of the Qualifying Industrial Zone Agreement (QIZ), totaling \$826.5m from January to September 2012, as opposed to \$872.6m from the same period in 2011.

EGX wont implement any high-risk financial instruments

Ashraf Al-Sharqawi, president of the Public Financial Supervisory Authority, said the authority would not allow for stock options, derivatives, futures and other high risk financial instruments to be traded on Egypt's stock exchange.

He added that the refusal to allow these instruments not only stems from the fact that they contradict Islamic law, but also because Egypt does not currently possess the necessary infrastructure to support their exchange.

He went on to say that the stock exchange is not yet ripe enough to begin implementing such instruments, especially considering that many of them were responsible for causing the global economic recession five years ago. He said that right now Egypt would focus on developing and strengthening measures.

He further stated that talk regard-

ing high-risk instruments was nothing but contrived hype for the media.

Regarding the stock exchange agreement that allows the listing of EGX30 futures on contract on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and Liffe in London, Al-Sharqawi added that the agreement stipulated that this would be done in London and not Egypt.

He added that the agreement would make Egypt's index one of the largest in the world listed on London's stock exchange, which also holds the largest amount of Egyptian stock in the world. Al-Sharqawi further went on to say that the agreement would reflect positively on the local performance of the Egyptian index and its ability to secure larger amounts of liquidity from investors via arbitrage between the London and Egyptian stock exchanges.

NREA: Dab'a nuclear project awaits political green light

By Mohamed SalahEldin

Renewable energy and energy projects conceived under public private partnerships (PPPs) were the subjects of the Egypt and Infrastructure Investment and Finance Summit 2013 held Tuesday in Cairo.

The energy issue is of major importance for the Egyptian economy and while a potential source of crises it also offers a lot of opportunities.

Atter Hanoura, director of PPP central unit at the Ministry of Finance exposed some of the PPP projects lined up in the ministry's agenda in the fields of recycling and water desalination beside the Railway line linking the 10th of Ramadan city to Ain Shams.

"Ten to 11 projects will be tendered out as PPPs this year, maybe not all of them will go to the market,

there is a list of studies that must be done before approving a project as PPP," said Hanoura, adding that PPPs are not based on direct orders from the government and are instead made on the basis of cost benefit analysis.

Answering a question on the possibility of using Infrastructure bonds as a means to finance PPPs, Hanoura responded: "The private sector is responsible for financing PPPs, and there is no restrictions on the way it should get it, differentiating between PPPs and governmental financing."

The business development director at Orascom Construction Industries (OCI), Tamer Shafik, spoke about the Kuraymat solar power plant, one of the PPPs projects in which OCI is involved, and what was achieved in the 32 months ending in 2011. He said his company was in-

involved in Egypt's first PPP, the New Cairo wastewater treatment plant and the first independent power producer (IPP) project, the 2,250 mw power plant in Dairut.

He said 60% of their projects are in the field of construction and 35% of their activities are located in Egypt.

Mohamed Omran, the executive chairman of new and renewable energy authority at the Ministry of Energy and Electricity, gave the latest developments of the Dab'a nuclear plant project, saying: "The tender is ready and awaiting a political decision."

He then spoke about the newly established power plants intended to resolve Egypt's energy shortage, including the 2x650 mw plant in Ain Sokhna, the 750 mw power plant in Banha and the Guiza North 2,250 mw power plant.

Daily EGX30 index performance

Company Name	Reuters Code	Sector	Last Price	Close Price	Returns			Daily Performance		Turn Over (EGP Mill.)	Volume Trade	Market Cap. (EGP Mill.)
					Daily	YTD	12-Mths.	Max. Price	Min. Price			
Commercial Bank	COMI	Banks	36.62	36.61	-0.60%	5.90%	80.52%	36.86	36.00	40.65	1,110,156	21,995.89
NSGB	NSGB	Banks	36.23	35.83	-0.03%	1.76%	56.19%	36.23	35.80	4.706	131,328	15,896.33
Ezz Steel	ESRS	Basic Resources	9.94	10.00	-3.47%	0.70%	125.23%	10.25	9.85	12.16	1,215,858	5,628.23
ELSWEDY ELECTRIC	SWDY	Industrial Goods and Services and Automobiles	22.40	21.99	-4.39%	-4.02%	1.24%	22.82	21.02	1.284	58,374	5,138.61
MRRIDIVE	MOIL	Industrial Goods and Services and Automobiles	1.16	1.17	-3.31%	0.86%	-9.00%	1.20	1.15	4.86	633,150	433.66
AIC Contracting	AIND	Financial Services excluding Banks	0.46	0.47	-2.08%	0.00%	-12.96%	0.48	0.46	1.271	2,715,313	256.62
Amer Group Holding	AMER	Financial Services excluding Banks	0.64	0.64	-1.54%	0.00%	12.28%	0.65	0.63	2.36	3,696,683	1,975.80
EK Holding	EKHO	Financial Services excluding Banks	1.29	1.29	-1.53%	0.78%	27.72%	1.30	1.28	5.410	639,060	1,099.48
EGF-Hermes	HRHO	Financial Services excluding Banks	11.07	11.15	-1.93%	1.27%	8.15%	11.31	11.02	18.51	1,660,516	5,438.21
Pioneers Holding	PIOH	Financial Services excluding Banks	4.56	4.64	-4.33%	-4.53%	70.59%	4.79	4.53	5.729	1,235,176	2,425.00
Citadel Capital	CCAP	Financial Services excluding Banks	3.98	4.03	-2.89%	6.61%	56.81%	4.12	3.92	16.63	4,128,663	2,712.93
Raya Holding	RAYA	Technology	5.48	5.54	-1.95%	-2.12%	50.14%	5.65	5.47	0.916	165,328	362.86
Telecom Egypt	ETEL	Telecommunications	14.5	14.55	-0.48%	2.83%	3.12%	14.67	14.42	12.28	843,646	24,957.39
Orascom Telecom Media And Technology	OTMT	Telecommunications	0.56	0.56	-1.75%	1.82%	62.19%	0.57	0.56	14.322	25,485,256	2,990.04
Orascom Telecom	ORTE	Telecommunications	4.05	4.08	-1.92%	2.77%	136.06%	4.14	4.05	28.74	7,035,280	21,822.07
Sidi Kerir Petrochemicals	SKPC	Chemicals	13.02	13.02	-1.96%	-1.74%	4.58%	13.28	13.00	2.319	178,095	6,972.00
Egyptian Petrochemical and Industrial	EPIC	Chemicals	9.7	9.75	-3.37%	-1.71%	7.14%	10.00	9.58	2.08	213,533	699.25
AMOC	AMOC	Oil and Gas	73.10	73.59	-1.89%	0.55%	4.50%	74.40	73.00	0.086	1,166	6,458.36
Juhayna Food Industries	JUFO	Food and Beverage	7.68	7.84	-1.26%	1.95%	106.32%	7.94	7.65	1.98	253,128	5,606.07
Orascom Construction Industries (OCI)	OCIC	Construction and Materials	265.12	267.86	-0.64%	6.14%	24.36%	270.25	265.00	18.996	70,918	56,327.71
Delta Construction & Rebuilding	DCRC	Construction and Materials	6.08	6.16	-2.22%	-1.28%	-23.29%	6.25	6.08	1.01	163,944	145.57
Modern Co. For Water Proofing	WATP	Construction and Materials	1.89	1.92	-4.95%	7.26%	-24.41%	1.99	1.85	2.488	1,293,201	206.04
Palm Hills	PHDC	Real Estate	2.47	2.48	-3.88%	1.64%	104.96%	2.55	2.43	47.30	19,038,826	2,704.67
TMGH Holding	TMGH	Real Estate	4.39	4.36	-4.60%	-1.58%	34.57%	4.50	4.29	25.919	5,940,152	9,430.48
National Real Estate Bank	NRPD	Real Estate	19.34	19.37	-3.92%	-2.86%	1.10%	19.85	19.07	1.62	83,675	78.68
Six of October	OCDI	Real Estate	20.70	20.71	-3.18%	1.87%	141.09%	21.00	20.49	6.491	313,401	1,939.57
El Kahera Housing & Development	ELKA	Real Estate	6.2	6.27	-2.64%	-4.57%	47.53%	6.40	6.11	1.84	293,228	603.75
Arab Cotton Ginning	ACGC	Personal and Household Products	4.17	4.21	-4.10%	-4.32%	85.46%	4.40	4.10	14.757	3,508,536	1,162.54
Oriental Weavers	ORWE	Personal and Household Products	23.13	23.70	0.89%	1.72%	-14.51%	23.95	23.00	1.42	60,078	2,114.10
Egyptian Tourism Resorts	EGTS	Travel & Leisure	1.09	1.10	-2.65%	4.76%	25.00%	1.12	1.07	3.335	3,043,460	1,186.50

Market indices performance

Index	Value	Daily Ch.	YTD Ch.
EGX 30	5,657.08	-1.43%	3.56%
EGX 70	475.90	-2.51%	-0.25%
EGX 100	809.49	-2.03%	1.14%
EGX 20 Capped	6,509.83	-1.80%	2.64%

Market Brief

Markets	No.	Volume	Value(LE)	Trades
Listed	183	111,139,046	436,789,928	23,136
Stocks	179	111,110,235	406,833,370	23,130
PDBonds	3	28,715	29,946,945	3
Bonds	1	96	9,613	3
Nilex	8	462,418	925,788	152
OTC	15	387,824	5,078,145	48
Deals	15	387,824	5,078,145	48
Orders	0	0	0	0
Total	206	111,989,288	442,793,861	23,336

Direction	No.	Volume (000's)	Value (LE 000's)	No. of Trades
Listed stocks	180	111,110	406,843	23,133
Gainers	10	371	7,459	217
Decliners	150	110,384	391,810	22,818
Unchanged	20	356	7,574	98

Blame the "OmniOpposition"

On one level, the domestic and foreign supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt are, ironically, an incredibly impressive propaganda machine for the Egyptian opposition. At least, in terms of their assessment of the power of the opposition. Bassem Youssef, the Egyptian political satirist, declared that after his decree in November, President Morsy should no longer be described as 'President Morsy', but rather, had become 'Super-Morsy'. It seems that according to the supporters of the Brotherhood in Egypt, the opposition should no longer be described as such—it must now be given its true name: 'the OmniOpposition'.

I've labelled it as such because, it seems, it is everywhere — and does everything. The economy is failing? It has little or nothing to do with the fact that the government's economic plan is in desperate need of, well, economic experts. It has little or nothing to do with the fact that the government did not see fit to invest its political capital into trying to push the economy into a more healthy place, and chose to, instead, expend it (and waste it) on political-power issues like the constitution. No: it is the fault of the 'OmniOpposition'. It is they who are responsible for the fact that the economy is hurting, and will likely hurt even more in the months to come. It is they who are responsible for the devaluation of the currency — not the government who is, ahem, governing.

The OmniOpposition, likewise, is responsible for the immensely polarising discourse. Their insipid media is to blame. It's not, for example, the fault of preachers and other supporters of the Brotherhood that has described this as pretty much a modern day religious war, where one side in life and death is on God's side, and where on the other side is; well, on the other side. No, the power of the 'opposition media' is to blame—even though that same 'opposition media' has had guests, many times, from the government and supporters of the government. The state media, where journalists and reporters now fear to even interview members of the opposition for fear of getting into

trouble with their superiors, cannot possibly be that powerful — even while the overwhelming majority of Egyptian citizens get their news from the state media. No, it is the incredibly powerful 'opposition media' — and thus when there are laws being touted to restrict its freedom, they must be excused in order to curb the power of the OmniOpposition.

It is the OmniOpposition that must be faulted, of course, for not fully 'recognising' the legitimacy of the current government, although all leaders of the opposition have made it clear that they recognise President Morsy as, in fact, the elected president of Egypt. By not fully 'recognising' (not quite sure what they would have to do to recognise this fact more), they are crippling the institutions of the state, and causing them not to function. How that is possible is something of a mystery — but the OmniOpposition must be held to account for the failings of the institutions of the state.

The OmniOpposition, it must be said, is responsible for the failure of any type of consensus building, as they have opted not to join to the 'national dialogue' that is underway. Never mind, of course, the fact the public prosecutor (an appointee of President Morsy) ordered an investigation into several opposition leaders for essentially treason. An investigation that came to an abrupt halt when the lawyer who had raised the complaint leading to that investigation withdrew his complaint. Presumably, treasonous activities are so important that not only can be they investigated several weeks after the government's supporters speak of them — but such investigations can be dropped out of a sense of being charitable. Quite.

It is due, one assumes, to the power of the OmniOpposition that complaints are raised by the prosecutor general to actual investigations, even where evidence is somewhat, umm, absent. When it comes to complaints, however, vis-a-vis the supporters of the government, such as the violence outside the presidential palace, the virtual siege by Hazem Abu Ismail supporters on Media City



H A HELLYER

against 'opposition media' (although Hazem Abu Ismail was a guest on such media...) and so on, the investigations are somehow held up. A lot. If ever they take place...

The irony in all of this, which perhaps escapes the supporters of the government, is this: the OmniOpposition is barely an opposition, let alone this powerful. The opposition's leadership was not responsible for the recent protests — they ran after them. They've missed opportunities time and time again, and while they might wish they had more power than they had, the reality is: they have very little. The Egyptian people deserve a better opposition — no question. But in this country, the real loci of power exist in the Muslim Brotherhood, the army, the institutions of the state (which may be loyal to the government or not, but certainly aren't loyal to the opposition leadership), and the Egyptian people. Those who have sought the power to govern, and have succeeded at the ballot box, have the responsibility of government — and cannot explain or reduce the magnitude of their failings by looking elsewhere. Or at least, they won't be fooling the Egyptian people if they try.

Dr H A Hellyer, a nonresident fellow at the Brookings Institution, is a Cairo-based specialist on Arab affairs, and relations between the Muslim world and the west. He was previously senior practice consultant at Gallup, and senior research fellow at Warwick University. Find him online @hahellyer and www.hahellyer.com.

Article 198: "Crimes that Harm the armed forces"

When stressing the merits of Egypt's new draft constitution and the rights it would guarantee the Egyptian people, a 21 December presidency-approved press release noted that Article 198 of the draft prohibited military trials for civilians. Just weeks after the document's approval, journalist and blogger Muhamed Sabry was arrested in Sinai for filming in a military zone; he continues to face the prospect of an unfair military trial today.

Was the presidency looking at an old version of the constitution and perhaps put out an untimely release? Or is the military trial that Sabry faces completely outside of the scope of Egypt's new constitution?

Unfortunately, the answer to neither question is "yes."

A quick look at the text of Article 198 confirms that the presidency's statement was inaccurate and manipulative. While the article does place a ban on military trials for civilians, it immediately qualifies this with the conditional clause "except with crimes that harm the armed forces." Having witnessed the extension of emergency rule in Egypt for legally-ambiguous phrases like this one and the similar presence of conditional statements littered throughout the remainder of the constitution, it does not take a rocket scientist to realise that the condition can be cited in almost any circumstance and that it can and will be used to uphold the interests of the armed forces over those of civilians in any context in which the ruling regime deems acceptable.

Sabry could face up to one year in jail for filming in the Sinai and writing a story on land ownership in border areas. His arrest is especially problematic because the entire Sinai could potentially be re-classified as a "military zone," leading to the arrest of any journalist who attempts to deliver stories from a region that has been dealt with by the government and state institutions with a near complete lack of transparency. Furthermore, while there are rules and

regulations that must be considered with any employment, this arrest sets a dangerous precedent in which a civilian can easily face a military court for simply performing his or her job.

Although Sabry is considered by most to be the first civilian arrested and facing a military trial since the passing of the constitution, he is not alone. Over 12,000 civilians have been before military trials since the January 25 Revolution. While the practice was significantly limited after the departure of the SCAF from power and since the inauguration of President Morsy, at least 38 civilians have faced military trials in five different cases since November 2012.

One of the most prominent cases which remains problematic in the post-constitution context is the issue of Qorsaya island. In November 2012, 25 residents from the island were arrested and are now facing military trial for a variety of accusations, among them "encroaching on army-owned property" and being "present in a military zone." While the ownership of land on the island of Qorsaya has long been contested, two cases in 2008 and 2010 confirmed the ownership of Qorsaya to its civilian residents. Despite this, members of the armed forces attacked residents in November, claiming ownership of the land, leaving at least one Qorsaya resident dead. It is these clashes that have become the basis for the recent trial.

Resolving a land issue between civilians and military personnel with a military court despite two earlier decisions by civilian courts raises serious questions on bias and principles of justice. It is practically inconceivable that a military court would rule in favour of civilians in such a circumstance. Furthermore, in light of the new constitutional language, the self-defence employed by Qorsaya residents against the military personnel is almost certainly bound to be considered "crimes against the armed forces" and the basis for ongoing tribunals.



MAI EL-SADANY

Since the revolution, civilians have faced military trials for a variety of reasons, ranging from painting graffiti to insulting members of the armed forces. Many civilians in such circumstances have not been afforded proper legal representation, they do not see a judge, and often times their families are not even informed of their arrest and prosecution.

In addition to the immense injustices proliferated by a constitutional article which facilitates the presence of military trials, this issue is a historical legal travesty as well. The 1971 Constitution did not mention military trials anywhere in its text and Article 20 of the 1954 Constitution expressly barred the trials of civilians in front of any military and exceptional courts. Thus Article 198 represents even more contextual regression.

There is no doubt that Egypt seems to be degenerating in terms of personal and civil rights in a worrying manner. The arrest of Sabry so quickly after the passing of the constitution and the ongoing human rights abuses that continue under the pretext of respect and sovereignty for the armed forces only serves to confirm this alarming trend.

Ultimately however, most worrying of all is the legal justifiability of this entire phenomenon. And this is only the beginning.

Mai El-Sadany is a law student at the Georgetown University Law Centre in Washington, DC. She is a graduate of Stanford University and is of Egyptian origin.

Has the United States succeeded in taking over the world?

The end of the cold war, or as I like to refer to it, world war three (WWIII), strengthened the positions of leaders who emerged from it victorious, such as former US President George Bush Sr. These leaders promised that a unipolar world would emerge, more peaceful and stable than ever before. This seemed logical, as people's attention post-WWIII seemed to have turned from competing in a worldwide arms race, which helped to drain the riches and resources of a number of countries, to bandaging the wounds of what was a long drawn out conflict. Many analysts and observers felt that a unipolar world would be far better than a polarised one, where two superpowers sought to sabotage and foil the plans and plots of the other. Others however, pointed out that the politics of the cold war had led to the outbreak of a number of regional conflicts here and there, with each superpower supporting and strengthening various actors while seeking to contain others. That being said, these people claim that in a unipolar world, where the United States has and continues to stand unchallenged, there is little incentive for it to work to help bring an end to these conflicts, or engage in serious development efforts in the third world.

Now, nearly a quarter century after the end of WWIII, we must ask: Where do we stand in relation to this

new world order? Do we live in a unipolar or multipolar world? And has this new world order been successful in putting an end to the world's various regional conflicts, such as that between Israel and the Arab world?

I personally do not believe that the new world order has materialised in the form of a unipolar world led by the US, however we also cannot say that what we live in a multipolar world. A more accurate assertion would be that the new world order resembles that of a "shareholding company", where the number of actors operating within the company are many and whose influence is determined by the number of their shares. This process is similar to coalition building in parliamentary systems, where parties are proportionally represented, with no one group being large enough to form a government on its own. In this system, decisions are made by the majority within each coalition, or as a result of agreements reached by its main parties.

Within the board of directors of this company (or this world), the US holds the most shares, and therefore its vote is often the determining factor in most issues, unless of course other powers decide to join together and form a coalition strong enough to oppose it. This hasn't happened once since the end of WWIII, however is still possible considering that Washington hasn't successfully been

able to contain Russia, despite the fact that it is much weaker than it once was. Containing Russia would mean doing so in the same way that Germany and Japan were contained at the end of the second world war, where the "Axis" countries' military capabilities were limited and their economies tied to that of the "free world" and promoting the interests of the US.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia, and a number of countries in eastern Europe, hoped to finally be included in the Marshall Plan that had resuscitated western Europe years before, only to find that the US was unable to live up to their expectations. This naturally led to the rise of leaders like Putin, who sought to assert themselves on the world stage's board of directors and prove that although they may not be as powerful as the US, they could still sabotage their interests and cause problems for them. China too has begun to play a similar role, challenging US economic hegemony in many African countries, despite their strong economic links with Washington.

It seems also that the US relationship with its allies in Europe has finally begun to crack, particularly with regards to issues concerning the Middle East (although the two sides still seem to agree on propping up the Muslim Brotherhood and other political Islamist movements that

have sprung up throughout the region since the outbreak of the Arab Spring). However with regards to the Brotherhood and other movements, I see the interests of the US and Europe eventually digressing once political Islamists decide to mobilise Europe's large Muslim communities and lead them down a bloody campaign of violence against the governments and people of the continent.

So if the world's current board of directors is not united with regards to what it wants, then is it safe to say that it is incapable of living up to the promises it has made with regards to world peace and security?

The response to this question is a resounding "yes", however the lack of strategic unity among the world's board of directors is not the only cause behind its failure to achieve this goal. This is because the board's president, the US, has until now always been the final decision maker in any process, seeing as most decisions made regarding world peace and security have not deviated from that which serves US interests. We can say that within the last quarter century the US has been successful in imposing its will on the rest of the world, often at the expense of its allies and enemies. All this said, it is necessary to determine who is primarily responsible for what we have witnessed in the Middle East and Arab world in the way of repression, poverty and



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armed conflict. Clearly the US bears the most responsibility, however this does not excuse the actions of other players in the region and the extent to which they are also to blame. That said, it is still important to point out that the influence wielded by the US in the Middle East now is far bigger than that of the Romans and Persians in the classical era or even the British and French during the age of colonialism. This is especially true with the coming of globalisation and the transformation of the world into a small, interconnected community.

We believe that the current state of confusion and chaos witnessed throughout the world is the result of the US's policy of pursuing short term pragmatic goals at the expense of developing a long term vision for the future. The US's policy of reaping short term gains is perhaps best

exemplified by their support for the Mujahideen in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union. One must ask: Did at no point during this campaign did anyone stop to consider what this alliance may turn into several years or decades down the road? Could no one have predicted the collapse of the US's financial markets at the hands of those who consistently inflated its worth and ordnance? Could no one have predicted that the systematic deterioration of Afghanistan, even if it did serve to expel the Soviets, would one day help lead to the staggering collapse of the world's most moribund giants, the US?

Considering these questions, we must come to terms with the fact that much of the chaos and confusion that grips today's world may in fact have been planned and orchestrated by the US. Condoleezza Rice in particular was largely responsible for implementing the policy known as "creative chaos", which also leads us to question: Does the US actually seek to spread peace and security throughout the world, and have they failed in that? Or do they seek to gather the world's wealth and resources in its developed north while leaving the south to wallow in poverty and ignorance?

Farid Zahran is a publisher and writer. He is the co-founder of the Egyptian Social Democratic Party



Ultras Ahlawy march from Al-Ahly club in Gezeira to Tahrir Square demanding justice for those who died at the Port Said stadium disaster

Pitched battles

THE ROLE OF ULTRA SOCCER FANS IN THE ARAB SPRING

By James M Dorsey

For decades soccer has constituted an alternative public space in the Middle East. Largely unnoticed by international experts, soccer provided a venue for the expression of pent-up anger and frustration against authoritarianism. By the time the Arab uprisings erupted in December 2010, soccer had emerged as a key non-religious, non-governmental institution capable of confronting repressive regimes.

Nowhere was this more pronounced than in Egypt, where militant, politicised, often violent ultras—organised clubs of soccer fans—played a key role in the protests that forced President Hosni Mubarak to resign in February 2011. Since his resignation, Egyptian ultras have continued to play a prominent role in Egyptian street politics.

The ultras are renowned for their fanatical support of their teams. With displays of fireworks, flares, smoke bombs, loud chanting, and jumping up and down during matches, they aim to create an atmosphere in the stadium that encourages their team and intimidates opposing players and supporters. Like many of their counterparts in Europe and elsewhere, the ultras are fiercely independent, with bans on outside funding, and abide by strict rules that oblige them to attend their team's every match. As in many countries, Middle Eastern ultras are composed largely of young working class men who embrace a culture of confrontation—against opposing teams, against the state, and against expressions of weakness in society at large. Sometimes this culture manifests itself in acts of political rebellion.

For years, ultras in the Middle East have staged frequent stadium battles with the police and rival fans, a zero-sum game for control of a venue they see as their own. States in the region viewed these autonomous, militant groups as a challenge to the regime's monopoly on the means of coercion, and a potentially serious threat to their authority. In the name of public safety they turned football pitches into virtual fortresses, ringed by black steel and armed security personnel.

The ultras, for their part, radicalised in response to the militarisation of the stadium, though they did not always frame their militancy as political. "We steer clear of politics. Competition in Egypt is on the soccer pitch. We break the rules and regulations when we think they are wrong. You don't change things in Egypt talking about politics. We're not political, the government knows that and that is why it has to deal with us," The Guardian quoted a leader of an ultras group as saying (after his group overran a police barricade erected to prevent it from bringing flares, fireworks and banners into a stadium). In recent years, violent clashes erupted almost weekly.

States in the Middle East have long sought to control the stadium symbolically as well as physically. Elites sought to associate themselves with the sport through patronage and micromanagement, rewarding players and coaches when they emerged victorious and firing them when they failed. In late 2009, Mubarak saw an opportunity to fan the flames of nationalism after Egypt's national squad lost to Algeria and failed to qualify for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi was not above associating himself



Photos of those killed in the Port Said stadium disaster hang inside Alexandria's Borg El-Arab stadium at the start of an El-Ahly match

with soccer as well. He adorned the country's stadiums with quotes from his Green Book that explained his idiosyncratic theories of democracy, including the notion that both weapons and sports belong to the people. He appointed his son Al-Saadi—commander of a Libyan military unit that later played a crucial role in his father's failed fight for survival in 2011—head of the Libyan Football Federation. Al-Saadi placed himself in the starting line-up of the Ahly club of Tripoli and pursued a stormy rivalry with the Ahly club of Benghazi, the country's second-largest city, which later led the revolt against Qaddafi. In 2000, he had the Benghazi team relegated to the league's second division, its headquarters burned to the ground, and several of its officials imprisoned for protesting blatantly rigged matches.

In Iran, as well, soccer pitches are political battlefields. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a former soccer player, sought to associate himself with Iran's national team in a bid to curry popular favour, though with limited success. His involvement backfired in 2009, just before presidential elections that sparked nationwide protest, when Ahmadinejad "was accused of 'jinxing' the team, which suffered a last-minute defeat to Saudi Arabia just after Ahmadinejad entered the stadium," according to a US State Department memo disclosed by Wikileaks.

The first uprising in the region erupted in Tunisia in December 2010, after the self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi in the town of Sidi Bouzid. This was not the first time that Tunisians had protested against the authoritarian regime of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Recent years had witnessed strikes, demonstrations, even other instances of self-immolation. In November 2010, weeks before the uprising, Tunisian soccer fans clashed with security forces after a tense championship match between Esperance Sportive du Tunis and TP Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

For more than a decade, Tunisian ultras had forged links with Takriz, a secretive self-described "cyber think tank and street resistance network," founded in 1998, whose name is a street-slang profanity that expresses a feeling of frustrated anger. In 1999, several Takriz activists attended a Tunisian soccer cup match that erupted in violence with scores injured, several fatally. The ultras' militant spirit impressed the activists, who reached out to fan groups and developed a web forum for ultras from different teams. At the end of 2009, Takriz and the ultras decided the time was right to mobilise.

"So we turned up the heat in the

stadiums and started boiling the internet. We decided to fuck everybody," said Foetus, one of Takriz's founders, who identifies himself only by his alias in an interview with Technology Review. They used Facebook to put opposition forces on the spot for being too timid and intimidated. "We had to 'electroshock' them to get people to do that last step. Then we built momentum, momentum, momentum," said Waterman, the alias for another Takriz founder. In the street battles that ensued with security forces in early 2011 in the run-up to Ben Ali's departure into exile on 14 January, in which some 300 people were killed, ultras and members of Takriz formed the protesters' fighting core.

In Egypt some fervent fans of the top clubs had become politicised too. "I made my first steps into politics in 2000," said Mohamed Gamal Besheer, author of *Kitab Al-Ultras* (The Ultras Book), who is widely seen as the godfather of the Egyptian ultras movement. "I was against corruption and the regime and for human rights. Radical anarchism was my creed. Ultras ignore the system. You do your own system because you already own the game. We see ourselves as organisers of anarchy. Our power was focused on organising our system."

Some ultras made contact with like-minded militant fan groups in Serbia, Italy, Russia, and Argentina, developing friendships and in a few instances even long-distance relationships.

Ahmed Fondu, a co-founder of one of the Egyptian ultras, was drawn into the movement in this way. "Soccer is a way of life for me. I made my transition to the ultras on the Internet. I encountered the fans movement. They were about bringing the game back to the fans. I talked to them every day for three or four years, and I'd check the newspapers every day," said Fondu, who met his Serbian girlfriend through his connections with Belgrade ultras. "We are normal people. We love our country, our club and our group. We are fighting for freedom. That was the common thing between the revolutionaries and the ultras. We were fighting for freedom in the stadiums. The Egyptian people were fighting for freedom. We invested our ideas and feelings in revolution," he added.

Less than two weeks after Tunisian ultras and other protesters forced Ben Ali to leave the country, Egyptian ultras followed suit. The first major protest in Egypt was planned for Cairo's Tahrir Square on 25 January 2011. The day before the protest, the two leading ultras groups in Cairo issued statements on their Facebook pages stressing that they were non-political organisations, but that their



Egyptian Al-Ahly fans gather outside the Cairo Police Academy in April 2012 during the trial of officials and rioters arrested after the Port Said stadium deaths

members were free as individuals to participate in the protests. "The group emphasises that its members are free in their political choices," said the statement by the Ultras Ahlawy, supporters of Al-Ahly club.

Privately, both groups told their followers that the demonstration was what they had been working towards in four years of almost weekly clashes with security forces in the stadiums of Cairo. The ultras, unlike most other groups in Tahrir Square, were braced for violent confrontations. "We fought for our rights in the stadium for four years. That prepared us for this day. We told our people that this was our litmus test. Failure was not an option," said Fondu.

On 25 January, Mohamed Hassan, a soft-spoken 20-year-old computer science student, aspiring photographer, and a leader of the Ultras White Knights, led a march from the Cairo neighbourhood of Shubra that grew to 10,000 people. They marched through seven security barricades to Tahrir Square. A group of White Knights, including Mohamed, sought at one point to break through a police barrier to reach the nearby parliament building. "When I see the security forces, I go crazy. I will kill you or I will be killed. The ultras killed my fear. I learnt the meaning of brotherhood and got the courage of the stadium," he said. He pointed to a scar on the left side of his forehead from a stone thrown by police, who stymied the fans' first attempt to break through to parliament. As blood streamed down his face, he regained his courage from the crowd behind him: "They are our brothers. We can do this," he heard people shout.

The ultras' street-battle experience helped other protesters break down barriers of fear that had kept them from confronting the regime in the past. "We were in the front line. When the police attacked we encouraged people. We told them not to run or be afraid. We started firing flares. People took courage and joined us, they know that we understand injustice and liked the fact that we fight the devil," said Hassan.

During the 18-day occupation of Tahrir Square, the battle experience of the ultras was evident in the organisation and social services that they helped to establish. Protesters were assigned tasks and wore masking tape on which they were identified by their role, such as medic or media contact.

The ultras patrolled the perimeters of the square and controlled entry. They manned the front lines in clashes with security forces and pro-government supporters. Their faces were frequently covered so that the police, who had warned them by phone to stay away from

in large demonstrations demanding an end to military rule. Again in November 2011, ultras joined protesters who retook Tahrir Square from security forces, in clashes that left 50 dead and thousands injured. In February 2012, security forces stood by during a brawl after a soccer match in Port Said, Egypt, that left 74 Ahlawy ultras dead.

Egypt's two top soccer competitions, the Premier League and the Egypt Cup, were cancelled in the wake of Port Said because of concerns over violence. Elsewhere in the region, soccer has been suspended for months at a time, from the moment that anti-government protesters took to the streets. In Syria, the indefinite suspension of professional soccer since early 2011 has pushed anti-government protesters, including soccer fans, back into the mosque.

In Algeria, where revolt petered out, at least for now, the regime and soccer fans have reached an informal understanding under which the militants returned to the stadium, where they are allowed to chant their slogans against President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the military, corruption, and the cost of living. These arrangements constitute a fragile stand-off between protesters and the regime, which worries that anti-government agitation could spill out of the stadiums into the streets.

In Egypt, the ultras returned to the streets to demand justice for the victims of violence in Port Said. Ahlawy and White Knights marched through Cairo, chanting "the Ministry of Interior are thugs," "I hear the martyr's mother calling... 'Who will get me my son's rights,'" and "Down, down with military rule," as well as soccer songs. More than 70 people, including nine security officials, have since been prosecuted for the deaths in Port Said. During the trial, the ultras staged a protest outside the Egyptian parliament building, meeting formally with one another for the first time in their history and warning Egypt's military rulers that they would sacrifice their lives to ensure that the instigators of the violence are swiftly brought to justice. They threatened joint action that would "not allow any football activities to resume unless complete justice is done".

Soccer remains a battlefield as well as a prism from which to view social and political dynamics not only in those Middle Eastern and North African nations still governed by autocratic leaders, but also those that have toppled their presidents in the course of the Arab revolts. Militant soccer fans continue to be at the forefront of efforts to ensure that the goals of popular revolts are achieved, or to maintain pressure on governments in countries like Algeria where discontent is boiling just under the surface. The soccer pitch is also, more than ever, a key venue in the Palestinian and Kurdish struggle for nationhood, the assertion of Berber and Iranian Azeri identity, and the fight for women's rights. As a result, soccer in the Middle East and North Africa is likely to remain more than just a game in coming decades.

James M Dorsey is a senior fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies and the author of the blog, *The Turbulent World of Middle East Soccer*. This is an abridged version of an article that first appeared in *Mobilisation*.

LIFESTYLE

EVENTS

FILM

Cloud Atlas

When Tom Tykwer and the Wachowskis collaborate, you have to pay attention. With an all-star cast and the capable minds of those who have brought you cult-classics such as Run Lola Run and The Matrix, you are in good hands.

Bikya Book Cafe
23 Dr. Zaki Hassan street,
Nasr City, Cairo
Tel: (02) 240 466 88
16 January 8pm

Django Unchained

Awesome magazine continues its series of film nights at Bikya Nasr City, with Tarantino's latest Django Unchained. Reserve a spot via phone.

Amici
20 Taha Hussein Street,
Zamalek, Cairo
Tel: 01093323333
16 January 7pm

MUSIC

Eshara Gharby

Egyptian down-to-earth contemporary music with a little dabbling in the fusion genre. Don't miss Eshara Gharby in Downtown's After Eight. Minimum charge is EGP 60.

After Eight
6 Kasr El Nil Street
Downtown, Cairo
Tel: 010 0339 8000
16 January 10pm

EXHIBITION

Mashrou3 Hagar: Art Empowers!

Providing artists who have emerged on the changing scene with the means and expenses to express themselves and funded by the EU and our favourite Darb 1718, the event will feature the work of artists we think you should see.

Darb 17 18
El Fustat
Old Cairo, Cairo
Tel: (02) 2361 0511
16 January 11am

Flowers and jewellery

A painter, a jewellery designer and a florist present their work in a collaborative exhibition by our favourite quirky gallery, Mashrabia. What more could you ask for?

Mashrabia Gallery
8 Champollion Street
Downtown, Cairo
Tel: 010 0170 4554
16 January 11am

What does a drawing want?

What does a drawing want explores the logic behind drawing in a series of scripts, films and art works at Cairo latest art space.

Beirut
11 Mahmoud Sedky Street
Agouza, Cairo
Tel: (02)333 574 23
16 January noon

Quality food, one lettuce at a time



Egyptian Hydrofarms say their method eliminates pesticides and saves 80-90% of water that is traditionally wasted.

By Omar El Adl

If you have to be wearing a mask to be near plants when they are being sprayed with pesticides, how safe is it to be eating them a few days later? A question that is frequently asked by the budding environmental initiatives in Egypt.

Egyptian Hydrofarms is the latest environmental effort that is looking to supply you, and possibly the restaurants you frequent, fresh vegetables that are grown hydroponically and pesticide-free.

"I have been working on the idea for a year now, developing it," said Amr Bassiouny, founder of Egyptian Hydrofarms.

The idea, at its most basic, has been around since Pharaonic times but Bassiouny says so far no one has been able to implement it efficiently.

"The main aim was to implement it in a way that was practical for the market and that could one day produce results on a large-scale."

Today, Egyptian Hydrofarms produces a half ton of lettuce and other herbs, "until we start operating at full

capacity, we are only producing a half tonne of things that are considered lead greens; lettuce, basil, rocket, spinach, etc. Basically, anything that does not grow on a tree, like tomatoes, we either produce or are planning on producing," said Bassiouny.

Bassiouny is also the founder of The School of the Desert, which teaches people how to survive in the desert as the Bedouins have for centuries, and become self-sufficient.

"This project started with me wanting to help the Bedouins after the revolution. With ground water, you run into the issue of the water's salt content rising, rendering it useless for some plants and no good for drinking. Our purification techniques can resolve these issues and conserve much of the water that is traditionally wasted," he said.

Bassiouny says this project can be implemented on a large-scale in Egypt and all around the Middle East, "the issue is that no one has done it in a way that is attractive to the market and that the materials are not readily available, we had to improvise with many of the things we used."

Egyptian Hydrofarms says the word "hydroponics" literally means "working water". They call it the "art" of farming without the use of water and therefore without the use of pesticides. The plant roots are allowed to grow in a nutrient-rich solution which Bassiouny says decreases water consumption by as much as 80-90% compared to traditional farming.

"We also eliminate most of the crawling insects because we use elevated pots, and for flying insects, we only have to spray some garlic solution every two to three weeks, so there is almost no harm to the environment," said Bassiouny.

The farm, located at kilo 52 on the Cairo-Alex road, may be a small-scale effort for now, but the efficiency and sustainability of its idea makes this project something that can grow, and that's exactly Bassiouny plan.

"We want to expand and start setting up the project to those who are interested. We want to provide the know-how to those willing to undertake the project, including the government, and change the way we eat."

Bite Me Cairo: Dining Trends in 2013

By David Blanks

The food and beverage industry in Egypt has gone through an incredible transformation in the past twenty years. In the mid-'90s there were no cafes, almost no fast food, almost no delivery, little fine dining, no real supermarkets, no websites devoted to food, no restaurant reviews and no cooking shows. In the past five years, and especially since the revolution, the pace of change has increased. More restaurants, food courts and food-oriented businesses, like cupcake outlets and gourmet shops, have opened since 2011 than in the previous twenty years combined. Add to this the overall buzz about food in magazines, newspapers, on television and especially via social media and it's a whole new world.

We still have a long ways to go. International trends are still far beyond our horizons. The market is changing, but consumers' tastes in Egypt are still rather conservative. New restaurants are far more likely to feature spaghetti bolognese, escalope pané and grilled chicken sandwiches than chipotle veal chops and oxtail arancini. Yes, we eat sushi now, but we will not be seeing molecular gastronomy, Peruvian cuisine, gourmet vending machines, offal or beer pairings anytime soon.

Still, there are some trends that are growing, some that are dying, and some that I see coming just around the corner. So with all due diligence and in my own modest opinion, I give you the hottest Egypt food trends for 2013.

Leading the trend will be the continued linkage of food and social media. We will see more and more websites devoted to food, cooking and restaurant reviews, more Facebook pages, more Twitter accounts and more events that cater to those who use social media, such as food and music festivals or happenings that feature fashion, food and art. We are going to see new cooking programmes and food magazines too.



Foodist at work

Pop-up chefs tables and supper clubs will also increase in 2013. The pool of cooking talent in this country is growing quickly. There are a lot of new, young chefs already out there and even more who are just now dreaming of going to culinary school; all becoming more enthusiastic and more daring. This talent will need an outlet, and doing new menus for select groups of friends and fans is an obvious option. More private catering companies will begin to appear for the same reasons.

Along these same lines we will begin to see restaurants without menus; places where the chef decides what he or she wants to make that day as opposed to you deciding what you want to eat. I predict the opening of a number of small restaurants with open kitchens and bar-style seating that will appeal to a growing group of well-traveled and adventurous eaters who are digging international food trends.

Along with greater awareness about international trends, health-consciousness and concern about the environment is on the rise. Soon Egypt will have more restaurants that focus on locally-sourced meat and vegetables, organic food, the farm-to-table ethos, slow food and sustainability. Perhaps not in 2013, but in the near future I

hope we also begin to see healthful menus for kids.

Comfort food and street food will also continue to evolve as a market. Sushi is dying. So is our late nod to nouvelle cuisine. Fancy is out. Fun and affordable is in. There will be more small shops devoted to gourmet everything. We've already seen the arrival of gourmet burgers and hot dogs, next will be gourmet pizzas, gourmet roast chicken, gourmet sandwiches and gourmet shawermas. Also in the comfort-food genre I predict the opening of Cairo's first family-style restaurants, where large dishes will be placed on the tables from which everyone helps themselves.

With the merging of lounges and bars, grazing menus will also come to the fore. We will see more mezzes, tapas, and shared appetizers, possibly also of the gourmet variety. The line between drinking and eating establishments is dissolving quickly and I hope to that we begin to see the opening of some cafes with serious attention to their menus.

2013 will witness the opening of more designer restaurants with international chefs in newly opened bed-and-breakfasts and boutique hotels. Old-fashioned hotel restaurant dining is already in decline and there will be ever more local neighborhood restaurants, especially as the economy continues to tank and the traffic gets ever worse.

Also because of the traffic I predict the opening of places that offer delivery-only, high-end, gourmet food as well as Egypt's first food trucks. These are markets that have not been tapped at all and as long as entrepreneurs can get around the permits issue, which I imagine they can, sometime soon you can expect gourmet food delivery menus in your mail and mobile restaurants parked outside your office.

All in all it is going to be an exciting and tasty year. Onwards and upwards.

ON THE TOWN

7 For All Mankind launches its first store in Mohandiseen, Cairo



The new store in Cairo

Quattro opened the first flagship store in Cairo for 7 For All Mankind, the world's premium denim lifestyle brand, in the prestigious shopping district Mohandiseen.

The 100-square-meter boutique is the largest store in terms of space in the Middle East and also the third store in the Middle East after Lebanon and Qatar. The 7 For All Mankind denim collection is displayed on the signature denim wall that can be found in every flagship store. In addition, the newly-introduced ready-to-wear collection for both men and women is accompanied by the new accessories range for the ultimate 7 For All Mankind head-to-toe look. "We're thrilled that our customers can now enjoy our full collection and get the chance to access 7 For All Mankind shopping experience," said Hoda Hosny, marketing manager.

Hilton Worldwide appoints Jean-Pierre Mainardi as general manager for Conrad Cairo Hotel



Jean-Pierre Mainardi, the new general manager, with guests during the reception

Hilton Worldwide announced the appointment of Jean-Pierre Mainardi as General Manager for the award winning Conrad Cairo Hotel. A Hilton Worldwide veteran, Mainardi's hotel management career has taken him across the world from USA to Thailand and China in the Far East and to Europe, including UK, France and Belgium, as well as the Middle East and Egypt, where he served as GM for Nile Hilton.

Christian Grage, Vice President of Operations for Hilton Worldwide - Egypt and Levant, said: "I am delighted to welcome the return of Jean-Pierre to Egypt for this high profile management position. His extensive experience, talent and ability to lead productive teams will undoubtedly help us to deliver the high standards and exceptional service guests expect from Conrad Cairo." Conrad Cairo recently hosted a cocktail reception to welcome the new general manager at Stage One.

BITES FIL BEIT

By Iman Adel Abdel-Fattah

We love food. We love the real, down to earth, tried-and-tested, handed-down-through-the-generations, local Egyptian food. Here is your chance to learn how to make these local delicacies in your own home. And just so you know what to ask for, we have added how to say the ingredients in Arabic. No more excuses, off to the souq!



Kofta

Ingredients

- 1/2 kg minced lamb meat – *lah-ma maf-taa-ma*
- 1 clove garlic, chopped – *tom*
- 1 tablespoon cumin – *kaa-min*
- 1 tablespoon coriander powder – *bad-ret koz-ba-ra*
- 1 teaspoon sumac – *so-maq*
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped – *ba'-daa-nis*
- 1/4 cup fresh coriander leaves, roughly chopped – *koz-ba-ra*
- olive oil – *zeit za-taan*
- salt and pepper – *malh and fel-fel*
- 1/2 loaf bread, wetted – *ay-eesh*

Directions

- Place the minced meat in a bowl and add the garlic, cumin, corian-

- der, sumac, salt and pepper, parsley and fresh coriander and the bread.
- Mix the ingredients together until the spices are evenly distributed throughout the mince.
- Leave to marinate for half an hour. Shape the meat into medium-sized sausages around a skewer.
- Drizzle olive oil over the shaped sausages and rub gently into the meat.
- Season the kofta with salt and grill on the BBQ, or in hot pan with a little oil, for approximately five to eight minutes or until the meat is golden brown.
- Serve immediately with fried potatoes and tehina salad

Weather



Wednesday, January 16

Alexandria	21°C / 11°C
Aswan	28°C / 16°C
Cairo	22°C / 12°C
Hurghada	25°C / 14°C
Luxor	27°C / 12°C
Sharm El-Sheikh	25°C / 14°C
Suez	19°C / 8°C