



# DAILY NEWS

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#### THE SHI'A SCARE

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## Judges' Club boycotts Justice Conference

SHURA COUNCIL DESIGNATES 25 MAY SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF CONTROVERSIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE JUDICIARY LAW

By Nouran El-Behairy

The Judges' Club released a statement on Wednesday announcing that it will boycott the Justice Conference called for by President Mohamed Morsi in April.

"We had specific conditions to participate in the conference," said First Deputy of the Judges' Club Abdallah Fathi.

The club demanded the law they would draft after the conference be presented to an elected parliament and not the Shura Council. They also rejected Prosecutor General Tala'at Abdallah's participation.

The club stated that the boycott was prompted by the Shura Council's decision to present to its members the amendments to the Judiciary Law proposed by some parties.

The Shura Council designated the 25 May session for discussion of these amendments.

"The call for the conference by the presidency was accompanied by statements that indicated the proposed amendments were disregarded and will not be discussed again. This was welcomed by the judges and encouraged them to consider participating in the conference," the

Judges' Club statement read.

The Judges' Club called on the Supreme Judiciary Council (SJC) and the Ministry of Justice to boycott the conference and said any judge who participates would do so in an individual capacity.

The SJC held an urgent meeting on Wednesday and announced that due to the Shura Council's decision, they would stop preparations for the conference.

The SJC said its decision was made after consulting the heads of the Supreme Constitutional Court, the State Council, State Litigation Authority, and the Administrative Prosecution Authority.

"After the Shura Council's announcement we realised the reason behind the conference was passing the controversial amendments," Fathi added.

The Justice Conference was called for by Morsi after proposed amendments to the Judiciary Law caused a rift between the judiciary and the regime.

The conference includes judges, members of judicial authorities and clubs as well as legal experts, professors and lawyers. The participants are tasked with drafting their own judiciary bill which the president promised to endorse when presented to the Shura Council.

## Egypt offers Al-Azhar training for Mali

Al-Azhar offered as part of Egypt's support package for Mali



Mali President Dioncounda Traore holds a press conference after participating in the "Donor Conference for Development in Mali" in Brussels

By Joel Gulhane

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamed Kamel Amr participated in an international donor conference for development in Mali held in Brussels on Wednesday. Amr told the conference that Egypt is willing to activate the role of Al-Azhar "to spread the teachings of tolerance of the true Islamic religion in Mali and the Sahel region".

Ahead of the meeting in the Belgian capital, Amr said in a statement: "The crisis in Mali represents a serious challenge facing peace and stability in Africa." He stressed "Egypt's support for anything that would achieve stability" in Mali.

The foreign minister said the international conference is a prime

opportunity to launch sustainable development projects in Mali. He added that these projects should not only aim to improve the humanitarian and economic situation but also target the "root causes of the issue and end the instability the country has experienced for years".

Amr praised the reconstruction plan put forward by Mali's interim government and outlined the ways in which Egypt can provide support. In a meeting on the sidelines of the conference with his Algerian counterpart, Mourad Medelci, Amr offered to send Al-Azhar envoys to Mali and will welcome clergymen and students to study in Cairo.

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## Opposition marches scheduled for Thursday and Friday

Participants to voice opposition to Morsi's economic policies and commemorate dead activists

By Fady Salah

Opposition groups are set to hold several marches on Thursday and Friday to voice their opposition to President Mohamed Morsi's economic policies and commemorate the recent deaths of activists.

Al-Tayar Al-Sha'aby (Popular Current) is holding several marches on Thursday to commemorate Mohamed El-Gendy and Amr Saad, Al-Tayar Al-Sha'aby members who were killed a few months ago. According to the group, El-Gendy was tortured

by Central Security Forces before he died, while Saad died after being shot.

Marches are set to take place in various governorates, including Cairo, Alexandria, Gharbeya, Beni Suef, Dammanhur, Kafr El-Sheikh, Luxor, Sohag, and Qenna. On their official Facebook page, Al-Tayar Al-Sha'aby said that the Cairo march will set out from Mostafa Mahmoud Square in Mohandessin on Thursday evening, while the Alexandria march will begin at the same time in Saad Zaghloul Square.

The Al-Doustour Party announced that it would hold two marches on

Friday against the newly approved tax law and Morsi's economic policies.

Ahmed El-Shahed, Al-Doustour Party's Mass Action coordinator, said the two marches would head towards the Shura Council through Tahrir Square, beginning in Mostafa Mahmoud Square and Shubra Square.

El-Shahed explained that the marches would declare revolutionary groups' opposition to Morsi's economic policies, including the new tax system and the government's attempts to secure a \$4.8bn loan from the International Monetary Fund.

"Those economic policies will not improve economic conditions for Egyptians. Instead, they'll be an additional burden," said El-Shahed.

According to El-Shahed, the Social Popular Alliance Party, the Kefaya movement, and the Tamarod (Rebellion) campaign will take part in the marches.

Abdel Rahman El-Gohary, the spokesperson of the Kefaya movement in Cairo, confirmed Kefaya's participation in the marches.

The Tamarod campaign and the Social Popular Alliance Party could not be reached to confirm their participation.

## Former housing minister acquitted

Former housing minister Ahmed El-Maghrabi and businessman Mounir Ghabour cleared of illegal land acquisition

By Dalia Ali

Former housing minister Ahmed El-Maghrabi and businessman Mounir Ghabour were cleared by a Cairo criminal court after being charged with illegally acquiring land, state-owned Al-Ahram reported on Wednesday.

El-Maghrabi, who was minister of tourism and later minister of hous-

ing under ousted President Hosni Mubarak, was sentenced in May 2011 to five years in jail. He was charged with helping Sakara for Investment, a tourism company owned by Ghabour, to purchase 18 acres of land for less than the land's market price.

Ghabour was given a suspended one-year sentence and both men were fined EGP 72m, according to Al-Ahram.

The suspects were referred to a retrial after the Court of Cassation overturned the verdict. El-Maghrabi, who is currently serving time in Tora Prison on other charges, was acquitted last month of illegally selling land in New Cairo to businessman Akram Addada.

Addada was also acquitted by the court.

## HEPCA, from diving to development



HEPCA has matured from a small initiative of local dive operators to an NGO that encompasses conservation, development, research and education. Their activities have

spread to other countries and include solid waste management and lobbying for and drafting of legislation. But their focus is still the same, a cause they pursue with de-

termination: the protection of one of Egypt's most valuable resources, the Red Sea.

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Currencies	Buy	Sell
CHF	7.1024	7.64
USD	6.969	6.9991
EUR	8.9516	9.5566
GBP	10.5235	11.2629
SAR	1.851	1.9228

Egyptian Stock Exchange		
	Closing	Daily Change
EGX 30	5,455.74	1.02%
EGX 70	453.61	0.44%
EGX 100	763.28	0.45%
EGX 20	6,268.02	1.55%

أسود أصفر أحمر أزرق





# Workers clash with Petrojet company security

WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN UNEMPLOYED FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS WERE EXPECTING THE COMPANY TO OFFER THEM JOBS

By Hend Kortam

Workers demanding to be reinstated in the Petroleum Projects and Technical Consultations (Petrojet) company projects clashed with company security on Wednesday.

At the time of writing, five workers had entered a company building to hold negotiations with company administration. The rest of the workers were camping out outside the company, waiting to see what the negotiations will lead to.

According to Dalia Moussa, Workers Coordinator at the Egyptian Centre for Social and Economic Rights, 350 to 400 workers showed up on Wednesday at the company expecting the company to offer them positions as company officials had allegedly promised.

On arrival they found several Central Security Forces trucks lined up outside the company premises. They were not allowed to enter and were told that there were no jobs for them.

The workers blocked a major road soon after and clashes broke out between workers and company security. "Company security hosed the workers down with water and threw rocks at them. The workers threw rocks back," Moussa said.

Mohamed Al-Shahat, one of the



Petrojet Facebook page

Workers demanding to be reinstated in Petroleum Projects and Technical Consultations (Petrojet) company projects clashed with company security on Wednesday

workers who was laid off, said teargas was fired at the workers. He said the company premises were damaged, as were two cars near the clashes and

a motorbike that caught fire. He said the arm of one security guard was broken, adding that most injuries were minor.

## Egypt offers Al-Azhar training for Mali

Continued from page 1

The Egyptian minister said that Egypt is ready to help rebuild the national cadres in Mali and establish training programmes through the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa. The programmes will target areas of justice, health, diplomacy, security and military studies.

The conference in Brussels was co-hosted by France and the European Union. Heads of states and ministers from across Africa attended the conference as well as a number of European countries, the United States and regional and international organisations.

Conflict broke out in Mali 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 negotiations, Dioncounda Traoré assumed the presidency and pledged to fight the rebels in order to regain control of the country.

In response to a request for military assistance from Traoré, France launched Opération Serval in January 2013 in order to help combat the rebels.

Both the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and President Mohamed Morsi spoke out against French intervention in January, stressing the need for a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

## Tamarod members briefly detained in Zagazig

By Rana Muhammad Taha

Six members of the Tamarod campaign were detained by campus security while distributing campaign applications at the University of Zagazig on Wednesday.

Tamarod, or 'Rebellion', is a petition campaign that was launched in late April to gather signatures withdrawing confidence from President Mohamed Morsi.

Alaa Al-Din Awad, campaign coordinator in Sharqeya, said the members were forced to sign a document stating that they will no longer distribute campaign applications within university campuses. They were not released until they signed the document.

"We have a second and third line of struggle to work inside Zagazig University," Awad said. "We will not stop distributing applications."

This is the third time Tamarod members were detained while distributing campaign applications on or near university campuses.

The six members belonged to different political movements. Sobhi Matar is a member of Al-Tayar Al-Sha'aby (Popular Current) and the Free Egyptians Party, Youssef Ahmed is a member of the Egyptian Social Democratic Party (ESDP), Gamal Abdel Hakim is a member of Al-Taggamu Party, and Sara

Ahmed is a member of the 6 April Movement, alongside two other unnamed members.

The Supreme Council of Universities banned partisan activities on university campuses in March. The decision banned political parties from conducting any activities or distributing propaganda within universities.

"Sohag prosecution issued a decision allowing the distribution of Tamarod applications within campus," Awad said. On Saturday, at least three campaign members were arrested outside Sohag University while distributing applications.

On Sunday, four campaign members were shortly held at a university security office at Cairo University after distributing applications. It was shortly after the campaign announced it had collected 2,029,592 signatures throughout Egypt.

Tamarod was launched two weeks ago by members of Kefaya movement. The campaign is aiming to collect 15 million signatures before 30 June, the day that will mark Morsi's one year anniversary in power. It is also calling for early presidential elections.

Assem Abdel Maged, a member of the Al-Jamaa Al-Islamiya, launched Tagarod on Sunday to counter the Tamarod campaign by signing a petition to keep the "legitimately elected president in his post".

## Culture minister says he will fight corruption

By Nourhan Dakrouy

Minister of Culture Alaa Abdel Aziz said in an announcement on the ministry's Facebook page on Wednesday that he will fight against corruption and support any ministry employees in need of help.

Abdel Aziz addressed employees saying the ministry will form a committee to look into their demands, assuring them that he is there to make sure that their demands are met.

According to the Culture Ministry's Facebook page, some employees organised a demonstration on Wednesday supporting Abdel Aziz's statement.

The minister's statement came after a march organised by the Egyptian Creativity Front was held on Tuesday demanding the removal of Abdel Aziz.

"The crisis that ministry employees could be facing has never been equivalent to the cultural crisis Egypt is facing," said Abdel Geleel El-Sharnouby, spokesperson of the Egyptian Creativity Front.

Maha Effat, a member of the front, said that Abdel Aziz is addressing the employees to distract from the bigger crisis the Egypt's cultural society is now facing.

El-Sharnouby said that the protest not only demanded the removal of the minister, it also demanded the removal of the cabinet ministers and President Mohamed Morsi.

"All of the concerns we had when Morsi first took office now prove to be right," he said.

El-Sharnouby added that the Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated government thrives for their ideologies to reach all institutions in Egypt.

Effat added that the front is currently organising a conference around mid June to discuss how they can rescue the Egypt's cultural life.

She added that the front is going to be present at a conference to be held at the Press Syndicate on Saturday to further look into the artists' and intellectuals' issues with the ministry.

Some Petrojet workers have not been working on company projects for nearly two years and are demanding jobs. In the past two years, they held several demonstrations demanding to be offered jobs again and have spoken to many officials.

Al-Shahat said the issue was discussed with Prime Minister Essam Sharaf's cabinet and the cabinet of Kamal El-Ganzoury, as well as Hesham Qandil's cabinet. "We knocked on all the doors," he said, stating that he had been working with the company for 10 years.

He said the company says there are currently no projects to employ workers. In a statement released by the company on Tuesday on its Facebook page, the administration said: "In regards to demands by former colleagues to be reinstated in the company, several meetings have been held with the colleagues and the highest level of company administration since the start of the year."

The administration said it is currently attempting to obtain new projects, adding that if all company workers are used in these projects, the laid-off workers can be gradually brought back to work due to their experience and qualifications.

"There is complete transparency in the company," Petrojet said.

## Sayed Fathy passes away

Human rights lawyer made last appearance in court defending an activist on Monday, funeral procession from Lawyers' Syndicate mosque Wednesday afternoon

Human rights lawyer Sayed Fathy died of a heart attack on Tuesday afternoon.

Fathy, nicknamed 'the lawyer of the poor', was the director and founding member of the Al-Hilaly Freedoms Organisation.

A funeral procession for Fathy left the Lawyers' Syndicate mosque on Wednesday afternoon. Several political movements and public figures took part in the funeral.

Fathy was born in February 1968 and graduated from the Faculty of Law at Ain Shams University. After graduating, he worked at the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights.

He was taught by Ahmed Nabil Al-Hilaly, a human and social rights lawyer renowned for defending the poor and Islamist detainees. Fathy established the Al-Hilaly Organisation soon after Al-Hilaly's death in his memory.

Fathy was a founding member of several political movements, including the National Association for Change and the Social Political Alliance Party (SPAP). He was also a member of the Front to Defend Egypt's Protesters and defended several groups of protesters over the last two years.

Fathy had recently been representing the family of alleged torture victim Essam Atta. Atta's family claim their son was tortured to death while detained at Tora prison after being sentenced by a

military court during the rule of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF).

He was also one of the lawyers defending the 26 Qorsaya residents facing military trial. The army attempted to forcefully evict Qorsaya residents in November and violent clashes resulted in the death of Mohamed Abdel Mawgoud Ahmed, who was shot. At least eight other Qorsaya residents were injured.

Fathy was also representing the families of journalists Al-Husseini Abu Deif and Ahmed Mahmoud. Abu Deif was shot while covering clashes near the Presidential Palace in December 2012, while Mahmoud was shot while taking photos of clashes during the 18-day uprising in 2011.

Fathy last appeared in court on Monday, defending political blogger and activist Ahmed Doma. Doma has been charged with insulting President Mohamed Morsi.

Hours before his death Fathy was photographed signing the Tamarod campaign's petition to withdraw popular confidence from Morsi.

Several political movements and human rights organisations mourned Fathy. Former presidential candidate Amr Moussa offered condolences on behalf of himself and the Al-Mo'tamar Party to Fathy's family.

"Fathy died in the middle of the conflict," said poet Mourid Barghouti. "The lawyer of the martyrs is now with them."

## Qandil meets with Libyan prime minister

By Emily Crane

Prime Minister Hesham Qandil has met with his Libyan counterpart Ali Zidane on Tuesday in Cairo. The Libyan prime minister was visiting Egypt as the head of a high-level delegation sent to continue discussions on improving bilateral relations between the two countries.

Qandil and Zidane discussed increasing economic cooperation between the two states and the important role that Egyptian companies have to play in rebuilding Libya, particularly in the domains of construction and infrastructure, as well as ways to promote trade and encourage investments.

In April, Egypt found itself on the receiving end of the financial assistance,

when Libya agreed to grant Egypt a \$2bn Islamic low-interest loan to help battle the country's economic crisis.

In the spirit of promoting trade, the two prime ministers discussed the possibility of establishing a free trade zone between the Egyptian city of El-Alamein and the Libyan city of Tobruk.

The meeting also addressed the situation on the Egyptian-Libyan border and the matter of Egyptian workers in Libya. Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently reported estimates that 4,000 Egyptians have illegally entered Libya so far this year. Hundreds have been deported every month, posing a burden for the consular section of the Egyptian embassy to Libya

and detracting from their ability to serve the Egyptian citizens who are in Libya lawfully, according to Amr Roshdy, spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry.

The two countries signed a cooperation agreement last month to crack down on a variety of border security issues, including illegal immigration, illegal fishing operations, and drugs and weapons trafficking. The United Nations recently released a report voicing concerns over the high numbers of weapons smuggled across the border to Sinai and then on to Gaza, Syria, and the horn of Africa into the hands of insurgents, terrorist groups, and drug trafficking networks.

Additional reporting by Luiz Sanchez and Joel Gulhane.

## Alexandria Media Forum begins

By Salma Hegab

The Alexandria Media Forum on "Local Media and Development" began on Tuesday in Pharos University in Smouha.

The Swedish Institute in Alexandria and Alex Agenda magazine organised the forum to promote efficiency and professionalism in journalism for local newspapers, youth magazines, media training initiatives, video journalism and citizen journalism.

Several media entities are sponsoring the forum including Daily News Egypt, Al Masry Al Youm and the Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression.

The forum began with a discussion between Swedish ambassador Birgitta Holst Alani, Faculty of Mass Communication Dean at Pharos University Fawzy Abdel Ghani, Public Authority for Information Service Chairman Mohamed Badr Al Din and the forum's executive chairman, Ahmed Esmat.

Following the introductory talks, an open debate titled "Local media: Its successes and failures" was held between the chairman of Dar Akhbar El-Yom, Deputy Editor in Chief Abdel Hakim Al Aswany, and Editor in Chief of Amwag newspaper Hosam Abdel Qader.

The Alexandria Media Forum will host discussions and workshops led by professional trainers in local media administration, journalistic writing, and online media mechanisms. The forum ends on Thursday.

## Morsi celebrates harvest festival



Presidency Handout

President Mohamed Morsi delivered a speech in celebration of the harvest festival from a wheat field in Alexandria. He said that Egypt aims to reach self sufficiency in wheat production within four years





# POLITICS

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## Convoy heads to Rafah to commemorate Nakba

*'Crowds on the Borders' convoy hold a press conference in solidarity with the Palestinians*

By Nouran El-Behairy

A convoy left Giza for the Rafah Border Crossing on Wednesday to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Nakba, remembering the displacement of Palestinians after the state of Israel was established in 1948.

The "Crowds on the Borders" convoy set off at 7am from Lebanon Square in Giza, carrying about 100 passengers.

"We will hold a press conference on the border to show that post-revolution Egypt is supportive of the Palestinian cause," said Ayman Amer, the official spokesperson of the Arab Spring Coalition, one of the organisers of the convoy.

He added that more participants will join the convoy in Al-Arish, including leading members of the Al-Karama Party.

"We have no intention of crossing the border, we're a peaceful convoy and we don't want to cause any trouble," he said.

Amer added that they were stopped by security forces near Al-Salam Bridge, but were able to move on after half an hour.

The convoy called on Fatah and Hamas to achieve reconciliation. "We



"Crowds on the Borders" convoy carried about 100 passengers to the Rafah Border Crossing to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Nakba

want Nakba Day to also be remembered as the day of Palestinian reconciliation," Amer said.

The Islamic Jihad movement is one of the main organisers of the convoy. The Islamic Party, the Revolutionary Front, the National Group to Support the Palestinian People, and the Omatna movement are among the participants.

"Zionists are our main enemy and resisting them to free the land is our first choice," read a statement released on Wednesday by the Al-Tayar Al-

Sha'aby (Popular Current).

They stated that Arab regimes had compromised Palestinian rights under the cover of the Arab League. The statement also condemned the lack of Egyptian and Arab support for the Palestinian cause.

"The declining role of Egypt in supporting the cause suggests that the Egyptian regime is unaware of the effect of Egypt's policies at the Arab, regional, and international levels," the statement read.

## Al-Jamaa Al-Islamiya launches anti-sectarian campaign

*Prominent Islamist group and its political wing announce initiative to reach out to Copts*

By Basil El-Dabhi

Islamist group Al-Jamaa Al-Islamiya will focus efforts to end sectarian strife, said leaders and members of the group's political wing the Building and Development Party (BDP) in a press conference on Wednesday.

The initiative called "One Nation and Coexistence" will seek to devise solutions for sectarian issues through dialogue.

Khaled Al-Sherif, media spokesman for the BDP, said that Al-Jamaa Al-Islamiya and its political party had worked to create unity in the country.

Al-Sherif also claimed the initiative was part of the country's efforts to complete the goals of the revolution and said the group would seek dialogue with churches, Coptic businessmen, and other members of the country's Christian community.

The initiative came from a desire to ease tensions between Copts and Muslims, and takes place in the face of failed attempts to generate fabricated crises between different factions of

society, claimed Tarek Al-Zomor, head of the BDP's political bureau.

Mufti of the group Abdel Qader Hammad added that the oppression of non-Muslims was forbidden in Islam by the Prophet Mohammad. Hammad blamed secularists for driving a wedge between Egyptian Muslims and Copts.

Chairman of the BDP Nasr Abdel Salam said his party had decided to undertake the initiative to "reassure Copts of their presence in Egypt and to confirm that Al-Jamaa Al-Islamiya accepts Copts because they are partners in the homeland".

Essmat Al-Sawy, coordinator of the party's Coptic affairs, said the initiative would build a "preventive strategy" to sectarian issues and build strong communication between people throughout the country.

Al-Jamaa Al-Islamiya claimed responsibility for a number of attacks in the 1990s and participated in the intimidation of Christian communities, especially in Upper Egypt, before the leaders of the group denounced violence in 2003.

## ANHRI: Blasphemy and insult charges most common freedom of expression violations

*Report says Lebanon and Mauritania saw least violations, while Saudi Arabia and Syria saw most*

By Nourhan Dakrouy

A report released on Wednesday by the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI) states that accusations of blasphemy and insulting President Mohamed Morsi are the most common violations of freedom of expression in Egypt.

In their report, ANHRI detailed the most common violations of freedom of expression in Arab countries in 2012. The countries with the least violations were Lebanon and Mauritania, while the countries with the most violations were Saudi Arabia and Syria.

Egypt came in third place, tied with Palestine and Tunisia.

The report listed violations that occurred when the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) was in power, and violations that have occurred since Morsi took office.

## NSF condemns Suez Canal draft law

*National Salvation Front raises five major concerns with proposed law regulating Suez Canal regional development*

By Emily Crane

The National Salvation Front (NSF) released a statement condemning the Suez Canal Development Project draft law, saying that it would lead to the loss of Egyptian lands to an institution with no restrictions or systems of accountability.

In the statement, the NSF brought forth five major concerns with the draft law. The first concern was that the law authorises the creation of the General Authority for the Development of the Suez Canal, an institution proposed by the president that would go behind the back of the government and would be outside the reach of parliamentary accountability.

The law also grants the proposed governing authority absolute power in the region, above that of the state, and opens up the possibility to extend this governing body's jurisdiction to surrounding provinces as well, stating that "the president of the republic is the one who shall determine the dimensions and boundaries... of the authority's jurisdiction".

The NSF was also concerned that

this proposed governing body would be taking cherished pieces of land from under the jurisdiction of the state and placing them in the hands of an institution with no connection to parliament, with the only proposed system of accountability being an annual report. According to Article 13 of the bill, this would include lands that are currently privately owned. What is even more worrying is that the president would have unilateral control over this body.

The bill also grants a ten-year tax exemption to investors in the region despite studies, the NSF said, showing that this is not a feasible way to promote investment, and the fact that such tax-breaks have not been used in the rest of the world for the last two decades.

The NSF's biggest concern was that the bill makes no mention of laws regulating work in the region or protecting workers' rights once the power has been transferred to this new governing body.

Constitutional expert Ibrahim Darwish shared the NSF's concerns, saying that it goes against the constitution and poses a threat to the secu-

rity and well-being of the country. A major concern, he said, was that the law would effectively create a "state within a state", referring to the proposed governing authority.

However, Prime Minister Hesham Qandil denied the creation of a "state within a state" in a speech on Monday. He was referring to rumours that the law would give sovereignty over the region to investor states such as Qatar, and was not speaking of the creation of a proposed governing body.

No contracts signed with investors will affect the sovereignty of the Egyptian state in the region, Qandil affirmed. Furthermore, the government has consulted with the military to assure that national security will not be compromised by any of the proposed development projects.

Minister of Housing Tariq Wafiq confirmed that the proposed law gives no right to ownership to either Egyptians or foreign investors but would issue licences to investors on a usufruct basis for up to 25 years at a time.

Additional reporting by Lamia Nabil and Hend El-Behary

### Clashes on 65th anniversary of the Nakba



A Palestinian throws a petrol bomb towards a digger of the Israeli army during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers at the gate of the Ofer prison after a march marking the 65th Nakba Day or "Day of Catastrophe" in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

## Zaazou defends Iranian tourism

*Minister of Tourism Hisham Zaazou sees Iranian tourism as a new opportunity for Egypt's tourism sector*

Other Sunni countries have hosted Iranian tourists for years with no issues, said Minister of Tourism Hisham Zaazou.

"The Iranian market produces 10 million tourists annually," said Zaazou in an interview on satellite channel El-Balad. "Sunni Turkey received in 2011 1,900,000 of them," he said. "We didn't hear about any problems."

He further pointed to Gulf States, which have deeper political issues with Iran than Egypt, saying they have managed to receive Iranian tourists with no serious problems and also pointed to far eastern countries like Malaysia that also hosts Iranians.

Zaazou also highlighted that Egypt welcomes tourists from countries like India, where other religions are practiced, and it hasn't negatively impacted the country.

He further stressed that Iranian tourists would have to maintain a specific itinerary in the country that would not inflame religious tensions with Egypt's Sunni majority.

If Egypt managed to attract 200,000



Minister of Tourism Hisham Zaazou claims Egypt has seen a steady rise in tourists over the past year

Iranian tourists, it would bring Egypt between \$200m and \$250m by the minister's estimation. "Who is going to spread the Shi'a doctrine in Egypt

while sitting on the beach in a swimsuit?" asked Zaazou.

The minister said tourism in Egypt was on the upswing, claiming that

2012 saw a 17.4% increase in tourists from 2011. He added that more tourists came from Russia than any other country, 709,000 of which came

to Egypt in January of this year alone.

He indicated that growing cases of sexual harassment was damaging the country's reputation and tourism, saying his ministry had been working with Egyptians working in the tourism industry to help fight harassment of tourists. He stressed the importance of taking strong legal measures against harassers.

Zaazou was attacked earlier this week by Salafi lawmakers, who claim that Iranian tourism poses a threat to Egypt.

Accepting Iranian tourists into Egypt has been a contentious issue among some Islamist factions. Ahmed Nasr Al-Din of the Salafi Al-Nour Party said Shi'as posed a national security threat to the country. The Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party has taken a softer stance. Party member Gamal Heshmat called on the matter to be brought to the High Scholars Authority of Al-Azhar, saying: "Tourism must take place outside the confines of culture, doctrine, or tradition within Egypt."

Violating the right to peaceful public assembly also occurred after Morsi came to power, the report stated

According to ANHRI, SCAF violated freedom of expression through the arrest of political activists, including the arrest of 6 April Movement members for displaying anti-SCAF posters on charges of insulting the country.

Violating the right to peaceful public assembly also occurred after Morsi came to power, the report stated.

According to the report, police forces attacked protesters during a sit-in at Nile University on 17 September 2012.

The sit-in was organised by Nile University students in protest at the decision to hand over the campus to Zewail City for Science and Technology.

The media had been restricted under both Morsi and SCAF, the report said.

Media figures and journalists such as Ibrahim Eissa have been accused of blasphemy and contempt of religion, ANHRI said.

Eissa was accused of insulting the Quran and of blasphemy due to statements he made on his daily show on Al Kahera Wal Nas channel.

According to the report, other journalists opposing the president and his party were prevented from publishing their articles.

Other violations of human rights in Egypt, according to ANHRI, include restrictions on travelling or entering the country, imprisonment of those accused of insulting the president, and firing people for holding or expressing different opinions and points of view.

FCMC 9788/2012	
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION MATRIMONIAL CAUSES NO. 9788 OF 2012	
BETWEEN	
HE AIXIU	Petitioner
and	
MOHAMED SALAH SOLIMAN AZZAZI	Respondent
<b>NOTICE</b>	
A DIVORCE PETITION HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE UNDERMENTIONED MOHAMED SALAH SOLIMAN AZZAZI, who may apply to the Family Court Registry at the M2, Wan Chai Law Courts, Wan Chai Tower, No.12, Harbour Road, Hong Kong for a copy of the Petition. If within one month he has not communicated with the Registry, the Court may hear the case in his absence.	
Registrar	
To be advertised as follows:-	
Once in HK Standard, an English newspaper published and circulating in Hong Kong and once in Daily News Egypt, an English newspaper published and circulating in Egypt.	





# Supreme Constitutional Court: clauses in tax law are unconstitutional

By **Nada Badawi**

The Supreme Constitutional Court (SCC) ruled yesterday that clauses in the tax law are unconstitutional. The court said that certain clauses in the law do not specify criteria to govern the actions of authorities, which violates the 1971 constitution under which the law was issued.

"This is a very old law and it is too soon to judge now," said Ashraf Badr El-Din, a Freedom and Justice Party member from the economic committee.

The SCC was unavailable for comment.

The Shura Council approved a new

income tax law that will increase taxes on high-income earners and companies, while reducing taxes for lower income brackets.

The new tax law will widen the top tier tax bracket of 25% tax, formerly for those earning above EGP 10m, to include those earning EGP 250,000.

Those earning less than EGP 5,000 per annum will continue to pay no taxes.

A number of economy experts described the Shura's new income tax law "compliant" with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the global lender had previously asked the government to reduce its budget deficit.

The budget deficit is expected to

reach 11.5% of the country's GDP in the fiscal year ending in June.

Financial expert Magdy Tolba said that the law was crucial for the Egyptian government to obtain the hoped for \$4.8bn loan from the IMF.

Companies will also be subjected to a unified tax rate of 25%, compared to the present law taxing those earning less than EGP 10m per year at 20%.

Analysts viewed the income tax law as a quick method for the Muslim Brotherhood to garner support before the coming elections.

In addition, they viewed this as a golden opportunity for President Mohamed Morsi to show his commitment to achieving social justice

and income equality.

The previous law charged 10% for those earning from EGP 5,000 to EGP 20,000; 15% for those earning between EGP 20,000 and EGP 40,000; 20% for those earning between EGP 40,000 and EGP 10m; and 25% for those earning above EGP 10m.

The new law requires Egyptians who earn between EGP 30,000 and EGP 45,000 to pay the 15% tax rate, while those who earn between EGP 45,000 and EGP 250,000 will now pay 20%, and those earning over EGP 250,000 will pay 25%.

The new tax law, which needs to be ratified by Morsi, will come into effect within one month of final approval.

## Health Minister lists 18 licenced bottled water companies

*Ministry of Health: Don't drink unlicensed bottled water*

By **Hend El-Behary**

The Ministry of Health's Supreme Committee for Water has licenced the products of only 18 mineral water companies, Health Minister Mohamed Moustafa Hamed said, according to a report on state-run news agency MENA.

These companies include Hayah, Safy, Aqua, Siwa, Siwa Aman, Siwa Nahl, Organica, Aqua Sky Mineral, Vera, Nestle, Baraka, Aquafina, Baraka Alfa, Tiba, Dasani and Aqua Yaris.

The ministry has also renewed its call to close underground wells that are used by some bottled mineral water companies, after it discovered the presence of contaminants and



The health minister urged Egyptians to buy water only from licenced companies

living protozoa in samples taken from these wells.

Hamed said the ministry conducts periodic campaigns to collect unlicensed products and takes legal actions against them as part of its role in protecting people from exposure to polluted food, drink and air.

The health minister also urged Egyptians not to buy bottled mineral water products outside the mentioned 18 brands.

Mineral water traders believe that there is currently a crisis in the availability of bottled mineral water in the domestic market, with many claiming that production companies have decreased their supply to the market by 25% since last year.

## Arab Moltaqa Investments Company witnesses growth in first quarter of 2013

*AMIC announced its standalone financial results for the first quarter ending 31 March*

Arab Moltaqa Investments Company's (AMIC) financial statements, prepared in accordance with Egyptian Accounting Standards, showed that total standalone revenues for the first quarter of 2013 reached EGP 18.4m.

This is an increase of EGP 12.1m in comparison to the first quarter of 2012, when revenues hit EGP 6.3m.

"Despite the continued economic malaise and the slowdown of the Egyptian economy, AMIC has witnessed a surge in its bottom line

during the first quarter of 2013," managing director Khaled Abou Heif said.

Revenues from subsidiaries distribution increased by EGP 13.9m in the first quarter of 2013 reaching EGP 16.8m.

"The reason for this upsurge is due to the increase of AMIC's share in A.T. Lease distributions from 10% to 90% after the acquisition that took place in 2012 through a share swap," the company explained in a press release.

AMIC's expenses, on the other hand, reached EGP 1.6m in the first quarter of 2013, with a limited increase of EGP 111,000 when compared to the same period of 2012.

"Among the reasons for this increase is the depreciation of the fixed assets as a result of additions and improvements that took place at AMIC's headquarters, as well as various equipment added," the release explained.

Abou Heif said that net profit after tax for the first quarter of 2013

stood at EGP 17.4m against EGP 5.7m for the same period in 2012. This is an increase of 205%.

AMIC capital reached EGP 197.9m in March 31, an increase of EGP 74.9m when compared with the same period in 2012, which recorded EGP 123m in capital.

The release stated that the increase comes after the actual ownership transfer of 15,999,900 of A.T. Lease's shares as a result of the 80% acquisition of A.T. Lease valued at EGP 307,998,075.

## Cabinet division over fuel subsidies programme



Large queues form around a gas station in Cairo

By **Mustafa Salih**

Recent statements made by the petroleum minister regarding the fuel subsidies programme have caused intense controversy within Prime Minister Hesham Qandil's government.

Petroleum Minister Sherif Hadarra made several statements regarding repeated postponements of the restructuring of Egypt's fuel subsidies programme, particularly for diesel and other petroleum products. The statements specifically addressed the government's new plan of limiting fuel rations to consumers.

This has come amongst speculation that implementation of this last step will be postponed until the commencement of Egypt's parliamentary elections, due to the decrease in popularity of the Freedom and Justice party. Rampant increases in inflation in addition to repeated lapses in security have affected all sectors of society, as well as increased unemployment throughout Egypt, particularly in the country's tourism sector, Hadarra said.

Officials from the Ministry of Petroleum discussed plans yesterday to implement the country's new smart card programme for the distribution of petroleum products, set to take effect for diesel purchases in July and August for gasoline. Such a programme will be implemented by the electronic payment company E-Finance, and will reportedly not put minimum or maximum limits on the amount consumers can purchase.

Previously, the ministry had limited the monthly fuel consumption rates

for individual vehicles to 150 litres of gasoline a month for personal vehicles, 900 litres for taxis, 1,800 litres of diesel for minibuses and pickup trucks, 3,000 litres for minivans, and 7,800 litres for full-sized buses.

Petroleum expert Ibrahim Zahran stated that the ministry's failure to reduce spending on petroleum subsidies or implement a plan for rationing has prevented the government from being able to obtain reliable data regarding fuel use by individual consumers, at a time when elections for the House of Representatives are nearing, and the popularity of the Freedom and Justice Party is decreasing among the Egyptian public.

He further criticised the recent appointment of Hadarra as petroleum minister, saying that his selection was solely the result of his being a member of the Freedom and Justice Party.

Samir Azar, undersecretary of finance to the Ministry of Petroleum, stated that the implementation of Egypt's smart card programme set to take effect at the beginning of July will seek to reign in smuggling and better regulate trade in petroleum products. Such a programme will inevitably cause a large amount of subsidies to be directed towards petroleum products.

Mahmoud Nazem, secretary for the Ministry of Petroleum, stated that he will soon host an all inclusive dialogue with all of the country's political parties regarding petroleum rations distributed to citizens, taking into account the individual citizen's consumption patterns.

### Daily EGX30 index performance

Company	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	34.25	34.03	1.83%	-1.56%	30.83%	34.45	33.47	38.78	1,139,605	20,057.43
NSGB	NSGB	Banks	27.80	27.94	-0.68%	-20.65%	-8.42%	28.10	27.58	0.377	13,501	12,476.66
Ezz Steel	ESRS	Basic Resources	10.15	10.03	2.45%	1.01%	40.67%	10.20	9.78	34.81	3,470,492	5,318.56
ELSWEDY ELECTRIC	SWDY	Industrial Goods and Services and Automobiles	20.78	20.00	-1.62%	-12.70%	-16.04%	20.78	20.00	60.412	3,020,321	4,542.09
MRRIDIVE	MOIL	Industrial Goods and Services and Automobiles	1.1	1.09	-0.91%	-6.03%	-11.38%	1.10	1.09	0.57	75,450	394.24
AIC Contracting	AIND	Financial Services excluding Banks	0.47	0.47	0.00%	0.00%	-14.55%	0.47	0.46	1.115	2,373,683	251.27
Amer Group Holding	AMER	Financial Services excluding Banks	0.56	0.56	0.00%	-12.50%	-17.65%	0.57	0.56	0.37	666,201	1,702.23
EK Holding	EKHO	Financial Services excluding Banks	1.15	1.15	0.00%	-10.16%	5.50%	1.16	1.14	1.397	174,684	965.19
EPG-Hermes	HRHO	Financial Services excluding Banks	9.97	9.93	2.27%	-9.81%	-18.81%	10.07	9.78	54.32	5,470,470	4,644.24
Pioneers Holding	PIOH	Financial Services excluding Banks	4.15	4.14	0.98%	-14.81%	2.22%	4.17	4.10	2.252	543,579	2,050.00
Citadel Capital	CCAP	Financial Services excluding Banks	3.56	3.59	1.41%	-5.03%	14.33%	3.61	3.56	9.20	2,562,357	2,314.16
Raya Holding	RAYA	Technology	5.45	5.47	0.74%	-3.36%	4.39%	5.53	5.44	1.118	204,243	348.73
Telecom Egypt	ETEL	Telecommunications	13.6	13.59	1.72%	-3.96%	4.94%	13.65	13.40	14.27	1,050,308	22,806.48
Orascom Telecom Media And Technology	OTMT	Telecommunications	0.50	0.50	0.00%	-9.09%	27.64%	0.51	0.49	4.128	8,253,518	2,622.85
Orascom Telecom	ORTE	Telecommunications	4.68	4.71	1.07%	18.64%	42.30%	4.76	4.67	35.72	7,579,848	24,444.92
Sidi Kerir Petrochemicals	SKPC	Chemicals	12.75	12.74	0.16%	-3.85%	-0.55%	12.76	12.70	1.033	81,125	6,678.00
Egyptian Financial and Industrial	EFIC	Chemicals	9.64	9.57	1.92%	-3.53%	-10.31%	9.64	9.46	2.78	290,643	650.74
AMOC	AMOC	Oil and Gas	67.49	67.24	0.28%	-8.13%	-21.39%	67.50	66.96	0.295	4,392	5,773.01
Juhayna Food Industries	JUFO	Food and Beverage	9.4	9.40	0.75%	22.24%	113.64%	9.45	9.30	2.05	217,918	6,587.48
Orascom Construction Industries (OCI)	OCIC	Construction and Materials	241.15	241.20	-0.25%	-4.42%	-12.59%	242.75	240.55	10.705	44,381	50,521.31
Delta Construction & Rebuilding	DCRC	Construction and Materials	5.93	5.98	0.84%	-4.17%	5.10%	6.00	5.92	0.42	70,875	137.02
Modern Co. For Water Proofing	WATP	Construction and Materials	1.74	1.73	0.58%	-3.35%	-41.36%	1.74	1.72	1.131	653,851	175.44
Palm Hills	PHDC	Real Estate	2.36	2.37	3.95%	-2.87%	24.74%	2.41	2.29	72.36	30,499,096	2,390.17
TMG Holding	TMGH	Real Estate	4.14	4.14	2.73%	-6.55%	-4.39%	4.18	4.07	34.446	8,315,977	8,316.16
National Real Estate Bank	NRPD	Real Estate	17.55	17.56	1.21%	-11.94%	-8.78%	17.89	17.43	0.79	45,145	67.71
Six of October	OCDI	Real Estate	21.00	21.01	2.09%	3.34%	23.73%	21.15	20.80	10.692	508,947	1,866.12
El Kahera Housing & Development	ELKA	Real Estate	6.34	6.39	0.79%	-2.74%	41.06%	6.40	6.34	1.53	238,880	594.38
Arab Cotton Ginning	ACGC	Personal and Household Products	3.66	3.65	2.24%	-17.05%	35.69%	3.67	3.60	9.276	2,543,171	945.39
Oriental Weavers	ORWE	Personal and Household Products	22	21.66	1.12%	-7.04%	20.07%	22.14	20.83	0.38	17,616	1,927.80

### Market indices performance

Index	Value	Daily Ch.	YTD Ch.
EGX 30	5,455.74	1.02%	-0.12%
EGX 70	453.61	0.44%	-4.92%
EGX 100	763.28	0.45%	-4.63%
EGX 20 Capped	6,268.02	1.55%	-1.17%

### Market Brief

Markets	No.	Volume	Value(LE)	Trades
Listed	177	96,292,015	1,168,603,641	16,950
Stocks	170	95,610,304	473,076,472	16,939
PDBonds	7	681,711	695,527,169	11
Bonds	0	0	0	0
Nilex	8	423,974	1,149,566	155
OTC	10	851,534	1,291,942	129
Deals	7	29,397	669,425	23
Orders	3	822,137	622,517	106
Total	195	97,567,523	1,171,045,150	17,234

Direction	No.	Volume (000's)	Value (LE 000's)	No. of Trades
Listed stocks	170	95,610	473,076	16,939
Gainers	103	77,191	374,613	14,745
Decliners	35	3,471	78,203	1,158
Unchanged	32	14,948	20,261	1,036





# TECHNOLOGY

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## Controversy over GlobalAdMart

By Hend El-Behary

GlobalAdMart Egypt, an e-commerce company that has come under fire from the Ministry of Interior's Public Funds Investigation (PFI) unit, has denied allegations of fraud on its Facebook page.

During a press conference held last Sunday, head of the PFI Nagah Fawzy announced the arrest of the managers of eight online marketing firms, including GlobalAdMart. Other companies included 2deal, Revolution, Say Your Way, Alliance, Continental, My Right Ad, OPES and TV Art Express, he said.

However, the manager of one of GlobalAdMart's pages on Facebook called on Fawzy "to be more accurate". The anonymous administrator of the page claimed on 14 May that Fawzy opted to name firms that hold licences from the Chamber of Commerce and chose to leave out unlicensed ones.

In his remarks, the administrator of the Facebook page posted a scanned copy of the company's establishment licence from India, and a copy of the company's commercial registration on the website of the Indian government.

"Fawzy is not aware that network marketing is a subject taught in Egyptian

universities and is the base of many countries' economies," the administrator said.

E-commerce was only recently introduced in the Egyptian market and has picked up steam from the success of a number of companies which rely on the internet and social networks to promote their products, yielding bigger profits quickly and at smaller costs. The profits of other companies like GlobalAdMart depend on users subscribing to view advertisements during a specified time limit and organising training courses in network marketing.

"If electronic marketing is illegal in Egypt as Fawzy claims, then all companies operating in the sector should be banned as the law doesn't differentiate," the Facebook page administrator said.

Ahmed Nagi, who is a GlobalAdMart subscriber, claims to be one of the company's victims. He said he was told by a friend he could make a fixed monthly salary of EGP 4,500 working from home for GlobalAdMart. Nagi said he thought this information was reliable due to his previous experience of working from home in data entry.

"My friend explained GlobalAdMart is an Indian company which makes its money from companies that choose

to promote their products through its website rather than airing expensive TV commercials," Nagi said.

Nagi was told by his friend he had to pay fees of EGP 9,900 in advance and would receive no salary for the first month of work. Skeptical of these conditions, Nagi was assured by his friend that the measures were normal and were similar to "placing a deposit when renting a flat". He added: "I trusted him because he is my friend."

Nagi was also told that he would get a commission for every person who subscribed to the website through his work. He was given a \$32 commission for each person he convinced to join the website in addition to other benefits as his subscriptions grew, and he had soon made EGP 10,000.

"It was rolling. I invited five friends who in turn each invited 5 others and money was coming in," he said. "Suddenly, the company halted its operations and none of the newcomers or me received any money." Nagi and his friends then decided to file a lawsuit against the company. He could not get in touch with the person who had recommended GlobalAdMart to him.

Waleed Abdel Fatah, another recent

subscriber, praised the operations of GlobalAdMart and described the fraud allegations as "false propaganda". He said that the company's operations have been halted until 27 May on the orders of the Ministry of Interior and therefore the fears of those who rushed to file lawsuits against GlobalAdMart are baseless.

Abdel Fatah was only told to pay registration fees of \$500, about EGP 3,485, as opposed to the EGP 9,900 which Nagi paid.

Romani Gamil Amin, is another subscriber who made profits from working with GlobalAdMart. "I went into this thinking it was an adventure, but I soon found it was a lucrative business," he said. He said that a large number of his friends and relatives had joined the company and made a profit.

State-run news agency MENA reported on Tuesday that the Public Prosecutor ordered the arrest of Salma Hamdeen Sabahy, daughter of former presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahy, for twenty-four hours pending investigations as she faces accusations of fraud. Local media outlets had previously linked Sabahy to GlobalAdMart, while MENA reported that 22 complaints have been filed against her.

## YouTube launches 'Comedy Week' 19 May

*Video-sharing site YouTube is hosting its first 'Comedy Week' in the MENA region as a part of a global campaign to celebrate comedy*

By Nada Badawi

The online media-sharing website YouTube will be hosting "Comedy Week" for the first time in the Middle East and North Africa region. In partnership with creative network Kharabeesh Cartoons, the event will bring the best of comedy videos, rising talents and some of comedy's biggest names.

"If you like to laugh, come join us during Comedy Week as we celebrate the best of comedy with sketches, pranks, stand-up routines, parodies, and bringing together the best comedians in the region in a way that truly reflects the unique sense of humor in the Arab region," said Head of Video Partnerships in MENA Diana Baddar in an official statement.

Some of the comedy stars that will be featured include Sarah Sil-

verman, Rainn Wilson, Michael Cera, Vince Vaughn and Seth Rogen. Former Saturday Night Live cast member Andy Samberg's comedy troupe The Lonely Island will also take part in the event.

YouTube's first-ever comedy week will also feature a collection of live events, video premieres and collaborations.

Besides Kharabeesh, the campaign will consist of other popular YouTube standup comedy and social and political satire channels such as Hawwa Show, StandUp, N20, FemalesShow, Black Moussiba and many other comedy clubs.

Popular comedy destinations with YouTube channels are also participating, such as The Onion, Funny or Die, Nerdist and CollegeHumor.

Comedy Week is scheduled to stream live globally on 19 May at 8 pm EST and continue until 25 May.

## BlackBerry launches Jam Sessions for developers in MENA

*Best app will win \$10,000*



BlackBerry is to hold BlackBerry Jam sessions for app developers in the Middle East and Africa

Smartphone company BlackBerry is planning to launch a new series of BlackBerry Jam Sessions targeting Africa and the Middle East this summer. The initiative offers a training opportunity for developers and young entrepreneurs seeking to improve their skills working with the company's technology.

"BlackBerry's initiative aims to provide new skills and support for the developers in order to develop local, relevant content and give budding entrepreneurs more opportunities to reach BlackBerry customers around the world," the company said in a press release on Tuesday.

The BlackBerry Jam Sessions will take place in Egypt on 18 and 19 June and will provide attendees with "the latest resources, training and best practices for creating BlackBerry 10 apps," the statement said. The training sessions are open to developers and people who want to learn basic app development techniques, providing them with "practical advice and great tips that help developers make the most of the BlackBerry 10 development environment," said the press release.

As part of the initiative, BlackBerry judges will choose the best software application at the end of the Middle East and African tour and its developer will be awarded a \$10,000 prize.

"BlackBerry understands that access to education and skills creates opportunities, so we are pleased to

announce more BlackBerry Jam events for budding entrepreneurs across the region," Robert Bose, regional managing director for Europe, Middle East and Africa at BlackBerry, said.

BlackBerry Jam Sessions will arrive in Tunisia on 14 June, in Kenya on 21 June, Ghana on 1 July, and Nigeria on 3 July. The sessions will take place in South Africa from 15 to 18 July. Fur-

**BlackBerry's initiative aims to provide new skills and support for the developers to develop local, relevant content and give budding entrepreneurs opportunities to reach customers**

ther dates of sessions taking place in the Middle East will be announced soon, the statement said.

The Canada-based company held a series of similar courses last year in South Africa, Botswana, and the MENA region, as well as South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya, which attracted about 800 developers in total.

"We're excited to already see such a healthy ecosystem of BlackBerry 10 apps in Africa and the Middle East, and we look forward to seeing developers learn how to create even more compelling BlackBerry experiences in the months to come," Bose said.

## Nokia releases its new Lumia 925 smartphone

*Lumia 925 comes equipped with advanced lens technology, imaging software, and latest apps*

By Lamia Nabil

Nokia has released its newest smartphone, the Lumia 925.

The company has described the new model as a reinterpretation of its flagship Nokia Lumia 920, noting that includes "the most advanced lens technology and next generation imaging software, which allows users to take the best low-light images." The new model employs a Windows 8 operating system with 1.5 GHz dual-core Snapdragon processor, housed in an aluminium and plastic chassis.

"We keep innovating," said Jo Harlow, executive vice president of Nokia Smart Devices. "We are advancing experiences on the Nokia Lumia portfolio, whether that means great new benefits for an existing Lumia owner, or bringing new showcase devices like the Nokia Lumia 925."

The statement also mentioned that the new Lumia 925 is outfitted with a 4.5 inch WXGA sculpted clear black display, while boasting 1GB RAM, 16GB of internal memory, and 7 GB of free SkyDrive cloud storage.

"Together with Nokia, we're continuing to change the way people think about smartphone cameras," said Terry Myerson, corporate vice president of Microsoft Windows Phone Division. "The work Nokia has done with the Lumia 925 further enhances the imaging capabilities of the Lumia smartphones."

Lumia 925 also comes with Hipstamatic's new app, as well as Oggil, which allows users to take and share high quality pictures simultaneously.



Nokia released its Lumia 925 on 14 May

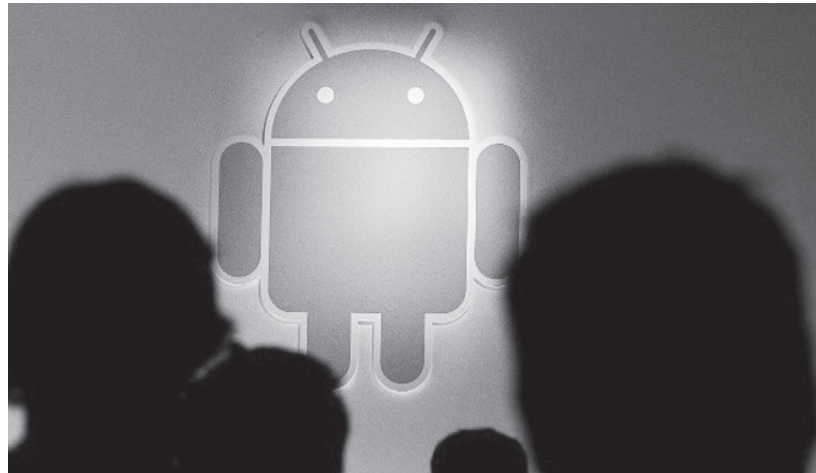
## Android, Samsung extend smartphone lead: survey

Washington (AFP) - Google's Android mobile operating system grabbed three out of four smartphones sold in the world in the first quarter of 2013, extending its gains over Apple and its iPhone, a survey showed Tuesday.

Gartner said more than 156 million Android smartphones were sold in the first three months of the year, or 74.4% of the global total. That compared with 56.9% in the same period a year ago.

South Korean electronics giant Samsung, the largest maker of Android phones, boosted its lead in the marketplace with a 30.8% share, up from 27.6% a year earlier.

Apple held second place with its iPhone and iOS operating system, accounting for 18.2% of smartphones and the same percentage for its op-



Google's Android operating system extended sales over Apple's iPhones in the first quarter of 2013

erating system, the Gartner survey showed.

"There are two clear leaders in

the OS (mobile operating system) market and Android's dominance in the OS market is unshakable," said

Gartner's Anshul Gupta.

The survey showed the BlackBerry operating system in a distant third place with a 3% market share, just ahead of Microsoft Windows at 2.9%.

Among manufacturers, South Korea's LG was third largest with a market share of 4.8 percent, followed by and Chinese makers Huawei (4.4%) and ZTE (3.8%).

Global smartphone sales were up 43% from a year ago at 210 million Gartner said.

The overall mobile phone market, with sales of 425 million, showed growth of just 0.7% amid weak sales of so-called feature phones.

Samsung was the number one seller in the mobile market with a 23.6% market share, followed by Finland's Nokia at 14.8% and Apple at 9%

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# Ahly and Zamalek to face-off in African league, maintain league top spots

THE TWO EGYPTIAN GIANTS WERE DRAWN INTO THE SAME GROUP FOR THE CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

By Fady Salah

The draw of the CAF Champions League secured exciting fixtures for Egyptian football fans, after archrivals Ahly and Zamalek were drawn into the same group for the next mini-league phase.

Group A, gathering Zamalek, AC Leopards from Congo, Orlando Pirates from South Africa, and Ahly will see the latter defending its title. The two Egyptian giants are set to face off on 19 July.

In the CAF Confederation Cup, Ismaily is set for an away match with the Tunisian Bizertin on 19 May, while Enppi will fly to Ethiopia to face Kedus Giorgis on 18 May.

On the local level, Ahly, Zamalek, Enppi and Ismaily notched four victories in the 14th week of the Egyptian league.

In group A, Ahly managed to overtake Harras El-Hodood with two goals to one. The result kept the league holder at the top of its group with 30 points, four points away from Enppi that defeated Telephonat Beni Suef 1-0 to maintain its second place. Wadi Degla remained at the bottom of the group despite grabbing a 1-0 victory over Misr Al-Makasa. Smouha, holder of the third place, also grabbed a 1-0 victory over Gouna.



A member of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) shows the name of Egypt's Al-Ahly football team during the CAF Champions League draw in Cairo on Tuesday. Al-Ahly is in group A and will play against local rivals Zamalek

In group B, Zamalek maintained first place with 33 points, after defeating Arab Contractors through a goal from Abdallah Seseh. Ismaily kept at second place and continued

to pressure Zamalek with a 3-1 victory over Petrojet. Ittihad El-Shorta scored three times against El-Ittihad El-Sakandary to maintain its third place with 19 points, eight points away

from Ismaily who has 27 points.

The final match of the 14th week will take place on Wednesday afternoon between fourth placed Talae'a El-Geish and El Dakhleya.

## Parkour: More than a sport, it's art

Parkour is a philosophy, a martial art, and a sport

By Luiz Sanchez

Parkour and free running may not be the first sports to enter one's mind when thinking of Egypt; a group of young people scaling buildings and performing acrobatic stunts in the bustling cities of Alexandria and Cairo would raise some eyebrows, to be sure. Parkour, however, is a popular if unorthodox sport that has taken a firm hold in the Land of the Pharaohs.

Established in 2008, Parkour Egypt styles itself as the first parkour club in the country, running training seminars from Alexandria to Cairo and as far as Hurghada. This young group of talented men and women has practiced their art for years, braving international events and performing on the busy streets of Egypt as spectators watch, bemused.

The group says it is dedicated to teaching people what parkour really

is while promoting proper techniques in order to minimise injuries during training. The group hosts open sessions where people may come to participate or observe.

Nasser Mahmoud began working with parkour in 2005. Alongside a handful of friends he made several video clips and uploaded them to the internet. A physical education graduate and gym teacher, Mahmoud said he wanted to change the way schools approached sports.

"In 2006 the school I was teaching in gave me the chance to test parkour as a sport in class and so we did," Mahmoud said. The experiment garnered the attention of several people and by 2008 he was teaching parkour to roughly 200 people, giving rise to Parkour Egypt.

Since then Parkour Egypt has sent a team to participate in Arabs Got Talent, and Mahmoud says he has been contacted several times to do stunts

for movies. The group practices in deserted locations and gymnastics halls.

Mahmoud says the group chooses such locations because their actions attract scrutiny from the general public, who are unaware of the group's activities. "In the beginning it was a problem," he said. "People often asked us what we were doing quite sceptically and that is why we choose empty buildings and abandoned areas."

Mahmoud said there is an important distinction to be made between free running and parkour: "Parkour is about navigating obstacles fast and efficiently," he said, adding that a fireman would not perform acrobatic stunts when doing his job. "Free running is all about the show, doing flips and adding flare to the performance."

Parkour originated from the concept of military obstacle training exercises. As it evolved parkour became an art form which forces its practitioners to look at new ways of interact-

ing with their environment.

Practitioners of parkour state it is more than just a sport; it is a philosophy on life that teaches its practitioners to hone their minds and bodies. In a television documentary one of its core founding members Chau Belle called it a form of expression and a state of mind aimed at overcoming and adapting to mental and emotional obstacles as well as physical barriers.

Parkour Egypt calls parkour a new way of relating to the environment which surrounds us. "Parkour helps us to be able to face all of the obstacles which are presented to us, whether they are in a natural environment or urban structures," the group explains on their official page. "The art demands speed, strength, balance, focus and above all, fluid movement. It is a battle against your innermost fears. Parkour helps to enlighten the soul and build self-belief."

## Harlem Globetrotters bring on the laughs with comedy basketball show

By Emily Crane

Families and school groups flocked to the Cairo International Indoor Stadium last Friday and Saturday to catch the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters drive, dribble, and dunk in their blended show of comedy and basketball.

The show consisted of an exhibition basketball game where the Globetrotters faced off against the Global Elite in four quarters of trick shots, jokes, and a few additional special rules. There were also frequent timeouts where the team got the audience involved in the show through games, magic tricks, and of course, a dance to the YMCA song.

Though some of the humour seemed to be lost on the crowd that was unfamiliar with the rules of basketball, some actions, such as pulling down the referee's trousers, seemed to be universally funny. This is what makes the team so special, according to Dizzy, one of the team members.

"We speak the universal language of basketball," Dizzy said in a press conference last Wednesday. "We try to break down cultural barriers



"Hammer" hangs upside down from the hoop during a performance of the Harlem Globetrotters in Cairo International Indoor Stadium on 10 May

around the world and serve as role models for kids everywhere."

The team has been touring the world entertaining families with their basketball show for 87 years, but this is their first time in Cairo since 1989. When the team learnt that they would be returning to Egypt, their overwhelming feeling was one of excitement.

"I learned early on in my travels not to believe everything you see on TV," said team member Flight Time who has now been to 92 countries.

"When I told people I was going to Cairo, they said, 'Aren't they fighting over there?' and I said, 'Man, where aren't they fighting?'"

Despite a busy weekend, the team was insistent on seeing the city last week, with a trip to the pyramids in the morning followed by a visit to the Children's Cancer Hospital 57357. Hospital visits are a big part of what the team does, taking the show to children who are unable to attend the actual event, Flight Time said.

## From Everest to Alaska, Omar Samra continues to aspire and inspire

Friday will mark the sixth anniversary of Omar Samra summiting Mount Everest. On 17 May 2007, Samra reached the highest point of the highest mountain on earth at precisely 7.19am Egyptian time, to become the first Egyptian and the youngest Arab to climb Mount Everest.

In his pursuit to climb the highest mountain on every continent, known as the Seven Summits, Samra will attempt his final summit in Alaska next month in June 2013.

This is Omar's second attempt to climb Mount McKinley. Also called Denali, a name taken from a native Alaskan language meaning "The Great One", the mountain is the highest in Alaska and North America. His first attempt was last year in April 2012, where he could not reach the top due to severe weather conditions.

"Denali rises 5.5km from base to summit, an elevation gain unsurpassed anywhere in the world including Everest. In many ways, it is considered the most demanding of all the Seven Summits," Samra said. "I'm hoping to succeed this time, and have been training hard in preparation over the past 50 weeks."

### POLITICAL FOOTBALL

## Football emerges as focal point of dissent in Saudi Arabia

By James M. Dorsey

Football, alongside minority Shi'a Muslims and relatives of imprisoned government critics, is emerging as a focal point of dissent in Saudi Arabia, an oil-rich kingdom that, despite banning demonstrations by law, is struggling to fend off the waves of change sweeping the Middle East and North Africa.

Fan pressure is evolving as a potent tool in the absence of the right to protest. It follows intermittent demonstrations and at times deadly clashes with security forces in the kingdom's predominantly Shi'a eastern province that hosts its major oil fields as well protests by family members of activists imprisoned for lengthy periods of time without being charged.

In the latest assertion of fan power, a Facebook page entitled Nasrawi Revolution demands the resignation of Prince Faisal bin Turki, the owner of storied Riyadh club Al Nasser FC and a burly nephew of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud who sports a moustache and chin hair. A YouTube video captured Prince Faisal seemingly being pelted and chanted against as he rushed off the football pitch after rudely shoving a security official aside.

The campaign against Prince Faisal follows last year's unprecedented resignation of Prince Nawaf bin Faisal as head of the Saudi Football Federation (SFF), the first royal to be persuaded by public pressure step down in a region where monarchical control of the sport is seen as politically important.

Prince Nawaf's resignation led to the election of a commoner, storied former player Ahmed Eid Al-Harbi widely viewed as a reformer and proponent of women's football, in a country that views free and fair polling as a Western concept that is inappropriate for the kingdom. Prince Nawaf retained his position as head of the Saudi Olympic Committee and the senior official responsible for youth welfare that effectively controls the SFF.

Nevertheless, the resignation of Prince Nawaf and the campaign against Prince Faisal gains added significance in a nation in which the results of premier league clubs associated with various members of the kingdom's secretive royal family are seen as a barometer of their relative status, particularly at a time that its septuagenarian and octogenarian leaders prepare for a gradual generational transition.

"The Saudis are extremely worried. Football clubs rather than the mosque are likely to be the centre



James M. Dorsey

of the revolution. Kids go more to stadiums than to mosques. They are not religious, they are ruled by religious dogma," says Washington-based Saudi dissident Ali Al-Ahmed, who heads the Gulf Institute.

Sport sources in the football-crazy kingdom say the authorities are seeking to reduce football's popularity by emphasising other sports like athletics and handball in policy and fundraising while at the same time preparing to professionalise and further commercialise the sport using the English Premier League as a model.

"They are identifying what talent is available in the kingdom. Football is a participatory sport. They want to emphasise the social aspects of other sports. Football won only one medal in the last Asian Games. They think they can score better in other sports. There are parallel agendas with competition about who gets the visibility," one source said.

The clergy's puritan view of life that only allowed for the emergence of football in the 1950s is under pressure with clerics being forced to retreat from their refusal to permit physical education for girls and women's sports facilities. Saudi Arabia recently announced it would allow girl's physical education in private schools as long as they do so in line with Islamic law. Yet, a five-year national sports plan, the kingdom's first, currently being drafted does not make provisions for women's sports.

In a further move, sports sources say Saudi Arabia may be on the verge of licensing women's football clubs that currently operate in a legal nether land often with the help of more liberal members of the royal family.

James M. Dorsey is a senior fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, director of the University of Würzburg's Institute of Fan Culture, and the author of The Turbulent World of Middle East Football blog.



Egyptian mountaineer Omar Samra at the top of Mount Everest in 2007. Samra has conquered six peaks from the Seven Summits challenge and will attempt to complete the challenge next month in Alaska





# TOURISM

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## HEPCA, from diving to development

By Adel Heine

The Red Sea is one of Egypt's major tourist attractions. Every year millions of people flock to the shores of the turquoise waters for a lazy beach holiday, to wind or kite surf, to snorkel and to scuba dive. From the Sinai Peninsula to the deep south close to the border with Sudan, the Red Sea boasts of an unequalled ecosystem that includes reefs with colourful hard and soft corals and a plethora of underwater life. This natural resource is fragile though and to protect and conserve this important part of Egypt the Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) was formed in 1992.

HEPCA was founded by 12 members of the diving community who were concerned about the effects scuba diving, their bread and butter, was having on the reef systems. One of the first steps they took to protect the environment was implement a mooring system of fixed buoys that would stop the practice of using anchors, which until that moment were dropped on the sea floor and inflicted a lot of damage on the reefs. A set of guidelines for underwater behaviour was developed and as more diving operators joined the initiative they became the accepted standard for divers in the Red Sea.

Today, 21 years later, HEPCA has many members and has grown into an NGO that tackles many issues that threaten the Red Sea but the original mandate still stands. "We are here to protect the natural resources of the Red Sea, whatever form that takes," Amr Ali, HEPCA's outspoken managing director, said. The mooring system that started HEPCA has developed into the largest system in the world and HEPCA has helped countries like Jordan and Saudi Arabia to implement a similar system.

### The diving and snorkelling business

For many years many dive operators in the Red Sea adhered to the safe practices that HEPCA has established, but over the past few months several incidents of divers and diving professionals showing a shocking lack of respect for the environment have circulated on social media. Images of dive guides and divers holding sharks, turtles and other underwater animals, of restaurants and shops using marine life as decorations and of protected species being offered in fish shops caused uproar and were reported to HEPCA. "The diving and snorkelling business in the Red Sea was never considered to be the main problem; the fishing and the petroleum industry and solid waste management along the Red Sea pose much larger threats to the Red Sea," Amr Ali said. "But over the past months we have seen a several shocking dive violations that required us to take action."

When asked why there is such an increase in violations Amr Ali said: "The problem is that after the revolution there is a lack of enforcement of the law. The violators feel safe to post these images of themselves on social media but the public is more aware and willing to expose them, and we receive more reports." HEPCA exposes the violators and refers them to the government. "If no action is taken then we follow up and file a lawsuit, but these things strain our resources. We are not a watchdog, we are a community based organisation and our job should be done once we refer these cases to the government."

The case of one of the latest violators, a dive guide in the Red Sea who proudly posed in pictures with a dead white tip reef shark



Amr Ali, managing director of HEPCA

and a puffer fish among others that showed despicable behaviour, was resolved quickly and succinctly. "Not only has the governor of the Red Sea, Mohamed Kamel, ordered that he is banned from being a dive guide for one year, the governor's office will also pursue a court case against him," Amr Ali said. "The governor is very much on our side, he is an environmentalist."

In a sense HEPCA has fallen victim to its own success. "Anything that threatens the Red Sea is reported to us and people expect us to take action and solve the issue, be it a new petroleum concession that is awarded, fishing licenses that are issued or snorkel boats that let people feed bread to the fish. It is a big burden because we take all these cases but it strains our budget and resources."

### National parks

These violations are not the only problem the diving and snorkelling

industry is causing. "We are seeing a big deterioration in the national parks in the Red Sea and we are setting up structures for their protection," Amr Ali said. "We are getting a lot of help from the Tourism Minister Hisham Zaazou in this."

The latest problem that HEPCA has tackled with great success is the situation around the reefs Shabb El Erg and Shabb Fanus, reef systems that are well known resting grounds for large groups of dolphins. Every day snorkel boat operators flock to these reefs to give their guests a chance to see and snorkel with dolphins. "We received many reports of the huge amount of boats that would visit these sites simultaneously and the violations they would perpetrate," Amr Ali said. "The boats would chase the dolphins with no regard for the safety of the dolphins or of the divers or snorkelers that were in the water. This has lead to 11 injuries, as well as fatalities, of



One of the wells dug by HEPCA that provide clean water to the Bedouins that live in the area

people, not to mention the damage that has been done to the dolphin population."

Again the Red Sea governor co-operated closely with HEPCA to solve this issue. "We took our reports to a meeting with the governor on 11 May and he immediately took the decision to close these reefs for one month, starting 15 May," Amr Ali said. A committee was formed that day that includes HEPCA, the Egyptian Coastguard and Navy and environmental protection affairs agencies that together will develop a complete management plan for the site. "The Navy and Coastguard will enforce the closure, a vessel will be stationed in the area to ensure no boats enter, and all snorkel and dive operators will be informed when they obtain their official permissions to take out their boats from the coast-guard." Violators will incur a fine of EGP 10,000 if they visit these reef systems during the closure.

"The site is now declared a sanctuary and the main benefit of closing the reef systems is to give the dolphins a rest and it serves as a slap on the wrist for the snorkel operators," Amr Ali said. "Dolphin watching is a growing industry in the Red Sea and it is completely unregulated. The operators need to learn to respect the dolphins."

The committee intends to focus on educating the snorkel operators and their boat crews about the fragility of these underwater ecosystems. "Operators that apply proper practices should receive certification, not everyone should be permitted to bring guests to these sites unless the staff and crew are aware and cherish these resources," Amr Ali said. "We have to remember that we are the intruders, the dolphins are in their natural environment."

With many snorkel operators struggling to make ends meet due to the decline in tourism Egypt has seen over the past two years, the decision to close the reefs was met with complaints from the industry. "The value of the resources is a lot higher than that of all the snorkelling operators combined," Amr Ali said. "The situation had become criminal and to allow the situation on these reef systems to continue and not do something would have been criminally insane."

### Solid waste management

Another threat to the Red Sea is garbage. Littering is common around Egypt and plastic bags can be found everywhere. "The coloured plastic bags have become the national flower of the Wadis on the southern coast," Amr Ali said. Plastic bags are blown into the sea by the ever-present wind and are the main killers of turtles, one of the reasons HEPCA decided to address the problem of solid waste management.

"We founded a solid waste re-



The reefs, resting grounds for the dolphins, are declared a sanctuary and will be closed for all diving and snorkelling activities for one month



Every day garbage is collected and separated in the solid waste management plant in Marsa Alam

cycling plant close to Marsa Alam and it has proven to be a great success," Amr Ali said. The plant services 200km of coastline and the HEPCA trucks go out every day to collect the solid waste in the area.

The initiative receives a lot of support from the local Bedouin population. "They call us the environmental guys and they love us," he chuckled. "We sort all the waste and every morning a few of our trucks bring 12 tonnes of organic waste to the local Bedouins who use it to feed their livestock. Before, a family would own a few animals, which has created more income and has lifted the need for the illegal fishing practices the Bedouins used to resort to in order to sustain their families."

Living up to their namesake, HEPCA also handles the solid waste management in Hurghada. "We collect 600 tonnes of solid waste every morning. Solid waste management is a cultural issue, it needs education and it is a day to day job," Amr Ali said.

Besides managing the waste that the town produces every day HEPCA also looks at the issue from a long-term perspective. "A few people worked for months to secure legislation banning the use of plastic bags in shops in Hurghada and eventually the law was passed. The problem is the enforcement of such a law. For a few months shop owners complied but then they reverted back to using the plastic bags. It is up to the Red Sea governorate to enforce these laws."

When asked if garbage collection is part of what HEPCA should be doing, Amr Ali was adamant: "It is 100% part of our mandate, we are maturing as an organisation and we need to focus on the people who live around the Red Sea."

### Education

One of HEPCA's initiatives was a direct result of their focus on education: a project to build schools. "I would go to schools and give lectures about the value of the clownfish and the dolphins because we felt it was important to educate the next generation. But I felt ridiculous; I was talking about turtles while these children did not have a bathroom in their school. So we decided we should educate them but at the same time provide them with their basic needs."

Education has always been an important part of HEPCA's work. "We started our education programme 12 years ago and these kids are the captains and dive and snorkel guides of today," Amr Ali said. Education is key because "it is absurd to hold a speech about natural resources if you neglect to protect the resources that are our children".







# LIFESTYLE

## Tapas tasting night introduces new flavours to Cairo's food scene



Tapas come in many shapes and forms and are a staple of Spanish cuisine

By Emily Crane

Though I like to think of myself as a generally well-cultured, intellectual person, when it comes to food, I like to stick to the basics. Come dinnertime, I am much more likely to go looking for a good burger (or in Cairo, a good shawarma) than an elegant plate of sushi, and I typically try to avoid seafood at all costs. My policy tends to be that if it has tentacles, gills or fins, it belongs in the ocean and not on my plate. But when I was invited to Risas Lounge to sample the refined cuisine of Spanish tapas, I could not say no, particularly when I found out there would be sangrias involved.

The tasting event was organised by two Egyptian entrepreneurs, Amr Shamel and Karim Biblawi, who discovered tapas while studying for their MBA in Spain and wanted to share their dining experience with Egypt. So they flew in Chef Paco from Barcelona

for a three-day tapas fiesta onboard the Nile Maxim boat in Zamalek.

My meal got off to a good start with a tuna belly salad. Mixed with asparagus, avocado and tomato on a bed of greens and topped with light vinaigrette. I did not find myself too far outside my comfort zone and had nothing to complain about. My salad was immediately followed by a plate of artichokes sprinkled with beans. The accompanying sauce had a nice tangy taste to it and I polished off my plate pretty quickly.

My night took a turn for the exotic when they brought out the next plate bearing an assortment of montaditos. Literally translated "mounted", the course consisted of various proteins stacked elegantly on various types of bread. The first was creamed crab and corn on whole wheat bread, topped with shrimp. The second was duck and roasted red peppers on a bed of cream cheese, atop a baguette. I have

to say, this particular combination of flavours and textures was absolutely fantastic, a real highlight of the evening. The third was a thin strip of salmon on a cracker, topped with caviar and brought me far outside the realm of familiar tastes. Having never before sampled the delicacy that is fish eggs, I cannot speak as to the quality of this particular element. But they looked beautiful and tasted, well, fishy.

I cannot deny that the presentation of my next course did not get my juices flowing. In contrast with the other beautifully presented courses, the dollop of black goo topped with a red pepper that I was told was black paella looked less than appetising. It was creamy but a bit bland and the texture of the squid tentacles mixed in with the rice was a little difficult for me stomach. But that was nothing compared to the signature ingredient that gives the dish its colour: squid ink. My fellow tasters raved about the

dish, but I think this one was just a bit too exotic for me.

I ended the meal on a high note though with four skewers of breaded shrimp and an accompanying rameso dipping sauce. As I said at the beginning, I am not a big seafood fan and shrimp definitely fall into the category of creatures that I prefer to see in the ocean, but this shrimp was fantastic. And the zesty rameso sauce, tasting of tomato and garden herbs, was so delicious I found myself trying to wipe out every last drop. And of course, I washed everything down with the best sangrias I have had in Cairo.

Altogether, my first tapas experience was an exciting and delightful one and I can see why Shamel and Biblawi were eager to share their discovery with their homeland. Based on the reactions of my fellow tasters, I would say the upper echelon of Egyptian society is more than ready to say bienvenida to the best that Spanish cuisine has to offer.

## Total Egypt signs landmark deal with EATc to become Volkswagen's exclusive lubricants supplier



Thomas Rebeyrol, CEO of Total Egypt and Karim El Naggar, CEO of EATc

The Egyptian Automotive & Trading Co. (EATc), the sole distributor of Volkswagen in Egypt, signed a landmark agreement with Total, the world-class oil company, to become the exclusive provider of lubricants for Volkswagen and Audi vehicles in Egypt, including the VW fleet of 1,500 ambulances.

Thomas Rebeyrol, CEO of Total Egypt commented: "This is a significant contract for Total Egypt which emphasises the strength of our operations in the country, as well as the improvement of our global lubricants offering."

"From an outstanding three year warranty, to the most advanced lubricants, we are constantly seeking the best for our clients", said Karim El Naggar, CEO of EATc.

## 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!

### Mehalabieh - Pudding

#### Ingredients

- 5 cups milk – *la-ban*
- 3 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch, dissolved in 1 cup milk – *ne-sha*
- 1/2 cup sugar – *sok-kar*
- 1 teaspoon vanilla sugar – *sok-kar va-nil-ya*
- 1 tablespoon rosewater – *ma-ya ma-ward*

#### Garnish

- 1 cup ground pistachios – *faz-do'*

#### Directions

- Pour the milk, dissolved cornstarch and vanilla sugar together in a non-stick pot.
- Place the pot on medium heat and stir until the mixture starts boiling.
- Reduce the heat, add the sugar and continue stirring for 10 more minutes.
- Turn off the heat and add the rose water
- Pour the mehalabieh in serving bowls. Allow them to cool at room temperature for about 30 minutes. Place them in the refrigerator for several hours.
- Garnish with ground pistachios and serve cold.



### Easy no-bake cheesecake - Cheesecake bedoon khabz

#### Ingredients

- 1 pack whipping cream-powder – *cream chan-tee*
- 200g butter, softened – *zeb-da*
- 16 squares creamy cheese – *gib-na kre-ma*
- 2 tbsp water – *ma-ya*
- 2 packs of biscuits, cut in small pieces – *bis-cot*
- 1 pack jelly of your favorite flavour – *jel-ly*
- Jam – *me-ra-ba*
- Strawberries or blackberries – *fa-rau-la au tout*

#### Directions

- Mix the biscuits and butter in a food processor on medium

speed until blended well.

- Grease a baking pan, press biscuit mixture in the bottom, making sure all is covered. Place in the freezer for one hour.
- Stir the cream cheese with a little water until soft. Add the jelly and whipped cream powder and beat with an electric beater until well combined and the mixture is smooth.
- Remove the baking pan from freezer and pour cheese mix on top. Refrigerate for another hour.
- To serve: dilute the jam with a small amount of water. Arrange the strawberries or blackberries on top of the cake and use diluted jam as topping.

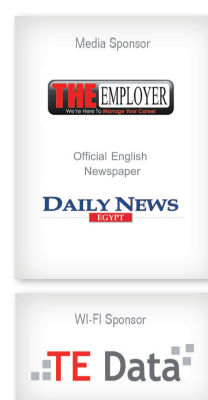
#### Note

- When softening the cream cheese use small amounts of water at the time to achieve a good consistency. Use the same technique for diluting the jam.



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