

Urban Development

Heritage in Historic Cairo

The head of the Civilization Development Fund (صندوق التنمية الحضارية) announced that 100 billion EGP would be invested in [renovating historic Cairo](#).

The [Information Committee](#) on the situation of Cairo's historic cemeteries has yet to present its findings. Meanwhile, demolition work continues. A MP also expressed concern about the transformation of the [Sultan Qaibtay mausoleum](#) into a landfill site.

Giza Zoo

Giza Zoo [closed for 18 months](#) from Eid al-Adha on. Measures are taken to [protect animals](#). Some of them will be relocated for the duration of the work. The government denies having [razed ancient trees](#) in the zoo as part of the renovation work. Once the work is completed, the price of the entrance ticket is expected to rise to [25 or 30 EGP](#).

New Administrative Capital

[Al Manassa](#) questions the feasibility of the New Administrative Capital. The government denied rumors that it lacked the financial resources to [transfer all its employees](#) to the New Administrative Capital. The president's spokesman announced that [100 government agencies and 40,000 employees](#) were already relocated.

Electricity Power Cuts

July was marked by power cuts across the country. The Minister of Electricity was [reassuring](#), claiming that this was a temporary problem. He asked citizens to reduce their consumption, notably by cutting down on the use of air conditioning and fans in spite of the heat wave. He also urged people not to take [elevators](#) at the beginning and end of each hour. The reduction in electricity production is said to be linked to a drop in natural gas production. The government, however, denied any technical issues at the [Zohr gas field](#), blaming inadequate infrastructure for the [heat wave](#). Some blamed the [switch to daylight saving time](#) (see [April 2023 Press Review](#)), which may have saved electricity but caused overconsumption due to air conditioners. [The argument was rejected](#) by the Chairman of the Board of the Central Delta Electricity Production Company. To ease energy pressure, [among a series of measures](#), the government announced that government employees would [work from home](#) throughout August.

Building Collapses

After the [collapse of a new building](#) in Alexandria's Sidi Bishr district, which left 10 people dead and 4 injured, a MP [asked for more information](#) on the situation in the city. Collapses are commonplace in Alexandria, where [a building collapsed](#) in the Gomrok district early July, killing one person, and another on July 15, leaving [two dead and three injured](#). Alexandria is not the only city to be concerned: 13 people died in Cairo when a building collapsed in [Hadaeq El-Qubbah](#) district. [An investigation](#) was launched and the Minister of Social Solidarity announced a [compensation of EGP 60,000](#) for all families who lost a loved one. A building also collapsed

in [Rosetta](#) this month. [A MP from Beheira](#) demanded that removal and demolition orders for buildings deemed unsafe be [applied more systematically](#).

Others

19 people were acquitted in the [Warrag Island case](#). They had been arrested after protests against eviction campaigns carried out on the island to make way for development projects (see [Summer 2022 press review](#)).

Transport

The [Bashtil station](#) in Giza is due to open in the next couple months (see [November 2022 Press Review](#)). The Minister of Transport explained that the station was [needed](#) because of population growth, which is saturating the Ramses station.

Ticket prices for first- and second-class air-conditioned trains rose by 12.5%, but the Minister of Transport guaranteed that there would be no further [price increases](#).

[A butcher](#) installed a hook on one of the pillars of the monorail in Medinat Nasr to hang meat; photos of the informal shop spread on social media, after which the butcher was arrested and his business closed.

Tourism

The Hilton Group and Egypt's City Edge Developments signed an agreement to manage [hotels](#) in Cairo's [Maspero Triangle and Magra el-Uyun](#). The first is due to open in Magra el-Uyun in 2026 with 28 rooms, while the second in Maspero will offer 260 rooms and is slated to open in 2028. Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly sees this as a sign of the state's success in renovating informal areas. This is part of the government's plan to cede some of its prerogatives to the [private sector](#).

The new [Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza](#) is scheduled to open between October and February next year. [Orascom](#) announced that it had completed 90% of the development work on the Pyramids plateau.

Work is underway to [expand St. Catherine's airport](#) to increase the site's tourist capacity.

The [New Al-Alamein City Festival](#) takes place from July 13 to August 26. The event is expected to attract nearly a million people. Pop stars such as Tamer Hosni, Nancy Agram, Cairokee, and Wegz are scheduled to perform.

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