

Egyptians celebrate falconry heritage

Author:

Reuters

ID:

1542563813957153000

Sun, 2018-11-18 17:47

CAIRO: Egyptian falconers gathered in the desert of Borg al-Arab near Alexandria to celebrate World Falconry Day, hoping to increase awareness of the sport and help preserve the ancient tradition.

Under the slogan "Egypt ... Where It All Began", the birds of prey of the Egy Falconer Club, which organised the event on Saturday, soared through the clear blue skies and showed off their hunting skills, swooping on pigeons or rabbits.

Mohamed Mowafy, a member of the club, said falconry in Egypt dated back to the ancient Egyptians' worship of the falcon-headed god Horus.

The celebration brought together falconers from across Egypt and included a competition that featured more than 10 types of birds of prey, including a two-year-old golden eagle owned by Yasser al-Khawanky.

Among the younger competitors was 11-year-old Ammar, who said he was introduced to falconry by his father at the age of seven. Ammar named his light-feathered Shaheen falcon "Ashqar", meaning blond.







Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Egypt](#)

[Falconry](#)

[Egypt and Ethiopia to discuss Nile dam dispute – PM](#)

Author:

Reuters

ID:

1542558424636756500

Sun, 2018-11-18 14:31

CAIRO: Egypt said on Sunday it would hold talks with Ethiopia in the next two weeks to iron out differences over an Ethiopian dam on the River Nile that Cairo sees as a threat to its water supplies.

The two countries and Sudan have held a series of meetings over the \$4 billion hydroelectric Grand Renaissance Dam, but have yet to reach a deal on managing flows and other issues.

Egypt fears the scheme will restrict the waters coming down down from Ethiopia's highlands, through the deserts of Sudan, to its fields and

reservoirs. Ethiopia, which wants to become Africa's biggest power exporter, says it will have no such impact.

Egypt's prime minister, Mostafa Madbouly, said he and his Ethiopian counterpart, Abiy Ahmed, agreed "to start bilateral discussions in the next two weeks to agree on the points that remain unagreed," state news agency MENA reported.

MENA cited Abiy as saying he wanted to preserve Egypt's Nile river rights. The dam was scheduled to be finished by 2020, but Abiy said in August it would be delayed by several years.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

[Human rights violations by Iran regime condemned by UN committee](#)

Sat, 2018-11-17 01:08

NEW YORK: A UN committee on human rights has approved a resolution urging Iran to stop its widespread use of arbitrary detention and expressing serious concern at its "alarmingly high" use of the death penalty.

The General Assembly's Human Rights Committee adopted the resolution by a vote of 85-30, with 68 abstentions. It is virtually certain to be approved by

the 193-member world body next month.

The resolution “strongly urges” Iran to eliminate discrimination against women in law and practice and expresses “serious concern about ongoing severe limitations and restrictions on the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.”

It singles out violations including harassment, intimidation and persecution against religious minorities including Christians, Gonabadi Dervishes, Jews, Sufi Muslims, Sunni Muslims, Yarsanis, Zoroastrians and members of the Baha’i faith – and urges the release of religious practitioners including Baha’i leaders.

Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi of Saudi Arabia said: “The Iranian people continue to suffer under a regime that does not respect human rights, that denies freedoms, that persecutes religious and racial minorities.” He called on Iran not “give shelter to terrorists.”

The resolution, sponsored by Canada, also calls on Iran to end “widespread and serious restrictions” including on freedom of assembly of political opponents, human rights defenders, labor leaders, environmentalists, academics, filmmakers, journalists, bloggers, social media users and others.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Iran](#)

Son of Iranian-American detainee asks Tehran ‘to show mercy’ Amnesty slams

[US Senate lets \\$300m arms sale to Bahrain proceed](#)

Author:

AFP, AP

ID:

1542407592133141300

Sat, 2018-11-17 01:32

WASHINGTON: The US Senate has rejected a long-shot effort to block \$300 million in arms sales to Bahrain, as the bill's opponents stressed the island nation was a critical ally hosting an American naval base.

The effort, led by Republican Senator Rand Paul, failed as the US Senate voted 77 to 21 to table the measure, essentially killing it.

Critics of the bill warned that punishment of Bahrain would be misplaced, especially as 7,800 US military personnel are deployed there on a base that hosts the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, which helps protect American interests in the region. Bahrain is strategically located between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Senate Democrat Bob Menendez said Bahrain's "willingness to host our naval forces also places Bahrain at greater risk from attack from Iran and terrorist groups seeking to do harm to the United States."

Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, the committee chairman, said Bahrain is home to a naval base with 7,800 US service members protecting American interests and serving as a buffer against the Iranian regime.

He said that blocking an arms sale to an ally over "something that has nothing to do with them, but has something to do with another country is not a pragmatic, nor a sensible step."

FASTFACT

Critics of the bill warned that punishment of Bahrain would be misplaced, especially as 7,800 US military personnel are deployed there on a base that hosts the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, which helps protect American interests in the region.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Bahrain](#)

[US navy](#)

[Iran](#)

[Houthis](#)

[Saudi Arabia](#)

Senate rejects bid to block American arms sale to BahrainSaudi Arabia,
Bahrain sign air services deal

[Anti-Daesh coalition raids kill 43 in east Syria: monitor](#)

Sat, 2018-11-17 15:30

BEIRUT: Air strikes by the US-led coalition Saturday killed 43 people, mostly civilians, in a Daesh holdout in eastern Syria, a Britain-based monitor said. Seventeen children were among 36 Daesh family members killed in Abu Husn village of Deir Ezzor province near the Iraqi border, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Another seven victims had not yet been identified as either civilians or Daesh fighters, it said.

The US-led coalition has been backing a Kurdish-Arab alliance called the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighting to expel the extremists from the

pocket around Abu Husn.

“It’s the highest death toll in coalition air strikes since the SDF launched its attack against the IS pocket” in September, Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

The coalition has repeatedly said it does its utmost to prevent civilian casualties.

“The avoidance of civilian casualties is our highest priority when conducting strikes against legitimate military targets with precision munitions,” spokesman Sean Ryan told AFP this week.

Daesh overran large swathes of Syria and neighbouring Iraq in 2014, proclaiming a “caliphate” in land it controlled.

But the militant group has since lost most of it to various offensives in both countries.

In Syria, the group has seen its presence reduced to parts of the vast Badia desert and the pocket in Deir Ezzor.

The coalition has since 2014 acknowledged direct responsibility for over 1,100 civilian deaths in Syria and Iraq, but rights groups put the number killed much higher.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Daesh](#)

[coalition](#)

[Syria](#)

Germany to discuss lifting ban on deporting Syrians
Daesh militants attempting to cross into Iraq from Syria: Iraqi PM