

# Egypt considers proposal to set up cultural entertainment city in New Administrative Capital

Author:

Mon, 2021-05-31 21:03

CAIRO: In a meeting with investors, Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly discussed the proposal to set up an integrated entertainment and cultural city in the New Administrative Capital.

Madbouly called for various aspects of the project to be examined, including the funding assigned to it, as it would carry a significant cost.

After becoming an investment zone, the New Administrative Capital has proven to have a number of advantages, including promising opportunities to attract investment in various domains, Madbouly said.

During the meeting, the investors presented a report on the project, which aims to be a modern tourist destination rivaling others in the region and attracting visitors seeking culture, arts and entertainment.

They discussed the need for a strategic plan to organize artistic events that would host local, regional and international celebrities.

The investors also considered the possibility of forming partnerships with cities and international entertainment centers to create an environment that would attract investment and support the arts.

The proposed vision would also include the establishment of a number of open and closed cultural and entertainment parks, perhaps in cooperation with international amusement park companies.



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Egypt will mark move to New Administrative Capital with 'mass celebration' Egypt to trial New Administrative Capital next year

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## [Egyptian court adjourns Suez Canal ship-block case for further compensation talks](#)

Mon, 2021-05-31 20:08

CAIRO: An Egyptian court has postponed a compensation case over the Ever Given container ship's blocking of the Suez Canal to allow more time for negotiators to agree a deal.

The next hearing in the matter was adjourned to June 20 on the request of lawyers representing the Suez Canal Authority and the owner of the giant cargo vessel that closed the waterway for six days in March after running aground.

Both sides have blamed the other for the Ever Given's grounding and the dispute centers on the amount of compensation the authority is claiming for

salvaging the vessel.

Initially, the Suez Canal Authority had demanded \$916 million in compensation, an amount that was later lowered to \$550 million, head of the authority, Lt. Gen. Osama Rabie, said on TV on Sunday. The money would cover the salvage operation, costs of stalled canal traffic, and lost transit fees for the week the Ever Given blocked the channel.

The vessel's Japanese owner, Shoei Kisen Kaisha Ltd., and insurers disputed the claim having previously had a \$150 million compensation package offer rejected by the authority.

The Ismailia Economic Court adjourned the hearing after the ship's owner submitted a new offer to settle out of court, the Suez Canal Authority said in a statement.

Since it was freed, the Panamanian-flagged vessel, which carries cargo between Asia and Europe, has been ordered by authorities to remain in a holding lake mid-canal while compensation was agreed.

The canal's blockage disrupted global shipping with hundreds of vessels delayed and others forced to take the much longer route around the Cape of Good Hope at Africa's southern tip, requiring additional fuel and costs.

An estimated 10 percent of world trade flows through the canal, a pivotal source of foreign currency to Egypt, with 19,000 ships making the passage last year, according to official figures.

Announcing the court's adjournment of the case, Khaled Abu Bakr, the authority's adviser to the negotiating committee, said the Ever Given's owner had acknowledged the authority's professional handling of the crisis and negotiations over damages were still ongoing.

He pointed out that details of the talks and the amount of compensation would be kept private in order to preserve relations between the company and commercial agents.

Mohammed Al-Sayed, a member of the negotiating committee, said the authority had managed to refloat the Ever Given without causing any damage to the ship or its cargo.

However, he noted that the authority had incurred losses during the rescue operation including a boat which sank resulting in the death of one its crew.

Nabil Zeidan, legal representative of the Suez Canal Authority, said data from the ship's black box recorder had confirmed that the Ever Given's captain was at fault for the accident by exceeding canal speed limits and travelling at 22 knots (40.7 kilometers per hour).

He rejected allegations that the authority had been responsible for the incident by allowing the ship to sail in unfavorable weather conditions.

George Safwat, official spokesperson for the Suez Canal Authority, said the

rescue operation had involved more than 600 authority personnel but that the worker who died belonged to a contractor's rescue team.



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Suez Canal Authority says door still open to negotiation with container ship owner

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## [UN nuclear watchdog chief 'concerned' over undeclared Iran sites](#)

Mon, 2021-05-31 20:15

VIENNA: Iran has failed to explain traces of uranium found at several undeclared sites, a report by the UN nuclear watchdog showed on Monday, possibly setting up a fresh diplomatic clash between Tehran and the West that could derail wider nuclear talks.

Three months ago Britain, France and Germany scrapped a US-backed plan for the International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation Board of Governors to criticize Iran for failing to fully explain the origin of the particles; the three backed off as IAEA chief Rafael Grossi announced fresh talks with Iran. "After many months, Iran has not provided the necessary explanation for the presence of the nuclear material particles at any of the three locations where the Agency has conducted complementary accesses (inspections)," a report by Grossi to member states seen by Reuters said.

It will now be up to the three European powers to decide whether to revive their push for a resolution criticizing Iran, which could undermine wider negotiations to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal at talks currently underway in Vienna. Grossi had hoped to report progress before the board meets again next week.

"The Director General is concerned that the technical discussions between the Agency and Iran have not yielded the expected results," the report said.

"The lack of progress in clarifying the Agency's questions concerning the correctness and completeness of Iran's safeguards declarations seriously affects the ability of the Agency to provide assurance of the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program," it added.



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## [Egypt lifts coronavirus restrictions from June 1, cabinet says](#)

Author:

Sun, 2021-05-30 21:29

CAIRO: Egypt will lift restrictions imposed to curb the spread of the coronavirus, including easing the early closure of shops and restaurants, from Tuesday, the cabinet said.

Since May 6, stores, malls and restaurants had to close by 9 p.m. after a rise in infections.

Egypt imposed strict measures at the start of the pandemic, closing its airspace and setting nightly curfews to combat the spread of the virus, but it has remained largely open since June 2020.

As part of its efforts to save the tourism sector, it completed vaccinating workers in all hotels in Southern Sinai and Red Sea provinces and plans to vaccinate all residents of the two resorts of Hurghada and Sharm el-Sheik, the cabinet said on Sunday.

Tourism revenue, an important source of foreign currency for Egypt, plunged by 70 percent in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Tourism usually accounts for up to 15 percent of gross domestic product.

Egypt is optimistic about welcoming more visitors this year with numbers increasing steadily since January to around half a million tourists a month, Tourism and Antiquities Minister Khaled El-Enany told Reuters in May.

Egypt had officially confirmed 260,659 coronavirus cases including 15,001 deaths as of Saturday. However, officials and experts say the real number of infections is far higher, but is not reflected in government figures because of low testing rates and the exclusion of private test results.



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## [Iran spying charge against French national 'incomprehensible': foreign ministry](#)

Sun, 2021-05-30 21:07

PARIS: Spying charges brought by Iran against Frenchman Benjamin Briere are "incomprehensible," the foreign ministry in Paris said on Sunday. He was on holiday in the Islamic Republic, the ministry said, adding it "knew nothing likely to back up" the charges.

*Developing...*



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