



National Day of Egypt



The Daily Star

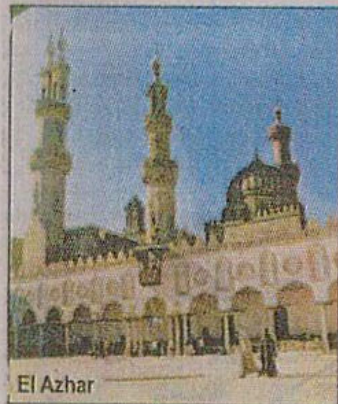
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

July 23, 2006

The cradle of civilisation

EGYPT is the cradle of civilisation, the beacon of religion and the gateway to Africa. Cairo is the foremost capital on the African Continent and lies at the centre of all routes leading to, and from the capitals of the three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe.

Egypt, for over fifty centuries, engendered the development of culture and civilisation: Pharaonic, Christian and Islamic; and all during those long years, has generously contributed in the history and treasures of man-kind.



El Azhar

Consequently, when in Egypt, the land of love, friendship and hospitality, you will never not even for a moment, feel a lonely traveller! In fact, you will enjoy travelling through time, from one period to another, exhilarated by the history of those who remained immortal; though their bodies were laoid to rest thousands of years ago.

Cairo, which has enfolded various civilisations, does not concede to mortality which it has overcome.

Egypt, the country of 7000 years of civilisation, where past and present meet, invites you to come and enjoy its beautiful all-year weather, and visit the immortal monuments and relics, especially

the ancient pyramids, and Sphinx of Giza, the Great Temples and Tombs of Luxor and Abu Simbel, the beauty of River Nile and the unforgettable Nile Cruises.

CAIRO
Egypt's capital, standing where East meets West and combining the exoticism of the one and the sophistication of the other, is the largest city on the African continent and the heart of the Arab world. With its "thousand minarets," picturesque Oriental bazaars push Nile-side hotels and apartment blocks, and gracious residential districts, it is also a rare blend of a long past still throbbing with life and a vibrant, modern present.

The Giza Pyramids and Sphinx:
One of the Seven Wonders of the Old World, this trio of pyramids, 12 kms from the city center, contains the most important of the many pyramidal edifices in Egypt. Nearby stands the Great Sphinx, a combination of a man's head, believed to be Khafra's, and the body of lion, said to symbolize power. Try to make an evening trip to Giza and catch the "sound & light", a breathtaking nightly spectacle relating by sound, and in eerie light the story of man's earliest civilisation.

The Egyptian Museum: The unique exhibits in this world famous museum cover well over 5,000 years of ancient Egyptian history and are constantly being added to by new excavations. Among its more splendid treasures are the funeral effects of Tutankhamen, the unfinished head of Queen Nefertiti, the wooden statue of the Scribe, and the diorite statue of King Khafra who built the second Giza pyramid.

There you will see the mummies of many Pharaohs and Queens, among them Ramesses II.

LUXOR
The modern town of Luxor which,

by train, lies some 671 kms south of Cairo is part of the ancient City of Thebes, the capital, after Memphis, of Pharaonic Egypt. In ancient days, "Hundered Gated Thebes," as Homer called it, attracted visitors from all parts of the known world and since that time travellers to the land of Egypt have come to Luxor to wander among its antiquity-steeped remains and absorb some thing of the delightful atmosphere of a long by-gone age. Luxor gives the visitor a never-to-be-forgotten chance of a wandering through its breath-taking time-defying temples and marvelling at the deep buried majesty of its tombs all lavish with inscriptions and etchings.

SINAI
The Sinai Peninsula is a great triangle of land, 36,600 miles in area with high granite mountains, deep chasms and fertile green oases. It was in the Sinai that Moses received the Ten Commandments, that prophet Elyah sought refuge from Queen Jezebel and that the Holy Family traveled on the Flight into Egypt.

St. Catherine Monastery was built by Emperor Justinian in the 6th century to shelter Christian monks. The Monastery contains the Chapel of the Burning Bush, the Mosaic of the Transfiguration of Christ and a library containing early Christian manuscripts.

Mount Moses is beyond the Monastery. The monks built a staircase of rocks with 3,750 steps leading to the summit.

ASWAN-ABU SIMBEL
Aswan is one of the world's foremost winter resorts. The mild climate in winter makes it a haven of peace and relaxation in a landscape that is at once a blend of the exotic atmosphere of the Orient and the throbbing vitality of Africa.

It is in this town, standing sentinel over one of the most important



Mohamed Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

gateways to Africa, that antiquity can be seen alongside the very latest example of man's genius. Only a few miles upstream from the granite quarries of the area where the Pharaohs of Ancient Thebes obtained the pink granite for their statues and monuments, rises today the new High Dam of Aswan which may be considered one of the world's most advanced engineering feats.

RED SEA
A virtual paradise for diving enthusiasts, the Red Sea is recognised by experts as the best dive site in the world. A myriad of exotic species of tropical reef fish, hard and soft unique coral formations and beautiful desert add to the charm of the

Red Sea.
Sharm El Sheikh, Dahab and Nuweiba are 3 dive resorts, 300, 350 and 400 miles respectively from Cairo, with clean and comfortable accommodations and fully-equipped dive centers run by professional diving instructors.

Hurghada is on a crescent-shaped bay with rugged mountains, 237 miles south of Sinai. Accommodation is available at many De-Lux Hotels and Tourist Villages with fully equipped diving centers.

Safaga is 350 miles from Cairo, it is best known for its fantastic coral reefs. The Safaga Hotels offer possibilities for accommodation, camping and cure.

MESSAGE

IT'S my pleasure to extend my warm and sincere greetings to the people and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh while we are celebrating the 54th anniversary of the 23rd of July Egyptian revolution in 1952.

Egypt was one of the first countries that supported Bangladesh to get recognition as a friend and a great Muslim country and was one of the pioneers to establish diplomatic relations with Bangladesh in 1973, since then the two countries are paying more concern to push forward and strengthen relations.

The bilateral relations witnessed unprecedented developments in the last two years specially in the field of investments when the Egyptian Tele Communication Group Orascom Telecom entered the Bangladeshi market by investing 300 million Dollars and this number is expected to increase, we are also looking forward to attract more Egyptian investments to benefit from the attractive climate of investment in Bangladesh as we hope to see in the near future Bangladeshi investments in Egypt to benefit from the new investment laws and the attractive investment climate which occupies high priority on the agenda of the hon'ble president Mohamed Hosni Mubarak.

The preparations are going on for holding the first meeting of the joint commission as a framework for greater areas of cooperation and these preparations already have achieved significant progress and we hope it will be held in the near future.

As for scholarships and Technical assistance Egypt presents to the Bangladeshi students annually tens of scholarships to study in Al-Azhar University and Institutes, as well as the other Egyptian Universities, and on the field of Technical assistance Egypt provides annually a number of training programs to the Bangladeshi experts in the field of Agriculture.

It's well known that Egypt is one of the top attracting touristic destinations in the world as it is privileged by 40% of the world's monuments as well as beaches, resorts, desert safari programs and the nature which attract millions of tourists every year from all over the world including Bangladesh and the number of Bangladeshi tourists to Egypt is increasing day by day and we hope that in the coming years more Bangladeshis to visit Egypt.

Egypt and Bangladesh are members of a number of Regional Organizations such as NAM, OIC, DB as well as International Organizations and the Bilateral relations in this field witness cooperation which emerged coordination in exchanging support for occupying international posts, as well as coordina-

tion between the two leaderships and the frequent meetings between the leaders, the last not least was between the Hon'ble President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak and the Hon'ble Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on the side line of WSIS in Geneva in December 2003 was an excellent opportunity to exchange views on international, regional and bilateral issues of mutual concern.

The two foreign ministers give importance to regular meetings on the sidelines of international and regional meetings the last not least meeting was on the sideline of the General Assembly meetings in September 2005 in New York.

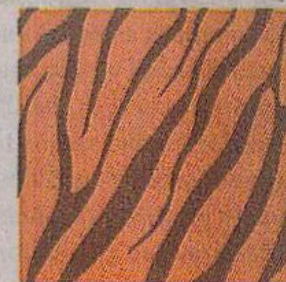
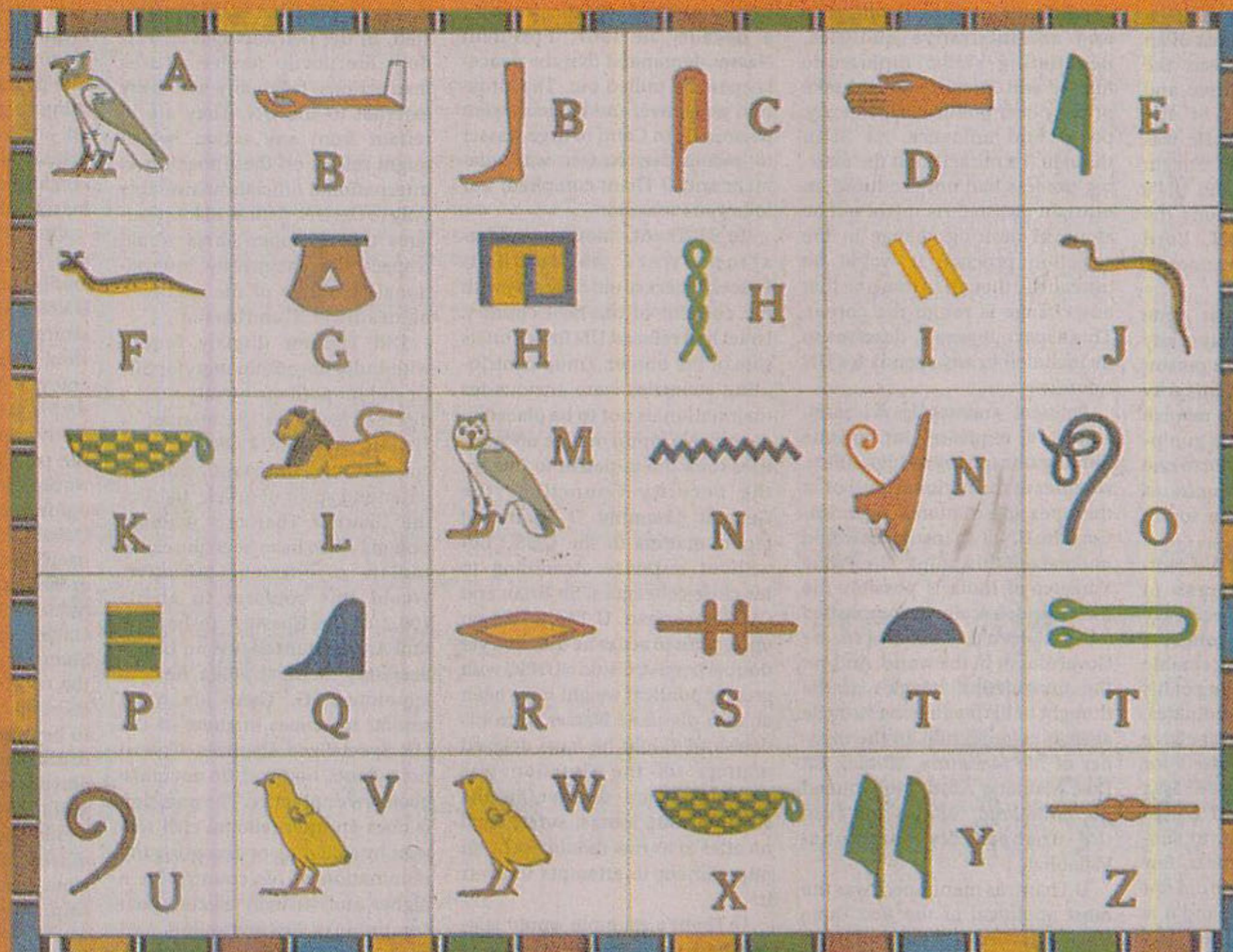
The hon'ble foreign minister of Egypt H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit is expected to visit Bangladesh soon upon invitation from his counterpart H.E. Mr. M. Morshed Khan hon'ble foreign minister of Bangladesh.

I'd like to seize this opportunity to praise the achievements of Bangladesh in all fields specially Education, Healthcare, Women empowerment and Poverty Alleviation and I'd like to conclude by extending my best wishes to the friend Bangladeshi people of welfare and prosperity.



Ismail Abdel Rahman Ghoneim
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Bangladesh

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