



National Day of Egypt



Message

from
M Kamal El-Miligy
Ambassador of the
Arab Republic of Egypt
in Bangladesh



Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Sisters and Brothers,
Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah.
Today the 23rd July, 1992 marks the 40th anniversary of the historic Egyptian revolution, Egypt, as all know, is geographically, politically and morally in the heart of the Islamic and Arab World.
In the last 40 years and specially in the last decade the Arab Republic of Egypt has scored a lot of achievements not only in the internal policies but also in the international political arena.
As a matter of fact, the evidents of these achievements would be synchro-

nized through the fact that two Egyptians are holding now the highest positions in the United Nations and in the Arab League as Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali is nowadays the Secretary General of the United Nations and Dr Esmet Abdel Meguid is the Secretary General of the Arab League, which confirms the distinguished image of the Egyptian diplomacy and effective role towards all the international issues.

It should be mentioned here that Egypt and Bangladesh, in view of the excellent relationship existing between the two brotherly countries since Bangladesh's independence, have the same stand and the mutual coordination in all the international forums and organisations specially in the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Nowadays Egypt as well as Bangladesh enjoy the benefits of democracy and the multi-party system which contribute a lot to implement the socio-economic developments and the economic reforms which are a must to enhance and promote the national economy and to face and solve the economic difficulties and challenges.

The bilateral relations between Egypt and Bangladesh, which goes deeply into the roots of history and not only since the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, show trends and indications that the consensus in the both countries are existing to boost and enhance the cooperations in all the various fields.

The signing of the Executive Programme of Cultural, Scientific and Educational Cooperation between the two countries for the years 1992-94, which took place in Dhaka on April 30, 1992, is a positive sign in this regard.

Let us pray to Almighty Allah to grace our efforts to achieve the goals of the unity of the Islamic Ummah and the progress and dignity of our two brotherly countries.

Long live the Arab Republic of Egypt.
Bangladesh Zindabad.
Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah.



President Hosni Mubarak

EGYPTIAN TRADE CENTRE Promoting Trade

by Ibrahim Badawy Morsy

Trade Representative
Trade Centre of Egypt



attraction of the whole world. Every year, Trade Centre of Egypt purchase, millions of Dollar worth of raw jute, jute goods, tea and leather while it sells cotton yarn, rock phosphate, dyestuff, chemicals, aluminium wire, aluminium foil, glass bottle, gas cylinder, railway wagon ... etc. Last financial year Trade Centre of Egypt purchased from Bangladesh goods worth about \$ 24 million.

It is a pleasure for us to express that Misr Import & Export Co and Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) signed an STA (Special Trading Agreement) amounting to \$ 20 million dollars — 10 million dollars each way — which is effective from 1992.

On the day of our 40th National Day, I congratulate the people of Bangladesh and the entrepreneurs of Egypt and Bangladesh and also most welcome their mutual relations. Our doors is always open to furnish any kind of possible assistance in import, export consultancy to the traders and entrepreneurs.

I pray to the Almighty Allah for further cementing the relations between two brotherly countries.

Long live Egypt-Bangladesh brotherhood.

The Trade Centre of Egypt in Bangladesh office of the Misr Import & Export Co. in Cairo under the Ministry of Commerce & Foreign Trade of the Arab Republic of Egypt, is engaged in promoting trade relation between Bangladesh and Egypt since 1960.

Misr Import & Export Co. has eight foreign offices over the world whose main functions among other things, are Import, Export and Technology Transfer. Besides this it acts as a co-ordinator.

The Trade Centre of Egypt in Bangladesh was opened with the intent to purchase jute, the Golden Fibre of Bangladesh, which is the main

The Egyptian Civilization

by Seif Allah Mostafa Noseir

First Secretary
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Bangladesh



Stele of Apis dedicated to an Apis



Visitors at Giza Pyramid site



Tutankhamun's funerary mask

Two inherent phenomena, namely, ancientness and continuity crop up as intrinsically relevant to and inseparably connected with the Egyptian civilization throughout the ages. The Egyptian Civilization is one of the oldest in human history.

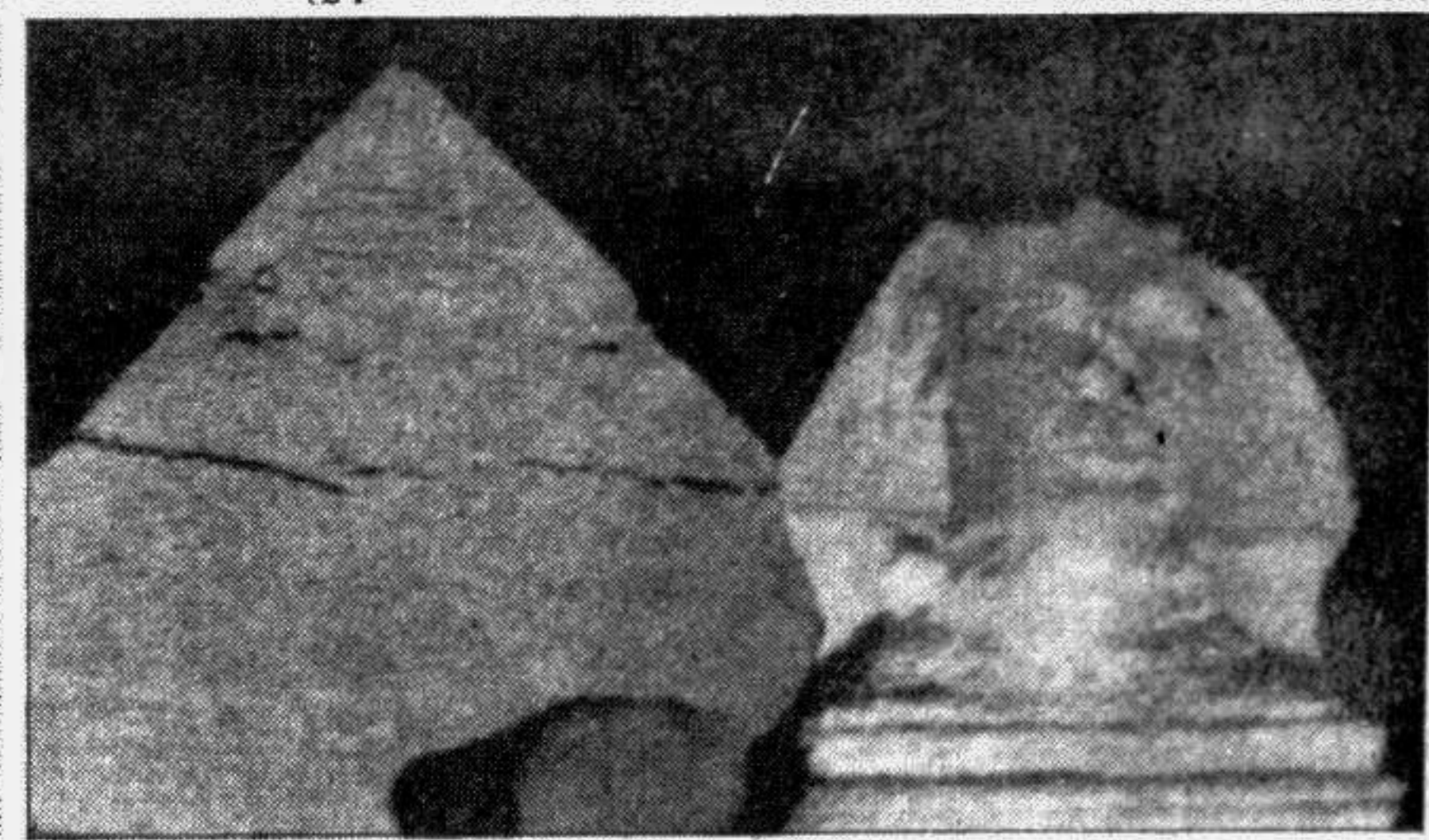
Inscriptions on the various Egyptian monuments emphatically date it back to seven thousand years. The elements of this first civilization drive roots in immemorial past before the dawn of history, back to the old Stone Age when ancient man lived on picking fruits, the chase of the land and of the sea, and harvesting grains and plants, knowing no cherished homeland nor a permanent abode.

As for continuity, it was due to the distinguished geographical location — in the heart of the entire world, linking the east and the west — that Egypt could embrace most of the world's civilization and cultures: on the good land of Egypt the Greek civilization lived, the Roman prospered, the Coptic flourished and finally the Islamic civilization came. Yet, Egypt has always been able to give the newcomers her character and bestow upon them her distinct brand, paradoxically preserving her independent identity and unique entity even though changing her cultural apparel in language and religion from age to age. Furthermore, Egypt has been able

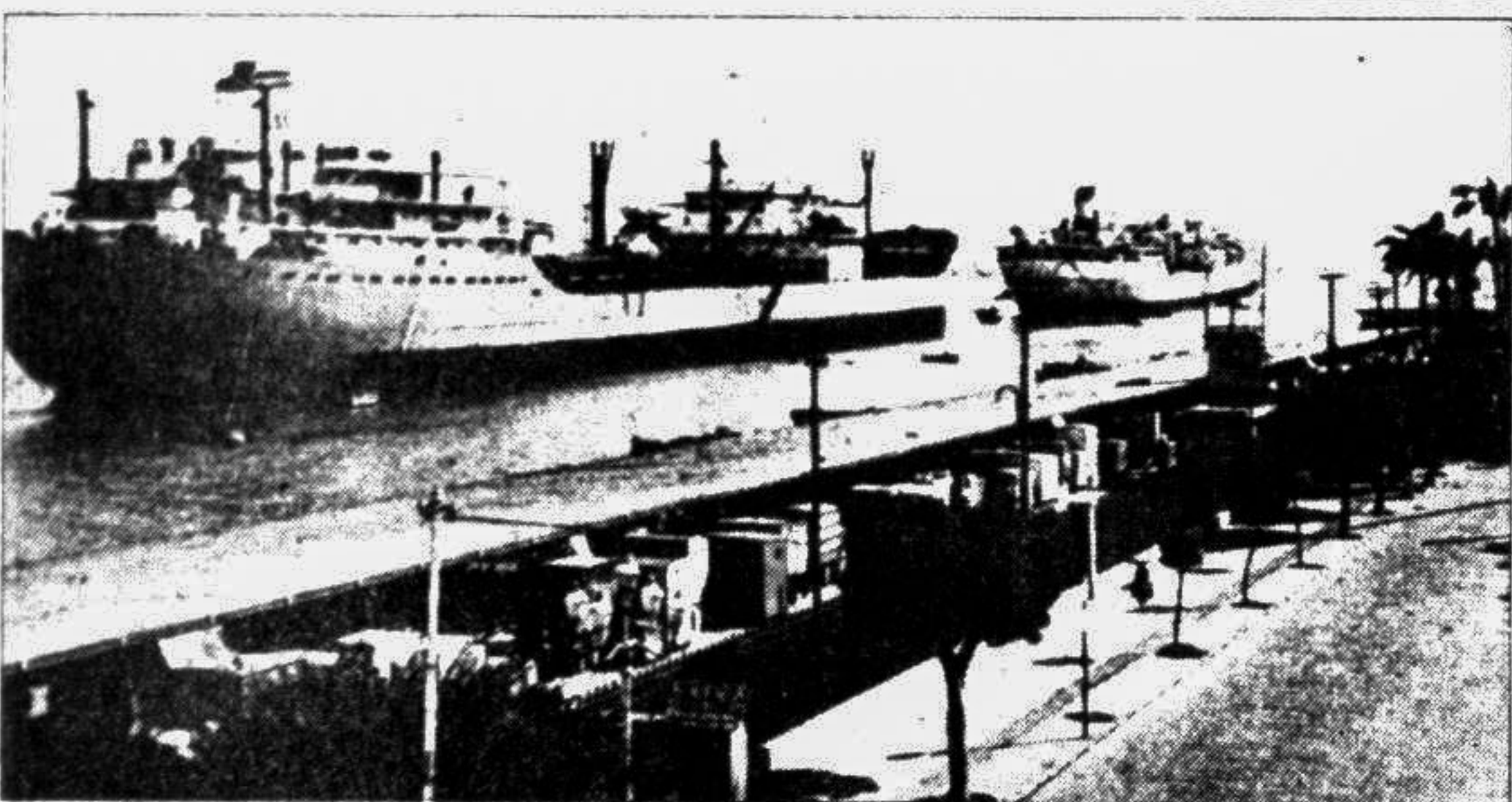
to preserve all the product of the different civilizations on her land to the extent that it is deservedly described, as an orientalist put it, as the biggest Monuments Museum in the whole world. This richness of civilization was further blessed and perfected by the presence of the name "Egypt" in most holy heavenly Scriptures sent down by God to his Messengers and Prophets where there are citations of different events on her land connected with the Prophets Abraham, Joseph, Jesus Christ and Moses.

Throughout the long history, Egypt has always been aware of the fact that her civilization is not an exclusive possession, and consequently opened her museums and archaeological treasures for all peoples. It is no wonder that some of the magnificent Egyptian monuments can be seen in different cities in the world: Egyptian pharaonic obelisks in most European capitals, the greatest monument to be found in Berlin is Nefertiti's bust.

Seeing too many Egyptian monuments at the British Museum, Bernard Shaw once said, "I've seen the Egyptian museum in London." And he who comes to Egypt will soon realize that what is said of Egypt can never truly express the greatness and genuineness of Egypt's Civilization as witnessed on its land.



Sphinx and Pyramid at night



Port Said — entrance to the Suez Canal

We extend our Heartiest
felicitations to the people and
Government of the
Arab Republic of Egypt
on their national day.

Glimpses from Interviews with Sadat

Egypt and Bangladesh are Bound by Special Ties

by SMAli

HERE has always been something special in the relationship between the peoples of Egypt and Bangladesh, even from the days when this country was part of Pakistan.

This relationship had been based on our shared opposition to imperialism and support for Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). True, Pakistan, under Ayub Khan, had joined and Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung in Indonesia in the late fifties, become a member of NAM and developed a productive relationship with the People's Republic of China. However, Pakistan was also an ardent participant in the Regional Co-operation for Development (RCD), with two other Washington-backed allies, Turkey and Iran, as well as of the Bangkok-based Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO), a military alliance put up by the United States.

Ever since the anti-monarchist revolution in Egypt by General Mohammad Naguib and Colonel Gamal Abdul Nasser 1952 and the nationalisation of Suez Canal by the Government of Nasser in 1956, Cairo maintained a friendly attitude towards the progressive forces in Pakistan, which were obviously stronger in what later became Bangladesh than in the western wing.

Somewhere in this relationship, our shared attitude towards liberal values in Islam and commitment to secularism played a positive role. In the long history of Arab-Israeli conflict, Egypt has certainly played a leading role, in wars as well as in peace — Cairo and Tel Aviv signed the treaty ending their hostilities in March 1979 — but even in the worst days of tension, Muslims, Christians and Jews lived in Egypt in reasonable harmony and peace. The legacy has survived, one of the best internationally-known examples being Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the present Secretary General of the United Nations. A journalist-turned-government leader, Dr Ghali is a Christian by faith, married to a Jewess and every inch an Egyptian Arab. In this sense, as one expert once put it, Egypt's struggle against

fundamentalism has a much greater chance of enduring success than that of other predominantly Muslim countries in the region. For this, we should salute Egypt.

THIS writer had different reasons for saluting Egypt when he first visited this Arab country. That was way back in August 1956. Having just nationalised the Suez Canal, President Nasser was using all his diplomatic resources — the support of countries like Yugoslavia, India, Indonesia and the Soviet Union — to thwart an aggression against his country by Israel, Britain and France, without much success. The

invasion eventually took place in late October 1956. It was a short war that ended with the UN-sponsored ceasefire on Nov 7.

Being in Cairo just on the eve of the war — I was back in Karachi when the Anglo-French bombing of the Egyptian capital started — was like watching the making of history, but without the full awareness of what lay ahead. That explains why I left Egypt when I should have stayed on, after mailing a despatch to the then Pakistan Observer to say that there would be no war. Indeed a naive ill-informed assumption.

However, I had good reasons to salute Egypt for the courage with which it faced the challenge, without losing its cool.

Then only an inexperienced reporter who, in his ill-fitting

suit, could hardly be regarded as a foreign correspondent, I did not expect much help from the Ministry of Information of Egypt, and I did not get any in the form of any high-level interview. President Nasser? A high-official of the Ministry looked at me in a mixture of surprise and sadness, which reflected a touch of compassion. How about the Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister? There was a little less compassion in his look. But he just nodded. I thought, a little sadly.

During the past three and a half decades of active reporting, I have seen that kind of look on the faces of officials of the Ministry of Information in many different countries, including Bangladesh. But I do not give up.

In Cairo, in 1956, I did not

Continued on page 9

