

EGYPT REFERENDUM  
Clashes ahead of second round vote

AFP, Naria

Riot police fired tear gas to separate clashing protesters in Egypt's second city of Alexandria yesterday, AFP correspondents reported, as tensions rose over a new constitution.

Lines of black-clad officers kept apart thousands of Islamists on one side and hundreds of anti-constitution protesters on the other. Dozens of rival protesters pelted each other with rocks in running battles.

The violence broke out on the eve of the final round of a referendum on the draft charter, which is backed by President Mohamed Morsi and his Islamist supporters.

Alexandria, which voted in the first round of the referendum last weekend, has seen several clashes between pro- and anti-Morsi protesters.

Islamists organised Friday's rally to protest last week's siege of the mosque sparked by a cleric's call for people to vote yes in the constitution.

Duelling demonstrations have been taking place around Egypt for a month. On December 5, vicious clashes broke out in front of Morsi's presidential palace in Cairo, killing eight people and wounding more than 600.

The army has deployed 120,000 soldiers to bolster 130,000 police tasked with maintaining security during the volatile voting.

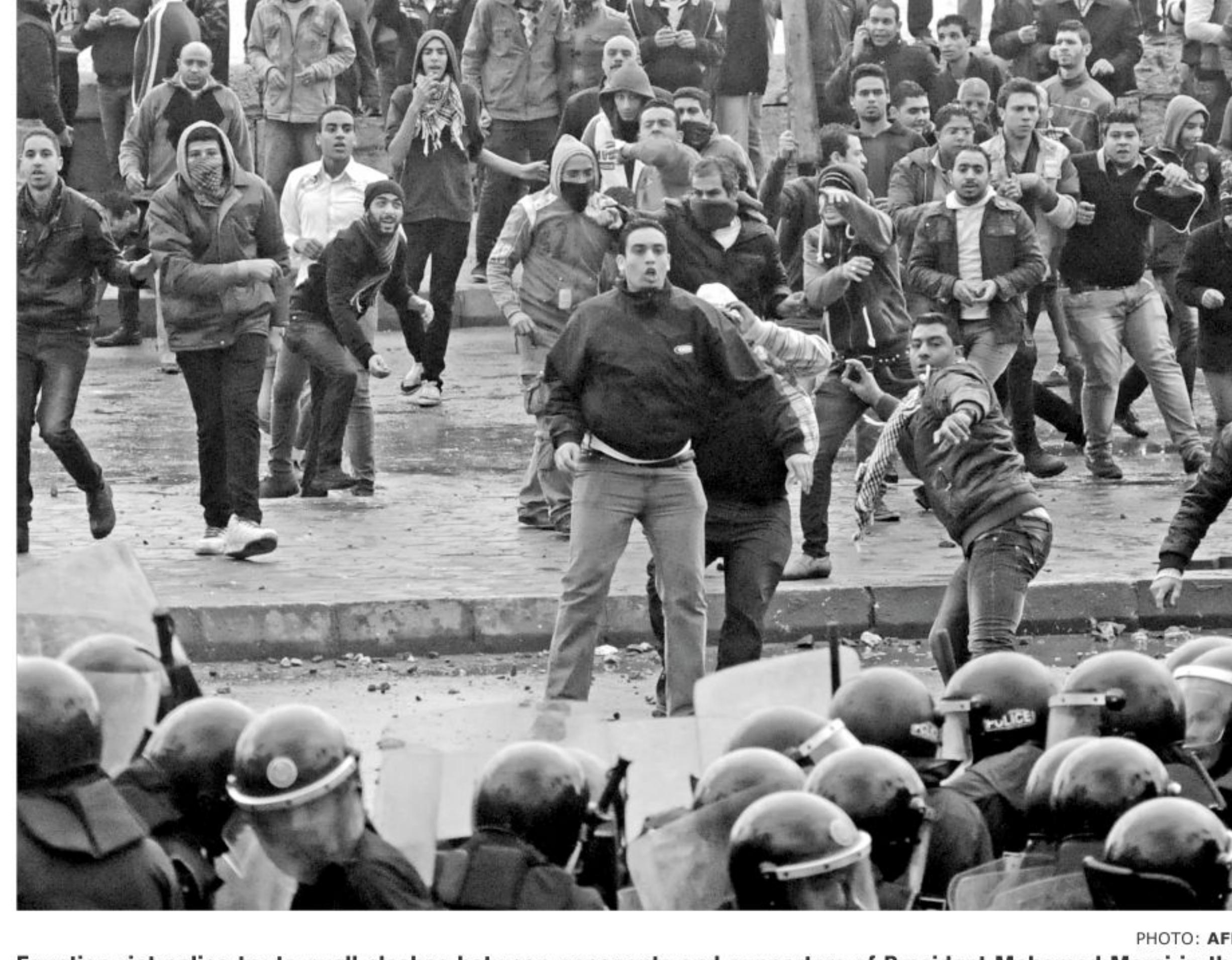


PHOTO: AFP

Egyptian riot police try to quell clashes between opponents and supporters of President Mohamed Morsi in the Mediterranean coastal city of Alexandria yesterday.

## UNSC approves Mali intervention force

AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council on Thursday unanimously approved sending an African-led military force to help reconquer northern Mali from Islamist militants.

A Security Council resolution gave the force an initial one-year mandate to use "all necessary measures" to help Mali's government take back territory from "terrorist, extremist and armed groups."

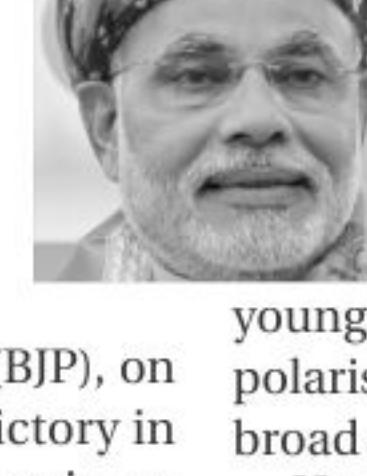
But the 15-member council said military force can only be used after political efforts have been exhausted.

West African nations say they have 3,300 troops ready to go to Mali to help rebuild the country's army and support a military operation, which is not expected to start before September next year.

Tuareg rebels and other separatists and al-Qaeda linked groups took advantage of a coup in Mali in March to seize a vast chunk of territory where the militants have imposed a brutal form of Islamic law.

## Modi's party may block his run for PM: Report

AFP, New Delhi



a vote-winning candidate to take on the ruling Congress-led alliance that has been weakened by slowing economic growth and policy paralysis.

Modi, whose image remains tarnished by deadly riots in Gujarat in 2002, inspires loyalty among young Gujaratis, but BJP leaders fear he is a polarising figure who does not have the broad appeal needed on the national stage.

He strikes a fiercely independent stance in Gujarat, promoting his own pro-business agenda, and has long had strained relations with the BJP hierarchy.

"The BJP, already in unceasing turmoil over the leadership question, will now have to deal with the formidable claimant from Gujarat, who disdains not just the opponent... but also the opposition within," the Indian Express said.

IMPEACHMENT IN SRI LANKA  
SC stops proceedings against top judge

PTI, Colombo



Sri Lanka's Court of Appeal yesterday halted a parliamentary committee's impeachment proceedings against the country's first woman chief justice Shirani Bandaranayake, who had sought a writ order to declare the findings of the panel illegal.

The Appeal Court noticed the parliament speaker and parliamentary select committee members to appear before it on January 3 and asked them not to act in derogation of the chief justice until the court concludes its hearings.

The hearing was with regard to a plaint filed by Bandaranayake on December 19 seeking an order to quash the findings of the committee, which probed impeachment charges against her.

The parliamentary committee on December 8 ruled that Bandaranayake was guilty of three of the 14 charges in the impeachment proceedings against her moved by the ruling United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) coalition legislators.

The three charges were financial impropriety based on non-declaration of assets and conflict of interest in a case involving a failed investment company.

The 54-year-old chief justice denied all the charges against her.

The court ruling on Friday has added a new dimension to the impeachment issue as parliament claiming its supremacy over judiciary had ignored previous notices issued by the court.

## Russia MPs back US adoption ban

AFP, Moscow

Russia's lower house of parliament yesterday gave its final approval to a contentious bill that retaliates against a new US human rights measure by barring Americans from adopting the country's children.

The State Duma passed the bill without debate in a quick 420-7 vote while protesters picketed the building demanding that the measure be voted down.

The vote took place in a largely ceremonial third and final reading of the legislation and the outcome was never in doubt.

The Kremlin-dominated upper house of parliament is now expected to approve the ban on December 26 before passing it on to President Vladimir Putin for his signature.

The law would end about 1,000 adoptions a year and underscores the severity of the recent strain in Russia-US relations.

## Syria firing Scud missiles at rebels

Says Nato; UN sanctions Iran firms

AFP, Brussels

The Syrian regime has fired Scud-type missiles against rebel forces in what Nato chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen yesterday said was an act of desperation.

"I can confirm that we have detected the launch of Scud-type missiles; we strongly regret that act," Rasmussen said, adding: "I consider it an act of a desperate regime approaching collapse."

The latest launches were detected on Thursday, a source close to Nato said.

The use of such missiles by President Bashar al-Assad's regime also highlights the "need for effective defence and protection of our ally Turkey," Rasmussen said, referring to the planned deployment of Patriot anti-missile batteries along its southern border with Syria.

Rasmussen stressed that the missiles had not landed on Turkish territory but they nonetheless posed a potential threat which had to be countered.

The Patriot deployment, to be made by Nato allies the United States, Germany and the Netherlands, is for a "defensive purpose only," he said.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council on Thursday slapped sanctions on two Iranian firms accused of supplying arms to the Syrian government, a UN statement said.

Yas Air and the SAD Import Export Company were added to a growing Iran sanctions list for breaching an arms embargo ordered against the Islamic republic for its nuclear drive.

According to diplomats, Turkish authorities intercepted arms shipments organized by Yas Air to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in 2011.

## Kenya tribal clashes kill 39

AFP, Nairobi

At least 39 people were killed yesterday in an attack on a village in a remote part of southeastern Kenya's coastal region, where deadly tribal violence also erupted earlier this year, police said.

The raid on Kipao village in the Tana river delta in the early hours "unleashed terror" on the inhabitants, police said.

The total number of people killed was 39, including 30 villagers and nine assailants.

The violence could be linked to Kenya's general election being held in March as a change in district boundaries has led to a shift in the balance of power between the different ethnic groups in the area.

## NEWS IN brief

## 66pc Israelis oppose Palestine state

AFP, Jerusalem

Two-thirds of Israelis are opposed to the establishment of a demilitarised Palestinian state in the West Bank, a poll showed yesterday.

According to the results of a Maagar Mohot survey published in Ma'ariv newspaper, when asked if they would support the establishment of such a state, 66 percent said they would, while 11 percent said they would not.

## Saif Ali Khan charged with assault

AFP, Mumbai

Indian police have charged Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan for allegedly assaulting and breaking the nose of a South African businessman at a luxury hotel earlier this year, a report said yesterday.

The actor ran into trouble after Iqbal Sharma registered a case with the police in February, complaining that he was pushed and punched in the face by Khan at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel's Wasabi Japanese restaurant in Mumbai.

## UK pays out £14m for Iraqi abuses

AFP, London

Britain has paid out £14 million (\$22.7 million, 17.2 million euros) to Iraqis who accuse British troops of illegally detaining and torturing them following the 2003 invasion, the Ministry of Defence said Thursday.

The ministry confirmed a report in the Guardian newspaper which revealed that the government had paid compensation to 205 complainants over the last five years, with more than 700 claims expected to be lodged next year.

## Hunger, homelessness on rise in US

AFP, Chicago

Hunger and homelessness are on the rise in the United States, and cash-strapped cities and social services are being forced to turn needy people away empty-handed, a study published Thursday found.

The number of homeless people seeking help had increased seven percent from 2011, according to a survey of social service operators in 25 of the nation's large cities commissioned by the Conference of Mayors.

## Mankind at stake over gay marriage: Pope

AFP, Vatican City

Pope Benedict XVI yesterday weighed in on a heated debate over gay marriage, criticising new concepts of the traditional family and warning that in the fight for the family, mankind itself is at stake.

"In the fight for the family, the very notion of being – of what being human really means – is being called into question," Benedict said in Italian during an end of year speech.

"The question of the family... is the question of what it means to be a man, and what it is necessary to do to be true men," he said.

The pope spoke of the "falseness" of gender theories and cited at length France's chief Rabbi Gilles Bernheim, who has spoken out against gay marriage.

"Bernheim, has shown in a very detailed and profoundly moving study that the attack we are currently experiencing on the true structure of the family, made up of father, mother, and child, goes much deeper," he said.



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## TENDER NOTICE

North South University is inviting sealed offer from the bona fide sport material supplier / reputed organization for supplying the items as mentioned below:

SL. No.	Description of Items	Quantity
01.	Basketball playing items complete set including Moving Basketball stand, fiber glass board, ring, net (Foreign) and others accessories. (as mentioned in the tender schedule)	01 set

Interested bidders may collect schedules of tender from the Finance & Accounts Department of the NSU from 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Sunday through Thursday on all working days till December 30, 2012 by paying non refundable taka 500.00(Five Hundred) only in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of quoted price in the form of pay order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on or before December 31, 2012 at 2.00 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. Bidders must have to offer all items. The offers will be opened at 2:15 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

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