

Monday, October 5, 2026

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Maya: Good morning, Cairo, and welcome to the Cairo Morning Briefing. It is Monday, October fifth, twenty twenty-six, and I am Maya.

Devon: And I am Devon. A brand new week in Cairo, and the city is waking up to one of those perfect early October mornings. Clear sky, warm sun, and a whole week of sunshine ahead.

Maya: That is not an exaggeration, by the way. The rain chances this week are zero, every single day. Let us walk through it.

Devon: Today is a beauty. A high near eighty-four, a low tonight near sixty-six, with light breezes around eight miles an hour. And honestly, the rest of the week is variations on that theme.

Maya: Tuesday is a near carbon copy of today, eighty-four and sixty-six, still completely dry. Wednesday warms to eighty-six with a low near sixty-four.

Devon: Thursday holds at eighty-six, with a slightly milder night near sixty-eight. And Friday is the warmest day of the week, touching eighty-eight degrees.

Maya: Then the weekend settles back down. Saturday and Sunday both top out near eighty-four, with lows in the mid-sixties, and the wind picks up just a touch toward the end of the week, near ten miles an hour. Warm days, pleasant nights, endless sunshine. Classic Cairo October.

Devon: One reminder for the midday hours, the sun is still strong, so if you are out between noon and three, take the sunglasses and the sunscreen.

Maya: Now, the night sky. Devon, is tonight a good one for looking up?

Devon: It is a good one, especially early. The sun sets just after six thirty-five, and the sky gets properly dark around eight. The moon is a waning crescent, only about a third lit, and it does not rise until after one in the morning, so the whole evening is moonless.

Maya: And the star of the show is Saturn. Once it is dark, look to the southeast, about halfway up the sky, and you will find the ringed planet glowing steadily. You will not see the rings with the naked eye, but binoculars or a small telescope will bring them out.

Devon: No notable space station passes tonight. And I will say this plainly, in Cairo the city lights are a bigger obstacle than the moon. If you can get out toward the desert edge, the contrast is remarkable.

Maya: On to arts and entertainment. Last night was a big one at the Cairo Opera House, and there is one more chance to catch it.

Devon: That is right. Omar Khairat, the legendary Egyptian composer, played the first of two concerts at the Opera House Main Hall last night, and the second performance is tonight at eight P M. His orchestral versions of those beloved film scores have been bringing generations of Cairo audiences to their feet for decades.

Maya: And looking ahead, there are two things to put on the calendar. This Friday and Saturday, the Starlight Festival takes over the Great Pyramids of Giza, with a welcome event Thursday night and a farewell in Cairo on Sunday. Music beside the pyramids is not something you forget.

Devon: And starting Sunday, the eleventh, the Cairo International Art District returns for its sixth edition, called Alive Archive, with contemporary exhibitions and installations across downtown Cairo, at the Factory, Kodak Passage, and Access Art Space, running through the eighth of November.

Maya: Now to the news, and Devon, the drama at the Cairo International Stadium last night was real.

Devon: It was. South Africa's Bafana Bafana stunned Egypt one to nil in an international friendly. Puso Dithejane scored the winner five minutes into the second half, and a young South African side held on to beat the Pharaohs in front of their own fans.

Maya: And there was some serious star power in the building. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is in Egypt for the African Union Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, and he visited the South African dressing room before kickoff to wish the team well. He was in the stands when the goal went in.

Devon: That makes three wins in a row for coach Pitso Mosimane's side, after their Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers against Guinea and Eritrea earlier in the week. For Egypt, the October camp ends with a home defeat and plenty to think about.

Maya: Our second story is a diplomatic tit-for-tat between Egypt and Ethiopia. After Addis Ababa expelled an Egyptian diplomat, Cairo declared a counselor at the Ethiopian embassy in Cairo persona non grata and gave him forty-eight hours to leave the country.

Devon: Egypt's state news agency reported the move on Thursday, with an official saying Cairo regrets Ethiopia's decision and stressing that Egypt does not interfere in other countries' internal affairs. It is the latest flare-up in a long-strained relationship, and everyone is watching whether both sides step back now.

Maya: And our third story, from the streets of Cairo. Dozens of journalists staged a picket on Saturday, demanding the release of six colleagues from the independent outlet Matsada2sh.

Devon: The six journalists, who make up the outlet's entire working team, were detained over a forty-eight-hour period, and according to their colleagues, the authorities have provided no official information about charges or their whereabouts. The demonstration was covered by France twenty-four Arabic and several regional outlets.

Maya: Their colleagues describe it as a sharp escalation of pressure on independent media, and we will keep following this story.

Devon: That is your Monday briefing, Cairo. Warm sunshine all week, Saturn in a moonless evening sky. Omar Khairat's last concert tonight, and a big week ahead.