

## Sunday, October 4, 2026

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**Maya:** Good morning, Cairo, and welcome to the Cairo Morning Briefing. I'm Maya.

**Devon:** And I'm Devon. It is Sunday, October fourth, twenty twenty-six, and we have a full show for you this morning.

**Maya:** We sure do. A classic Cairo October week ahead, a moonless sky with Saturn on display, the final night of a big arts festival, and some heavyweight stories in the news. Let's start with the weather.

**Devon:** And the headline is: more of the same, in the best way. Today, highs around thirty degrees, lows near eighteen, partly cloudy, zero chance of rain.

**Maya:** That pattern holds all week. Monday through Wednesday, highs of twenty-nine to thirty, lows of eighteen to nineteen. Then it warms up toward the weekend: thirty-one on Thursday, thirty-two on Friday, thirty-one on Saturday. Overnight lows stay at eighteen to twenty the whole way.

**Devon:** Winds are light, ten to seventeen kilometers per hour, and rain chances are zero percent every single day. The midday sun still has bite, with the UV index around six, so sunscreen if you are out and about.

**Maya:** Now the night sky. Devon, is this a good night to look up?

**Devon:** Yes, especially for planets. Sunset is at six thirty-seven P M, truly dark by seven fifty-six. The moon is in its last quarter, forty-four percent lit, and it does not rise until twelve oh seven in the morning, so the whole evening is moonless.

**Maya:** And the star of the show?

**Devon:** Saturn, in the southeast, about forty-two degrees up, bright and unmistakable. From a dark spot outside the city lights, like Wadi Degla or out toward Fayoum, you will get a great view. No ISS passes on the schedule tonight.

**Maya:** Arts and entertainment next. The She Arts Festival wraps up today, and tonight is the finale.

**Devon:** That is the women's arts festival at Ewart Memorial Hall in AUC Tahrir Square, more than one hundred artists from ten countries, under the theme Voices of Peace. Tonight's closing program: the Story of Hera dance performance at six thirty, Syrian singer Ghalia at seven, Hungarian vocalist Monika Lakatos at eight fifteen, and at nine o'clock, Egyptian singer Marwa Nagy pays tribute to Warda, backed by the She Arts Orchestra.

**Maya:** And Omar Khairat is at the Cairo Opera House tonight.

**Devon:** Tonight and tomorrow night, eight P M in the Main Hall, from around one thousand seven hundred fifty Egyptian pounds. One more chance if you missed last night.

**Maya:** And looking ahead: the Starlight Festival at the Great Pyramids of Giza, October eighth through the eleventh, in partnership with Visa. Mark the dates.

**Devon:** Now the news. The biggest international story: Washington has waived human rights

helpful role, following Operation Epic Fury, the United States Israeli campaign against Iran that began in late February.

**Maya:** For context, Egypt gets about one point three billion dollars a year in United States military aid, a relationship dating back to the nineteen seventy-nine peace treaty with Israel. Rights groups say repeated waivers undercut the safeguards meant to pressure Cairo on arbitrary detention.

**Devon:** Second story, developing here at home: the entire editorial team of the independent fact checking platform Matsadaash has been arrested.

**Maya:** Six journalists, detained in a coordinated sweep that began Monday night, according to MENA Today and the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, whose lawyers represent them. Four were arrested at their homes in Cairo, Gharbia, and Port Said. Two others, Mohamed Mahmoud and Omar Hilal, were detained on a Cairo street.

**Devon:** And what is the official explanation?

**Maya:** There isn't one. The platform says it has no information about where the journalists are being held or what charges they face, and no one has been allowed to contact their families or their legal team. The News Intel is calling it the first enforced disappearance of an entire newsroom in Egypt's history.

**Devon:** Matsadaash was founded in twenty eighteen by the late journalist Mohamed Aboelgheit to fact check state and media claims, and the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights says twenty-six journalists are now detained in Egypt over their work. Yesterday, dozens of journalists held a picket in Cairo demanding the release of their six colleagues.

**Maya:** Finally, sports, and this is tonight: Egypt takes on South Africa in a friendly at the Cairo International Stadium, nine o'clock P M.

**Devon:** And the big news is who will not be there. Mohamed Salah has been ruled out. Coach Hossam Hassan had said the captain would return, but multiple reports confirm Salah agreed with the technical staff to sit it out and rest, and he has left the camp.

**Maya:** Egypt comes in in good form, though: a five-nil win over South Sudan in Juba on Tuesday put the Pharaohs top of their twenty twenty-seven Africa Cup of Nations qualifying group, with four points from two matches.

**Devon:** And on the other touchline, a familiar face returns. Pitso Mosimane, the newly reappointed South Africa coach, won back to back CAF Champions League titles with Al Ahly in twenty twenty and twenty twenty-one. The last time these nations met was at the twenty twenty-five Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco, Egypt winning one to nothing on a Salah penalty.

**Maya:** A big night at Cairo Stadium. And that is our show for this Sunday morning.

**Devon:** Quick recap: warm and dry all week, a moonless sky with Saturn, the She Arts finale and Omar Khairat tonight, the aid waiver, the Matsadaash arrests, and Egypt versus South Africa at nine.