

[Biden names Israel ambassador days after new government](#)

Author:

AFP

ID:

1623786592992752600

Tue, 2021-06-15 19:47

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden on Tuesday nominated veteran Democrat Thomas Nides as the US ambassador to Israel, two days after the formation of a new government.

Nides, who as a senior State Department official under president Barack Obama fought attempts to cut off US funding for the Palestinians, requires confirmation from the Senate.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Israel](#)

[Joe Biden](#)

[Thomas Nides](#)

[US](#)

Israeli nationalists march in East Jerusalem under heavy police presence
Joe Biden confuses Syria with Libya repeatedly at G7

Tunisian court releases media mogul Nabil Karoui

Author:

Reuters

ID:

1623780492651920700

Tue, 2021-06-15 17:26

TUNIS: A Tunisian court on Tuesday released media mogul and former presidential candidate Nabil Karoui after he spent more than six months in custody on money laundering and tax evasion charges, his lawyer and party said.

Karoui, the owner of Nessma television channel and head of the Heart of Tunisia political party, the second largest in parliament, was detained in December for a second time for alleged money laundering and tax fraud. Video footage broadcast by local radio Mosaique FM showed Karoui leaving Mornaguia prison, where he found his family and party members waiting outside.

In 2019, Karoui beat most candidates to reach a run-off for the presidency despite spending most of the campaign behind bars. He ultimately lost in a landslide to President Kais Saied.

His Heart of Tunisia party, which came second only to the moderate Islamist Ennahda in a parliamentary election the same year, has joined with it in giving narrow majority support to Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi's government, which has been locked in a power struggle with the president.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Tunisia](#)

[Nabil Karoui](#)

[kais Saied](#)

Court frees Tunisian presidential candidate Nabil KarouiSaied and Karoui to face off in second round of Tunisia's presidential election

[Algeria's FLN wins most seats in parliament, election authority says](#)

Tue, 2021-06-15 20:40

ALGIERS: Algeria's FLN, long the country's biggest political party, won the most seats in Saturday's parliamentary election, the head of the electoral authority said on Tuesday.

Fewer than a third of registered voters took part in the election, which the long dominant establishment had seen as part of its strategy to move beyond two years of mass protests and political turmoil.

The protests that erupted in 2019 demanded the ousting of the ruling elite, an end to corruption and the army's withdrawal from politics. While

authorities praised the demonstrations as a moment of national renewal, they also cracked down with arrests.

“The dynamic of peaceful change that was launched (with the protests) is being strengthened,” electoral authority head Mohamed Chorfi said, referring to the election.

The FLN’s 105 seats were far short of the 204 needed to secure a majority in the 407-seat parliament, with the Islamist MSP winning 64 seats, another former ruling coalition party, the RND, winning 57, and independent candidates taking 78 seats.

However, most of the elected members of parliament are expected to support President Abdelmadjid Tebboune’s programme, including economic reforms.

Islamist parties had hoped to benefit from the unrest of the past two years of protests that pushed the veteran president, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, from office and led to the jailing of numerous senior officials.

But the biggest difference from previous elections was the much larger number of independents winning seats in parliament, with Islamists retaining about the same share as previously.

The leaderless “Hirak” mass protest movement boycotted the vote, as it had the 2019 election that installed Tebboune in place of Bouteflika.

Hirak has said any vote that takes place while the current establishment remains in place, and while the army interferes in politics, cannot be fair.

While elections before Hirak’s rise had higher official turnout figures, they were still often marked by a large number of abstentions.

The make-up of the new parliament is expected to shape the next government, which will face a looming economic crisis with Algeria having spent more than four fifths of its foreign currency reserves since 2013.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Algeria](#)

Algeria awaits results after voters snub electionsAlgeria cancels France 24 accreditation: State media

[Egypt, Qatar agree to settle outstanding issues](#)

Tue, 2021-06-15 19:30

CAIRO: Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani on Tuesday held talks with Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, who visited Doha to deliver a message from Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

The Qatari news agency reported: "The emir received a written message from the president of Egypt on enhancing relations between the two countries and means of strengthening bilateral relations in a way that serves the interests of the two brotherly countries and peoples."

Shoukry arrived in Doha on Sunday carrying El-Sisi's message on the positive developments in Egyptian-Qatari relations following the AlUla Declaration.

The declaration "strengthens the bonds of friendship and brotherhood among our countries and peoples in order to serve their aspirations," Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told the GCC Summit when the AlUla Declaration was signed on Jan. 5.

El-Sisi said in his letter that Egypt looks forward to taking more measures during the upcoming period to enhance bilateral cooperation in a way that serves the interests of both peoples and countries, Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Hafez said.

Shoukry also held talks with Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani as they discussed the re-activation of bilateral cooperation and means of settling all the outstanding issues between both countries.

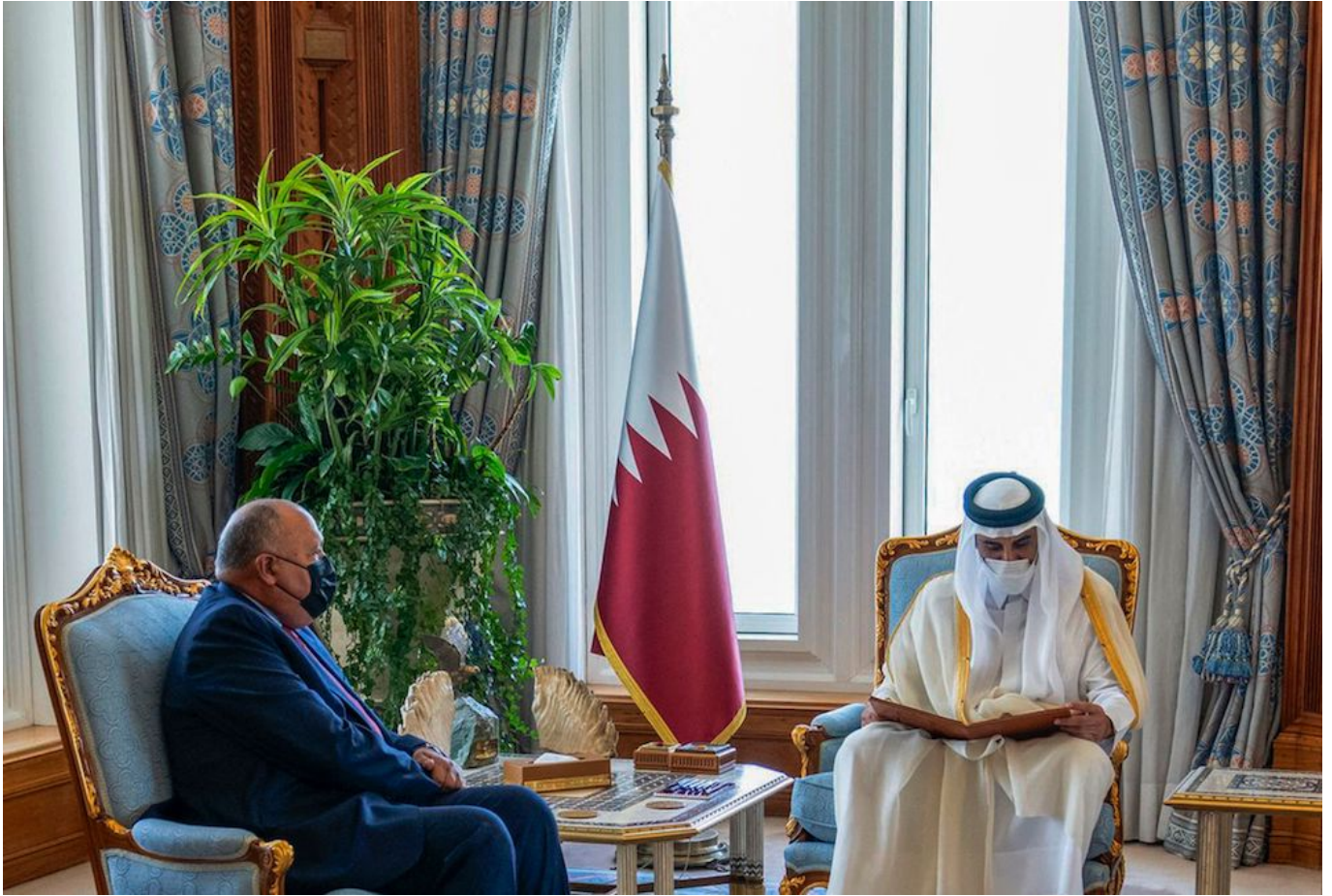
Hafez said the meeting also covered the most prominent challenges facing the Arab countries and the region.

Both ministers also discussed the Arab League meeting held on Tuesday about the most prominent regional issues and ways to deal with external interventions harmful to Arab national security, Hafez said.

They highlighted the importance of stressing Arab solidarity with Egypt and

Sudan during a session scheduled to be held on the issue of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, he said.

Shoukry will attend the meeting, following a request from Egypt and Sudan.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Egypt](#)

[Qatar](#)

[Sameh Shoukry](#)

[Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani](#)

[Abdel Fattah El-Sisi](#)

Shoukry visits Qatar to convey message from El-Sisi
Egypt welcomes Qatar invite

[Dubai authorities say cracking down on owners of illegal wildlife](#)

Author:

AFP

ID:

1623773996580992800

Tue, 2021-06-15 19:24

DUBAI: Dubai authorities said Tuesday a joint task force was cracking down on the illegal possession of dangerous animals in the Gulf emirate, where owning exotic wildlife remains popular in some circles.

The joint task force of Dubai police and municipal authorities “has responded to many cases of violation during the past weeks,” a police statement said. Authorities are working “around the clock to curb violators and confiscate wild and dangerous animals to keep them away from residential areas,” it said, urging members of the public to report and hand over such animals. In mid-May, Dubai police said a hunt was underway for a wild animal on the loose in a residential neighborhood, after reports of an escaped big cat. A video of what appeared to be a big black cat circulated on social media groups, and residents of The Springs community were warned to “exercise all necessary caution.”

Local media later reported that animal turned out to be a domestic cat. A 2016 federal law prohibits people “from owning, possessing, trading or breeding dangerous animals,” with a maximum penalty of six months in prison and/or a 500,000 dirham (\$136,000) fine, according to the statement. Despite the penalties, private zoos are not uncommon in the United Arab Emirates.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Dubai](#)

[wild animals](#)

[Dubai Police](#)

Saudi's 'humane' pet project helping animals beat the heat
Dubai Police arrest international drug lord over smuggling operations across Europe