

Clashes in Egypt fuel stations fallout of diesel shortage

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The Egyptian fallout of the diesel shortage has continued yesterday, as a large number of bakeries in various parts of the country has stopped working

Moreover, farm irrigation prices have increased, vegetable prices and transportation fares have increased and fights broke out in some fuel stations as the people scrambled to get diesel amid accusations that the government is deliberately concealing diesel as a prelude to jack up its price.

In Qena, cars scrambled at fuel stations in Naga' Hammadi, Isna and Qena, to get diesel, leading to quarrels and brawls between the drivers jockeying for fuel, forcing security forces to intervene to secure the queues and end the clashes.

A large number of diesel-powered bakeries, water-lifting machines and tractors used in tillage and transporting crops have stopped working. People's Assembly member in Assiut Abdel Aziz Khalaf accused the government of causing the crisis, saying: "when the government wants to raise the price of a commodity it hides it to deprive the market with the help of senior traders."

He noted that the National Democratic Party is no longer afraid of the impact of its actions on the electoral process after it resorted to forgery and the arrest of opponents. In Sohag, Sabour Farraj, a 52-year-old farmer the Riyaniya Village, said the government "intends to ruin our houses, as the price of one feddan irrigation has increased to L.E. 48 instead of L.E. 36 the past few days due to the shortage of diesel, let alone the high prices of fertilizers, pesticides and seeds. We are now up to our neck in debt."

In Alexandria, Ahmed Farouk Mukhtar, marketing director at a navigation company, said the maritime transport would likely witness new increases in freights after the increasingly high prices of diesel, which is not stable, especially after its price rose from L.E. 800 to L.E. 1096 in two months only, while the prices of some vegetables have jumped due to the increase imposed by the truck drivers on the vegetable and fruit shipments from outside the province.