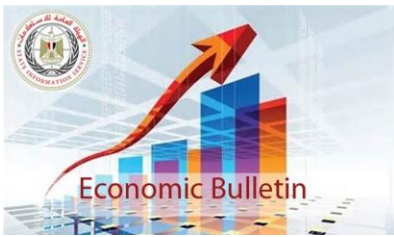


# **STATE INFORMATION SERVICE**

## **Weekly Economic Bulletin**

**(14-21 October 2017)**

**Mohammad Saleh**



## **Sisi urges coordination among bodies concerned to fill out Administrative Capital with all needed utilities**

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi underlined the importance of continued coordination among the bodies concerned to fit out the Administrative Capital with all needed utilities.

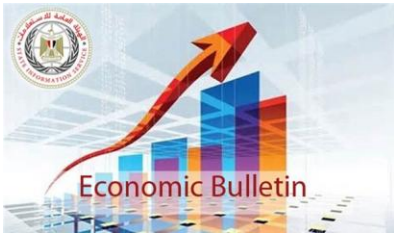


Sisi made the remark during a meeting with the ministers of housing, electricity, irrigation and petroleum alongside the head of the Armed Forces Engineering Authority, the presidential spokesman said.

The meeting fell within the framework of following up the progress realized so far in the ongoing projects in the Administrative Capital, Alaa Youssef said, citing the president's visit to the Administrative Capital.

Sisi made sure that work at the new capital is going on in line with the set timetable.

He underlined the importance of securing public transportation for the new capital alongside green zones and other utilities.



## **Sisi urges picking up unique minds to lead the country**

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi called for the necessity of picking unique Egyptian minds to train and qualify them for leading the country.

Sisi was addressing the graduation ceremony of New Technology Leaders (NTL) initiative.

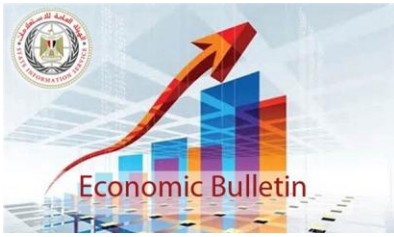


The president congratulated both the Ministry of Communication and the Armed Forces on rendering the program successful.

Sisi added that he had discussed with Communication and Information Technology Minister Yasser el Qadi, three years ago, a plan to expand smart zones and roads in Upper Egypt.

The second initiative will be co-sponsored by the Armed Forces and Communication Ministry to implement a nine-month course at a cost of EGP 180-200 million, Sisi said.

He added that the budget of the presidential initiative for New Technology Leaders will be doubled to EGP 400 million.



Sisi asked Prime Minister Sherif Ismail and the attendants to form a committee tasked with studying all proposals presented by youths today and take action in this regard.

The president added that he discussed with the minister of social solidarity, trade, industry and planning a study on launching small and micro-sized projects to revive existing industries nationwide.

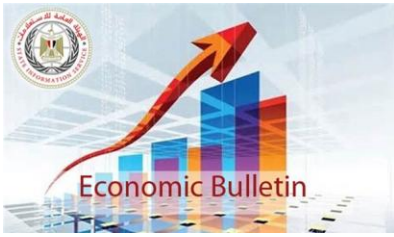
### **Sisi urges attracting more investments into Suez Canal zone**

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi underlined the necessity of working to attract more investments into the Suez Canal zone through easing difficulties to investment there.



At a meeting with Head of the Suez Canal Authority Mohab Mamish, the president underlined the importance of boosting cooperation with German companies operating in the zone, said Presidential Spokesman Ambassador Alaa Youssef.

The president urged setting up a company for logistics and ship services in Port Said, added the spokesman.



The company is to be set up in cooperation with the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCzone) and the General Authority for Petroleum along with the private sector.

For his part, Mamish expounded developments of upgrading the SCzone in cooperation with International Dubai Ports.

He further noted that navigation through the canal has seen a record number of ships transiting the waterway as up to 146 vessels crossed the canal at total revenues of 459.7 million dollars.

### **Egypt takes over chairmanship of African Group 2018**

Investment and International Cooperation Minister Sahar Nasr took over the chairmanship of the World Bank's African Group for 2018. Egypt is to host the meetings of the group next year.

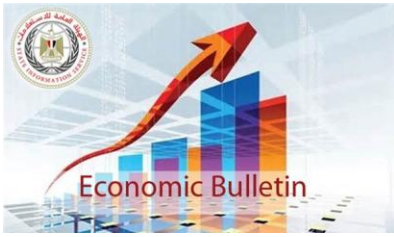
This came on the fringe of the annual meeting of the World Bank in Washington, the Investment Ministry said in a statement.



During its presidency of the African Group, Egypt will do its utmost effort to prioritize development in Africa, Nasr said.

She added that her agenda will focus on youths along with investment in the infrastructure and human resources.





## **Investment Minister discusses with IFC ways to increase support to private sector**

Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr discussed with CEO of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Philippe Le Hou rou means of supporting Egypt's entrepreneurship program and the initiative "Your idea is your company" that backs emerging companies.

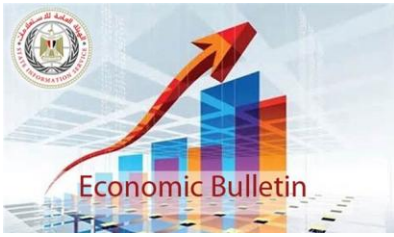


Nasr said she is looking forward to further cooperation between Cairo and the IFC to increase support provided for the private sector, the investment ministry said in a Saturday statement.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of Nasr's participation in the World Bank's annual meetings in Washington.

The minister expressed her appreciation for the IFC's approval to inject \$150 million as new direct investments into Egypt's agriculture sector with the aim of developing the nutrition sector via the latest technologies in addition to providing job opportunities for the youth.

Meanwhile, Le Hou rou lauded "Your idea is your company" initiative and praised its role in supporting the youth's ideas and



projects, expressing the IFC's keenness to back it along with the entrepreneurship.

He also said the IFC is keen to support the private sector's participation in the renewable energy field in the country as well as to provide technical assistance as regards implementing relevant partnership between the public and private sectors.

Separately, Le Houérou voiced confidence in the Egyptian economy as well as the government's economic and social reform program.

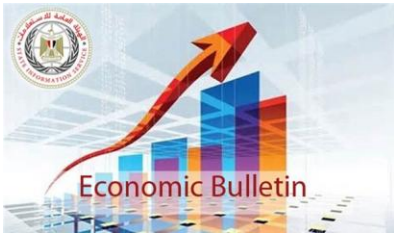
In line with the partnership deal signed between Cairo and the World Bank Group, he said, the IFC is committed to providing Egypt's private sector with \$2 billion during the years 2015-2019.

### **IDB plans USD 3 billion strategy for Egypt**

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) plans a new strategy for cooperation with Egypt worth \$3 billion to cover the period from 2018 to 2020, the group's President Dr. Bandar Hajjar was quoted by the Egyptian investment and international cooperation ministry as saying.

The strategy along with other plans were mulled by Hajjar and Egypt's Investment and International Cooperation Minister Sahar Nasr on the sidelines of the World Bank/International Monetary Bank's annual meetings in Washington, said the press release.

The IDB is set to increase its contributions to next projects in Egypt, including upping investment in the Egyptian entrepreneurship program, said the statement, adding that the bank



also offers investment guarantee and insurance services to Egypt through its agency, the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC).



At the meeting, Nasr invited the IDB chief to attend a conference on investment in Africa to be held under the auspices of President Abdel Fattah El Sisi in Sharm El Sheikh on December 7-9. The gathering will be organized by Cairo in cooperation with the COMESA bloc.

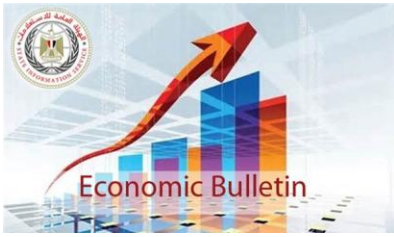
### **Nasr takes part in WB governors' meeting**

International Cooperation Minister Sahr Nasr read out the African countries' word at a meeting grouping the World Bank board of African governors and president of the WB Jim Yong Kim.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of Nasr's participation at the annual meetings of the bank in Washington, DC.

In a statement, the International Cooperation Ministry said Nasr congratulated the WB president on his second term in office, calling for boosting the capabilities of African nations to ban





illegal speculations that adversely affect the economy of the continent.



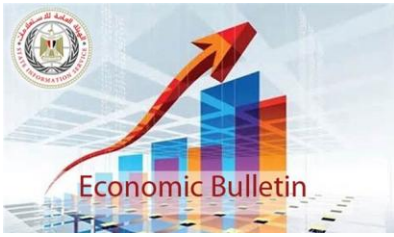
The WB president called on donors to increase funds allocated to efforts to fight climate changes in Africa.

Meanwhile, Nasr addressed the WB president's meeting with governors of Arab countries to the bank.

She talked about challenges besetting the Arab world, especially terrorism, calling for stepping up efforts to fight funding sources of terrorism.

She also urged firm action against the sides that fund terrorist organizations.

She called for increasing WB support of the Arab countries to carry out economic reforms and achieve stability.



## **Nasr says Egypt looking forward to developing ties with SFD**

Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr asserted that Egypt is always looking forward to developing relations with the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD).

This comes in light of the historic ties between both sides, she said.

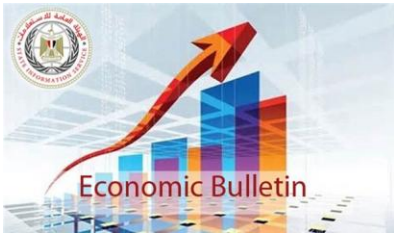


The current cooperation portfolio between Egypt and the SFD reached \$ 2.5 billion involving 23 projects.

This came during Nasr's meeting with Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the SFD Yousef Ibrahim al Bassam on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the World Bank in Washington.

Both sides discussed the SFD's funding to the entrepreneurship program in Egypt that aims at supporting the emerging companies.

Nasr also conferred with Jordanian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Imad Fakhoury on coordination between both countries and the Arab states to support joint projects especially those that work on empowering women.



Fakhoury asserted Jordanian support to Egypt, asserting that there will be no stability in the Arab world unless there is stability in Egypt.

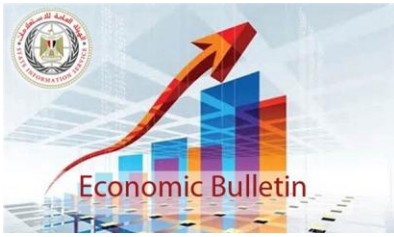
### **Int'l investment foundations praise improvement in Egypt's business climate**

International investment corporations have praised the efforts exerted by Egypt to improve the business and investment climate, voicing willingness to pump new investments to Egypt in the coming phase.



The remarks were made at a session held by the American Chamber of Commerce under the title of "Egyptian Economy.. Reform and Development" in coordination with the Egyptian-American Business Council and Hermes Financial Corporation.

Egyptian Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr and Senior Region Vice President of Apache Middle East Company James House were present.



During the session, Nasr called on American investors to hold business in the Suez Canal Development Corridor, the New Administrative Capital and the New Alameen City. House, for his part, expressed his company's resolve to increase its investments to Egypt in the coming phase in view of the measures recently adopted by the Egyptian government to improve the investment climate.

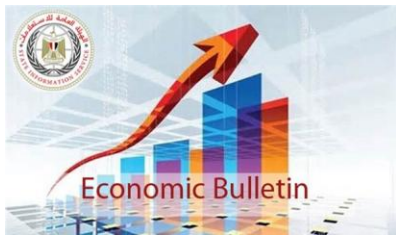
Meanwhile, Nasr held a series of meetings with representatives of international financial foundations whose assets exceed dlr\$ 600 billion. The corporations include Alliance Bernsten, Oppenheimer Funds, Frontier 337, Perry Creek Capital, Briarwood Chase Management, Times Square Management, Deltec Asset Management and Mutima.

### **Nasr, EU Ambassador discuss boosting investments until 2020**

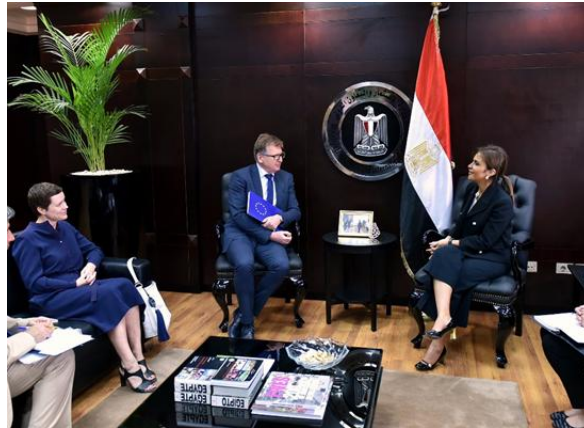
Investment and International Cooperation Minister Sahar Nasr met with EU Ambassador in Cairo Ivan Surkoš to discuss the Single Support Framework (SSF) and cooperation priorities with the European Union.

Both sides tackled the current economic cooperation aspects between Egypt and the EU within the framework of the support framework program, which lasts from 2017 to 2020.

They discussed activating the new agreements and strategic partnership between both parties and the arrangements for the upcoming visit of the European Commissioner Johannes Hahn to Egypt in October.



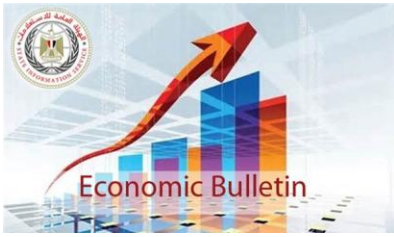
Nasr highlighted the relationship between Egypt and the EU, pointing out that Egypt's economic success will stabilize the conditions in the Middle East region.



As the ministry focuses on boosting investments, it welcomes all the European investors to Egypt with providing them all the facilities to increase their investments, she said, pointing out that the ministry promotes the developmental projects, as there is unique cooperation among the government, private sectors and civil society organisations in several projects.

Meantime, Surkoš lauded the relations with Egypt and its economic and social reform program, noting that the EU is interested in promoting the development and investment cooperation with Egypt.





## **PM holds meeting to discuss enhancing business climate, performance in Egypt**

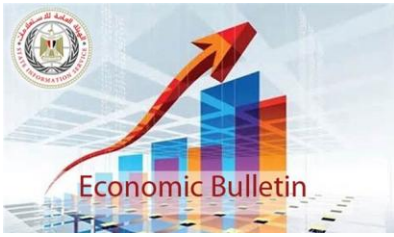
Prime Minister Sherif Ismail held a meeting with the ministers of foreign affairs, manpower, trade, planning and parliamentary affairs to discuss a number of proposals.



The meeting comes as part of the government's keenness on enhancing businesses and economic performance in Egypt in the various fields.

The meeting tackled means of cooperating and coordinating with the international institutions, including the International Labour Organization.

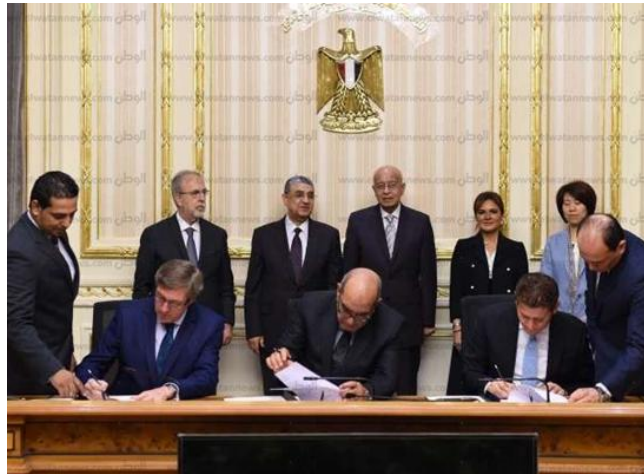
It also addressed a proposed working plan that aims at helping companies develop their businesses in Egypt.



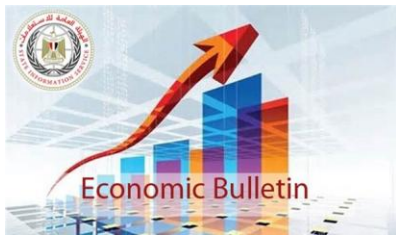
## **PM witnesses inking three deals on solar photovoltaic projects**

Prime Minister Sherif Ismail witnessed the inking of three deals to purchase power for solar photovoltaic projects with a total capacity of 150 megawatts in Benban area of northern Aswan.

The deals, signed with the alliance of Tbea, Swicorp and Acciona companies, come within the framework of the government's efforts to activate the second phase of the feed-in tariff program that was dedicated to the solar power and wind power projects with up to 50 megawatts capacity.



The inking ceremony was attended by Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy Mohamed Shaker, Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr as well as chairman of the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company Gamal Abdel Rehim.



## **CBE Governor: Inflows hit USD 80 billion since floating exchange rate**

Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) Tarek Amer said that monetary reform measures led to increasing foreign currency inflows into the country hitting 80 billion dollars since the exchange rate was floated in November.

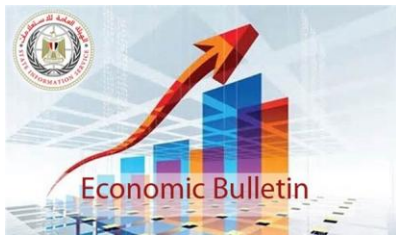
In statements carried by Al Arabiya news channel, he added that the Bank has outlined a comprehensive program for solving the foreign currency problem.



Floating the exchange rate is part of a program for regulating the financing policy in Egypt, he added.

On the other hand, Amer has been granted the award of best governor in the Middle East and North Africa from Global Markets, a paper of record of the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The prize was awarded to Amer during a ceremony held at the conclusion of the WB/IMF talks in Washington in the presence of a host of world banking figures.



Addressing the event, Amer stressed that Egypt has overcome a critical stage of crucial importance for economic reforms. He thanked the CBE staff for efforts they did to realize this achievement.

He offered the award to the Egyptian people for their support of the economic reform measures.

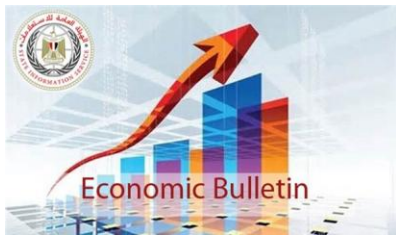
Amer asserted the importance of going ahead with these reforms to fix the imbalance that undermined the Egyptian economy for several years.

### **Bloomberg: Busy IPO season beckons for Cairo as reforms yield results**

Egypt's stock market is shaping up to be the Middle East's hot spot for initial public offerings next year, Bloomberg said in a report.



Share trading has almost doubled, averaging 1.1 billion pounds a day in the 12 months ended Oct. 10, compared with 540 million



pounds a year earlier, data compiled by Bloomberg show. And foreigners have returned, their net buying of stocks tripling to \$497.3 million in the fiscal year to June 30, the report read.

The prospects for further IPOs look promising, said Mohamed Farid, the chairman of the Egyptian Exchange. "We have plenty of requests from various companies of various sizes to list and partially float. Also there is plenty of traction when it comes to companies asking for listing requirements and trying to comply with them."

Two of the six IPOs planned for the coming months involve state-owned businesses: Engineering for the Petroleum & Process Industries and Banque Du Caire SAE. They're part of a government plan announced last year to raise as much as \$10 billion from share offerings. Better progress on that plan would attract bigger companies to market, generating greater foreign interest and higher trading volumes, Salah Shamma, Franklin Templeton Investments' head of Middle East and North African equities, said in an interview.

"Egypt is one of the busier markets in the region," EFG-Hermes' Strategist Simon Kitchen. "Appetite for broader emerging market IPOs should remain robust in 2018, with Egypt in line for a bigger piece of the pie following the currency float."