

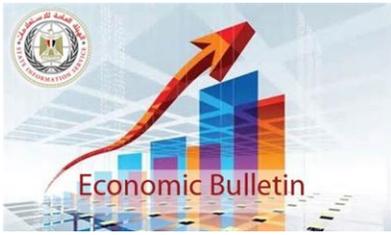


STATE INFORMATION SERVICE

Weekly Economic Bulletin

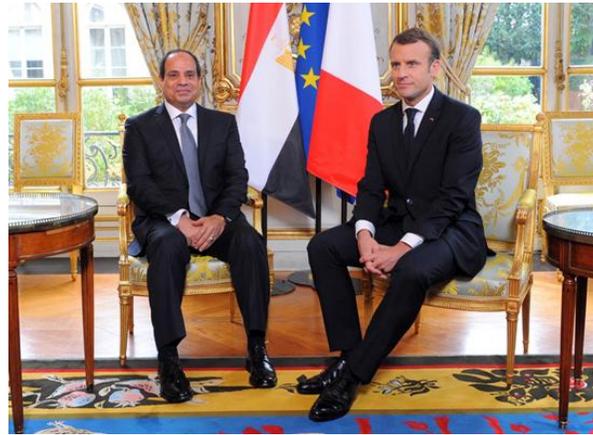
(21-27 October 2017)

Mohammad Saleh



Sisi back home from France

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi returned home, concluding his four-day visit to France, where he met with French President Emmanuel Macron and senior French officials.

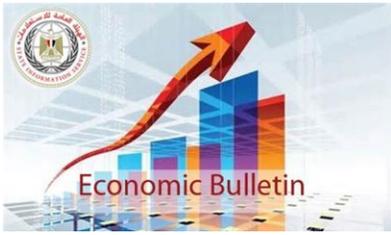


While in Paris, the Egyptian leader held talks with a number of high-profile French officials, including Prime Minister Édouard Philippe, President of the French National Assembly François de Rugy and President of the French Senate Gérard Larcher.

Also, President Sisi had discussed with French Defense Minister Florence Parly ways of fostering military and security cooperation.

Furthermore, President Sisi had reviewed with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian latest developments in the Middle East, especially the crises in Libya, Syria and Iraq, in addition to probing means to push forward the Palestinian-Israeli peace process after the Cairo-brokered historic reconciliation accord signed between the two Palestinian rivals Hamas and Fatah.

Separate meetings were held between President Sisi and a number of CEOs of French companies that are keen to invest in Egypt or seek to expand their activities in Cairo, especially in mega national



projects being carried out by the Egyptian government to revive economy and secure new job opportunities.

Egypt, France ink several agreement during Sisi's visit

Cairo and Paris have signed several agreements, joint declarations, declarations of intent and memorandums of understanding during Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi's visit to France.

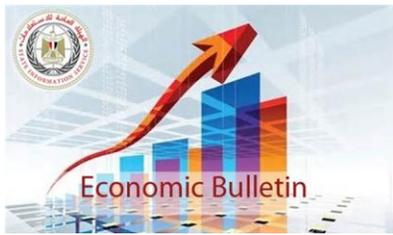
Egypt signed three executive agreements with the Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) to support Egypt's energy sector, upgrade a number of primary healthcare centers in five governorates and develop eastern Alexandria's wastewater treatment plants.

The two sides also inked two joint declarations to provide technical assistance to Egypt's Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy as well as to support the country's social protection sector.

Cairo also signed three joint declarations with France's Proparco institution to finance the establishment of six solar-powered plants in the Upper Egyptian governorate of Aswan through Eren group, EDF group and Voltalia company.

Meanwhile, the governments of Egypt and France inked two declarations of intent on supplying Egypt with some 500 mobile food carts as well as on funding feasibility studies meant to upgrade Mansoura's urban transport network.

A memorandum of understanding was also inked between Egypt's National Authority for Tunnels and France's RATP group on maintaining Cairo Metro's first line and continuing the operation of its third line.



In the same respect, the Egyptian National Railways Authority signed a declaration of intent with France's SNCF group.

Separately, two other declarations were inked on promoting cultural, educational and Francophone cooperation in addition to fostering cooperation on training Egyptian leaders.

Cairo and Paris also signed a declaration of intent on establishing a French-Egyptian university.

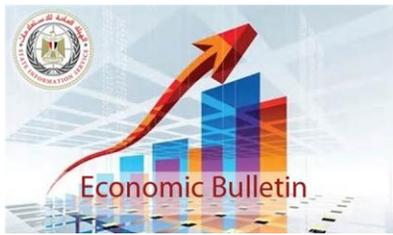
The last agreement inked during Sisi's visit was related to setting up "the Egyptian home" at the International University City of Paris.

Nasr discusses with Swiss ambassador economic cooperation

Investment and International Cooperation Minister Sahar Nasr discussed with Swiss Ambassador in Cairo Paul Garnier ways to promote economic cooperation.



The meeting also tackled increasing Swiss investments in Egypt and a new cooperation strategy for the years through 2020 that will be launched soon.



The new plan will prioritize needs of citizens and improving living standards in all fields to contribute to the comprehensive development and to reduce unemployment and illegal migration, Nasr said.

Egypt is moving ahead with social protection measures as it implements economic reforms, she noted. She hailed the relations with Switzerland in the economic and development domains.

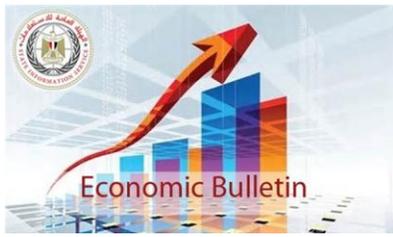
She termed as pivotal Bern's role in the development process in Egypt. Cairo seeks to boost cooperation with the Swiss side, she said.

Nasr called on the ambassador to increase Swiss investments in Egypt.

Nasr confers with US delegation on achievements of economic reform program

Minister of Investment Sahar Nasr conferred on Monday with a US delegation led by Assistant US Secretary of State Richard Albert.





The meeting was attended by US Charge d'affaires Thomas Goldberger and US Agency for International Development (USAID) Deputy Mission Director Rebecca Latorraca.

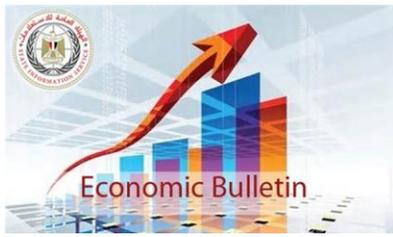
The head of the US delegation asserted his country's backing for Egypt in its march to achieve economic progress, highlighting the positive sides of Egyptian-American relations in the various fields, citing the dhrs 121.6 million-worth agreements signed between Egypt and the USAID in September in the fields of water and sanitation, higher education, science and technology, investment, agriculture and health.

He also praised the Egyptian experiment in carrying out economic reform and improving the investment climate, noting that such measures would propel American companies and investors to expand in the Egyptian market and seek more investment opportunities in the various fields.

Nasr, for her part, welcomed the announcement by a number of American companies on expanding their investments in Egypt, citing major companies such as Apache and Uber.

The meeting also took up the investments of the Egyptian-American Business Council which seeks to back small- and medium-scale projects.

Nasr also pressed the need that such investment should comply with the Egyptian national priorities especially backing the categories of youth and women.



Nasr, Delegation of London Stock Exchange discuss bilateral cooperation

Investment and International Cooperation Minister Sahar Nasr had a meeting with a delegation of London Stock Exchange on boosting bilateral cooperation.

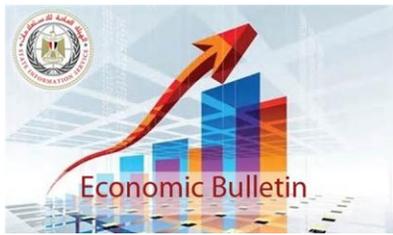


The delegation groups Head of International Business Development, Primary Markets in London Stock Exchange Group Tom Attenborough and Manager of International Government Relations Adam Scheuer.

The meeting was also attended by UK Ambassador in Cairo John Casson.

In a statement, Nasr said that the government is working on increasing support for entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises.

A few months ago, Egypt issued amendments to rules and regulations of the Egyptian Stock Exchange, a matter that strengthens corporate governance standards, the minister added.



The two sides also discussed bolstering bilateral cooperation with the view to beefing up UK FDIs and encouraging investors to do business in the country.

Nasr expounds Egypt's investment opportunities at Riyadh FII

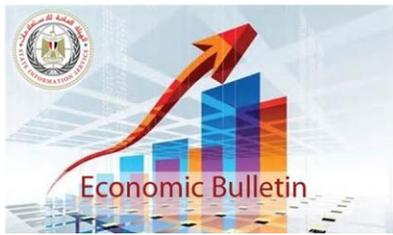
Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr expounded Egypt's investment opportunities in a session on economic growth policies as part of the proceedings of the Future Investment Initiative hosted by the Saudi Capital Riyadh.



Addressing the session, Nasr said Egypt aims at luring around dlrs 10 billion in Direct Foreign Investment (FDI) during the current fiscal year 2017-2018, adding that the best investment is that in human cadres whether in education or health fields, according to a statement released by the Investment and International Cooperation Ministry.

She also highlighted the current partnership with US, British and Saudi companies in the sectors of oil, gas and renewable energy as new investments have been established over the past few months.

More than 2,500 figures of influential business characters from more than 60 countries are participating in the three-day conference.



The Future Investment Initiative (FII) by the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia (PIF) is a pioneering new global investment event that will connect the world's most powerful investors, business leaders, thought leaders and public officials with the path breaking innovations that are defining the future.

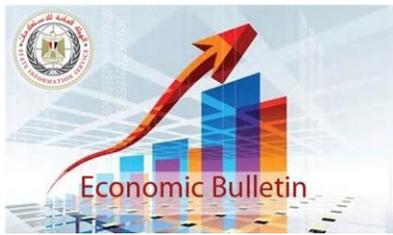
Hosted under the patronage of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and under the leadership of Crown Prince and Deputy Premier Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud, who is also the Chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs and Chairman of PIF, the forum will bring together global CEOs and investors with world-leading experts and visionaries from a range of industries, to explore the evolving role of sovereign wealth in driving the next wave of business, innovation, technology and investment.

Nasr agrees with Saudi fund to pump new investments in Egyptian market

Investment and International Cooperation Minister Sahar Nasr wound up her visit to Saudi Arabia by holding a series of meetings with investors and representatives of Arab funds.



The meetings came on the sidelines of the Future of Investment initiative conference chaired by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince



Mohammed bin Salman with the participation of more than 2,500 prominent figures in the business community.

According to a statement by the minister, Nasr met with the Public Investment Fund CEO Yasser bin Othman Al Rumayyan and discussed increasing cooperation between the ministry and the fund and luring more Saudi investments to the Egyptian market.

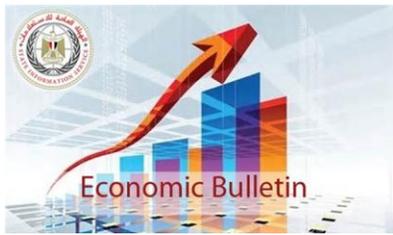
The minister stressed that the Egyptian government is working hard to provide an investment-magnet atmosphere through ironing out all hurdles blocking investors and offering all needed facilities.

She agreed with the Saudi fund on pumping new investments in the Egyptian market within the coming period in the domains of agriculture, tourism, industry, health, education, construction and renewable energy, especially after the Egyptian-Saudi business council upped investment ceiling to Egypt to 51 billion dollars.

Nasr also met with representatives of several Arab funds, including the Saudi Fund for Development and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

She said Egypt is looking forward to increasing cooperation with the Saudi Fund for Development as the current cooperation portfolio is estimated at 2.5 billion dollars.

The minister also met with a number of investors from the UAE and Saudi Arabia for talks on the new investment law and facilities offered by the government to investors to carry out projects in needy areas.



Nasr, HSBC bank sign MoU on supporting Egypt's strategy to lure investments

Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr signed a memorandum of understanding with Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Bank Emmanuel Blanchet on supporting the ministry's strategy for luring more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

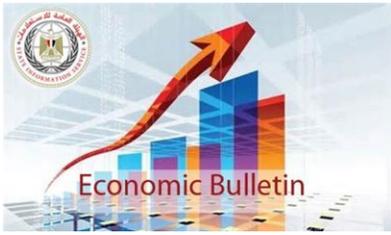


Nasr asserted the ministry's keenness to cooperate with HSBC bank to lure investors to Egypt especially in light of the widespread bank branches worldwide.

The bank will be assigned to offer and link international investors with the growing investment opportunities in Egypt, while the ministry will facilitate accessing such available opportunities on the Egyptian market.

Blanchet hailed Egypt's efforts to push economic reforms forward in order to lure more foreign investments and enhance international trade.

He voiced the bank's eagerness to cooperate with Egypt's ministry of investment and international cooperation in light of its strategy



to turn Egypt into a strategic and trade regional and international hub.

He pointed out to the recent report published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about Egypt, in which it expected that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth would reach about 4.5 percent during fiscal year 2017/18.

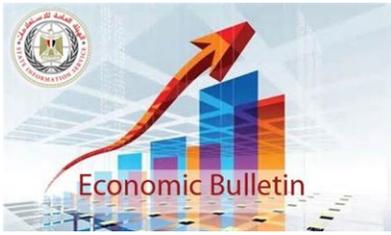
Such report referred to the right track adopted by the Egyptian government, Blanchet noted.

Investment ministry, World Bank hold workshop on developing agricultural sector

Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation has held a workshop in cooperation with the World Bank to boost investments in the agriculture sector.



The World Bank officials reviewed the preliminary findings of what they have reached to develop the agriculture sector and bolster related investment opportunities, the ministry said in a statement.



Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr has affirmed Egypt's keenness to increase investments in the agriculture sector in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, it added.

She called on the World Bank to hold meetings with investors in the agriculture sector in line with the continuing efforts exerted to facilitate procedures for them.

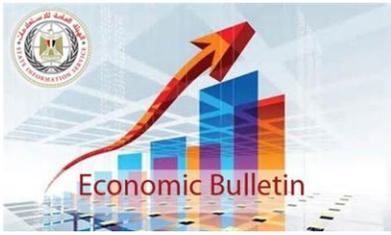
Meanwhile, the minister lauded the decision taken by the International Finance Corporation to inject \$150 million as new direct investments into Egypt's agriculture sector with the aim of developing the nutrition sector via the latest technologies.

Cabinet approves executive regulation of investment law

The cabinet approved during a meeting under Prime Minister Sherif Ismail the executive regulation of the investment law.



The meeting touched on some political, economic and social files including the security and economic conditions along with topics and draft laws.



It also tackled ministerial resolutions to push forward economic progress at all levels.

Also, the Health Minister Ahmed Emad said that the cabinet approved the health insurance law and referred it to the parliament after being revised by the State Council.

The minister expressed his happiness with the law which is considered the first health insurance law in Egypt to offers medical services to all Egyptian citizens.

In a press conference, Emad said that the law has been prepared over two years, adding that it provides a 1,300-pound coverage in 2018 to reach 4,000 pounds for the low-income people.

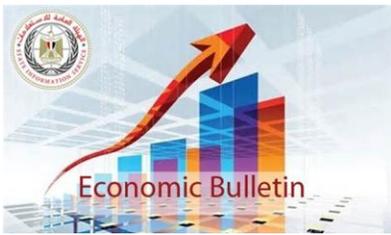
He further underlined that the current and new systems cannot be compared, as the current one provides the citizen with 112 pounds only.

The new system will witness cooperation among all state bodies such as the ministries of health, finance and social solidarity, he reiterated.

The law was scheduled to be passed in 2008, Emad underscored, adding that actuarial studies were carried out to guarantee that unique medical services are offered to patients.

The new system depends mainly on state hospitals which have been developed, he said, noting that it was not possible to kick off the system before developing the infrastructure of these hospitals.

For his part, the Deputy Minister of Finance Mohamed Maait stressed that this is a "historic" achievement for the Egyptian



citizen, adding that the health insurance law provides medical services to all members of the Egyptian family.

The system is based on actuarial studies carried out by many Egyptian experts and former health ministers, he affirmed.

Egypt's bourse gains 2.3 billion pounds in week

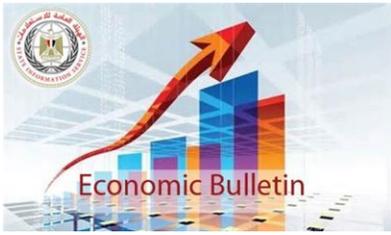
The Egyptian Exchange (EGX) gained 2.3 billion pounds this week as the market capital went up 0.3 percent to 769.9 billion pounds compared to 767.6 billion pounds in the previous week.



The EGX 30 benchmark index upped 1.76 percent to 13,955 points, according to the weekly bourse report, a copy of which MENA obtained.

The broader EGX 70 index of the leading smaller and mid cap enterprises (SME) went down 1.16 percent to 774 points.

The all-embracing EGX 100 index also decreased 0.27 percent to close at 1,740 points.



Egypt, France sign transport cooperation delas

Minister of Transport Hisham Arafat signed three memorandums of understanding with the French side on cooperation in the domains of underground and railways.



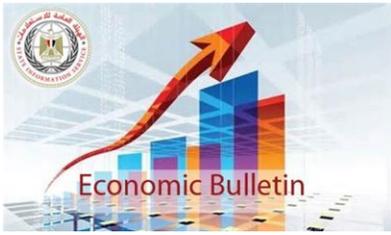
The move came on the sidelines of the visit of President Abdel Fattah El Sisi to France.

The three agreements cover cooperation between Egypt and France in the domains of technical support, danger assessment and signals systems along with operating and maintaining the third Underground line.

Minister: Trade deficit down by 33% in 9 months

The trade deficit during the nine months of 2017 has declined by 33% compared to the same period of 2016, Trade and Industry Minister Tareq Qabil announced.

The deficit stood at 23.390 billion dollars during the first nine months of the current year, compared with 34.860 billion dollars in the same corresponding period of 2016, he revealed.



In a report about indicators of foreign trade performance, Qabil said that Egypt's non-petroleum exports have tangibly risen from January to September 2017 compared with the same period last year reaching 16.490 billion dollars, an increase of 11%.



Egypt's imports during the nine months have decreased by 20% to hit 39.880 billion dollars compared to 49.740 billion dollars in the same period of the last year, Qabil added.