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# The Egyptian Gazette

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Saad Selim

Editor-in-Chief  
Mohamed Kassem

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## In Figures

INVESTORS rattled by events in Turkey, China and South Africa have pulled \$1.3 billion out of emerging-market stocks in the last week and \$100 million from bonds, according to the Institute of International Finance, which tracks financial flows. An emerging-market selloff has picked up pace over the last week as concerns about Turkey and others have compounded longer-term worries about a global trade war, a strong dollar and rising borrowing and energy costs.

## Egypt rushes urgent aid to flood-hit Sudan

Ashraf Sadek

ON the orders of President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, the Cairo government has rushed relief aid to the Sudan, which has been hit by heavy floods in the past three weeks, the presidency spokesman said yesterday.

Ambassador Bassam Radi said that President Sisi, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, directed the government to rush emergency aid to help the Khartoum government cope with the heavy flooding, which left many Sudanese, dead, injured and homeless.

The aid, from the ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Health, Social Solidarity, Agriculture, and the Cairo-based Red Crescent Society, comprised foodstuffs, medicines, tents, blankets and rescue equipment, Ambassador Radi said.

He added that the government sent two medical and veterinary teams to treat the flood-hit families and animals in Sudan, where rainfall had affected over 45,000 people and caused significant damage to key infrastructure.

Khartoum government officials have said that more heavy floods

were expected in other parts of the country.

Monsoon rains in Sudan regularly last from June to November and cause the Nile and its tributaries to overflow.

The Nile is at its highest levels in more than a century, swollen by heavy rain in many parts of the East African country, according to the Sudanese Water and Irrigation Ministry.

The Sudanese Interior Ministry affirmed that the downpours and flooding had completely destroyed 3,206 houses, and damaged 3,048 others in the eastern province of Kassala, one of the worst hit areas.



ON the orders of President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, Cairo government has rushed yesterday relief aid to the Sudan, which has been hit by heavy floods in the past three weeks.



President Sisi

## Sisi, Macron review regional scene

PRESIDENT Abdel Fattah El Sisi has discussed with French President Emmanuel Macron the latest developments pertaining to the Libyan and Syrian crises, Presidency Spokesman Ambassador Bassam Radi said last night.

In a telephone conversation, the two leaders, who discussed the means of enhancing Egyptian-French ties in all domains, reviewed the ongoing UN efforts that aim at finding a political settlement to the Libyan crisis at the hands of the Libyan people themselves in order to restore stability and security to the war-torn North African country, Ambassador Radi said.

The Sisi-Macron phone conversation has also dealt with the Syrian crisis, he said, adding that the two leaders highlighted the necessity of exerting extra efforts by members of the international community to reach a comprehensive and permanent solution to the Syrian conflict.

Presidents Sisi and Macron agreed during their phone conversation to continue the intensified Egyptian-French consultation and coordination of stances on regional issues of mutual concern, Ambassador Radi said.

## Palestinian refugees' schools to open on time despite US cut

GAZA (Reuters) – Schools teaching half a million Palestinian refugees will reopen across the Middle East as planned later this month, a UN agency said yesterday, despite funding cuts by its biggest donor the United States.

The opening of the schools on August 29 had been in doubt after the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said it lacked funds to pay the 22,000 teachers in its educational network in the Gaza Strip, the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Jordan as well as Syria.

UNRWA said students will return to its 711 schools on time though it still did not have enough money to fund them for a full school year.

UN officials said the agency needed more than \$200 million from other contributors to cover its deficit after



A FILE photo shows Syrian refugee girls sitting inside a classroom at a school built by the Lebanese non-profit Kayany Foundation in Bar Elias.

the US aid cuts. US President Donald Trump said in January he would scale back aid to the Palestinians unless

they co-operated with his plans to

revive peacemaking with Israel. Those

peace efforts stalled in 2014. At a specially convened session of the UNRWA Advisory Commission in Amman,

Commissioner-General Pierre Krahenbuhl said that since the beginning of the year the agency had received \$238 million in additional contributions after a funding drive but was not "out of the woods".

"We currently only have funding to run the agency's services until the end of September," Krahenbuhl said in a statement. "We need a further \$217 million to ensure that our schools not only open but can be run until the end of the year."

UNRWA was founded in 1949 after the first Arab-Israeli war, which led to 700,000 Palestinians being forced to leave their homes or flee. It helps around 5 million Palestinian refugees, a figure that includes descendants of those displaced by the fighting.

In January, Trump tweeted "we pay the Palestinians HUNDRED OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS a year and get no appreciation or respect."

## Attacks on Russian base in Syria up

HEMEIMEEM AIR BASE (AP) – The Russian military says the number of drone attacks on its main base in Syria has increased.

The Russian Defence Ministry spokesman, Maj Gen Igor Konashenkov, says in just one month air defence assets have downed 45 drones targeting the Hemeimeem air base. The base in the province of Latakia serves as the main hub for Russian operations in Syria.

Konashenkov said yesterday that while the drones appear primitive, they use sophisticated technologies and have a range of up to 100 kilometres.

All drone attacks on Hemeimeem were launched by insurgents based in the northern province of Idlib, Konashenkov said.

## Libya court sentences 45 to death over 2011 killings

TRIPOLI (Reuters) – A Libyan appeals court sentenced 45 people to death by firing squad for killings committed in the capital, Tripoli, during a 2011 uprising, according to a statement from the justice ministry.

The statement did not give details of the case, but a justice ministry official said it related to killings perpetrated by

forces loyal to former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi shortly before he was driven from Tripoli and toppled.

A further 54 people were sentenced to five years in prison over the killings of at least 20 people, while 22 were acquitted.

Defence lawyers and relatives of the accused were present for the verdict, but the defendants were not in court.

### Today's Weather

Cairo	...35	...25
Alexandria	...32	...26
Mersa Matruh	...31	...24
Sharm el-Sheikh	...38	...29
Hurghada	...38	...28
Aswan	...43	...28

## The Egyptian Gazette Gazette summer training course

IN the context of staff recruitment and manpower development policy, *The Egyptian Gazette*, the oldest daily English language newspaper in Egypt and the Middle East, is pleased to announce a training course for graduate and undergraduate students that will take place at the newspaper's premises from September 2 to 10. The intensive course will include lectures and practical exercises on news translation and editing in English and Arabic that will be delivered by senior *Gazette* staff.

Interested persons are invited to apply for the course for LE400. For further information, please contact:

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## Rights groups condemn Kabul school blast

KABUL (AFP) – Rights groups yesterday condemned a suicide blast inside a school that killed dozens of students in Kabul one day earlier, as outrage over the attack grew while tearful families buried loved ones in the war-weary Afghan capital.

The Islamic State-claimed blast hit an education centre in an area, western Kabul where students were studying for college entrance exams.

The attack was just one of the most shocking in a blood-soaked week across Afghanistan that has left security forces and civilians reeling.

Two gunmen attacked an intelligence training centre in Kabul yesterday, firing on security forces for several hours before they were killed, police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said.

There were no other casualties, he said, and no group has claimed the attack.

Taliban insurgents also delivered high-profile, demoralising blows in the



THE surge in violence comes just weeks after Afghans marked an unprecedented country-wide ceasefire between the Taliban and government forces in June.

strategic city of Ghazni – which they attacked last week, forcing security forces backed by US air power to struggle for days to push them out – and in Faryab, where they captured a northern base, killing at least 17 soldiers.

Security forces in Afghanistan, beset by desertions and killings, have taken staggering losses since US-led NATO combat troops pulled out of the country in 2014.

The week's violence has raised questions over their ability to hold off the resurgent Taliban.

But civilians have long taken the brunt of the violence in Afghanistan – especially in Kabul, a target of both the Taliban and IS – and Wednesday's attack on the school was branded a "war crime" by Amnesty International.

The majority of the victims were children, most aged between 16 and 18, authorities have said, and studying for their university entrance exams.

Amnesty warned it proved "beyond any doubt that Afghanistan and, in particular, its capital Kabul, are not safe", and said European countries must stop returning Afghan refugees to the war-torn country.