

Gov't draws up nationwide plan for safe feast holiday

2



Taiwan's Lin shoots gold, Japan's Irie, Seto qualify in swimming

4



US forces to stay in Iraq as long as needed

5



Smoking harms child's growth

6



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In Figures

AN audit commissioned by the French government says about 840 French bridges are suffering from serious damage and at risk of collapse in the coming several years.

President Emmanuel Macron's government had already promised new infrastructure spending, but is coming under new pressure after Tuesday's bridge collapse in neighboring Italy that killed 43 people.

Interior Minister Tawfik speaks to new officers joining police service

'Security success basic component of society-building, progress'

THE Minister of the Interior, Gen Mahmoud Tawfik, has emphasised that the march of the state for the realisation of development and building demands the shouldering of responsibilities, serious and sustained action and upholding the values of citizenship. The sincere efforts and dear sacrifices that Police and Armed Forces personnel have made, he said, reflect the large extent of the patriotic responsibility that they bear, having presented the most remarkable ideals of offering and sacrifice.

Speaking yesterday to the batch of new officers who joined the police service, the minister of the interior paid tribute to the sacrifices of police and armed forces' martyrs and said that we all are demanded to coordinate efforts and persist in action to continue the march of the security successes that have been achieved.

Minister Tawfik also stressed the necessity of consolidating the close relationship with citizens and wished the new officers all success in their career. He emphasised to them they are undertaking the responsibility of security with full awareness of the duties and also with full estimation of the rights.

Noting that security is one of the necessary components for the building and progress of the society, Minister Tawfik emphasised that Police and Armed Forces personnel are the security valve and that the



THE Minister of Interior, Gen Mahmoud Tawfik, speaking yesterday to a batch of new officers who joined the police service.

success of their mission paves the way for all state institutions to build the society.

The message of security, the minister told the new officers, is one of the loftiest messages that have been stressed by divine canons, adding that this message is based upon the maintenance of the rights and freedoms of citizens and protecting their dignity

in accordance with the guarantees of the Constitution and the law. The message of security, Minister Tawfik added, is also based upon commitment to the principles of human rights.

The guarantee for the realisation and success of this message, the minister said, is the unison between citizens and policemen, adding that the

Ministry of the Interior spares no effort in making available all potentials deemed necessary for optimising this message.

In guiding remarks to the new police officers, Minister Tawfik recommended them to continuously seek the consolidation of co-operation with all institutions and bodies of the state. He also recommended the new

officers to be keen on treating citizens well and to facilitate the provision of security services to citizens.

In this regard also, the minister stressed the importance of responding swiftly to notifications, interacting positively with complaints and seeking to find solutions to complaints. All through, the law should be enforced on all and the security performance should fulfill the hopes and aspirations of citizens, Minister Tawfik said.

Reviewing the current events on the domestic, regional and international arenas, the minister stressed the importance of seeking the upgrading and modernisation of the security performance and recognising the security and political challenges of the current stage especially in view of the continuation of desperate designs to spread rumours and raise suspicions over the patriotic role of the institutions of the state.

Minister Tawfik then asserted the necessity of maintaining preparedness and alertness at all security sites and services as well as the importance of leaving no hole open for terrorist activity given that foreign support for extremist and anti-state groups continues to flow. The minister also stressed the importance of adopting modern and up-to-date techniques in identifying the perpetrators of criminal law-breaking and political crimes.



Gen Mohamed Zaki

Defence chief begins official visit to Moscow

THE Minister of Defence and Commander General of the Armed Forces, Gen Mohamed Zaki, flew to Moscow yesterday, beginning an official visit. Leading a high-powered military delegation, the Defence chief is due to take part in the fifth meeting of the Egyptian-Russian Military Committee, the Armed Forces Spokesman, Colonel Tamer al-Rifai, said in a statement published on his official Facebook page yesterday.

During the visit which will last for several days, Gen Zaki would hold talks with senior Russian Defence Ministry officials for a consideration of issues of mutual interest in the light of co-operation and partnership between the armed forces of the two countries, he added.

The defence minister is also expected to attend the International Military/Technical Forum (Army 2018), he said.

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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2016 EgyptAir hijacker to appear at GP for probe

THE General Prosecutor, Justice Nabil Sadek, has ordered that Saifuddin Mustafa, the man accused of hijacking and commandeering an EgyptAir jet to Nicosia in 2016, appear at the competent prosecution office for completion of the relevant investigation, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported, citing a General Prosecutor Bureau statement issued late on Saturday.

The order follows the success of the legal measures that had been initiated by the Egyptian General Prosecution for the extradition of the defendant from Cyprus, the statement said.

In preparation for the extradition, Egyptian and Cypriot prosecution teams held talks and exchanged memoranda on the basis of which the High Court in Cyprus issued a ruling that approved the extradition. The ruling was established on finding that the papers and the Egyptian General Prosecution memoranda asserted that Egyptian criminal law procedures reflect abidance by world criminal trial guarantees, the statement said.

The defendant was handed over to a security mission that the Egyptian Interpol dispatched to Nicosia to bring him to Cairo, the statement added.

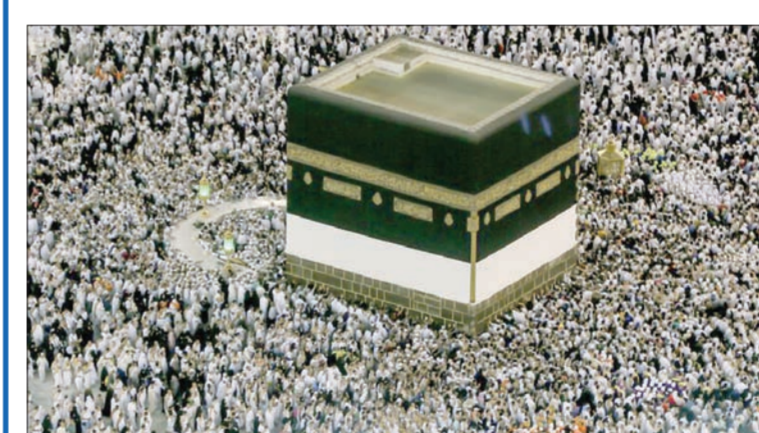
Egypt mourns victims of severe flooding in India

EGYPT has expressed condolences to India over the death of more than 350 people as a result of the heavy flooding that swept through the country's southern state of Kerala. The severe weather conditions have also displaced some 800,000 people, according to an AP report.

The government and people of Egypt stand by the government and people of friendly India at such a critical time, the Foreign Ministry

said in a statement issued yesterday. Egypt is confident that friendly India is capable of overcoming this ordeal soon, the Foreign Ministry added in the statement.

The downpours that started Aug. 8 have triggered floods and landslides and caused homes and bridges to collapse across Kerala, a picturesque state known for its quiet tropical backwaters and beautiful beaches.



About 2 million Muslims gather for pilgrimage

MECCA (News Wires) – About 2 million Muslims began the annual hajj pilgrimage at first light yesterday in Saudi Arabia, circling the cube-shaped Kaaba in Mecca that Islam's faithful face five times each day during their prayers.

The five-day hajj pilgrimage represents one of the world's biggest gatherings every year, and is required of all able-bodied Muslims once in their life.

The Kaaba represents the metaphorical house of God and the oneness of God.

Muslims circle the Kaaba counter-clockwise seven times while reciting supplications to God, then walk between the two

hills traveled by Hagar, Ibrahim's wife. Mecca's Grand Mosque, the world's largest, encompasses the Kaaba and the two hills.

Before heading to Mecca, many pilgrims visit the city of Medina, where the Prophet Muhammad is buried and where he built his first mosque.

After prayers in Mecca, pilgrims will head today to Mount Arafat where the Prophet Muhammad delivered his final sermon. From there, pilgrims will head to an area called Muzdalifa, picking up pebbles along the way for a symbolic stoning of the devil and a casting away of sins that takes place in the Mina valley for three days.