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The Egyptian Gazette

ذی اچبشيان جازیت

Established 1880

www.egyptiangazette.net.eg

Board Chairman
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Editor-in-Chief
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Issue No: 44,727

Monday, July 9, 2018

Price: LE4

In Figures

TURKEY issued a decree yesterday dismissing more than 18,000 civil servants, half of which were from the police force, ahead of this month's expected lifting of a two-year-old state of emergency imposed after an attempted coup in July 2016. The decree dismissed 199 academics from universities across the country, as well as more than 5,000 personnel from the armed forces.



PRESIDENT Abdel Fattah El Sisi during his meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Dr Moustafa Madbouli, Finance Minister Mohamed Maet, Health Minister Hala Zayed, Communications and Information Technology Minister Omar Talaat, General Intelligence Chief Abbas Kamel and Administrative Control Authority Chairman Mohamed Erfan.

Sisi: New health insurance project implies distinctive medical services to people

PRESIDENT Abdel Fattah El Sisi has highlighted the great importance of the new healthcare insurance project, stressing in this connection that the Egyptian people deserve access to such distinctive medical services that make them feel secure about their health and that of their families.

The president's statement came during his meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Dr Moustafa Madbouli, Finance Minister Mohamed Maet, Health Minister Hala Zayed, Communications and Information Technology Minister Omar Talaat, General Intelligence Chief Abbas Kamel and Administrative Control Authority Chairman Mohamed Erfan.

The meeting was devoted to following up the progress of action to implement the comprehensive health insurance system, a national project that President Sisi called a few days ago for it to be launched, the Spokesman for the Presidency, Ambassador Bassam Radi, said.

In his directives during the meeting, President Sisi placed particular emphasis on ensuring that model hospitals nationwide be equipped in accordance with the highest standards and that such hospitals be located in the capital city of each governorate in order to facilitate citizen access to such facilities, Spokesman Radi said.

The presidential directives during the meeting also included the implementation of the medical survey and check-up of hepatitis C in the shortest time possible and with the use of the most up-to-date devices as well as the provision of treatment to whoever be found to have contracted the disease, Spokesman Radi said. Young people and children below the age of 18 will undergo the tests and check-ups in schools, the Spokesman added.

The president also called for putting an end, within a period of six months, to waiting lists of patients who need surgeries and critical medical inter-

ventions, Spokesman Radi said, adding that critical cases will be accorded special consideration.

The president ordered that an additional project to improve the work environment for medical crews working in Health Ministry hospitals be incorporated into the package of executive measures under the first stage of the new health insurance project, Ambassador Radi said adding that additional component would be carried out in co-operation with civil society organisations and provincial bodies.

The spokesman also said that the meeting included discussions on plans to implement the comprehensive healthcare insurance project. In this regard, the finance minister presented the financial aspect of the project and ways of financing it while the communications and information technology minister highlighted steps to carry out the comprehensive automation system for the project.

President Sisi directs gov't to intensify measures for domestic trade vitalisation

PRESIDENT Abdel Fattah El Sisi has directed the government to intensify the measures aimed at supporting and reinvigorating domestic trade especially with regard to household supply goods and to encourage micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises through soft-terms.

The presidential directives to this effect came in the course of a meeting that President Sisi called yesterday with Prime Minister and Minister of Housing Dr Moustafa Madbouli and Minister of Supply Dr Ali el-Moselhi, Presidency Spokesman Ambassador Bassam Radi said.

With regard to the activation of domestic trade, President Sisi also directed the government to explore the prospects of initiating programmes for partnership between the private sector and the holding companies operating in the field of food trade with a view to launching retail outlet chains in co-operation with big, specialised global firms, Spokesman Radi said.

This comes with taking into consideration Egypt's huge market in addition to existing government outlets that can be upgraded and equipped in such a manner that ensures optimised utilisation of such outlets, the presidency spokesman said. The president also urged an expansion in the chain of moving outlets operated by food and consumer commodity companies, Ambassador Radi said.

President Sisi also directed the government to support micro and small-sized enterprises through the provision of soft terms, adding that such support should particularly be lent to income-earning women and those living in the most-needing villages in coordination with the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

The president also called for supporting the project of setting up fixed outlets for newly-graduated young people, thereby creating more job opportunities for them.

Commenting on a presentation by

Supply Minister Moselhi, President Sisi urged the intensification of measures to check market prices of goods, protect the consumers and eliminate the phenomenon of commercial monopoly and fraud.

Supply Minister Moselhi also dealt in his presentation with efforts to ensure the availability of strategic stocks of rice. In this regard, President Sisi agreed to allow the import of rice and directed that the marketing of rice in the new year be carried out by the General Authority for Supply Commodities (GASC) and that good prices for the rice crop be set in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Minister Moselhi also reviewed ongoing steps to improve the performance of the subsidy scheme and its services through establishing a comprehensive data system for the management of ration cards and the setting of rules necessary for guaranteeing that subsidies reach only those who

deserve them, Spokesman Radi said.

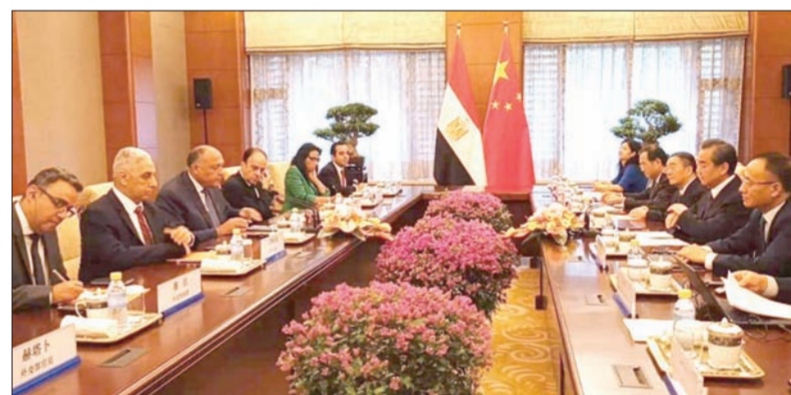
Egypt condemns terrorist attack in NW Tunisia

EGYPT yesterday condemned in the strongest terms a terrorist attack that took place in the Tunisian northwestern province of Jendouba and killed six elements of Tunisia's National Guard forces.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry yesterday, Egypt expressed condolences to the government and people of Tunisia over the victims of the terrorist attack and renewed its assertion that Egypt stands by Tunisia in the face of the phenomenon of terrorism and all forms of violence and extremism.

The statement also renewed Egypt's calls for the international community to undertake the responsibility of confronting this hateful phenomenon and uprooting it through drying up the sources of financing and supporting terrorist groups and the parties that provide safe havens and training for terrorist group elements.

Tunisian state news agency TAP reported that a police unit from Gar Dimaou in the region of Jendouba was ambushed during a regular patrol.



FOREIGN Minister Sameh Shoukri held a round of talks with the Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, in Beijing yesterday.

Egypt values Chinese investments in giant national projects

FOREIGN Minister Sameh Shoukri has lauded the elevation of historical relations between Egypt and China to full strategic partnership over the past few years and noted that underlying such elevation are the distinctiveness and multi-faceted character of ties between the two countries.

Minister Shoukri's remarks came in the course of talks he held in Beijing yesterday with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi ahead of the convening tomorrow of the 8th round of the Arab-Chinese Co-operation Forum, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ahmed Abu Zeid said.

The Chinese foreign minister emphasised during the talks that his country is looking forward to President Abdel Fattah El Sisi's participation in the China-Africa forum that China will host in September this year, Spokesman Abu Zeid said.

During the talks with his Chinese counterpart, FM Shoukri noted that relations between the two countries are distinctive, adding that the several meetings and direct interactions between the leaders of the two countries over the past few years have contributed to enhancing the level of co-operation and coordination between Egypt and China, Spokesman Abu Zeid added.

Minister Shoukri also pointed out that Egypt highly values the contribution of Chinese investments to the implementation of giant national projects, including the New

Administrative Capital, the two coal-fired power stations in al-Hamara-wein of the Red Sea governorate, the electricity feed and storage project in Ataqah of Suez governorate, the electric train project and the Abu Qir-Alexandria railway upgrading project, Spokesman Abu Zeid said.

FM Shoukri expressed that Egypt is looking forward to facilitating the flow of Egyptian exports to the Chinese market especially in the light of the existence of several distinguished Egyptian products in various sectors. He also highlighted Egypt's intention to encourage the flow of Chinese tourism to Egypt which witnessed a noticeable increase over the past two years.

Egypt is also looking forward to an increase in Chinese investments in the Suez Canal Axis Development Project in the light of the Suez Canal's importance as a principal pathway for the movement of global shipping and a key element in the "Belt and Road Initiative".

During the meeting, the Egyptian foreign minister also renewed Egypt's support to the initiative that aims to enhance the values of peaceful co-existence and achieve sustainable development and communication between various countries at all economic, political and cultural levels.

For his part, the Chinese foreign minister emphasised that his country considers Egypt a principal partner in the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative.

4 Thai boys saved from cave

CHIANG RAI (Reuters) - Four of 12 Thai schoolboys were rescued from a flooded cave yesterday as divers launched a daring and dangerous mission to free the children and their soccer coach who have been trapped underground for more than two weeks, officials said.

Thirteen foreign divers and five members of Thailand's elite navy SEAL unit guided the boys to safety through narrow, submerged passage-

ways that claimed the life of a former Thai navy diver on Friday.

As night fell, the operation to rescue the remaining eight boys - some as young as 11 and weak swimmers - and their coach was called off till tomorrow morning. "Today we managed to rescue and send back four children to Chiang Rai Prachanukra Hospital safely," the head of the rescue operation, Narongsak Osottanakorn, told a news conference.

reach-out to young people in all governorates. Such an approach, he added, would help identify the needs and requirements of young people and consequently the ways to fulfill their requirements.

Minister Sobhi stressed the importance of the role of young people in building the modern state of Egypt, underscoring in this context that the implementation of the Egypt 2030 strategy will further advance the nation's ranking in the international community.

The Egypt 2030 Vision is the national instrument that defines the approaches to building the state, reflects the people's aspirations and achieves the goals of sustainable development goals

Today's Weather		
Cairo	...37	...26
Alexandria	...31	...25
Mersa Matruh	...29	...24
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Hurghada	...40	...30
Aswan	...43	...29
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'Young people have key role to play in building modern state of Egypt'

PROMOTING the role of young people in building the modern state of Egypt especially through the implementation of the Egypt 2030 Vision for sustainable development was the focus of the "Together for Egypt" conference that convened in Cairo yesterday.

Highlighting this role and the prospects of larger contribution by young people in the coming stage was Youth and Sports Minister Dr Ashraf Sobhi in a speech he gave at conference's inaugural session yesterday.

"Young people are capable of doing much in the coming stage," the minister said in his speech. He noted in this regard that he had initiated several meetings with the Higher Education Ministry with a view to expanding the

by the year 2030. Building a fair interdependent society characterised by equal economic, social, political rights and opportunities is the core body of state and societal efforts in implementing the Egypt 2030 strategy.

The "Together for Egypt" conference is jointly organised by Cairo governorate and Ain Shams University within the framework of ceremonies marking the June 30 Revolution's fifth anniversary and Cairo Governorate Day.

Prime Minister Dr Moustafa Madbolui deputised Higher Education and Scientific Research Minister Dr Khaled Abdel-Gahffar to attend the event. Taking part in the conference inauguration were Local Development Minister Mahmoud Shaarawi, Cairo

Governor Atef Abdel-Hamid, Ain Shams University Chancellor Dr Abdel-Wahab Ezzat.

The former All-Egypt Mufti Sheikh Ali Gomaa and the Chairman of the Christian Orthodox Cultural Centre, Bishop Ermia, were invited by conference organisers to attend the inaugural session, together with a host of state senior officials and key public figures.

The inaugural session saw conference organisers honouring the persons of Grand Imam of al-Azhar, Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayyeb, and the Pope of the Alexandria Coptic Orthodox Church, Pope Twadros II. Their representatives to the conference received their honouring plaques.