

Gov't takes serious steps to empower women



Deschamps hails French character after win



At NATO, abrasive Trump lashes Germany for being Russian 'captive'



Thais rejoice at success of dramatic cave rescue



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## In Figures

CHINA accused the United States of bullying and warned it would hit back after the Trump Administration raised the stakes in their trade dispute, threatening 10 per cent tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods.

China's Commerce Ministry said yesterday it would complain to the WTO. In a statement, it called the US actions "completely unacceptable".

## Sisi calls for sustained gov't action to control market prices, develop tourism sector

Ashraf Sadek

**PRESIDENT** Abdel Fattah El Sisi yesterday instructed the government to continue controlling market prices, combatting fraudulent practices, and offering subsidised basic foods to the rightful recipients.

The president issued the instructions during a meeting with Prime Minister Dr Moustafa Madbouli, the ministers of defence, the interior, justice, finance, supply, tourism and agriculture, and the director of the Egyptian General Intelligence Authority and the head of the Administrative Control Authority.

During the meeting, the president stressed the importance of protecting the rights of citizens, increasing the amount of subsidies offered to them and providing basic commodities to citizens at affordable prices, Presidency Spokesman Ambassador Bassam Radi said.

The measures adopted by the Ministry of Supply to reform the distribution system and put an end to any problems, were also discussed during the meeting, the spokesman added.

The minister of supply told the meeting that his ministry was reviewing the databases of the system. He added that the databases would be updated every day through safe cards and a proper data network.

These measures would largely contribute to protecting the rights of the deserving recipients as well as to reforming the distribution system for subsidised basic commodities, Ambassador Radi said.

The meeting also reviewed the latest measures adopted by the ministry for providing basic commodities to citizens and making sufficient quantities available at the government's mobile and fixed outlets, Spokesman Radi said.

President Sisi said it was necessary to conduct a daily follow-up of the implementation of the measures required to control and monitor the markets. That, the president said, would contribute to providing commodities in adequate amounts and ensuring the availability of the highest quality commodities at the best price.

During the meeting, President Sisi gave directives to the government to



**PRESIDENT** Abdel Fattah El Sisi presiding over yesterday's meeting with Prime Minister Dr Moustafa Madbouli and some Cabinet ministers.

keep up efforts to upgrade the quality of potable water and increase public awareness of the need to rationalise water consumption, Ambassador Radi said.

The president also reviewed with the ministers the latest developments

pertaining to a set of ongoing projects for building new water treatment and sea-water desalination facilities nationwide. Work on these projects was progressing well according to a pre-set timetable, Ambassador Radi said in his round-up of the meeting.

Minister of Tourism Rania el-Mashat submitted to the president a report on the steps that had been taken to develop the tourism sector as a whole, Presidency Spokesman Radi said.

The report showed that her minis-

try was making a great effort and was working on providing more and improved facilities to attract more tourists in the future.

Minister Mashat said that she was keen to increase the quality and efficiency of the country's tourist destinations and to increase investment in the human factor to ensure a happy experience for tourists in Egypt, a matter that encourages them to return.

A recent ministry report has indicated that Egypt witnessed a remarkable increase in tourist numbers in 2017, which is a promising indication that the sector is improving.

The meeting also reviewed the latest developments pertaining to the economic reform programme, which the government launched two years ago.

The newly-appointed Finance Minister, Dr Mohamed Maet, pledged that he would continue achieving the objectives of the economic reform programme in accordance with the presidential directives.

President Sisi confirmed the importance of keeping up the government's efforts to boost the economy and maintain monetary stability.

## FM voices concern by southern Med. states over EU deal on refugees, migrants

**FOREIGN** Minister Sameh Shoukri expressed concern yesterday over the results of the European Summit on June 28. The summit had studied the establishment of screening centres for refugees and illegal migrants in the southern Mediterranean countries.

The foreign minister announced his position on the matter during his meeting yesterday with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ahmed Abu Zeid said.

During the meeting, the foreign minister highlighted the importance of searching for solutions that were based on joint responsibility in dealing with the phenomenon of refugees and illegal migrants.

Shoukri also called for avoiding throwing the responsibility on the source in addition to adopting the concept of detention and isolation of the migrant, Abu Zeid added.

The meeting also included discussion of various aspects of the relationship of Egypt and the European Union, in the political, economic and development spheres. In addition a number of



**FOREIGN** Minister Sameh Shoukri during his meeting yesterday with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini.

regional issues of mutual concern were discussed.

Shoukri told Mogherini that the Foreign Ministry was carrying out a process that resulted in finalising 200 projects in co-operation with the European Union.

Talks between Shoukri and Mogherini also covered developments in Syria and Libya and the challenges facing the Palestinian-Israeli peace process. Developments in the situation of the Iranian nuclear deal were also tackled.

## Prosecution probes media gag

**THE** Public Prosecution began yesterday interrogating president of the Supreme Council for Media Regulation (SCMR) Makram Mohamed Ahmed on his decision to impose a media gag on all reports about the 57375 Children's Cancer Hospital.

The interrogation of Ahmed was attended by head of the Press Syndicate Abdel Mohsen Salama, Hatem Zakaria, the Syndicate's Secretary General, Sayed Abu Zeid, the legal adviser and Abdel Fattah el-Gebali, the Council's Secretary.

On Saturday, Public Prosecutor Nabil Sadek summoned Ahmed to investigate his decision, which is said to have meddled with the Public Prosecution affairs. Any media gag decision by the Council

should be based as per Article 26 of the SCMR law without violating the powers of the public prosecutor.

Salama, Head of the Press Syndicate, said that the syndicate respects and appreciates the Public Prosecution and the prosecutor-general.

The interrogation at the prosecutor's office revealed that no accusation had been levelled against Ahmed, Salama said. It just revealed that there was a misinterpretation of article No. 26 of the council's law.

He asserted that he never meant to transgress the authority of the prosecutor general and that he appreciates the General Prosecution and its role in protecting and maintaining stability of the homeland.

## Security forces kill 11 terrorists in Arish raid

**SECURITY** forces have killed 11 terrorists in a shootout in al-Arish, the capital of North Sinai governorate as the Armed Forces pushed ahead with the Operation Sinai 2018, the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported yesterday.

The shootout occurred during a raid on a terrorists' hideout in an abandoned house in al-Arish, MENA said, citing an unnamed security source. Three machine guns and a rifle were found at the hideout, MENA said.

The Armed Forces in February launched a comprehensive operation against terrorists and outlaws in Northern and Central Sinai.

## Syria army hits IS pocket

**AMMAN/BEIRUT** - The Syrian government widened its offensive to recover the southwest yesterday, extending it to an enclave held by Islamic State-affiliated terrorists as Russian warplanes targeted the area, a war monitor said.

The bombardment targeted the Yarmouk Basin, which borders the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and Jordan, and which is held by the IS-affiliated Khalid Ibn al-Walid Army.

President Bashar al-Assad is seeking to recover the entire southwestern corner of Syria in an offensive that got underway last month and has so far recovered swathes of territory from rebels fighting under the Free Syrian Army (FSA) banner.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said yesterday airstrikes marked the first Russian strikes on the Yarmouk basin

area in the war. It also said FSA rebels were simultaneously battling the IS-affiliated terrorists. Government helicopters had also dropped barrel bombs on the area - containers filled with explosive material, it said.

Assad has so far recovered swathes of Deraa province in the southwest from FSA rebels, many of whom have been forced into surrender agreements mediated by Russian officers.

The United States, which once armed the southern FSA rebels, told them at the start of the attack not to expect its intervention.

The Syrian government earlier this week took control of a strategically vital strip of the border from FSA rebels in Deraa province, denying them any access to the Jordanian frontier that was once an opposition lifeline.

Rebels holed up in a besieged enclave of Deraa city are waiting to

hear back from the Russians over demands tabled during a meeting on Tuesday, including safe passage to the rebel-held north for those who wish to leave, rebels said.

The Russians told opposition mediators at the meeting they would discuss the proposals with Damascus, an opposition official said in a voice message sent to the Deraa rebels and heard by **Reuters**.

The rebels had asked the Russians to block further ground advances by government forces toward their besieged enclave in Deraa city, which in 2011 was the scene of the first major anti-Assad protests that spiraled into the war.

With critical help from Russia and Iran, Assad has recovered control of most of Syria from rebels seeking to topple him and IS terrorists, though the north and a chunk of the east remain outside his grasp.

## Libya resumes oil exports

**TRIPOLI** (AFP) Libya is resuming oil exports from its eastern production heartland, its National Oil Corporation said today after a showdown between the war-torn country's rival authorities.

The internationally recognised NOC was handed back control of four terminals in the oil crescent on Wednesday morning, it said in a

statement, adding that "production and export operations will return to normal levels within the next few hours".

Exports from all four of the region's ports had been suspended after military strongman Khalifa Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) seized them from a rival militia in June.

### Today's Weather

Cairo	...34	...24
Alexandria	...31	...25
Sharm el-Sheikh	...38	...28
Hurghada	...39	...27
Aswan	...39	...27
Luxor	...38	...26
Suez	...34	...23
Taba	...33	...23
El-Tur	...34	...25