



# The Egyptian Gazette

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## In Figures

GERMANY will take 50 of 450 migrants Italy helped to rescue from an overcrowded boat in the Mediterranean, the German government said, following an Italian plea for EU states to share responsibility. France and Malta have already agreed to take 50 migrants each after two ships – one operated by EU border agency Frontex and a vessel owned by Italy's tax police – picked up the migrants near the Italian island of Linoia, more than 100 nautical miles of Malta.



THE Press Syndicate and National Press Board expressed full appreciation for the House of Deputies for responding to all proposals and remarks that journalists put forward with regard to the press and media regulation laws.

## Journalists' Syndicate chief thanks President Sisi for supporting freedom of press, media

THE Head of the Press Syndicate, Abdel Mohsen Salama, has thanked President Abdel Fattah El Sisi for supporting the freedom of the press and media in a way that helped the syndicate on the one hand and parliament and government on the other hand to overcome, through constructive and calm dialogue, an issue over the press and media regulation laws.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Salama also expressed full appreciation for the House of Deputies under the chairmanship of Speaker Dr Ali Abdel Aal, and for the house's Culture and Media Committee chaired by Mr Osama Heikal for responding to all proposals and remarks that the Press Syndicate has put forward with regard to the press and media regulation laws, especially including relation to the articles that the syndicate's board considered controversial.

Salama also lauded the government for having sought to reconcile the views of the syndicate and parliament, referring in this regard to the role of the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Justice Omar Marawan, in building bridges of confidence between the syndicate and the house of parliament.

Mr Salama urged that dialogue be sustained between the syndicate and parliament in the issuance of rules of procedure for the press and media regulation laws with a view to addressing whichever new remarks that may be identified.

Meanwhile, the National Press Board (NPB) also expressed sincere thanks to and appreciation for parliament for responding to demands by journalists that some amendments be introduced into the bills to consolidate the freedom of the press and assert the rights of journalists in the practice of their profession.

In the foremost of the amendments that parliament has responded to is the cancellation of temporary custody in lawsuits pertaining to newspaper publishing activities and the replacement of the disputed Article 29 in the press and media laws by Article 71 of the Constitution.

In a statement issued yesterday, the NPB hailed parliament's Media and Culture Committee for having maintained contact with the board over the past period as well as for having responded to all NPB demands that included ensuring that the formation of boards of directors of newspapers and general assemblies be balanced.

Also included in those demands were the end-of-service entitlement for all staffs of the national press establishments, separating editorial and administrative tasks and the observance of the rules of transparency and accountability, the NPB said in its statement.

The board praised the efforts made by various parties as well as the atmosphere of calm and democracy that permeated the discussions, consequently leading to the emergence of the law in such a way that gains the acceptance and content of journalists and media practitioners. Such a result, the NPB added in its statement, contributes to the realisation of comprehensive invigoration in all national newspapers.

West since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union, has alarmed some NATO allies who fear Putin might seek a grand deal that undermines the US-led transatlantic alliance.

Trump, who has been preparing for the summit by playing golf at his Trump Turnberry course on the western coast of Scotland, told CBS in an interview that "nothing bad" would come out of the summit with Putin.

## IMF Cairo mission chief:

## Egypt's ambitious reforms have contributed to realisation of economic stability

THE economic reform measures adopted by the Egyptian government have contributed to achieving economic stability in the country, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Mission Chief for Egypt, Subir Lall, said.

The package of ambitious economic reform measures under Egypt's national programme, has led to the realisation of several important achievements including in the foremost reducing inflation, reinvigorating the economy, improving growth rates and cutting unemployment rates, Mr Lall said in exclusive statements he gave to the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) yesterday.

The economic reforms have included the liberalisation of the exchange

rate, cutting energy subsidies, applying the value added tax (VAT) and improving the investment climate by issuing a number of laws such as the investment and industrial licence laws, he noted.

In its third major review of Egypt's loan programme last Thursday, the IMF maintained a favourable outlook for Egypt's economy. On July 5, Egypt announced that it had a primary budget surplus for the first time in 15 years.

Finance Minister Mohamed Maet said Egypt achieved a 0.2 per cent primary budget surplus, worth LE4 million (\$223 million), in its 2017-2018 fiscal year. It is aiming for a 2 per cent primary surplus in the current fiscal year.

Foreign reserves also rose by the

end of June to \$44.258 billion from \$44.139 billion, continuing their climb since the country secured the \$12 billion IMF loan, according to the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE).

Foreign investment in equity and debt markets has reached record highs since the country embarked on the reforms, Reuters reported.

Mr Lall commended the government for initiating measures to increase spending in the health and education sectors and introduce such structural reforms as would facilitate the start of business enterprises, the encouragement of entrepreneurship, the promotion of small and medium-scale enterprises and the improvement of transparency in state-owned establishments

Creating new job opportunities and raising the standard of living contribute to effectuating the realisation of higher growth rates, the IMF mission chief said. He referred in this connection to the government's move to expand the social protection nets and support the social protection programmes for deserving segments.

He pointed out that the bonuses for civil servants reached about 7 to 10 per cent of total salaries, noting that social insurance pensions rose by 15 per cent.

Mr Lall said that the government has boosted the foreign competitiveness and expanded restructuring reforms under its national programme to help overcome the main obstacles facing the private sector.

## Gaza ceasefire holding after day-long flareup

GAZA (News Wires) – A ceasefire between Israel and Gaza's dominant Hamas insurgents appeared largely to be holding yesterday, ending the most intensive flare-up in violence around the Palestinian enclave since a 2014 war.

In a day of fierce fighting on Saturday, Israel carried out dozens of airstrikes in Gaza, killing two teenage boys, and insurgents fired more than 100 rockets across the border, wounding three people in a southern Israeli town. "Everyone understands that unless the situation is defused, we will very quickly be back to another confrontation," UN envoy Nickolay Mladenov told reporters at his office in Gaza.

## NCHR chief asserts progress in rights, freedoms

THE Head of the National Council for Human Rights, Mohamed Fayeq, has lauded the state's efforts in fighting the war against terrorism, noting that such efforts have been characterised by devotion – so much so that several countries have come to view Egypt as an invincible shield against international terrorism.

Emphasising that Egypt's efforts and successes in the war against terrorism have gained the country wide global appreciation, Mr Fayeq said that Egypt has paid a high price in making these efforts and successes. Several world countries especially in Africa and Europe, he added, now look to Egypt as a strong protecting wall against international terrorism.

In an interview with the Middle East News Agency (MENA) while on

a visit to Beirut, Lebanon, Mr Fayeq stressed that the area of freedoms and human rights in Egypt is witnessing progress, adding that the state of emergency is confined to the fight against terrorism.

Mr Fayeq said he is confident that President Abdel Fattah El Sisi's second term in office will witness a great and positive development in all fields pertaining to freedoms as well as in expanding the freedoms in an unprecedented way.

Noting that Egypt's present Constitution is one of the world's best in terms of rights and freedoms, Mr Fayeq said that the existence of the Supreme Constitutional Court constitutes one of the most important guarantees for rights and freedoms since it has the competence to invalidate any law that contravenes the provisions

and stipulations of the Constitution.

Asserting that elections held in Egypt are totally free from any government interference, Mr Fayeq said that state is no longer capable of interfering in election even if it assumingly wanted to.

The head of NCHR categorically denied reports suggesting that there are detainees in Egypt. "It is totally untrue particularly since all measures related to the arrest and temporary custody are adopted through the General Prosecution and the judiciary," he explained.

Conditions inside jails have become much better compared to previous periods despite deliberate attempts to convey a wrong image, he said, adding that a limited number of prisons need development in terms of management and potentials.

## Les Bleus crowned WC 2018 trophy

MOSCOW (News Wires) – It has been a fine World Cup, and it got the final it deserved. The Champions, too, France rode its luck, but it is young and has been the best team here.

France overwhelmed Croatia 4-2 in the World Cup final at Moscow's Luzhnik stadium yesterday to lift the trophy for the second time in 20 years.

The French, playing their third World Cup final, were made to sweat initially and were lucky to go ahead when Croatia striker Mario Mandzukic headed an Antoine Griezmann free kick into his own net in the 18th minute, the first own goal in a World Cup final.

Ivan Perisic levelled with a powerful shot 10 minutes later but the Croatia midfielder was then penalised for handball following a VAR review and Griezmann stepped up coolly to convert the 38th-minute penalty and put France 2-1 up.

Croatia fought hard for an hour but gradually ran out of steam after playing extra time in their three previous matches, and goals from Paul Pogba and Kylian Mbappe gave France a three-goal cushion.

Mandzukic pounced on a mistake by France keeper Hugo Lloris to cut the deficit in the 69th minute, making it the highest-scoring final over



HUGO Lloris (C) lifting the World Cup aloft as France was crowned champion after beating Croatia 4-2 yesterday.

90 minutes in 60 years, but Croatia could not find the net again in their first World Cup final.

Millions of French soccer fans were delirious with joy yesterday as France beat Croatia 4-2 to win soccer's World Cup in a pulsating final in Moscow that sparked ecstatic scenes from Paris to Marseille and beyond.

In Paris, where 90 000 people gathered next to the Eiffel tower to watch the match on vast TV screens, there were choruses of the Marseillaise, honking horns and hundreds of thousands of red, white and blue French flags fluttering in the breeze.

## Trump has 'low expectations' for Putin meeting

TURNBERRY (Reuters) – US President Donald Trump said he had low expectations for today's summit with Kremlin chief Vladimir Putin just days after 12 Russian intelligence officers were charged by a federal grand jury for hacking the Democrats ahead of the 2016 election.

The summit, which comes at one of the most crucial junctures for the