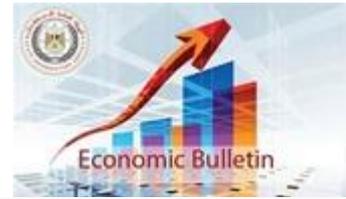


STATE INFORMATION SERVICE

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Mohammad Saleh



Oil Minister announces pumping gas from Zohr field to national grid

Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Tarek el Molla said that pumping natural gas began from Zohr field to the new station in Port Said's el Gameel area where the gas is treated and pumped to the national natural gas network.

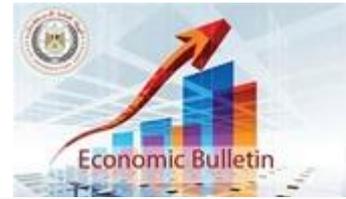


The initial production rate from gas will reach 350 million cubic feet daily.

Molla said that the first phase of the project will be finalized in June 2018 where the production will hit more than one billion cubic feet daily, said a statement issued by the Petroleum Ministry.

This will contribute to achieving self-sufficiency from natural gas and reduce importation, he said.

The second phase of the project will be finalized at the end of 2019 where production is expected to reach 2.7 billion cubic feet daily, Molla underscored.



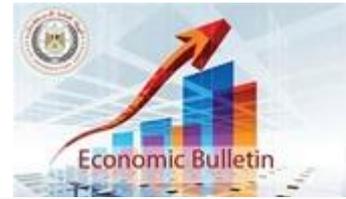
IMF: Egypt's hard currency shortage resolved by pound liberalization

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said after Egypt's flotation of the pound, foreign exchange shortages and the parallel market were eliminated. The depreciation of the exchange rate reflected the prevailing foreign exchange shortages, but after the flotation, Egypt's foreign currency reserve reached dlrs 36 billion this year.



Responding on the journalists' questions on the IMF website on the review of Egypt's economic reform program by the fund's Executive Board, it said "the exchange rate is now determined by market forces of supply and demand. Egypt was able to rebuild its international reserves as confidence was restored and capital flowed in. Looking forward, the market determined exchange rate is critical in ensuring external competitiveness of the Egyptian economy, supporting exports and ultimately promoting stronger and job-rich growth."

The IMF said "The recent measures taken by the Central Bank of Egypt are consistent with normalizing market conditions and the elimination of foreign exchange shortages since November 2016. These measures should further support the improving depth and

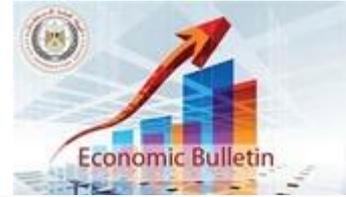


liquidity in the foreign exchange market. Foreign exchange rates are market determined."

Responding to a question on "Why is inflation still so high, and when will it come down? IMF statement said "The rise in inflation following the launch of the reform program was anticipated. It reflected the effects of increases in electricity and fuel prices, the new VAT, and pass-through from the exchange rate depreciation. The key policy challenge was to make sure that these factors don't translate into permanently higher inflation. The central bank, being very aware of the risks, has taken the right actions to bring inflation down. The steps adopted by the CBE have helped and we are seeing steady decline of inflation rates in the last three months. Inflation dropped from 33% in July to 26% in November."

As per the social protection measures taken by the Egyptian government, IMF statement said: "Social protection is a cornerstone of the government's reform program. The authorities have put in place several programs, including; more than doubling the value of cash transfer allowances offered through food smart cards – from 21 to 50 Egyptian pounds per person – and raising transfers for infant milk and children's medicines; expanding the social solidarity pensions to include medical coverage, as well as expanding the coverage of the Takafol and Karama programs to 2 million households and increasing the amounts provided; raising pension benefits, especially for the lower pension categories; To complement Takafol and Karama and help low income families improve living standards, the government started in June 2017 a new program "Forsa".

"Partnering with private sector, Forsa links the children of the Takafol and Karama recipient families and job seekers with employment opportunities which offers them steady income.

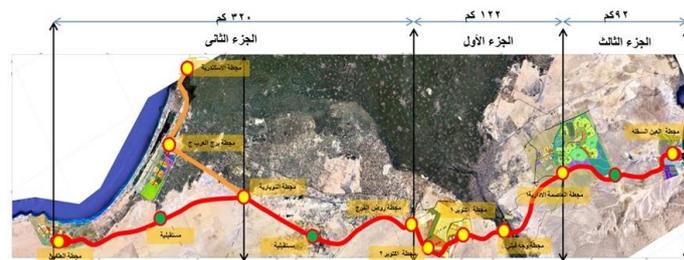


The program also allows paying a one-time allowance to public employees to compensate for high inflation; providing free school meals and new gas connections in poor districts and increasing the exemption threshold for taxes on domestic salaries. More broadly, the faster creation of private sector job opportunities as part of the authorities' inclusive growth strategy is expected to steadily improve living standards, including for lower-skilled workers," according to the IMF statement.

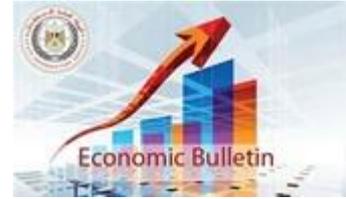
Egypt to establish two monorails in New Capital and 6th of October City

Egypt is set to establish two monorails, one to link the New Administrative Capital with East Cairo and downtown with length of 52 kilometres, and the other to link Sixth of October City with Giza with length of 35 kilometres, acting Prime Minister and Minister of Housing, Utilities Moustafa Madbouli said.

المشروع القومي لسكك حديد مصر - ربط العاصمة الادارية بالمدن الجديدة وشبكة سكك حديد الجمهورية بطول ٥٣٤ كم
الجزء الاول - من العاصمة الادارية الى مدينة ٦ أكتوبر ومحور روض الفرج بطول ١٢٢ كم
الجزء الثاني - من مدينة ٦ أكتوبر الى مدينة العلمين بطول ٢٢١ كم وتفرعة الاسكندرية بطول ٩٩ كم
الجزء الثالث - من العاصمة الادارية الى منطقة وميناء السخنة بطول ٩٢ كم



Madbouly called for international and local companies to coordinate with the government and asked the companies to prepare engineering designs, finance, procurement, construction, operation, and maintenance proposals for the monorail project before 15 January 2018.



Moreover, he indicated that the project will accelerate the development of the New Administrative Capital and will meet passenger demand according to current and future development plans for the years 2020, 2030, and 2050.

The proposed monorail project will be able to transport around 48,000 passengers per hour in each direction, with a journey time of 35 minutes, and is planned to have 27 trains. The first phase will have 108 railroad cars that can transport 24,000 passengers at speeds of up to 80 kilometres per hour.

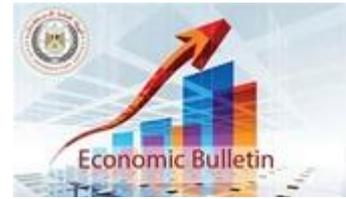
According to the minister, the project will be completed in three years. Once the monorail starts operating in 2020, it would be able to transport 250,000 passengers daily.

Egypt to receive funds, grants worth \$25.5B by year's end

The total funds and grants Egypt has received from development partners by the end of the fiscal year 2016/2017 are expected to reach \$25.5 billion, according to an official report issued by the Investment and International Cooperation Ministry.



The report added that the largest beneficiaries of the funds as of September 2015 until the end of June 2016 were the state budget at \$3.5 billion, then the electricity sector at \$1.75 billion, followed by the housing sector at \$585.6 million.



Among the sectors benefitting from the funds were the transportation and aviation sector at \$507 million, the irrigation and agriculture sector at \$392.92 million, while the remaining \$9.8 billion was directed to support other economic sectors.

The report also said that a number of companies that were established or expanded in November stood at 2,155 companies, compared to 1,462 firms in November 2016.

The capital of companies was valued at LE 3.9 billion compared to LE 1.6 billion in the same month last year.

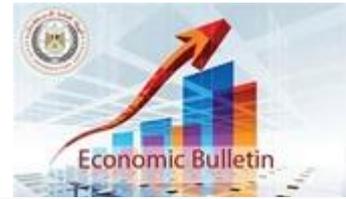
The report stated that around 855 of the companies were in the services sector, 611 companies in the industrial sector, 101 companies in the construction sector, 85 firms in the information technology domain, 51 companies in the agriculture sector, and 27 companies in the tourism sector.

CBE: Egyptians' money transfers hit record in 2017

Money transfers of Egyptians working abroad hit a record over the past 12 months compared to the corresponding period last year, said a source at the Central Bank of Egypt.



Total money transfers hit 24.2 billion dollars from November 2016 to November 2017, up 20 percent than the corresponding period, the source told MENA.



It added that pound liberalization managed to end the black market in Egypt and encourage Egyptian expatriates to transfer their funds.

In November of 2016, the CBE decided to float the Egyptian pound as part of a series of steps taken to strengthen confidence in the national economy.

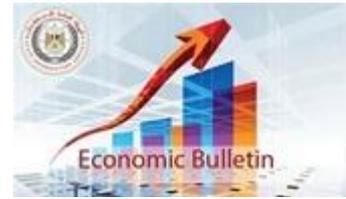
In statements, Mohamed Fathi, board chairman of Masters Securities, lauded measures taken by CBE President Tarek Amer to address many hardships that were mainly caused by the black market. He expected an increase in foreign currency transfers within the coming period.

Over 2,000 companies formed, expanded in November

The number of companies established or expanded in November stood at 2,155 companies, compared to 1,462 firms in November 2016, the monthly report from the Ministry of Investment showed.



The capital of companies valued at LE 3.9 billion compared to LE 1.6 billion in the same month last year.



Divided by sectors, the report stated that around 855 of the companies were in the services sector, 611 companies in the industrial sector, 101 companies in the construction sector, 85 firms in the information technology domain, 51 companies in the agriculture sector, and 27 companies in the tourism sector.

Offering unprecedented guarantees and incentives to investors, the House of Representatives has approved in early May the long-awaited new investment law, which is expected to facilitate business procedures and accelerates arbitration of business disputes.

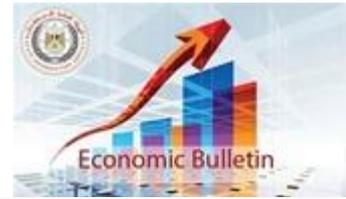
As a first step in the application of the new investment law, the Investors Service Center was launched in June to allow establishing companies online.

Petroleum Ministry: New industrial rubber factory to be set up in Alexandria

The Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth said new measures are currently underway to set up a new industrial rubber factory to be annexed to the complex of the The Egyptian Ethylene and Derivatives Company "Ethydco" in Alex at total investments worth dlrs 100 million.



Head of the Egyptian Holding Company for Petrochemicals Saad Helal said in a report he submitted to Oil Minister Tareq el Mullah



that the production capacity of the new factory would reach 36,000 tons.

Measures for floating the project for public bidding will start as of the first quarter of 2018, he said, adding that feasibility study of the project is being finalized by a US company and the license of the product will be obtained from an Italian company.

Minister: Egyptian tourism overcame its crises

Minister of Tourism Yahia Rashed said that Egyptian tourism has overcome its crises and all its difficulties.

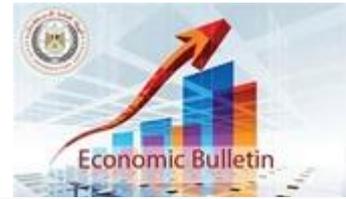


In an interview with MENA, he added that tourism in 2018 will achieve more progress and development with a view to restoring its previous rates and its real status on the global tourism market.

The route of the Holy Family and the return of Russian tourism in February along with other markets that lifted their travel ban to Egypt will help achieve remarkable boom in Egyptian tourism, he added.

He underlined that the security situation in Egypt is stable and that all required measures were adopted to secure tourists.

He noted that Europe includes several promising tourist markets such as the Polish and Ukrainian markets.



Minister: USD 3.3 billion trade exchange volume between Egypt, Mercosur countries

Trade and Industry Minister Tarek Qabil underlined Egypt's keenness on enhancing commercial ties with the Mercosur bloc's market which is considered an important and promising future economic partner for Egypt.

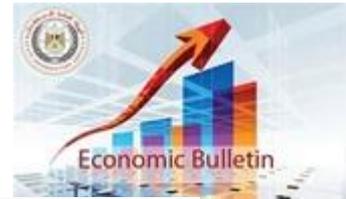


Trade exchange between Egypt and the Mercosur countries hit about \$3.3 billion annually, he noted.

He stressed the importance of intensifying the efforts of both sides to achieve trade balance, read a statement issued by the Trade and Industry Ministry, pointing out that his remarks came in a speech he delivered at a preparatory meeting of the Mercosur countries' trade and foreign affairs ministers, held in Brasilia on Thursday to prepare for a summit of the group in which he will participate on behalf of President Abdel Fattah El Sisi.

The minister asserted that the meeting is of great importance as it is held following the 11th ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Argentina where discussions were held between Egypt and a number of the Mercosur member countries on the future of their economic partnership.

Mercosur is an economic and political bloc comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.



Finance Ministry auctions EGP 13.2 billion T-bonds

The Finance Ministry auctioned treasury bills at a total value of EGP 13.250 billion.



In an online statement, the ministry said it sold EGP 6.5 billion of 182-day T-bills with an average yield of 18.743%, adding it accepted bids at rates between 18.839% and 17.6%.

As for the 364-day T-bills, worth EGP 6.750 billion, they achieved average revenue of 17.58%, the ministry said. It accepted bids at rates between 17.69 % and 17.45%.

The Central Bank of Egypt auctions T-bills on behalf of the Finance Ministry.