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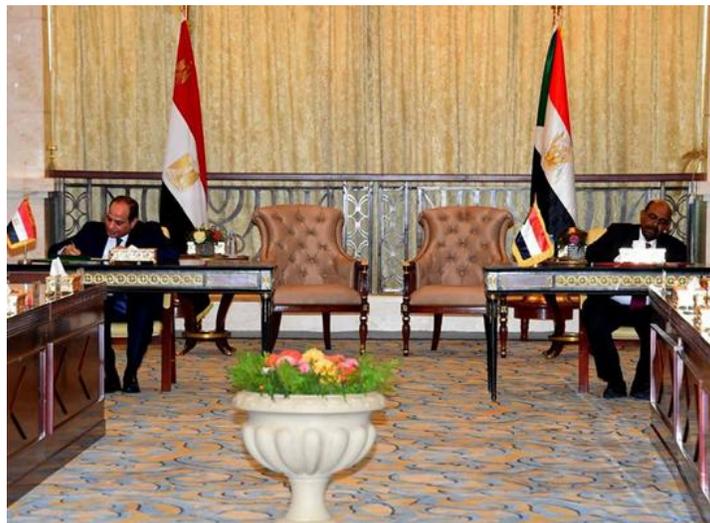
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Mohammad Saleh



Sisi underscored success of cooperation committee meetings between Egypt, Sudan

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi hailed Egyptian-Sudanese relations as strategic, praising the success of a joint higher committee meeting which he co-chaired with his Sudanese counterpart Omar al Bashir.



During a visit to Sudan to attend the committee talks at the presidential level, the president described the cultural and social ties between the two countries as history-honored and deeply rooted, said presidential spokesman Bassam Rady.

The President expressed keenness on boosting relations between the nations, praising the agreements reached by the two sides during the talks.

Sisi lauded the warm reception he and the Egyptian delegation received in Khartoum, saying that it reflects the strength and depth of bilateral ties.



The get-together today crowns the efforts exerted by both sides within the framework of the joint strategic vision and partnership document signed by Egypt and Sudan in 2016, Rady quoted Sisi as saying.

President Sisi expressed Egypt's support for efforts exerted by Sudan to achieve peace and stability in South Sudan.

Rady said the two sides inked agreements and memos of understanding which include:

- An executive program for establishing a joint ideal farm to produce horticulture crops.
- A memo of understanding between Egypt's ministry of agriculture and its counterpart in Sudan to combat *spodoptera frugiperda*.
- A memo of understanding in the field of expertise exchange between the countries' governments.
- A memo of understanding for cooperation between the two countries in the field of migration and allowing expatriates to take part in the development process.
- An executive program in the fields of youth and sports.
- An executive program in the field of higher education and scientific research.
- An executive program between Egypt's Export Development Authority and Sudan's Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Suez Canal Corridor Area Project includes more than 100 investment opportunities

Investment and International Cooperation Minister Sahar Nassr asserted that Suez Canal Corridor Area Project includes more than 100 investment opportunities.



This came during her tour with Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) and the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) Mohab Mamish and a US delegation of representatives of huge US companies willing to invest in Egypt.



During the tour, the minister said that the government is working to turn Suez Canal Corridor Area Project into a regional hub for trade and investment.

The US delegation's visit comes after President Abdel Fattah El Sisi's invitation to a number of US companies in order to inspect investment opportunities.

The government aims at serving 100 million Egyptian consumers, 200 million African consumers and 400 Arab consumers, she added.

Meanwhile, Mamish noted that Suez Canal Corridor Area Project had attracted various local and foreign investments after signing contracts with billions of dollars.



EGX wins award for commitment to sustainable development

The founding five partner exchanges of the Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative; the Egyptian Exchange (EGX), Johannesburg Stock Exchange, Borsa Istanbul and Nasdaq, have received the first-ever SSE Ground-Breaker Award for their commitment to sustainable development.



The move was taken at a meeting during the World Investment Forum in Geneva, Switzerland.

The award acknowledges innovative or ground-breaking efforts by a stock exchange contributing to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“Back in 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, these five exchanges took a courageous step forward to commit publicly to the United Nations that they would actively promote sustainable finance in their markets,” the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's director of investment and enterprise James Zhan said.



The SSE Awards were presented during the initiative's flagship Global Dialogue meeting, which included chief executives of 18 stock exchanges, chief capital market regulators, senior UN officials and civil society.

Secretary General of the International Organization of Securities Commissions Paul Andrews said, "We are seeing a substantial increase in the number of sustainability-focused financial instruments, green bonds, social impact bonds, sustainability funds, energy investment funds."

Egypt has half of EBRD investments in Arab region

Egypt has alone a share of four billion dollars from a total of eight-billion-dollar investments of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in the Arab region.

EBRD's Managing Director for the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) Janet Heckman said these investments started six years ago, when EBRD launched its operations in the region.

The bank is keen on supporting Egypt in its reforms, as the body is very optimistic over the transformation the Egyptian economy has witnessed since the launch of these reforms, Heckman said.

Achieving sustainable growth needs a private sector capable of absorbing the new labor force entering the market, she told a forum, organized by EBRD on employment and production in Egypt.

CBE: Egypt's foreign trade hit USD 88.9 billion in FY 2017/18

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) said that Egypt's foreign trade exchange in FY 2017/18 hit \$88.9 billion with imports standing at \$80.7 billion and exports at \$21.7 billion.



It said in a report published Thursday that exchanges with its main trade partners accounted for 60% of the total volume of Egypt's foreign trade exchange.

The UAE was reportedly Egypt's top trade partner with exchanged trade between them amounting to \$5.8 billion, followed by China (\$5.7 billion), the US (\$5.02 billion), Saudi Arabia (\$4.6 billion) and Italy (\$4.5 billion).

Trade exchange with Germany amounted to \$3.9 billion, with Britain to \$3.8 billion, Russia \$3.42 billion, Turkey \$3.07 billion and Switzerland \$2.8 billion, the CBE report said.

France came in the 11th position among Egypt's key trade partners with exchanged trade hitting \$2.6 billion, to be followed by India (\$2.6 billion), Spain (\$2 billion) and Brazil (\$1.8 billion).

On the other hand, Egypt's foreign debts rose to 92.6 billion dollars at the end of June up by 17.2 percent compared with the end of June 2017, according to CBE report.

The CBE said the net use of loans and facilities increased by 13.2 billion dollars.

External debts service burden reached 13.2 billion dollars during 2017-2018 fiscal year, adding that the ratio of the balance of external debts to GDP amounted to 37 percent, which is still safe according to international standards.

The total domestic public debts reached 3.694 trillion Egyptian pounds (184.9 billion U.S. dollars), 84.4 percent of which is government debts, 8.6 percent for public economic bodies and 7.1 percent for the National Investment Bank, the CBE pointed out.



The net balance of domestic debts owed by the government amounted to 3.120 trillion Egyptian pounds in June, an increase of 434.4 billion Egyptian pounds during 2017/2018.