



The Middle East Observer's interview with the Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Air Force (EAF) Younis Al-Masry

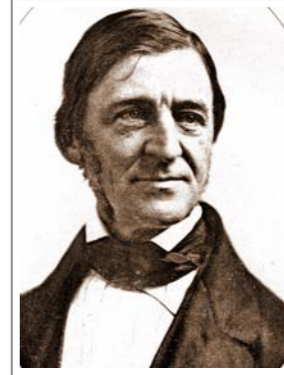
**"Our main focus is to defend and secure the skies of Egypt."**

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# The Middle East Observer

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**"Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising up every time we fail."**

Ralph Waldo Emerson  
American Poet  
1803 - 1882

## Lufthansa supports Egyptian tourism

The Cairo International Airport received the first Lufthansa Cargo MD-11F in a great event under the title "Welcome To Egypt" within the Lufthansa's campaign that aims at supporting tourism to Egyptian cities. As soon as the MD-11f had landed at Terminal 1, Hall 4, which is dedicated to private and executive jet services, the pilot opened his cockpit window, raising both German and Egyptian flags in a move to support Egyptian tourism.

By Ahmed Youssef

## Oman eyes large-scale solar power plants

Oman aims to have a wider scale implementation of solar power projects on the IPP model will allow Oman Power and Water Procurement Company (OPWP) to achieve its objectives of sustainably providing power generation capacity. Ahmed al Jahdhami, CEO of OPWP, was quoted as saying in the Oman Observer report. OPWP will aim to implement solar power projects with a focus on in-country value and building local capabilities in line with Nama Group's Sustainability Strategy, the report said.

# 23 Saudi companies invest \$173m in Sinai Peninsula

The Egyptian Ministry of Electricity (EME) is currently discussing with a delegation from the Saudi Ministry of Electricity (SME) offers of Egyptian-Saudi electricity linkage project tender after the project consultant has prepared the tender specifications.

The EME declared that the project aims at sharing 3,000 megawatts of electricity between the two countries in order to benefit from electrical load variation due to the fact that Saudi peaks in the afternoon while Egypt peaks after sunset, which would improve performance and stability of the electricity grid in both countries.

It should be noted that investments of 23 companies in Sinai Peninsula are worth 172 million and 42 thousand US dollars out of total 515 million and 67 thousand US dollars, however, these in-



vestments are not all Saudi investments in Egypt. South Sinai governorate ranks ninth among other governorates as 20 Saudi companies invest in this governorate with an amount of 140 million and 73 thousand US dollars out of an issue capital of 450 million and 38 thousand US dollars.

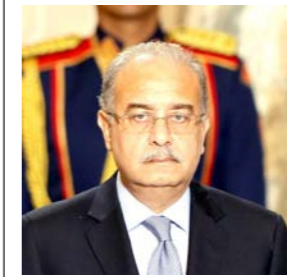
North Sinai governorate ranks 16th as only 3 companies invest in this governorate with an amount of 31 million and 69 thousand US dollars out of an issue capital of 65 million and 29 thousand US dollars. The Chancellor Ahmed Abu Zeid, the spokesman for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, said that

Egypt would not interfere in Arab countries' relations with other countries even if those countries took negative attitudes towards Egypt and its people.

Abu Zeid said, in response to a question for the Middle East News Agency on the purpose of UAE Foreign Minister's visit to Turkey, that Egypt has full confidence in attitudes of Arab countries in their relations with other countries and that they would definitely foster Egyptian interests.

The Saudi Ambassador to Cairo, Ahmed bin Abdul Aziz Qattan extended his condolences to martyrs of the terrorist attack in Sinai on his twitter account saying: We extend our heartfelt condolences to our sisterly Egypt over Sinai innocent martyrs.

By Rania Imam



## Commodity Monopoly: PM instructs to amend legislations to intensify punishment

Egypt's Prime Minister Engineer Sherif Ismail asserted, during the first meeting of the Board of Governors held the day before yesterday, the need to take on-ground measures, assist citizens, executive officials and tighten control over markets. He also instructed to ensure availability of adequate stocks of basic food commodities in affordable prices and overcome all obstacles that would prevent citizens from accessing certain goods and services.

Moreover, the Prime Minister instructed the Ministers of Justice and

Legal Affairs, and MPs to amend necessary legislations in order to intensify punishment for commodity monopoly, issue a governing law and provide lands to establish logistic zones in all governorates. He also ordered to coordinate with the Ministry of Supply to provide the land needed to build a large shopping center in the capital center of each governorate and those shopping centers will be responsible for directly contacting production areas with no mediators, which will contribute to lowering prices.

By Eiman Rashed

# Invitation For Bids

The Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation

## Mechanical and Electrical Department (MED)

### Rehabilitation of Irrigation and Drainage Pumping Stations Project Loan No. 0107 - EGT Supply and Erection of Gearboxes for MED Pumping Stations Reference No. 2

1. The Mechanical and Electric Department has received financing from Islamic Bank for Development towards the cost of the Rehabilitation of Irrigation and Drainage Pumping Stations Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payment under the contract for Supply and Erection of Gearboxes for Pumping Stations.
2. MED now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the a/m contract.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines (May 2009).
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from MED and inspect the bidding documents during the office working hours at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of nonrefundable fee of LE2000.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 12 o'clock noon 28/12/2016 local time in one envelope including technical and financial proposals. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representative and anyone who choose to attend at the address below.
7. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security as follows:

Group	Bid Bond amount		Bid bond in LE Equivalent
	US\$	L.E.	
1	28000	14000	295000
2	58000	18000	600000
3	58000	17000	600000
4	63000	14000	645000

8. The address referred to above is:

Mechanical and Electrical Department

Taftesh El-Ray Street, Shoubra El-Mazallat - Cairo - Egypt Tel.: 02 22090794 Fax : 0222090976



**The Minister of International Cooperation Dr. Sahar Nasr ended her visit to Upper Egypt, with Qena being the last stop, in presence of the Governor of Qena Lieutenant Abdelhameed Elhagan.**



Dr. Sahar Nasr

## Dr. Nasr recommends maximizing school feeding and Takaful and Karama programs at the close of her visit to Upper Egypt

The Minister visited Qena Industrial School for Girls which falls under the project financed by the UN Industrial Development Organization UNIDO, which aims to empower students at technical secondary schools to provide them with required skills to find suitable jobs. Dr. Nasr actually met with several students and listened to their explanation of the most significant projects in the field of entrepreneurship. She visited several exhibitions for hand-made products and commended the

quality of the products, while noting that MOIC worked on supporting technical schools.

Composite classes under the project to improve access to education and fight child labor were also visited. The project is financed with EUR 60 million by the European Union and implemented by the World Food Program WFP in 16 governorates which suffer most food scarcity problems. This includes providing 100,000 children that actually fall, or are prone to fall, under child labor with fast meals and providing 400,000 family members with a monthly ration as an incentive to send children, especially girls to school. The Minister stressed that she asked the EU to maximize the school feeding program to cover most lagging regions in different governorates rather than restricting the program to only governorates.

Dr. Nasr also visited the Family Clinic established among the project to establish 78 healthcare units in 23 governorates

financed by the UAE with a grant worth USD 26 million with a view to raising standards of living. She explained that this project contributed to providing healthcare services to the residents of rural areas, provided care for motherhood and childhood, vaccines and other services that save citizens the time and money of having to go to public or central hospitals. The project actually provides healthcare services to over 780,000 citizens and lessens the sufferings of those living in lagging regions. On the other hand, the project helped create 6000 job opportunities during the construction phase in addition to 1000 permanent jobs.

Afterwards, the Minister witnessed the signing of an agreement for financing the rural women support project for which MOIC had secured funds worth EGP 3 million from IFAD in favour of SFD. The agreement was signed by Head of SFD's Micro-Finance Sector Ms. Nevein Badr-Eldin and Chairman of the Rural Women's Development Association in

Qena Mr. Wafeek Azab. Dr. Nasr explained that the purpose of the project was to finance micro-enterprises in favour of rural women and that it would be implemented over 57 months, while noting that around 600 women are expected to benefit from the project.

The girls recruitment project was inspected by the Minister as well. It falls under the mother and child healthcare initiatives financed with EGP 1 million by SFD which aims to provide job opportunities to girls among the awareness raising and house visit programs to contribute to increasing access to mother and child care services.

Dr. Nasr pointed out that the project contributed to the provision of 362 job opportunities, the literacy of 84 women at the age of pregnancy, besides familiarizing 6000 families about the concept of mother and child care.

The replacement and renovation of the sewerage exhaust line, falling under the debt swap program with Germany, was visited as well by the Min-

ister and the Governor of Qena. At the close of her visit, Dr. Nasr stressed that she decided maximizing the school feeding program to accelerate with Egypt's development partners so as to lessen child labor, noting that taking social dimensions into consideration was essential, especially in lagging regions, in parallel with economic reform.

She pointed out that the government was set out to achieve sustainable development in lagging regions, while noting that it also worked on supporting middle classes.

She further mentioned that she requested that WB maximize Takaful and Karama Proram worth USD 400 million in order to serve 1.5 million families instead of 750,000.

Finally, Dr. Nasr explained that the funds worth USD 500 million provided by WB for the development of Upper Egypt will be mainly allocated to setting up industrial zones, noting that she requested the sum of USD 200 million to support intensive labor and a similar amount to support SMEs.

## Discovering metal shards inside Molfix baby diapers

As part of the Consumer Protection Agency's efforts to protect consumers' rights as per law No. (67) Of 2006 against deceptive and fraudulent practices or non-compliance with quality specifications and standards as one of fundamental rights of the consumer Chairperson of CPA Atef Yaquob said, "The CPA referred Hayat Egypt Hygienic Products S.A.E, Egypt's Molfix baby diaper producer, to general prosecutor over discovery of bits of metal inside marketed baby diaper batch No. Eg: 19 22/06/ 2016. Yaquob explained, "The CPA received a complaint from a consumer stating that there are bits of metal inside Molfix baby diapers, which poses a great threat to children and particularly to their skin when diapers come into contact with their private parts and their sensitive skin.

He added, "Samples were taken and sent to labs to make sure they conform to the Egyptian standard specifications. As well as, a police report has been filled under No. 2230 of the year 2016 at 6th of October Second Police Station and referred to general prosecutor to take all necessary legal action against this serious threat to health of our children. He also noted, "There can be no room for complacency when it comes to consumer health". He also called upon consumers to help the CPA in controlling the market through filling their complaints so that it can take actions against offenders and control markets.

By Alaa Abdul Wanees



## Industry Minister seeks to increase use of cement plants for alternative fuel sources by 30%

Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade Tarek Kabil announced that the ministry has completed a study on "interest earned from using alternative fuel sources, an alternative to fossil fuel, for cement plants production in Egypt". The study discussed the economic feasibility achieved in case the use of cement plants is increased from 6.4% to 30% during the coming 5 to 10 years. Kabil noted that the outcomes of the study are consistent with the strategy of both the ministries of Industry and the Environment in order to promote the domestic industry and taking into account the environmental requirements. In addition, saving energy and diversify energy used in different economic sectors, especially in the power-intensive industries such as cement. The minister expects that the total consumption of cement plants from coal will reach 9.7 million tonnes annually by 2025. He revealed that the ministry, in

collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, will disseminate the outcomes of the study through the implementation of a number of experimental models in some governorates.

The increasing use of alternative fuel sources will participate in saving \$50million annually by 2025, in addition to reducing the current emissions of carbon dioxide resulting from cement factories.

The study was conducted by the Ministry of Industry, International Finance Corporation, the Ministry of Environment and the Cement Division of the Building Materials Chamber at the Federation of Egyptian Industries. Moreover, the study was conducted through meetings with a sample of 14 cement plants, which constitutes 75% of cement plants that operate in the Egyptian market.

By Eiman Rashed  
Hossam Abdel Qawi



Tarek Kabil announces to use cement plants as an alternative to fuel.



## Egypt's sale of 4G licenses generates \$1.1bn and EGP 10bn

The sale of the 4G licences to Egypt's mobile operators has generated around \$1.1 billion in addition to EGP 10 billion (\$1.1 billion) for the state's public treasury, the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Yasser Al Kady said on Sunday.

"The hard currency transfers are coming from abroad, which is considered as direct foreign investment that doesn't depend on the Egyptian banks," Al-Kady said, according to state-run news agency MENA. Egypt's mobile operators Vodafone and Etisalat have received 4G licences, which will allow them to increase and improve internet speed and launch virtual fixed lines services, the telecommunication ministry said on its website on Sunday.

According to the website, the state's National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA) signed on Saturday the 4G licence agreements with Vodafone Egypt and Etisalat Misr for \$335 million and \$535.5 million respectively. Orange Egypt, the second-largest mobile operator, was the first mobile

company in Egypt to acquire the new 4G licence for \$484 million last week.

Each of the three operators also paid \$11.3 million to be able to provide landline services.

As of the signing, the total frequencies for Vodafone Egypt and Etisalat Misr are 42.5 MHz and 40 MHz respectively, the ministry said.

On Friday, Orange Egypt stated that NTRA has agreed to provide it with a spectrum of 2x10 MHz, as opposed to the 2x2.5 MHz to 2x5 MHz initially offered.

The three mobile operators declined in September to apply for the 4G licence under the NTRA's previous conditions, after which the national regulator considered offering the licences in international tender.

Telecom Egypt (TE), the country's sole landline operator, was the first operator to sign the deal with the NTRA in August, buying a 15-year 4G mobile license. Mobile internet subscriptions reached 27.3 million as of July 2016, the ministry said.

## Tariq Al-Mulla welcomes Vice-President of Total Africa delegation to discuss the company's existing projects in Egypt

Tariq Al-Mulla, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, received Stanislas Maitlmon, Vice-President of Total Africa and his accompanied delegation, which included Jerome Dishon, Executive Vice-President of Total Mediterranean & Indian Ocean Region and Ian Lepetit, Managing Director of Total Egypt, to discuss the company's existing projects in Egypt and its plans to increase its investments in the upcoming period. The minister explained that Total is one of the major companies that has expanded its operations in Egypt, particularly in petroleum product marketing, motor oil manufacturing and services, and vehicle fuel supply stations. The company has also expanded in natural gas research and exploration after entering into an agreement in the last year to explore gas in the new Nile Delta region un-

der EGAS international bid. He added that he discussed with the Total's Vice President ways to seize available investment opportunities in the petrol and gas fields and the company's role in these fields in the light of its keenness to strengthening its presence in Egypt as well as its vast potentials and huge investments in France and many countries.

For its part, Maitlmon stressed his company's desire to pump more investments in the Egyptian petroleum sector as Egypt is considered as one of the most important foreign markets for the company. The company is aiming at expanding its operations in Egypt and strengthening partnership with the petroleum sector in view of the good and attractive investment opportunities provided by the sector.

By Nagy Rashed



Tariq Al-Mulla discussing with VP ways to seize opportunities in petrol and gas

The market had a mixed performance last week; While it started the week on a negative note amid news that Saudi Aramco has halted its oil supplies to Egypt, news of the Saudi \$2 billion deposit totally changed the fortune of the transactions by the end of the week. On Thursday the market gained 3.5 points on the back of statements by the CBE governor Tarek Amer that Egypt received the Saudi deposit. This made it the top gainer among the world's bourses on that day. On the regulatory changes front, the cabinet signed a number of amendments in the Capital Markets law. Now the acquisition of a stake greater than 33 per cent of any brokerage with a market share of 10 per cent or more will now require approval from the board of the Egyptian Financial Supervisory Authority. The changes were proposed during Beltone Financials' failed bid to acquire CI Capital from CIB. CI Capital had an 11.1 per cent market share in September against Beltone's 6.2 per cent.

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## National Bank of Egypt (NBE)



Hazem Hijazy, Head of Retail Banking and Small-and-Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) at NBE, said that the NBE has been financing SMEs since 2010, pointing out that portfolio for financing SMEs rose substantially to EGP 28 billion during the current period. He explained, "The bank is aiming to raise its portfolio to EGP 70 billion in the next four years". He asserted, at Development Partnership Initiative's second Finance Leasing Conference, that NBE's finance portfolio totaled EGP 230 billion and the

Egyptian market has a great potential for SMEs as there are 2.4 million projects (80%) on the informal sector, which impedes banks' and leasing companies' ability to pump financing for the sector. He added that the bank has paid attention over the last period to industrial, food and agricultural sectors in line with the efforts of the state, stressing that these trends contribute significantly to reducing pressure on the foreign exchange reserve and increasing resources. He explained that India is an

important successful example. India has managed to move enterprises from the informal sector to the formal sector through giving these enterprises a full tax exemption over the past years and 50 % off the tax rate, thus leading to stimulating and encouraging more enterprises to move into the informal sector. He further noted that Egypt's tax revenue is up to EGP 200 billion and if the government managed to move all SMEs from the informal sector to the informal sector, the tax revenues would rise to EGP one trillion.

## Barclays Bank Egypt S.A.E.



Tariq Al-Kholi, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), said that Barclays' exit from Egypt's banking market has nothing to do with its current economic situation, but it is merely a policy of the London-based bank aiming at reducing its presence in certain markets.

He stressed, at the Finance Leasing Conference, that Barclays' exit has given Morocco's Attijariwafa Bank, one of Africa's largest banks operating in Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector, the opportunity to operate in Egypt and this will boost the Egyptian economy.

## Arab African International Bank(AAIB)

Citigroup has been appointed by the Egyptian government as financial advisor on the potential sale of the state's stake in the Arab African International Bank (AAIB). The sale is part of Egypt's plan to divest stakes of key state-owned firms and banks, including Banque du

Caire and oil companies. According to people close to the matter, talking to Bloomberg, Citigroup is studying the asset's potential value and how to conduct the sale as the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) has yet to decide how much of AAIB it plans to sell and whether to do so via IPO or

sale to a strategic investor. On the other hand an AAIB official told the daily Financial paper, Al Borsa an IPO won't take place before the first quarter of 2017. The CBE and the Kuwait Investment Authority each hold a 49.37% stake in AAIB.

## Telecom Egypt (TE)

The company had its first trial run offering 4G mobile services using fiber optic cables last week. Meanwhile, the company is no longer the sole owner of a 4G license as Orange, Etisalat and Vodafone Egypt signed 4G license agreements with the National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority. This came after all three incumbent mo-

bile network operators had last month rejected 4G license terms set by the NTRA, as the offered spectrum was not enough. The NTRA has since re-priced the license in dollars and prioritized whoever could pay the full amount in foreign currency. In total, the 4G license auction will see the state receiving \$1.1 billion in hard-currency in addition to LE 10 billion.

## Oriental Weavers

The Egyptian competition authority said in a statement that the Prosecutor General is not looking into charges of monopoly against Oriental Weavers, the internationally renowned rug maker, does not imply its exoneration. The ECA statement noted that prosecutor did not to go forward with charges could probably be due to procedural concerns. On August last year, the ECA referred Oriental Weavers to prosecution on allegations that the company made deals with distributors that prevented them from selling competitors' products, in violation of the competition protection law. If convicted, the company which controls 90 percent of the industrially manufactured rugs market, would have been asked to pay a fine of LE300 million.



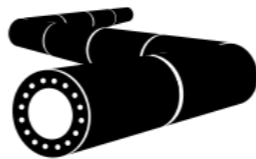
\$103m

Abu Dhabi General Services Company (Musnada) has started work on the \$103 million Al Faya-Razeen-Al Quaa carriageway project, said a report.



\$2.2m

Oman National Engineering Investment Company (Oneic) said it has won contracts worth \$2.2 million from Mazoon Electricity Company for construction of incoming feeders and 11 outgoing feeders for the new Samad primary substation in Al Shaqiya North Governorate.



£500,000

UK-based Exova, a global testing, calibration and advisory services provider, said it has been awarded a £500,000 contract by Sepco Arabia Company to support construction on the main gas pipeline across Saudi Arabia.



\$1.47bn

Emirates NBD, the UAE's largest lender, has delivered a solid set of financial results with its net profit growing 8 per cent to \$1.47 billion for the first nine months of 2016.



10.5%

Citigroup Inc, the fourth-biggest US bank by assets, reported a 10.5 per cent drop in quarterly profit, but beat analysts' expectations as revenue from investment banking and fixed-income trading rose.



\$2.5bn

The development bank set up by the BRICS group of emerging economies will ramp up lending to \$2.5 billion next year after making its first loans to back green projects.

## Madinet Nasr Housing & Development (MNHD)



MNHD released a research note that revealed its contracted net sales during the third quarter of 2016. The company's sales totaled EGP 1.3 billion, with a 6.8 percentage higher than the third quarter of 2015 and a 3.5 percentage higher than the second quarter of 2016.

These sales are considered as MNHD's record sales and are higher than the company's EGP 1 billion contracted net sales during the entire 2014. In which the company achieved its largest sales without even calculating total contracted sales of Capital Gardens.

The company said the administration's appointment of a new sales team since the beginning of the third quarter of 2016 to speed up utilization of the company's assets to generate sales was the main factor behind the increase in the net sales.

The MNHD's share price is EGP 13.71 with a value market of EGP 6.9 billion. Beltone said that negative earnings surprises are highly unlikely to happen on the back of the current evaluation of only 60% of Sarai project that was based on very conservative assumption that real estate land portfolio would be gradually sold instead of being evaluated as projects under development.

The 5.5 sqm Sarai project is located at Cairo Suez Road. The fair value is expected to rise and contracted sales target during this year will grow to EGP 3.0 billion compared to previous contracted sales target, which amounted to EGP 1.7 billion.

The contracted sales target is expected to increase in the next two years as a result of the administration's efforts in utilizing the company's assets to generate sales. Moreover, The Sarai project land, a part of vacant land plot located at the Cairo-Suez Road in close proximity to the new administrative capital of Egypt, will be developed instead of being sold as land plots, taking into account the current evaluation.

Petrojet's Business Development Manager Ahmed Fouad said, "The Company has supplied drilling equipment worth \$ 1.5 million to implement a number of projects in the local market, stressing appointment of a number of contractors to implement its projects.

He went to add, "The Company is currently expanding in the local market as it currently considers implementation of a number of projects. The company is currently negotiating with a number of financial leasing companies to have the finance needed to import equipment over the coming period, pointing out that reliance on leasing companies is a must to achieve intended local expansions".

He explained that Petrojet imported giant drilling equipment over the past years on a self-funded basis without having to deal with financial leasing companies.

The Company is aiming to upgrade its equipment and supply energy-and gas-related machinery, relying on financial leasing companies during the current period.

## Arabian Food Industries Company (Domty)



Domty pumps EGP 480 million investments during the period 2016-2020, but it is still a small amount compared with its competitors. This decline in investment is attributed to the solid relationship between Domty and Tetra Pak as Domty is the biggest white cheese producer in Tetra Pak packages.

Tetra Pak allows Domty to purchase machines on preferential terms, which include payment in non-interest bearing installments over several years. Domty can therefore offset the amount against amounts owed by Tetra Pak, resulting in on cash outflow.

Domty receives special maintenance and technical support from Tetra Pak and has a maintenance agreement. The company also receives significant annual marketing amounts from Tetra Pak based on a percentage of the marketing budget.

Prime Holding expected the company would direct its investment expenditure over the upcoming years towards expanding the distribution fleet, expanding the production capacity of the carton pack cheese and juice segments, the company's new segments and the geographical expansion.

Foreign exchange (FX) risk is one of the greatest threats to Domty, whether regarding the FX availability or the FX pricing. In 2015, nearly half of the company's raw materials were purchased in FX, while revenues of

export sales covered only 8-10% of the required FX. Till May 2016, the company was able to secure its entire FX requirements from the official banking system; however, the company had to resort to the parallel market as of June.

The company had to secure 90% of its required FX from the parallel market at a rate of EGP/USD 12.6-12.7 while the remaining 10% was secured from the official banking system. The company would adversely become affected by EGP devaluation against the US dollar, as most of the Food and Beverage producers. The scale of the impact will depend on the company's capacity to pass on any additional production costs to customers.

Domty is a food and beverage leader in Egypt and the largest cheese producer, producing a variety of packaged, processed and unprocessed cheese, as well as a range of juice products.

The company exports its products to more than 35 countries around the world. In 2015, Domty entered into an agreement to begin exporting cheese to Russia, benefiting from the supply shortages due to the foreign sanctions against Russia imposed by some major Powers. The first deal was made in 2015 with a total value of \$ 20 million. In 2016, the company entered into two new agreements to export its products to Russia and each agreement had a value of \$ 10 million.

The Middle East Observer's interview with the Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Air Force (EAF) Younis Al-Masry

# "Our main focus is to defend and secure the skies of Egypt."

The attrition warfare, which took place from March 1969 until August 1970, was not just a number of military operations conducted by Egyptian commandos and reconnaissance forces; however, the EAF has played a prominent role in this war. This warfare was the most difficult period of Egyptian-Israeli conflict in the wake of the defeat of 1967. The EAF had back then to prove itself as the nation's primary arm, which would be relied upon in the next warfare. However, the EAF did not accept the defeat, has chosen to fight and espoused the imperative need to rebuild its forces in the next round of fighting with Israel to regain the seized land. It suffices to say that Israel announced that 4 pilots and 15 aircraft have been missing and further 43 aircraft were damaged during the war.

After the end of force rebuilding and the war of attrition, the new phase of regaining the seized lands was about to start. On October 6, 1973, the war broke out and the EAF has played its role to the fullest, making a substantial contribution to the victory in the war.

The EAF has launched, at the beginning of the Glorious October War, a

comprehensive air strike against Israeli forces, allowing the ground forces to cross the Suez Canal without an effective interference by the Israeli Air Force. The whole world and Israel in particular were surprised at this move and Israeli forces were completely paralyzed by the surprise attack for several days. Aerial battles took place within these days and Israel has suffered heavy losses. The EAF continued to play its heroic role in the war to support the ground forces and defend the skies of the nation, making a substantial contribution to this historic victory.

The EAF have been developing following the glorious 6<sup>th</sup> October War as a part of its keenness to highly improve its combating capability. The Egyptian Armed Forces has consistently supported the EAF with the latest modern technology. Egypt is now seeking to diversify its sources of weaponry in cooperation with the United States, China, France, Britain, Spain, Germany, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic and Russia.

**Do the Egyptian Armed Forces have now air force systems that are good enough for protecting and securing the skies of Egypt? Are those systems air defensive, offensive or multi-tasking systems?**

The EAF carry out its tasks, which are protecting the skies of Egypt and deterring any aggression against its airspace or territorial waters. The EAF are equipped based on various factors, including theater of operations, expected threats and the country's economic capabilities. The equipment of the EAF includes all types of fighter aircraft, transport aircraft, attack helicopters, and public aircraft as well as air-landing force aircraft, auxiliary aircraft of the land and naval forces and search and rescue aircraft. It is safe to say that the EAF has the latest fighter aircraft and the latest generation of F16 aircraft, Mirage 2000 aircraft and Rafale fighter aircraft, as well as E-2C early warning aircraft, modern reconnaissance aircraft and equipment, Apache attack helicopters and UAVs. In addition to ground systems, which include maintenance and training systems as well as electronic warfare and reconnaissance systems. The military history of nation's wars, most notably the 6<sup>th</sup> of October War, has shown that efficiency of aircraft depends mainly on how skilled the pilots are, not the other way around. The skies of Egypt on various strategic sites are secured and protected in close cooperation between the Armed Forces and the Air Forces.

**After the French Rafale fighters have been added to the Air Force fleet, will there be any new deals in the future?**

The Egyptian Armed Forces' primary concern in the upcoming period is to develop its equipment and armament system to keep pace with the world's latest developments in military weapons. The EAF typically sophisticates its aircraft systems so that it can fully carry out its tasks on various strategic sites. This is evident in the EAF's fifth generation fighter aircraft deal, including French Rafale fighters. Replacing EAF's old aircraft such as (Meg 12 - Mirage 5) with modern advanced fighter aircraft is one of our top priorities in the upcoming period. The Armed Forces' new French Mistral class aircraft carriers named Jamal Abdul Nasser and Anwar Al-Sadat are new addition that would enable the Armed Forces to combat on different strategic sites. Having different types of fighter, early warning, and search and rescue helicopters would enhance capabilities of our armed forces in protecting its national and regional security from any threats.

**In the light of celebrating the glorious victory of 6<sup>th</sup> October war, We will definitely ask about EAF's role in the war?**

The EAF has played a heroic role in the glorious October War of 1973, a role that was praised by the whole world. Our EAF has launched a number of heroic attacks, including the air strike that has thrown the enemy off balance in the beginning of the war. Our pilots continued to carry out tasks during the war until 14 October 1973, the day when the enemy attempted to launch an air attack against our Delta air bases in order to weaken our efficiency in combat and prevent our forces from backing our ground forces. However, our fighter aircraft countered the attack in one of the biggest battles in the sky of the city of Mansoura, which was later named the air battle of Mansoura. More than 150 aircraft of both sides have engaged in the battle and our pilots showed super combat flying-skills and incredible bravery, and courage. The air battle lasted more than 50 minutes and the enemy have suffered heavy aircraft losses in one battle of the Arab-Israeli long conflict. About 18 aircraft have been dropped despite of qualitative and numerical military superiority and the remaining enemy aircraft had to flee from the battle. The enemy air forces have not attacked our beloved Egypt ever since that is why this date was chosen as the day of EAF.

**What are the main activities and events of the EAF day this year?**

Joining the great Egyptian people who are the real cause behind our victories in their celebrations, is of particular concern to us. The EAF's aircraft soar over the cities of the Republic in different flying formations. It also organizes various aviation events at



Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Air Force (EAF) Younis Al-Masry

**"We have the latest fighter aircraft and the latest generation of F16, Mirage 2000 fighters, Apache attack helicopters and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)"**

By Hanan Khayry

air bases and airports located at the governorates. Those events receive Egyptian university students as well as school students. On this occasion, the EAF holds inter-generational meetings with veteran leaders to benefit from their expertise. The EAF also visits graves of the martyrs and meets their families to honor those who have sacrificed their lives for the Homeland.

**With all the attention given by the Armed Forces in providing the Air Forces with the newest fighter and multi-tasking aircrafts and its advanced**

**combat system, How do you maintain the technical competence and the technical insurance to these systems to be capable of performing their tasks accurately and with high efficiency?**

The Air Forces owns a technical work system to guarantee the maintenance of the technical insurance for the equipment and aircrafts both of them the old ones and the modern ones. The Air Forces follows the maintenance of the technical competence and the technical insurance policy for the aircrafts and also performs overhaul for the aircrafts and works on its continu-



Chinook

ous developing to increase its combat capability and to provide it with modern navigation equipment and radar to emulate the newest fighter aircrafts. So, the Air forces works on developing the technical personnel through psychological, physical, martial and scientific preparation in the technicians' development center by using the advanced training aids and also through the theoretical and scientific training. In addition to, accessing internal and external courses to gain the needed experience to perform maintenance and overhauls in a way that makes the technical insurance system in the Air Forces a role model by the testimony of many countries. That's due to the preservation with high efficiency of all the weapons and equipment we own that works till now, such as; (Meg 12 - Mirage 5).

**Due to the subsequent events in the last period from the 25<sup>th</sup> January revolution till now, new tasks have emerged to the Air Forces and we would like you to highlight it?**

Both revolutions (25 January and 30 Jun) have resulted in the emergence of new requirements and needs in order to secure the country inside and outside and also to provide stability to citizen's daily life. The events have imposed additional tasks to the Air Forces including defeating weapons and drugs smuggling attempts in all directions across the border. The Air Forces prominent role is demonstrated through the daily operations to eliminate the terrorism in north Sinai; Rafah, Al-shaikh zowaied and Al Areesh, in order to eradicate black terrorism roots in all different strategic directions and also to destroy many terrorists central points. The Air Forces writes down briefly more from its heroic epics through its effective participation in the "right martyr" operation. The eagles have proven their superior capability to protect the country's borders, to defeat the terrorists, and all the attempts to smuggle weapons and drugs. As well as, to fight the illegal immigration that affects the Egyptian national security by the coordination with all the Armed Forces sectors. During performing extraordinary tasks, The Air Forces was performing its original tasks in protecting Egypt's sky all the time, under all circumstances and also in all directions, in addition to performing the daily trainings in accordance to set plans.

**What are the services that the EAF provides for children and families of the martyrs?**

Loyalty and payback are EAF's main concern in the next stage. By loyalty we mean taking care of martyrs' children and families, especially those who sacrificed their lives in the recent period in combating the black terrorism that have struck against Egypt these days. Therefore, the EAF has developed a system dedicated to martyrs' families to continuously contact them and provide them with assistance in all the different areas in the Armed Forces or civil sector.

The EAF also issues medical treatment cards for martyrs' families as soon as possible, and fully follows up their health

condition at its hospitals. The EAF also gives due special attention to easy and convenient issue of cards of AEF's House and Armed forces Clubs. The EAF also nominates some of the families of martyrs to perform the Hajj and Umrah joining mission of Moral Affairs Department.

Last but not least, the EAF's loyalty and gratitude is evident in inviting the families of martyrs to attend various events and celebrations so that they can be totally aware that the role of our martyrs will not be forgotten over time and years as they have sacrificed their lives to keep our beloved Egypt safe and pride.

**Many countries seek to benefit from our EAF's combat and training experience. What are possible ways of cooperation with brotherly and friendly air forces in joint training exercises?**

Our EAF has always been greatly appreciated by the brotherly and friendly countries and this is reflected in their desire to participate in our training exercises in order to transfer expertise and develop combat skills. There are joint exercises that are carried out inside and outside the Arab Republic of Egypt with brotherly and friendly countries, including (Hamad) with Bahrain, (Ain Jlut) with Jordan, (Faisal) with Saudi Arabia, (Yarmouk) with Kuwait, (Khalifa) with the UAE, (Ramses) with the French sate and (Tahiyet Al-Saqr) with the USA.

Further Joint training exercises will be carried out in the upcoming months with the Jordan and Greece. The EAF exerts huge efforts in these exercises in order to achieve maximum benefit and to draw lessons from the experience.

**Can you tell us about EAF's prominent role in serving the civil society?**

The EAF plays an important role in serving state bodies and the civil sector due to its ability to intervene and assist in emergency situations. It is always the first body to intervene rapidly in natural disasters and search the impacted and isolated areas to determine losses, evacuating the injured and wounded, and to provide first aid supplies to the affected people. It also plays a role in firefighting, controlling and protecting our shores, and territorial waters from ship pollution caused. Egypt's current internal security situation has made the EAF to transfer money and transport student exam papers to the governorates due to difficulties of securing roads.

Moreover, air ambulance planes have carried the injured from all over the republic to hospitals in order to be treated quickly. Our air force aircraft also take part in national services of our armed forces such as agricultural spraying, search and rescue missions, air ambulance, medical evacuation and eradication of drug producing crops.

There is full coordination among the Ministry of the Interior, Drug Enforcement Administration, the EAF and the border guards.

The EFA also assists the state bodies and ministries in performing photogrammetry needed to agricultural development projects, urban planning, transport and roads. It also transports relief supplies to areas affected by natural disasters.

**What would you like to say to the men of the Armed Forces and the Egyptian people on the EAF's day?**

I would like to congratulate all men of the Armed Forces with its officers and soldiers of all different ranks. I would like to praise their outstanding performance and their efforts that are made to raise your combat competence and improve your skills through continuous training.

I would also like to salute you for setting an example of sacrifice, heroism and courage. I wish you all the best and success in your duties and responsibilities in protecting the country and defending its security, sovereignty, safety and territorial integrity. I call upon you to continue your efforts for the elevation of our armed forces to follow the steps of our former men of the Armed Forces who have sacrificed their lives and blood for their homeland and have made history.

The Egyptian people have to be proud of their armed forces and air forces, who have always stood by the will of the people. To ensure the country's stability, prosperity, and to protect the great Egyptian people history and civilization, so for our precious Egypt to always remain strong and free.



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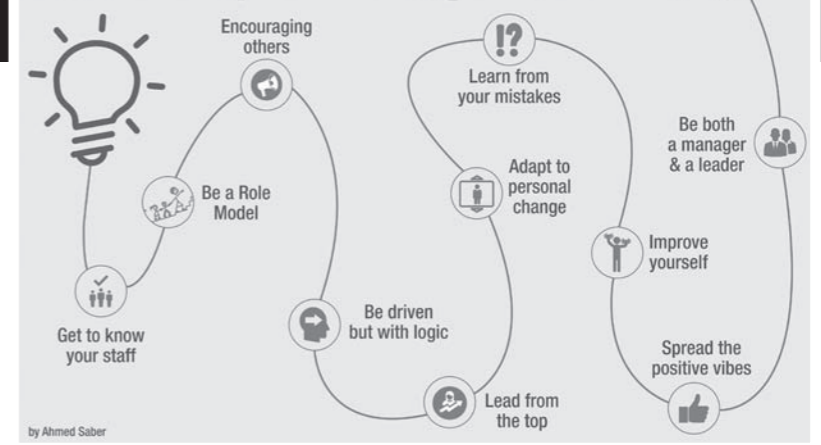


# Top 10 leadership & management tips

**A**s we all know there is a complete difference between a manager and a leader. It is very often that these two terms get mixed together. The main difference between leaders and managers is that leaders have people follow them while managers have people who work for them. A successful business owner needs to be both a strong leader

and manager to get their team on board to follow them towards their vision of success. Leadership is about getting people to understand and believe in your vision and to work with you to achieve your goals. Bringing out the best in your people, it's something all managers want to do, yet is something that's easier said than done.

## Tips to improve Leadership & Management



Rest assured we got you the top 10 leadership and management tips according to Forbes and Harvard Business Review:

### 1- Get to know who your people are

If you want to bring out the best in your employees, you have to, at least to some extent, understand them. Gain a basic understanding of what interests them, what bothers them, what they care about, what motivates them. Is it money, respect, praise, or a bigger office? There are a multitude of possibilities. The better you know your people, the better chance you'll have to pull the right managerial levers.

### 2- Lead by example:

Behave as you would want your employees to behave, but also understand that your role is different from that of your employees.

### 3- Your success depends on the success of others:

To succeed as a manager, you will need to shift your focus from "me" to "we." Going forward, your success will no longer be measured by your individual contribution. Instead, you will be evaluated on your ability to create and maintain a highly engaged team that is willing to give it their all.

### 4- Ambitious but not unrealistic expectations:

Both in formal job objectives and informal day-to-day managerial expectations, you want to set targets that stretch your employees, but at the same time are attainable. Let them know you have high (but not unreasonable) standards, and at all times expect excellence. Competence breeds con-

fidence, and successfully achieving ambitious goals motivates them to do it again

### 5- Tone at the top:

Lead in a way that makes it easy for others to want to follow. Setting the right example by your own business behavior; your own evenhandedness and ethics makes it easy for your employees to respect you. Nobody wants to follow somebody they don't respect, yet they're eager to follow those they do. It's always surprised me how often management doesn't play by the same rules they ask others to when setting a fine example costs nothing and only breeds productivity.

### 6- Shed your unnecessary "Need to be you":

One of the worst habits a leader can have is excusing his behavior with claims like, "That's just the way I am!" Stop clinging to bad behaviors because you believe they are essential to who you are. Instead of insisting that you can't change, think about how these behaviors may be impeding the success of those around you. Don't think of these behaviors as character traits, but as possibilities for improvement. You'll be surprised how easily you can change when it helps you succeed.

### 7- Learn from the past:

Those who don't learn from the past are doomed to repeat it. History, recent and otherwise, is filled with examples of successful business models and spectacular business failures. Think about what the people you admire do well, and consider what went wrong for

those who end their careers mired in scandal or disgrace. Lessons can be found everywhere.

### 8- Never stop improving:

Great leaders, indeed, great people are constantly learning and always trying to improve themselves. There's always something that you can work on or a new skill to master. Be sure to keep your mind open to new ideas and possibilities.

### 9- Keep a positive attitude:

You want to keep your team motivated towards the continued success of the company, and keep the energy levels up. Whether that means providing snacks, coffee, relationship advice, or even just an occasional beer in the office, remember that everyone on your team is a person. Keep the office mood a fine balance between productivity and playfulness.

### 10- Be both a manager and a leader:

And finally! In today's tough economy, should leaders be dogged, analytic, and organized or should they be empathic, charismatic, and communicative? The answer is simple: They need all those traits. Rather than categorizing yourself as a certain type of leader, explore the nuances that a complex, fast-moving business environment requires. Leaders need to confidently deliver tough messages with analytics as evidence, but they also need to be sensitive to how people receive those messages. Most leadership traits are not an either/or choice, but rather complementary sides of effective management.

By Nessma Ashraf

## U.S. bans Samsung Galaxy Note7 smartphones from air travel

Samsung Galaxy Note 7 smartphone devices will be banned from aircraft in the United States starting on Saturday at noon EDT (1600 GMT) under an emergency order, regulators said on Friday after numerous reports of the devices catching fire.

Samsung Electronics Co Ltd scrapped its flagship Galaxy Note 7 smartphone because of the incidents where the phones began smoking or caught fire, dealing a huge blow to its reputation. The decision came after reports of fires in replacement devices prompted a new round of warnings from regulators, phone carriers and airlines.

The order from the U.S. Transportation Department and other agencies bars owners from carrying on the devices or stowing them in checked baggage during flights. "We recognize that banning these phones from airlines will inconvenience some passengers, but the safety of all those aboard an aircraft must take priority," said Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx.

"We are taking this additional step because even one fire incident inflight poses a high risk of severe personal injury and puts many lives at risk."

The Transportation Department warned that passengers who

packed the devices in checked luggage raised the risk of "a catastrophic incident."

"Anyone violating the ban may be subject to criminal prosecution in addition to fines," the department said in a press statement.

The agency said that the phones might be confiscated from passengers attempting to take them onboard, and that people found onboard with the phones might face fines.

In another statement issued late Friday, the department clarified that owners who attempt to travel by air with Samsung Galaxy Note 7 devices would only be "denied boarding."

The world's largest phone maker this week said it was also expanding a U.S. recall of the fire-prone model to a total of 1.9 million Note 7 phones, including the 1 million Galaxy Note 7s it recalled on September.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said on Thursday the Note 7's battery "can overheat and catch fire, posing serious fire and burn hazard to consumers."

It added that Samsung had received 96 reports of batteries in Note 7 phones overheating in the United States, including 23 new reports since the September recall announcement.



## Google searches of Donald Trump & Hillary Clinton Show what the 2016 elections are all about

Amid the political turmoil of the 2016 U.S. presidential election, people are looking for an emotionless medium to find answers, and Google Search seems the right tool for the job.

Taking a peek at recent Google Trends can give pretty good insights into the American ethos before the Nov. 8 elections.

Here is a quick look at people's most searched terms regarding Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

During the past week, users no longer wanted to know about his policies regarding his mysterious anti-ISIS strategy, his claim that he will build a wall along the Mexico-U.S. border and his plans to rejuvenate the economy. Instead, they eyed his demeaning statements regarding women.

Top trending queries show that the public is interested in Natasha Stoyanoff and Jessica Leeds, two of the women who spoke out against Trump and accused him of sexual assault.

There is no surprise that their names are trending in Google Searches, as the allegations against Trump are making the headlines during the last few days.

The trending questions about Trump seem to eye the Republican candidate's campaign and his citizen support. Queries such as "Who are Trump's supporters?" and "How many voters does Trump have?"

were the top trending question just two days ago.

The trending charts of Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton offer a glimpse into a campaign that resembles more an actual political project than a "locker room banter."

Two days ago, the most searched for item related to Clinton's campaign was current first lady Michelle Obama, as her most recent speech went viral. The speech made waves, as it featured a call to action for women who feel disgraced and put down by Trump's misogynistic attitude.

What is slightly more interesting are the questions that users are asking Google about Clinton.

Users asked things such as "Is Megan Kelly a Clinton supporter?" or "Who should I vote for, Trump or Clinton?" or "Why do people dislike Hillary Clinton?"

The search shows that voters are more interested in Clinton as a person than in her faults, a trend that has been reversed in Trump's case after his recent statements came to light.

This does not mean that the public is uninterested in Clinton's skeletons from the closet, namely the Benghazi case, the private email server scandal and debatable actions of her family's charity organization.

However, the general atmosphere on Google Searches seems to show that the public is favorable to Clinton, or at least less hostile as it is to Trump.

# Are you having a Bloating Belly?

Stomach bloating is so common these days it's been called an "epidemic." With most people's poor diets, high levels of stress, need for daily medications and exposure to various pollutants, it's no wonder they're suffering some sort of bloating more days than not.

Whether it's a bout of holiday tummy, heartburn after a heavy meal or just occasionally feeling bloated, digestive trouble is one of the top five reasons we visit our doctor.

Figures show 70% of people suffer regularly from bloated belly but research by the Wholegrain Goodness campaign last year suggested almost half of us aren't comfortable talking about our belly and bowel health, which can mean we delay getting help and relief.

### Symptoms of a bloated stomach:

#### 1- Constipation

This might be the most obvious reason you have a bloated stomach. Constipation can cause stool to remain in the intestines, leaving you with a hard-feeling stomach, pain, discomfort and gas.

#### 2- Lactose intolerance

Lactose Intolerance is the inability to break down a type of natural sugar called lactose. Lactose is commonly found in dairy products, such as milk and yogurt.

#### 3- Premenstrual Syndrome

PMS is known to cause a bloated stomach and digestive issues, since it makes you prone to constipation and fluid retention. This is common and not too much of a concern unless you notice other serious symptoms like an irregular menstrual cycle, fibroids or severe cramping. Normally when a woman has her

period, she experiences shedding of the excess fluid, tissue and blood, which usually results in the bloating going away.

#### 4- You eat too fast

The pace of life has us all in a hurry, but if that leaves you wolfing down your meals, be warned: besides food, you're also swallowing gas-producing air, which balloons your belly.

#### 5- You drink through a straw

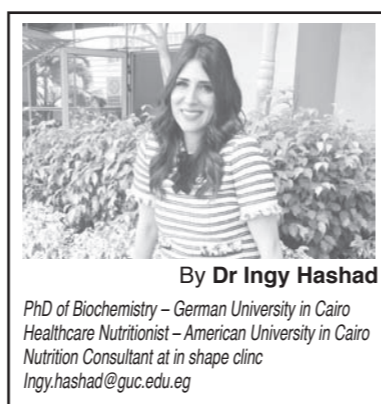
Fruit smoothies are designed to be sipped through a straw. But as convenient as straws are, they force you to suck in lots of extra air, and that makes you feel like an inflatable ball.

#### 6- Artificial sugars:

Artificial sweeteners such as aspartame and sucralose hang around your stomach a long time because your system doesn't digest them well or at all.

#### 7- Celiac Disease (Gluten Intolerance)

Celiac disease is a digestive disorder caused by an abnormal immune reaction to gluten. People with celiac



By Dr Ingy Hashad

PhD of Biochemistry - German University in Cairo  
Healthcare Nutritionist - American University in Cairo  
Nutrition Consultant at in shape clinic  
Ingy.hashad@guc.edu.eg

disease eating gluten -containing food (most bread, pasta, cereals) will experience severe bloating.

#### 8- You can't give up your soda habit

The same tiny bubbles that give soda and sparkling water that bubbly sensation also cause your stomach to swell.

#### 9- You eat dinner too close to bedtime

Lying down impairs digestion, so if you hit the bed with food in your stomach, it won't be broken down

as quickly, leaving you bloated. Stay on your feet as much as possible to keep things moving before you fall asleep.

### So let us discuss the possible remedies for such a bloated belly:

#### 1- Probiotics:

"Good bacteria" called probiotics act like friendly gut bugs in your digestive tract, killing off bad bacteria that can trigger digestive issues and reactions. You can take probiotics supplements, but acquiring them from natural probiotic foods like yogurt.

#### 2- Increase your fluid intake:

When it comes to fighting constipation, eight glasses of fluid a day can help by flushing waste out of your system and reducing water retention.

#### 3- Herbs, spices and teas:

Natural digestion-soothing herbs like ginger, aloe Vera and fennel have been used to calm an uncomfortable belly. Many herbs act like diuretics and help the body release extra fluid, while some, like ginger, can also help the stomach release its contents which relieves constipation.

#### 4- Eat early to avoid heartburn:

Acid reflux tends to strike at night when you're lying down, so avoid eating later than 8pm. Try sleeping with an extra pillow to help reduce the backflow of acid.

And finally try to learn your triggers! Knowing what sets off your tummy flare-ups can help reduce their frequency.





## Oman Air announces 500 bonus miles to sindbad frequent flyers



Oman air announced that new travellers on Sindbad Frequent Flyer will get 500 bonus miles, plus double miles on first flight, and stand a chance to be one of 16 lucky winners who will win 10,000 miles! Join Sindbad today for your chance to win! Offer ends 31st October, 2016.

Tourism

8



19 October 2016

www.meobserver.org

# Winter tourism in Luxor seems promising

**Luxor Governor: We will host 400 governors, tourism companies' managers at the World Tourism Conference**

Winter tourism season of 2016/2017 will start in Luxor in few days. Luxor governor Mohamad Badr is exerting efforts to revive tourism and boost the industry to perform more effectively. Winter tourism seems promising this season and will be much fruitful, compared to the last five years, as different governmental sectors are working hard to achieve good outcomes.

## Over than 80 competitors from 30 countries will participate in the first hot air balloon festival

Yahia Rashed, Minister of Tourism, is sharing the efforts of the Egyptian Tourism Authority to make the World Tourism Conference in Luxor as successful as possible. The minister has set a plan that draws all the details starting from before, during and after the conference; his main objective is to boost the whole tourism industry. Furthermore, a tourism agenda is being set and will be announced in due course.

Minister of Antiquities Khaled Al-Anany has developed "Luxor Pass" project and a huge number of temples and museums. It has been agreed with the hotels and tourism sectors to well-equip the spots of meetings and conferences among ministers, ambassadors and presidents. Various halls were set, in coordination with the World Tourism Organization, and are being developed to host these high-profile events.

Luxor has the most wonderful tourist attractions in Egypt; in fact the world tourism does not worth much without Luxor. We want to make the world anticipate that Luxor is a great city through hosting the World Tourism Conference. Hosting such a conference will make the world believe in our capabilities to host great events. It is important that Luxor tourists have an excellent experience when visiting Luxor.

The Egyptian Tourism Authority is to hand Pharaonic-styled leaflets, CDs and brochures to all the delegations that will attend the conference as the authority aims at advertising Luxor in an indirect way.



Minister of Tourism Yahia Rashed



Luxor governor Mohamad Badr

## Luxor has the most wonderful tourist attractions in Egypt

**German flights will be back with 84 flights, carrying 7350 German tourists from October to April**

**Cultural events will increase after choosing Luxor as the capital of Arab Culture**

Luxor has been chosen as the capital of Arab Culture of 2017.

In this regard, researcher Saad Farouk, Head of, said that Luxor will be recognized as the capital of Arab culture in 2017 as it will witness the biggest various cultural events over 12 months.

Over 80 competitors from 30 countries will participate in the first hot air balloon festival

Luxor is to host the biggest hot air balloon festival in December, sponsored by the ministers of civil aviation and Tourism. Thirty countries will participate in the festival, getting on 80 hot air balloons.

Luxor governor says that the minister of aviation is giving great attention to the development of Luxor and he will visit Luxor soon to follow up the festival preparations and take

**Cultural events will increase after choosing Luxor the capital of Arab Culture**

a tour around Luxor to see the festival spot, the closing ceremony and how balloons are distributed. The minister of aviation is sponsoring the festival's hot air balloon championship; Luxor governor intends to hold the championship on a regular basis after

agreement with FAI Ballooning Commission. Luxor is the only city that has hot air balloon rides worldwide in December.

Such a festival will make Luxor an attraction for hot air balloon sport; a marketing plan is being set to advertise this sport in Luxor and make it a permanent event on the international agenda. Egypt seizes the second rank in hot air balloon sport, preceded by the US.

Furthermore, Luxor is to host the 2nd international conference of Arab Association of Islamic Civilization & Arts, held under the theme "Mutual influence among human civilizations". The conference is to last for four days from 26-29 October, attended by than 30 countries' delegations and 200 Egyptian and foreign professors. Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajiri, General Director of Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Dr. Gabr Nassar, President of Cairo University, and Mohamad Badr, Luxor Governor, will attend the conference. The conference organizing committee announced that 19<sup>th</sup> September is the last day to receive researches and application acceptance will start from 20-30 October. Invitations will be sent to the personal emails of the conference participants.

By Tamer Salah  
Mai El Hosany

Arab Republic of Egypt  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
EGYPTIAN ELECTRICITY HOLDING COMPANY (EEHC)  
**EGYPTIAN ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY (EETC)**

**± 500 kV HVDC, Bi-Pole Transmission Line Badr - Aqaba Gulf (407 km) Adjudication No. (20/2016/2017)**

**Scope of Tender:-**

-The Saudi Electric Company (SEC) and the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Co. (EETC) intend to implement on full turnkey basis a ± 500 kV HVDC interconnection between the Arab Republic of Egypt (A.R.E) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) consisting of:

1. (3) HVDC converter stations.
2. HVDC transmission lines (Badr / Aqaba Gulf) & (Tabuk / Madinah).
3. Submarine and land cables system.

-Throughout these tender Documents, the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company (hereinafter referred to as Owner), invites international eligible tenderers to participate for the turnkey implementation of ± 500 KV HVDC, Bi-Pole Transmission Line Badr Converter - Nabaq Transition Station with an approximately 407 km ("the Works), EETC has applied for a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic And Social Development.

- The scope of work is described in the tender documents and includes but is not limited to the following:

- The design, manufacture, supply, transport, erection, testing and commissioning till handing over and final acceptance on turnkey job.
- Concrete foundation in all type of lands.
- The completion period shall be 24 months from the date of contract signature.
- The tender documents is available at EETC cashier against presentation of payment receipt of non-refundable USD 2500 from National Bank of Egypt - Nasr City branch, Cairo, Egypt, EETC'S account No 11001007177 together with an application (original +2 copies) showing the name, address, E-mail, fax and telephone numbers of both supplier and local agent and addressed to head of purchasing and stores sector during official working hours.
- The technical and commercial tenders to be submitted according to tender conditions in two sealed envelopes (technical & financial) on before of the 4 /12 / 2016 at 12:00 noon to EETC general purchasing department that the tender will be valid for 180 days starting from the opening date.
- The technical envelope contains the general, special conditions & the tenderer's technical offer including all information as specified in the tender documents and Tender Security with an amount of USD 2500000 and it will be opened on the same date and time.
- The commercial envelope contains only price schedules and will be opened for the technically accepted tenders on the date which will be announced later.
- Interested tenders may obtain further information from Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company (EETC)-purchasing and stores sectors, Abassia, Nasr City, Cairo, and Tel&Fax: 22616537.

## Here's why France is still world's top tourist destination

Yes, tourists are snubbing France over terror fears, but it should remain as the world's top travel destination. Here's why.

Fresh stats on Monday revealed that the wealthier tourists are turning away from France following the recent spate of terror attacks.

In fact, since the start of 2016 the number of nights spent in France by foreign visitors has dropped by 10 percent.

But a French minister has pointed out that despite two shocking terror attacks in 2015, the country welcomed a record of 85 million visitors. While many will no doubt turn their backs preferring to be cautious, there are a few reasons why France is still likely to retain its crown as the most visited country in the world.

1. The City of Light  
It almost goes without saying, but the French capital is a huge draw for foreign visitors – over 30 million of them a year in fact, more than any other city in the world.

There's the city's romantic image, the stunning architecture, the Louvre museum, the iconic Eiffel Tower as well as the simple pleasure of sitting at a café terrace and watching the world go by.

And don't forget Disney-

land, which is a destination in itself for foreign visitors. With around 15 million visitors each year, the theme park, just to the east of the French capital is Europe's top tourist destination.

2. A variety of sun, sea and mountains  
Many French people shun international destinations for their summer holidays and instead choose to travel within their own country. Why? Well, as they'll be keen to tell you, it's because France has everything, from sandy beaches, to snow covered mountains and vast expanses of countryside.

Simon Dawson, from UK tour operator French Cycling Holidays, agrees. "Different regions have completely different appearances," he says. "There's the rolling countryside, great cities like Paris, Lyon, Marseille."

Basically France offers something for everyone. While the Germans may come for the beaches, the Brits for the countryside the Americans come for the chateaux and the culture.

"The weather is a big factor too. "France tends to have really good weather in the summer, it's hot, but not baking hot like in Spain or Italy for example," says Dawson.

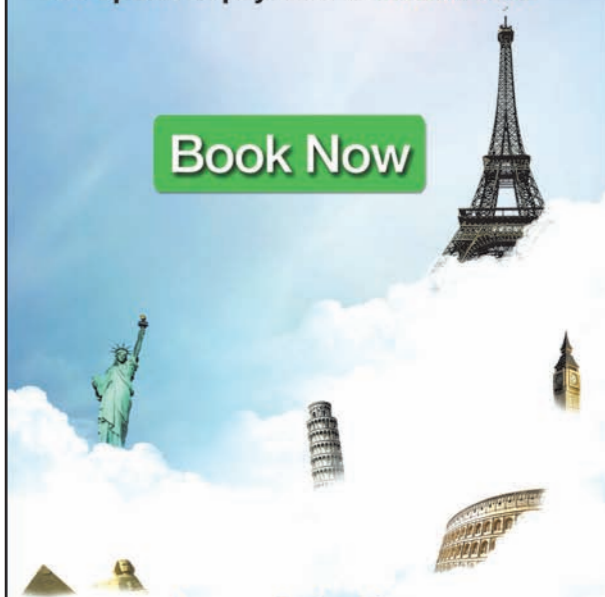
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