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BRIEFS

STATUS OF MARITIME ACADEMY--The director of the Arab Maritime Academy, Dr Gamal Mukhtar reiterated that the academy would remain in Alexandria, that no one of its Egyptian employees would be transferred to Tunisia and that they, who represent 95 percent of the total number of institution employees, are standing as one block behind Egypt's position calling for maintaining Alexandria as headquarters for the academy. Dr Mukhtar returned yesterday to Alexandria, after attending the meetings of the Training Standards Committee held at the headquarters of the Maritime Consultative Organization for Governments in London in mid July. The committee discussed a paper presented by the academy on the functional titles of the personnel working on board the commercial ships. The director of the academy said that during his visit to London, he discussed the proposed technical aid from the American Maritime Administration with officials of the Maritime Officers Training Institute in Baltimore. Another meeting is scheduled for the second half of November in Washington D.C. to take the necessary measures to implement the proposed technical assistance. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Jul 79 p 8] 6800

AL-'ARISH WATER WELLS--The governorate of Northern Sinai began execution of its project calling for the drilling of 30 water wells in Wadi al-'Arish to supply the area with irrigation and drinking water. Already two wells have been drilled. Experiments carried out on the wells proved the suitability of their water. Major General Muhammad Hussein Shawkat, governor of Northern Sinai said that it had been decided to expedite the implementation of this project in order to use the water in development projects and for drinking. At present, al-'Arish and its suburbs get their water supplies from three main wells only: Hassonah Well: It is 25 meters deep and gives 1,565 cubic meters of water daily; Y'cub Well: It is 14 meters deep and gives 1,600 cubic meters of water daily; Bunyah Well: It is 32 meters deep and gives 1,300 cubic meters of water daily. In all, the three wells give a daily output of 6,193 cubic meters. There was a fourth well called al-Wadi al-Jadid Well. It was 30 meters deep and used to give about 3,000 cubic meters of water daily but the Israelis destroyed its pump and dumped the well itself before their withdrawal from the area. Thus, this well needs repairs to be reoperated. Meanwhile, the traffic department in the governorate completed its check of the existing motor vehicles in order to provide them

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with Egyptian licenses. According to Major Nabil Muneir, 1,267 motor vehicles were registered. All were bought after 1967. The taxi service between al-'Arish and Cairo was organized. The fare per passenger is set at 1.5 Egyptian pounds. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Aug 79 p 8] 6800

PRESS COUNCIL--The committee formed to put the final touches on the legislation making the press the fourth authority has just completed the study of the substantial amendments introduced into the press law. AKHBAR AL-YAWM was informed that the committee ruled out the previous proposal for the formation of the Press Supreme Council. A responsible source in the committee said that the views expressed about the formation of the council contributed clearly to the drawing of the structure of the Press Supreme Council. The source added that the Press Supreme Council would not include the Grand Mufti of Egypt and a leading scholar from al-Azhar, as had been previously suggested. Also, it was decided not to include members of the People's Assembly in the Press Supreme Council. Such inclusion was opposed by the pressmen. AKHBAR AL-YAWM also knows that the draft of the recent amendments of the press law provide for the formation of the Press Supreme Council as follows: President of the Legislative Council; President of the Supreme Constitutional Court; Two presidents of the board of directors of the newspapers, in their official capacity; A number of journalists to be elected to the membership of the Press Supreme Council. A responsible source in the committee said that the new structure would meet the demands of the pressmen for a majority in the council. [Text] [Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 4 Aug 79 p 1] 6800

SAUDI-EGYPTIAN JOINT VENTURE--Early next week, a delegation from the Ministry of Irrigation, headed by Eng Mahmoud Abu Zeid, vice president of the High Dam Company, will leave Cairo for Saudi Arabia on a 10-day visit to sign an agreement establishing a joint Egyptian-Saudi company. The company will undertake the building of irrigation dams, drilling water wells and constructing tunnels and bridges in certain areas of Saudi Arabia. The company will utilize the Egyptian expertise, available in the High Dam Company for civil works, in the execution of the abovementioned projects. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Aug 79 p 8] 6800

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2. Clothing and textiles went up 10 percent over the same month last year.
3. Machine tools and transportation vehicles rose 0.5 percent which compared to the same products last year was an increase of 6.4 percent.