

Politics

Bathily: Current conditions allow Libya to hold elections by end of 2023

The UN envoy to Libya Abdoulaye Bathily said that the conditions for candidacy for the presidential elections are a controversial issue, adding that the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) believed that elections should not exclude anyone in order to achieve stability and express the will of the Libyan people.

Bathily added in his response to a question in an interview with Al-Arabiya Al-Hadath TV channel on Tuesday about the ongoing differences regarding the criteria for candidacy in Libyan elections and "the talk about seeking to set criteria to exclude certain candidates such as Khalifa Haftar and Saif Gaddafi."

Bathily added that the experiences of other countries have shown that when groups or individuals are excluded from the elections, "the matter becomes worse," saying that "what they want to avoid is questionable elections so that their results are not rejected. This requires the involvement of all candidates."

The UN envoy hoped that Libyan elections would be held before the end of this year, adding that conditions are favorable for conducting the vote. "It is time for the Libyan people to have legitimate institutions after a period of transitional authorities, and the people want to have sustainable institutions that meet their needs, and provide a sound economy and the necessary services that bring peace and security. If intentions are good and there is a real commitment to the stability of Libya and the provision of appropriate conditions, then elections will be held." He added.

Bathily pointed out that the security track has gained a lot of momentum, and the military and security leaders have agreed on a code of honor to secure the electoral process.

Regarding the desire of some parties to obstruct the holding of elections, he said he did not know what was going on in their minds, and the leaders' positions would be recorded whether they wished to respond to the Libyan people's call for elections or not.

"The House of Representatives and the High Council of State's terms in office have ended, and it is important for the two chambers, as guarantors of the country's stability, to put on the table the tasks entrusted to them. This is a moral matter and takes place in all countries around the world," Bathily said.

He stressed the importance of unifying the executive authority through the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, calling for a unified military institution and a single central bank, warning that the country would be fragmented and divided if those things didn't happen.

"Libyans want their country to remain united to exploit its resources for development and prosperity. We call on the military institutions to unite and preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya," Bathily remarked.

Politics

Libya's HoR suspends Bashagha from PM-designate position, places him under investigation

The House of Representatives (HoR) approved Tuesday with a majority vote the suspension of designated Prime Minister Fathi Bashagha and placed him under investigation, naming Minister of Finance of the HoR-appointed government Osama Hammad as acting PM, HoR spokesman Abdullah Blehiq said.

Several HoR members said earlier in press statements that the suspension and possible sacking of Bashagha came after his failure to assume office as PM and govern all across Libya, in addition to being unable to enter any of the government's institutions in Tripoli.

The HoR members indicated that there were "observations" about Bashagha's performance, especially the lack of clarification of the sources for his funds, which amounted to billions to spend on his government. They also referred to other complaints submitted by the ministers of Bashagha's government that they had received no budgets to be able to perform their work.

Earlier on Tuesday and in anticipation of calls by members of the HoR to investigate him and dismiss him, Bashagha assigned his deputy, Ali Al-Gotrani, to become acting PM, according to a letter addressed by Bashagha to the Speaker of the HoR.

Meanwhile, some observers believe that the dismissal of Bashagha could have come within the framework of a power-sharing deal between the Dbeibah government in western Libya and Haftar, the strongman in the east, especially after the failure of Haftar, Aqila Saleh, and the eastern camp's bet on Bashagha, who was not even able to enter Tripoli and was forced to stay in Benghazi, like his predecessor, Abdullah Al-Thani, who remained the head of a parallel government that did not receive any international recognition.

Politics

Libyan PM praises his "Restoration of Life" plan's success



The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has reemphasized the need for moving forward in addressing the consequences of the war and supporting the affected and displaced families, pointing out in a speech in a cabinet meeting, the implementation of the unified salary scale, which included all employees in all sectors, indicating that the salaries of more than 180,000 employees were released and that work is underway to implement the decision for the rest of employees.

Regarding the services sectors, Dbeibah said that his government had completed more than 1,300 projects of his plan of "Restoration of Life" across the country and in various fields, including the completion of the construction of 156 schools, the maintenance of 216 others, and the allocation of grants to 351,000 male and female students.

Dbeibah added that the government had finished building more than 315 water pipelines and 116 wells, and providing loans to young people estimated at 265,000 housing loans, pointing out that the government was continuing to construct the coastal road from Emssaed (east) to Ras Jedir (west).

He indicated that medical centers in Libya had become a point for localizing treatment and providing the best medical services, noting that doctors in Libya performed more than 300 open-heart surgeries and 4,500 corneal transplants. He renewed his support for all efforts aimed at stopping the fighting in Sudan, while at the same time expressing his readiness to cooperate with all "friendly countries."

In the meantime, the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) estimated the volume of parallel spending in Libya at 8 billion dinars in 2023, which negatively affected cash liquidity and the strength of the dinar. The CBL Governor Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir said at the meeting that the stability provided by the Government of National Unity helped in the continuation of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund.

Commenting on the volume of spending, the Head of the Audit Bureau, Khalid Shakshak, said that the volume of parallel spending is much greater than the figures announced in the Central Bank's records. He attributed the reason for the exacerbation of the volume of spending to the division in the past years, which put pressure on foreign currency exchange transactions. He also stressed the need to lift subsidies on fuel, saying it has become a national duty, given the prices in neighboring countries.

Politics

Al-Sisi discusses with Italian military delegation Libyan developments

The Egyptian President, Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, has held talks with the Italian Minister of Defense, Guido Crosetto, and Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff of Italian forces, Giuseppe Dragone, on the developments of the Libyan crisis.

The Official spokesman for the Egyptian Presidency, Ahmed Fahmy, said that the talks, which were held in Cairo, touched on the phenomenon of illegal migration, and the need for concerted efforts to advance mechanisms to confront cross-border challenges.

With regard to developments of regional issues, especially Libya and Sudan, the two sides agreed on the importance of advancing political solutions to various crises the region is going through, within the framework of preserving unity of states and their territorial integrity, in a way that meets the aspirations of their peoples towards restoring security, stability, and moving towards development and prosperity.

Politics



Al-Haddad: There is a segment set to drag the army into wars

Chief of General Staff of Libyan Army, Lt. Gen. Mohamed Al-Haddad, has stressed the need to support the military establishment in order to restore stability, and divorce the stage of infighting once and for all, Al-Haddad was speaking at a cabinet session, Wednesday about the crisis in Zawiya, last week of April, stressing that the current situation in the city is very reassuring, and a committee has been formed from the people of the city to avoid outside intervention.

He said, "We sat with various factions and learned the causes," pointing out that there are some defects with the municipal council and Security Directorate.

In this regard, Lt. Gen. Al-Haddad stressed the need to pay attention to young fighters, before pointing out that the security situation around the capital requires a lot of patience. He also focused on the necessity to "establish strategic national projects to push youths out of arms towards education and development."

However, he criticized in this regard the emergence of new armed formations parallel to the army, police and security services.

Al-Haddad noted that there is a segment, which he did not name, working to drag the army into wars, fighting and chaos, because this ensures that it will continue to benefit from the state of warfare and chaos, He stressed that the Libyan army is striving to prevent any attempt to drag it into fighting, and that the army, east, west and south, stands today united. Lt. Gen. Al-Haddad touched on the issue of illegal migration, pointing out that Libya is a transit country and that this escalating phenomenon may cast a shadow over Libyan national security, calling in this regard, on the need to pay attention to the issue of the National Number.



Economy

NOC has 26 programs and 82 strategies for raising Libyan oil production

The Ministry of Oil and Gas said that the National Oil Corporation (NOC) has 26 programs and 82 strategic initiatives in its plan to increase production and the efficiency of workers, reduce gas flaring, benefit from renewable energies, and develop fields and infrastructure for the sector, as these programs and strategies are to be implemented in a specified time frame.

The remarks came in a consultative meeting between the Ministry of Oil and Gas, and experts in the Office of Strategic Projects at NOC, accompanied by a group of consultants affiliated with the consulting office: Kearney Company.

“Kearney’s consultants gave a presentation of the NOC’s strategic plan, then the discussion revolved around the standards that will be used in the strategic plan as well as the need for its compatibility with the laws in place. regulations and legislation governing the work in the oil and gas sector.” The Ministry added in a statement on Tuesday.

Ministry officials stressed the need to give top priority to investing in human resources, supporting the private sector, and developing fields to increase production capacity, competencies, and capabilities, as well as establishing refineries to cover the local market and export the surplus, while benefiting from previous studies in the oil field.

Meanwhile, the Director of the Strategic Office at the NOC confirmed that the observations submitted by the Ministry of Oil and Gas would be taken into account by the advisory team, as the two parties also indicated the importance of continuing bilateral meetings and communication at all administrative levels in the Ministry and the NOC for the progress and development of the oil sector.



Economy

Mellitah oil complex resumes work after 16-day shutdown

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has announced the resumption of the Mellitah Oil and Gas Complex’s operations after it was shut down for 16 days to carry out maintenance operations.

Sources from the complex that is located in the far northwest of Libya confirmed that exporting gas at full capacity will start next week after adjusting the private production refineries to enter them into operational trials.

The sources indicated that the first stages of gas production will gradually increase after the completion of operational trials and attaining the temperatures required for the production process.

Italian Nova News Agency, citing the Italian company SANAM, announced the resumption of pumping gas from Libya to Italy on Tuesday at a rate of 3 million cubic meters: lower than the average due to the complex undergoing operational trials after maintenance. The Green Stream company was informed to export gas through its pipelines to Italy with an average flow, knowing that it was exporting annually about 10 billion cubic meters.

The complex processes gas and condensate produced from the Sabratha platform and includes 3 gas units with a total capacity of 695 million cubic feet of gas that can be exported locally and internationally, in addition to 31,000 barrels of condensate and liquid gas and 450 metric tons of solid sulfur. It is the largest oil company in Libya, with a daily production of about 600,000 barrels of crude oil and natural gas. It is operated by the Mellitah Oil and Gas Company, a joint venture between the National Oil Corporation and the Italian company Eni.



Activities of 49th Tripoli International Fair concluded

The activities of the 49th Tripoli International Fair, which witnessed the participation of local and International economic, productive and commercial institutions were concluded in Tripoli on Sunday.

150 local companies and 25 foreign companies from the United States, Spain, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Algeria and Tunisia participated in the 49th Tripoli International Fair 2023.



Economy

Al-Kabir and Bathily discuss track to unify Central Bank of Libya

The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) has announced that its Governor, Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, discussed with Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, cooperation initiatives with local and international parties and institutions to promote disclosure and transparency, and the track for unifying the CBL.

Al-Kabir and Bathily met in the capital, Tripoli, on Sunday, according to a brief statement by the Central Bank posted on its official Facebook account.

The meeting discussed "Efforts of the Central Bank of Libya to achieve financial and monetary stability, and to maintain financial sustainability of the state," according to the same source.



Economy

Al-Raeid discusses with Greek ambassador lifting ban on Libyan airliners

The Head of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Mohammed Al-Raeid discussed Monday with the Greek ambassador to Libya, "Ioannis Stamatikos," strengthening joint economic cooperation, increasing trade exchange rates, and establishing joint economic forums.

Meanwhile, Al-Raeid renewed his call on Greece and other European countries to lift the ban on Libyan airliners, to speed up the return of companies, and to facilitate procedures for the movement of Libyan businesspeople.



Economy

Ministry of Planning discusses proposed budget for NOC

The Ministry of Planning in the Government of National Unity has reviewed the proposed estimated budget for the National Oil Corporation (NOC) for the fiscal year 2023.

This came during Sunday's meeting, chaired by the Undersecretary of the Ministry, Misbah Saqr, and a number of officials of the Ministry and the NOC.

Saqr said that the Ministry of Planning appreciates NOC's efforts to improve and maintain the level of production, confirming the GNU's support for the NOC's plan aimed at increasing production to two million barrels of oil per day, in addition to developing natural gas activity and increasing its production rates.

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Opinions

The biggest winner in Turkey's elections

By Abdullah Alkabir,
a Libyan political writer and commentator

The follow-up of Turkish elections was not only limited to Turkish electorates, as the elections generated interest across the globe. Indeed, millions followed up the Turkish elections by the minute, as if it were a final match of an international football tournament.

Motives for such interest are enormous, perhaps the most important of which is the growing Turkish role at the international political stage, and the roles it plays in some regional files.

An additional reason for Western countries; is that the presence of a party with an Islamic reference in the leadership seat of a country located on their frontier, and one that has always posed a serious threat to them, as its armies had previously penetrated into Europe up to the gates of Vienna.

This new rise of the Turkish state, and its soft and hard expansion outside its borders, does not suit desires of the West, which wants a rather submissive state that begs at its doorstep like the Arab state, so Western countries were not neutral in these elections. Indeed, the largest newspapers in Germany, Italy and Britain, waged hostile campaigns against President Erdogan and his party, before and during elections.

British journalist, David Hirst said that Western capitals, all the way from Berlin to Washington, were preparing to welcome the news of Erdogan's fall with bottles of champagne. Calculations, expectations and desires of observers of Turkish elections varied based on their interest, even within some countries, there was an almost equal division, between proponents of Erdogan winning a new term, and opponents of the Justice and Development Party's continuation in power.

Opponents of Erdogan policies pinned great hopes in that he would be removed, and the victory of his rival, Kemal Kilicdaroglu. They assume that such shift in power, will trigger a coup in Turkish foreign policy, and offset the balance in countries that witnessed a decisive political and military intervention by Turkey, against political entities that were shocked by such intervention that shattered their dreams. It is certainly a wrong assumption, because the strategic di-

rections of the Turkish state are now governed by extremely important strategic interests that cannot be abandoned, such as the eastern Mediterranean gas, and the continuation of neutrality in the Ukrainian war, while maintaining the same level of relationship with Russia and Ukraine.

As President Erdogan stated in a speech, he delivered in Ankara hours after end of voting; 'The winner of these elections is Turkey, regardless of outcome'. He was absolutely right, because the state of competition between the two major parties, and between the two main candidates for the presidency, has led some to expect a slide into civil war, or Erdogan's refusal to give up his position if he loses elections. This is absolutely irrational expectations. For the Turkish people, with all their sects and elites, stood united years ago, against the military coup, which meant a very advanced state of awareness and political maturity.

Therefore, it is impossible for the Turkish people to regress from the democratic path, which achieved an unprecedented transformation in modern era, and promoted the Turkish state to the ranks of the developed countries.

They realize that return of the military to power is slipping to backwardness, which will return Turkey back to dependency, foreign debt, as well as repressive practices and confiscation of freedoms.

Adhering to democracy with all its conditions, including accepting election results, and rejecting any manipulation, forgery, or disregard for the will of the people, will be seen again in the second round, where there will be a winner and a loser. Everyone will respect the results, and the losing party will concede defeat with sportsmanship spirit, and Turkey will inevitably be the winner with this great success of its democratic experience.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Libya Observer



Health

Libya International Pediatrics Conference kicks off in Tripoli

The Libya International Pediatric Conference, organized by the Children’s Teaching Hospital in Tripoli, kicked off on Tuesday, with the participation of the Libyan Society of Neurosurgery and Spine.

The conference was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity and Minister of Health-designate, Ramadan Abu Janah, who stressed the importance of implementing targeted scientific activities, according to a statement by the Ministry of Health’s Facebook page.

The conference aims to prepare specialized professional cadres to learn the latest developments in the field of pediatrics and raise their scientific and professional level.



Health

Doctors Syndicate files complaint to the Attorney General against two ministers

Libya’s Doctors Syndicate filed a complaint with Attorney General Al-Siddiq Al-Sour against the Ministers of Health and Finance of the Government of National Unity (GNU), due to “their negligence in implementing government decisions.”

“The GNU has continued to procrastinate in implementing the decision of the previous Government of National Accord No. 885 of 2019 to pay the delayed salaries and adjust them like the other sectors”, the Doctors Syndicate said on its Facebook page.

It also expressed its members’ hope for a quick and urgent intervention from the Public Prosecutor before the collapse of the health sector, threatening to strike until their demands are met.

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Sports

Libyan Knight Abu Qurain wins Horse Jumping Championship in Sfax

The Libyan horse rider, Shaheen Abu Qurain, won the first place in the International Equestrian Championship for middle category, which was organized in Sfax, Tunisia.

The international championship kicked off, Thursday, with the participation of many countries, including the host country Tunisia, Algeria, Italy, France and Libya.

The Libyan knight, Hala Bin Hariz, came in third place of the same category, and the Libyan knight, Abdel-Gawad Abdel-Hamid, came in second place in the adult category competition.

In his first participation, the young rider, Amir Ambya, won the third place in the 'small tour category', in a competition of more than 40 riders.



Life

Libya's olive oil continues to grab gold

Libyan olive oil has continued to win prizes at international competitions in which competitors from the globe participate.

Four Libyan companies won four medals at the international competitions for olive oil, two gold and two silver.

The companies were Al-Mishkat, Aryaf, Al-Bustan and Al-Amin Olives Mill were represented at the international competitions in Japan "JOOP" and Norway "SIOOC".

Al-Mishkat company for Olive Oil was crowned with gold medal in Japan, Haj Ali Al-Amin Sons Olives Mill won a gold medal in Norway, while Aryaf company won silver medal at the international competition in Japan.

Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohamed Al-Huwajj, honored the Libyan winners of the international competitions for olive oil, which were organized in Japan and Norway.

Last April, Libyan olive oil won a gold medal for its quality in the "single-class" category during the competition held in Japan, among more than 20 countries participating in the "Quality of Olive Oil" competition.

They also won two silver medals in the same competition with regard to criteria of "mixing and flavouring".



Life

Tripoli municipality warns of strict action against people impeding traffic

The Municipality of Tripoli Center announced the formation of a joint committee concerned with resolving and dismantling traffic jams on most of the roads within Tripoli Center, in addition to developing urgent technical solutions.

The Municipality indicated that the committee is formed in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation, the Tripoli Security Directorate, the Traffic Department, and the Public Services Company, in order to limit the blockage of driving lanes and obstruction of the smooth movement of traffic in the main and secondary roads of the city.

It also confirmed that there would be strict measures against vehicle owners who put their cars on the sidewalks and places that could not be occupied as parking lots.

The procedures will also affect the shops that are on the corners of the main roads and adjacent to the roundabouts that do not abide by the specifications of the location and place, thus causing congestion and illegally occupying them for commercial profit.



Crimes

Gunfight takes place in Tobruk medical center

The Tobruk Medical Center has deplored the gunfight that took place on Wednesday, as quarrelling men fought with weapons, following their initial quarrel outside the center, adding that they had taken their fighting to the center's emergency section.

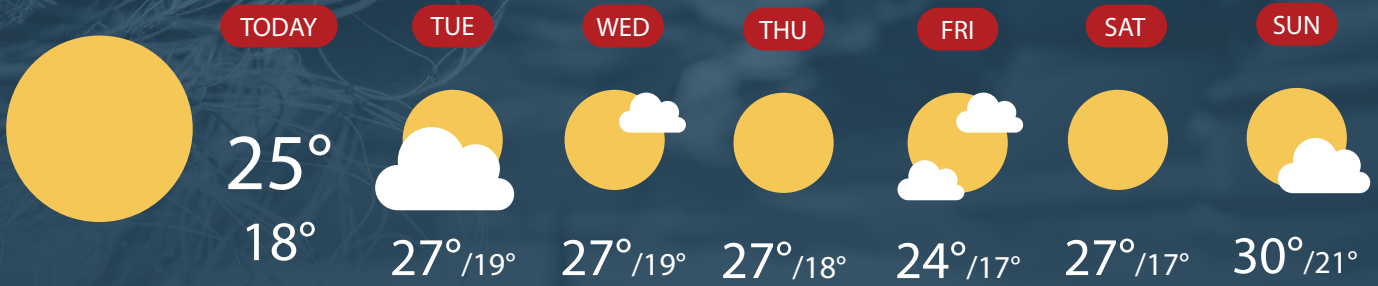
The center denounced "this disgraceful act, especially that it came after a meeting of dignitaries and elders who pledged to slap penalties on those who assault medical crews during work." It added in a statement on its Facebook page that despite the attack on the medical staff, they performed their humanitarian role, and the wounded were hospitalized in different sections and intensive care units.

It added that an emergency and urgent operation was performed for one of the men who was shot in the chest, explaining that the operation was successful, and the man's life was saved.



Photo of the Week

Tripoli Weather Forecast



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