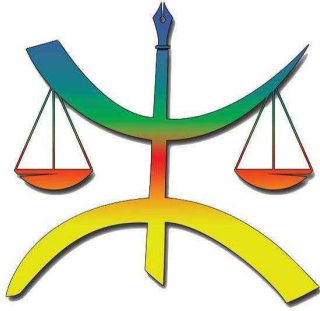


Politics

## Supreme Council of Libyan Amazigh rejects 6+6 committee's Bouznika



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AMAZIGH SUPREME COUNCIL - Libya

The Supreme Council of Libyan Amazigh expressed its rejection of the outcomes of the 6+6 committee's meetings in Bouznika, Morocco because of "the insistence on marginalizing the Amazigh people in their representation in the proposed House of Representatives and the Senate." The Council said in a statement that the Amazigh have been marginalized and deprived of sovereign positions in the state over the past years, and they were not a party to the composition of the Presidential Council or the government, accusing the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) of becoming part of the political bargaining to share power in Libya. The Council said that the values of justice and democracy were "enshrined

in the Charter of the United Nations", and the UN mission is supposed to be the guarantor of those values in Libya, considering UNSMIL a tool used by politicians and militias to impose a certain political situation and share power, stressing that what is happening will negatively affect the constitutional laws, "which are contrary to the principles of the United Nations and the will of the Libyan nation and its social components." The Council called for returning the Libyan file to the UN General Assembly away from UNSMIL and the Security Council member states, which have proven their failure due to their continued struggles for their interests. It also held UNSMIL fully responsible for the situation in Libya.

Politics



## 5 + 5 Defence Scientific Committee holds 6th session in Tripoli

Tripoli hosted the 6th meeting of the 5 + 5 Defence Scientific Committee, concerned with the mine file, which comes within the multilateral action plan for the year 2023.

The meeting, chaired by Portugal, focused on mechanisms to program the activities of future training plans for 2024-2025.

The session was an opportunity to exchange experiences and enhance capacity building to implement training programs and contribute to the removal of mines and remnants of war.

In the recent session held in December 2022, the defence ministers of the 5 + 5 committee affirmed their common will to face security challenges in the western Mediterranean.

It may be worth noting that the 5 + 5 Defence Scientific Committee includes five states from the European Union and five from the Maghreb region.

The group, which brings together France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, and Algeria, aims to work together to cooperate and develop security in the region.

Politics



## Menfi, Dbeibah hold talks on government spending

Muhammad Menfi, Head of the Presidential Council (PC), held talks with Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah that focused on government spending for the first half of 2023. Menfi confirmed the right of the public to know the value of the expenditures and how and where they were spent, according to the Hakomitna platform.

For his part, Dbeibah made it clear that his government pays the salaries of all workers in the Libyan state without exception and that the allocations of Chapter II are paid to all state institutions after their approval by the Ministry of Finance.

79% of the government spending went directly to the citizens, including salaries, allowance for the wife and children, scholarships for martyrs and university students, and subsidies for water, electricity, and public services, the PM explained.

Politics

## Libyan elections commission gives notes on 6+6 laws

The Chairman of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC), Emad Al-Sayeh, regretted the fact that the 6+6 Joint Committee did not send any official copy of its work outcomes to the HNEC, asking the committee to communicate with the HNEC to provide technical advice in order to avoid requesting amendments of any issued legislations.

Al-Sayeh said that the committee's reference to the Civil and Commercial Procedure Code and the Civil and Military Penal Code kept the doors open for appeals even after the electoral process, which could pose a threat to the legitimacy and stability of the elected authorities and lead to rejecting election results.

Al-Sayeh stressed that it was not possible to conduct the three operations in the second round simultaneously and on one polling day, as chaos could prevail in the polling stations and cause fraud and the counting and sorting stage could be prolonged.

"This increases the chance of security threats at the time of the initial results, in addition to the fact that the polling stations will not be able to accommodate the number of voters due to the long period spent on voting in 5 or 6 boxes in some constituencies. There are many proposals that can be adopted in order to achieve synchronization between the three electoral processes, especially as they are linked to the success of the presidential elections." He explained.

Regarding the observations on the law for electing the president, Al-Sayeh indicated that the HNEC would ask candidates if they held another citizenship and their candidacy would be terminated if they were dual citizens.

Al-Sayeh pointed out that publishing the lists of candidates is a violation of the principle of confidentiality. It is possible to know the voter's decision in advance by recommending a candidate, in addition to the need to reformulate Article 42, which stipulates in the current form that the rest of the candidacy conditions could not be challenged, with the exception of the citizenship condition. He also noted that canceling the result of any polling station is one of the authorizations of the HNEC, calling for the amendment of articles in Chapter 9.

Regarding the National Assembly law, Al-Sayeh indicated that there was an error in the distribution of seats among lists and individuals according to the seat distribution table, where the lists are 154 instead of 155, and the individuals are 143 instead of 142, pointing to the allocation of women's seats in 17 and 18 constituencies in the table for distributing seats in the House of Representatives.

Al-Sayeh indicated that the content of Article 25 contradicted the confidentiality of the integrity of the electoral process, and that its application didn't follow the necessity of the voter's consent to hand over their information.

Politics

## Algerian president sees eye to eye with Russia on Libya

The Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune said on Thursday during bilateral talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Moscow that his country agrees with Russia and they have one vision on the Libyan file.

The Algerian president clarified that his country's positions are firm regarding the necessity of giving priority to peaceful solutions to the crises in both Libya and Mali, adding Libya is a friendly country to Russia and Algeria, and they wish it prevails in security and stability. The two presidents discussed a number of international issues, with a focus on the situation in Syria, Libya, Yemen and Palestine, before signing a comprehensive strategic partnership treaty, as confirmed by the Russian Prime Minister.

Politics

## Dbeibah says he contacted Lebanon for Hannibal Gaddafi's case, Beirut denies

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah said that he had spoken with the Prime Minister of Lebanon regarding the case of Hannibal Muammar Gaddafi, who has been detained in Lebanon for years, confirming the formation of a committee to follow up on his situation.

Dbeibah said in a video statement that was circulated on social media on Friday that he had spoken with a young Libyan man residing in Rome, about the case of Hannibal Gaddafi.

"Hannibal is the son of Muammar Gaddafi, and he is not an ordinary figure, and the truth is that he is being mistreated in Lebanon. He is not detained by the Lebanese government. I spoke with the Prime Minister of Lebanon. We formed a committee that will travel there to follow up on the case." Dbeibah said.

He explained that the committee will travel to discuss with officials in Lebanon the situation of Hannibal Gaddafi as a Libyan citizen, calling on those who have an accusation or opinion about Hannibal to go to the Libyan judiciary, rejecting any harassment of any Libyan.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Prime Minister, Najib Mikati, denied receiving any phone call from any Libyan party in particular, announcing that he has no responsibility for the case of Hannibal Muammar Gaddafi, who is being held in Lebanon.

A statement from Mikati's media office said on Friday that the latter did not receive any contact from any Libyan party, stressing that the Hannibal Gaddafi's file is in the hands of the competent judiciary, and any follow-up to this file takes place through the competent judicial methods. Mikati also expressed at the end of the statement Lebanon's keenness on the best relations with the Libyan people.

The Presidential Council decided to form a committee headed by the Minister of Justice to follow up on the file of Hannibal Gaddafi, who began an open-ended strike a few days ago in protest of his detention in Lebanon without trial.



## Libyan ambassador to Turkey reviews with Turkish delegation partnership and trade cooperation



Economy

Libya's Ambassador to Turkey, Mustafa Al-Kulaib, met on Wednesday, with a group of Turkish businessmen and academics, in the presence of the academic attache Ezzeddin Al-Arabi and the commercial attache Osama Saif Al-Nasr.

The Libyan Embassy in Turkey said the meeting comes within the framework of the ambassador's keenness to strengthen partnership and commercial and academic cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Al-Kulaib affirmed his support for all initiatives, programs, and activities that would contribute to strengthening ties between Libya and Turkey.

For his part, the Turkish delegation expressed their desire to create job opportunities inside Libya that would enhance the economic partnership between the two sides and open broader horizons for cooperation.



Economy

## Labor Minister says over 2 million foreign workers aren't paying taxes in Libya

The Minister of Labor and Rehabilitation, Ali Al-Abed, said "there are more than two million foreigners working in Libya, benefiting from the subsidies provided to citizens without paying taxes or social security fees," adding that foreign workers benefit from fuel and electricity subsidies, make things crowded for the citizens in hospitals and on the roads.

The Minister spoke about a plan that the Ministry of Labor was preparing to be presented to the cabinet before Eid al-Adha (June 28) to improve the livelihood of Libyans by regulating the foreign labor market.

According to this proposal, each citizen will be allowed to sponsor about 12 workers, who will be registered to pay taxes and insurance, so that the citizen becomes an employer.

Regarding the Labor Ministry's campaign to control duality of work between the public and private sectors, Al-Abed confirmed that it was in line with Law No. 12 of 2010, which strictly prohibits combining two jobs. He pointed out that the campaign targeted, in its first phase, the high-end neighborhoods in Tripoli, Benghazi, Sebha, and Misrata.

He said that there were shops whose prices could be worth millions, and through their national ID numbers, we found the owners working in the public positions. He stressed that the campaign was targeting achieving social justice and criticized what he described as negligence within the public sector, saying the job performance rates of some employees had been poor, and some of them "don't go to work in two or three days, and others work only two hours a day."

Economy



## Libyan Investment Authority made 1.2 billion dollars in profit in 2022

The Head of the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) Ali Mahmoud Hassan said LIA made 1.2 billion dollars in profit in 2022, expecting a 2 billion profit range this year.

Hassan added in a speech on the occasion of announcing the approval of LIA's financial data with the lists, which he considered "a critical stage in LIA's work process, reiterating that LIA was working on auditing the accounts of recent years to be completed in line with the financial statements. He said that the success in tightening control over the portfolios and subsidiaries helped in completing the auditing process.

LIA received on Tuesday a report on the verification of its financial statements and its subsidiaries by the international auditor "Ernst & Young" (EY), which completed the auditing and verification process in cooperation with the LIA's Board of Directors. It organized a celebration on this occasion in Tripoli, and it was attended by the LIA's Head and members.





Economy

## Dbeibah discusses with Al-Kabeer the results of IMF meetings

The Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah discussed on Wednesday, with the governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Siddiq Al-Kabeer, the results of the consultations of Article IV of the agreement establishing the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Dbeibah stressed the need to form a working group from all state institutions to develop an implementation plan for the recommendations contained in the Article IV, the most important of which is to develop the features of a clear national economic vision, according to the Hakomitna platform.

In turn, Al-Kabeer confirmed that the meetings held with the IMF last March, after a hiatus of more than ten years, were effective, noting that realistic results were reached to assess the economic situation.



Economy

## SCE discusses plan to increase oil production

The Supreme Council of Energy (SCE) convened its 4th meeting on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah and with the participation of the Committee to Follow up on the Implementation of the Extraordinary Budget of the National Oil Corporation (NOC).

The session, which was held at the NOC HQ, discussed the corporation's plan to increase oil and gas production and reviewed ongoing projects in gas exploration, alternative energy, and fighting carbon emissions.

Dbeibah praised the efforts of the oil sector employees who are working "to revive the stalled projects through local competencies," including the development of the Mellitah complex and the Ras Lanuf complex, which has been suspended for years.

The meeting concluded with several observations, including the need to unite efforts with state-run oil institutions to increase oil and gas production, develop cooperation and partnership with international companies to transfer expertise and qualify local cadres, and enhance disclosure and transparency of all operational and catering expenses.

The group also stressed the need to activate the work of the International Audit Office contracted by the Audit Bureau to monitor expenditures at the NOC during the past years, according to the Hakomitna platform.



Economy

## IMF resumes surveillance in Libya after a decade-long hiatus

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has resumed its monitoring operations in Libya after a decade-long hiatus, with the country seeing economic recovery following its recent achievements in data collection, exchange, and transparency, the IMF announced on Tuesday.

In its recent report, the IMF highlighted the state of dispersion the country had suffered from since 2011, saying it hampered policymaking and the collection of key economic data. On the other hand, the statement confirmed that Libya made significant efforts to move forward and overcome the economic challenges brought by political conflict.

The report identified several key strengths and opportunities, which it said will support Libya's recovery, including having the Central Bank of Libya maintain a large stock of international reserves, supported by a fixed exchange rate, capital controls, and various temporary arrangements.

All this "played an important role in helping the country overcome the exceptional swings in oil production and revenues that occurred post-revolution," the IMF says.

The UN agency indicated that the vast oil and gas reserves, which Libya enjoys, make it one of the highest GDP per capita levels in Africa.

"Hydrocarbon production will continue to be a critical part of Libya's economic future, making up around 95 percent of exports and government revenue."

The IMF anticipated that the Hydrocarbon project will grow by about 15 percent in 2023, following an increase in activity after an oil blockade limited production in 2022.

On the other hand, a diversified economy away from oil and gas and fostering stronger and more inclusive private sector growth will remain a key challenge, the agency said.

Opinions

# Losing stakes

By *Youssef Lutfi*, political writer



As Libyans are awaiting the outcomes of the 6 + 6 committee-representing the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS)- which is tasked with formulating and laying down the rules for the upcoming electoral process, debate has resurfaced again about the need to form a unified transitional government to lead the next stage.

## Exigent consensus

Although, members of the 6 + 6 Committee declared “full consensus” on electoral laws, including those related to election of the President of the State and members of the National Assembly, in addition to how to involve the political parties in the House of Representatives’ elections through party lists or individual candidacies, the circulating information indicates deviation of 6+6 Committee from the course of negotiations on the electoral base to negotiating the formation of a mini-transitional government. Irrespective of the committee’s transcending of its official mandate and discussing issues outside the scope of its tasks, consensus between HoR and HCS is a precedent, as we are not accustomed to any kind of consensus let alone full consensus and in a record time!

## Cross-cutting initiatives

The 6+6 committee’s rush to announce that it had reached a consensus that comes in light of a broader political context, as the dispute rages between the government on one hand and the HoR and the (HCS) on the other and between parties participating in the parallel negotiation tracks; such as Cairo talks between Saddam Haftar and leaders of armed groups in the western region, as well as talks between Belgacem Haftar with representatives of Abdel Hamid Dbeibah, ending with the talks of HoR and the HCS, where all these parties seek to reach an agreement that can reshape the political scene in a way that serves their survival and expansion at the expense of other components.

Dismissal of parallel government’s prime minister, Fathi Bashagha, and his referral for investigation by Khalifa Haftar’s bloc in parliament, and absence of Aqila Saleh during the voting session, indicates an exacerbation of the dispute between Saleh and Haftar, and also indicates the progress of the negotiation process with Dbeibah’s representatives, which explains Saleh’s rapid agreement with Al-Mishri on the need to establish a mini-transitional government.

While the different negotiation tracks seem parallel at first glance, they necessarily clash in a number of files, rendering them con-

flicting paths, so the HCS and HoR reached an agreement that puts the ball in Dbeibah’s court, who vowed his government’s support and preparations for elections. On the other hand, the agreement of the armed groups in Tripoli with Saddam Haftar will undermine Dbeibah’s influence and put him under the pressure of these understandings, yet if Dbeibah is able to make progress in his negotiations with Haftar, this will give him the ability to maneuver and prolong his government in the foreseeable future.

## Scene threads

The ongoing negotiation track between Belgacem Haftar and representatives of Dbeibah, which is an extension of the Dubai talks that resulted in appointment of Bin Qadara at the helm of the National Oil Corporation, appears to be the strongest track, and appears to be the only track poised to produce a real understanding between its parties, in light of the dominance of Khalifa Haftar over Parliament and his control over the third path in Cairo, it seems that all roads lead to the first path.

On the other hand, the decision to form a mini-government that bypasses the Dbeibah government cannot be a purely internal decision. Just as the international parties played a key role in bringing Dbeibah list to power through the Geneva dialogue, overthrowing or bypassing this government requires a consensus between a number of effective international actors investing in the Libyan scene, led by Washington, which has been active both diplomatically and security wise, since the beginning of this year against the backdrop of Russian expansion and developments of the international scene, and Ankara, which has a military presence on the ground and strategic interests, and Cairo, which is rooted in the scene through the HoR and the army.

## Conclusion

Using the calculations of Libyan national and popular interest, all bets of the current negotiation are losing stakes. The political and security actors in the scene are preoccupied with the protection of their personal gains and interests, as they are burdened with years of corruption, illegitimate gains, and distorted external connections. As for UNSMIL, it is engaged to great extent in the agenda to impose a sham consensus no matter how such consensus seems distorted and unnatural. Furthermore, it is bound by Washington’s security and diplomatic agenda to bring about relative stability, to which power-sharing understandings are the closest path.

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

## Dbeibah inaugurates new national projects for promoting the health sector

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah launched three health projects, including the National System for Treatment and Rationalization of Expenses, Our Health App, and the Electronic Signature System, during the International Conference for the Localization of Treatment at Home held in Tripoli on Monday.

The projects, introduced in Libya for the first time, will operate under the auspices of the Telecom Holding Company.

Health care is a crucial issue the government sought to develop despite the challenges, the PM said in his opening speech.

"The government worked in several tracks to develop the health system, including measures to restrict the sector after years of tampering and administrative and technical corruption."

With broad media coverage, the two-day conference, organized by the Apparatus for Supporting and Developing Clinical Services, kicked off on Monday with the participation of government officials, ambassadors, international and local doctors and consultants, and state and civil society institutions.



Health

## A medical convoy from Eye Hospital dispatched to south

A medical convoy has arrived in Sebha coming from Eye Hospital in Tripoli.

The team comprised twenty-four medical and medical assistants, to conduct medical examinations and eye surgeries for citizens.

The Ministry of Health stated that this convoy came with the support of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity - the acting Minister of Health , Ramadan Abu Jinnah to provide medical services to the people of the cities and regions of the south.

In the same context, sources in the Eye Hospital in Tripoli reported that the Nour Al-Hayat (Light of Life) convoy, in cooperation with the Sebha Medical Center, began examining hundreds of cases and performing more than 60 surgeries on the first day of the week-long convoy's visit to Sebha.

The sources indicated that the convoy will then set out to visit the cities of Brak Al-Shati, Ubari and Ghat, noting that the target is to perform (500) operations in each city in various eye surgeries and an unspecified number of examinations.



Sports

## Tripoli's derby between Al-Ahly and Al-Ittihad ends goalless

The derby match of the Libyan capital, Tripoli, between Al-Ittihad and Al-Ahly Tripoli on Saturday at Abu Salim Stadium ended 0-0 as part of the last round of Group Two of the Libyan Premier League.

The two played a modest game as they both booked a place in the six-team round for the league title.

This tie is the fifth for Al-Ittihad this season and the second in a row, as the team did not win in the last 3 rounds.

On the other hand, Al-Ahly Tripoli registered its second draw in the last 3 rounds and the eighth this season.

Al-Ittihad now leads the group with 35 points, while Al-Ahly Tripoli came in second with 32 points.

The Libyan Football Federation conducted last Thursday the draw for the six-team round, which will start on June 23; and like last year, it'll be held in Tunisian stadiums, which led to rejection by some fans who refused to hold the matches outside Libya, but others agreed with the step due to the country's lack of infrastructure.

Later on the Libyan government settled the controversy and announced that it would fund the expenses of holding the six-team round in Tunisia provided that it will be the last time Libyan League matches are played abroad.



Sports

### Libyan national futsal team reaches quarter-finals of the Arab Cup

Libya's national futsal team qualified for the quarter-finals of the Arab Cup, after defeating its Saudi counterpart, 5-3, for the third and final round of Group A of the championship hosted by the city of Jeddah.

With this result, the Libyan team maintained the top spot in its Arab Cup group with six points from two wins and a loss, while the Algerian team came in second place with five points from a win and two draws, followed by the Saudi team with four points from a win, a draw and a defeat, and finally the Tajikistan team with one point from a draw and two defeats.

The first and second rankings from each group qualify for the quarter-finals, along with the two best teams from the three teams ranked third in the three championship groups, as the quarter-finals will begin next Tuesday.



Crimes

### Public Prosecutor orders arrest of 22 officials from Food & Drug Centre

The Public Prosecutor has ordered the detention of 22 senior officials in the Food and Drug Control Centre as a precautionary measure for their alleged breach of job duties resulting in harm to the public interest.

According to the office, the defendants include heads of the centre's departments in Tripoli, Benghazi, Misrata, Zawiya, Tobruk, and Zuwara.

The accused face charges of failing to carry out their duty in the laboratory activities.

Initial investigations revealed that the teams at the laboratory were lenient and the tools used to gather data have been incapable of detecting harming materials, the office said.

Benghazi and Tobruk branches relied on the results of chemical analyses carried out by informal laboratories while refraining from testing the quality of wheat varieties according to specifications, the office added.

The procedures followed the Attorney General's meetings with the Director of the Food and Drug Control Centre and officials of the regulatory authorities concerned with enforcing public health and environmental legislation, according to the same source.



Crimes

### Police arrest teenagers following reports of frequent house thefts

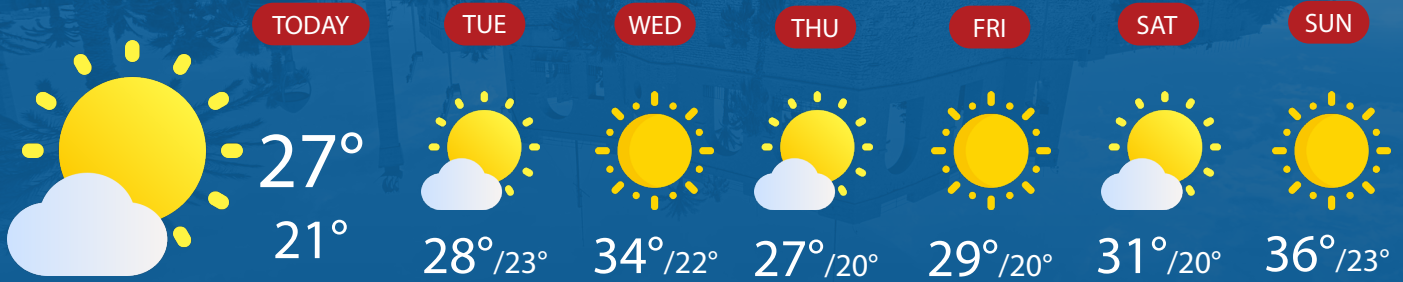
Police have arrested four teenagers on charges of house theft. The police said they have been receiving calls recently reporting house break-ins and robberies in the Equestrian Bridge neighbourhoods. The authorities started an investigation that led to the identification and arrest of several suspects. During the interrogation, the defendants confessed to looting more than seven homes and were referred to the Public Prosecutor to undergo legal procedures, the authorities said.



Photo of the Week



### Tripoli Weather Forecast



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