

Politics



UN envoy at Security Council: 6+6 committee's outcomes not enough for facilitating Libya elections

The UN envoy to Libya Abdoulaye Bathily gave a briefing on the situation in the country at the Security Council on Monday, when he started by expressing condolences to the families of immigrants who lost their lives in the sinking of the boat that sailed from Tobruk and sank in the Mediterranean Sea last Wednesday, saying this tragedy is a brutal reminder of their collective duty to find a solution to all aspects of the crisis in Libya that has an impact in other parts of the world.

Bathily acknowledged in his briefing the efforts of the 6+6 Joint Committee, which led to devising election laws in Bouznika this month, as an important step forward, but said they were not sufficient to resolve the most contested issues and enable successful elections.

He said that the laws approved by the 6+6 Committee faced some reactions, especially those of the High National Elections Commission, adding that upon studying the text of the laws, UNSMIL concluded that the politically contested issues are the eligibility criteria for candidates for the presidential election, the provision for a mandatory second round of the presidential election even if a candidate secures more than 50 percent of the votes required to win, the provision stipulating that if the first round of presidential elections fails, the parliamentary elections will not take place, and the provision requiring the establishment of a new interim government before elections can take place.

Bathily said that as a result of intensive advocacy, the draft law makes it possible to secure at least 20 percent seats for women in the HoR. However, it allocates only 6 seats for women out of 90 in the Senate.

"The eligibility criteria for presidential elections, the linkage between presidential and parliamentary elections, and the issue of forming a new unified government are highly contentious and require, first and foremost, a political agreement among the major stakeholders and key constituencies across the Libyan political spectrum. Short of this, related provisions in the laws would surely remain unimplementable and might even trigger a new crisis." He explained.

He said that in order to avoid that gloomy prospect for the people of Libya and the re-

gion, it is now crucial that steps are taken to overcome the persistent disagreements over these longstanding issues.

"The main Libyan decision-makers must, acting in a spirit of compromise, put the greater interests of the Libyan people above all else, and come to a political agreement on these matters. Without such compromises, the contested issues are likely to take the electoral process into a cul de sac, like in 2021, which will result in further polarization and even the destabilization of the country. I therefore call on this Council to increase pressure on the relevant actors and use your collective and individual leverage to ensure that they demonstrate the required political will to take their country to successful elections." Bathily remarked.

He said that on the security front, Tripoli has remained relatively calm, as ongoing operations conducted by the Government against drug, weapons, fuel, and human trafficking activities in Al-Zawiya and surrounding areas, have prompted allegations of political motives and therefore could risk undermining the relative stability in "Tripolitania."

He said in the south of Libya, the conflict in Sudan has raised concerns about its potential destabilizing effects on the region, especially regarding a potential influx of refugees and cross-border movements of armed elements, adding that UNSMIL is monitoring the situation closely, and he has assured the Libyan authorities that the United Nations stands ready to support, emphasizing the need to provide refugees fleeing war with humanitarian protection.

"Moreover, there is a widespread fear amongst Libyans that, should the conflict in Sudan last longer, its spill-over consequences might pose a new set of challenges to the stability of Libya and the region. In this regard, the withdrawal of foreign forces, foreign fighters and mercenaries from Libya, on which we have been working very actively, would remain elusive." He said.

On the economic front, Bathily welcomed the conclusion of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Article IV Consultation with the Libyan authorities, after a decade-long hiatus, saying that many of its recommendations reinforced calls on the Libyan leader-

ship to enhance equitable, accountable, and transparent State resource management and oversight and to make tangible progress in unifying of the Central Bank of Libya.

"These issues are pertinent to the efforts to build consensus on elections, including on establishing a level playing field for all candidates. UNSMIL will support the implementation of the recommendations agreed upon between the IMF and Libya, including through the economic working group of the Berlin process, and ensure that the implementation progresses in a manner that adds momentum to the political track." He explained. Bathily indicated that the political process in Libya has once again reached a critical stage, reiterating that successful elections require not just a legal framework, but also a political agreement that ensures buy-in and inclusion of all major stakeholders.

"By my next briefing to the Council, I intend to intensify negotiations and convene major stakeholders or their trusted representatives to reach a final settlement on the most contentious issues, make the draft laws implementable and enable successful elections with an inclusive political agreement." He added. "While we all endorse calls for non-interference and the principle of a Libyan-Libyan solution as a basis of any effective instrument for sustainable peace and stability, those catchwords must not remain slogans to hide an agenda for prolonging the status quo at the expense of the aspirations of the Libyan people for legitimate institutions and prosperity." He further explained.

Bathily said that prolonged status quo is detrimental to the interests of the people of Libya and it is fraught with disaster for Libya and its neighbours, adding that it is imperative that your commitment to the mandate you entrusted to UNSMIL is translated into increased and targeted pressure on actors, truly speaking with one voice and acting accordingly to remove the spoilers out of the process towards Libya's full recovery.

He reiterated his call to all regional and international partners to help truly the Libyan leaders work together for the recovery of their motherland and answer the call of the ordinary Libyan citizens vying for peace, prosperity and national reconciliation.

Politics

Haftar calls on HoR and HCS to form new Libyan government



The so-called General Command of Khalifa Haftar's forces hailed the outcomes of the 6+6 committee formed by the House of Representatives and the High Council of State to prepare election laws, describing them as an important step toward elections, calling on the two chambers to expedite the formation of a new unified government.

The command said in a statement on Friday that it supported all discussions and rapprochement that would end the state of political division, adding that it supported all honest political solutions to end the political crisis in Libya, without excluding anyone or confiscating the rights of any party, so that the electoral laws could achieve the greatest possible agreement to hold elections on time and ensure the implementation of their results.

The statement also urged the House of Representatives and the High Council of State to expedite ending the state of political division and forming what it called a new, unified government of technocrats that would oversee the organization of elections across the country.

It called on the United Nations Mission in Libya to play its role in supporting consensus that leads to holding elections in a correct and transparent manner to achieve political, social and economic stability for the Libyan state.

Haftar summoned the House of Representatives members to his headquarters in Al-Rajma, east of Benghazi, last week, according to what was reported by his media office, without disclosing further information about the meeting.



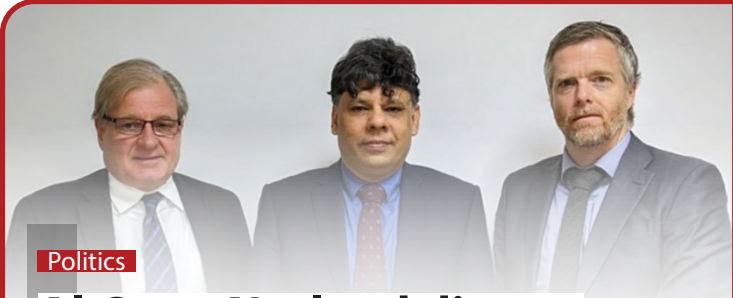
Politics

Libyan and Maltese Prime Ministers discuss elections, smuggling and immigration

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has met in Tripoli his Maltese counterpart Robert Abela, discussing the development of economic cooperation, especially in energy and transportation sectors, in addition to seeing eye to eye on the need for Libya to hold elections based on fair laws that ensure an end to transitional periods. Dbeibah applauded Malta's reopening of its airspace for Libyan airliners, which he said was perfect motivation for a similar action by the European Union's states, encouraging the private sectors of the two countries and looking forward to chairing the high joint committee in this regard.

"I have spoken to Mr. Abela about the ongoing military operations and their developments as they target fuel smuggling and immigrants' trafficking gangs, explaining our commitment to protecting civilians. The operations are in line with the need to preserve our sovereignty and security as well as those of the neighboring countries against local gangs that have international links. EU countries can share information with Libya on fuel and immigrants' smuggling networks," Dbeibah explained.

Meanwhile, Abela said Libya "has potentials in generating solar power and wants to strike partnerships with European countries in the clean energy sector, adding that Malta looks forward to cooperating with Libya in airspaces, but expressing qualms about the illegal immigration activities since 2022.



Politics

Al-Sour, Norland discuss cooperation in legal areas

Attorney General Al-Siddiq Al-Sour and the US Ambassador/ Special Envoy to Libya, Richard Norland, discussed cooperation in constitutional state and criminal justice at a meeting in Tripoli on Wednesday.

The meeting comes a day after Norland's talks with the UN Envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily.

Norland commended the UN's official briefing to the Security Council on the main obstacles hindering a credible roadmap for holding parliamentary and presidential elections in the country. He affirmed Washington's support for Bathily's efforts to bring together the Libyan parties to overcome the obstacles to elections.

Politics

Al-Sayeh discusses with German ambassador supporting elections to ensure success



The Chairman of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC), Imad Al-Sayeh, has discussed with the German Ambassador to Libya, Michael Ohnmacht, supporting efforts to make the upcoming elections a success in accordance with international standards. On Tuesday, Al-Sayeh received the German ambassador and his accompanying delegation in the HNEC HQ, in the presence of a member of the Commission's council, Abu Bakr Merada.

The meeting discussed the latest developments in the electoral processes, the HNEC preparations and the level of its readiness to implement them, reviewing ways to support proposals and endeavors that ensure their success.

Economy

Shippex Libya expo 2023 kicks off in Tripoli



The Acting Minister of Economy and Trade, Suhail Bouchiha, has inaugurated the Shippex Libya expo 2023 for shipping and delivery services, accompanied by the Undersecretary for Free Zones, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Authority for Exhibitions, and the Director General of the Tripoli International Fair.

The media office of the Ministry of Economy stated that a number of directors of companies and diplomatic missions, as well as a group of business owners and participants in the exhibition, attended the opening activities.

The activities of the exhibition, which includes local and international companies specialized in the field of shipping, transportation and delivery services, will continue during the period from June 19-22.

Economy

NOC launches training program for about 7000 graduates



The National Oil Corporation (NOC) intends to launch a training program for about 7,000 graduates of majors in petroleum, earth sciences and chemical engineering, from 51 Libyan cities, to qualify them to work in the oil and gas industry, as announced on Tuesday.

The NOC indicated that the training program will be officially launched on July 15 in several Libyan cities, while the first batch of graduates will begin training on July 30, provided that the training program continues for a period of six months inside Libya, according to the NOC Facebook page.



Economy

Algeria: Libya needs a pragmatic solution to its crisis

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ataf stressed the need to "show realism" for a political solution to the Libyan crisis.

Atif, who is visiting Italy, told the Italian press that "the silence of arms, the cessation of armed clashes is an opportunity to find a political solution."

He said Algeria's position is based on three main pillars, on top of which is the recognition of the UN-backed Government of National Unity, the need for key players to come to the negotiating table to discuss a roadmap to elections, and supporting the UN Envoy Bathily in his efforts to establish a legal basis for the electoral process.

"It is necessary to show realism in a political plan, and reality shows that working together to organize elections is the only way to deal democratically and irrevocably," FM Ataf told the Italian Nova news agency.

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Economy

Spain reviews return of its companies to work in Libya

The Acting Minister of Economy and Trade, Souhail Bosheha, discussed with the Director General of Foreign Trade and Spanish Investment, Alicia Varela, the return of Spanish companies to work in Libya and the promotion of trade exchange between the two countries.

Bosheha reaffirmed that Spanish companies are exempted from previous fees during their cessation of work in Libya to encourage them to resume investment in all fields, referring to the stability that Libya is witnessing under the Government of National Unity, which provides investment opportunities in all fields, especially construction, renewable energy and infrastructure.

He also called on the Spanish side to make a partnership with the local private sector and organize joint economic activities, stressing the need to provide all facilities to Libyan businesspeople wishing to invest in Spain.

The Spanish Director confirmed the desire of Spanish companies to strengthen trade relations with the private sector in Libya.



Economy

CBL arranges with its Dutch counterpart training courses for its employees

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Al-Siddiq Al-Kabeer, has discussed with the ambassador of Netherlands to Libya, Dolf Hogewoning, cooperation in arranging training courses for the CBL employees, in coordination with the Central Bank of Netherlands.

The two sides also discussed the International Monetary Fund latest report on Libya, and Libya's efforts in the field of renewable energy, according to the CBL media office.

Earlier, a CBL delegation, headed by Al-Siddiq Al-Kabeer, discussed with the Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund Group the bank's efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, and the road map for the next stage.



Economy

Tripoli, Tokyo discuss return of Japanese companies to Libyan oil and gas sector

Officials from the Libyan Foreign Ministry discussed with diplomats from the Japanese embassy in Tripoli and members of the Japanese Energy Corporation the return of Japanese companies operating in the field of oil and gas to Libya.

The meeting reviewed the available opportunities in the Libyan market through search and exploration operations, and the business climate as well as investment opportunities in oil and gas in the country.

The Libyan side called for the need for the return of Japanese companies that are interested in development plans being under consideration by the National Oil Corporation, in addition to training Libyan cadres working in the oil and gas sector.

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Opinions

The Election Rock

By *Abdullah Alkabir*, a Libyan political writer and commentator

The Greek myth says that Sisyphus managed to deceive the god of death Thanatos, as he asked him to put handcuffs and locks in his hands and feet as an experiment, and then immediately handcuffed him, to prevent him from catching people's souls. The Olympian gods got angry with Sisyphus and ordered him to roll a huge boulder from the bottom of the mountain uphill to the top of the mountain, but the rock slips before reaching the top and falls back to the bottom, and so he tries again, but to no avail. The myth of Sisyphus is used on every useless act, that is not expected to reach the aspired results.

This is what the de facto authorities in Libya have been doing for years. The elections are the rock of Sisyphus, with which the actors in the political scene will not reach the end, but rather will roll back to the starting point, in order for the de facto authorities to repeat the attempt or pretend to do so, without a real desire to reach its final stop, the completion of a long overdue change.

Almost everyone knows the obstacles that prevent the completion of the elections, and yet there is a kind of unanimity from the de-facto authorities not to remove them, despite all the local appeals and demands. The disagreement is over the presidential elections, as no dispute or obstacles hampering legislative elections, yet a broad spectrum locally, regionally, and internationally insisting on holding them simultaneously, with the inclusion of a legal article in the 13th Constitutional Amendment that nullifies the elections and considers them null and void, if the presidential elections are disrupted for any reason.

In the latest attempts of rolling the election rock, they were through the 6 + 6 committee, the constitutional amendment stipulated that its results be considered final, binding and not subject to review, but the author and director of this amendment was the first to retract what he decided to abide by, declaring that the laws of the 6 + 6 committee are unacceptable, demanding the review of the committee's outcome, and achieving more consensus! Thus, the rock of the elections fell back again to the foothill.

Consensus by standards of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the forces supporting him is to open the door wide for the candidacy of Khalifa Haftar, remove any obstacles that prevent him from being given the opportunity to run and win the presidency of the country, and allow him to return to the position he occupies now in the event of not winning, and here we must take into account the possibility of canceling the elections by any pretext that can be made, and the disinformation choir promotes, spreads and works to convince people of it.

So, in all cases, the rock of the elections will not reach the top of the mountain, except in one case, which is to ensure Haftar's candidacy and prepare all means for his victory. Otherwise, the elections will fall to the bottom, and the situation will remain as it was, with the claim that they will repeat the attempt as soon as the appropriate conditions are available, just as Sisyphus has been doing since the wrath of the Olympian gods descended upon him.

If the eternal torment in the Greek myth was borne by Sisyphus alone, the de facto authorities bear no burden whatsoever, in recycling the scene. In fact, on the contrary, they enjoy all the privileges and bliss of power and influence, and realize that crossing all stages and stations of elections means the end of these privileges. Torment is a reality for the people and the future of the country, and there is no hope for ending this absurd scene except for the people to go out peacefully, overthrow all the de facto authorities, and roll the election rock to the top of the mountain.

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, Turkey discuss debts and cooperation in health sector

Libya and Turkey discussed ways to promote cooperation in the health sector during a meeting grouping health officials from both sides in Tripoli on Monday.

Discussions also touched upon the debts owed by the Libyan state in return for treating patients in Turkish hospitals.

The parties discussed strengthening cooperation, exchanging experiences, and training programs for health workers in Libya. They also reviewed plans to support Libya's health structures, including helping the Misrata Physiotherapy Centre enhance its services.



Health

Shortage of medications puts thousands of renal patients at risk

Around 5,000 patients with kidney failure are struggling to get their dialysis medications, says the head of the Organ Transplantation Organization, Muhammad Abu Dabous.

Abu Dabous said that the clinics lack the tools needed for treatment, which could put the patients' lives at risk.

"More than a thousand people use immunosuppressive drugs, including those who had kidney and liver transplants surgery, and if they don't have access to their medications, they will go on dialysis treatment," he added.

In early June, 35 patients died, and 25 others were put on dialysis treatment due to the lack of immunosuppressive drugs after kidney transplantation, according to the Organ Transplantation Organization.

Health

Medical staff, including senior official accused of stealing tools from hospital in Zliten



مركز زليتن الطبي
ZLITEN MEDICAL CENTER

Police have arrested the head of the ophthalmology department at the Zliten Medical Centre and two staff members for stealing surgery tools and equipment.

The police responded to a report of missing equipment from the health centre in Zliten.

A statement by the Public Prosecutor office said three people were arrested for looting tools and equipment used in eye surgeries while a fourth person who works as a nurse is still on the run.

The office said they found evidence confirming that the defendants received the surgical equipment before it disappeared from the hospital.

The three suspects will be held in pretrial custody, while the fourth alleged offender will be prosecuted per the rules of precautionary procedures, the Public Prosecutor Office stated.



Health

Four children with muscular dystrophy transferred to Egypt for treatment

The Agency for Support and Development of Therapeutic Services has transported four children with muscular dystrophy from Mitiga and Benina airports to Egypt, in order to receive their genetic injections.

The Agency explained on its Facebook account that transfer of children came under directives of head of Government of National Unity, and with the follow-up of Office of Attorney General and Audit Bureau.

The Agency for Support and Development of Therapeutic Services already sent, on first of June, four other children with muscular dystrophy to Egypt, where they are still receiving health care.

Sports

LMF confirms boycott of competition in UAE over Israeli participation



The Libyan Mini Football Federation (LMF) has said that its decision to boycott the international tournament in the UAE because of Israeli participation is final, confirming there are no changes in plans.

In a Facebook statement, the federation said that being the official representative of this sport in Libya, we declined an invitation to take part in a tournament the "Zionist entity will be competing in."

Specific media outlets said that Libya will take part in the competition scheduled to take place in the United Arab Emirates, which normalized ties with Israel.

The federation affirmed its commitment and respect for the legislation, laws, and principles of the Libyan state, insisting that the Palestinian cause is bigger than the tournament.

It called on the relevant authorities to investigate the issue and ensure that violators of "our principles" are held accountable.

Sports

Four Libyan clubs to participate in African club competitions next season



The Libyan Football Federation (LFF) revealed, on Monday, the number of local clubs that would represent Libya in the two African continental club competitions in the next season.

"The African Union has officially announced that Libya will have four representatives in the African competitions, 2023/2024 sports season," the LFF said.

The teams will be named after determining the "sextuple" winners of the Libyan Premier League, which will start in Tunisia on June 25.

Al-Ahly Benghazi, Al-Nasr, Al-Hilal, Al-Ittihad, Al-Ahly Tripoli, and Abu Salim will compete in one group and one-stage system. The club with the highest points will be named the championship of the league.

It may be worth noting that Al-Ittihad held the title for the Libyan Premier League in two previous seasons successively.

Life

Kuwaiti Seed Bank gifts Libya 10,000 seeds of sustainable plants



The "Kuwaiti Seed Bank" has presented sustainable seed plants to a Libyan organization interested in tackling environmental issues.

The Libyan Land & Sea Organization said they received around 10 thousand seeds for evergreen trees from the electronic Kuwaiti Seed Bank as a symbolic gift to the Libyan people.

The seeds will be distributed to those interested in afforestation very soon, the organization said.

The Kuwaiti bank says its goal is to contribute to supplying sustainable and indigenous plants, including those that have gone extinct, by refurbishing them through imports.

The project, launched in September last year also aims for the cultivation and development of sustainable and more greener cities to attain a better environment through the efforts of local experts.

Crimes



Dead and infected livestock sold as edible products in Tobruk

Police in Tobruk have arrested an Egyptian national working as a butcher in Libya for selling dead and sick livestock unfit for human consumption.

The 38 years old man confessed to buying sick livestock and slaughtering them before selling them to other slaughterhouses and restaurants at dirt-cheap prices.

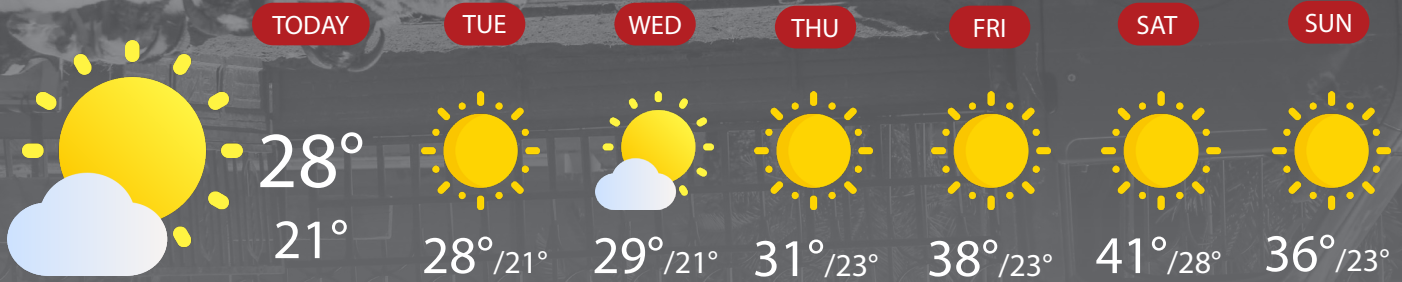
He admitted that he and a group of butchers bought over 80 sick cattle in one day and sold them as edible products and minced meat.

The Food and Drug Control Centre had carried out several crack-downs on meat shops after frequent reports of food poisoning due to consuming fast food.



Photo of the Week

Tripoli Weather Forecast



+218 94 424 69 28 libyaobserver.ly lyobserver

info@libyaobserver.ly lyobserver

ar.libyaobserver.ly lyobserver.ar lyobserver.arabic

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Contact Information