

Politics



Libyan High Council of State says members prevented from traveling via Mitiga Airport

The heads of the committees of the High Council of State (HCS) authorized on Thursday the Head of the HCS, Khalid Al-Mishri, to take legal, political and security measures to respond to preventing members of the HCS from traveling via Mitiga Airport in Tripoli and seizing their passports.

The media office of the HCS said in a statement that Al-Mishri held an emergency meeting with the heads of committees to discuss what he described as a "heinous crime" against a group of HCS members at Mitiga Airport.

The media office said that the heads of the HCS committees authorized Al-Mishri to take "legal, political and security measures to respond to this unprecedented violation of the law."

Al-Mishri also asked the Attorney General to open an investigation in this regard, accusing the Head of the Internal Security Agency of the Government of National Unity of issuing instructions to prevent members of the HCS from traveling.

In light of the tension between the HCS Council and the Internal Security Agency, an HCS source - who refused to be named - revealed to the Libya Observer that a group affiliated with the Internal Security Agency parked their cars on Thursday afternoon near the HCS headquarters in what looked like a siege, adding that a state of anticipation and fear prevailed among the employees of the HCS departments, as most of them left work early for fear of a possible storming.

Politics



Menfi says war in Sudan is impacting Libya, neighboring countries

The Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, has said that the security and humanitarian effects of the conflict in Sudan are difficult as they exceeded its borders to neighboring countries, adding in a speech during the Cairo Conference of Sudan's neighboring countries, that since the first day of the outbreak of the war, Libya expressed its readiness to contribute effectively to stopping the war, and for "the brothers" to return to serious and constructive dialogue to agree on a future of stability and development.

"We stressed the need for the Sudanese parties to unite. we also reaffirmed our readiness to exert our utmost efforts through regional and international mechanisms in a way that is in the interest of the Libyan people and enhances security in Africa and the world, with cessation of all armed confrontations in the country within the framework of unified efforts accepted by all parties, thus leading to a cessation of fighting and the return of Sudanese institutions to play their role in providing services to the people." Menfi said.

He considered that the real fear is not about what will befall the peoples of the region from the repercussions of the war, but rather it is the fear for Sudan and its territorial integrity, as the number of displaced people from Sudan has reached 3 million, including 700.000 in neighboring countries, and the lack of basic services as well as the interruption of communication among Sudanese cities which hinders movement of civilians and make them trapped in the conflict areas.

Menfi called for focusing the efforts of neighboring countries on unifying the initiatives related to Sudan in one track that deals with the causes of the crisis and its effects by forming a regional and international liaison committee that communicates with the owners of other initiatives to create international and regional consensus, and to mobilize efforts to contain the humanitarian effects of the ongoing war.

Politics

Moscow supports establishment of committee to regulate public spending in Libya

Russia's Ambassador to Libya, Aidar Aghanin, has affirmed his country's support for the Presidential Council's decision to form a financial committee in order to regulate public spending and enhance transparency with the participation of all Libyan parties.

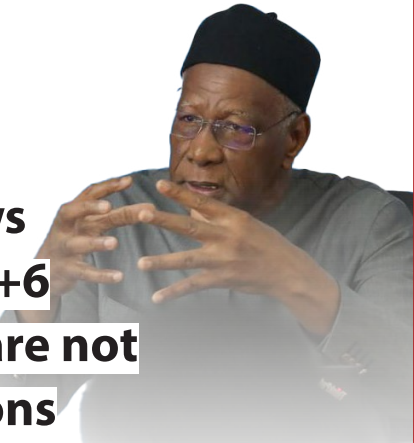
The ambassador made his remarks Wednesday during a meeting with the PC head Muhammed Menfi in Tripoli.

The PC media office said that Aghanin emphasized the need for all proposed solutions to be exclusively Libyan ownership.

He also renewed an invitation to Menfi to participate in the Russia-Africa summit scheduled for later this month.

Politics

Bathily: Electoral laws drafted by 6+6 Committee are not fit for elections



The Head of the UN Support Mission In Libya (UNSMIL), Abdoulaye Bathily, says that the current draft electoral laws prepared by the 6+6 Committee would not enable successful elections. "Further work is needed to make the draft laws implementable by addressing the legal loopholes and technical shortcomings identified by the High National Elections Commission (HNEC), Bathily explained in a statement published on the UNSMIL website on Monday.

The UN official said he informed the Security Council of his intention to convene key Libyan institutions and stakeholders to reach a final settlement on the most contentious issues. "In the coming weeks, I will intensify my engagement with the main Libyan institutions as well as political and security leaders to pave the way for these negotiations."

In this context, he urged the House of Representatives (HoR) and High Council of State (HCS) to cooperate with the HNEC in addressing the legal loopholes and technical shortcomings and make the necessary technical amendments to the 6+6 draft laws to render them implementable.

Bathily stressed the need for Libyan institutions and key stakeholders to reach an inclusive political settlement on the main politically contested issues, such as the eligibility criteria for presidential candidates, the provision for a mandatory second round of the presidential election, and the requirement to establish a new interim government before elections can take place.

Politics

British ambassador says the world cannot deal with ICC-wanted Libyan president



The British ambassador to Libya, Caroline Hurndall, said in an interview with Al Jazeera Mubasher TV channel that it was difficult for the world to deal with a Libyan president who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) - referring to Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi - adding that this would be a matter for Libyans themselves. "It will be difficult to work with Libya on matters related to partnership in such circumstances.", Hurndall reiterated, adding that the military officials' candidacy for elections is a complicated issue, and Libyans must resolve this issue.

Regarding the results of the work of the 6+6 joint committee, the British ambassador said that the committee worked very well so far, but stressed that "there is still a lot of work, as there is no final draft for the electoral laws because there are some obstacles that must be resolved."

The ambassador clarified that elections cannot be imposed on Libya, speaking of the possibility of continuing pressure to facilitate the holding of the vote, and explaining that it is important to reach elections whose results are acceptable for all parties, expressing her hope that Libyans could reach a consensus as soon as possible that leads to holding elections.

Hurndall said that fighters of the Russian Wagner group are destabilizing Libya, and that they must leave the country as soon as possible, remarking that corruption is a problem in Libya, recalling the capabilities that the country possesses in the event that this issue is addressed. She also pointed out in this regard that she talked about the efforts of the Presidential Council regarding transparency and the distribution of Libyan wealth, referring to the Supreme Committee for Resources Management that was recently formed by the Presidential Council.

Politics

Al-Mangoush reviews with her Maltese counterpart issues of common concern



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in the Government of National Unity, Najla Al-Mangoush, has discussed with her Maltese counterpart, Ian Borg, enhancing cooperation between the two countries in the fields of economy, investment, renewable energies, and dealing with the immigration file.

This came during a meeting between the two parties during Borg's visit to Libya to discuss the measures taken by the governments of the two countries to develop bilateral relations in various fields, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Facebook page.

The meeting also discussed developments in the local situation in Libya, and international efforts aimed at enhancing security and stability in the country to achieve the aspirations of the Libyan people, in addition to regional and international issues of common concern.



Libya in talks with Türkiye for customs tariffs' exemption

The commercial attaché of the Libyan Consulate General in Istanbul, Omar Darhoub, announced on Wednesday that they were in negotiations with Türkiye to exempt Libyan products from customs tariffs, and then prepare a proposal for the Minister of Economy and Trade to discuss it with the Turkish Minister of Trade in a way that "serves the interests of the two countries."

These remarks came during the participation of a Libyan delegation headed by the Advisor to the Minister of Economy and Trade, Shather Al-Said, in the "F-Istanbul" foods exhibition, as the Libyan participation aimed to identify the obstacles facing Libyan companies and business owners in terms of procedures, shipping and transportation to export Libyan products to the Turkish market, resolving the existing trade balance between the two countries, and opening new horizons for the Libyan products, according to a statement by the Ministry of Economy.

The Turkish-Libyan Business Council expects that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries within five years will reach \$15 billion, according to a previous statement.

Meanwhile, Al-Said confirmed the instructions of the Minister of Economy, Mohammed Al-Huweij, to remove all obstacles and difficulties facing companies in exporting operations.

More than 500 companies specialized in food and packaging from more than 25 countries, including Libya, are participating in the exhibition.



Algeria's Sonatrach reviews resumption of its projects in Libya

The CEO of the Algerian Sonatrach oil company, Toufik Hakkar, has announced that a meeting is expected before the end of July between the company and the Libyan authorities to discuss their official return to Tripoli.

This came in a press conference on Monday, to announce the results of the company's work during the first five months of this year.

"The company had investments and energy explorations in Libya, but the unstable security situation in the past years forced it to leave," Hakkar added.

Economy

Libyan Oil Minister looks forward to participation of Russian firms in exploration projects

The Libyan Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Oun, has expressed his aspiration for the participation of Russian companies in the exploration projects of the oil and gas sectors due to their experience, hailing Moscow's role at the "OPEC +" in maintaining the balance of the global oil market, according to a statement by Hakomitna platform.

These remarks came during Oun's meeting with the Russian ambassador to Libya, Aydar Aganin, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Oil and Gas in the capital, Tripoli, on Wednesday.

The statement said that Oun had discussed with ambassador Aganin the activation of the Libyan-Russian ministerial committee after years of suspension, stressing the need to activate the joint committee, meetings, visits, and holding conferences, seminars and workshops to introduce Russian technology in the Libyan oil industry.

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Economy

CBL Governor, German ambassador discuss disclosure and transparency program

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, has discussed with the German Ambassador to Libya, Michael Ohnmacht, the decision of the Presidential Council regarding the organization and follow-up of public spending and the promotion of transparency.

This came during a visit by the German ambassador to Al-Kabir's office on Monday, accompanied by the Deputy Head of Mission for Economic Affairs, and the Embassy's Media Affairs Officer.

The two parties discussed several files, including the CBL statement on revenue and spending until the end of June 2023, strengthening the disclosure and transparency program adopted by the CBL, and strengthening the role of the private sector in diversifying sources of income.



Economy

Libyan-Italian Commerce Chamber's Head hails resumption of flights between Rome and Tripoli

The Head of the Italian-Libyan Chamber of Commerce praised on Monday the resumption of direct flights between Italy and Libya, saying it was a positive development to increase contact among companies in the two countries.

The Head of the Chamber told the Italian Nova News Agency that a letter was sent to the Italian Foreign Minister, Antonio Tajani, regarding the problems facing companies operating in Libya, and the importance of resuming direct flights.

The announcement of the resumption of flights came after a meeting held in Tripoli, in the presence of the Head of the Italian National Civil Aviation Authority, the Italian Ambassador to Libya, the Head of the General Authority of Civil Aviation, and the Minister of Communications and Political Affairs.

The ambassador stressed the importance of creating a good environment for trade between Libyan and Italian companies and for strengthening personal relations between entrepreneurs from the two countries, adding that the ability to travel and meet was essential to achieve such goals.



Economy

Bengdara reviews investment prospects in oil and gas

The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat Bengdara, on Monday, reviewed investment opportunities in the oil and gas sector with the company's relevant committee as the country heads towards stability and development following the lifting of the force majeure on major oil fields.

Bengdara said such investments would contribute to improving the national economy and help develop the infrastructure of the oil sector in Libya.

The NOC stands ready to provide all support, information, and data to international companies wishing to invest in Libya, the NOC head said.

He further stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation with international companies to achieve the interests of all and develop the national economy within the framework of the NOC's plan to raise production to two million barrels per day.

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Opinions

Libyan situation poised to more escalation

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

The political scene is shifting towards further escalation, after an expected failure by the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, regarding the legal basis for elections.

In order to fill any vacuum - the UN envoy, Abdoulaye Bathily, could exploit, by reverting back to his previously announced initiative, and begins to form the High Steering Committee-HCS Head, Khaled Al-Mishri, announced the simultaneous proposal of the HoR and the HCS, of elections' roadmap, next week in an official session for both houses. Although, the Speaker of HoR, Aqila Saleh, did not comment by either confirming or denying.

The draft circulated by the media projects 6 + 6 committee's laws as the legal basis for elections, despite objection from both chambers, and request of Aqila Saleh to make some amendments to it. However, such amendments cannot happen without a constitutional amendment, because the 13th Constitutional Amendment provides for the referral of the outputs of the 6 +6 committee to the High National Election Commission (HNEC), without even discussing them by the HoR. Furthermore, making any amendments to it requires first, the approval of the committee, and making a constitutional amendment that gives the HoR the right to discuss the committee's outputs, and amend them by either deletion or addition, and this will open the door for objection by the HCS, and therefore, what is expected of both scenarios is persistence of failure.

Al-Mishri's roadmap is rather more inclined to the formation of a new government than to a roadmap leading to elections. Most of the items, detail the process of running for prime minister, the required recommendations, terms in office, tasks, etc., with reference more than once to the possibility of elections' failure.

No much effort is needed to understand the true purpose of the roadmap, which is the formation of a new government, and the continuation of the HoR and the HCS in their positions, in an absurd repetition and recycling the same entities and personalities which are incapable of real consensus, ending the country's crisis, by establishing a constitution on which elections will be based, and followed by building state institutions.

The initiative, however, is not expected to find local, regional or international acceptance. There is no enthusiasm among the active parties in the scene to change the government at present, because they realize that government division is not the real reason for obstructing the elections, rather the absence of the will for change in the HoR and the HCS, and their

inability to achieve real consensual solution, and changing governments alone will not lead to elections.

In conjunction with Al-Mishri's announcement of the roadmap, Haftar showed up and delivered a speech through which he sent several messages, in what seems that he is impacted by some fragments of the blast in the relationship between Wagner groups and the Russian state, as well as the financial distress that befell him.

For the first time, he criticizes interference of the US ambassador, whom he dubbed as "so-called Norland", and held him and other ambassadors responsible for fueling the escalation, calling for their non-interference because the solution will be a purely Libyan consensus, as he claimed.

Bombing of the Wagner group at Al-Kharouba base, south of Al-Marj, would not have taken place without US green light, and it is a warning message to Haftar against trying to shut down oil production, with a strong possibility of a relative shift in the US position on Haftar, who will be greatly weakened if he loses Wagner's support. The US and its allies seek to remove the Wagner from Libya.

Haftar's calls for fair distribution of revenues, by forming a committee to undertake this task, so that the people can benefit from their wealth, and his sharp attack, in a speech, on the government and the central bank, and his criticism of corruption in government institutions in Tripoli, claiming that he stands with the people in their suffering, reflects his dire need for more money to finance his project, to preserve his authority and influence, especially with press reports claiming that his debts to the Emirates and Wagner Company amounted to about seven billion euros.

However, these slogans about fighting corruption, fair distribution of wealth, and allegations of responding to the suffering of the people can no longer deceive anyone. Almost everyone, from past experiences, has come to realize that they are mere slogans used as a card for political pressure and blackmail, and once the blackmailer's personal demands, are met, be they political or financial, such calls would cease, and oil would remain open.

All these developments are conducive to the state of conflict, and perhaps its intensification, with no hope of holding elections this year.

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

Ministry of Health honours Eye Hospital convoy upon its return from the south

Deputy Prime Minister/ Minister of Health Ramadan Abu Janah, and Chief of the Cabinet Office in the Southern Region, Ahmed Al-Ayyat, have honoured the medical team of the Eye Hospital in Tripoli after completing their mission in the southern region.

The Ministry of Health said the honouring came in appreciation of the efforts made by the medical convoy, led by the Director of the hospital, Rania Al-Khawja, in the regions and cities of the south, including Sabha, Barak Al-Shati, Ubari, and Bint Baya.

During two weeks of work in the south, the medical team conducted more than 4,000 checkups and over 750 surgeries.

The convoy comes within the framework of the government's strategy to localize treatment, the Health Ministry stated.



Education

Authorities: School books will be in stores by July 24

Shipment of textbooks has started to arrive at the Ministry of Education warehouses in Tajoura, east of Tripoli, the ministry announced on Thursday.

The authorities said they have already received three million copies, while the rest will be forthcoming consecutively.

The Minister of Education said that the books must arrive on August 20 before the beginning of the next academic year, scheduled to kick off on September 2.

The Educational Curriculum and Research Center assured that the entire quantity would reach the stores by July 24.

Minister Al-Maqaryif said the school books this year arrived in a record time compared to previous years.

He praised the local companies that this year took over the printing process despite not receiving the financial values due to the delay in monetizing the budget to the Curriculum Centre.

Last year, the lack of books brought immense challenges for teachers, pupils, and parents alike.

The Minister of Education, Musa Al-Maqryif, was put in custody late in 2021 after his ministry failed to deliver the school books on time.



Tech

Cyber attack targets Libyan internet provider LTT

The Libyan Post Telecommunications & Information Technology Company (LPTIC) said Wednesday that the data center of Libya Internet and Technology, the state-run internet provider, came under a cyber attack which led to disruption of services.

In a statement, the LPTIC added that unknown attacker attempted to hack the data center but its cybersecurity team and LTT engineers managed to thwart it, noting that the cyber attack was ongoing and services were relatively stable. Last December, LTT data centre was subjected to coordinated DDoS attacks to disrupt services.



Life

Woman dies at border with Tunisia while waiting in overlong queue of passengers

A Libyan woman was pronounced dead at the Ras Ijder border crossing with Tunisia on Monday as she was waiting in an overlong queue of vehicles to get through checks by border officials.

The Interior Ministry said that 63-year-old Fatima Muftah died in the passenger lanes at the crossing border on Monday, vowing to take action to restore the trust of those using this route.

Interior Minister Emad Trabelsi announced some changes in the checking point of Ras Ijder, noting that it would include changing the officials managing the border.

According to Trabelsi, a meeting grouping him and the Tunisian Interior Minister will take place at the crossing point shortly.

After adjusting the conditions at the Ras Ijder crossing, the Interior Minister will head to the Ghadames border crossing with Algeria to prepare for its reopening, Trabelsi said.

Waiting in queues has long been part of the lives of average citizens in Libya.

Libyans got used to queuing in front of banks to get their money or at government departments to complete some paperwork.

As the country remains clouded with rapid political development, you could also see long queues building up in front of bakeries and gas stations now and then.



Life

Ministry of Social Affairs signs MoU with UNICEF to train social and psychological specialists

The Minister of Social Affairs, Wafaa Al-Kilani, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Acting Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to Libya, Marie-Consolée, to cooperate on training programmes for social and psychological specialists in the aspects of psychological and social support and child care.

Al-Kilani praised cooperation between the two sides in various fields, especially with regard to childhood, according to the ministry's statement on its Facebook page.

The MoU focuses on the implementation of multi-year action plan for child protection, social policy prepared by experts from both sides, and other areas of cooperation related to children in Libya, provided that such cooperation would include all regions of the country.



(Crimes)

Tripoli Court of Appeal sends officials at Bir Al-Ghanam Hospital to prison

The director of Bir Al-Ghanam village hospital has received a ten-year prison sentence, the Public Prosecutor's Office confirmed on Wednesday.

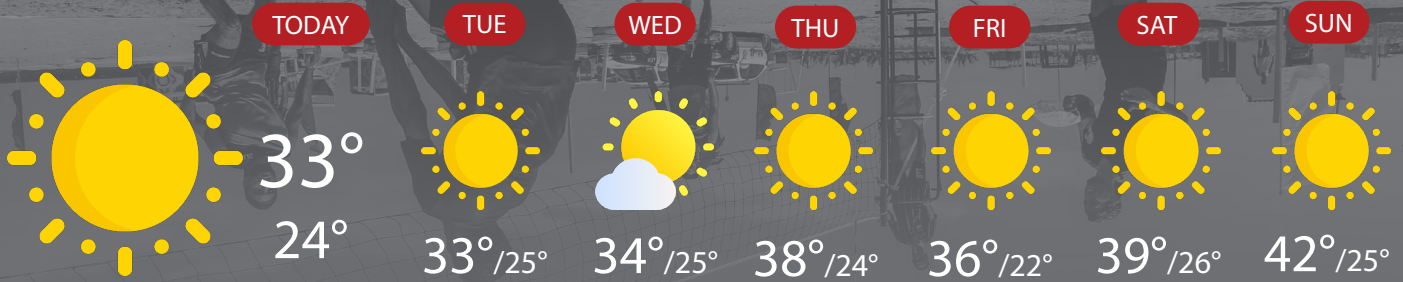
The office also announced the imprisonment of five other hospital officials for one year upon a decision of the Criminal Department of the Tripoli Court of Appeal.

The ruling obligates the convicts to return over 900,000 dinars after they faked official documents stating their reception of medical equipment, contrary to the truth.

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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