

Politics

UK renews sanctions on Libyan figures, including Al-Saadi Gaddafi

The United Kingdom (UK) has renewed the list of sanctions imposed on a number of Libyan figures for their involvement in committing human rights abuses and violations, directly related to the file of illegal immigration and smuggling.

According to the UK Treasury website, the list that was updated on November 29 included the director of the detention center in Al-Zawiya, Osama Al-Koni, and the commander of Al-Zawiya coast guard, Abdul Rahman Milad, nicknamed "Al-Beedja," in addition to the commander of the National Guard, Mohammed Keshlaf.

The UK Treasury added that these names were heavily involved in managing huge trafficking and smuggling networks in the city and had been committing violations and acts of violence against immigrants in Libya.

The list also included Al-Saadi Gaddafi and Ahmed Gaddafi Al-Dam, saying that all of them remain subject to an asset freeze and a travel ban until further notice.

The list of sanctions includes freezing the funds and economic resources of some persons, entities, or bodies involved in committing serious violations of human rights in Libya, international humanitarian law, or any other activity that threatens peace, stability, and security in the country.

The report of the panel of experts of the UN Sanctions Committee on Libya included three leaders from the city of Al-Zawiya on charges of human trafficking, including "Al-Beedja," citing their involvement in joining armed entities operating in Wershefana, Sabratha, and Zuwara since 2011.

The UK Foreign Office placed on May 13, 2021 Al-Kaniyat militia and its leaders, Abdul Rahim and Mohammed Al-Kani, on the sanctions list for their involvement in violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Libya.

Politics

Russia's Deputy Defense Minister visits Benghazi for the third time in 2023

The Russian Deputy Defense Minister Yunus-bek Yevkurov arrived in Benghazi on Saturday, where he was received by Khalifa Haftar for the third time this year, as he and Haftar met at the end of August on his first visit, and then in September, coinciding with Derna floods disaster.

Haftar forces' command said in a statement on Saturday that the meeting saw discussions about ways of joint cooperation between Libya and Russia.

Late last September, Haftar visited Moscow to hold talks with Russian officials about developments in the situation in Libya and bilateral relations.

In November, international media reported that the Russian authorities were cooperating with the "Libyan authorities" to establish a Russian military corps in Africa.

Reports about a Russian legion in Africa angered Washington, which warned Haftar against depending on the Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The US State Department's spokesman Ned Price said that the mercenaries of the Russian paramilitary group Wagner represented a harmful element in Libya, as "they plunder the countries in which they are located, endanger public security and cause a lack of respect for human rights."

According to the US State Department, the Russian African legion will have to conduct large-scale military operations in the continent to confront Western influence, considering that the Wagner group destabilized Libya and used it as a platform to organize its activities in the region.

Politics

Libyan PM names 4 preconditions for the success of UN envoy's initiative

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah said there are four essential preconditions for the success of the UN envoy Abdoulaye Bathily's initiative, naming them as "mutual trust, all parties' readiness to secure elections, establishing fair and implementable election laws and disallowing parallel initiatives." Dbeibah also verbally attacked the legislative authority (House of Representatives), saying that it is the basis of disagreement in the country, adding in a cabinet meeting on Tuesday in Al-Zawiya city that the legislative authority decides laws and repeals them in a manner that has become controversial.

He stressed that the success of the dialogue depends on not allowing parallel tracks to confuse the only goal, which is holding elections, renewing his warning about "parallel spending" by saying that it exceeded 15 billion dinars without being subject to the oversight of the Audit Bureau.

During the cabinet meeting, Dbeibah established a special unit to support the Oil Crescent regions, declaring that a sum of oil export revenues would be deducted for the benefit of the newly-formed unit.

Dbeibah described the rumors about granting the port of Al-Khums and Misrata free zone to some foreign countries as "nonsense," denying the validity of that news, and stressing that his government wouldn't give up any of the country's rights. He also reaffirmed his position in support of the Palestinian Cause and condemned all types of crimes committed against the Gaza Strip.



Politics

High Council of State reviews UN envoy's initiative for solution in Libya

The High Council of State (HCS) discussed the proposal of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) headed by Abdoulaye Bathily to resolve the Libyan crisis, as the Head of the HCS, Mohammed Takala, briefed the members on the visits of the HCS delegation that took place recently. Sources close to the HCS said that the presidency had decided to form a committee of three members for the five-party meetings of Bathily's initiative: Musa Faraj from the eastern region, Mohammed Al-Hadi from the southern region, and Mohammed Bousnina from the western region.

The sources confirmed the existence of disagreements within the HCS after its presidency announced the mechanism for selecting its representatives for Bathily's initiative.

The Second Deputy Head of the HCS,

Omar Al-Abedi, said in a statement to Libya Al-Ahrar TV channel that he was not a party to the selection of three representatives from the three constituencies by the presidency in the preparatory meeting for Bathily's initiative, indicating that the selection process took place without a clear mechanism, which will complicate the situation and disrupt the lead-up to elections. He said that the HCS will have a different opinion regarding this selection. Other members confirmed that the HCS session was closed without any results or agreement after a dispute occurred over the selection of representatives. However, some other members saw that the invitation to participate in the five-party meetings was for the five main leaders, and thus the invitation is addressed to HCS Head Takala to name his representatives, saying that there is no justification for the

members to protest against his nominations.

Bathily extended on November 23 invitations to key Libyan institutional stakeholders to attend a meeting in the coming period to reach a settlement on the politically contested issues pertaining to the implementation of the electoral process. UNSMIL said in a statement that Bathily had requested the institutional stakeholders to designate representatives to participate in a preparatory meeting, adding that the designated representatives of the Presidential Council, House of Representatives, High Council of State, Government of National Unity and the General Command of the "Libyan National Army" would discuss the date, venue, and agenda of the meeting of their principals.

Politics

NCHRL warns against impact of removal of immigration laws in Niger on Libya



The National Commission for Human Rights in Libya (NCHRL) said it was deeply concerned about the Nigerien authorities' repeal (on November 25) of the laws related to combating illegal immigration in Niger.

NCHRL explained in a statement that the decision encourages the activity of immigrant smuggling and human trafficking networks, crime gangs and transnational organized crime, which are active in the joint border areas, and also contribute to increasing immigration influx toward Libya.

It said the decision undermined Libya's efforts to combat immigrant smuggling and human trafficking, eliminate crime networks and gangs, and cross-border organized crime, and secure Libya's southern borders with neighboring countries, including Niger.

NCHRL expressed dismay at the silence of the Libyan authorities toward this decision and the failure to take a position, given the serious effects and repercussions it could have on Libya and knowing that Libya "is affected by the immigration flows from the African Sahel countries and neighboring states."

It called on the relevant Libyan authorities, represented by the Presidential Council and the Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs, to communicate with the Nigerien authorities and stress the importance of reconsidering the decision because of its negative repercussions on cooperation and relations between the two countries; in general, and regarding issues of border security, immigration, security and stability in the region; in particular. NCHRL warned the Libyan authorities, including the border guards and residents of the southwestern and eastern border regions, of unprecedented waves of immigrants' crossing, saying they could include members of extremist organizations in the Sahel countries facing military campaigns, as repealing immigration laws would facilitate the expansion of the influence of extremist groups, including Boko Haram, in the southern regions of Libya, knowing that remaining members of the terrorist organization ISIS are being reported in the region.

Niger has recently repealed a law criminalizing smuggling or facilitating illegal immigration operations. The law, which was adopted in 2015, stipulated penalties of up to 30 years in prison, and fines of up to 45,000 euros for those who traffic migrants across the Sahara to Libya: the last stop before crossing the Mediterranean.



Economy

Libya's Ministry of Labour signs MoU with British Pearson Foundation

The Centre for Quality and Professional Standardization of the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation, signed Monday a memorandum of understanding with the British Pearson Foundation for training and education at the foundation's headquarters in London.

Sources of the Government of National Unity stated that the signing ceremony was attended by officials from Libyan and British sides, during which they discussed cooperation to identify needs and requirements aimed at developing the administrative staff, institutional restructuring, and skills development.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Employment Affairs, the Director General of the Quality Assurance Centre, Chargé d'Affaires of the Libyan Embassy in London, the British Prime Minister's envoy to Libya, the Executive Director of the Pearson Foundation, and Chairman of the British-Libyan Business Council.

Economy



Minister of Economy participates in 39th meeting of the COMCEC Committee in Istanbul

The Minister of Economy and Trade of the Government of National Unity, Mohammed Al-Hawij, has participated in the 39th meeting of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Co-operation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), in Istanbul, headed by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in the presence of the Ministers of Economy, Trade and Industry, and representatives of member states.

The meeting touched on the developments of the global economic situation, in addition to a number of topics and files of common interest, and strongly condemned the terrorist attack against the Palestinian people.

The attendees exchanged views and experiences on enhancing e-commerce capabilities, and intra-regional trade and investment in the communications, tourism and agriculture sectors, according to the Ministry of Economy and Trade's Facebook page.

They also reviewed the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) 2025 work program and the COMCEC strategy in the field of economic cooperation, to develop a mechanism to enhance financial cooperation and the role of the private sector.

Economy



Minister of Oil: Libya will not be affected by OPEC+ decision to reduce production

The Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Aoun, has stated that Libya is not affected by the OPEC+ decision to reduce production, adding in a statement to the Russian Sputnik Agency, "the goal of OPEC+ is to maintain oil market balance".

Last Thursday, OPEC+ reached a preliminary agreement to a significant production cut of an additional million barrels a day, according to media reports, citing an OPEC+ representative.

On the other hand, Aoun announced that the National Oil Corporation will launch gas and oil exploration bidding round in 2024, and Russian companies can apply then.



Economy

NOC Chairman launches initiative for achieving sustainable future for Libya

The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat Bin Qadara, announced on Tuesday the launch of the "We Think About Tomorrow" initiative with the aim of achieving a green and sustainable future for Libya.

NOC Chairman announced the initiative during his participation in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) held in Dubai, UAE, according to the NOC Facebook page.

The initiative includes a project that aims to increase green spaces in oil lands by planting one million trees, and focuses on generating renewable energy to supply oil fields with clean energies.

The NOC added that it plans to harness Libya's natural resources to supply the oil fields with solar energy as part of the initiative.

Economy

Oil Minister says Libya doesn't need oil ports outside its borders for exportation

The Libyan Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Oun, said in an interview with Libyan News Agency that Libya "does not need a port outside the country to export its crude to European countries." His remarks came in response to the news circulating about the export of Libyan oil based on an agreement between Egypt and South Korea. Oun denied that he and his ministry were aware of any agreement between the Egyptian and South Korean sides. He added on Sunday that Libya "has seven oil ports on the Mediterranean to export crude oil, petroleum products, condensates, petrochemicals, and others, starting from Hariga in the east to Mellitah in the west, and therefore it does not need ports outside its borders."

Oun said that the agreement is permissible if the goal is to refine Libyan oil in Egypt, and in agreement with Libya, explaining that the statement issued in Egypt is clear as it talks about exporting Libyan crude oil to Europe, adding that Libya is closer than any other side to Europe and does not need to export oil to Europe through neighboring country.

Oun denied the existence of an agreement between Libya and South Korea to export oil, pointing to the possibility of the existence of a project dating back decades to attempt to build an oil pipeline from the port of Hariga to Alexandria to refine oil in Egypt, but this project did not go through. He said a similar project was discussed with Tunisia within the framework of strategies for achieving integration between African countries.

Oun indicated that his ministry is still suffering from many difficulties and facing challenges due to what he described as the lack of respect by the National Oil Corporation and its chairman, Farhat Bengdara, for the laws and legislation regulating the oil sector. He also said that the main dispute is related to the National Oil Corporation's failure to submit sufficient reports to the Oil Ministry about its activities, and failure to transfer any of the decisions or topics on which decisions are made.

Oun also denied any knowledge of reports related to the privatization of the Brega Oil and Gas Marketing Company, considering that this isn't correct, especially since it is proceeding in an orderly and smooth manner while facing some problems related to the smuggling of petroleum products outside the country. He said that the smuggling problem needs to be addressed by the regulatory authorities in the Libyan state, adding that the NOC and the Ministry of Oil do not bear any responsibility for any action after the trucks leave the Brega Company warehouses in all Libyan regions.

Oun explained that there are attempts to prevent smuggling, by forming committees to study the possibility of the success of the electronic tracking of oil trucks leaving the Brega Company warehouses. The official website of the Egyptian Ministry of Transport revealed last Wednesday that the Egyptian government had signed a memorandum of understanding with its South Korean counterpart, represented by STX, to develop the Marsa Matrouh region, which includes developing the port of Garjoub, the industrial logistics zone, and building a pipeline to export Libyan oil to Europe via the port, which is 130 km from the Libyan border.

Economy

Minister of Oil accuses NOC of committing financial violations

The Minister of Oil and Gas in the Government of National Unity, Mohammed Aoun, has accused the National Oil Corporation (NOC) of committing financial violations.

Aoun considered that the NOC's approval of Sirte Oil and Gas Company's request to deposit \$10 million with the Mediterranean Company in Dubai is a clear violation and a misuse of public funds.

He submitted a complaint to the head of the Administrative Control Authority, Abdullah Qadiriou, asking him to intervene urgently, in order to preserve public money.

Last Saturday, Oil and Gas Minister Mohamed Aoun accused some international oil companies operating in Libya of exploiting the lax security situation.



Opinions

Who falls under the category of 'civilians' according to the West?

By Abdullah Muradoğlu, a Turkish writer

In November 2022, the capital of Ireland, Dublin, saw the approval of the "Political Declaration on the Protection of Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas" by 82 countries. Notably absent among the signatories supporting this declaration were "Western governments," including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and almost all members of the European Union, despite their endorsement of the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Gaza is a narrow strip where the population density is highest per kilometer. Since 2005, the Gaza Strip, kept under blockade by Israel, represents much more than the residential areas mentioned in the "Dublin Declaration." Of course, the U.S. also exempts itself from this Declaration. The legal framework of the so-called liberal international order based on rules does not apply to the United States and Israel.

President Joe Biden associates Ukraine and Israel in the same breath. This alone exposes how the Biden Administration perceives international law. While Biden accuses Russia of committing "war crimes" blatantly, he turns a blind eye to Israel's acts of genocide. The fact that 70% of the victims killed in Gaza are children and women does not seem to trouble the conscience of those in the Biden Administration or send shivers down their spines. Terms like "war crimes," "humanitarian law," and "crimes against humanity" are not heard from U.S. and Western governments now. They were singing a different tune when it came to Russia. Humanity will not forget the duplicity of the West.

The U.S. supplies every missile, bullet, and jet Israel uses in Gaza. Moreover, the U.S. provides Israel with \$3.8 billion in military aid annually, with Biden intending to allocate an additional \$14.3 billion to Israel. Speeding up the transfer of weapons to Israel has become the top priority of the Pentagon.

Last month, Josh Paul, a senior bureaucrat overseeing arms sales at the U.S. State Department, resigned in protest against the Biden Administration's continued shipment of weapons to Israel. Paul stated, "In my view, Israel is currently committing war crimes with its actions in Gaza." Although legal opinions suggesting that Israel is committing war crimes have been expressed within the bureaucracy of some European countries, the supply of components for aircraft and other equipment used by Israel in Gaza remains uninterrupted.

According to a document published in Bloomberg on November 15, the U.S. sent 57,000 units of 155mm shells to Israel. These lethal weapons are transferred almost daily, with the Pentagon providing these shells exceptionally from the "War Reserve Stockpile." The probability of these 155mm artillery shells, falling 25 meters away from their target, significantly deviating from their intended trajectory is very high. Upon impact, the shell releases about 2,000 sharp fragments in all directions, causing death and permanent disabilities for civilians within 300 meters.

Does the Biden Administration not consider the possibility that these shells will harm civilians in the densely populated Gaza, or is it simply unaware? Have the U.S. and Western governments discarded the "Dublin Declaration," or do the babies, children, and women in Gaza not fall under the category of "civilians" according to the West? Who exactly does the term "civilians" encompass for the West?

Israel is raining bombs on everything in Gaza, from living beings to sacred sites, hospitals, and schools, not wanting even a single Palestinian in the occupied territories. Israel, violating all laws of war, commits its massacres with weapons provided "unconditionally" by the U.S. Even as Israel carries out these actions, the supply of weapons to Israel continues. Israel is not alone against Gaza; there is the "American Military-Industrial Complex," which includes the world's largest arms companies.

In February 2022, the Biden Administration, supposedly emphasizing human rights in its "Conventional Arms Transfer" policy, added assurances allegedly "increasing the importance of protecting civilians." According to this, restrictions on transfers would take into account the 'Geneva Conventions' and 'International humanitarian law.' Nonsense! The U.S. bends and distorts all conditions, laws, and agreements.

Human conscience adjudges that Israel and its supporters openly participate in the genocide being committed. The crux of the matter lies in establishing a fair international legal order that will urgently implement the verdict delivered by humanity in a court. Humanity is yearning for this order.

Credit: This opinion was first published by Yeni Safak daily newspaper

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

Flu vaccination campaign kicks off

The Director of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Haider Al-Sayeh, announced on Saturday the launch of influenza vaccination campaign in all vaccination centers throughout the country.

Al-Sayeh stressed the need for all groups targeted for vaccination to receive these vaccines, noting that these groups include pregnant women, people over the age of 55, health service providers, and people suffering from chronic diseases.

Al-Sayeh called to go to the relevant health centers during the period from December 2 to 14 to obtain vaccinations, with the aim of achieving prevention and protection against seasonal influenza.



Health

Official health committee recommends closing 13 private health facilities

A committee affiliated with the Ministry of Health recommended during a meeting on Thursday the closure of 13 private treatment institutions, as well as withdrawing the licenses of five others until they complete the legal requirements.

The Health Ministry said the step is part of the committee's responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the private sector.

On November 18, the Director of the Inspection and Follow-up Department at the Ministry of Health, Osama Sarkaz, announced the closure of more than 50 private health facilities in Tripoli, and the withdrawal of licenses from some of them, due to the existence of some violations and abuses.



Health

Minister of Health discusses the file of Bangladeshi medical personnel

Acting Deputy Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah, has reviewed with the Bangladesh Ambassador to Libya, Abul Hasnat Mohammad Khairul Bashar, aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the health field.

The two sides discussed the file of Bangladesh medical and paramedic personnel within the framework of supporting the health sector and restoring life to medical facilities in various Libyan cities.

Abu Janah praised the efforts of the State of Bangladesh to support the health sector in Libya.



Sports

Abu Salim secures historic win at CAF Confederation Cup

Abu Salim football team won 1-0 against the Angolan Sagrada Esperança team at 19 May 1956 Stadium in Algeria on Sunday evening in the second round of the second group of the CAF Confederation Cup.

The only goal of the match was scored by Abdelmonem Okasha. With this result, Abu Salim won its first match in the group stage, bringing the team's tally to three points from two matches.

This victory is considered historic for the Abu Salim team because it is its first African participation in its history and the first nomination for the group stage, as Abu Salim ranks now

second in the group with three points behind Zamalek from Egypt, the group's leader.

Libya's second representative in the competition, Al Hilal, lost to its guest Modern Future from Egypt 1-2 on Sunday evening at the Benina Martyrs Stadium in Benghazi in the second round of the first group of the CAF Confederation Cup.

Modern Future has now six points in second place behind the Algerian title holder, USM Alger, on goal difference. Al Hilal and South African Super Sport are in third and fourth places, respectively, without points.



Education

Ministry of Education launches 'Arabic Reading Challenge Initiative'

The Ministry of Education launched Wednesday the "Arabic Reading Challenge Initiative" in its 8th version for 2023-2024, which targets students in the basic and secondary education stages, in the presence of Minister of Education, Musa Al-Magariaf. The initiative aims to encourage students to read stories, novels, and cultural

and scientific books, to participate in the international competition that will be organized by the United Arab Emirates in July, next year.

The competition will be held according to the initiative, with preliminary qualifiers conducted at the school level to select the three best students, then at the Education

Directorate level, followed by the educational region, ten regions in all.

One hundred students will be selected to participate in the national competition, which will be conducted by an international committee to select the ten best-distinguished students who will represent Libya in the International competition.



Education

Libyan delegation reviews ways to facilitate study of postgraduate students in Egypt

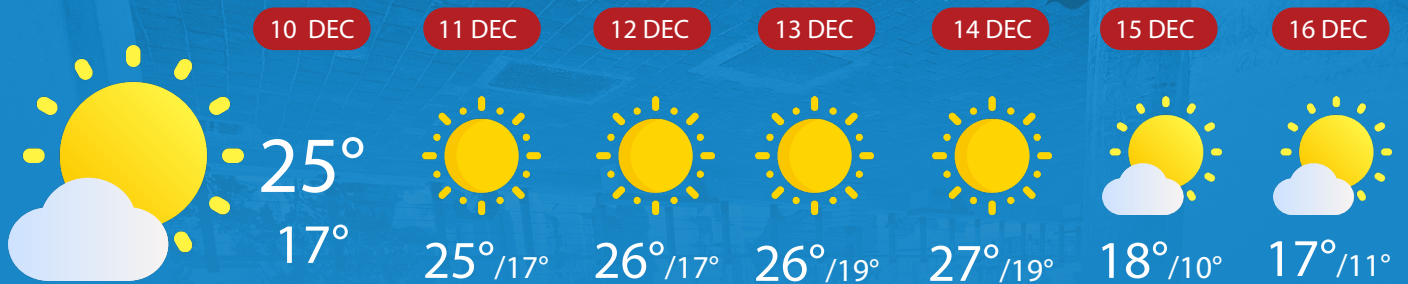
A Libyan delegation from the Ministry of Higher Education met with a representative at the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education in Cairo last week to discuss the best ways that can be provided for Libyan students sent for postgraduate studies to enroll in Egyptian universities and higher education institutions.

The Libyan embassy in Egypt explained in a statement on Saturday that the Egyptian official provided a comprehensive explanation of the mechanisms, programs and plans adopted by the Ministry regarding students coming to study in Egypt, adding that the file of foreign students is receiving great attention from the Egyptian government.

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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