

Politics

PM of parallel government blames Bathily for failing to find solution to Libyan crisis



The Prime Minister of the parallel government, Osama Hammad, said that the continuation of wrong practices by the resigned UN envoy Abdoulaye Bathily had completely undermined reconciliation and dialogue efforts, while at the same time expressing his welcome for “assigning Bathily’s deputy, Stephanie Khoury, as the Head United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

Bathily criticized in his last briefing at the Security Council before he resigned as UN envoy to Libya “selfishness of the current leaders” in Libya, noting that there is a deliberate refusal by the Libyan parties to hold elections, with a stubborn desire to postpone them indefinitely.

Regarding the obstacles that hindered his

call for a five-party dialogue table, which did not include Hammad’s government, Bathily said that adding a separate seat at the dialogue table, for delegations from the government supported by the House of Representatives, would give an official character to the divisions prevailing in Libya.

But Hammad considered in his statement that this proposal was not surprising, since Bathily “had a limited outlook on dealing with all parties,” and “deliberately ignored that the Libyan government (the parallel government) is the legitimate government in the country as it was granted confidence by the House of Representatives.” Hammad indicated that Bathily’s briefing as a whole reflects the reality of his in-

ability to perform his work over his tenure, stressing that his government still supports any local, regional or international efforts whose primary goal is to reunite Libyans, end the state of institutional division, as well as support reconciliation efforts.

Hammad also expressed his government’s welcome to assigning the Deputy Head of UNSMIL, Stephanie Khoury, to the duties of the Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, saying he hopes that it will be responsible and impartial, that it will move away from personal tendencies and interests, and that it will follow a policy that unites Libyans on a common word and not a policy of supporting division.

Politics

Outgoing UN envoy: If Libyans had freedom of assembly, they would have found solutions



The Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily who resigned on Tuesday, said that “if Libyans were free, they would have been able, through freedom of peaceful assembly, to find a solution.

Bathily considered in a media stakeout at the UN after his resignation that under the pretext of the so-called legitimate institutions, only the leaders have a way to move forward and that the majority of the Libyan people wanted to get out of this chaos.

“They came to me and asked for a formula that goes beyond those leaders who do not want to put an end to the crisis. However, these leaders are supported by their foreign allies in many ways, so under these circumstances there is no way for the United Nations to operate successful-

ly.” He explained.

He said that Libyans with good intentions cannot make their voices heard in the political process, adding that there is a lot of talk about a Libyan-Libyan solution, but in reality “what we call the Libyan-Libyan solution is a Libyan solution that suits the group of leaders who do not want to move forward.”

Bathily said that the past months have witnessed a deterioration in the situation in Libya because of two main factors, the first is the lack of political will and good faith by the main Libyan actors and the second factor is the emerging international and regional dynamics, considering that Libya today has become a battlefield, given the presence of a renewed and continuous stalemate in Libya and the use of its territory for military confrontations by

various actors.

He added that the United Nations cannot move successfully in support of a political process, in the face of leaders who put “their personal interests above the needs of the country.”

According to the resigned UN envoy, “Libya is increasingly on the path toward losing its sovereignty,” although the United Nations Support Mission in Libya tried to avoid this situation.

“We needed the support of all international and regional parties to achieve meaningful results. Unfortunately, against the backdrop of this evolving crisis, we have witnessed parallel tracks taken by various foreign parties, which undermined the efforts of the United Nations.” He said.

Politics

Bathily: Preconditions of Libyan leaders before negotiations reveal intentions prior rejection of solutions



The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Abdoulaye Bathily, said that the preconditions set by the Libyan leaders, before holding any negotiations, reveal a desire to reject in advance the solution, and that despite their declaration of good faith, "they have not yet shown good intentions."

Bathily stressed, during his regular briefing to the UN Security Council on Tuesday, that unilateral and parallel initiatives from all Libyan parties contribute to the complexity of the scene in the country. He pointed out that there is a deliberate refusal by the Libyan parties to hold the elections, seriously, with a stubborn desire to postpone the elections to an unknown extent.

Bathily explained that he put forward proposals and initiatives as part of his attempts, since calling on the five main parties in Libya, to hold a dialogue, settle the outstanding issues, and hold elections. However, these proposals and attempts found nothing but opposition, stressing that these positions came about due to division on the global scene.

He said that adding a "separate seat" to the dialogue table, for delegations from the government supported by the House of Representatives, headed by Osama Hammad, to sit on, will give an official character to the divisions prevailing in Libya, stressing that Haftar's forces "are undoubtedly the decision-maker on political, military and security matters in eastern and southern Libya," adding that Hammad's government is considered its executive wing.

He expressed "deep disappointment," saying it is unfortunate to witness those in a position of power taking precedence over their personal interests over the interests of the country, saying: "We cannot allow the ambition of 2.8 million registered Libyan voters to have their voices dampened by the narrow interests of a handful of officials."

He added that Dbeibah and the head of the High Council of State, Mohamed Takala, stipulated that a new constitution be drawn up before holding the elections, and he described the positions of the Libyan parties

towards his initiative as "petrified," pointing to what he considered an intentional rejection and a desire to postpone the elections for an unknown period.

"Both Tekala and Dbeibah nominated someone to represent them in the dialogue, but they stipulated that the election laws be reconsidered and a new constitution be adopted before launching the political process, while Aqila Saleh stipulated the formation of a unified government as a necessary condition for holding the elections, and Haftar stipulated that either we invite the Hammad government with the Dbeibah government, or withdraw the representation of the two governments." He explained.

Bathily also spoke about the economic crisis, considering that it deepened with the Central Bank issuing the decision to impose a temporary tax on foreign currency, which reached 27%, with a liquidity crisis imminent. He pointed out that the tax approved by the House of Representatives on March 14 was accompanied by a decline in the value of the Libyan dinar in the parallel currency market, and a restriction of the ability to access foreign currencies.

"All of this fueled public anger with growing concern among citizens about the rise in prices of basic goods and services, including health care." He added.

He called on the Libyan authorities to treat the "disease and not just treat the ravages", pointing out that the disease is the chronic and harmful financial and economic practices, especially since these practices affect the entire country, and the well-being of the population, and enable the Libyan parties to keep the situation as it is.

Bathily urged the Libyan authorities to urgently agree on a national budget, while addressing the serious shortcomings in the transparent, fair and accountable management of state resources, "in the interest of all Libyans, including those in the marginalized south."

He pointed out that he had issued an appeal to Dbeibah's government to allocate sufficient funds to all municipalities.



Politics

El-Sonni to UNSC: End 13-year Chapter VII stance on Libya

Libya's Ambassador to the United Nations, Taher El-Sonni, urged on Tuesday for Libya to be released from the constraints of "Chapter VII" of the UN Charter, expressing dismay at the UN Security Council's inaction regarding the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip. In a briefing before the Security Council on Libya, El-Sonni raised the question, "Is Israel also being subjected to Chapter VII?"

The ambassador drew attention to the fact that it has been 13 years since Libya was placed under Chapter VII and questioned the Council's course of action. He asked for a resolution to the division and the cessation of direct and indirect interventions in Libya, which have escalated the situation in the country. During the session, El-Sonni expressed his belief that the UNSC session would not produce anything new "except for recurring statements and declarations." He further noted that the Security Council has done nothing to prevent arms smuggling in Libya or to identify the perpetrators responsible for such activities.

The ambassador also highlighted the need for the Security Council to provide more attention to the genocide in Palestine, stating that some members of the Council lecture others on the principles of democracy while ignoring the atrocities being committed in the Gaza Strip.

In conclusion, El-Sonni suggested, "Perhaps it's time to restore Libya's dignity and remove it from Chapter VII."



Economy

World Bank expects economic growth in Libya in the coming two years

The World Bank expected the Libyan economy to grow by a rate ranging between 4.8 and 5.8% from 2024 to 2026 provided that political stability and the oil sector in general would remain stable. It explained in a report on economic developments in the Middle East and North Africa on Monday that the budget of the Government of National Unity was almost balanced, as the improvement in government revenues was balanced by increased spending on wages and subsidies as well as part of the required recon-

struction. The World Bank expected the current account surplus to stabilize at about 26% to 28% of GDP during the period from 2024 to 2026, provided that the oil production would remain stable, noting that these expectations are subject to a great deal of uncertainty and negative risks. The report indicated that half of the working-age population is active in the labor market, and most of them (44%) work in the public sector, adding that the unemployment rate is estimated at

15.3% as of 2022, with rates among women and youth rising by 18.4% and 23.1%, respectively. The report added that competition over control of oil wealth and the pursuit of rents continued to weaken the recovery of the economy and the confidence of citizens, as the main challenges facing Libya remain in finding a peaceful solution to political divisions, improving the transparent and effective management of oil wealth, and rebuilding as well as diversifying the economy.



Economy

Elkaber meets World Bank director in Washington talks

The Governor of Libya's Central Bank, Saddek Elkaber, convened with World Bank Group Executive Director Tawqir Shah to discuss the latest economic and financial developments in Libya. The meeting held at the World Bank HQ in Washington on Wednesday also delved into the Bank's role in ensuring financial sustainability and the challenges faced by central banks in the region in tackling inflation. According to a CBL statement, the discussions encompassed strategies to bolster sustainable growth, promote economic diversification, support small and medium-sized enterprises, advance economic digitization, expand financial inclusion, and facilitate electronic payment methods. Elkaber initiated his visit to Washington last Monday, during which he engaged in meetings with the Atlantic Council, the US-Libyan Business Association, and the US Agency for International Development.



Economy

Al-Baour discusses aspects of cooperation with NEPAD

The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Government of National Unity (GNU), Taher Al-Baour, has discussed with the Executive Secretary-General of the African Union Development Agency (NEPAD), Nadros Bekele Thomassen, aspects of cooperation in a number of economic and development sectors. Both sides reviewed transportation and infrastructure projects, by linking the state of Libya to African countries closed to the Mediterranean Sea, to be a link for transit trade. It was agreed on the necessity of working to form a technical team, regarding coordination and cooperation on partnership opportunities between Libya and the agency's member states and other African countries.



Economy

LISCO inks deal with Danieli to build 2 million ton direct reduction plant

The Libyan Iron and Steel Company (LISCO) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Italian company Danieli on Monday to launch a project to construct a direct reduction plant.

In a Facebook statement, the company said the plant will produce two million tons of sponge and hot briquetted iron annually.

LISCO has shared that this venture will be a collaborative effort, with Danieli holding a majority stake of 51% and the Libyan company with 49%. Following the estimated 3.5 years of implementation, the project is expected to recover its capital within eight years.

The plant will be located within the LISCO and operate using Danieli's Energron technology, which competes with American Midrex technology.

The company also pointed out that sponge and hot briquetted iron are currently in demand in both the local and international markets and are requisites for the Italian company.



Economy

CBL Governor visits Washington to discuss Libyan economy

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, discussed with the Atlantic Council on Monday the latest developments in the Libyan economic and political situation.

The meeting, which was held at the headquarters of the Atlantic Council in Washington discussed supporting the National Oil Corporation to maintain and increase oil production rates, and working in coordi-

nation with the Finance Committee of the House of Representatives to approve a unified budget for the Libyan state.

Al-Kabir also presented the CBL's vision and policies in facing challenges to maintain the financial sustainability of the Libyan state and international geopolitical changes.

The Governor is visiting Washington these days to participate in the spring meetings

of the International Monetary Fund, which opens Tuesday, and discusses the state of the global economy and helping countries combat climate change and the most indebted countries.

Central bank governors participate in these meetings, along with finance and development ministers, academics, and representatives of the private sector and civil society.



Economy

NOC launches initiative to support country's top graduates

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has announced the revival of the initiative of 100 specialized training opportunities for the first graduates of Libyan universities in the specializations of petroleum engineering, geology, geophysics, chemical engineering, and other specializations related to the work of the sector.

The NOC explained that the initiative aims to provide scholarships to prepare for a master's degree abroad in the top accredited universities. It also includes 32 job appointments of the first universities and higher institutes in oil and gas engineering specializations.



Health

Misrata organ donation group teams up with education department for school campaign

The Libyan Organization for Organ Donation Support launched, on Monday, the "Gift of Life" campaign in collaboration with the Education Monitoring Department in Misrata.

The campaign, held at the Zahrat Al-Watan Secondary School for Girls, featured the Minister of Education, Musa Al-Maqreif, ministry officials, and members of the organ donation organization.

In his speech, Al-Maqreif expressed his wishes for the recovery of those suffering from chronic diseases, commended the efforts of the organ donation organization, and affirmed the ministry's support for its educational programs aimed at raising students' awareness of a sustainable, healthy society. It is worth noting that the Libyan Organization for Organ Donation Support is a non-governmental civil organization founded in September 2021 to help organ failure patients.



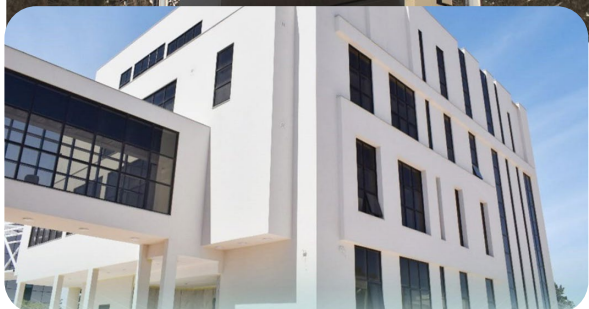
Health

Misrata Oncology Institute announces the opening of the Children's Department building

The Misrata National Institute for Oncology has announced the imminent opening of the institute's children's department building project, which is being held with the support of the Misrata Free Zone with a contribution from the Libyan Iron and Steel Company.

The institute's media office explained that the project includes a ground building and three floors with a covered area of 2,500 square meters.

The building includes reception halls for patients, 8 examination clinics, an operating room, sterilization rooms, intensive care, three rest rooms for doctors, administrative offices, a meeting hall, men's and women's waiting rooms, and a pharmacy.



Health

State of emergency declared in Kufra as displaced population brings disease outbreak

The Director of Kufra Teaching Hospital, Ismail Al-Ayda, has expressed concern about the spread of infectious diseases among displaced individuals arriving from Sudan to Kufra. He noted that the Ministry of Health has declared a state of emergency in response to this situation.

Al-Ayda described the health situation in the city as extremely critical, highlighting that a significant number of displaced individuals are suffering from infectious and potentially life-threatening diseases such as tuberculosis, AIDS, viral hepatitis, malaria, and various skin conditions.

He disclosed that between October and March, the hospital recorded approximately 798 cases of viral hepatitis, 45 cases of AIDS, 28 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, and 102 cases of malaria among the displaced population. The official warned of the potential spread of tuberculosis, particularly with the influx of displaced people from Sudan and the escalation of conflicts in Dara Fur, which is close to the coastal border of Kufra.





Sports

Libyan sports clubs asked to pay for damage caused to stadiums, facilities by their fans

The Youth and Sports Facilities Management and Investment Company called on sports clubs to take responsibility for the damage caused to stadiums and sports facilities as a result of riots and vandalism carried out by fans following football, handball and basketball matches.

The company sent letters to the relevant sports federations stating the value of the material losses resulting from the damage. It explained that during the Handball Super Cup match between Al-Ahly Tripoli and Al-Olympi Club in the February 17 Hall in Tripoli Sports City, the honorary platform and stands were vandalized, leading to major damage and to the hall being out of service, estimating the value of the losses at over 302,000 Libyan dinars.

The letter noted to the Secretary-General of the Libyan Football Federation that during a match between Al-Itti-

had and Al-Ittihad Al-Misrati on the field of Al-Nahr Stadium in the Premier League, part of the stadium wall was destroyed, and the value of the damage was estimated at 20,000 Libyan dinars.

In its third letter, the company indicated that the Suleiman Al-Darrat Complex in the city of Benghazi was subjected to acts of vandalism after the Basketball Super Cup match between Al-Ahly Benghazi and Al-Ittihad, with the value of the damage amounting to 20,028.4 Libyan dinars.

The company stressed the importance of preserving public funds and properties, pointing out the need for sports clubs and federations to cooperate in taking responsibility for the actions of their fans. It called on the concerned clubs to pay the value of the losses as soon as possible so that it can maintain the damaged sports facilities before hosting new matches.



Sports

Libya and Egypt reach semi-finals of Futsal African Cup of Nations

The Egyptian and Libyan national teams qualified for the semi-finals of the seventh Futsal African Cup of Nations (Morocco 2024), after the first won over Mauritania (7-6), and the second over Namibia (11-5), on Tuesday evening, within the third round of the matches of the second group.

The Egyptian team will meet its Angolan counterpart in the semi-finals, while the Libyan team will face its Moroccan counterpart in the same round.

The teams that occupy the first three places in this competition will qualify for the FIFA Futsal World Cup finals, which will be held between September 14 and October 6 in Uzbekistan.

Sports

Chairman of LFF says Libya to give citizenship to foreign players to join national football team



The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Libyan Football Federation, Abdul Hakim Al-Shalmani, held a press conference at the Bab Al-Bahr Hotel in Tripoli on Tuesday in which he answered many journalists' questions, which focused on the location of the six-team round, the cup competition, and the status of the national team.

Speaking about the situation of the national team, Al-Shalmani stated that he requested "the national team to be rejuvenated with elements of experience, adding that Libya could give citizenship to professional players active in the Libyan league based on the selection of the team's coach, Micho." He confirmed that the Football Federation had taken advanced steps in this regard.

Al-Shalmani said that the rumors circulating regarding the location of the six-team round are incorrect, pointing out that the location of the round has not yet been determined.

Al-Shalmani added that there is an option to hold the six-team round in Morocco or Algeria, indicating that the teams qualifying for this round will determine where it will be played.

"We still have financial dues and debts with regulated companies and hotels that have not been settled yet." He added.

Regarding lifting the ban on the Tripoli International Stadium, Al-Shalmani congratulated the sports fans in Libya and everyone who contributed to lifting the ban, pointing out that the return of the Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi stadiums will also contribute to raising the level of Libyan football, and that "the Tripoli Stadium, with its new renovation and good maintenance, has contributed greatly to lifting the ban."

Regarding bringing foreign referees in sensitive matches, Al-Shalmani explained that the clubs will bear the expenses of bringing foreign referees and that the federation will only help them in providing and bringing in referees, adding that "the next Benghazi derby between Al-Nasser and Al-Ahly Benghazi will be held with a full foreign refereeing team." He added that the Federation is currently studying that VAR technology be permanently present in league matches.

At the end of his press conference, Al-Shalmani asked the sports media to support the Football Federation "because it is part of developing its performance and raising the level of the league."



Opinions

Six months have passed with advent of Eid al-Fitr, yet Gaza is in distress

By *Shiekh Al-Sadiq Al-Gharyani, Libyan Grand Mufti*

Six full months have passed since the aggression on Gaza, half a year of genocide, killing, continuous fear and kidnapping of lives in unbearable horror. The Zionists, have treated the people of Gaza throughout this period with unspeakable brutality, so much so that they [Zionists] said one to another: Do not consider them human beings!

They left no mortal old man, no infant, no pregnant woman, no shelter, no relief convoys, no medical teams, no hospitals, and no patients in intensive care rooms. The bombers and destructive weapons are American, and the hands that brutalize the Palestinians are Zionists, share the crime equally, yet the talk is always about democracy, human rights, and the fight against terrorism, and that the Zionist entity is the only democracy in the region! with a fatal inability to provide relief even with water, for the thirsty and dying from the loss of water, in addition to relief with food and medicine!

Inability of the neighbor and relative, the brother and the partner in fate, what a shame and what a humiliation!

A call on the occasion of Eid, the occasion in which people rejoice and the people of Gaza become living increasingly in sadness, and grief!

A call to all zealous people in Arab and Muslim countries, especially in the countries neighbouring occupied Palestine, in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey!

A call to all who are jealous of the sanctities and shrines of Muslims!

Do not let the enemy single out your brothers in Gaza and Palestine. They are extravagant in exterminating them by all means, they desecrated homes and sanctities. The Zionist soldiers now deem

permissible everything, even the sanctities of women in their bedrooms!

A call to the young Muslims to be jealous of the mothers and women of the people of Gaza, for the mothers of the people of Gaza are your mothers, and the women of the people of Gaza are your women, and their sanctities are your sanctities, for the Muslims' obligation is one. The Prophet, may Allah's prayers and peace be upon him, said: "The Muslims' obligation is one, so whoever fails a Muslim, the curse of God, the angels, and all of mankind is upon him, and no ransom or justice will be accepted from him."

The Prophet May Allah's prayers and peace be upon him, said during the Farewell Pilgrimage while addressing the Muslims, including the Arab, the Persian, the Ethiopian, and the Roman: (Your blood, your money, and your honor among you are sacred), and he said: (A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim. He does not oppress him or abandon him), and in a narration: (And he does not betray him).

For the Muslims, the sanctity of their blood is one, and their obligation is one, and the lives that are lost in Gaza every day in scores, due to the loss of the helper, are as sacred as the lives that guard the enemy on the borders in Egypt and Jordan, there is no difference, all the same, and no soul is more deserving of protection than another if the helper is few and the Jihad becomes a must when the enemy invades Muslim countries.

These borders are artificial, set by the occupying enemy at one time, and prepared them for such a hateful day, to exclude us and make us states, homelands, and nations as he wanted, not one nation as the Quran calls us in His Saying:

"And indeed, this nation of yours is one nation, and I am your Lord, so fear Me", and The Almighty Says: (This nation of yours is one nation, and I am your Lord, so worship me.)

As for the fronts open against the enemy outside Palestine, their efforts are appreciated, and it is hoped that they will redouble their efforts in clashing with the enemy until they overburden and weaken it, so that they [Zionists] find themselves forced to seriously negotiate a ceasefire and lift the siege, in order to help their brothers and alleviate their suffering.

I say in this regard, the more pressure on the enemy increases on the fronts open against it, the more pressure from scholars on Muslim rulers who surrender to the enemy increases, and the more pressure increases on their subjects to blame what is taking place of genocide in Gaza on neglecting and letting them all down, and obligating them to do what they are obligated to do of support and backing, whenever they do that, the enemy and its allies reconsider their calculations and put an end to their disregard for the lives of innocent people in our homeland.

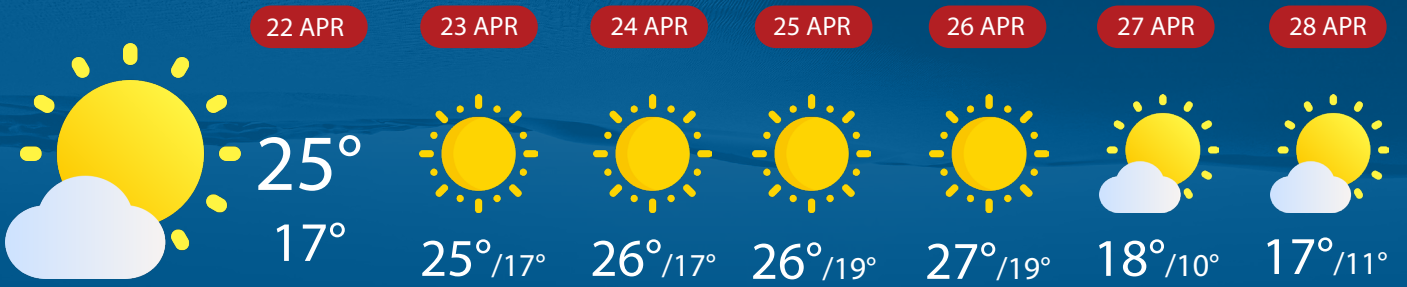
Muslims in general in all corners of the earth must not stop supporting their cause with abundant and continuous flow of money, for money is the backbone of Jihad, and they should not stop boycotting all products that support the enemy, for all of that is Jihad for the sake of Allah and defeating the enemy. The Almighty said: "Nor gain they from the enemy a gain, but a good deed is recorded for them therefore." He also said; "Peradventure Allah will restrain the might of those who disbelieve. Allah is stronger in might and stronger in punishment".

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

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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