

Politics

Tunisia tripartite meeting's statement supports Libyan unity, rejects external intervention



The final statement of the first consultative meeting of the countries of Libya, Tunisia and Algeria has reaffirmed its complete rejection of foreign interference in Libyan affairs and support for efforts aimed at holding elections in a way that preserves Libya's unity, security and stability. The statement called for adherence to the independence of national decision-making and non-interference in internal affairs, and the pivotal role of Libya's neighboring countries in supporting the authorities in the track of restoring stability and reconstruction efforts. It also called for the need to unify positions, consultation and coordination to strengthen the security elements

in the region, expressing full readiness to be part of all sincere political visions to ensure stability and to distance countries from external interference. Regarding border security, the attendees agreed on the need to support the countries of the region, protect their national sovereignty, and enhance cooperation with them at all economic and development levels, in addition to deepening consultation and information on the phenomenon of terrorism and human trafficking. They also agreed to form joint working teams to tighten coordination on protecting border security from illegal immigration and human trafficking.

The statement called for working on overcoming the difficulties that hinder the movement of citizens, goods and merchandise among the three countries and to discuss the possibility of increasing trade routes and to establish joint free trade zones. The three countries condemned the violations and crimes of genocide committed against the Palestinian people, renewing the urgent call for an immediate cessation of the Israeli occupation's aggression, with the necessity of preserving the full membership of the State of Palestine in the United Nations.

Politics

UNSMIL urges for investigating death of Libyan political activist in a Benghazi prison



The United Nations Support Mission (UNSMIL) said it was deeply saddened by the death of Libyan activist Siraj Dughman while in custody at Rajma military camp – which is in eastern Libya under the control of Khalifa Haftar's forces. UNSMIL urged authorities to conduct a transparent and independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death. "While noting the Eastern Internal Security Agency statement on Dughman's death, UNSMIL stresses that he, alongside Fathi Al-Baaja, Tarek Al-Bishari, Salem Laaribi and Nasser Daessi, was arbitrarily arrested and detained in 2023. They were never formally charged or appeared in court." UNSMIL said in a statement on Sunday. UNSMIL called for the immediate and unconditional release of all arbitrarily detained individuals,

including those detained with Dughman, reiterating its calls for accountability and stopping abductions, disappearances as well as arbitrary arrests across the country. Benghazi's Internal Security Agency justified the cause of death of the prisoner Dughman by saying he fell on his head from a high place as he was trying to escape from a WC window after climbing to the window with the help of sewage pipes. Dughman was arrested in October 2023 by the Internal Security Agency in Benghazi with a number of activists without any clear charges or accusations. The reasons for the arrest, according to the former Interior Minister Ashour Shuwayel, were related to their discussion – in a Benghazi workshop – the collapse of Derna dams. The workshop was organized by the Center for Strategic and Future Studies.

Politics



Head of HCS reviews Qatari efforts to bridge the gap among Libyan political parties

The Head of the High Council of State (HCS), Mohammed Takala, discussed with the ambassador of Qatar to Libya, Khalid Al-Dosari, the latest developments in the political situation in Libya, and Qatari efforts to reconcile the political parties within the United Nations process, in addition to reviewing bilateral relations. Takala met with the Qatari ambassador on Wednesday in Tripoli. The media office of the HCS said that the meeting "discussed developments in the political situation in Libya, and the Qatari efforts to reconcile the political parties within the international framework, especially after the failure of the initiative of the former UN envoy, his resignation, and the appointment of his deputy." The media office added that Takala's meeting with the Qatari ambassador also touched on discussing cooperation relations between the two countries and ways to develop them to serve joint interests.

Politics

Eastern authorities claim activist died in escape attempt, LCW demands investigation



Benghazi's Internal Security Agency, affiliated with Khalifa Haftar, has issued a statement to explain the circumstances surrounding the death of political activist Siraj Dagman in its prison.

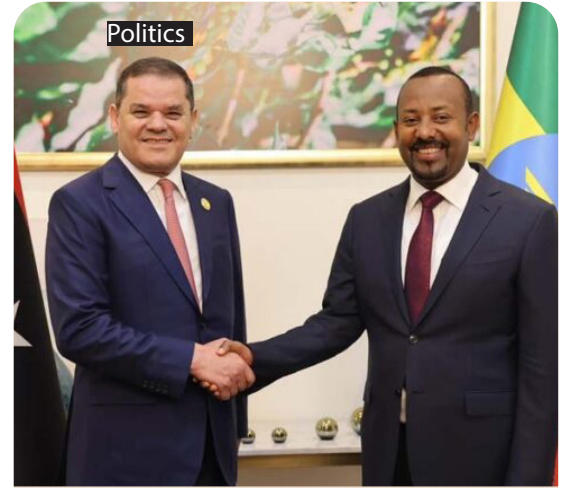
The agency claimed that the deceased died of a fatal fall from a height while attempting to escape through a bathroom window.

"The deceased's family received his body after completing all legal procedures under the supervision of the public prosecutor's office, with the cause of death determined," the agency noted. It further pledged to pursue all "funded pages aimed at spreading rumours to conceal facts and sow discord for the benefit of their financiers."

Meanwhile, Libyan Crime Watch (LCW)

called for an independent investigation into Dagman's "mysterious" death and holding those responsible accountable. The organization urged authorities in eastern Libya to immediately release Dagman's arbitrarily detained comrades without condition or restriction. Dagman was arrested last October by the Internal Security Agency along with his companions, Fathi Al-Bajka and Tarek Al-Bashari, without specific charges.

However, security sources said that Dagman and his companions allegedly insulted the "LNA" (Haftar self-styled army) and advocated for the overthrow of the government system during a workshop on the collapse of the Derna dam in Benghazi



Politics

Libyan Prime Minister Dbeibah visits Ethiopia

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah discussed with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on Thursday in Addis Ababa a number of joint economic and political files, according to a statement issued by the media office of Dbeibah's government, which added that the two sides reviewed organizing Ethiopian expatriate workers, the return of airlines to work in Libya, Libyan loans granted to Ethiopia, scheduling their repayment, and investment opportunities in the field of agriculture and animal production and a number of other fields.

On the political level, they emphasized the need for unifying and supporting efforts on the African continent to support Libya in holding elections and ending the transitional stages, while Abiy Ahmed considered Dbeibah's visit to Ethiopia an important step for the return of cooperation between the two countries after a hiatus of more than 20 years. Meanwhile, Dbeibah stressed Libya's desire to restore cooperation between the two countries in all political, economic, and security fields through consultation and communication between the two governments, and coordination on various regional issues of interest.

They also went over the forming of the Libyan-Ethiopian Supreme Committee, which had not been held since 2004, was discussed between the various institutions of the two countries, and Dbeibah invited the Ethiopian Prime Minister to visit Libya with the aim of continuing joint coordination and cooperation.

Dbeibah arrived on Wednesday in Addis Ababa, accompanied by the Ministers of Finance, Transportation, Labor and Youth, on a working visit to Ethiopia and the African Union Commission. He was received by Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tai Selassie and Libyan delegate to the Commission, Mohamed Leno.

Politics

Libyan Foreign Ministry saddened by rejecting Palestine's UN membership



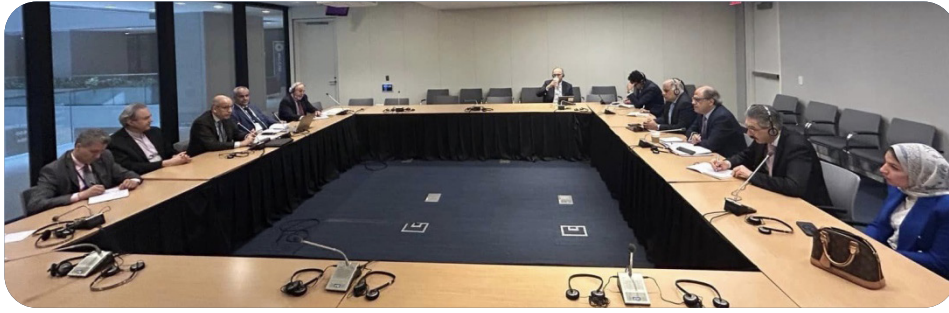
The Libyan Foreign Ministry expressed its dissatisfaction with the failure of the UN Security Council to approve the draft resolution accepting the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations.

In a statement on Friday, the Foreign Ministry called on the countries that rejected or abstained from voting in favor of the resolution to side with humanitarian values and principles of international law and to adhere to the provisions of the United Nations Charter, which grants full membership to countries committed to its provisions. The Ministry also renewed Libya's firm commitment to supporting the Palestinian Cause and finding a comprehensive and just political solution to it in a way that achieves peace and stability for the region and stops the racist practices of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinians.

The Libyan ambassador to the UN, Taher El Sonni, confirmed in his speech

before the Security Council that Palestine had fulfilled all the conditions stipulated in the "Montevideo Convention" 1933 regarding the rights and duties of states. He described the speech of the Israeli occupation delegate to the Security Council that is related to accusing him and the member states of supporting terrorism as "clownish".

El Sonni expressed his astonishment at the contradiction adopted by the UN Security Council regarding granting full membership to Palestine, saying: the Council emphasizes the importance of reviving peace based on the so-called two-state solution and obstructs membership on the other hand, stressing Libya's position that the Palestinian state should have its full right. He refused to call the Palestinian resistance terrorism, at a time when the international community remains silent about the terrorism practiced by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people.



Economy

Libyan Central Bank to start "Article IV" consultations with IMF in May

The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) announced the launching of "Article IV" consultations for the second year in a row with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) team as well as relevant state institutions at the beginning of May 2024. This announcement came during a meeting at the IMF's headquarters in Washington, DC, last Saturday, in the presence of the Governor Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, the Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at IMF, Jihad Azour, and others. The meeting touched upon preparations for Article IV consultations for the current year, after their success last year. The meeting also discussed the latest developments in the unification process, the financial and economic conditions in Libya, the Central Bank's measures to

maintain the state's financial sustainability, exchange rate stability, disclosure and transparency mechanisms, and technical support as well as training programs. Article IV of the Agreement Establishing the International Monetary Fund stipulates the holding of bilateral discussions with member states, usually conducted on an annual basis, during which a team of fund experts visits the member country, collects the necessary economic and financial information, and holds discussions with officials about economic developments and policies in that country. After returning to IMF headquarters, the experts prepare a report that forms the basis for Executive Board discussions. At its conclusion, the Director General of the IMF provides a summary of the views of

the executive directors, and this summary is sent to the authorities in the member country. The IMF resumed its direct discussions with Libyan officials on economic developments and policies in March 2023, after suspending them in 2013 despite Libya's continued membership in the United Nations' financial institution. In its last review, the IMF recommended reviewing the public spending policy, setting it at sustainable rates, the fuel subsidy policy, expanding the state's cadre, addressing job duplication, stimulating the private sector, to diversify sources of income, not relying on oil as the sole source of spending, and cleaning the database of citizens.



Economy

Al-Kabir discusses with Bank of New York Mellon combating money laundering

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, has discussed with a high-level delegation from the Bank of New York Mellon, efforts made to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. This came during a meeting held on Monday at the bank's headquarters in New York City, to review the update of the bank's compliance policies and regulations, according to the CBL Facebook page on Wednesday. The meeting discussed cooperation to benefit from the bank's experiences in the fields of technology and cybersecurity, and building capabilities.



Economy

Libyan-Maltese trade forum kicks off in Malta, talks focus on cooperation

The Libyan-Maltese Forum for Trade and Export commenced in Malta on Wednesday, with the participation of Libya's Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Hawij, the Maltese Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs, and Trade, Ian Borg, and the Libyan Minister of Maritime Wealth, Adel Sultan. The forum aims to strengthen trade exchange between Malta and Libya, boosting Libyan exports to the Maltese and African markets. The event features an exhibition and panel discussions focusing on challenges and developing strategies that serve the interests of both nations.

Economy

Libya greenlights easier investment path for China



Minister of Economy and Trade Mohammed Al-Hawij has instructed the relevant departments to streamline procedures and accelerate investment projects for Chinese companies seeking to enter the Libyan market. Al-Hawij made these directives during a meeting with Leo Jian, the Charge d’Affaires of China to Libya, aimed at discussing economic and trade relations between the two countries. The meeting grouped the Director of the Department of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation at the Ministry, the Deputy Director-General of the Authority for Supervising Insurance, and a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Inter-

national Cooperation. A statement by the Ministry of Economy on Facebook said that discussions revolved around activating and supporting the Libyan-Chinese Business Council to facilitate the private sector’s work, enhance economic and trade cooperation, facilitate visits, and establish joint cooperation committees. The Charge d’Affaires reiterated the eagerness of Chinese companies to recommence their operations in Libya, demonstrating their steadfast commitment to implementing investment projects and strengthening economic and trade ties between the two nations.



Economy

Oil, gas, and sustainable energy experts convene in Tripoli for cooperation

The Oil and Gas Technology and Sustainable Energy Conference and Exhibition commenced at the Oil Institute in Tripoli on Monday, with the participation of local, Arab, and international entities. In his opening speech, Farhat Bengdara, Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), emphasized the importance of scientific research and hu-

man resource development in the oil and gas sectors. He highlighted that restructuring the Oil Research Center to enhance its capabilities and focus on scientific research activities is a top priority for the corporation. Kamal Al-Muntasir, Chairman of the High Committee for Oil, Gas, and Sustainable Energy, said in media statements that

the conference and its exhibition are a global event aimed at bringing together various energy experts, including those in traditional and clean energy fields, both domestically and internationally. Al-Muntasir explained that the conference seeks to foster cooperation between traditional energy-producing companies and other local and in-

ternational entities interested in sustainable energy. The accompanying conferences and exhibitions aim to draw experts and specialists in traditional and sustainable energy fields. The conference includes scientific sessions, research presentations, and a workshop showcasing the research and studies presented by participants.

Economy

NOC launches initiative to support country’s top graduates



The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Saddek Elkaber, has met with the President of the African Import-Export Bank (AFREXIMBANK), Benedict Oramah, to discuss Libya’s membership in the bank and its contribution. According to a statement by the CBL on Tuesday, the parties met last Friday in Washington as part of the bank’s vision to expand its dealings with African financial institutions. They discussed the bank’s objectives, promoting exports among African countries and launching a sys-

tem for financial settlements across the continent. Elkaber began his visit to Washington on April 9th, during which he held a series of meetings with officials from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the American-Libyan Business Association, and others. In his meetings, he addressed investment opportunities in Libya in energy, infrastructure, telecommunications, healthcare, education, services, oil, gas, and renewable energies sectors.



Health

Uncontrolled epidemic feared in Kufra as HIV cases surge among refugees

The Mayor of Kufra, Abdul Rahman Okoub, has raised concern after detecting 800 HIV cases, including hepatitis, among Sudanese refugees residing in the city.

According to Okoub, 100 infected individuals have been repatriated due to concerns over disease spread, cautioning against a potential healthcare collapse and an uncontrollable epidemic, especially with a daily influx of 1000 refugees, most of whom live in rural areas.

Kufra Hospital declared a state of emergency to address an influx of Sudanese patients, many suffering from infectious diseases.

The hospital warned that if this influx persists, it will be unable to meet needs, particularly amid shortages of medications for chronic illnesses.



Health

Italian team performs spinal deformity surgeries in Misrata

The visiting Italian medical team continues to perform surgeries on spinal deformities and curvatures for a group of muscular dystrophy patients in cooperation with national medical staff within the Misrata Medical Center.

According to the Treatment Services Support and Development Agency, the operations conducted for registered and pre-filtered cases coming from various cities in Libya were all succeeded.

These efforts come within the framework of the Government of National Unity's plan to support such operations within the project to localize treatment at home.



Health

"Return to Life" project brings American doctors to Zliten Medical Centre

A group of medical professionals affiliated with the American organization NovaC are currently performing surgeries for children and newborns at Zliten Medical Centre.

According to the Medical Support and Services Development Agency, the first case concerns a child diagnosed with a ventricular septal defect.

The team aims to carry out 40 surgeries by the end of April, with a daily target of three surgeries. Libyan doctors will be present to benefit from the team's expertise, the agency noted.

The initiative is part of the "Return to Life" project, which aims to localize treatment and provide healthcare to patients domestically, thereby minimizing the need for treatment abroad, the Medical Support agency stated.



Sports

Libya beats Egypt, qualifies for FIFA Futsal World Cup

The Libyan national futsal team qualified for the 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup in Uzbekistan after defeating its Egyptian counterpart on penalties (3-1) as the third-place match of the African Futsal Championship, which is currently being held in Morocco and qualifies for the Futsal World Cup, ended 2-2.

The Mediterranean Knights have now reserved the third and final qualifying card for the Futsal World Cup, after Morocco and Angola.

The Moroccan team was crowned African Futsal Champion after its victory at the end of the tournament over its Angolan counterpart with a score of (5-1).



Education

Libya, British Council discuss teacher training with University of Cambridge

Minister of Education Moussa Al-Maqreif received Mark Knight, the Director of Examinations Operations at the British Council, on Monday to outline the framework for signing a cooperation agreement between the ministry and the University of Cambridge.

The meeting grouped the Director of the British Council in Libya, the Ministry's Advisor for Information Technology Affairs, and other officials.

During the meeting, the parties explored opportunities to develop the capacities of English language teachers through the General Centre for Training and Education Development and its offices spread across the country.



Education

National "Reading Challenge" takes off, Souk Al-Jumaa hosts first stage

The Ministry of Education launched the first phase of the "Reading Challenge" competition on Sunday at the Abdullah bin Masoud School under the supervision of the Education Directorate in Souk Al-Jumaa.

Minister of Education Musa Al-Maqreif announced in his address at the opening ceremony that the ministry intends to roll out a national version of the initiative, distributing libraries to 900 educational institutions in the near future.

Al-Maqreif emphasized the importance of such initiatives in expanding students' horizons through exploration and reading, praising the efforts of the educational community and students.

During the meeting, the Higher Committee for the Arab Reading Challenge discussed the upcoming competition and its preparatory phases, including the timeline for each category. As per the schedule, an institution-level contest will be held on the 24th of

the current month, wherein three students from each school will participate.

The Arab Reading Challenge is an initiative to promote reading among students by engaging them in reading up to five million books per academic year, thus fostering a culture of reading and improving their Arabic language skills. The program aims to raise awareness about the significance of reading and its benefits.



Opinions

What will happen following Bathily's resignation?

By Abdullah Alkabir,
a Libyan political writer and commentator

Contrary to his previous briefings, the UN envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily spoke in his last briefing in mid-April, before the UN Security Council, in a different language and a sharp tone, in which he criticized the political class, describing it as selfish at the expense of their country's interest, expressing his disappointment with them and their stubborn resistance to his initiative.

He noted the turning of the country into a playing ground, on which competition rages between regional and international parties, driven by geopolitical, political and economic interests, calling on the UN Security Council members to assume their responsibilities, to oblige all stakeholders to support the efforts of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), to restore unity and legitimacy to Libyan institutions through political dialogue.

Such departure from previous diplomatic language was a clear indication of the end of Bathily's work as a UN envoy through the submission of his resignation, which he later announced during his press conference, after about 18 months in this position, during which he did not make any achievement that would end or bring the political crisis closer to the end.

The most important question today is what comes after his post becomes vacant. As a routine administrative procedure, his deputy, US diplomat Stephanie Khoury, will assume leadership of the mission for several months, with a direct mandate from the UN Secretary-General, which does not require a vote at the Security Council. This is a repeat of the resignation of former envoy Ghassan Salamé and the US diplomat, Stephanie Williams assuming the task of heading the mission and managing the implementation of the mission and supervising the Tunis-Geneva Dialogue Forum.

Due to the difficulty that the Security Council experiences in agreeing on naming the next envoy, Khoury may continue in her position for quite some time.

Bathily's failure in his mission cannot be considered a failure of his own due to his weak abilities or lack of seriousness- the man took on the mission in an optimistic spirit, and did everything in his power to bring the main parties to the negotiating table- as much as it is a failure of the international system, represented by the major powers that have the decision in their hands at the UN Security Council, and to a less degree failure of the regional parties involved in the conflict, as the UN envoy is a representative of the interests of all these parties, which have an internal extension through their local allies, as a balancing point between all these intersecting and conflicting interests, in a crisis that has reached advanced levels of complexity.

An attempt to anticipate the post-Bathily era requires a careful return to his last briefing, in which he described the humanitarian political and economic scene accurately and realistically, without flattery or illusions. The conclusion of his speech was a warning against violating the ceasefire agreement and therefore, the country's return to armed conflict, referring to the movements of Haftar's militias to Sirte last February, and to the volatile confrontations and clashes between the armed factions at the capital and its surroundings. The political stalemate will push some armed parties to activate military solutions and change the map of alliances according to the interests of these parties.

The decline of political solutions is not only limited to local parties. Over the past weeks, arms and ammunition shipments have flowed east and west, from major countries active in the Libyan affairs, as

the British delegate to the UN Security Council indicated that Russia had sent ships loaded with weapons to the port of Tobruk, while the Russian delegate spoke about training of Libyan armed factions in the western region, carried out by a security company linked to the US State Department, and several social media pages reported the landing of the US military aircraft at Al-Watiya airbase.

This military drive by major countries is a strong indication of preparation for an influence battle taking place on Libyan soil. The conflict between the US and its allies on the one hand, and Russia and China on the other hand, is raging in multiple arenas, most notably Ukraine, and without resolving this conflict, which is unlikely at the moment, or reaching understandings that define the limits of influence and effectiveness of the major powers, the world will not settle on a new world order. Therefore, this violent and bloody labor continues, and the prevailing state of turmoil does not seem to have an imminent end.

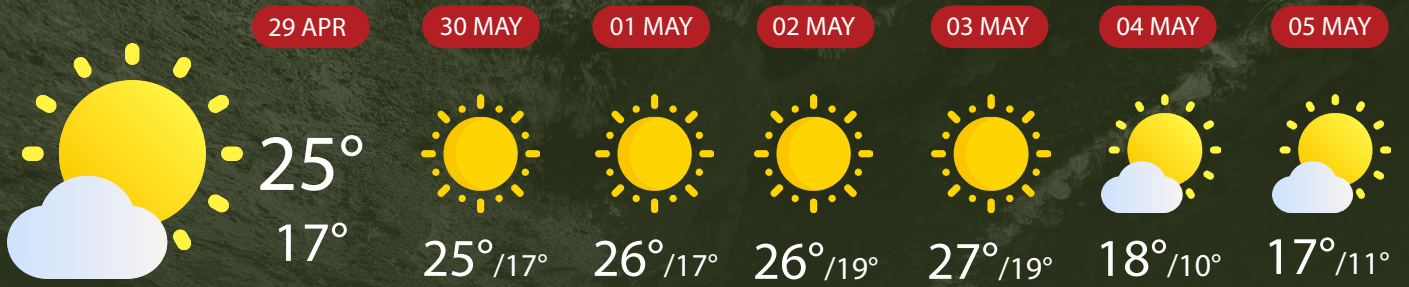
The country cannot be spared the furnace of this conflict, and distancing it from the possibility of paying heavy bills in blood and resources- in an international conflict in which we have no interest- in the presence of the ruling political class, because, as Bathily said, it [This political class] is absorbed in its selfishness, and overpowered by its narrow personal interests.

There is only one way to restore Libya and end the regional international conflict over it, which is to quickly achieve change through elections, to form an authority that represents the national will, and to overthrow all those currently in positions of power, whether their authority is derived from a political agreement, or from force and weapons.

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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