

Politics

Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Italy's Interior Ministers discuss solutions to illegal immigration



Rome hosted Thursday a meeting of the interior ministers of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Italy, where they discussed issues related to managing illegal flows of immigrants and adopting a comprehensive approach to combating the phenomenon.

Libyan Minister of the Interior Minister Emad Al-Trabelsi, Italian Matteo Piantedosi, Algerian Brahim Merad, and Tunisian Kamel Feki, in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Edmund Cirielli, who is responsible for Italian development cooperation strategies, according to the Italian Nova agency.

A post by the Ministry of the Interior on Facebook explained that security offi-

cial participants participated in the coordination meeting, to discuss cooperation on the issues of borders and illegal immigration. It added that the meeting aims to unify visions and adopt a comprehensive approach to combating illegal immigration, taking into account the interests of source, transit and destination countries, as well as setting broad lines to combat this phenomenon.

During the meeting, the Italian Minister said in order to reduce illegal immigration flows, "we must have the ambition to move from bilateral cooperation to a strategic regional approach, which can lead to a reduction in illegal flows."

The Italian Minister of the Interior stressed that "our strategic priority must

be to work to strengthen the stability of land borders, starting with the Sahel region," according to Nova.

The meeting saw discussions on strengthening the strategy for assisting voluntary repatriation thanks to the control room that would meet in the next few days, and exchanging information to combat the criminal networks that manage human trafficking, according to the Italian Ministry of the Interior. Italy and other member states in the European Union are working to limit the number of immigrants crossing the border from North Africa, and are providing funds or equipment to Libya and Tunisia to stop the departure of immigrants from their shores.

Politics

Security Council to vote on one-year extension of IRINI's mission off Libyan coast



The Security Council is expected to vote this month on a resolution renewing for one year the authorization for member states through Operation IRINI, acting nationally or through regional organisations, to inspect vessels on the high seas off the coast of Libya, bound to or from Libya, that they have reasonable grounds to believe are violating the arms embargo.

The current authorization expires on 2 June.

The Council will also receive the biannual briefing of the International Criminal Court's Prosecutor, Karim Khan, on Libya-related activities, Security Council

Report website said on Thursday.

Many Western reports revealed the continued violation of the resolution banning the arming of various parties to the conflict in Libya, accusing the Russian side of transferring equipment and ammunition, while talking about the failure of IRINI's mission.

Although some Western and European parties defended the mission saying that it succeeded during the last four years in seizing many illegal ships and thwarting smuggling operations, reports indicate that the Russian and Turkish sides were able to bring large quantities of weapons and ammunition to the parties to

the conflict, which represents a failure of the European mission. Turkey was the only country that refused to allow IRINI board its ships, and in 2020, it confronted a European force that attempted to board one of its ships.

Today, there are reports of growing Russian role in transferring weapons to the eastern Libyan region in the midst of the growing influence struggle with the West, especially after the war in Ukraine. Reports confirm that the Hariqa port in Tobruk received five arms shipments under the supervision of Russian forces, which represented a violation of UN resolutions.

Politics

United States' ex-envoy warns of Russian influence in Libya



The ex-envoy of the United States (US) to Libya, Jonathan Winer, warned of the decline and failure of the US role in Libya while Russia had been tightening its grip on the east and south of the country, adding in an article published by the Middle East Institute that Washington should stop betting on the United Nations "and its repeated and failed efforts," calling at the same time for American support for "military strikes carried out by Libyans" against the Russian presence in Al-Jufra.

Winer said that America's declining role in Libya was due to "the malicious neglect of Libya that characterized Trump's policy, and then his personal support for Haftar, which led to the crippling of American policy and the complete nullification of its influence."

The article refers to what it considers Russia's dangerous damaging role, as "the Wagner Group and the Russian forces associated with it retreated to Al-Jufra Air Base, and began to hide and build from there a wide-ranging network of sites that they use to help Haftar, thus by relying on Libya as its military base, Russia was able to expand its influence and military support to governments throughout sub-Saharan Africa."

Winer spoke about what he called "necessary steps" to review and activate the American role in Libya, and said that to have any chance of success, intense American participation must begin "reshaping an environment that has become very comfortable for Haftar and other actors in the current situation in Libya."

Politics

Interior Minister: We're coordinating with Tunisia to reopen Ras Ajdair border



The Libyan Minister of Interior Emad Al-Trabelsi announced coordination with his Tunisian counterpart, Kamal Feki, to reopen the Ras Jdir border crossing in the coming period, and to activate it by the competent agencies of the two countries.

Al-Trabelsi's statements came in a speech before the general gathering of the Ministry's recruits, which was held on Saturday at Tripoli International Airport.

Traffic stopped at the Ras Ajdair crossing on March 19 after a decision by Al-Trabelsi following armed clashes that took place on March 18.

Meanwhile, Al-Trabelsi said that the general gathering was the first of its kind in the ministry's history as it con-

veyed a positive message that the ministry was present with all its members to maintain security and stability. "The police are present today in the streets and squares, and we have been able to organize a number of security directorates in the regions, activate the border guard apparatus, and secure the state's borders. We are working to organize the border, air, and sea borders' crossings."

Al-Trabelsi reiterated that Tripoli would soon see no presence of security and military units, provided that security work is limited to the personnel of the relevant Ministry of Interior, in addition to the security of government facilities and institutions.

Politics



Atlantic Council: Billions of Russia-printed dinars have flooded Libyan market

The Atlantic Council website said in a report on Tuesday that Russia had flooded the Libyan market with the equivalent of at least 10 billion dinars in banknotes, adding that most of the money was paid to Khalifa Haftar's forces and civilian officials, and it also flooded the market with other banknotes at the beginning of 2024.

The report indicated that the Russians entered the territory and political environment of the Sahel countries with the specific aim of interfering in their internal affairs, and the destabilization extended to the economic affairs. It said that during the war on Tripoli, Russia sent approximately 4.5 billion Libyan dinars in 4 shipments from February to June of 2019.

It said that the power vacuum in Libya calls for external intervention and presents Russia as the most visible player in the region by deploying its forces at Haftar's expense there.

The Central Bank of Libya announced a few days ago the start of withdrawing the first and second prints of the 50 dinars banknotes from circulation, with the last date for accepting this denomination of Libyan currency in banks being the end of the working hours on Thursday, August 29, 2024.

Before that, the Central Bank of Libya published a presentation on the 50 dinars banknotes in circulation and it included details of the differences among four prints, including two authentic and two counterfeit ones.

Last February, the Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, said in a letter addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, that they had seized a counterfeit 50 dinars banknotes, which were widely circulated in the market, pointing out in his correspondence that the bank would take a decision to withdraw this category of currency from circulation.



Economy

Finance Ministry signs deal with IDB to propel small business growth in Libya

The Ministry of Finance has signed an agreement with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group to establish a development fund titled "Tamkeen" to support small, micro, and medium-sized projects in Libya.

"The fund aims to finance micro, small, and medium-sized projects through the economic empowerment mechanism in Libya supported by the Islamic Development Bank," a statement by the Finance Ministry said.

The agreement was formally signed on

Monday on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum meetings in Riyadh. The Minister of Finance, Khalid Al-Mabrouk, was present, underscoring the commitment to enhancing cooperation between Libya and the IDB.

During the signing ceremony, Libya was represented by a coalition of key institutions involved in the economic empowerment program, including the Central Bank of Libya, serving as the largest contributor, alongside the Ministry of Local Governance, the Rural Bank, the Credit Guarantee Fund,

the National Program for Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises, the Financial Facilities Fund, the American "Kimonics" Foundation, the French Experts Foundation, and the Regional Office of the United Nations Development Program in Libya. On the other side of the agreement stood the IDB. The ministry emphasized that once operational, the "Tamkeen" fund is poised to proactively bolster the private sector's contribution to the national economy, prioritizing key economic and social sectors in Libya.



Economy

Libyan-German Economic Forum launched in Tripoli

The activities of the Libyan-German Economic Forum began in Tripoli, sponsored by the General Union of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Libya.

This was in the presence of the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, the German Ambassador to Libya, and a number of Libyan businessmen and those interested and specialized in the field of economics and trade.

The forum discusses economic cooperation and the participation of businessmen in both countries, and also provides new opportunities to strengthen economic ties and promote common development, according to the German embassy X platform page.



Economy

CBL calls on banks to facilitate process of depositing 50 dinars banknote

The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) has called on bank managers to take all necessary measures to facilitate customer deposits of the 50 dinar banknote of the first and second prints, in accordance with the decision to withdraw it from circulation.

The CBL recommended not to impose any commissions on customer deposits for this process, indicating that the issue will be subject to evaluation and attention by the Banking and Monetary Control Department.

It also expressed its intention to conduct inspection tours to determine the banks' compliance with the instructions issued, warning that severe penalties will be applied to violating banks in accordance with the provisions of the law and applicable legislation.



Economy

Libyan Central Bank starts Article IV consultations with IMF

The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) announced the beginning of "Article IV" consultations for 2024 with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on Wednesday morning, at the IMF's headquarters in Washington D.C.

The CBL said on its Facebook page that consultations with the IMF would continue for ten days to evaluate the general economic and financial situation and

the policies and measures taken in Libya in 2023.

The CBL explained that these consultations would be joined by specialized technical teams representing the ministries of Finance, Economy and Trade, Planning, Labor and Rehabilitation, and the teams of the Audit Bureau and the National Oil Corporation.

The Central Bank indicated that the "Article IV" consultations with the IMF come after the success of last year, and following the consultative meetings of Governor Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir and his accompanying team with the IMF team, which took place on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank in mid-April.



Economy

Libya, Sudan explore security stability to enhance economic cooperation

Libyan Minister of Finance Khaled Al-Mabrouk and Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Marai Al-Barasi, held talks with the Sudanese Minister of Finance and Planning, Jibril Ibrahim, on Sudan's stability for the benefit of neighbouring countries, including Libya, which was greatly affected by the war over the past year.

On the sidelines of the Islamic Develop-

ment Bank conference in Riyadh, the two sides discussed the current situation in Sudan and ways of strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries in the fields of investment and trade, in addition to supporting the private and public sectors in the two countries.

Al-Mabrouk affirmed Libya's support for the resumption of the Islamic Develop-

ment Bank Group to finance vital projects in Sudan.

The Sudanese minister said that this meeting represents the beginning of strengthening economic cooperation between Sudan and Libya, and achieving common goals and interests that benefit the peoples of the two countries.



Economy

Bengdara, US ambassador explore energy sector cooperation for Libya

The CEO of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat Bengdara, discussed with the US Ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland, the role of NOC in enhancing economic prosperity and stability in Libya.

On his X platform, Ambassador Norland said, "Chargé d'Affaires Berndt and I had a good meet-

ing with NOC Chairman Bengdara.

He indicated that the discussion revolved around the expansion of bilateral relations within the energy sector, including renewable energy, and the NOC's commitment to carbon removal.



Health

Austrian companies express desire to invest in Libyan health sector

The Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah, has held talks with the Austrian Ambassador to Libya, Barbara Grosse, on the entry of Austrian companies to invest in the health field in the country, especially in the southern regions.

This came during a meeting on Tuesday at the Ministry's HQ in Tripoli, in the presence of the commercial advisor to the embassy and administrators from both sides.

The advisor to the Austrian embassy expressed the desire of Austrian companies to invest in the health field and their keenness to participate in medical exhibitions and conferences.



Health

Egyptian specialists lead open-heart surgeries in Misrata

The Egyptian medical team specializing in cardiac and vascular surgery has initiated the first series of open-heart surgeries for adults at the Misrata Medical Centre.

As reported by the 'Hakomitna' platform, these surgeries are undertaken in conjunction with a national support program at the centre, under the auspices of the Healthcare Services Support and Development Agency, as part of the domestic treatment localization program.

Over the next two weeks, the Egyptian team will continue to perform open-heart surgeries, with the participation of several Libyan doctors.

The initiative aims to facilitate training and skill enhancement among local medical professionals, thereby advancing the goal of treatment localization.



Health

Ministry of Health discusses with Filipino delegation contracting with Filipino medical personnel

The head of the Treatment Services Support and Development Agency, affiliated with the Government of National Unity, Ahmed Militan, received on Wednesday a high-level delegation that included a number of members of the Philippine Parliament, the Chargé d'Affairs of the Philippine Embassy to Libya, and the Assistant for Political Affairs at the Embassy.

The Director of the Health Office of the Libyan Embassy in Thailand participated in the meeting, in the presence of the Director of the Office of the head of the Agency, the Director of the Department of Planning, Investment and International Cooperation, and the Director of Financial Affairs of the Agency.

During the meeting, cooperation between the two countries in the field of the health sector were discussed, in addition to supporting for hospitals and public health centers by contracting with medical and paramedical personnel from the Philippines, with the aim of improving the quality of medical services.



Education

IELTS center opened at Misrata University

The University of Misrata has opened an IELTS center at the faculty of Arts, as part of a British partnership that enhances learning and development opportunities.

The university explained in a statement on its official Facebook account that this opening comes within a cooperation agreement aimed at developing human capacities and enhancing learning and development opportunities in the region.

The agreement was signed in the presence of the university's president, Mohamed Al-Danfour, and the Regional Director of Operations at the British Council, Mark Knight.

The university added that the British delegation toured the Faculty of Arts and the IELTS Center, which is equipped with the latest technology to receive students wishing to develop their language skills.



Education

Ministry of Education discusses with Almadar Mobile Company providing special packages for teachers

The Ministry of Education has discussed with Almadar Al-jadeed Mobile Company allocating communication package to teachers and workers in education sector at reduced prices.

This came during a meeting held by Minister of Education, Musa Al-Magarif, with Director of Commercial Department of Almadar, Ahmed Al-Dairi, during which they also discussed creating a special ID for the Ministry.

The Ministry also explained in a statement that the company's services will allow it to send messages related to the educational process directly to the teacher, and make free calls among teachers.

The services will also include making calls at a nominal price within the package, obtaining a special discount on the prices of internet packages, and other services such as salary inquiries and other services.



Opinions

Features of the US role in the post-Bathily era

By Abdullah Alkabir,
a Libyan political writer and commentator

The resignation of the UN envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, did not constitute a significant development at the local level, for several reasons, the most important of which was his inability to make any breakthrough into the crisis, and the decline of UNSMIL's role in general in almost all files. However, it is considered an important event at regional and international levels, driving countries involved in the Conflict, to prepare for all possible scenarios following the resignation.

Everyone following up on the Libyan issue is aware of the circumstances that brought Bathily to this mission, following the failure of the major powers at the UN Security Council to name a new envoy. Despite the fact that the UN Secretary-General proposed several names for the vacant position, they could not gain the consensus of the major powers at the Security Council, and in light of the continuing such disagreement they all accepted the African Union candidate, Senegalese politician, Abdoulaye Bathily.

The position is important for the major powers and their allies in the region, because all political solutions and settlements will be handled by the special envoy, and then approved by the UN Security Council.

It is very logical for all countries concerned with the crisis to prepare for the next phase, which is expected to be led by the US diplomat Stephanie Khoury, who will take over as acting head of mission succeeding Bathily, in conjunction with the return of the US embassy

to work from Tripoli, and then Khoury will receive strong diplomatic support to implement her plan, after she officially takes over and resume her duties by mid-next month.

What are the features of the US role in the Libyan crisis in the next stage?

The US move to announce the return of the embassy to work from Tripoli, then the drive for the US diplomat Stephanie Khoury to the position of deputy head of UNSMIL, to take over as head of UNSMIL following Bathily's resignation, are strong indications of greater US involvement in the crisis, by keeping the Libyan file in its hand through Khoury. The biggest motive for this new move is due to the growing Russian influence in Libya, reaching dangerous levels that require the USA to pay more attention to Libya, to protect its interests and those of its allies.

The former US Special Envoy to Libya, Jonathan Weiner, revealed, in a lengthy analytical article published by the Middle East Institute, the intense Russian military activity in Libya, that could result in the establishment of a naval base, as well as other bases in the center and south of the country, where Wagner elements are present. Besides, providing Haftar with billions of counterfeit currencies to enhance his influence and authority, and with this effectiveness, Russia expands its activity in sub-Saharan African countries.

Obviously, there is nothing new in Weiner's statement about Russian support for Haftar, as it is among the facts

spelt out in the periodic reports of UN Security Council experts, and Moscow's acknowledgement by some of its officials of such support, and its justification that it was done at the request of the authorities in eastern Libya. There is also nothing new in Weiner's article, about the failure of UNSMIL to oblige Libyan leaders to work together to reach a political solution, as well as his account about the political and military developments over the past few years.

However, what is important in Weiner's article is his call on the US administration to defend its interests, because increasing Russian presence in Libya is a threat to US national security.

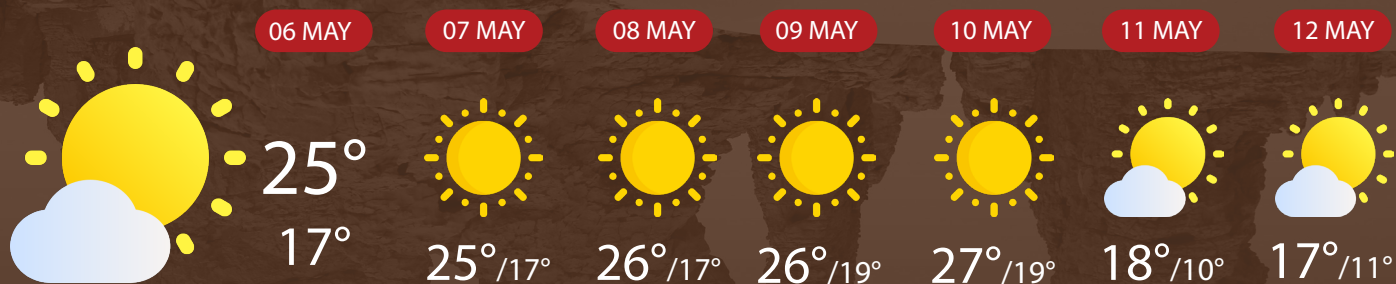
Weiner's warnings, and certainly other political figures, as well as reports from centers of research and strategic studies, and intelligence reports, seem to have found listening ears in the White House offices, prompting the US embassy to return to function from Tripoli, and Khoury takes over the leadership of the UN mission, succeeding Bathily, and some circulated reports about military training for some local factions carried out by a security company linked to the US State Department

There is no doubt that these developments are extremely dangerous, requiring all national forces to overcome their differences and conflicts, and to look at the possibility of the Russian-Western confrontation escalating to a critical point turning Libya into another arena for this confrontation, and to work together to spare the country the dangers of this scenario by all available means.

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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