

Politics

Libya's defence minister deplores EU's position towards Libyan crisis



Libyan Defence Minister, Salah El-Din Al-Namroush has strongly deplored the "negative attitude" of the European Union towards Libya, especially the Union's stance on the attack launched by Haftar's militia on Tripoli, saying it was an attack on the legitimate government that enjoys the recognition and support of the United Nations.

Al-Namroush received Tuesday, at the Ministry of Defense HQ in Tripoli, the European delegation, which included the EU Ambassador to Libya, José Antonio Sabadell, and the commander of Operation Irene, Admiral Fabio Agostini, according to a statement by the Defence Ministry on Facebook.

The statement said that Al-Namroush expressed to the EU delegation his rejection of the support that some EU countries provided to Haftar by feeding him with intelligence information.

The meeting was devoted to discussing cooperation between the EU and Libya in the area of defense, as well as the illegal immigration issue.

The EU Ambassador reiterated the block's support for all tracks that seek to support security and stability in Libya.

He said that the 5 + 5 Military Committee has been instrumental in supporting the peace process, hoping that the political team will do likewise.

For his part, Admiral Fabio Agostini gave an overview of Operation IRINI launched by the European Union and its objectives, stressing that the operation is carried out impartially and in the interest of all Libyans.

However, Al-Namroush disagreed with this view and insisted that the operation is biased, reaffirming his government's rejection of this operation if it continues to function in the same way.

"The reality on the ground is that the operation is limited only to monitoring the maritime borders while the land and air borders of the other side are open and continue to receive support from several countries," he added.

However, the Defence Minister emphasized readiness to open a new page for cooperation with the EU based on mutual trust, transparency and, respect for national sovereignty, stressing that unless the Operation IRINI covers all land, sea, and air borders, their attitude towards it will not change.



Politics

EU reiterates support for any possible election

The European Union (EU) has reiterated its support for the implementation of the upcoming elections in Libya.

This came at a meeting in Tripoli, which brought together the EU ambassador to Libya, José Antonio Sabadell, the Presidential Council head, Fayez Al-Sarraj, Commander of the EU Operation "Iriní", head of the EU Mission for Integrated Border Management Assistance in Libya (UPAM) and, the EU mission's advisor for security and counter-terrorism affairs.

The EU ambassador praised the commitment expressed by the Government of National Accord (GNA) to the UN resolutions and the outcomes of the Berlin Conference.

Meanwhile, Al-Sarraj renewed during the meeting his reservation to Sabadell and the accompanying European delegation regarding the European Irini operation, insisting that any monitoring must be inclusive of all Libyan borders.

The PC head appreciated Europe's efforts in supporting the peaceful path and the choice of elections, stressing the GNA's adherence to the national norms and principles in dealing with the situation in Libya, with a view to building a modern civil state.

The European delegation explained that the Irene operation includes air capabilities and satellites to monitor airports, airfields, and any air violations, reaffirming that their objective is to promote stability in Libya.

Other topics were also on the table including, the illegal immigration issue, as both sides agreed on the need for cooperation in facing the repercussions of this phenomenon, controlling the borders through which migrants flow, and the importance of engaging source countries.

The two parties discussed boosting cooperation in combating terrorism in all its forms, including establishing a coordination mechanism with the Libyan security and intelligence services.

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Politics

Libya, Qatar's Defense Ministries sign cooperation protocol



The Libyan and Qatari Defense Ministries have signed a cooperation protocol for training and building capabilities as well as exchange of expertise to benefit from the experience of the Qatari ministry, the media office of the Libyan Defense Ministry said Thursday.

The media office added that the signing took place in a visit by the Libyan Defense Minister of the Government of National Accord Salah Al-Namroush to Doha, where he met with his Qatari counterpart Khalid Al-Attiya as part of joint cooperation between the two countries.

The Libyan Defense Minister was given a tour inside the joint special forces and saw the training programs of Qatari special forces in anti-terrorism and other fields.

Al-Namroush also met with the Foreign Minister of Qatar and updated him on the ongoing developments in political and military fields.

She further noted that the Presidential Council's role will be limited to working on national reconciliation, and will only include three members representing the regions of the south, east, and west.

The delegates also discussed the government's competence, which will be limited to providing services to the Libyan people, such as water, electricity, and others, according to the UN envoy statements.

She pointed out that the Presidential Council and the government will be run by technocrats, but the bodies will work as separate structures.

"We have agreed to reconvene in about a week in a virtual meeting to agree on the selection mechanism for the coming authority," Williams told the reporters, noting that those who will be chosen for these positions will only occupy the posts for a short period.

However, Williams did admit that the talks ended without naming a new government to oversee the transition stage until the possible elections next year.

"No names were discussed in the meeting room" she confirmed, clarifying that the proposal to sideline all senior officials who had a role in the government since 2014 did not enjoy unanimity.

She also indicated that the proposals put forward concerning the representation of women have been welcomed.

"The voices of women and youth in the conference room were strong", Williams said, adding that they managed to achieve consensus and bridge the rift between parties.

Williams confirmed that there is still a lot of work to do and that delegates will resume talks online next week to discuss the selection mechanisms of the legal committee and the constitutional basis for the election, which will be an issue of Libyan sovereignty, according to her statements.



Politics

UNSMIL ends talks in Tunisia, calls for new round next week

The Acting UN envoy to Libya, Stephanie Williams has said she was encouraged with the outcomes of the round of Libyan direct talks, which ended in Tunisia, indicating that the delegates will resume virtual talks next week.

At a press conference on Sunday, Williams said she was "very pleased" as the talks lead to an agreement on the date of the presidential and parliamentary elections, the determination of powers, and the conditions for running for the Presidential Council and government.

The UN envoy indicated that the participants in the Libyan dialogue reached in the seventh day of discussions a consensus in three basic files, the first of which is determining the date of holding elections, the role for the executive authority, and the conditions for running for the Presidential Council.

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Economy

Global Entrepreneurship Week kicks off Monday in Libya

The Ministry of Labor and Rehabilitation has announced that the Global Entrepreneurship Week activities will kick off on Monday, in cooperation with the International Entrepreneurship Network.

The ministry added that the event will be at the Corinthia Hotel until November 22.

The activities will include seminars, conferences, workshops and online meetings, with the presence and participation of a group of local and international specialists.

"More than 12 local and international entities are expected to participate in the Global Entrepreneurship Week 2020", the Ministry concluded.



Economy

Waha Oil Company makes great progress in maintenance work of Dahra field

The Waha Oil Company announced on Saturday that the first phase of restoration works for the Dahra field, the company's largest, will continue along with connecting the site with electricity and other services.

The company indicated that these works would be followed by later phases of maintenance targeting strategic production units, which will enhance its production process and it intends to provide continued efforts to implement maintenance and development work for the plants in the field by putting them into production in the near future.

Economy

Audit Bureau approves budget for Covid-19 vaccine



The Audit Bureau has approved a budget of 9,619,000 USD for providing a Coronavirus vaccine in Libya.

The Audit Bureau confirmed in a statement on Saturday that it had received a letter from the Ministry of Health of the Government of National Accord (GNA) regarding Libya's participation in an international agreement to supply the Coronavirus vaccine.

It emphasized that the authorities must take all necessary measures, including logistic preparations concerning storage places and the transportation process to ensure the vaccine is delivered in good conditions according to the approved specifications.

The National Center for Disease Control reported on Sunday 22 deaths of the coronavirus novel driving total fatalities to 1017.

The total number of Covid-19 infections in the country has amounted to 73,602, including 28,452 active cases, in addition to 44,133 recoveries.



Economy

Turkish construction group makes a bid to develop Misrata International Airport

The Libyan Airports Authority held a meeting with Turkey's Albayrak Group on a project to draw up a general plan for Misrata International Airport.

Albayrak made a proposal, which includes the development of the airport with a total ground space of 610 hectares.

The group showed previews of the main elements of the project, including the passenger terminal, aircraft stands, cargo hangars and aircraft maintenance centers, as well as fuel supply stations.

It also displayed methods of providing the best services, both on land and in flight, to comply with the expected future growth of passenger and freight services in the foreseeable future.

Economy

Ministry of Finance: 14.4 billion dinars spent on public sector salaries over an eight-month period



The Turkish Humanitarian Relief Organization (IHH) opened a charity market for clothing in the Libyan city of Misrata in order to provide assistance to families displaced by the fighting in the country. The Turkish Consul in Misrata took part in the opening ceremony of the market at the Misrata International Fair, in which members of the Municipal Council of Misrata also participated, along with officials from the Libyan Red Crescent branch of the city.

The aim of the market, according to its organizers, is to deliver humanitarian aid to more than 1,500 displaced families across the country.

Opinions

Turkey defended Tripoli and did not attack Benghazi

By Faraj Dardour, a Libyan writer



Five countries, mercenaries, and tribal militias attacked Tripoli, yet the Volcano Rage Operation forces confronted them and killed them as a penalty for their ignorance. This essential difference should not be ignored!

Turkish help to Libya did not come until a year later at the request of a legitimate government when the Russian Wagner militias and behind them the defeated dishonourable tribes, who "provide date palm" to those militias to kill the people of Tripoli.

The defeated Haftar is still exporting his scrap to Turkey, as well as his looted money, and the youth of Benghazi are still overcrowding in Istanbul to ship goods to east of Libya, and everyone goes to Istanbul, as we need Turkey to build, pave the roads and trade which is more suitable for us.

The civil character prevails over our relationship with Turkey, especially after Libya benefited from the return of its territorial waters, which it lost due to Greece's arrogance.

The traitor Agilah Saleh, who is protected by the Russians, wanted to spoil the strategic achievement in the maritime agreement with Turkey, by visiting Greece, but he failed.

This traitor today wants to lose Libya's rights through Tunisia negotiations to satisfy the vanity of his master Haftar, who sold part of the territorial waters to Italy for a few dollars before the Government of National Accord stopped the contract.

In addition, Gaddafi's aides used to call Erdogan "the winner of the Gaddafi Prize for Human Rights".

Therefore, attention must be paid, as Turkey's relationship with Libya, which has spanned hundreds of years, is in favor of Libya in the west, east and south, and it cannot be discussed. Turkey dealt very late with the legitimacy in Libya to defeat the rebels and forced them to stop fighting and to utter peace out of fear.

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

Libya to buy Coronavirus vaccine



The Head of the Supreme Advisory Committee to Combat Coronavirus, Khalifa Al-Bakoush, said on Sunday that the committee, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, has already begun to take all the procedures to obtain 6,000 Coronavirus vaccines.

Al-Bakoush added in a press statement that the vaccine will be distributed in the first stage to the groups most vulnerable to infection with the virus, such as medical and paramedical staff, the elderly and people with chronic diseases.

He also indicated that the first batch of the vaccine will be provided early if the financial procedures are completed this week.

Health

Disease Control Center kicks off seasonal influenza vaccination campaign



The seasonal influenza vaccination campaign was launched on Monday, according to the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC).

The NCDC stated that the target groups for vaccination are health workers, pregnant women, and elderly people above 60 years, along with people who suffer from chronic illnesses.

The Executive Director of the Tripoli Vaccination Department, Sadiq Al-Bahil, stated that the BCG and seasonal influenza vaccinations are freely available to the target groups and have been distributed to all health facilities around the country.

Health

UNICEF allocates \$ 750,000 to support children in Libya



The "Education Cannot Wait" Initiative has allocated 750 thousand USD to support around nine thousand children affected by the conflict in Libya, UNICEF has said.

The organization explained on its website that the closure of schools since last March to limit the spread of the Covid-19 left at least 1.3 million students out of school, while conflict-affected children and adolescents were unable to access various essential services.

UNICEF emphasized that the initiative would enable it to help children in Libya, including students with disabilities and children from vulnerable groups, such as internally displaced persons, migrants, refugees, and host communities.

Health

Anti-Coronavirus Committee renews call to adhere to precautionary measures



The Head of the Supreme Advisory Committee to Combat Coronavirus, Khalifa Al-Bakoush, has stated that the health situation in Libya is less dangerous compared with other countries, calling on citizens to adhere to all precautionary measures to ensure the safety of all.

Al-Bakoush and the Minister of Interior, Fathi Bashagha stressed in a joint meeting the need for cooperation between the Ministry of Interior and the Anti-Coronavirus Committee to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Bashagha called for intensifying the efforts among all security services and health authorities to address the pandemic.

Health

Isolation centre in Zliten full as Covid-19 cases continue to rise



A source from Zliten has warned that the isolation center in the city is in a deteriorating situation.

The source explained that the isolation centre recorded an increase in the number of admissions lately, putting pressure on the medical staff and equipment.

The isolation centre is full. The patients that came to the centre today were accommodated in 4 ambulances and two private cars, while doctors had to transfer the equipment to the vehicles, according to the same source, noting that the fatalities have amounted to 60 cases since the center opened.

Activists on social media posted pictures from outside the isolation center of Zliten, showing doctors providing medical services to those infected inside ambulances.

The centre's staff appealed to the Ministry of Health and the private sector to offer help before the situation gets out of hand. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Zliten has registered 2868 coronavirus infections, including 1871 active cases and 924 recoveries, while 60 people have died of the disease, the city's crisis centre for control and monitoring the coronavirus situation said on Monday.

Travel

Libyan Airlines resumes flights to Tunisia



Libyan Airlines announced that it will resume flights to Tunisia, starting from Monday, after months of suspension due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Libyan Airlines' media office said on its official Facebook page that the service will include three flights a week.

According to the health protocol signed Libya and Tunisia, all flights will resume in accordance with strict health measures, which will include procedures facilitating the movement of travelers and exchange of goods and services, along with precise measures which must be adhered to by both Tunisian and Libyan citizens during their movements between both countries as part of the prevention of the Coronavirus pandemic.



Sports

Libya loses 1-0 to Equatorial Guinea

Libya lost 1-0 to its host Equatorial Guinea on Sunday evening, at Malabo Stadium, in the fourth round of the qualifiers for the 2022 African Cup of Nations in Cameroon.

Equatorial Guinea dominated the ball for an extended amount of time keeping Libya's defense under pressure throughout the match. The stalemate was broken in minute 27 after Guinea's Eban Salvador fired a shot.

The Libyan goalkeeper was unable to react in time, and the ball ended in the far side of the net to put Guinea up 1-0.

The Mediterranean knights tried to come back and end the match with a draw, but Guinea's team proved to be defensively sharp and managed to keep their net clean.

With no points added, Libya remains trailing in the bottom of the tenth group, while Equatorial Guinea raised its score to six points in second place behind the leaders Tunisia team with nine points, while the Tanzania team remained in third place with three points.

Migration

Doctors Without Borders: Migrants drowned off the coast of Libya as a result of European policies



Doctors Without Borders has said that more than 100 people drowned at sea after their boats were destroyed in a timeframe of less than 72 hours off the Libyan coast, adding that this was as a direct result of policies of European countries.

The organization indicated that six rescue ships, belonging to non-governmental organizations, continue to be banned by the Italian and European authorities, rendering them incapable of resuming life-saving operations under the cover of 'concerns about the safety of navigation', according to a statement.

It confirmed that practically 700 people have lost their lives across the Mediterranean this year alone.

Elections

HNEC Chairman says any electoral process requires political consensus to succeed

The Chairman of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC), Imad Al-Sayeh, confirmed on Saturday that the HNEC is following with great interest the ongoing political dialogue in Tunisia and the roadmap proposed by the Acting Head of the UN Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Stephanie Williams, which includes the referendum on the constitution and holding parliamentary and presidential elections.

He also indicated that any electoral process cannot succeed without the availability of many elements, most notably the consensus and political agreement between all parties, in addition to an election law that guarantees the voter democracy rights.

Elections

Libya to hold elections in December 2021



The Acting Head of the UN mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Stephanie Williams said on Friday that the participants of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), which is being held in Tunisia, have agreed to hold constitutionally-based elections on 24 December 2021.

"December 24 is Libyan Independence Day, a very important day for Libyans but it will also be a critical day in the history of Libya", Williams said in a press conference, adding that "it will be a time, on which the Libyans can democratically elect their leaders and renew the legitimacy of their institutions."

Williams added that a new Presidential Council and a unified government of national unity will be formed, stressing that the UNSMIL and its international partners will not propose or impose any specific names.

She also praised the Joint Military Commission (JMC)'s work to reopen the coastal road, confirming that the JMC has made already great strides with resumption of flights throughout the country as well as the full resumption of oil.

weather

The
Weather
Channel

Tripoli Weather Forecast








| | | | | | |
|--------|---------|---|-------------------------|-----|-------------|
| Fri 20 | 22°/14° |  | Rain | 80% | NW 24 km/h |
| Sat 21 | 19°/13° |  | Showers | 60% | W 20 km/h |
| Sun 22 | 20°/13° |  | Scattered Thunderstorms | 50% | SE 11 km/h |
| Mon 23 | 21°/14° |  | Isolated Thunderstorms | 40% | NE 14 km/h |
| Tue 24 | 20°/15° |  | Showers | 40% | WNW 18 km/h |
| Wed 25 | 20°/14° |  | Showers | 60% | NW 16 km/h |
| Thu 26 | 20°/14° |  | AM Showers | 40% | WNW 14 km/h |

Photo of the Week: A group of girls attending a course on how to make dolls



Features

Tadrart Acacus



Tadrart Acacus is a World Heritage Site, well known thousands of prehistoric cave paintings, dating from 12000 BC to 100 AD, and its alien-like, jagged landscape of bizarre basalt monoliths, towering granite mountains (the highest point being 1506m), endless wadis, and mushroom-shaped rock formations.

The rock-art sites of Tadrart Acacus are found in a vast area of desert landscape around the town of Ghat in south-western Libya.

The area includes the Acacus mountain range, and borders the Tassili N'Ajjer world heritage site in neighbouring Algeria. Together with the Tassili N'Ajjer, it is the premier rock-art area in the world, with hundreds of engravings and thousands of paintings.

The Acacus was included on the World Heritage List only based on criterion III: an exceptional testimony to a series of civilizations which have disappeared.

Tadrart Acacus contains some of the most extraordinary scenery in the world and has its unique natural wonders: dunes, isolated towers emerging from the sand and eroded into the most bizarre shapes, petrified arches, and canyons carved by ancient rivers.

This territory has outstanding universal value for the quality and density of its rock art engravings, for the substantial evidence the collection of rock art images presents for hunting, fauna, flora and lifestyles in pre-historic times and for the cultural continuity between prehistoric and mediaeval times that the site reflects.

Tadrart Acacus has thousands of cave paintings in very different styles, dating from 12,000 BC to AD 100, bearing traces of the different phases of the Palaeolithic. For example, in Wadi Tashwinat, there is an intricate network of caves, which provided shelter for prehistoric people for thousands of years. In Wadi Tanshalt there is some of the best rock art in the southern parts of Acacus, with scenes of cows, stylized human figures, and ancient Tuareg Tifinagh inscriptions.

In Wadi Anshal there are elephant and giraffe engravings, and paintings of women, and in Wadi In Ferdan hunting scenes of humans carrying bows and arrows in pursuit of animals.

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