



The Libyan Foreign Minister Mohammed Sayala said Monday there are some countries that are fueling conflicts in Eastern Mediterranean for "revenge", warning of "confrontation and clashes" and hailing Turkey's proposal to hold an international conference on the region's issues.

In a meeting with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in Antalya, Sayala said the Mediterranean is a priority for international and regional policies and a basis for rivalry or even conflict, according to the Libyan Foreign Ministry.

"Signing the border demarcation MoU in the Mediterranean between Libya and Turkey was a cooperation based on legal and legitimate laws locally and internationally. The MoU was approved by the UN. The MoU isn't against any country and doesn't encroach on any country's territories," Sayala said.

He also criticized "rushing" to sign similar agreements by some countries and "forming geopolitical alliances" like the EastMed Gas Forum, which didn't take into account the interest of countries as they were just a reaction move.

"The entry of some countries which aren't part of the Eastern Mediterranean region into the situation and their attempts to undermine the Libya-Turkey agreement and to fuel the conflict for revenge's sake made things more complicated", Sayala said, reiterating strong relations between Libya and Turkey in all fields.

"Turkey was among the first countries to assist Libya's GNA in the tough times in the last two years, which led to more hopes for reaching a political settlement to the conflict," Sayala remarked.



The Minister of Defence, Salah al-Din al-Namroush, has underscored that the Libyan army did not liberate Sirte from the ISIS terrorist group to hand it over to the mercenaries and criminals.

His remarks came yesterday, to mark the fourth anniversary of the liberation of the city of Sirte from the extremist organization at the

hands of "Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous" forces, affiliated with the internationally recognized Government of National Accord (GNA).

On the 6th of December 2016, the GNA forces defeated ISIS in their final stronghold in Algiza district in Sirte, bringing an end to eight months of combat and the rule of the terror group in the city.

"The 6th of December is a feast day for all Libyans, in this day, the heroes of Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous wrote an epic and brought pride to the future generation," Al-Namroush said.

Minister Al-Namroush promised the "killers" regardless of their nationality, who came to Libya to carry out terrorist attacks that they would face the same fate.

"What is happening today is similar to what happened four years ago; the enemy is one, even if the names differ," Al-Namroush added, stressing that the Libyan army would continue its approach towards all criminals until regaining control across the country.



Qatar criticizes double standards with respect to Turkish role in Libya

The Foreign Minister of Qatar, Mohamed Bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, has condemned what he described as 'double standards' when accusing Turkey of interfering militarily in Libyan affairs.

Al-Thani added in a press statement during the Mediterranean Dialogues in Rome that "Ankara clearly supports the Government of National Accord, the legitimately recognized government by the United Nations along with the entire international community."

He pointed out that the countries which clearly support Khalifa Haftar have not been accused of interfering militarily in Libya, saying that countries in the region should separate their regional interests from the conflict in Libya by putting the interests of the Libyan people at the forefront.

advertise with us

+218-94-588-32-10

ad@libyaobserver.ly



Politics

Haftar's forces detain Turkish commercial ship carrying medicines to Libya

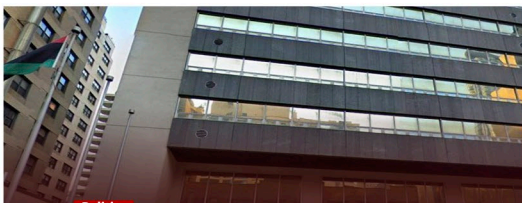
Khalifa Haftar's forces intercepted Tuesday a Turkish commercial ship as it was heading to Libya's Misrata carrying medicines on board, saying the ship was "violating instructions".

The spokesman for Haftar's forces, Ahmed Al-Mismari said on Twitter that Mabrouka Ship (with the Jamaican flag and owned by a Turkish national) was detained in Libyan waters because it had entered "a restricted area and failed to comply with instructions or respond to calls".

Al-Mismari said the ship was then tugged to Ras Al-Hilal port and the crew (9 Turkish nationals, 7 Indians and 1 Azerbaijani national) were placed under interrogation for violating maritime laws.

Al-Mismari also told pro-Haftar Al-Hadath TV that the Turkish ship was carrying medicines to Misrata but entered a restricted area in the sea, claiming to have contacted the ship by many calls but to no avail.

He also said that they had to approach the ship on boats and then the naval personnel entered it to see it was carrying medicines, adding that the captain didn't follow the necessary procedures as he entered a restricted area without a prior permission, yet the ship was positively not carrying any weapons.



Politics

PC to reduce staff of Libya's mission to UN

The Presidential Council has approved a proposal submitted by the Foreign Ministry to downsize the Libyan mission to the UN in New York and minimize its expenses by 30 percent, Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, Muhammad Al-Qiblawi, has confirmed.

Al-Qiblawi explained that this measure comes within the framework of the ministry's policy to re-evaluate the work of Libyan embassies and missions and its efforts to rationalize expenditures by reducing the number of diplomatic employees abroad.

He pointed out that the proposal has been drafted in cooperation with the Libyan mission in New York, which seeks to be a model for the rest of the embassies and missions.

"Restructuring the Libyan mission in New York, reducing its staffing and following a policy of austerity abroad, in the interest of the current financial and economic situation, comes in line with the recommendations of the financial regulatory authorities," Al-Qiblawi added.



LPTIC to sign sponsorship deals with clubs across Libya

The Libyan Post Telecommunications & Information Technology Company (LPTIC) launched on Monday an initiative in which it offered to sponsor Libyan football clubs across the country, and many clubs have already agreed to the deal, according to the LPTIC.

The company signed its first deal, on Monday with Al-Ahly Club, of Tripoli, and Al-Ahly Benghazi, at the company's HQ in Tripoli.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of several officials, including the LPTIC Chairman of the Board of Directors Faisal Qarqab, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Libya Company, Abdel Moneim Al-Hajjaji, as well as the President of Al-Ahly Benghazi Khaled Al-Saeiti and the President of Al-Ahly Tripoli Sassi Abu-Oun.

The LPTIC chair stressed that the telecom sector is actively seeking to support youth, with the view to share the burden of challenges the country is experiencing, indicating the need to align behind young people and back them in all aspects.

He also stressed the importance of the role of sports in healing the rift between the people of one nation.



Economy

CBL governor, UK ambassador discuss return of British companies to Libya

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Sadiq Al-Kabir, has discussed with the UK ambassador to Libya, Nicholas Hopton a number of issues for supporting and strengthening bilateral relations.

This came during a meeting held on Monday, at Al-Kabir office in Tripoli, in the presence of the political and economic advisors of the British Embassy.

The meeting also touched on ways to activate the role of the private sector and the return of British companies to resume their work in Libya, in addition to the importance of the role of the CBL at this stage.

advertise with us

+218-94-588-32-10

ad@libyaobserver.ly

Economy

Libya's Central Bank full board holds meeting for first time in 6 years



The board of directors of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) held Monday a full-quorum meeting for the first time in six years to discuss fixing exchange rates of the Libyan dinar to foreign currencies. The CBL said the preliminary meeting aimed to activate the role of the board as per the law and discussed stability of prices and support to the banking system.

The CBL also said the meeting looked into options for fixing the exchange rate of the Libyan dinar to achieve long-run fiscal and monetary safety toward more broad reforms in the Libya's financial policies.

The technical committee of the Central Bank branches in Tripoli and Al-Bayda held a meeting Sunday that proposed fixing exchange rates of the dinar to foreign currencies and the positivity of that meeting led to Monday's statement for the full board in a first in six years, ahead of agreement on a rate to be announced later.



Libya's November oil revenue exceeds \$700 million

The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced that exports of crude oil, gas and condensate, petroleum products and petrochemicals for the month of November 2020 have amounted to over \$700 million with an increase of %204 from last October.

The National Oil Corporation added in a statement that the revenues of November 2019 were over \$1,6 billion, noting that previous years' debts of over \$37 million have been collected from Oil Investment Company and the entire revenues

The National Oil Corporation added in a statement that the revenues of November 2019 were over \$1,6 billion, noting that previous years' debts of over \$37 million have been collected from Oil Investment Company and the entire revenues are kept in the National Oil Corporation's accounts at the Libyan Foreign Bank, including the entire operations and subsequent settlements.

The National Oil Corporation said it has always been publishing all the data related to oil revenues on a monthly basis since January 2018 in order to ensure the application of the principle of transparency.



Economy

Ministry of Finance, USAID agree on partnership to enhance public financial management in Libya

The Ministry of Finance and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) have signed a letter of cooperation that defines a reference framework for strengthening cooperation and partnership between the two parties in the field of improving public financial management and implementing economic reforms in Libya.

The partnership between USAID and the Ministry of Finance is based on shared values to strengthen the foundations of a unified Libyan state as the Libyan relevant authorities work to reinforce the state's capacity to improve public financial management, promote fiscal transparency, and fight corruption, according to a statement by the Ministry of Finance.

Finance Minister Faraj Abu Matari and the US ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland, oversaw the signing of the agreement, which took place in the Tunisian capital between the Director of Institutions and Technical Cooperation at the Ministry of Finance, Mustafa Kishadah, and the Executive Director of the USAID, John Pinel.

Opinions

The Miserable House of Representatives and its eagerness to continue

By Issa Baghni, a professor interested in Libyan affair



The House of Representatives that was forgotten a long time ago, suddenly, and without any introductions, it convenes with more than 120 members and holds a session outside the country..

The House of Representatives, which was divided five years ago and gave its members open leave to spend in Sharm El-Sheikh, Agadir and Istanbul, and cost the state more than a billion and a half dinars in salaries, gifts and travel, and allowed the thug, Faraj Abu Akouz, who is conspired with its speaker, Aqilah Saleh, to disrupt its sessions, however, it comes out to us today to defend Freedom and maintaining the democratic path.

The House of Representatives, which was monopolized by a group of utilitarians whilst their colleagues kept silent from them, it agreed to appoint Haftar as commander-in-chief of the army and supported him in his aggression against many Libyan cities, destroying their infrastructure, displacing youth, killing children and fathers. Now, its members forgot all this and shook hands with the criminal.

From a legal point of view, the House of Representatives and the High Council of State are nothing, according to the rulings issued by the Libyan judicial courts, including the Supreme Court and Al-Bayda Court ruling to nullify the February committee's consensus, as well as the expiration of their term on the council.

But what prompted these people to meet and motivated them to hold a session in Tangiers that was prepared within hours while they were not reunited in Libya for six lean years.

In fact, there is an important thing that awakens many of them, which is the determination of the UN mission to exclude the House of Representatives and the High Council of State from the Libyan scene after the formation of the Intra-Libyan Dialogue (75-member committee), which will become the committee entrusted with nominating and electing members of the new government and the Presidential Council and searching for a constitutional formula for the upcoming elections. Thus, high salaries, travel, gifts, favors, and the evening interviews on the TV channels will be disappeared, and the claim of electoral legitimacy and finding a constitutional formula for the elections will be ceased after setting the elections date and the approval of the High National Elections Commission on that.

The meeting, which was held in Tangiers, Morocco, is just like a 'benefit marriage, (Misyar)', a meeting between two contradictors who differ in thought and behavior will not last for long, it aims to withdraw the rug from the UN body to abolish the intra-Libyan Dialogue Committee, and as soon as they meet in Libya, if they would, several problems will arise, including changing the presidency of the House of Representatives, where will the meeting take place? the dilemma of changing the internal system and agreeing on it, changing the electoral law of the crooked constitution, and the ways of quotas in the division of Sovereign positions, all of which haunts Haftar's imagination and the countries supporting him, such as Egypt, Russia and UAE, and his striking forces in eastern Libya.

One of the disadvantages of the democratic system is the delivery of utilitarians and climbers to power. Some Islamic groups and Gaddafi's thought may be relatively correct in that. However, the democracy brought Hitler, Mussolini, Putin, and finally Trump to the rule of states for many years, but these periods remained among the black pages of those nations, and there is no doubt that the current parliament period is of this kind.

These three councils, which are the Presidential Council, the House of Representatives and the High Council of State are responsible for prolonging the war. When the free Libyans in the east of Libya were battling the forces of dignity operation, the three councils turned a blind eye to their support until Benghazi and Derna were destroyed. And while they were in slumber, Haftar seized the south and reached 7 kilometers from the heart of the capital, Tripoli.

Houses were destroyed, families deserted, and the homeland was violated from all the world, including infidels mercenaries, war merchants and starving slaves.

And when Turkey supported the vital force of the seventeenth revolutionaries that fighting Haftar forces, who were repelled and driven out with a terrible defeat for 450 kilometers east of Tripoli in a few days, the previous councils moved to stop the war and save Haftar and his supporters from leaving the Libyan scene in agreement with Russia and Egypt, and pressuring the fighters to stop the fighting. Therefore what could have been gained at that time in hours today needs months, but becomes impossible!!

Today we present an appeal to the members of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State to "raise your hands and delay a little bit or rather hide from the scene for a period of time until there is an effective constitution, a parliament and an elected government in which you have the right to honest competition, as you are not used to do, with the exception of the few who believe in change for a better Libya". As for the Libyan people and their living forces, they must reject the hoaxes of the councils that are artificial and who are extending their validity by their own.

'A man shall not be stoned twice out of one and the same hole', so how to continue after six years of abuse in the name of electoral legitimacy!!! And go through that same old mess all over again.

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

WHO holds workshop on combating the Corona virus in Sirte

The World Health Organization (WHO) concluded a training workshop on combating the spread of the Coronavirus in the city of Sirte on Tuesday.

The organization said through its Twitter account that the workshop covered various aspects, most essentially, methods of diagnosis and how best to deal with the infected cases struck by the Covid-19 pandemic.

At least 40 doctors, along with nursing and laboratory staff in the city attended the workshop.

The WHO also indicated that the workshop was supported by the Central Fund for Emergency Relief, sponsored by the United Nations.



Health

University Hospital of Tripoli mourns loss of x-ray technician to Covid-19

The University Hospital of Tripoli has mourned one of its staff, "Abu Bakr Abu Al-Azoum," who died of coronavirus on Saturday. "Abu Baker was an x-ray technician and one of the most active members in his profession. He was loved and respected by all his colleagues as well as patients," a statement by the hospital said on Facebook.

Social media users commenting on the hospital's post, most who say they know him, expressed their grief for his loss, saying that despite the pressure of work at the hospital, he always had a smile on his face and was an absolute pleasure to know.

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus in Libya last March, the Health Ministry mourned several doctors who lost their lives after contracting Covid-19 while treating infected people at hospitals.

The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed last August that eight health workers in southern Libya had contracted the Covid-19 in the first two weeks of that month, expressing concern about the rapid spread of the coronavirus in Libya.



Health

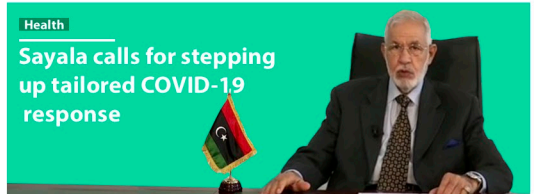
Sanallah follows up work of developing oil clinic in Tripoli

The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mustafa Sanallah, made an inspection visit to the oil clinic in Tripoli to follow up the progress of work on the restoration and development of the clinic.

During the visit, Sanallah listened to comprehensive explanations by the administration of the clinic and the implementing company.

The clinic development project came to meet and improve the medical services for workers and employees in the oil sector and their families and to keep pace with the development in global medical services.

NOC seeks to implement similar projects in Benghazi, Sabha and some of its areas of operations next year in the hope of obtaining the necessary budgets, according to its official Facebook page.



Health

Sayala calls for stepping up tailored COVID-19 response

The Libyan mission to the United Nations participated in the 31st Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that took place on Thursday.

Libya's pre-recorded statement was given by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sayala, on behalf of Prime Minister Fayez Al-Sarraj.

Sayala expressed hope that the convening of this special session would contribute to strengthening international solidarity, cooperation, and unit efforts towards confronting the epidemic.

"The pandemic has caused heavy human losses and triggered a crisis at the humanitarian and economic levels," Sayala said.

He stressed the need to step up collective efforts and collaboration to save all people's lives without discrimination through a comprehensive strategy with coordinated, swift, and decisive human dimensions, based on respect for human dignity and the right to life.

"All should have access to means of response to address this epidemic," he underscored, welcoming in this regard the announcement of finding viable and safe vaccines.

Sayala expressed his aspiration to enhance the World Health Organization's role in coordinating efforts to ensure the vaccine is made available to everyone everywhere.



Art

Libyan artefact found in Algerian province of Batna

A Libyan artefact dating back to the pre-Roman era has been found at the archaeological site "Kerkour" in the Seriana region of the Algerian province of Batna, the Algerian news agency reported on Monday.

The agency quoted the head of the Algerian Culture and Arts, Omar Kebour, as saying that the importance of this piece lies in the fact that the site may be part of a larger archaeological area in the Seriana region, which dates back to a period before the Roman presence in the region.

Kebour indicated that this is the second artefact piece to be discovered at the same site, where the first piece was found two years ago, noting it is currently kept in the Timgad Museum.

The Algerian director of culture and arts stressed that this piece is new evidence that confirms the validity of what some archaeologists said years ago that all the archaeological sites in the region are not Roman.

"This highlights the likelihood that the inhabitants of this area have reached the apex of civilization over the ages, which is writing," Kebour explains.



Culture

The Antiquities Authority, University of Palermo review resuming work in ancient Sabratha

The First Secretary of the Italian Embassy has conducted a visit to the Antiquities Authority in Tripoli, where he was received by the head of the authority Dr. Muhammad Faraj al-Falous.

The two parties discussed, in the presence of the Director of the Projects Department and head of the International Cooperation and Information Office, cooperation in the fields of training, human capacity development, especially with regard to archiving, and the preservation of archaeological sites.

The meeting dealt with means of finding financial support to deal with the erosion that occurred at the excavation site of the Italian Palermo University in the ancient city of Sabratha, as well as supporting other archaeological sites in Leptis Magna.

In a statement to The Libyan Observer, the authority's media office said on Tuesday that the Italian mission of Palermo had previously covered the eroded area in Sabratha with wood.

However, the mission ended its work several years ago, and the floor now is weak and requires upkeep due to climatic factors, the authority's media office added.



Education

Libya's Ministry of Education and UNICEF discuss joint work plan for 2020-2021

The Ministry of Education held a meeting on Monday with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to discuss the joint work plan for 2020-2021, in addition to some educational and training files.

The meeting came within the framework of implementing the joint work plan signed between the Ministry and the UNICEF in May 2019.

The meeting also reviewed the UNICEF work mechanism and its executive program in supporting the education sector and defining its work priorities in particular.

Life Volunteers maintain road linking Hun, Sukna and Waddan



A group of volunteers from the cities of Hun, Sukna and Waddan in central Libya have completed the maintenance and restoration of the road linking the three towns, over a period of four consecutive days.

Engineer Imran Al-Tuhami, one of the prominent members of the work team, told the Libyan News Agency that this road, which has been suffering for several years from cracks, is one of the most important roads linking the three towns to each other, in addition to being a linking and crossing road to areas from the east, west and south of the country.

Al-Tuhami said that all the volunteers are fully prepared to work and make efforts in any Libyan municipality, region, city or village that needs a serious stand.

weather

The
Weather
Channel

Tripoli Weather Forecast


Fri 11	19°/15°		Partly Cloudy/Wind	20%	WSW 35 km/h
Sat 12	22°/15°		Partly Cloudy/Wind	25%	W 33 km/h
Sun 13	18°/15°		AM Showers/Wind	35%	WNW 41 km/h
Mon 14	18°/12°		Partly Cloudy	20%	NW 27 km/h
Tue 15	19°/11°		Partly Cloudy	5%	W 14 km/h
Wed 16	20°/12°		Partly Cloudy	5%	SSW 9 km/h
Thu 17	21°/13°		Partly Cloudy	10%	S 12 km/h

Photo of the Week



Features

In light of the poor government support positive initiatives to save the health sector



A group of youth from Maslata city east of Tripoli launched a campaign entitled "Strive To Leave An Impact", to support Maslata General Hospital and improve the health services provided to the public.

The campaign recently contributed to equipping the hospital with an oxygen plant and held a training course for midwives.

The group also assisted in developing the men's ward by carrying out some maintenance work for the main hall, toilets, and other facilities, besides providing the ward with hospital beds.

The Libya Observer spoke to one of the young men engaged in this initiative, who told us that their campaign began small, but "good deeds always bloom" he says.

The hospital's emergency department was receiving sick and ill people around the clock with limited capacity and deteriorated services, so it was the starting point for the group, back in 2015.

Their eagerness to do something towards this deteriorating situation impressed some of the city's businessmen who offered to fund the maintenance work at the emergency department.

But soon their work was inspired by the community and the donations began to pour. After having received so much they decided to expand their work and went on to conduct comprehensive maintenance to the entire department and even established a resuscitation department, which was provided with all of its needs including equipment and furniture.

Member of the "Strive To Leave An Impact" campaign affirmed that they would continue their volunteer work, with the help of local people, indicating that there are other projects under study, including the maintenance of the care department.

Despite these positive and encouraging initiatives, such activities highlight how much the health sector is suffering.

As the Coronavirus continues to spread in Libya, officials and doctors are criticizing the government's performance saying the health sector lacks the readiness to respond to the pandemic, despite the 3.2 billion dinars and the 966 million dinars announced by the government for the Ministry of Health to tackle the pandemic in the country.

All this prompted the head of the investigations department of the Attorney General's Office to suspend all financial transactions of the Coronavirus Procurement Committee at the Health Ministry, confirming that there are significant financial excesses.

Last September, the Attorney General's Office issued arrest warrants for the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Muhammad Haitham besides, six other officials from the Military Medicine Agency.

advertise with us

☎ +218-94-588-32-10 ✉ ad@libyaobserver.ly