

Politics

Turkey, Russia's Foreign Ministers stress support for Libya ceasefire



The Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has said Ankara supports ceasefire and stability in Libya, despite Khalifa Haftar's attempts to change the balance of power toward his forces.

In a joint presser with the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Cavusoglu said Ankara is in Libya as per an agreement with the legitimate government not for Turkey's own interests, rather for the joint interests of Libya and Turkey.

"The reached ceasefire has been the result of the Turkish-Russian role. Ankara and Moscow are always working for achieving peace and stability in Libya. The legal agreement between Libyan and Turkey will remain in effect even if Turkish authorities are replaced," Cavusoglu added.

He indicated that "putschist Haftar" had never been an advocate for peace, so Ankara will always be in support of the legitimate bodies against the illegitimate ones in Libya.

Meanwhile, the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Libyan parties had violated the ceasefire more than once, adding that Russia and Turkey should work on consolidating it as well as on supporting the production of oil and fair distribution of its revenues across Libya.

Lavrov called on the Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres to appoint someone to take up the vacant position of Libya envoy as soon as possible.

Politics

Egypt's Foreign Minister phones Libyan counterpart



The Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry has phoned his Libyan counterpart Mohammad Sayala and discussed developments in Libya as well as Cairo's support to stability in the country, spokesman Mohammad Al-Giblawi said Monday.

The spokesman of the Libyan Foreign Ministry of the Government of National Accord (GNA) said Shoukry hailed the welcome of the Egyptian delegation by GNA officials in Tripoli, hoping the visit would pave the way for more cooperation between Cairo and Tripoli.

The Egyptian delegation of foreign ministry and intelligence officials

officials arrived Sunday in Tripoli and met with top Government of National Accord officials in a first visit for Egyptian government officials to Tripoli since 2014.

The delegation included security and diplomatic officials headed by deputy chief of intelligence and head of Libya file at the Egyptian Presidency Ayman Badie. The delegation met with the Foreign Minister Mohammed Sayala, deputy head of Presidential Council Ahmed Mitig, Chief of General Staff Mohammed Al-Haddad, Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha and acting chief of intelligence Emad Trabelsi.

The spokesman of the Libyan Foreign Ministry Mohammad Al-Giblawi said the Egyptian delegation's visit aimed to regain diplomatic relations and resume cooperation between Tripoli and Cairo, adding on Twitter that the Egyptian side vowed to reopen Egypt's embassy in Tripoli and find urgent solutions to resume Libyan flights to Cairo.

Meanwhile, the media office of the Interior Ministry said Minister Bashagha discussed with the Egyptian delegation the joint challenges in security and ways of cooperation to respond to them, in addition to discussing support for the ceasefire and outcomes of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission as well as UN-led political dialogue efforts to end the crisis peacefully.



Turkish Defense Minister vows action against Haftar and his supporters

The Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said Sunday that forces loyal to Libya's warlord Khalifa Haftar will be seen as legitimate targets if they attempt to attack Turkish troops in Libya.

These remarks came from Akar after he paid a visit to Libya's capital, Tripoli, on Saturday and met with senior Libyan officials during which the two sides underlined their bilateral cooperation, two days after Haftar urged his forces to fight out Turkish forces from Libya.

Accompanied by Turkey's Chief of General Staff, Yasar Guler, and other military commanders, Akar met with Libya's Head of the High Council of State Khalid Mishri, Defense Minister Salah Al-Namroush and Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha. He also attended a military college graduation ceremony in Tripoli.

The Turkish Defense Minister explained that if Haftar's forces took such a step, they would be unable to find any place to flee to, adding that everyone should come to their senses, and warned Haftar's forces of reckless conduct, while referring to Haftar as a war criminal and murderer.

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During his visit to Turkish troops in Libya, Akar underlined the nearly 500-year historical and cultural ties between Turkey and Libya, saying Ankara cooperated with the Tripoli-based legitimate Government of National Accord (GNA) at a time when other global actors hesitated.

He also noted that the UN-recognized GNA is the only legitimate government in the country, indicating that putschist Haftar's forces and those who support him are the real problems in Libya. "The 21 mass graves found in the city of Tarhouna again revealed Haftar's massacres. Unfortunately, the world continues its silent, but we believe that the GNA will not let this crime against humanity go." Akar indicated, urging the international courts to continue their investigations into Haftar's war crimes and hold him accountable for what he did.

"We are giving training and consultation programs for Libyans as per our agreements. We have trained 3000 soldiers so far," Akar said, adding that Haftar isn't acting alone as he is a pawn of foreign agenda and he doesn't know that being a Marshal isn't by buying a uniform from the markets and wearing ranks, rather by experience and education.

Politics

GNA, Haftar exchange prisoners as part of peace deal



The Government of National Accord (GNA) on Friday exchanged prisoners with the illegal Haftar's forces as part of the ceasefire agreement signed between the two parties on October 23, 2020, in Geneva, which provides for all-for-all exchange of prisoners.

The exchange process took place at the Shuwerif area southwest of Libya under the supervision of elders from Zawiyah, Sabratha, and Zintan, in addition to several military commanders.

Spokesman of the Media Centre of The Volcano of Rage Operation Abd al-Malik al-Madani confirmed in statements to The Libya Observer that 18 captives have returned from the GNA forces in exchange for 33 from Haftar's militias.

He noted that all freed prisoners of Haftar's militias were from the eastern region, while the GNA captives came from several cities, including Tripoli, Sabratha, Sorman, and Zawia.

Politics

Pompeo: US to support lasting ceasefire, holding elections in Libya



The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington will support Libyans to consolidate a lasting ceasefire as per Geneva agreement and hold elections on December 24, 2021.

Pompeo's remarks came in a letter in which he extended best wishes for a joyous Independence Day to the Head of Presidential Council Fayez Al-Sarraj and to the Libyan people, according to a State Department statement.

"This year has been an important one for Libya with the announcement of a nationwide ceasefire on October 23 and progress on a Libyan-owned and Libyan-led political process, facilitated by the United Nations." The statement reads.

It adds that the decision to hold national elections on Independence Day in 2021 is very important, saying that in the year ahead, the US will support Libyans in building on these successes, including through full implementation of the ceasefire agreement and maintaining the remarkable momentum of the political process.

Pompeo said the US is focused on promoting a peaceful, prosperous, and unified Libya with an inclusive government that can both secure the country and meet the economic and humanitarian needs of its people.

Meanwhile, the US President Donald Trump reiterated Washington's commitment to supporting Libya to regain its unity and sovereignty, saying the ceasefire and progress of the political dialogue are good signs for ending conflicts in the country.

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Economy

Maiteeq promises urgent measures to meet the Libyan Iron and Steel Company's demands



The Libyan Iron and Steel Company has expressed satisfaction at Vice President of the Presidential Council (PC), Ahmed Maiteeq, for his receptiveness to the company's demands.

"Maiteeq had promised to take urgent measures to solve the company's problems and follow them directly with the relevant authorities at home and abroad," a statement by the company said on Facebook.

On Sunday, Maiteeq met with the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Libyan Iron and Steel Company and several of the firm's officials to review the bottlenecks that hinder their work and discuss the company's plans to increase its production capacity.

The meeting discussed the energy deficit problem and its negative repercussions on the company's operations and the need to carry out urgent maintenance for the power station of the plant through the state's 2020 budget.

The company's officials also demanded the PC to directing each of the National Oil Corporation and the national electricity company to secure the iron company's plant of natural gas and electric power and to collect the debts and financial compensation owed to the company by the state.

Economy

Mellitah reviews planned projects for Bourj Offshore Field



Chairman of the Operator Management Committee at Mellitah Oil Company, Muhammad Bin Shatwan has conducted a visit to Bourj Offshore Field to discuss plans to increase productivity by 2021.

The company's media office said that the delegation toured several sites that underwent development work during this year, including Platform No. 3, which was equipped with new cranes, and approved by the international licensing bodies.

As for the company's plans for next year, the media office clarified that the company would conduct comprehensive maintenance for the electric power generation unit No. 3, besides other development work at platform No. 4, namely, installing a new arm for the eastern crane, and preparing for drilling well No. 49.

Economy

Misrata and Tawergha to establish joint vocational training center



The Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation in the Government of National Accord (GNA) said on Sunday that it is working to establish a vocational training center connecting the municipalities of Misrata and Tawergha.

The Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation, Mahdi Al-Amin said on the sidelines of the Youth and Women's Forum of 2020 that the center would bear the title 'Al-Salam Center for Vocational Training' and would provide training and rehabilitation services for young people from both cities.

He also pointed out that this step comes within the efforts of reconciliation between the cities through the youth, consisting of activities in the cities of Misrata and Tawergha.

Economy

Al-Hibri optimistic about economic boost after modifying dinar exchange rate



The Governor of the parallel Central Bank of Libya (CBL) and vice president of the board of directors of the CBL Ali Al-Hibri said the current exchange rate of Libyan dinar to foreign currencies isn't "balanced" so modifying it was very important.

Al-Hibri said in an interview on 218 TV Saturday that the Central Bank needs 18 months until it sees the exchange rate stable, saying he expects the new monetary policies will succeed by 90%.

"Selling US dollar to Libyans won't be in cash at this stage, rather by bank cards and transfers. The cash crisis is expected to be over by January 2021. Prices could go up relatively, but smuggling of commodities would be limited," Al-Hibri explained.

He said activating wife and children's allowance will start January as well with the support for medicines and fuel kept intact, adding that prices can go down up to 33% in the future as Central Bank policies will eventually lead to the end of black market's activities.

"The fluctuation of Libya's GDP made the modification of exchange rates inevitable, plus the fact that it would help end corruption. Central Bank's technical committee will report weekly to the board of directors to assess the ramifications of the new exchange rate. It will also issue a statement every six weeks on the monetary policy of the Central Bank. There will be also assessment of the black market's activity to compare exchange rates. A report on instructions for selling foreign currencies will be issued this week," Al-Hibri further explained.

He said the CBL board of directors will always hold meetings to assess the exchange rate, in addition to granting licenses for opening private exchange companies in the first quarter of 2021 and ending circulation of certain categories of bank notes.

The board of directors of the Central Bank of Libya held a unified meeting weeks ago for the first time since 2014, afterwards; many decisions were taken, including modifying the exchange rate of the dinar against foreign currencies.

Opinions

Did the Arab revolutions fail?

By Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



This question is re-asked in each anniversary of the Arab revolutions. The question itself implies doubts about the feasibility of the revolution as long as it did not achieve its expectations. By following the developments of the revolution in all countries, the direct answer is yes.

The revolutions failed because the situation got worse than it was in the Arab countries before the outbreak of the revolution in Tunisia and spreading later to other countries. And large number of the Arab peoples is taking nostalgia to the pre-revolution time and the fall of some tyrannical regimes. There is no problem in describing an event whose chapters have been completed with success or failure, but is it correct to ask this crucial question about an event that is still interacting, and its repercussions are continuous?

A student may fail and exhaust the repetition times in a given stage of study and be forced to leave and change course or specialization in pursuit of a new opportunity. A sports team may fail to win the championship in a competition and the title goes to another team. Here we can talk about failure without a dispute, because the event was completed with failure for the student or the sports team. But an event that has not been completed is absolutely unfit for final judgments. The Arab revolutions that opened the way to change are still waging their various struggles at all levels in all Arab countries, even those that remained untouched by the drizzle of its waves, and the regimes in them were forced to take measures to delay the explosion of protests by various means, such as amending the constitution, making some reforms, or using the surplus rentier revenues to improve people's income levels.

There are many evidences for the continuation of the revolutionary movement despite all the pitfalls and failures, demonstrations demanding change continue without interruption in the countries of revolutions, and attention to public affairs has become at the core of the Arab citizen's interest, and the ferocity of the remaining repressive regimes has increased and this is evidence of fear of a repeat of the explosion moment.

Perhaps the most prominent evidence of this continuous process of the revolution is the outbreak of protests in Sudan, Algeria, Iraq and Lebanon eight years after its first wave. And still the rest of the authoritarian regimes tremble in fear and panic as they carefully await the next waves.

So what happened? Why did the revolutions relapse? With Tunisia as an exception, Syria, Libya and Yemen slid into wars, and the military returned to power in Egypt. The relapse of the Arab revolutions cannot be limited to one reason because many factors have combined to disrupt the process of change, some of them are related to the social and economic structures in the countries of the revolution, and some of them concern external interventions and conflicting regional and international projects, in arenas that have become exposed after the collapse of the ruling regimes and the weakness or absence of institutions capable of filling the void and confronting external interference.

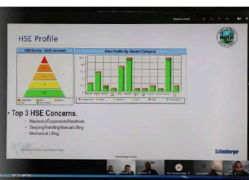
There is a major reason that should be taken into account when talking about revolutions, as history tells us that the stages of change take a long time beyond expectations. It has never been before people reaped the fruits of their sacrifices on the massacres of revolutions before decades after the revolutionary time. But man was created of haste and wants to see the effect of transformation as soon as possible.

There is no doubt about it that change has taken place, and that what is after 2011 is completely different from what came before it, as for the path of change and its acceleration or slow pace, it will remain dependent on all the conflict interactions between the new, which the dreams and aspirations of the people seek, and the tyrannical forces of the past that allied with the enemy to abort any resurgence that would change the power equations and end external hegemony over the Arab region.

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

Economy

Waha Oil Company develops plans to boost production



Officials at the Waha Oil Company have met with Schlumberger representatives to review the plans set for improving performance and increasing the company's production.

The online meeting included a visual presentation showing the achievement ratio of the planned projects, which amounted to about 90% during this year.

According to the company's media office, the two parties agreed to several steps to boost production rates, including developing working plans and providing operating requirements, such as surface and underground equipment.



Economy

Ministry of Labour to launch online recruitment platform

Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation, Al-Mahdi Al-Amin, has met with the undersecretary and head of the ministry's Financial Facilities Fund Management Committee to discuss the online recruitment platform that the Labour Ministry is seeking to launch in the coming period.

The Labour Ministry explained in a statement on Facebook that the officials agreed on the mechanisms and preparations for launching and activating the platform.

"The recruitment platform developed by the Labour Ministry is an online service that provides data for those seeking jobs or investment opportunities," the ministry explained.

Health

Libya to purchase 2.8 million Covid-19 vaccine doses



Libya's health authorities will purchase 2.8 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine, the director of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) said in statements to the Anadolu news agency on Friday.

Badr Al-Din Al-Najjar confirmed that they signed a contract with the World Health Organization (WHO) in this regard, indicating that the deal had cost the Libyan state 42 million dinars, equivalent to 9.4 million US dollars.

Al-Najjar pointed out that this will facilitate Libya's access to a licensed vaccine approved by the WHO.

He also disclosed that they are studying to purchase the vaccine from the British AstraZeneca company due to its easy storage, but no final decision has been rendered yet, according to Al-Najjar.

Meanwhile, Suleiman Abu Sriwil, head of the Supreme Advisory Committee for Vaccinations in Libya, said that the advantage of signing a contract with the WHO is that it guarantees the purchase of a licensed and safe vaccine.

Libya has registered 461 fresh Covid-19 infections on Friday, pushing the total count to 97,653 cases, including 1,415 fatalities and 68,289 recoveries.

Health

WHO sceptical about the death rate from Coronavirus pandemic in Libya



World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) has questioned the death rate from the Coronavirus in Libya which reads as 1.4% compared to the regional level of 2.2%, suggesting that the low rates of detection may be due to problems in detection tests and poor death reporting in the country.

A report issued by WHO showed that Libya in fact ranked tenth on the list of countries with the largest number of Coronavirus infections in the Middle East, whilst ranking sixth amongst the top ten countries which recorded the highest death rate in the entire region.

Health

Libyan Turkish Friendship Center for Physical Therapy to open in Misrata



The Ministry of Health of the Government of National Accord (GNA) has officially received the administration of the Libyan-Turkish Friendship Center for Physical Therapy in Misrata, which is in preparation for opening.

The Ministry of Health said in a statement that the project comes under the auspices of the joint cooperation agreement between Libya and Turkey.

The Ministry signed the delivery and receipt protocol, on the 21 December, with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency 'TIKA', in the presence of officials from the Ministry of Health, the Mayor of Misrata, the Turkish Consul General in Libya and the Turkish Agency for Coordination and Cooperation.

According to the cooperation protocol, the Turkish Ministry of Health is to provide technical support and training of the center's staff.

The total enclosed area of the center consists of approximately 2,400 square meters, which includes various physiotherapy departments for men, women and children, along with an emergency department and also 38 examination rooms together with two hydrotherapy pools for specialized treatment.

Health

Libya ranked fourth globally in number of attacks against health infrastructure



The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said Libya had ranked fourth highest number of attacks against health infrastructure in the world after 32 attacks were reported in 2020.

OCHA said the total number of attacks against health infrastructure in Libya reached 32 for 2020 by the end of November, adding that these attacks put further pressure on the already struggling health system.

OCHA also explained that Libya is ranked fourth globally for the number of recorded attacks against health facilities and personnel in 2020.

"At a time when we need to focus efforts on combatting COVID-19, the continued closure of primary health care facilities due to shortages of health care workers, power cuts and lack of personal protective equipment affects not just the ability to effectively combat the virus but also for people to continue to access other essential health services," OCHA said in a statement.



Sports

Libyan U-20 team cruise to 1-0 victory over Algeria in North African Championship

The Libyan youth team cruised to a 1-0 victory over his Algerian opponent, on Monday, in the third round of the North African Championship, which paves the way for the Africa U-20 Cup of Nations (Mauritania 2021).

Algerian player Khalil Bara scored the only goal in the match in his team's net, in minute 19, ending Algeria's hopes to qualify for the continental championship, as they trail at the bottom of the group with just one point from 3 matches.

The competition in the North African Championship was limited to four teams only, namely Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Libya. Two of the teams will qualify for the finals, while Egypt pulled out of the competition after several of its players tested positive for Covid-19.



Sports

Al-Ahly Benghazi draws ES Tunis, Al-Ahly Tripoli loses to Monastir at CAF competitions



Libya's Al-Ahly Benghazi drew ES Tunis 0-0 on Wednesday in Egypt in the first-leg match of the second round of CAF Champions League.

ES Tunis possessed the ball most of the match time and their attack brought them many opportunities to score but Al-Ahly Benghazi managed to keep a clean sheet in a 0-0 draw in a first game the Libyan team plays in over 18 months.

The second-leg match will be played January 05, 2021 in Tunisia and the winner will be qualifying to the round of groups of the CAF Champions League.

In another Libyan-Tunisian football face-off, Tunisia's Monastir beat Al-Ahly Tripoli 2-0 in Monastir city in Tunisia at the first-leg match of the round of 32 of CAF Confederation Cup.

Monastir scored the first goal at the minute 33 and second at the minute of 44 of the first half, while the second half went on without either side scoring with Al-Ahly trying hard to create opportunities for goals to at least draw Monastir in the first-leg match.

The two teams will play their second-leg match on January 06 at an unspecified stadium up until now, yet it could be one of Egypt's stadiums.



Sports

Libyan Ittihad loses 1-0 to Egyptian Pyramids

Ittihad FC lost to Egyptian Pyramids, 1-0 in the match held at Alexandria Stadium Tuesday, as part of the first leg of the round of 32 of the African Confederation Cup.

In the first half, both teams failed to live up to their fans' expectations, although the Egyptian Pyramids struggled to create danger but did not manage a shot on target despite their opportunities.

On the other hand, Ittihad did not generate much in attack and focused more on keeping their net clean.

In the second half, Pyramids team continued to put pressure on Ittihad defence lines until the Ghanaian John Antwi broke the deadlock in the 55th minute and scored the only goal of the match to seal a hard-fought 1-0 win for the Egyptians.

Ittihad tried to comeback in the second half and put on a dominant performance. Ittihad striker Moaz Issa missed real opportunities when he came face to face with the Pyramids goalkeeper in the 82nd and 93rd minutes but failed to strike the ball on target.

On the 5th or 6th of January, Ittihad will face the Egyptian Pyramids at the Military College stadium in the second leg.

Tech

Libyana suffers DoS attack, assures users "data is safe"



Libyana Mobile Phone suffered Saturday a denial-of-service (DoS) attack - a cyber attack - that the company described as a failed attack that targeted MyLibyana application.

Libyana Company said after the cyber attack, all things are under control and that all users' data and accounts are safe, promising to take legal action against the source of the attack.

The company also added that MyLibyana application was working very normally after the cyber attack, urging users not to worry and asked them not to pay attention to rumors and fake news on social media.

Education

New school year to start on January 02

The Acting Minister of Education, Mohammed Amari Zayed, in the presence of the Undersecretary for General Education, Adel Jumaa has approved the study plan and schedule of study and examination dates for the academic year 2020/2021.

"The classes will start on January 02 in accordance with the general framework of the precautionary and preventive measures recommended by the Scientific Advisory Committee to Combat the Coronavirus", the Ministry of Education said in a statement.

weather



Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 01	17°/8°		Partly Cloudy	5%	SW 11 km/h
Sat 02	17°/8°		Sunny	5%	WSW 16 km/h
Sun 03	16°/7°		Sunny	0%	WSW 23 km/h
Mon 04	16°/8°		Partly Cloudy	0%	WSW 17 km/h
Tue 05	18°/11°		Partly Cloudy	5%	S 11 km/h
Wed 06	20°/12°		Partly Cloudy	5%	SW 12 km/h
Thu 07	22°/14°		Partly Cloudy	10%	WSW 17 km/h

Photo of the Week



Features

The ancient city of Sabratha



Sabratha was the westernmost of the ancient 'three cities' of Roman Tripolis, alongside Oea and Leptis Magna.

It was founded by the Phoenicians from Tiro or Sidon, and it is likely that its founding as a Phoenician trade station dates back to about the sixth century BC.

The city witnessed a prominent position and an economic renaissance during the Roman Empire. It lies on the Mediterranean coast about 70 km (43 mi) west of modern Tripoli.

History:

Following the Punic Wars, Sabratha became part of the short-lived Numidian kingdom of Massinissa before this was annexed to the Roman Republic as the province of Africa Nova in the 1st century BC. It was subsequently Romanized and rebuilt in the 2nd and 3rd centuries CE. The Emperor Septimius Severus was born nearby in Leptis Magna, and Sabratha reached its monumental peak during the rule of the Severans, when it nearly doubled in size. The city was badly damaged by earthquakes during the 4th century, particularly the quake of 365. It fell under control of the Vandal kingdom in the 5th century, with large parts of the city being abandoned. It enjoyed a small revival under Byzantine rule, when multiple churches and a defensive wall (although only enclosing a small portion of the city) were erected. The town was site of a bishopric. Within a hundred years of the Muslim invasion of the Maghreb, trade had shifted to other ports and Sabratha dwindled to a village.

Sabratha's port was established, perhaps about 500 BCE. The port served as a Phoenician outlet for the products of the African hinterland. Greeks called it also Abrotonon (Ancient Greek: Ἀβρότονον). After the demise of Phoenicia, Sabratha fell under the sphere of influence of Carthage.

Sabratha has been the place of several excavation campaigns from 1921 onwards, mainly by Italian archaeologists. It was also excavated by a British team directed by Kathleen Kenyon and John Ward-Perkins between 1948 and 1951. Besides its Theater at Sabratha that retains its three-story architectural backdrop, Sabratha has temples dedicated to Liber Pater, Serapis and Isis. There is a Christian basilica of the time of Justinian and also remnants of some of the mosaic floors that enriched elite dwellings of Roman North Africa (for example, at the Villa Sileen, near Khoms). However, these are most clearly preserved in the colored patterns of the seaward (or Forum) baths, directly overlooking the shore, and in the black and white floors of the theater baths.

There is an adjacent museum containing some treasures from Sabratha, but others can be seen in the national museum in Tripoli.

In 1943, during the Second World War, archaeologist Max Mallowan, husband of novelist Agatha Christie, was based at Sabratha as an assistant to the Senior Civil Affairs Officer of the Western Province of Tripolitania. His main task was to oversee the allocation of grain rations, but it was, in the words of Christie's biographer, a "glorious attachment", during which Mallowan lived in an Italian villa with a patio overlooking the sea and dined on fresh tunny fish and olives.

Grandeur Wealth:

The city is considered one of the most beautiful and important archaeological sites in Libya, characterized by its various monuments for different periods of time (Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine), the most important and most famous of which are the Punic Mausoleum, the Roman Theater, the Amphitheater, the Municipal Council (Curia), the Antonine Temple and the Flavius Fountain, the Temple Liberate, the Basilica, the Temple of Isis, the Church of Emperor Justinian, the Sea Baths, and there are also the Punic Museum and the Classical Museum in the city.

The archaeological site of Sabratha was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982.

The Punic Mausoleum:

It is located in the ancient city of Sabratha specifically in the fourth region according to the city plan, on the western side, west of the Roman theater, and was built in the sixth region of the ancient city in the first half of the 2nd century BC, and it is known that the region of the three cities (Leptis Magna - Oya - Sabratha) had emerged from the grip of Carthaginian power after its defeat by the Romans in the Battle of Zama in the year 202 BC.

The mausoleum was discovered in 1962 AD, and its restoration began in 1963 AD under the supervision of the specialist Italian Professor Antonino Di Vita, who dismantled the mausoleum and transferred the original and most important parts of it to the Punic Museum, given that the original architectural elements were carved on fragile sandstone and vulnerable to weather factors. So, alternative plaster casts were made to be returned to the shrine on site.

The height of the mausoleum is 18 meters, and it consists of a stepped base with a height of 3.20 meters. This base is topped by three concave architectural parts, each façade is decorated with an Ionic column, each part has an architectural detail that differs from the other part.

The eastern facade, which is the main facade of the mausoleum, is seen as an imaginary door for the purpose of camouflaging it seems to be a Pharaonic tradition, and the middle part that follows the first part consists of three facades, the eastern facade adorned with an inscription of the Egyptian god Bes, holding two lions from their back legs, and the western facade depicts the hero Hercules wrestling a lion, and the last facade has images with an inconspicuous mythical view, in addition to the presence of three inscriptions at the level of fillings of lions in each of the three corners, and on top of it is a terrace on which stands a statue of a young man.

This mausoleum is one of the most important examples that have been uncovered in the territory of Tripolitania, and the mausoleum dates back to the 2nd century BC. And it lasted until the 60th century AD, and the impact of an earthquake destroyed it in 360 BC, and the mausoleum was dismantled in the Byzantine era for use in building walls around the city.

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