

Politics

40 High Council of State members reject regional quota in sovereign positions



40 members of the High Council of State rejected regional quota approach in selecting sovereign positions' occupants, which was approved by the dialogue in Bouznika between delegations of the House of Representatives and High Council of State.

The members called on the UNSMIL, local and international parties to respect the constitutional declaration, its amendments and judicial resolutions, adding that the two delegations were appointed to reach a common vision but not to make final decisions without referring back to the councils and hold official sessions to approve or disapprove agreements.

They also urged the UNSMIL to implement the ceasefire agreement and withdraw foreign mercenaries, open roads, clear mines, and return forcefully-displaced people to their homes.

The members thanked the countries that hosted Libyan dialogues since 2015 for their neutrality.

Relatedly, the Supreme Judiciary Council denounced Sunday "regional quota" approach used in Bouznika dialogues regarding the sovereign positions in Libya, especially those related to the judicial authority being run by certain regions in the country.

Politics

Supreme Judiciary Council denounces Bouznika outcomes



The Supreme Judiciary Council has denounced "regional quota" approach used in Bouznika dialogues regarding the sovereign positions in Libya, especially those related to the judicial authority being run by certain regions in the country.

In a statement Sunday, the council said the work of the Judiciary committees and authorities are regulated by the law and "constitutional framework", adding that it cannot accept a resolution made by a group that doesn't stem from a lawfully elected, unified legislative council and that the judicial authority is the only entity that is unified and elected as per the law and represents all Libyans.

"The council won't allow any entity to target its unity and independence without a legal and constitutional basis. The quota system used in Bouznika is a flagrant violation of the independence and unity of the judiciary in Libya, which remained a unified body - east, west and south - despite all divisions in other authorities in the country.

The delegations of the House of Representatives (HoR) and High Council of State (HCS) agreed Saturday in Morocco's Bouznika to form a working team to name the future incumbents of the state sovereign positions.

In the meantime, the member of the House of Representatives, Mohammed Al-Raeid, told Libya Al-Ahrar TV that the delegations in Bouznika had agreed on the distribution of state sovereign positions geographically: the Central Bank of Libya and Administrative Control Authority for Cyrenaica region (eastern Libya) the Supreme Court and Anti-corruption Authority for Fezzan region (south) and the Attorney General and Audit Bureau's positions for Tripoli (western region).



Libya, Chad discuss border control and common security threats

The Minister of Defence Salah El-Din Al-Namroush and Chief of the General Staff, Lt. Gen. Mohamed Al-Haddad, discussed with Chadian President Idriss Déby mechanisms for protecting, securing and monitoring the Libyan-Chadian borders.

This came during the two top military commanders' visit to Chad Saturday, in which they met the Chadian President and his Defence Minister Mohamed Ibali Saleh.

A statement by Libya's Defence Ministry said the talks in Chad were part of efforts to strengthen and develop cooperative relations with various friendly and brotherly countries.

The meeting discussed the promotion of cooperation between the Libyan and Chadian ministries of defence, mechanisms for protecting, securing and controlling the Libyan-Chadian borders, and joint work on the issues of illegal immigration, terrorism and organized crime.

For his part, President Déby stressed that the Republic of Chad supports peace, stability, and security in Libya.

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Politics

Satellite images reveal enormous trench built by Russian Wagner in and around Sirte



The American network CNN published satellite images showing an enormous trench between the cities of Sirte and Al-Jufra dug by the Russian mercenary Wagner Group.

The photos show trenches extending from the city of Sirte as far as the Al-Jufra airbase, with a length of 70 kilometres, which are supported by a network of complex fortifications around the Al-Jufra base.

CNN also indicated that the presence of these newly photographed trenches raises concerns and doubts regarding Moscow's solemnity regarding its withdrawal of Wagner mercenaries on time, as stated in the peace agreement negotiated by the United Nations.

CNN quoted a United States intelligence official as saying that the presence of the trenches in Libya is a sign that Wagner intends to settle in Libya in the long term, indicating that the forces currently in Libya are the largest recorded of Wagner forces throughout the world.

Politics

Libyan Amazigh Council calls for boycotting constitution referendum



The Supreme Council of Libyan Amazigh rejected in a statement Thursday the outcomes of the Constitutional Committee in Hurghada, especially the decision to carry out a referendum on the Libyan constitution draft.

The statement said the referendum is a hostile action against Libyan Amazigh, who will boycott the referendum and won't recognize its results.

Libyan Amazigh-speaking areas boycotted the election of the Constitution Drafting Assembly members in February 2014, in protest of the lack of proper representation of Libyan society components.

The Constitutional Committee of the House of Representatives (HoR) and High Council of State (HCS) has approved holding a memorandum for the constitution draft and adopted the voting mechanism of three regions: Tripoli, Cyrenaica and Fezzan; 50+1 votes in every region.

The Constitutional Committee said in a statement after the meeting in Hurghada Tuesday that the agreement on the referendum was based on HoR referendum law (No.6) of 2018 and its amendment (No.1) of 2019, which saw item six of the law, which said the constitution draft needs two thirds of cast votes across Libya and 50+1 in every region, modified into just 50+1 vote in every region.

The Constitutional Committee also agreed on removing item seven of the law, which said the referendum would be void if all of its requirements weren't met.

Economy

GECOL discusses return of Korean companies to complete stalled projects



The General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) convened an expanded meeting at its HQ to discuss the return of Korean companies to complete the stalled projects, including the Western Tripoli Steam Station, Al - Zwaitina Electricity Station, and the Gulf Steam Station.

The meeting was attended by the company's officials, the South Korean ambassador to Libya, his accompanying delegation, and representatives from the Korean Daewoo company, which is executing several projects in the electricity sector.

Discussions focused on cooperation and finishing stalled projects that the GECOL is seeking to complete to overcome the energy shortage in the public grid.

Economy

NOC Chairman expects drop in oil exports in January



The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mustafa Sanallah, warned Saturday that January exports would decrease due to the reduction of Waha Oil Company's production by 200,000 barrels per day until the completion of the maintenance works.

Sanallah indicated that maintenance teams were seeking to reduce the expected duration to the minimum limits, all due to the lack of budgets related to the maintenance of the NOC's assets, which reflected negatively on the revenues of January.

"Despite the confusion and bureaucracy of some decision-mak-

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"Despite the confusion and bureaucracy of some decision-making circles in the state, on monetizing the urgent budgets that are still pending. The NOC will deal with these challenges out of its sense of responsibility towards the average citizen and urge the other state institutions to be responsible and implement wise measures for the service of the nation." Sanallah said.

Meanwhile, the NOC announced that the general revenue for December 2020 of sales of crude oil, gas, condensates, petroleum products and petrochemicals reached to record levels, reaching a level of 1,115,210,431.95 US dollars deposited in the NOC's account in the Libyan Foreign Bank in line with the current arrangements.

These revenues do not include taxes, royalties, and payments have been made for natural gas purchases to the domestic market from Waha Oil's partners, which amounted to 13.6 US million dollars.

Relatedly, a force from the Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG), which is affiliated with Khalifa Haftar's forces, shut down Sunday Hariga oil port in Tobruk, eastern Libya, in protest of the delay of salaries that they should have received from the NOC, threatening to extend the shutdown to all oil crescent region's terminals.

exchange between both countries.

This came during Raheel's visit to the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce, during which he discussed various economic files to boost common economic interests between the two countries.

According to a statement by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Tripoli, the visit dealt with a number of ideas which would open up opportunities for cooperation between Tripoli and the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce in the near future.

Economy

Audit Bureau warns of serious electricity crisis next summer



The Head of the Libyan Audit Bureau, Khalid Shakshak warned of serious repercussions of the electricity crisis in the peak heat of next summer due to delayed implementation of significant projects.

In a meeting with officials from the General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL), Shakshak warned the Presidential Council and Central Bank of Libya to speed the approval of budgets so that GECOL can implement the suspended projects.

The meeting proposed recommendations that included the need for maintenance and provision of spare parts to some power units to provide about 1300 megawatts, in addition to completing contracts to finish the project of South Tripoli that would add 1300 megawatts.

The meeting also recommended finishing the procedures for reopening the letters of credit for the Arab Union company to build a power plant that would provide 160 megawatts, in addition to repairing 13 gas units at different power plants in the country.

Economy
NOC to implement water projects in mountain towns



The National Oil Corporation (NOC) signed Tuesday a contract to implement two projects for constructing water harvesting tanks in the municipalities of Rajban and Jado.

The projects will be funded by the Spanish integrated energy group "Repsol" and will be implemented in coordination with the "Acacus" oil operations company, a statement by the NOC said on Facebook.

A 1,000 capacity water reservoir will be installed in the "Mutaloui" field in Jado, while two others are to be established in Rajban with a storage capacity of 250 cubic meters each.

The NOC expressed its commitment to seek solutions to the problem of the lack of water supplies in Jado and Rajban municipalities which have been ongoing for years.



Economy
Libya, Pakistan discuss cooperation in labour field

The Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation, Al-Mahdi Al-Amin, received on Monday the Pakistani Charge d'Affaires, Fayad Ahmed, to discuss developing joint cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, which was held at the Ministry's HQ in Tripoli, the two sides also discussed the possibility of benefiting from the Pakistani workforce to contribute to the reconstruction of Libya, as well as the use of Pakistani training expertise in many fields.

The Minister stressed the importance of developing the two MoUs concluded between the two countries in the fields of employment and training in 2009.

He also stressed the importance of electronic links between the two countries with the aim of organizing foreign workers in the Labour market and combating illegal immigration.

For his part, the Pakistani diplomat stressed the importance of developing prospects for joint cooperation, confirming his country's commitment to support the Libyan labour market.

Economy
Libya and Egypt hold discussions to promote trade exchange



A member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Tripoli, Ibrahim Raheel, held discussions with the President of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce on the expansion of the ceiling of trade exchange be-

Opinions

The impact of Gulf reconciliation on Libyan conflict

By Al-Sanousi Al-Bsikri, a Libyan writer



Lorem Ipsum

The Gulf people reconciled after many thought that their rupture was final and could only end with a major political change, but a change in the ruling authority in Qatar did not take place, and it seems that a great price has not been paid for the return of the water to its normal course, and the next days will reveal the validity or invalidity of this assumption.

Reconciliation and the Libyan Crisis

The link between the Gulf conflict and the Libyan conflict does not need evidence. As the Gulf dispute centered on the stance of the Gulf parties towards the inflammatory files in the region, and because Saudi Arabia, Emirates and Bahrain contradict Qatar's position, which supports the Arab Spring revolutions and supports the Palestinian resistance, which Gaza has become its title since the 1980s. It was imperative that the clash occur and the required change takes place in Qatar according to what was planned, but the firmness of the Qataris and the intervention of Turkey plunged both Riyadh and Abu Dhabi into a crisis, especially after their bets failed in Yemen, Libya and others, without Qatar losing much.

Qatar's position has not changed much since the outbreak of the Arab Spring revolutions, and Saudi Arabia and the Emirates were standing with it in the same trench, and the change that led to estrangement arose with the change in the position of Riyadh and Abu Dhabi significantly and their involvement in supporting the military project and the overthrow of the internationally recognized consensus authority represented by the Presidential Council and the Government of National Accord.

The Presidential Council, and its president, Fayeze Al-Sarraj, was not Qatari, or affiliated with the Brotherhood with its ideas and positions, and the truth is that it was closer to Saudi Arabia and the Emirates in coordinating and arranging to settle the political division that occurred after the 2014 elections. Nevertheless, the first two were involved in the plan to topple it by force, and they have greatly supported politically, militarily and in the media, Haftar, who has been busy with the coup against legitimacy since February 2014.

The direction of Libyan conflict after Gulf reconciliation

There is no indication of the occurrence of the Gulf reconciliation according to the thirteen Saudi, Emirati, and Bahraini conditions, and it seems that the reconciliation took place after the countries of rupture and blockade reviewed their position, which became embarrassing and costing them a lot.

I do not rule out that there is a relationship between the change that occurred in the United States and the Gulf reconciliation, and it seems that Riyadh is aware that the great excesses that occurred with it in managing the Yemeni crisis have stopped it in one trench with Russia in the aggression against the capital, Tripoli, and violations of human rights may cost it a lot in the face of the new democratic administration, so it considered that it is in the interest to patch what can be patched of Breaches.

The occurrence of reconciliation with the aim of avoiding the pressures that Riyadh and Abu Dhabi may face does not mean to "to be cut off without a penny," and they may obtain some gains, even as a way of saving face, which means Qatari concessions that can be considered marginal.

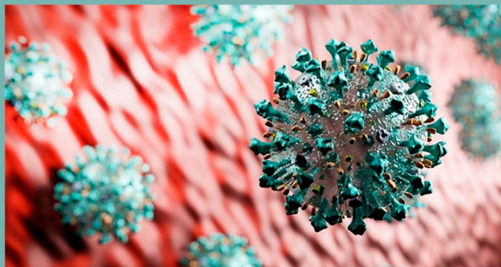
In the sense that the effect of reconciliation will be more severe in terms of the negative impact on the Tobruk and Ar-Rajmah fronts, for Saudi Arabia and the Emirates to accept reconciliation away from the list of thirteen conditions means that they acknowledge the failure of their confrontational policies, and that they review themselves in their positions instead of insisting that Qatar change its positions. Turkey, not Qatar

In view of the Libyan conflict and the developments that occurred during the past year, the Saudi-Emirati plan to enable Haftar by supporting his war on the capital to rule Libya by force of arms has been foiled by entering Turkey on the line of conflict, and Ankara has developed a political position and propaganda approach during the past three years, which is very embarrassing for Riyadh and Abu Dhabi. Thus, their problem is no longer primarily Qatar, and the repercussions of their troubled policy, especially the issue of normalization with Israel, require maneuver and calm with Qatar, and if it is necessary to continue the policy of escalation, the focus will be on isolating Turkey from the Arab environment, and here the potential negative impact of the Gulf reconciliation on the Accord Front, by moving towards canceling the security and military agreement with Turkey.

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 prepares for Covid-19 vaccinations



The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has asked health service departments across the country to prepare for its mass vaccination drive against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The director of the NCDC, Badr al-Din al-Najjar, called in a letter circulated to all municipalities, the directors of health services to form committees to oversee the campaign.

Libya has agreed to purchase 2.8 million doses of coronavirus vaccine with a value of 42 million Libyan dinars.

Health

Labour and Rehabilitation Office launches inspection campaign in educational institutions in Suq al-juma'a



The Emergency Department of the Ministry of Health has provided a number of hospitals with shipments of medicines and medical supplies.

"The shipments included chronic disease medicines and intravenous solutions", the Ministry stated on its official Facebook page, adding that they were distributed to 10 hospitals at the western region, including, public, educational and village hospitals.

The step came within the framework of the efforts made by the Emergency Department and in implementation of the 2021 Rapid Response Plan developed by the Department at the Ministry regarding ensuring optimal operation of hospitals, according to the Ministry.

Health

Tripoli University set to launch "Saha" health program



The University of Tripoli is preparing to launch the (Saha) health program with the view to develop scientific competence in the field of health.

The university held an online meeting on Wednesday to discuss preparations for launching the program in the presence of the university's president Dr. Nabil Al-Nattah, and several heads of departments and faculties.

The university participated with three scientific papers, namely, "The secondary certificate exams during the COVID-19 pandemic in Libya", "The healthcare system in Libya" and, "The health status in Libya (1551-1951)".

The (Saha) project, fully funded by the European Union, has been established to help build capacity in the higher education sector in the fields of health, which would enhance cooperation between the higher education and the health system in general, says the Tripoli University.

Health

NCDC organizes training course for KG teachers on children behavioral problems



The Mental Health Department of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) organized in Misrata on Sunday a training course for kindergarten teachers and educators on mental health and behavioral problems for children and behavior modification and regulation.

The course, which was supervised by Tamina Municipal Council, Al-Naseem company and the Libyan Society for Psychological Sciences, included 16 trainees, according to the NCDC official Facebook page.

Local

Over 1,700 killed in road accidents last year



Around 1,761 people were killed due to traffic accidents last year, according to a statistic published by the Ministry of Interior on Sunday.

The statistics released by the ministry were based on information gathered from security directorates across Libya from January to November of 2020.

The directorates recorded 4,131 traffic accidents during the aforementioned period resulting in 3,275 injuries; of these, 1,743 were seriously wounded.

The traffic accidents also caused damage to 6,641 vehicles with financial damage of 280 million Libyan dinars, according to the Interior Ministry.

In 2019, Libya recorded a relatively high traffic fatality compared to other countries in the world as the average rate of traffic-related fatalities showed 17 per 100,000 people.

Local

Tripoli municipality celebrates 150th anniversary of its founding



The Head of the Presidential Council, Fayez Al-Sarraj, took part in the celebration of the Tripoli municipality on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of its founding.

He said in his speech, "the municipality of Tripoli has never been unaware what is going on around it, remaining a staunch contributor to the revival of the nation, regardless of the outcome of the difficulties the country is going through."

Al-Sarraj praised the elections held by the municipalities and their continuance in light of the difficult circumstances the country is going through, stressing the importance of the existence of municipal councils, as they represent decentralization.

He also affirmed his hopes for holding general presidential and legislative elections on the specified date of December 24, 2021.

Education

Ministry of Education announces suspension of studies for all academic stages until February 6



The Ministry of Education in the Government of National Accord announced on Wednesday the suspension of classes for all grades and stages of study from next Saturday.

The Ministry also decided to postpone school return to February 6. The decision came after consultation and coordination with the Scientific Advisory Committee to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic, according to the Ministry's official Facebook page.

It also attributed its decision to its keenness to complete all schools with all equipment and preparations to receive students in a way that guarantees safe return in accordance with the epidemiological framework approved by the Ministry.

"The decision does not apply to the preparatory certificate examinations, as they are still continuing according to their specified dates without change" the Ministry added.

Migration

Libyan Coast Guard rescues 79 migrants north of Zawiya



The Libyan Coast Guard rescued 79 migrants of varying nationalities approximately 12 miles out in the open sea north of Zawiya, according to an announcement by the Defense Minister, Salah Al-Namroush.

Al-Namroush said on Sunday that the operation was a success, saving 64 men, 13 women and one young child, with one body being recovered, and all those rescued were handed over to the Anti-immigration Agency.

Crimes

Man charged with brother's death arrested on way to Tunisia



Security services at the crossing border with Tunisia have arrested a man wanted on charges of murdering his brother, the Interior Ministry said on Thursday.

The police of Hay Al-Sinaiyah district received a report last Tuesday concerning a man that was shot dead by his brother in Duraibi area. The suspect was caught while trying to flee to Tunisia, the Interior Ministry confirmed, indicating that the offender confessed to the crime after interrogation and admitted that he had shot his brother with a "Kalashnikov" rifle.

The man will face charges of premeditated murder and possession of a weapon without a license, the Interior Minister confirmed.

weather

The Weather Channel

Tripoli Weather Forecast

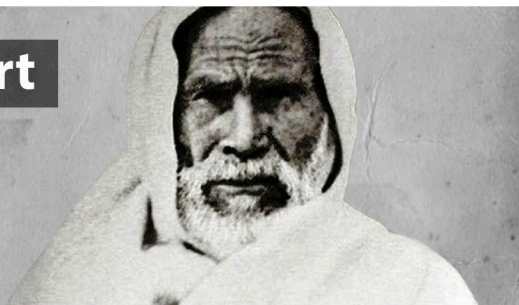
Fri 29	22°/14°		Sunny	5%	 WSW 22 km/h
Sat 30	24°/16°		Sunny	0%	 WSW 25 km/h
Sun 31	20°/13°		Partly Cloudy	0%	 W 26 km/h
Mon 01	19°/13°		Partly Cloudy	10%	 W 27 km/h
Tue 02	18°/12°		Mostly Sunny	20%	 WNW 29 km/h
Wed 03	19°/12°		Sunny	5%	 WNW 20 km/h
Thu 04	22°/15°		Partly Cloudy	0%	 SSW 13 km/h

Photo of the Week



Features

The Lion of the Desert



Omar Al-Mukhtar Mohammad Bin Farhat Al-Manifi was born in Tobruk on August 20, 1858. Called the lion of the desert, he was the leader of native resistance in Cyrenaica, eastern Libya under the Senussids, against the Italian colonization of Libya.

A teacher-turned-general, Omar was also a prominent figure of the Senussi movement, and he is considered the national hero of Libya and a symbol of resistance in the Arab and Islamic world.

Beginning in 1911, he led, for nearly twenty years, the Libyan resistance movement against the Italian colonial empire during the Pacification of Libya. After many attempts, the Italian Armed Forces managed to capture Al-Mukhtar and hanged him in 1931.

A statement said by Omar Al-Mukhtar in his final days captured the tongues and ears of millions of Arabs and Muslims, "We are a nation know no surrender, we win or we die."

As a child, Omar lost his father early on, and spent his youth in poverty. He was adopted by a great sheikh, and was friends with the nephew of Hussein Ghariani, Sharif al Ghariani. His uncle was a political-religious leader in Cyrenaica, and received his early education at the local mosque, before continuing his studying for eight years at the Senussi University in Jaghboub. He became a popular expert on the Quran and an imam, joining the confraternity of the Senussi. He also came to be well informed of the social structure of his society, as he was chosen to settle intertribal disputes.

He was very religious and strongly adhered to the religion of Islam, and he believed in the principle of jihad. Graziani described him as being sharp, cultured, tough-tempered, but very honest and humble. He also said about him that "he is a fanatic religious, but he is merciful when the ability is in his hand, and he is very loyal to his homeland, always respectful despite his actions that are against our interests and his only fault was that he hated us so much".

He fought the Italians since he was 53 years old for more than twenty years in a large number of battles, until he was arrested by the Italian soldiers, and was sentenced to death by hanging although he was sick on September 16, 1931, in Suluq town, south of Benghazi.

The purpose of Omar Al-Mukhtar's execution was to weaken the morale of the Libyan resistance fighters and eliminate the movements against Italian rule, but the result was the opposite, as the intensity of the revolutions increased, and the Italian forces ended up expelling the country.

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