

Politics

Al-Mishri urges HoR to implement Libyan Political Agreement of 2015



The Head of the High Council of State (HCS), Khalid Al-Mishri, urged in a letter the Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR), Aqila Saleh, to implement the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) that was included in the constitutional declaration, adding that the HCS will deal with the amendments as per the LPA.

Al-Mishri welcomed Monday the session of the HoR in Sirte, hoping it would be the start of achieving all tasks in the country in consensus with the HCS as per the LPA of 2015, which was signed under the auspices of the UNSMIL in Skhirat, Morocco, referring to the HoR intention to include the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum outcomes in the constitutional declaration.

Al-Mishri said the LPA (Article 12) says that all the bodies emanating from the LPA take legitimacy from the constitutional declaration and its amendments, adding that if other amendments will be made to the declaration, the HoR and HCS should agree on the final draft of the amendment and then the HoR will be responsible for endorsing it. "To avoid constitutional appeals that could take place after the amendments are made by the HoR, we urge you to apply LPA laws as included in the constitutional declaration. The HCS shall deal with the amendments positively," Al-Mishri said.

Politics

Dbeibah says expanded government line-up aims to include all Libyans



The Prime Minister-elect Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah said Tuesday, in the second day of the House of Representatives (HoR) session to discuss granting confidence to the Government of National Unity (GNU), that he had expanded the line-up to ensure all Libyans were represented.

Dbeibah indicated that he had excluded all individuals who occupied ministerial posts in the previous governments and that he had conditioned the nomination of ministers to their ability to travel across the whole country without any troubles.

"The line-up represents 15 electoral districts that represent all Libyans. Ministers are expected to work for all Libyans not for their own city only," He indicated, saying the Foreign and Defense Ministers will be later named after consulting with the Presidential Council.

He also reiterated that he would take into account the population, infrastructure and other services so that the budget can be distributed justly, confirming that he would speak with the UNSMIL and international stakeholders about the departure of mercenaries ahead of elections that should be based on a constitutional framework.

Dbeibah indicated that if any of the named ministers were proved to be subject to a corruption case, they would be eliminated from the GNU immediately.

He touched upon the fact that the Defense Ministry position was a subject of controversy and that many parties wanted to name the incumbent, adding that "it is very important to know that we won't allow war to erupt in Libya again".

"Women are represented by 15% and will later reach 30% once the government is approved," He added, saying his team has been working since being selected by the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum and that some of his work has been hindered by the Government of National Accord and that is why he didn't have a full vision of the entire necessities of the country, which he vowed to respond to starting from day one after receiving HoR confidence.

Politics

EU reviews new road map in Libya



The European Union (EU) envoy in Libya and envoy of the Spanish minister of foreign affairs for intercultural dialogue, Ramon Pliko, reviewed on Monday a vision for a European project for national reconciliation in Libya as a possible road map for the future, based on linking development, security and conflict prevention to con-



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consolidate a comprehensive democratic system.

This came during his meeting with the Foreign Minister of the Government of National Accord, Mohammed Sayala, in the presence of the Spanish ambassador to Libya, Javier Garcia-Larrache.

During the meeting, which was held at the Ministry's HQ in Tripoli, they discussed developments in the Libyan political dialogue and the role the EU plays in establishing peace in Libya.

For his part, Pliko reaffirmed the EU's continued support for Libya, expressing his readiness to cooperate with Libya to organize the elections to be held on the 24th of next December.

Politics

UAE transferring military equipment to Libyan -Egyptian border



An in-depth investigation by Al Jazeera news channel revealed that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had disassembled its military base in Eritrea, transferring a number of its military installations and vehicles to the Egyptian military base of Sidi Barrani, a town on the border with Libya, merely 240km from Tobruk.

The investigation divulged that Abu Dhabi transported in excess of 1,300 military vehicles, amongst them Patriot Systems along with aircraft from Assab base in Eritrea directly to Alexandria, to then be further transported by train to Sidi Barrani airbase.

This has been verified by satellite images and videos, according to Al Jazeera.

Politics

Malta's ambassador to Libya assumes office in Tripoli



The Maltese ambassador to Libya, Charles Saliba, arrived in Tripoli Monday to assume office at his country's embassy in the Libyan capital, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Government of National Accord, Mohammed Al-Giblawi, said.

Al-Giblawi said on Twitter that the Maltese ambassador's start of work in Tripoli "is an important step in establishing cooperation between Libya and Malta and to end people's suffering as they apply to obtain visas to the European country.

Al-Giblawi told The Libya Observer that the ambassador had taken office at the Maltese consulate building in Tripoli ahead of opening the embassy building in the coming weeks.

The Maltese ambassador also told The Libya Observer that he had arrived in Tripoli to prepare for reopening his country's embassy in a few weeks but the official opening would be after Ramadan.

Malta's Foreign Minister, Evarist Bartolo, reassured the Prime Minister-elect Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah days ago that his country would reopen the consulate in Tripoli and work on reopening the embassy soon.

Politics

Interior Ministry discusses security of diplomatic missions with British Foreign Office



The head of the General Department for the Protection of Diplomatic Missions, General Brigadier Wissam bin Jameh, on Sunday met with the embassy's security adviser at the British Foreign Office and the security adviser at the UK Embassy in Libya.

The Ministry of Interior said in a statement that the meeting held in Tripoli discussed several issues related to the protection of embassies and diplomatic headquarters.

The British delegation expressed appreciation to the department for its efforts to ensure the functioning of the diplomatic missions and embassies in a secure environment.

The meeting was attended by a delegate from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation at the Interior Ministry and the head of the Relations Office at the Diplomatic Security Department.

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Economy

Maiteeq: Financial division in Libya has ended



The deputy head of the Government of National Accord's Presidential Council, Ahmed Maiteeq, welcomed Sunday the "end of financial division between the Ministry of Finance at the GNA and east-based Interim Government after the GNA's Ministry had sent salary payments' orders for all public employees across the country to the Central Bank of Libya (CBL)."

Mitig said this "development is the first step toward unifying all state institutions after the Ministry of Finance sent payment orders for January and February salaries for all public employees to the CBL operations department before going to state institutions' accounts to be paid to about 1.8 million employees.

On February 08, the UN Support Mission in Libya said the Libyan parties had agreed on a two-month budget and resolutions for the banking crisis, saying its good offices and those of international financial organizations and the economic team established by Berlin Conference helped broker the agreements.

Economy

NOC takes part in 14th OPEC+ meeting to assess oil market's state



The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) participated in the 14th Ministerial Meeting of the OPEC + alliance held via video-conference, on Thursday.

NOC explained in a statement Sunday that the meeting was attended by Taher Najah, the technical advisor to the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the member of the OPEC Economic Commission Board, representing Mustafa Sanallah.

"The meeting assessed the state of the oil market in terms of supplies, demand and commercial stocks and reviewed the conformity levels of the Member States participating in the Declaration of Cooperation and decided to maintain the current production rates of most member states of the alliance until the end of April 2021," NOC indicated.

It added that as the pandemic continues to impact the oil market fundamentals, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia confirmed the continuation of reducing its daily production by the amount of one million barrels per day until the end of April to support market stability.

"The meeting also agreed to hold the next Ministerial Meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2021," NOC added.

Economy

Libya's oil production climb continues, hits 1.3 million barrels



The head of the National Oil Corporation, Mustafa Sanallah expected Libya's oil production to continue rising, but this requires more funding, security, and stability, Sanallah said.

In an interview with TRT Arabi TV, Sanallah revealed that Libya's oil production has hit one million three hundred thousand barrels, indicating that if world prices continue to climb, with the increase in production, Libya would establish new records in its revenues.

Sanallah confirmed that the revenues are still withheld in the NOC's accounts in the External Bank of Libya "to prevent them from being wasted," explaining that their dispute with the Central Bank of Libya is over the spending mechanism.

The NOC head noted that the oil sector in Libya constitutes 97% of the public revenues of the country's foreign currencies, as the state relies mainly on the oil sector.

"One of the reasons for the rapid recovery of oil production is the NOC's strong institutional management as a result of the law established by the founding fathers," Sanallah said, pointing out that the Libyan oil law, which was enacted in 1955, is one of the oldest petroleum laws in the world.

Sanallah insisted that the institution is being managed away from political agendas. "The NOC has repeatedly declared its neutrality. It stands at the same distance from all political and hardline parties, which has earned it the respect of everyone," Sanallah added.

Economy

NOC head, German ambassador discuss upcoming forum on oil & gas



Chairman of the National Oil Corporation, Mustafa Sanallah Wednesday, discussed with the German ambassador to Libya, Oliver Owczar, preparations for holding a forum convening German companies and the NOC during the coming period.

The two parties discussed ways to develop cooperation between the NOC and German companies in the oil and gas field.

For his part, the German ambassador expressed his gratitude for the NOC's efforts to maintain production rates and to support Libya's economy despite the circumstances and challenges the country is experiencing.

The German ambassador was accompanied during the meeting by the deputy head of the German mission, the political secretary of the German embassy, the head of the development cooperation mission, and the security advisor at the German embassy, according to a statement by the NOC.

Opinions

Starting steps for new authority

By Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



The positions differed from the visit of the new Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammad Yunous Menfi to Benghazi and his meeting with Haftar between welcoming, refusing and understanding. These are the expected positions of the presence of the main person in the Libyan crisis next to the new president. Some of the outrageous reactions were affected by the loss of the Aqilah / Bashagha list in the Geneva dialogue, and this is of course strange! Isn't Aqilah the first partner of Haftar, and he bears with him responsibility for all the crimes and violations committed by his gangs? He would have rushed to meet Haftar if he had won the presidency of the Presidency Council in a more festively.

Wasn't Aqilah Saleh the one who granted political cover and military promotions to Haftar and blessed his attack on Tripoli? So why protest then?

The Geneva track avoids delving into the fate of Haftar, because raising the issue will undermine the dialogue before it begins, and his supporters in the forum will reject any initiative to remove him. Hence, Haftar is a party to the conflict and is a color in the Libyan political spectrum, according to the mission's vision and the statements of Stephanie Williams.

Menfi's meeting with Haftar is a foregone conclusion, as no one can work in the East without the consent and acceptance of Haftar, even if he is the native of the region and the son of one of its tribes. Perhaps the shock came from the speed with which the meeting took place and before the new authority officially assumed its duties.

The events of the visit and the meeting revealed the suffering Haftar is enduring to maintain his influence and reduce the cracks in the edifice of power that he has established in the east. Preventing the media from covering the arrival of Menfi and publishing a single picture for Menfi and Haftar, and postponing the publication of pictures of the Menfi's reception at the airport and pictures of his other meeting for more than six hours, are clear signs of the visit being used to propagandize Haftar and suggesting that he has overcome the shock and his influence was not affected by defeat. This will send reassurance to his supporters and frustration among his opponents. The spread of news and images from different sources means diversity and threatens the return of media activity outside the control of Haftar's devices, and it is also difficult with the crowding of cameras to control the images and the formulations of the news spread across agencies and various media platforms, and in the crowd of images, the focus may be lost on the only image that is required to spread before any other image, to devote the previous photo of Haftar, and the restoration of the cracks that affected his image and prestige. Also, his appearance with Menfi and the declaration of welcoming and supporting the new authority is a message to the international powers through which he declares his acceptance and submission to the international will and responds to the paths of the United Nations, in order to avoid his classification among the spoilers, especially with the magnification of the file of his militia's crimes and the international interest in the mass graves discovered in Tarhuna after the breakdown of his campaign and his defeat.

The Menfi's visit to Benghazi and other eastern cities, and his dialogue with the political and social forces, is a natural start and a good introduction to launching towards the West and the South, in order to gain support for the new authority, and Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah took the same step by meeting with the political and social forces in Misrata for consultation and listening, before presenting his vision and program of his government. He also needs the support of the powers of his city and its union behind his government. It would have been better if the meeting took place in a public hall and not in his home, so that opinions would be freed from the restrictions of hospitality etiquette. After securing support from the main bases of both Menfi and Dbeibah, they begin their journey to other cities, which should not ignore any party. Menfi must communicate with the displaced from Benghazi and Derna, and Dbeibah must visit the cities of the East and the South.

The challenges that the new authority will face are many, and the time granted until the date set for the elections is not sufficient to fulfill all promises, yet many are optimistic about it because it is free of controversial personalities and is rejected by the majority of the people, and then there are no preconceived positions on any party of the authority figures, and this will open doors for communication and collaborate with everyone.

The prevailing climate and the general mood of the people is moving towards renouncing wars and conflicts, exhaustion and fatigue have afflicted almost everyone, and the political class, especially the House of Representatives, must stop procrastinating and harassment, and respond to the current transformations so that the new authority can alleviate the suffering of people by improving services, providing the necessities of life, addressing the Coronavirus pandemic and preparing the country for elections.

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

Sabha municipality announces new lockdown due to sudden increase of Coronavirus cases



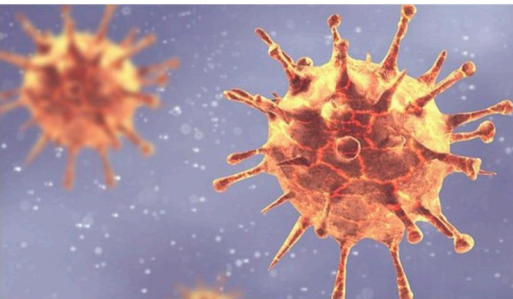
Sabha Municipal Council announced a new lockdown, along with the closure of universities, public and private schools, kindergartens, social and sports halls and shops for a period of two weeks, starting from March 8 up to March 20.

The Municipal Council specified in a statement regarding the dates of the ban during the aforementioned period, that the timing of the ban would be from 1 p.m. right up until 8 a.m. next morning.

The reasons for the new lockdown were directly blamed on the increase in the number of active cases of the Coronavirus pandemic, leading to deaths, however, particularly due to the failure of citizens to follow the suggested precautionary measures advised to avoid contracting the virus.

Health

WHO: Libya has missed out on first round of COVAX vaccines



Libya has missed out on the first round of COVAX vaccines for COVID-19 because it has not submitted key documents on time, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a statement Wednesday. WHO said that the Government of National Accord (GNA) issued a decree authorizing the Ministry of Health to sign a bilateral agreement for the direct procurement of vaccines from Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson.

"The Presidential Council and the Scientific Committee have endorsed the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan. WHO has urged the national authorities to consider covering the costs of vaccines for over 570,000 migrants and refugees in the country." The statement reads.

The statement added that although WHO has been sending regular supplies of PPE, health facilities reported they were still facing severe shortages of items, particularly gloves.

"WHO has arranged for additional supplies to be dispatched urgently. A detailed report will be issued at the end of the mission." It indicated.

COVAX initiative works to provide Covid-19 vaccines in a fair-share manner to all countries around the world and it contains many health organizations, including WHO.

Meanwhile, Libya's High Scientific Committee said it had contracted four Covid-19 vaccines' firms to bring 12 million doses, the first patch of which will arrive this month.



Health

Baby girl doing well after surgery to correct cranial deformity

Doctors at the Neurology Department of Tripoli University Hospital have successfully performed surgery to correct a skull bone for an 18 months baby girl who was suffering a congenital deformity in her cranial bone.

The child was diagnosed with Craniosynostosis which is a congenital deformity of the infant skull that occurs when the fibrous joints between the bones of the skull (called cranial sutures) close prematurely.

According to the head of the Neurosurgery Department, Dr. Faisal Talib, this closure could restrict the growth of the skull and cause increased pressure in the head which may lead to hydrocephalus, epileptic fits, or developmental delays, if it is left untreated.

The doctors released the fused suture and reshaped the skull as needed in a two-hour operation. The goal of surgery is to correct cosmetic deformities and allow for normal expansion of the brain within the cranium, Dr. Talib explained.

The hospital confirmed that the child has been moved out of the ICU and is responding well to the treatment, indicating that she would be back with her family in a couple of days.

Education **Tripoli University holds workshop on quality of higher education**



The University of Tripoli is to hold a workshop on March 15th, entitled "The quality of university education and the role of information technology in local and Arab universities - reality and ambition."

The workshop will bring together specialists and academics from the universities of Tripoli, Omar Al-Mukhtar Benghazi, Al-Zawiya, Sabha, Tobruk, and Muhammad Al-Senussi, in addition to external participation from the University of Suez in Egypt and the Palestine College of Technology.

The Tripoli University explained that the upcoming event is part of a series of online workshops aimed at transferring experiences and facilitating the exchange of information between elite universities.

"The workshop is an opportunity to enrich discussions on topics related to higher education and means to make universities a better hub for knowledge development," the Tripoli University said in a statement, stressing that the information technology can play a crucial role in raising the efficiency of the educational process if the universities' capabilities are harnessed thoughtfully.

Crimes **Niger seizes 17 tons of drugs headed for Libya**



A spokesman for Niger Anti-Drugs Trafficking Agency, Adili Toro, said on Friday that police in his country seized at least 17 tons of drugs, worth in the region of 37 million dollars, in a consignment originating in Lebanon, which was destined for Libya.

Toro added that the consignment of drugs passed through the port of Lome in Togo, before being transported by road north to Niamey, the capital of Niger.

The smugglers' intention was then to further transport the shipment by trucks to Libya through the desert city of Agadez.

Culture **After more than seven decades, head of ST. Faustina statue back home in Libya**



The head of the ST. Faustina marble statue displayed in the Graz Museum of Austria is making its way back to Libya after more than seven decades.

The sculpture which dates back to the Antonine era disappeared from its home in Libya 75 years ago, smuggled by the Nazis during World War II before ending up in the Graz Museum.

The Libyan embassy on Thursday confirmed in a statement that it had received the artifact from the Graz Museum during an official ceremony held in the region of Styria, in the presence of the Libyan ambassador to Austria and the Austrian ambassador to Libya.

The artifact will be handed over to the Sousse Archaeological Museum in Libya, according to the Libyan embassy.

Travel **Maltese courts lift freezing orders against two Libyan aircraft**



The Maltese courts have lifted the final freezing orders against two aircraft belonging to Libyan United Aviation airline after a negotiated settlement between the concerned parties.

The two "Global 5000" aircraft were detained in Malta for more than five years after failing to pay previous debts due to administrative procedures beyond the company's control, as described.

Libyan economic development fund last February indicated that it had reached a settlement on the airline's debts, after "long and arduous" negotiations and prevented the planes from being opposed to a sale through auction.

weather

The Weather Channel

Tripoli Weather Forecast


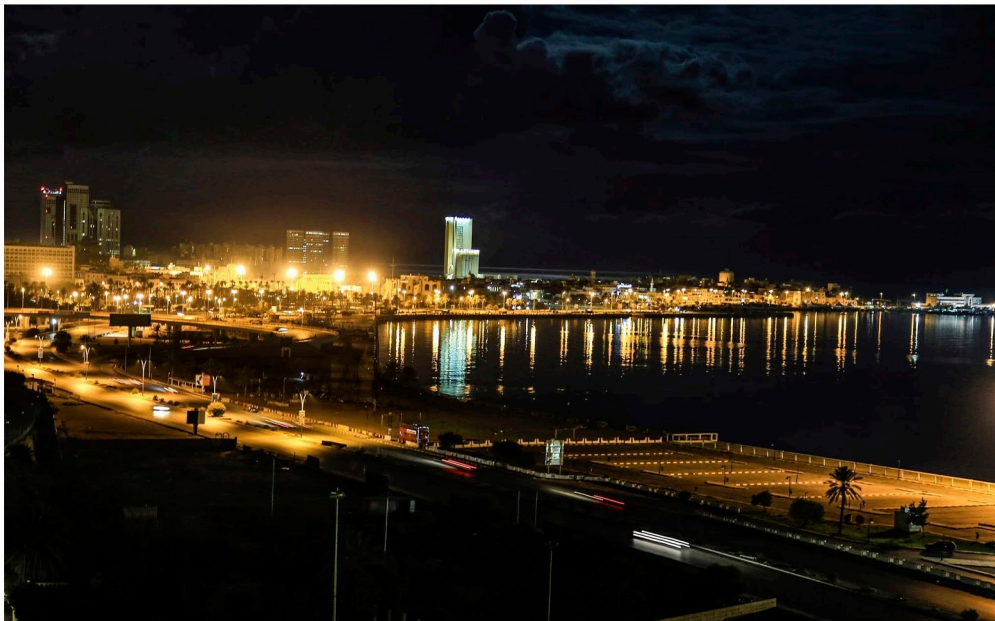
Fri 12	20°/12°		Mostly Cloudy	8%	E 22 km/h
Sat 13	18°/13°		Showers	71%	E 21 km/h
Sun 14	18°/12°		AM Showers	63%	NNW 21 km/h
Mon 15	18°/12°		Mostly Sunny	15%	NW 27 km/h
Tue 16	19°/13°		Mostly Sunny	15%	WNW 24 km/h
Wed 17	18°/11°		Partly Cloudy	14%	NW 24 km/h
Thu 18	18°/12°		Partly Cloudy	17%	NW 22 km/h

Photo of the Week



Features

Libyan cuisine: Abambar (Tripolitanian Almond Cookies)



Abambar is a very delicious famous dessert in Libya, especially in Tripoli, it is famous for its presence at special events and occasions like weddings or graduation celebrations. It is easy to prepare at home and has several methods. We chose one for you to try it in your kitchen.

Ingredients:

- Two cups of peeled ground almonds
- A cup of powdered sugar
- Two eggs
- A spoonful of almond essence

In a bowl, mix together the ground almonds and sugar. Beat the egg whites at medium speed in a mixer, and add the almond mixture and almond essence to the eggs. Beat again at medium speed for half a minute to get a soft dough. Preheat the oven and start shape into balls. Put an almond into the center of each ball for garnish. Bake for 15 minutes, until the balls flatten down.

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