



Politics

Greece says it restored diplomatic relations with Libya

Greek Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis confirmed that his country had restored diplomatic relations with Libya and increased its diplomatic representation.

This came during his meeting with the head of the Libyan Presidential Council, Mohammad Menfi, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Najla Al-Manqoush on Tuesday in Tripoli during which he announced the reopening of airspace between the two countries.

The two sides discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields, in addition to the formation of joint committees, according to a statement by the Presidential Council.

"There will be cooperation between Libya and Greece in the economic and investment fields", Menfi said, stressing that all agreements will be activated in all fields to serve the interests of the two peoples.

Politics

UN welcomes establishment of reconciliation commission



The UN Special Envoy to Libya, Jan Kubis, welcomed an announcement by the Presidential Council (PC) to establish the High Commission for National Reconciliation.

The UN mission praised the Commission's aim, which is to launch the national reconciliation process in order to promote unity, tolerance, justice, human rights and the restoration of the social fabric within all levels of Libyan society.

Kubis stressed the readiness of the UN to support the Libyan authorities in their efforts, emphasizing the significance of a comprehensive human-rights based reconciliation process, in essentially assuring lasting peace, stability, unity and prosperity in the country.

Politics

Dbeibah to tour the Gulf Arab states



The Spokesman for the Government of National Unity (GNU), Mohamed Hamouda, confirmed that the Prime Minister, Abdu Hamid Dbeibah is due to make an official visit to a number of Gulf Arab states. Hamouda said, on his Facebook page, that Dbeibah will undertake an official foreign tour, during which he hopes to visit a number of the Gulf states as part of his efforts to unify the Gulf's position in regard to the Libyan situation and to strengthen the relationship with all Gulf states on the principle of mutual respect, as he put it.



We are studying all agreements in line with our interests, PM Dbeibah says

The Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity (GNU), Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah, has affirmed that the government seeks to establish relations with all countries, especially the neighboring countries, saying "we seek the interest of Libya first and study all agreements in line with our interests".



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"We are ready to form joint committees with Greece to discuss maritime borders with an emphasis on the importance of any agreement that preserves the rights of Libya, Turkey and Greece", Dbeibah added during a joint press conference with the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, indicating that he sought to raise relations with Greece.

PM Dbeibah explained that there is great cooperation between Libya and Greece in the economic and investment field, and that the two countries are looking forward to activate all agreements in the field of energy and maritime trade, in addition to the agreements related to the education sector and the field of military training, indicating that reopening of the Greek embassy in Libya, providing visas and the health file were discussed.

For his part, the Greek Prime Minister said that "Libya's friends are the closest to it geographically, not the parties far from it", pledging to stand by Libya to achieve stability and hold elections away from foreign interference, as he put it.

Mitsotakis explained that the main goal of his visit to Libya is to resume the work of the Greek embassy in Tripoli, stressing that after the opening of the embassy, the consulate in Benghazi will open, adding that one of his government's priorities is to cooperate with Libya in energy field, including renewable energy and electrical connectivity.

"We stress the exit of mercenaries and foreign forces from Libya as soon as possible", Mitsotakis said, noting that cooperation between Libya and Greece could help demarcate the borders between the two countries.

He also confirmed that the Libyan Coast Guard has a prominent role in dealing with the issue of illegal immigration from Libya.

Politics

Algerian President: The smooth transfer of power in Libya is a positive development



The President of Algeria, Abdelmadjid Tabboune, has reaffirmed his country's full readiness to provide the necessary assistance to support Libya in the next stage of political settlement and construction.

Tabboune, in his interview with local media, considered the recent political and security developments in Libya very positive, including the smooth transfer of power away from violence.

"What is happening now in Libya had been previously demanded by Algeria", Tabboune said, explaining that he said before that the Libyan problem must remain internal, according to the Algerian newspaper Al-Nahar.

He also said that the universities and military academies in Algeria are open to Libyan students.



Politics

Menfi, Draghi review ways to activate Libya-Italy friendship treaty

The Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammad Menfi, discussed on Tuesday, with the Italian Prime Minister, Mario Draghi, ways to activate the work of the joint committee, especially the Libyan-Italian Friendship Treaty signed in 2008.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed the activation of maritime navigation between the two countries, and cooperation in the field of infrastructure and oil, in addition to the opening of air-space between them as soon as possible.

It is noteworthy that the Italian Prime Minister, Mario Draghi, arrived in Tripoli on Tuesday, on his first foreign visit since taking office last February, where he was received by the Prime Minister of the National Unity Government, Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah.



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Economy

Libya, China in talks over proposed cooperation projects

The Government of National Unity (GNU) is seeking cooperation projects with China in several domains.

Minister of Economy and Trade Muhammad Al-Hawaij said the GNU is looking forward to strengthening cooperation with Chinese and foreign companies, in general, to implement several investment projects in the fields of energy, transportation, housing, and public utilities.

In a meeting in Tripoli with Chinese officials and businessmen, Al-Hawaij emphasized that Libya has laws and legislation that provide safety and protection for investors, underscoring the GNU's commitment to providing foreign companies every facility they need to help them establish their businesses.

For his part, the Chinese delegation reviewed the companies' activities in the fields of construction and infrastructure development, as well as other projects implemented in Arab and African countries under Chinese supervision.



Economy

Sanallah discusses return of Chinese energy companies

Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mustafa Sanallah, has discussed with the Chinese ambassador to Libya Wang Qimin the return of Chinese companies operating in the fields of oil, gas, energy and construction, and their contribution to the development of Libyan oil fields, especially in terms of maintenance and modernization of crude oil transportation lines and rebuilding oil tanks.

Sanallah considered the visit of the Chinese ambassador to Libya as a positive step and a strong indicator of the return of stability to Libya, according to a statement by the NOC.

The NOC head expressed hope that Chinese companies, especially those working in the oil and energy field, would return to work and invest in Libya, and contribute to promoting the oil sector, which is the backbone of the country's economy.



Economy

Tripoli hosts scientific symposium on recovering Libyan assets

A scientific symposium was held on Wednesday in Tripoli under the theme "Recovering Libyan Assets, Stolen Funds, and Frozen Assets," with the participation of law enforcement institutions, investigation authorities, regulatory agencies, and the Financial Operations Room of the Central Bank of Libya.

The symposium featured important research papers presented by academics and representatives of judicial and law enforcement agencies.

Panelists also included representatives of foreign institutions, inter alia, Adviser Dr. Badr Al-Banna from the UN Crime and Drug Control office in Vienna, in addition to ambassadors and delegates of Libya in Geneva and Vienna.

Among the participants was Dr. Majdi Shabaani, Deputy Head of the Governmental Experts Group and Director of the Legal Affairs Department at the National Anti-Corruption Authority. Dr. Majdi stressed in statements to The Libya Observer that the importance of this symposium resides in the fact that it represents a complete convergence of the theoretical, practical, monitoring, and judicial aspects.

He indicated that Libya is a state party of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which includes a special section on recovering looted funds.

"The corrupt people channel their funds offshore to launder their money. To pursue them, we have to deal with numerous legal difficulties to recover these public funds. Corruption is smart and needs smart legislation," Dr. Majdi explains.

He emphasized the need for a national strategy to combat corruption, chief among them, amending penalties and punishments legislation, laws on the right and freedom of access to information, and to protect witnesses and whistleblowers, in addition to specialized prosecutions offices and courts to handle corruption cases.

"The seminar was an opportunity to re-evaluate ourselves and what has been done to recover the looted funds at the state's level."

According to Dr. Majdi, the Anti-Corruption Authority had recently referred 220 corruption cases to the competent authorities and issued its annual report, noting that its constraints in disclosing the document, is to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of the investigation.

The symposium covered several axes, including the role of anti-corruption agencies, regional and international cooperation, besides legal protection for frozen Libyan assets and the role of the Governmental Experts Group in identifying loopholes per the UN Convention against Corruption.

Opinions

The Camel Stage

Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



What was failed to achieve by thousands of bombs, missiles and combat bombers as they bombed the homes of the people of Tripoli over a period of 14 months, Al-Habouni camel achieved it in a few days.

While the innocent people whose homes were destroyed on their heads or were torn apart by the mines of Wagner's mercenaries, and the mourning of the victims' families of the murdered in the mass graves of Tarhuna failed, Al-Habouni managed to awaken the consciences of Tariq's daughters.

Those groups that topped the TV channels, means of communication and various media platforms as a supporter for the savages and mercenaries of Haftar as they invade Tripoli, throughout the months of war, full of hostility to humans and life, the justified aggression, crimes, murder and bloodshed, and their slogan was to glorify the killers and let the victims go to hell.

But the slaughter of a camel of Al-Habouni awakened their consciences from its slumber, and as soon as the news spread, they rushed to the pulpits, shedding tears on the camel, considering its slaughter as a symbolic sign and a message that carries within it the rejection of peace !! It seems that the ascent to the human stage in this affinity necessitates passing through the camel stage first. The Portuguese writer, José Saramago says: "There is no blind man worse than the blind who sees."

The fall of lies season

About two weeks after the kidnapping of Mrs. Siham Sergewa, Haftar's Interior Minister appeared and accused a terrorist organization of the kidnapping. He recounted the facts of a mock battle that took place in front of Sergewa's house, when a security force advanced and clashed with the terrorists before retreating due to the difference in the balance of power between the two sides.

Of course, no one believed this lie, which blew past lies about the undiminished liberation of Benghazi from terrorist organizations and elements, and about the blessing of security and safety in Benghazi under the auspices of the army and the police, and others.

The signature of the Awliya al-Dam militia was evident on the walls of Sergewa's house, and the pictures did not show any traces of the alleged clashes in the novel of the Minister of the Interior, who apparently hastened and did not consult a professional director to show him the flaws in his novel, which took two weeks to cook.

The series of lies did not stop to justify the crisis that afflicts the camp of criminal leaders in Benghazi, and as usual, the makers of lies did not pay attention to the contradiction of their narratives with the course of events in previous years.

Two days after the assassination of Mahmoud Al-Werfalli, the Chief of Military Prosecution stated in a press conference that Al-Werfalli suffers from a partial mental defect, and the military court referred him to a mental health facility. How does this diagnosis fit with the successive promotions of Al-Werfalli from Major to Captain to Lieutenant Colonel? How can a killer with a partial mental defect be allowed to carry a weapon and move freely? The angry reactions from the supporters of Al-Werfalli, and the leaders of the criminal gangs alerted to the enormity of the justification, prompting the Chief of Military Prosecution to go out on a satellite channel, adding that he meant by mental defect the psychological trauma that afflicted Al-Werfalli and all the military forces as a result of the war with the terrorists, a miserable attempt to cover up a frivolous lie with another worse one.

And we do not know what lies coming to justify any crimes on the horizon, in light of the intensification of the conflict between the rival militias, and the security chaos that has destroyed the myth of the army, police, security and safety.

When Al-Werfalli was killing, mimicking the method of ISIS, no one emerged denouncing this crime, while the voice of support was loud, the denunciation is intended here as the departure of a high-ranking political or social figure from the city, to reject and denounce Al-Werfalli's brutality and terrorist practices. Upon the siege of Qanfudhah, a tribal leader announced that no one over the age of fourteen would come out alive. He supported genocide, accusing all besieged people, including children, of terrorism and belonging to ISIS, while the audience was applauding and cheering behind his enthusiastic statement.

We did not see or hear those who forbid evil, the elders of the people did not denounce the heinous crimes except in whispers.

And from the laws of God, the curse of ruin prevail, and trees of revenge grow, crime breaks out, lies fall down, when nations and peoples lose their denial of evil.

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

Minister of Health: GNU accepts all responsibility for any side effects of Coronavirus vaccines administered

The Minister of Health, Ali Al-Zanati gave assurances that the nightmare of the Coronavirus pandemic should disappear from Libya, as the vaccines continue to be brought in to the country and administered to the population.

Al-Zanati said that the Russian Sputnik V vaccine will be administered gradually for three main groups according to a set schedule. He added in a press conference on Sunday that the Government of National Unity (GNU) would bear responsibility for any side effects of the vaccine; however, he did not anticipate any such effects would occur.

It is worth noting that 101,250 doses of Russian vaccine arrived on Sunday morning at Mitiga International Airport in Tripoli and this is the initial batch of vaccines to arrive in the country.

Health

WHO holds workshop to assess pandemic early warning system in Libya



The World Health Organization (WHO) Saturday launched a workshop in Tripoli to assess the disease Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) in Libya using WHO protocols.

The WHO explained that the two-day workshop was implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the National Centre for Disease Control, and independent evaluators from academic institutions.

It also noted that the event, which was sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was facilitated by experts from the WHO regional office in Cairo.

Health

Health official: Bureaucracy is putting patients' lives at stake



The Head of the Nephrology Unit at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Majda Mousa, has warned that the stocks of kidney disease tools are barely sufficient to run the dialysis centres for another two weeks.

Dr. Mousa explained in statements to The Libya Observer on Wednesday that the amount transferred to the Medical Supply Department from the Central Bank of Libya falls far short of the health sector's requirements.

The Medical Supply Department has to address the barriers and bottlenecks of all the health units and departments with the specified amount, which means providing "a little bit of everything" and thus returning to square one, Dr. Mousa says.

She confirmed that procedures for purchasing the kidney unit's needs are already underway, but the bureaucracy could put the lives of kidney patients at stake.

"It must be borne in mind that the shipping process takes 45 days at the least, while the tools hardly suffice for two weeks,"

Dr. Mousa stressed that the ready availability of stocks is necessary to avert the disruptions of supplies and to avoid the costly use of air freight.

According to Dr. Mousa, the Medical Supply Department resorts in urgent cases to ship the cargo by air and sometimes has to reduce the amount of the shipment in order to pay the air freight high costs.

Health

First batch of Coronavirus vaccines arrives in Libya

A batch of 101.250 Coronavirus vaccine doses (Sputnik V - Russia) arrived in Libya's capital Tripoli on Sunday morning, as the Health Ministry explained that this was the first batch and it will be followed by more gradually.

The Health Ministry added on its Facebook page that the vaccines arrived after efforts exerted by the Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeiba, adding that they would be stored at a number of storages belonging to the Health Ministry but didn't set a date for the vaccination process kickoff.

Dbeibah, meanwhile, said: "Little drops of water make the mighty ocean, and now we have managed to bring the first batch of Coronavirus vaccines and the rest will follow."

He urged on Twitter Libyans to register for vaccination on the allocated website that was launched by the National Center for Disease Control last March.

The Coronavirus vaccines that arrived in Tripoli Sunday are "Russian Sputnik V" type and they are different from what the member of the Anti Coronavirus Advisory Scientific Committee talked about as arriving from COVAX, which will be the "British AstraZeneca" type.



Buraq Air resumes flights between Tripoli, Benghazi

Al-Ahly Tripoli secured its sixth title in the Libyan Basketball League in its history after beating Al-Morouj on Monday.

The game hosted by the Suleiman Al-Darrat Complex for the penultimate round ended with an 88 to 54 victory to Al-Ahly.

Al-Ahly Tripoli achieved eight victories in the finals and lost only one match against Al-Nassr.

The second-leg matches of the finals will conclude on Tuesday, with Al-Ahly Tripoli meeting its rival Al-Ahly Benghazi. The results of the match will have no effect on the championship title.



Al-Ahly Benghazi draws 0-0 with Orlando Pirates at CAF Confederation Cup

Libya's Al-Ahly Benghazi drew South Africa's Orlando Pirates 0-0 on Sunday at Benina Martyrs Stadium as per of round three of group stage matches at CAF Confederation Cup after lifting the CAF stadium ban on Libya.

The first and second halves of the match ended 0-0 despite attempts of Al-Ahly and its South African opponent to score and secure the three points, however all chances weren't translated into goals neither by Al-Ahly nor by the guest team.

Now, Al-Ahly Benghazi has 4 points in third place of Group A and Orlando Pirates has 5 points in second place. The group includes also Nigerian Enyimba that has 6 points in the first place and Algeria's Es Setif with 1 point in the fourth place.



Local

GEOCL expects electricity deficit of 2,000 megawatts over summer peak period

The General Director of the General Electricity Company of Libya (GEOCL), Ibrahim Al-Falah, stated that the country is likely to face a deficit of approximately 2,000 megawatts during the summer peak period.

He explained that loads are likely to reach at least 7,000 megawatts simultaneously, however, to operate three generating units before the coming summer season may improve both state and public networks, stressing that debts owed by public entities presently exceeds two billion dinars.



MMRA: 170 wells out of service due to vandalism acts

The Man-made River Authority (MMRA) has confirmed that around 170 wells have been put out of service due to sabotage acts and illegal connections.

The statement was made following a visit by a team from the media office and the operation and maintenance department of the MMRA to the Al-Hasawna Water System to assess the extent of destruction caused by the attacks on the feeding wells.

"Such actions disrupt the system to the west coast and poses a great danger to water supplies to this area," the MMRA stated.

It also expressed concern over the continuing attacks against its facilities due to the absence of adequate protection, noting that the recurrence of such aggressions is hindering the maintenance and operational work.

weather

The
Weather
Channel

Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 09	20°/12°		Partly Cloudy/Wind	5%	E 34 km/h
Sat 10	24°/15°		Partly Cloudy	7%	ESE 30 km/h
Sun 11	27°/18°		Partly Cloudy	5%	ESE 30 km/h
Mon 12	29°/16°		Partly Cloudy	5%	E 23 km/h
Tue 13	23°/15°		Partly Cloudy	5%	NNW 20 km/h
Wed 14	22°/15°		Partly Cloudy	7%	NE 20 km/h
Thu 15	24°/16°		Partly Cloudy	5%	ENE 23 km/h

Photo of the Week



Features

The Libyan Desert

It is a geographical region filling the north-eastern Sahara Desert, from eastern Libya to the Western Desert of Egypt and far northwestern Sudan.

The desert, in its entirety, is uninhabited, as it is a large rocky plain called "Hamada" in addition to another part called "The Grea Sand Sea". It has 8 major depressions, as well as multiple oases.

The Libyan desert was explored by a number of explorers, although it was a passage for caravan trade between North Africa and the Greater Sahara Desert, as Ibn Battuta wrote about it in his writings.

In the desert there are some wild animals that are endangered.

The term 'Libyan Desert' began to appear widely on European maps in the last decades of the 19th century, typically identified as straddling the borders of present-day Egypt and Libya.

In Libyan Sands, Ralph Bagnold went as far as to suggest that the Libyan Desert was a separate geographical entity from the Sahara, cut off by the mountains and plateaux of the Ennedi and Tibesti in northern Chad, and the Akakus along the Algerian border in the west.

The Libyan Desert covers an area of approximately 1,300,000 square kilometres (500,000 sq mi), and extends approximately 1,100 km from east to west, and 1,000 km from north to south, in about the shape of a rectangle slanting to the south-east. Like most of the Sahara, this desert is primarily sand and hamada or stony plain.

Sand plains, dunes, ridges, and some depressions typify the endorheic region, with no rivers draining into or out of the desert. The Gilf Kebir plateau reaches an altitude of just over 1,000 m, and along with the nearby massif of Jebel Uweinat is an exception to the uninterrupted territory of basement rocks covered by layers of horizontally bedded sediments, forming a massive sand plain, low plateaus, and dunes. The desert features a striking diversity of landscapes including mountains, oases, and sand seas.

History

The ancient Greeks, such as Herodotus, regarded the whole of the North African littoral, to Cape Spartel in Morocco, as "Libya".

With the organization of the Italian colony of Libya in the 20th century the term "Libyan Desert" for this region became a misnomer, and the area of desert within Egypt became known as the "Western Desert".

During the 1930s the Libyan desert was the scene of exploration and mapping by the Italian Army and Air Force. Others, such as Ralph Bagnold and Laszlo Almasy also travelled in south-eastern Libya and southern Egypt, searching for the lost oasis of Zerkura. Bagnold also travelled into northern Chad, to the Mourdi Depression, recording his findings in his book Libyan Sands: Travel in a Dead World, which was published in 1935.



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