



Politics Turkish ministerial delegation prepares to visit Libya

The Turkish ambassador to Libya, Kenan Yilmaz, said a delegation of ministers from his country would visit Libya soon to discuss more cooperation in multifarious areas.

The remarks came Tuesday in a meeting with the Deputy Head of the Presidential Council Abdullah Al-Lafi in Tripoli as Yilmaz reiterated Ankara's support for national reconciliation and stability in Libya through backing up the political process as well as the new interim executive authority.

Al-Lafi hailed the role of Turkey in supporting the political process in Libya as well as peace and stability in the country, reiterating the importance of cooperation with Ankara in security, military, political, and economic areas and to receive Turkish expertise in training and consultations.

He also stressed the need to implement all the agreements signed by the two countries, in addition to the return of Turkish companies to work in Libya, especially in reconstruction and energy as well as electricity, and to activate the work of the Libyan-Turkish committee to resume the suspended projects.



Politics Bashagha hails Russia's stance on lifting UN arms embargo on Libya

The ex-Minister of Interior in the previous Government of National Accord in Libya, Fathi Bashagha, hailed on Twitter the Russian rejection to lifting the United Nations arms embargo on Libya before presidential elections.

Bashagha added on Monday that he was against any calls for lifting the UN arms embargo before December elections, saying Libya needed vaccines of Coronavirus and voter's ballots not weapons and bullets.

Meanwhile, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Saturday that it was very untimely to talk about lifting the UN arms embargo on Libya before holding presidential elections, while the Director of International Organizations Department, Peter Ilichev, reiterated that such a step was premature and elections should come first.

Ilichev added, according to Russian Sputnik news agency, that the Libyan Government of National Unity "has just been formed and hasn't started work yet," saying all stakeholders should wait for the holding of December 24 elections and assess the situation from that time on as "it's premature to talk about the unity of the country".



Politics Algeria reaffirms importance of Libya's stability

The Algerian Foreign Minister, Sabri Boukadoum, reaffirmed the importance of Libya's stability and security in the region, saying his country always backed this stance toward the neighboring Libya.

Boukadoum's remarks came on Twitter Tuesday after he had wrapped up his visit to Tripoli, where he arrived on Monday with a delegation that included the Algerian Interior Minister Kamal Beldjoud.

Boukadoum said the work visit to Libya was an opportunity to communicate with top officials of the new executive authority to boost bilateral relations and reiterate Algeria's support for the unification efforts in the country ahead of the upcoming elections, adding that Algeria's goal has always been Libya's security and stability.

Boukadoum and the Algerian delegation met with the Presidential Council's Head Mohammed Menfi and his two deputies, the Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah and the Head of the High Council of State Khalid Al-Mishri on his visit to Tripoli.



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Politics

AU confirms support for PC in establishing stability and conducting elections



The Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, Moussa Faki, confirmed the support of the AU for the Presidential Council (PC), in establishing stability and paving the way to the success of the general elections, scheduled to take place on December 24.

Faki, during his meeting with the Head of the PC, Mohammed Menfi, in Tripoli, the full support of the AU for Libya at all levels, particularly in combating illegal immigration and the achievement of comprehensive national reconciliation in the country, according to a statement issued by the PC on Monday.



Politics

African Parliament welcomes Security Council resolution on Libya

The African Parliament has welcomed the UN Security Council resolution that reiterated support for the Government of National Unity and its Presidential Council.

The political advisor to the African Parliament's Speaker, Mustafa Al-Jundi, reiterated the need to respect and implement the ceasefire in Libya and withdraw all foreign forces as well as support the work of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission.

The statement called on political parties and people to rally around the Presidential Council and Government of National Unity to preserve sovereignty and regain stability and security away from foreign intervention.

The African Parliament reaffirmed the need for Libyan legislative authorities to facilitate and support the work of the Libyan Government of National Unity as it leads the country to general elections, reiterating the need for approving a unified budget.



Politics

Italian Interior Minister discusses bilateral relations with Libya in Tripoli

The Italian Interior Minister, Luciana Lamorgese, arrived Monday in

Libya's capital, Tripoli, and met with the Head of the Libyan Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, to reaffirm the significance of bilateral relations between Rome and Tripoli in all fields.

The meeting focused on the importance of cooperation between Libya and Italy in security and fighting illegal immigration as well as securing borders, as both officials reiterated the need to achieve development in immigration source countries to end this phenomenon. Meanwhile, the Italian Interior Minister reaffirmed the depth of bilateral relations between the two countries and the need to activate joint agreements and partnerships, voicing hope that Libya and Italy would conduct more cooperation in different areas.

Economy

NOC declares force majeure in Al Hariga Port



The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has declared the force majeure and the halting of oil operations at the Marsa Al Hariga oil port.

"This announcement comes as a result of the Central Bank of Libya's refusal to liquidate the oil sector budget for long months, which led to an exacerbation of the indebtedness of some companies, and on the top of which is the Arabian Gulf Oil Company," a statement by the NOC said Monday.

The NOC expressed its understanding of the company's motive to suspend the operations and said it seeks an excuse for the Government of National Unity due to the delay in approving the planned



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planned budget for the current year.

It placed a full legal responsibility on the CBL, denouncing "the blocking of the necessary financial arrangements", which put the operating companies in trouble.

Meanwhile, the head of the National Oil Corporation, Mustafa Sanallah, warned of the consequences of ignoring the integrity of the NOC's assets and the significant damage that such measures could cause to equipment and surface facilities.

"Based on professional and moral responsibility, the National Oil Corporation has addressed the Ministry of Oil and Gas and informed it of the deteriorating financial position of the oil sector and the dangers facing it due to the failure to liquidate the necessary budgets," Sanallah said.

According to the Initial estimates of the NOC, the daily losses may exceed 118 million Libyan dinars and will negatively affect the revenues of April and thus the public treasury revenues.



The head of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mustafa Sanallah, held discussions with the French ambassador to Libya, Beatrice le Fraper du Hellen, regarding joint cooperation between both parties in the field of oil and energy.

The meeting, in which the du Hellen's economic advisor participated, included talks on strengthening the means of cooperation between the NOC and its various affiliated companies and the French companies operating in the oil and energy field, with a view to developing the Libyan oil sector.

Further discussed at the meeting was the preparations for a future meeting which is due to be held during the coming period between Libyan oil companies and French oil companies, with a hope to expand cooperation corridors and open the doorways of commercial opportunities, according to a statement by the NOC.



Hyundai Corporation prepared to return to work in Libya

A delegation representing the Korean Corporation, Hyundai, having held a meeting with the Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohamed Aoun, confirmed the Corporation's readiness to return to work in Libya, putting in place certain activities in both civil and oil projects, amongst various others.

Aoun discussed with the delegation at his offices, in the presence of the Libyan Charge d'Affairs of South Korea, the Corporation's return to work in Libya, having previously implemented several projects and participated with various companies in the implementation of yet other projects at Mellitah Oil Company and Zawiya power station.



Economy

Gas production plant reopened at Jalu oilfield

The Waha Oil Company announced the return to service of a gas production plant at Jalu oilfield, following approximately an 18-month stoppage.

The company's media office stated on its official Facebook account on Sunday that this step comes as part of the continuous efforts to rehabilitate the service and production facilities in the company's fields.

It added that it had completed the relevant maintenance work involving nitrogen and oxygen at Jalu oilfield, despite the shortage of spare parts, an obstacle which the workers overcame through due diligence and hard work, according to the media office.

Libya's Central Bank liquidates 5 billion dinars of banks' loans



The Central Bank of Libya said it would liquidate the second installment of the loans given to the Libyan commercial banks, adding in a meeting headed by the Governor, Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, and a number of heads of administrations, that the installment was worth five billion dinars.

The Central Bank of Libya added in a statement on Facebook after the meeting that the installment should be used in backing up the assets of the commercial banks for clearing transactions, in addition to providing cash for people and funding foreign currency transactions.

The meeting of the Central Bank of Libya also discussed availability of cash at the banks and clearing transactions, according to the media office.

Opinions

About the Prime Minister's foreign tours

By Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



It does not seem that the Dbeibah's government has a clear-cut plan towards the countries involved in the Libyan crisis, although the recent visits to the Emirates, Turkey and Russia reflect recognition of their profound influence, and Dbeibah's desire to reach some understandings with them in order to bring about some modification in their positions or neutralize them if possible, so do not put through their local agents any obstacles in the way of the government towards unifying state institutions and achieving some relief in internal crises.

The visit to the Gulf states was limited to only two countries, namely Kuwait and the Emirates, and the foreign minister was not among the delegation, which was limited to figures from the prime minister's family! What gives rise to doubts about the usefulness of the visit, and was it of a political nature? As long as the rulers of the Emirates have not issued a clear and declared position to support the political transformation in Libya through elections, the visit is meaningless and has no value. This round should not have excluded any country and started with Saudi Arabia as the largest and most influential country capable of crystallizing a Gulf position in support of stability in Libya.

The large delegation visiting Turkey reveals the importance of relations with a reliable ally that has a solid economic, military and scientific base, as well as its regional influence, which calls for concluding more agreements with it and activating the precedent to take advantage of its great potential, and also to ensure the continuation of its political position rejecting military coups and the seizure of power by force, so Turkey is able, with this position, to establish a state of balance in the political and military conflict, and push their opponents to be convinced of the futility of the coup option, and then return to dialogue and negotiations, and this is what happened with the previous Government of National Accord, which resulted in defeating Haftar's forces and his supporters away from the capital and the Libyan west.

The visit to Russia, the Minister of Oil and the Chief of Staff of the Army was accompanied by the Prime Minister, meaning that the oil file and armament contracts were the most important items of negotiations with the Russian side, as Russia wants to obtain a suitable share for its companies from investment contracts in the oil and gas sector, and it has previous contracts to supply weapons to Gaddafi and it were frozen due to the February Revolution and the fall of Gaddafi. But was Russia's violent intervention only for its economic interests? And it is not among Putin's strategies for geopolitical expansion in the region, restoring the former international role of the Soviet Union, driven by what it has achieved in Syria, and the fulfillment of an old dream that relied on the Soviets to gain a foothold on the warm waters of the south of the Mediterranean in the side of the southern flank of NATO?

Dbeibah's foreign tours did not include Greece, there is no interest or motive to visit it, as it is an ineffective country and has no papers in the Libyan crisis, and when the Greek Prime Minister failed to obtain what he wanted when he visited Tripoli, hoping to persuade Dbeibah to cancel the maritime memorandum of understanding between Libya and Turkey, he invited The Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammad Menfi, who had previously expelled him while he was ambassador to Libya in Athens, thinking that he would extract from him a promise to cancel the memorandum of understanding concluded between the AL-Sarraj government and the Turkish government, but Menfi indicated to the Greek government that the Geneva agreement does not grant him the right to conclude any international agreements or treaties, or to conclude new agreements, and all that the new authority can do is to initiate bilateral discussions on the maritime borders between Libya and Greece, and if the talks succeed the next elected authority shall assume its culmination by concluding an agreement that preserves the rights of the two countries.

Despite the importance of communicating with the countries involved in the crisis to push them towards positive intervention while ensuring their interests, this should go in parallel with addressing the living crises suffered by people, foremost among which is combating the Coronavirus pandemic, the provision of cash liquidity and the solution to the crisis of electricity outages, without ignoring the Parliament's reluctance to approve the budget in order for the government to start implementing some of its promises, time is running out, and if the government is sincere in adhering to the election date, it must take advantage of the international support it received in obtaining approval of the budget from Parliament, or requesting the UN mission to refer the matter to the Political Dialogue Committee.

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

Libyan Health Minister urges logistics cooperation with North Korea

The Libyan Health Minister, Ali Al-Zanati, has urged the North Korean ambassador to Libya for cooperation between the two countries, especially in logistical support by North Korea to Libya, including providing air medical service, ambulances, and managing some hospitals in southern Libya, as part of the Health Ministry's local medical treatment drive.

The media office of the Health Ministry said the remarks came in a meeting in Tripoli, where bilateral relations were discussed as Al-Zanati hailed the efforts of medics and paramedics working in the south.

The North Korean ambassador reiterated the importance of relations with Libya, specifically in the health sector, vowing to oversee the return of medical staffers from his country to Libya as soon as security conditions and Coronavirus restrictions allow.



Health

Minister of Health announces launch of Coronavirus vaccination campaign in the eastern region

The Minister of Health, Ali-Al-Zanati, announced the launch of the vaccination campaign against Coronavirus pandemic in eastern Libya after a shipment of vaccines from the medical supply stores in Tripoli arrived at the medical supply outlets in Benghazi.

The shipment consists of approximately 50,000 doses of the vaccine.

The National Center for Disease Control announced on Saturday the launch of the vaccination against the Coronavirus pandemic in Tripoli, stressing that 430 health centers throughout the country will open their doors to vaccinate those wishing to receive the dose.

Health

EU continues to cooperate with Libyan authorities in facing Coronavirus pandemic



The European Union (EU) Mission in Libya announced that with thanks to the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF), the Libyan authorities were capable of taking protection measures in conducting disinfection campaigns in public areas, distributing basic personal protective equipment and better equipping local health centers in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic.

"Ensuring that people have access to health care has been and remains at the center of the work of the EUTF for Africa in the North African region." The Mission said in a statement.

Health

Libya kicks off Covid-19 vaccination drive



Health authorities in Libya began vaccinating people against the coronavirus on Saturday using Russia's Sputnik V vaccine and AstraZeneca shots provided through the COVAX programme.

Last week, Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah along with the Health Minister received the first shots of the vaccine at the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) on live television to encourage people to register for their own vaccinations.

The campaign kicked off Saturday morning in 430 health facilities across the country. The centres have been equipped with all the health and media requirements for the campaign, the NCDC confirmed.

According to the NCDC, the vaccination rollout will start with high-priority groups, such as health workers, elderly people, and those who are chronically ill.

The NCDC Director Badr Al-Din Al-Najjar confirmed at a press conference that the vaccine will be distributed to about five municipalities in the eastern region that have health facilities equipped to receive and store the vaccine, while another batch will be delivered to the south within the coming days.

Libya has registered around 171,131 coronavirus cases, including 2,882 deaths and 156,344 recoveries according to the NCDC figures on Thursday.



Local

Gharyan Municipality renovates Gharyan-Jadu highway

Gharyan Municipal Council, in cooperation with the Transportation Office, and the Roads and Bridges Authority have started the urgent maintenance work of the Gharyan-Gadu highway.

They also implemented a number of projects as part of the municipal council's efforts to improve services and repair roads to serve the citizens.

"Work continues to pave roads and solve bottlenecks in the city's roads and streets", the Media Office of the Municipal Council confirmed.

Local

Minister of Displaced Affairs visits Tawergha IDPs in Janzour



The Minister of State for Displaced Affairs and Human Rights, Ahmed Abu Khuzam, on Monday, conducted an inspection visit to the Naval Academy in Janzour accommodating Tawergha IDPs.

Abu Khuzam discussed with the academy's administration a plan to evacuate the families housing the premises as soon as possible.

The Minister listened to the needs of the displaced families and the requirements for their resettlement, stressing full support for the voluntary and safe return of the displaced and their right to choose their next place of residence.

Abu Khuzam also called on government sectors in Tawergha Local Council to speed up preparations for receiving the returnees and provide the families with all the means to live a dignified life in their hometown.



Turkish agency reviews developing archaeological sites in Ghadames

Members from the Ghadames Municipal Council and representatives from the culture and heritage sector in the city have reached an agreement with the Turkish Agency for Cooperation and Coordination to conduct development and maintenance work to some tourist attractions in the Old City of Ghadames.

The Municipal Council of Ghadames said in a statement that the sites include the museum and some dilapidated facilities in the Old City that were erected in the Ottoman era.

The head of the Turkish delegation and representative of the agency in Tripoli, Ghayath al-Din Qartibah expressed his pleasure at the visit to Ghadames and his full readiness to transfer these ideas and proposals to the Turkish state for implementation.

The municipal council gave a visual presentation of some of the targeted projects and offered the Turkish delegation traditional gifts that express the city's heritage and identity.



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weather



Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 23	23°/16°		Partly Cloudy	7%	WNW 21 km/h
Sat 24	21°/14°		Mostly Sunny	10%	N 21 km/h
Sun 25	23°/16°		Sunny	10%	E 28 km/h
Mon 26	29°/22°		Partly Cloudy	3%	ESE 24 km/h
Tue 27	32°/20°		Partly Cloudy	0%	SSE 20 km/h
Wed 28	25°/20°		Mostly Sunny	1%	NNW 16 km/h
Thu 29	26°/20°		Partly Cloudy	7%	ENE 19 km/h

Photo of the Week



Features

The City of Msallata

THE LIBYA
OBSERVER

It is located in the northwestern part of Libya, in the Murqub District, about 130 km east of Tripoli. Latitude: 32 ° 37 'N and longitude: 14 ° 0' East, it was historically a center of Islamic studies. It is also known for olive tree farming and olive oil production. The Tripolian Republic was announced in Msallata on 16 November 1918 which was the first republic in the Arab world. Along with the city of Tarhuna, it gave its name to the former Libyan district of Tarhuna wa Msallata.

Most residents of Msallata are not originally from the city, but from other cities. People in Msallata are conservative and observant of Islamic laws, as in most Libyan cities. In a recent official census, Msallata has population of 79,709.

The history of the city dates back to the Roman Ages where it was mentioned as Misfe, a station between Leptis Magna and Tarhunah.

The city has a branch of Almergheb University of Arts, a medical technical school, a religious sciences college, and an engineering faculty. In addition, Msallata is home to many Islamic schools, such as Zawiyat Al-Jourani, Mejabra Mosque, Zawiyat Al-Dokaly. It is also a destination for many Libyan and Sub-Saharan students who seek to learn the Quran.

The city of Msallata contains some historical buildings, including the Spanish castle built by the Spaniards under the leadership of (Don Pedro Navarro) in 1510 AD on the ruins of a Roman temple dating back to the third century AD. There are also many buildings that were used for guarding and storing grain. The headquarters of the Msallata National Association for the memorization of the Qur'an and its sciences, Qasr Al-Maamoura, Qasr Al-Jadid, Qasr Bu Harb, Qasr Al-Masid and Qasr Al-Sam al-Deso, and recently, the wild reserve park was established in the Shaafin area as a national park.

National reserve in Libya (Shaafin)

It is considered one of the huge reserves in Libya, located in the Shaafin region, in the city of Msallata, which is a mountain range extending from the Nafusa Mountains. It includes valleys, trees and various natural plants, in addition to the presence of different types of wild animals.

It is also classified by UNESCO, as it contains more than 300 rare medicinal herbs.

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