

Politics

Turkish Defense Minister says Ankara's presence in Libya protects rights, interests of Libyans



The Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said Tuesday that his country's soldiers in Libya were protecting the rights and interests of Libyans, reiterating the sovereignty of Libya and its stability and independence.

Meeting Turkish soldiers in Libya as he visited the country with the Foreign Minister, Chief of Intelligence and Chief of General Staff, Akar said Ankara would continue to help friend and brotherly countries in just causes and would defend their and their people's rights.

"The presence of Turkish soldiers aims to assist their Libyan brothers. When we came here, there were many problems, but we exerted all the needed efforts via the sea, land and air to help Libyans day and night in order to remove those problems," Akar said. He added the expertise of the Libyan Chief of General Staff Mohammad Al-Haddad, commander of Tripoli military zone Abdelbasit Marwan and commander of western military zone Osama Juwaili helped massively in Libya operations, saying that it is all about achieving peace and stability in Libya now, especially the efforts to consolidate the ceasefire.

"We won't forget the killing of 26 young men at the Tripoli Military College and assist graves in Tarhouna. We will continue to train and give consultation to Libyans, especially in the field of demining and bringing life back to normal for Libyans in areas where war was waged. Turkey had so far given medical treatment to over 10,000 Libyans and dismantled over 4,407 explosives," Akar explained.

He said Ankara supports the Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah and his government and will do all required for maintaining calm till December elections, reiterating that Greece's efforts to annul Libya-Turkey maritime MoU are sterile.

Politics

Dbeibah: All Libyans have the right to criticize government performance



The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah said all Libyans are entitled to the rights of freedom of expression and criticism of the government's performance as per the constitutional declaration as well as international conventions and national laws.

Celebrating the World Press Freedom Day on Tuesday, Dbeibah said in a statement that his government wouldn't allow targeting journalists based on their opinions or merely based on the fact that they work for the press, adding that his government would also prohibit

the arrest of journalists while on duty and that any violations of these instructions would be punishable by law.

Dbeibah said his government prioritizes protection of journalists while on duty, saying that it is prohibited to detain journalists at the security apparatuses.

"The government will work to ensure the rights of journalists to protect their sources of information which they are required to make public as per the professional ethics of the press. We're working on restructuring Libya's media institutions to allow participation in management and policymaking, thus; boards of trustees for media institutions will be formed to represent civil society organizations and profession syndicates," Dbeibah indicated.



Haftar's militias remove monument to Operation Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous from Sirte

Haftar's militias in Sirte have removed the monument to Operation Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous from the Saffron Island in the city, spokesman for the Sirte-Jufra Operations Room, Brigadier General Abdul Hadi Darah said.

"This symbolic monument means a lot. It was built to remember the martyrs who sacrificed their lives to liberate Sirte and marks the beginning of a new stage free of terror after the heroes of Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous ended the ISIS rule in the city," Darah added.

It may be worth noting that Haftar's militias seized Sirte in January 2020, after the Libyan army withdrew its forces from the city.



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Politics



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Libyan Political Dialogue Forum

UNSMIL invites LPDF members for virtual meeting after Eid

The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has invited members of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum to a virtual meeting via Zoom after Eid Al-Fitr to discuss the Legal Committee's recommendations regarding the constitutional basis for the upcoming elections.

According to the letter of invitation, the meeting is to take place between 20 and 27 of this month.

The UNSMIL confirmed that the Legal Committee has completed discussions and is putting the final touches on the constitutional basis for the upcoming December elections.

It is noteworthy that the last meeting of the Legal Committee was held in Tunis between 7 and 9 of last April.

Politics

Libya is keen to establish distinguished relations with Turkey, Al-Mangoush says



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of National Unity (GNU), Najla Al-Manqoush, has affirmed Libya's keenness to establish distinguished relations with Turkey in the interest of both countries.

In a joint press conference with Turkish Foreign Minister, Mevlüt Çavuşolu in Tripoli, Al-Manqoush praised Turkey's support for the health sector in combating the Coronavirus pandemic, calling on Ankara to cooperate with the government to implement the ceasefire agreement and the outcomes of the Berlin conference. For his part, Çavuşolu said that their support for the legitimate government in Libya prevented a civil war and stopped the war between brothers, adding that they would support the Libyan government in the service files and the challenges it faces.

In the same context, Çavuşolu referred to the formation of a Libyan-Turkish parliamentary friendship group within the Turkish National Assembly, explaining that his country has made an intense effort to bring about lasting peace, stability and prosperity in Libya.

He also added that his meeting with the Prime Minister, Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah included a discussion on the maritime memorandum of understanding, its terms of reference, and the steps taken towards it in the future, in addition to the mechanism for the return of Turkish companies to resume their work in Libya.

Politics

PM Dbeibah receives high-ranking Turkish delegation



The Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity (GNU), Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah received on Monday the Turkish Foreign Minister, Mevlüt Çavuşolu, the Defense Minister, Hulusi Akar, the Head of Intelligence, Hakan Fidan, and the Chief of the General Staff, General Yasser Guler.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed strengthening relations between the two countries, and means of enhancing them in the interest of the Libyan and Turkish peoples.

From the Libyan side, the meeting was attended by the Chief of the General Staff of the Libyan Army, Lieutenant General Muhammad Al-Haddad, and Foreign Minister, Najla Al-Manqoush, according to the GNU media office.

It is expected that bilateral and regional issues will be discussed during the visit, which is the first for Turkey's highest officials after the formation of the GNU headed by Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah.

Dbeibah visited Turkey last month and met with the Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, where they affirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations, the maritime agreement, and cooperation in multiple fields, including oil and natural gas.



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Libya, Italy to reactivate Joint Economic Committee

Libya and Italy have agreed to reactivate the Libyan-Italian Joint Economic Committee and review Libyan investments in Italy and stimulate trade exchange.

This came during a meeting on Monday between the Minister of State for Economic Affairs, Salama Al-Ghwail, and the Italian ambassador to Libya, Giuseppe Buccino.

The two sides discussed aspects of cooperation and partnership in various areas, including renewable energy, and attracting investment from Italian companies, besides pending files such as completing stalled projects and activating the joint friendship agreement.

The meeting also touched upon the illegal immigration issue and Italy's support for Libya with experience and capabilities to combat the Coronavirus pandemic.

Al-Ghwail stressed the importance of working with Italy and the European Union to improve the security situation in Libya, calling on the EU and affluent countries to launch programs and invest in African countries to diminish migration flows.



CBL Governor meets Charge d'Affairs of British Embassy in Tripoli

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Sadiq Elkaber, met on Monday, at the headquarters of the CBL in Tripoli, with Kate English, the Charge d'Affairs of the British Embassy to Libya and her accompanying delegation.

The meeting dealt with a number of issues of common interest related to financial and economic affairs, in addition to cooperation between the CBL and the Government of National Unity in the fields of confronting the Coronavirus pandemic.

English showed, according to a report by the media office of the CBL, her country's readiness to strengthen cooperation between the Libyan Financial Information Unit and its counterpart in Britain, particularly in the field of economic development.

Economy

NOC Chairman reviews impact of delayed budget on oil sector



The Chairman of the Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mustafa Sanallah, discussed with the UN envoy to Libya, Jan Kubis, the impact of the lack of budget funds on the employees' living conditions at the oil sector.

Sanallah and Kubis discussed the developments at the Libyan oil sector as the former spoke about the challenges facing the oil sector amid lack of funds that are affecting the employees and the operations alike.

Meanwhile, Kubis reiterated the need for oil production operations to continue and stressed the need for supporting the oil sector and the NOC to ensure no damages to Libya's oil output.

Economy

UN envoy applauds CBL cooperation in the international audit file



The UN envoy, Jan Kubis, praised the part played by the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) in the country, by facing the crises that hit the Libyan economy and its cooperation with regard to the international audit file.

During his meeting of the Governor of the CBL, Sadiq Elkaber, on Sunday, both sides discussed various issues relating to the financial and economic conditions of the state and the banking sector, according to the official Facebook page of the CBL.

The meeting also discussed, according to the same source, the efforts of the CBL to end the problem of cash, along with cooperation between the CBL and the Government of National Unity (GNU) in files such as the Coronavirus pandemic, the provision of vaccines in the country and support for the oil and electricity sector.

Opinions

Why was Dbeibah prevented from visiting Benghazi?

By Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



The spokesman for the Government of National Unity (GNU) announced the postponement of the date of the meeting of the GNU, headed by Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah , scheduled for last Monday in Benghazi, without mentioning the reasons for the postponement. Although these reasons were known to all, since the announcement of the government's visit to Benghazi and the threat to prevent it by Haftar's militia, did not stop through social media, and these militias carried out their threats to prevent the delegation of government protocols and guards from entering Benghazi, even with Dbeibah responding to some of Haftar's militia's conditions to appoint those close to him in government positions, the militias did not back down from their position and prevented the government from entering Benghazi and holding meetings with its officials to consider the city's needs, its reconstruction plan, restoration of what was destroyed by the war, and preparing ways for the return of the displaced.

This development predicts that the obstacles facing the GNU will be concentrated in eastern Libya, specifically Benghazi, the stronghold of Haftar and his militias that control the military and security scene in it, and who are able to move the mob to send messages that they want to send to the government and other political parties.

It is reported that the Egyptian government will intervene to mediate between Dbeibah and Haftar so that the government can meet in Benghazi at a later date. If the mediation succeeds, and this is expected, then it is certain that there are other conditions that Dbeibah will have to agree to. The Egyptian keenness to enable the GNU to operate in eastern Libya is mainly due to the Egyptian government's desire to implement the agreements concluded with the Dbeibah government during the recent visit of the Egyptian government delegation to Tripoli so that Egypt can return to play an active role in the Libyan crisis and take advantage of promising economic opportunities in Libya after the fighting fronts subsided.

Egypt's rapprochement with Turkey after a rupture and hostility that lasted for years, is likely to turn Egypt towards playing a different role from its previous role in the Libyan crisis, and the results of this rapprochement will be positively reflected on the situation in Libya, but not to the point of restraining Haftar in order not to continue obstructing the implementation of the political agreement sponsored by the United Nations Mission in Geneva, because Haftar diversified his international and regional alliances, and if Egypt reduces its support, he will obtain support from other parties, and then this international silence over his defiance of the international will means that Russia, the Emirates, and perhaps France do not mind his continuing threat of the fragile stability that is threatened with collapse. The fact that no position has been issued by the UN mission, the European Union, or the American embassy regarding obstructing the government's work is a very dangerous indication that elections can be held on the date announced in the road map, and inevitably this international silence, if it continues, will encourage Haftar to continue with the same approach, which has already been followed by the previous Skhirat agreement.

Dbeibah's recent visit to Moscow did not seem to have succeeded in changing the Russian position, despite the great economic promises that Dbeibah made to Russian officials. Dabaiba was accompanied on the visit to Russia by the Chief of the General Staff of the Libyan Army, Lieutenant General Muhammad Al-Haddad, as the purpose of his presence and presenting him to the Russians in his military capacity was a clear indication of Dbeibah's unwillingness to deal with Haftar or granting him whatever positions and advantages he wanted in the GNU, and this gives an additional reason for Haftar to prevent Dbeibah and his government from operating in his areas of influence in the east.

As for the main reason, in my estimation, it is Haftar's realization that the government's start to operate in Benghazi and the Eastern Region outside of his hegemony means that there is another authority that will compete with him for influence by soft power. After approving the budget, the GNU will work to improve services for the people, compensate the affected, rebuild, and open transportation routes between East and West, and this transformation would divert people from Haftar and his destructive projects, and to establish a state of stability and the possibility of war erupting again, and the chances of holding elections will be enhanced. And this is completely contrary to what Haftar wants, who does not see himself as an existence except by preserving the flame of the conflict and the continuation of the state of division, which may coincide with various international circumstances that give him hope to resume chasing his illusions of controlling the country and ruling it by force.

There are major concessions that Dbeibah must make to Haftar if he wants to work in the East, and if he submits and introduces them, he will turn them into another Al-Thani, whose main task is to meet the demands of Haftar, his sons and the rest of his gangs, meaning that it will be nothing but a facade that hides the hands that hold the keys to power and decision.

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's Health Ministry discusses cooperation with the UK

The Libyan Health Minister, Ali Al-Zanati, discussed with the United Kingdom's chargé d'affaires, Keith English, the Coronavirus pandemic issues in the two countries and possible cooperation in the healthcare sector.

The UK chargé d'affaires said her country was ready to support Libya in the healthcare sector and that the UK was keen to develop health sector in Libya.

The Libyan Health Minister hailed the UK support and readiness to assist Libya's healthcare sector, saying they are ready to cooperate in all relevant fields, including training programs, and reiterated that cooperation in psychological treatment will also be significant, especially after years of war and instability in Libya.

Meanwhile, the British chargé d'affaires said they would be happy to see the Libyan Health Minister's vision for nationalizing medical treatment and expertise within Libyan medical institutions.



Health

UNICEF delivers over 1,000 vaccine carriers to Libya's NCDC

UNICEF has delivered 1,029 cold boxes and vaccine carriers to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to be dispatched to vaccination centres across the country.

"The cold boxes and carriers are used for keeping vaccines cold during transportation and at a controlled temperature all the way to point of vaccination," the organization explained in a statement.

It indicated that since the beginning of the national vaccination campaign in Libya, it has also delivered four cold rooms (up to 20 degrees below zero with a capacity of 20 cubic meters) to Misrata, Benghazi, Tripoli, and Sabha.



Health

Health Ministry sets plans to reduce outbound medical tourism

The Health Minister, Ali Al-Zanati, has reiterated that enhancing domestic medical tourism remains one of the most important goals for his ministry.

This came during his participation in an online meeting with experts concerned with outbound medical treatment programs, according to the Health Ministry media office.

The Health Minister reviewed the available opportunities, the actions needed to organize domestic and overseas treatment, and set clear lines for referring complex cases to international medical tourism.

Al-Zanati stressed the need for setting a mechanism to follow up on the patient when receiving treatment abroad and the importance of benefiting from international centers through direct communication between their counterparts in the country.

"Our citizens cannot be sent abroad to receive medical care without following up with specialists to see the patients' response to the treatment and ensure that the services provided to them meet the quality requirements," Al-Zanati said.

He indicated that they would work to transfer expertise to national health professionals and paramedics, with the view to reduce outbound medical travel costs and spend it on reviving the medical system in the country.



Health

Health Ministry, Libyan Red Crescent ink MoU

The Health Ministry and the Libyan Red Crescent signed on Thursday a memorandum of understanding to regulate the humanitarian organizations' work in Libya.

According to the health ministry, the accord provides for reviewing previous agreements with the Red Crescent and develop them in line with the current and future conditions.

"By this agreement, the Libyan Red Crescent would work to fill any gaps, from emergency humanitarian relief in the country," the ministry explained, indicating that this would prevent all undesired interventions by local or international parties that do not respect the national sovereignty.

The two parties agreed to develop a national plan for emergencies, crises, and humanitarian aid, as well as committing to mutual training and form joint emergency and crisis operating rooms.

They further stressed the need for coordination and cooperation in the media and awareness campaigns and to allocate the tasks amongst them, each according to his competence.

Travel

Closing borders with Libya is not currently on table, Tunisian Health Minister says



Tunisian Health Minister, Fawzi Mahdi has stated that closing the borders with Libya, proposed by Tunisia's National Committee to Combat Coronavirus, is not currently on the table.

"The National Committee to Combat Coronavirus has not decided to close the borders yet, and when it meets, the issue will be discussed", Mahdi said in a press conference in response to a question about re-closing the Tunisian-Libyan borders to prevent the Brazilian strain.

Mahdi added that the process of gene cutting is continuing to investigate new strains in Tunisia, stressing the need to apply preventive measures, which are not implemented as required.

Migration

172 migrants rescued north of Zawiya



The Libyan Coast Guard and the Libyan Port Security rescued 172 migrants of various African nationalities north of Zawiya.

The spokesman for the Libyan Navy Chief of Staff stated that the migrants were on board a rubber dinghy, attempting to head to European shores.

The spokesman added that the migrants were disembarked at the drop-off point at the Tripoli Naval Base, from where they were finally transferred to the Ain Zara migrant shelter for documentation and processing.



Al-Ahly Benghazi out of CAF Confederation Cup after losing 1-0 to Algerian ES Setif

Al-Ahly Benghazi on Thursday lost to Algerian Wefaq ES Setif 1-0, in the last round of the African Confederation Cup group stage ending their chances to qualify for the quarter-finals of the competition.

ES Setif got their goal in the 3rd minute after Ali Meraï of Al-Ahly Benghazi shot the ball at his team's end by mistake.

Al-Ahly Benghazi finished last in the group stage with 7 points, and ES Setif also bid farewell to the tournament by coming in third place with 8 points.



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Sun 09	27°/19°		Mostly Sunny	8%	ENE 28 km/h
Mon 10	30°/21°		Partly Cloudy	3%	E 29 km/h
Tue 11	32°/20°		Sunny	1%	E 24 km/h
Wed 12	26°/17°		Partly Cloudy	1%	NNW 21 km/h
Thu 13	24°/17°		Mostly Sunny	2%	N 21 km/h

Photo of the Week



Features

Castelverde, Libya (Qarabulli)



It is a Libyan coastal city located in the northwest of the country, 65 km from the capital city of Tripoli, 58 km from the city of Khums, and it is bordered by Qasr al-Khayyar to the east, Tajoura to the west, the seashore to the north, and Tarhuna to the south.

It is an agricultural rural area with some valleys and plains and is famous for cultivating many agricultural crops and grains on which most of the population depends, as well as livestock raising, fishing and some other traditional crafts. It has a fishing marina that contributed to the development of the economic activity in the city.

History

It was a green plain and part of the Jafara plain extending between Tripoli and Tarhuna in the south to the coast of the sea in the north, and it was known as the port of Jafara.

At the end of the Qarra Manali era, the time of the Ottoman rule of the country in the eighth and nineteenth century, approximately some administrative buildings and a palace called the Qarabulli Palace were built, which was a police station in the Italian era and is currently the location of the Jumhouria Bank,

Italian Occupation Era

It was known for its historical jihad against the hordes of the Italian invasion, which was embodied in an eternal battle known as the Battle of Ras Ghazal, during which the people and knights of Qarabulli and the surrounding areas wrote the most wonderful epics of heroism, jihad and sacrifice for the sake of the homeland against the Italian occupation.

Origin of the Name

Qarabulli is a word derived from the ancient Greek word 'Gallipolis', which means the beautiful city. And during the Italian occupation of Libya, it was given the name Castelverde, which means the Green Palace, likening it to a city bearing the same name in the Lombardy region in northern Italy.



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