

Politics

Baytelmal: Lawsuits will be filed against coastal road reopening spoilers



The Commander of Sirte-Jufra Operations Room, Ibrahim Baytelmal, said they will file lawsuits against spoilers of the reopening of the coastal road as well as against Khalifa Haftar forces' spokesman, Ahmed Al-Mismari, over his "fabrications and lies".

Baytelmal told reporters that Haftar's delegation in the 5+5 Joint Military Commission has "bad intentions" and they don't have the final say, which is clear in the prolongation of the reopening of the coastal road, saying what happened on Sunday was written in history for all Libyans as the Libyan Army under the Government of National Unity proved that they cared about people and reopened the road to end their troubles.

Meanwhile, the spokesman of Sirte-Jufra Operations Room, Abdelhadi Drah, said Monday that after the reopening of the road, the area from Abu Grein to Bin Jawad will be controlled by a two-side police force and if Haftar's side didn't fulfill the rest of conditions to withdraw forces 5km away and hand over the interior checkpoint, the road would be closed.

5+5 Joint Military Commission issued a statement after a meeting on Monday in Sirte, saying it had visited the coastal road in the presence of UNSMIL representatives to check for its readiness to be frequented by people, adding that the road needed urgent repairs and that it had contacted a relevant firm to fix in the coming few days.

Politics

US AFRICOM Chief reviews withdrawal of foreign forces from Libya



US Africa Command (AFRICOM) Chief, General Stephen Townsend, discussed with the Libyan National Unity Government representatives and Chief of General Staff, Mohammed Al-Haddad, the need for foreign forces to withdraw from Libya immediately.

AFRICOM added in a statement on Monday that the meeting took place in Morocco on the margins of Exercise African Lion 21.

The statement said that Townsend and the Libyan officials also explored ongoing efforts to unify Libyan military institutions as well as boosting military cooperation with the US.

Politics

5+5 JMC puts off reopening of Libya's coastal road



The Libyan 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) has postponed reopening the coastal road between Sirte and Misrata until damages on the road are fixed and checkpoints are clearly assigned to security units.

The decision came after a meeting on Monday in the presence of an UNSMIL delegation in Sirte. The attendees also went to 50km checkpoint in western Sirte to see the procedures for reopening the coastal road that has been blocked since January 2020.

This comes after the Prime Minister, Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah, announced reopening the road Sunday as he visited Buerat Al-Hasson outside Sirte to supervise the opening process, while Haftar's 5+5 JMC delegation said the reopening was a unilateral act.

After the meeting, Haftar's 5+5 JMC delegation member, Khairy Al-Tamimi, told reporters that reopening the coastal road from the western side by Dbeibah "created confusion", saying the procedure will be soon done after security arrangements and roadworks are done.

In the meantime, Sirte-Jufra Operations Room commander Ibrahim Baytelmal told the Presidential Council - the Chief Commander of the Libyan Army - in a letter that reopening the coastal road would be for 15 days only to allow 5+5 JMC to implement the rest of ceasefire points of agreement; most importantly, the withdrawal of foreign forces and mercenaries from central Libya and releasing prisoners of war.



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Politics

EU changes criteria for Libya-related sanctions



The European Council said Monday it had changed the decision currently in place concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya, with the aim of specifying the criteria used to decide on sanctions on persons and entities whose acts threaten the peace, stability or security of Libya.

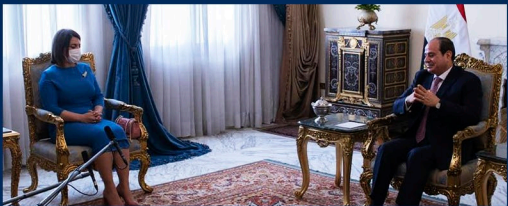
The European Council decided that it was necessary to clarify that the criteria for the imposition of restrictive measures also include persons and entities obstructing or undermining the elections planned for in the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum Roadmap.

"This is in line with the United Nations Security Council resolution 2571 (2021)," The European Council added, saying that the EU continues to call on the international community and all relevant actors in Libya to comply with all UN Security Council resolutions in relation to Libya.

"In this regard, we recall our instrument of sanctions against possible spoilers of the country's political transition." The European Council added.

Politics

Egypt reaffirms support for Libya's interim government and political track



The Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on Sunday affirmed Cairo's full support for Libya's interim government and the road map agreed upon through the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum.

El-Sisi's remarks came in a statement by the Egyptian presidency following his meeting with Libyan Foreign Minister Najla Al-Manqoush in the presence of her counterpart Sameh Shoukry and the head of the General Intelligence Abbas Kamel.

"Egypt fully supports the Presidential Council and the Libyan government, in their tasks during the transitional period, aimed at restoring stability and holding elections on their scheduled date on December 24," the statement read, insisting that restoring Libya's sovereignty begins with the withdrawal of foreign forces and mercenaries.

For her part, Al-Manqoush expressed her aspiration to enhance cooperation with Egypt, especially at the security level, and said she is looking forward to the continued support of Cairo and for raising the level of mutual diplomatic representation.

Al-Manqoush arrived in Cairo, on Saturday, on her first visit to Egypt since taking office months ago, where she discussed with Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry bilateral relations and the importance of supporting the Libyan political process.



Politics

PC bans military movement after Haftar takes over border crossing with Algeria

The Presidential Council (PC), in its capacity as the supreme commander of the army on Saturday, banned all military movements across the country without its approval.

The PC issued a statement prohibiting any re-positioning of military units for any purpose, regardless of the nature of their work, or the transfer of personnel, weapons, or ammunition, without its prior approval.

The PC's decision follows the movements of Haftar's militias towards the southern Essen border crossing with Algeria, declaring the area a military zone in which movement was strictly forbidden. On Thursday, Haftar announced an operation in the south "to track down the Takfiri terrorists and expel African mercenary gangs which threaten security and stability."

Concomitantly, the Supreme Commander of the Libyan Army announced the appointment of Masoud Abdel Jalil as commander of the Counter-Terrorism and Organized Crime Force in the southern region, and Ali Al-Ghanai Qiraira as commander of the joint operations room for securing the south.

The PC also assigned the 117th, 116th, and 96th infantry battalions to join the operations room in the southern region.

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Economy

Libya calls on Turkish companies to return as country heads towards reconstruction

Minister of Transport Muhammad Al-Shoubi has stressed the importance for Turkish companies to return to Libya and contribute to the reconstruction process, where armed conflicts had destroyed infrastructure and swathes areas of the country.

The minister made his remarks on Monday during a meeting with the Turkish ambassador to Libya, Kanaan Yilmaz, in Tripoli.

The two sides discussed several topics of common interest, including requirements for Turkish Airlines to resume its flights to Libyan airports.

They also reviewed the report submitted by a Turkish auditing committee that visited Mitiga International Airports in Tripoli and Misrata earlier to ensure security, technical and occupational safety measures. In this area, Al-Shoubi requested Turkey's help in lifting the no-fly zone over Libyan airspace.

The Turkish ambassador received an invitation to visit the marine passenger terminal in Misrata as efforts are underway to open a sea line between the coastal city and Turkey.

The minister welcomed cooperation to modernize the civil aviation system and upgrade the air navigation crews in accordance with international standards for civil aviation.



Economy

Minister of Oil to strengthen cooperation with Czech companies

The Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohamed Aoun, discussed several topics related to activities of Czech companies, with the Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Libya, including the future of cooperation between both countries in the field of oil and various other economic fields.

This came during a meeting held on Sunday June 20, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Oil in Tripoli, during which Aoun reiterated that Libya is prepared to cooperate with the Czech Republic in various fields.

He added that relations between the two countries extend back a long time and can be further enhanced in the future, whilst urging Czech companies to engage and show their presence in Libya.

Italian energy giant Eni is studying the possibility of building a solar power plant to provide energy for the city of Rabiana as an entrance to the establishment of this type of station in southern Libya, the Director of the Sustainable Development Department at the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mokhtar Abdel Dayem has said.

A statement by the NOC indicated that its president, Mustafa Sanalla, held a meeting with dignitaries and activists from the municipality of Rabiana, located in the Fezzan province, last Thursday to discuss the project details.

Rabiana is a desert town located in the southeast of the country, some 1,700 km from Tripoli.



Food Fair, Fezzan Economic Salon kicks off in southern region

The Tamanhint Exhibition and Conference Center in the southern Municipality of Wadi Al-Bawanis hosted the Libyan Food Festival and Fezzan Economic Salon, which will run until the 25th of this month.

The event was inaugurated by Deputy Prime Minister Ramadan Abu Janah and Minister of Economy and Trade Muhammad al-Hawij in the presence of several government ministers and local officials.

Deputy PM Abu Janah praised the efforts of the Ministry of Economy and Trade in organizing this exhibition, stressing that the government is working to make the southern region a commercial and free zone in order to support investment and advance the Libyan economy.

For his part, the Minister of Economy and Trade emphasized in his speech that initiatives are underway to establish a bureau for the Ministry of Economy in the south and activate the economic surveillance system.

According to Al-Hawij, the ministry has plans to promote durum wheat production in farm constituencies and is ready to provide support for several projects, besides encouraging the export and marketing of dates outside Libya, which is considered one of the best in the world.

The festival provides an excellent opportunity to showcase the wide variety of southern-based food businesses such as dates, cereals, and canned food, besides fruit trees.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, the cornerstone of the southern economic zone was laid in Tamanhint, in the municipality of Wadi Al-Bawanis.



Economy

Erdogan says Turkey could cooperate with Azerbaijan in oil explorations in Libya

The Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, announced that Turkey is considering initiating cooperation with Azerbaijan on conducting joint drilling and exploration operations in the Libyan oil industry.

In press statements, Erdogan stated that both countries could potentially work in the hydrocarbon sector in Turkey, Libya and various other countries, along with participating in the oil refining business. Erdogan added that apart from the aforementioned project, it may be possible that both countries could begin other projects, adding that Turkey and Azerbaijan could work together in Libya.

Economy

Italian energy giant Eni plans to build solar plant in southern Libya

Eni

Opinions

Obstacles in the way of constitutional basis for elections

By Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



While the deadline is approaching for the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) to receive the constitutional basis for the December elections so that it can start implementing them, the disputes still exist, and the parties have not reached an acceptable consensus on the basis for the elections, there does not seem to be any hope of reaching a final vision to be adopted by the House of Representatives (HoR) and referred to the HNEC.

The continuation of the dispute between the High Council of State (HCS) and the HoR is expected in view of previous experiences in which they failed to resolve the outstanding problems between them. However, the inability of the Political Dialogue Forum to resolve the issue of the constitutional base was not expected, because the forum succeeded in drawing a roadmap for the next stage and it resolved the issue of renewing the legitimacy of the authority by setting the date of the elections, then deciding the choice of the new authority and forming the new presidential council with the national unity government. It was not an easy step, given the intensity of the conflict, the competing rivalries, and the scale of international interventions.

The UN envoy, Jan Kubis, expressed his disappointment at the forum's failure to define the constitutional base, announcing the return to the House of Representatives, calling on it to complete it within two weeks, and because the division continues in the HoR, and the reluctance of more than half of its MPs to attend sessions even after its unification, and the urgent disagreements between its speaker and first deputy, it is not expected that it will succeed in achieving this entitlement, and this is the first obstacle.

The second obstacle is the need to agree with the HCS on it before adopting it, and referring it to the UN mission and the HNEC. The position of the HCS or its proposals is completely different from the vision of the Speaker of the HoR and the MPs loyal to him, who may adopt a constitutional base that suits their aspirations, without regard to the rejection of the HCS and the rest of the MPs, or the legality of the session, which may open the door to challenge it before the judiciary, and the legitimacy remains subject to controversy even if the elections were held. And without ignoring the popular reluctance to participate in it, or for some influential parties to forcibly disrupt it in some electoral districts, if the constitutional base is adopted without broad popular consensus and support.

Parallel to this friction and disagreement, members of the Constitution Committee are active with a number of civil society organizations in calling for the draft constitution to be put to a referendum before the elections. Despite the lack of enthusiasm of the UN mission and the major powers for this approach and their

UN mission and the major powers for this approach and their focus on holding elections on a constitutional basis on which the main political forces agree, the support of large sectors for this approach may push them to adopt it with the continued failure of the Political Dialogue Forum Committee, or the HoR and the HCS to reach consensus.

In conclusion, we are about three or four proposals for the election rule. Legislative elections only, or legislative and presidential elections, without deciding the method of electing the president directly from the people or from the HoR after his election, adoption of the constitution as a temporary constitutional basis for a single parliamentary session, during which the newly elected council will address the draft and put it to a referendum. The last proposal has the support of a good number of members of the HoR and the HCS.

It is unlikely that the dispute will be resolved and a constitutional base approved on the date set by the HNEC. The gap is wide and there is little time left. The Speaker of the HoR did not show the required interest, so his call for the parliament to convene next Monday, the fourteenth of this month, did not include on its agenda a discussion of this entitlement. Rather, the discussion will be about the budget and sovereign positions, which means more procrastination and delay.

Time is pressing, and the obstacles in the way of the constitutional base are numerous, and the Berlin II conference on the Libyan crisis, scheduled to be held on the 23rd of this month, may not find anything to discuss in the election item if its agenda does not include the constitutional base, and then the conference will be between two options. The first is the agreement of those present to give another deadline to the Libyan parties to provide this base, with the possibility of delaying the date of the elections by a few months. The other is to agree on a legislative and presidential procedure on time without delay, and to invite the United Nations to supervise it in cooperation with the HNEC. And waving obstacles in the face of obstructionists.

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 expects arrival of 54,000 doses of American Pfizer Coronavirus vaccines



The Director of the Vaccination Department at the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Abdel Basset Asmio, stated that the department is awaiting the arrival of a shipment of the American Pfizer vaccine, consisting of an estimated 45,000 doses.

Samio explained in a press statement, that the majority of medical and auxiliary elements will assist, due to the limited quantity, however it is expected that approximately 25,000 medical facilities will benefit from the vaccines, as they are administered in two doses.



Health

Health Ministry inspects health facilities in Ghat district

A delegation from the Ministry of Health headed by its undersecretary for Technical Affairs Samir Koko has started an inspection tour to the health facilities in the southern region.

Among the targeted areas will be Ghat and its surroundings in Oweinat, Thalah, Ghat, Al-Fayyot, Al-Baraka, and Essin.

The ministry said that this comes as part of efforts to improve and develop health services in hospitals and health facilities throughout the country.

One of the main stops for the ministry's delegation was the Ghat Hospital, where they listened to the problems facing the sector and proposals for urgent solutions.

Ghat Hospital has stopped providing services since 2008 because of maintenance work. It is also suffering a severe shortage of doctors, medical and auxiliary medical personnel, according to its staff.

The ministry's delegation got an insight into the health facilities' stockpile of medicines, medical supplies, and equipment, besides the kidney center in the village of Al-Fayyot, and the ambulance services apparatus.

Health

Medical services in Ghat are worsening, Ministry of Health affirms



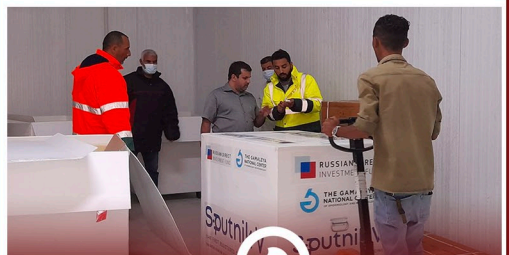
The Ministry of Health confirmed that the main headquarters of the Ghat General Hospital has been closed for more than 13 years, apparently due to maintenance works which began in 2008.

This confirmation came in a visit by a delegation, headed by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, in response to the extremely urgent humanitarian appeal, which was launched by a citizen of Ghat, regarding the deterioration of medical services provided to citizens at the hospital.

The Ministry of Health said that Ghat General Hospital, working from its temporary headquarters, suffers from a severe shortage of medicines, equipment and medical care and added that it would develop an urgent and top priority short-term leading to long-term solution to ensure the continued provision of medical services to the citizens of Ghat.

Health

Libya receives new batch of Sputnik Covid-19 vaccine



Libya on Tuesday received its second batch of the Russian Sputnik Covid-19 vaccine to bolster its immunization drive against the virus.

According to the Medical Supply Service, the shipment consisting of 100,000 doses landed at Mitiga International Airport and passed the customs control.

Currently, the vaccine is stored at the examination and receipt committee warehouse, awaiting the confirmation of the Drug Inspection Department at the Food and Drug Control Center.

Sports

Libya fails to qualify for Arab Cup 2021



Libya has failed to qualify for the Arab Cup 2021 after losing to Sudan 1-0 at the Khalifa International Stadium in the Qatari capital, Doha.

With this loss, Libya bids farewell to the Arab Championship, which will take place next December.

The Libyan team seemed to be short of energy from the start while its opponent held firm and settled in, taking the lead 15 minutes in the first half with a penalty kick by Mohamed Abdel Rahman.

In the second half, the Libyans managed to produce excellent chances and were very close to tying the score, but the time ticked away, and the goals needed never arrived.

Libya is out, and Sudan will join Algeria and Egypt in Group D. The group is awaiting the match between Lebanon and Djibouti to determine the fourth team in the group.

Education

Minister of Higher Education meets with president and deans of faculties of Fezzan University



The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Omran Al-Qeeb has discussed with the president and deans of faculties at Fezzan University, the problems and obstacles facing the progress of the educational process at the university, in order to solve them.

During the meeting, Al-Qeeb stressed the quality of the outputs of the university's faculties, the mechanism for activating the study in attendance at the university, the rapid and urgent maintenance of buildings and laboratory equipment, and the payment of financial dues to faculty members, teaching assistants and employees.

Travel



Afriqiyah Airways launches Misrata-Sabha airline flight

The Libyan Afriqiyah Airways announced the initiation of the Misrata-Sabha airline flight adding that the flight operation comes following instructions of the Government of National Unity (GNU), with the intention of linking all Libyan cities and airports.

It emphasized the importance of transporting citizens throughout the country, stressing that it would do everything in its power to provide a service worthy of passengers, according to a statement on its Facebook page on Monday, June 21.

On Sunday, June 20, the company's first flight arrived at Sfax International Airport in Tunisia, having had flights suspended for almost a year, noting that the first flight, listed on the summer schedule for 2021, took off from Misrata Airport to the Tunis-Carthage Airport.



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Sat 26	35°/26°		Sunny	0%	NE 19 km/h
Sun 27	36°/27°		Sunny	0%	E 21 km/h
Mon 28	36°/27°		Sunny	0%	E 22 km/h
Tue 29	35°/26°		Sunny	0%	ENE 21 km/h
Wed 30	35°/26°		Sunny	0%	ENE 20 km/h
Thu 01	35°/25°		Sunny	0%	ENE 18 km/h
Fri 02	33°/25°		Sunny	1%	NNE 19 km/h

Cartoon

National Reconciliation

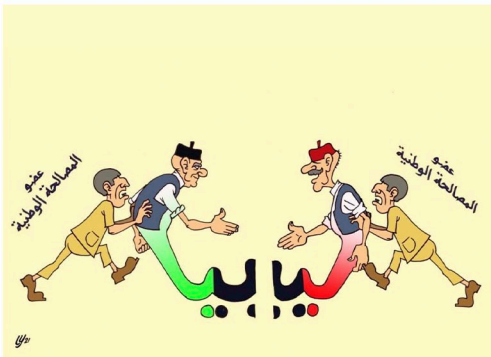


Photo of the Week



Features

The Traghen Town



It is a small town, located in the Fezzan region in southern Libya, at an altitude of approximately 420 m above sea level. Taraghin extends 55 km east of Murzuq, 770 km away from Tripoli on the Misrata-Jufra road, and Sabha is 145 km north of it.

Traghen controls some of trade caravan routes that connect it to other oases of the Fezzan region, including the northern road through Sabha, as well as the road that passes through Traghen towards the east to Zuweila, and to Tamsa, and on the same road near Hamira located 50 km east of Traghen, then the road to Qatroun and Chad branch off from it.

In addition to the importance of Traghen's geographical location, it is characterized by the fertility of its land and the abundance of its fresh groundwater, some of them are completely fresh and others are salty or limey, but the water springs in Traghen are rarely found, and the most abundant of them was the spring of Traghen and it was called Ain Qandarieh.

The fame of the Traghen region for the abundance of water and its proximity to the surface of the ground is what undoubtedly helped the growth thousands of palm trees in it, with high-quality varieties dates that provided food for the inhabitants and the caravans passing through them.

History

Traghen by the 13th century was dominated by the Saifawa dynasty, The Saifawa were said to have gained control of the Fezzan by establishing a post in the oasis of Traghen about twenty miles east of modern Murzuq and some seventy miles west-south-west of ancient Zawila.

It was approached by western explorers on 29 November 1822. In the late 1820s, it was about sixty years ago, the residence of a sultan, who governed eastern Fezzan.

Major Denham noted that the people of Traghen were exceptionally skilled in carpet making and their carpets rivaled those of Constantinople. Also Hugh Murray later noted its fine carpets in the early 1850s.



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