

Politics

Blinken: Withdrawal of foreign forces from Libya to start soon



The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, said withdrawal of foreign forces from Libya will start soon and that there is an international consensus on this file.

Blinken told Italian newspaper, La Repubblica, that the withdrawal process will take time, adding that there is also an international consensus on the need for Libya to hold elections on December 24 and the withdrawal of all foreign forces as per UN resolutions.

He said the international consensus on elections and withdrawal of foreign forces is very strong and cannot be ignored by the pertaining countries that have regular or irregular forces in Libya, including Turkey and Russia.

Politics

Al-Manqoush: Libya had a prominent role in curbing ISIS in the region



Foreign Minister Najla Al-Manqoush, has underlined the "prominent role" of Libya in curbing the ISIS group in the region, after "it sought in every way to make Libya a haven for terrorism."

In her speech at a ministerial conference for the international alliance against ISIS in the Italian capital, Rome, Al-Manqoush stressed the importance of intensifying cooperation to bridge security gaps.

She called for uprooting the financial resources for these groups, supporting security agencies and border guards, and exchanging information and cooperation to limit irregular migration flows.

The Foreign Minister stressed that the positive developments seen in Libya would enhance the stability of all neighboring countries.

Stability in Libya will have a positive impact on the neighboring countries, including the Sahel and Saharan regions that are experiencing terrorist and criminal activities, Al-Manqoush says.

She also praised the international efforts to support Libya by implementing the Berlin I and II outcomes with its political, economic, and military tracks.

"The withdrawal of foreign forces is critical to Libya's political, security, military, and economic stability,"

At the conclusion of her speech, the Foreign Minister underscored the commitment of the Presidential Council and the Government of National Unity to international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Al-Manqoush confirmed that her government is ready to take action to ensure the safety of civilians and children, stop violence and improve the conditions of societies affected by wars and conflicts.



Politics

LPDF: No Dual citizenship allowed for Libyan president candidates unless permitted by law

The Libyan Political Dialogue Forum's (LPDF) Advisory Committee said the members unanimously agreed on holding presidential elections by the method of lists, LPDF member Abdullah Othman said, adding that they had agreed in Switzerland that president candidates must be Muslim Libyans of Muslim parents and has no foreign citizenship, unless is permitted by relevant laws, in addition to not being convicted for crimes and to resign from all military posts once elected.

Othman said the members had unanimously agreed to delay carrying out a referendum on the constitution draft until after the formation of the elected legislative authority as per the constitutional basis, saying the authority must conduct the referendum before the end of its tenure and that the LPDF should form a technical committee to contact with the Constitution Drafting Assembly to handle the objections of some components on the draft.

He added that the members had also agreed on dividing the parliament into a House of Representatives - headquarters in Benghazi 13 constituents with 200 members - and a Senate in Tripoli or Sabha; 11 constituents with 120 members.

"Assurances are made a chapter in the constitutional basis and the Presidential Council as the Chief Commander of the Libyan Army takes measures to unify the military institution as a precondition for kicking off elections". He added, saying the LPDF will convene by September 30 the most to assess the military institution unification work, national reconciliation and the work of the High National Elections Commission.



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Politics

Dbeibah looking forward for activating the Libyan -Moroccan High Committee



Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah on Sunday said he is looking forward to the resumption of work of the joint High Committee with Morocco, which halted in 2009.

Dbeibah's remarks came at a press conference in Rabat with Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita during the PM's first visit to the Moroccan capital since he took office last March.

Dbeibah praised the relations that link the two countries and the efforts of the Moroccan government to unify Libya's institutions and bring political and security stability to his country.

At the press conference, the PM indicated that the objective of his visit is to strengthen and develop the bilateral relationship with Morocco in all fields.

He called for activating the Arab Maghreb Union and stressed the necessity of convening the joint consular committee between the two countries to facilitate visas, residency, procedures for Libyan students, and other issues.

Meanwhile, Bourita said, "the visit of the Libyan Prime Minister and before him the Speaker of the House of Representatives comes at a sensitive time amid intense diplomatic efforts and preparations for the December elections.

"We want to keep pace with the efforts of the Libyan people and Libyan institutions to prepare for these important milestones," Bourita added.

On Sunday, Dbeibah began a two-day visit to Rabat, where he is to meet his Moroccan counterpart, Saad Eddine El Othmani, and other officials.

Politics

HNEC to open electoral register to voters on July 4



A member of the High National Election Commission (HNEC), Abdel Hakim Balkhair, announced that the HNEC is due to open the electoral register to all voters on July 4 and the opening of the registry will be announced in a press conference, which will inform the public through the HNEC's media office.

In media statements, Balkhair added that the process of opening the register would make registration available to all wishing to register who have reached a majority of 18 years old, including those wishing to change their previous electoral status.

Balkhair added that there are at present 30 registration centers, distributed throughout various Libyan cities, with two million and 400,000 citizens registered for voting to date.

Politics

UNSMIL: Understandings reached regarding Libyan constitutional basis



UNSMIL said on Sunday that the Advisory Committee of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) reached on Saturday consensus formulas on many of the outstanding issues and will submit its recommendations to the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum for its consideration and appropriate decisions at its upcoming meeting on 28 June in Switzerland, after completing its ongoing consultations.

UNSMIL said that together with the members of the Advisory Committee, it had commended the work of the Legal Committee in developing a draft constitutional basis for the holding of national parliamentary and presidential elections on 24 December 2021.

During the meeting, the Advisory Committee reviewed various proposals submitted by the LPDF members on the constitutional basis necessary for holding these elections, as stipulated by the LPDF Roadmap and called for by the Conclusions of the Second Berlin Conference, as well as by Security Council resolution 2570 (2021).

"The discussions took place in a positive atmosphere filled with a spirit of compromise. Advisory Committee members will meet again in Switzerland, before presenting their proposal to the LPDF plenary," UNSMIL said.

UNSMIL commended the members of the Advisory Committee for their spirit of national responsibility and tireless efforts to pursue a realistic and consensual formula that secures the holding of elections, in a safe environment, to respond to the aspirations of the Libyan people and their longing for lasting stability, sovereignty and democratic legitimacy of Libya's institutions and their elected representatives.

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Minister of State for Economic Affairs meets Chargé d'Affairs of the Greek Embassy in Libya



The Minister of State for Economic Affairs, Salama Al-Ghwail discussed on Monday, with the Chargé d'Affairs of the Greek Embassy to Libya, Ioannis Stamatikos, many issues related to development and joint economic cooperation, in addition to activating the memoranda of understanding signed between the two countries.

During this meeting, Al-Ghwail stressed the depth of the existing cooperation between Libya and Greece and ways to develop it to serve the common interests of the two countries.

For his part, the Chargé d'Affairs of the Greek Embassy in Libya invited the Minister of State for Economic Affairs to visit Greece, accompanied by Libyan businessmen, to enhance economic and development cooperation.



Libya, Tunisia agree to set up a joint transport company

A Libyan-Tunisian forum for transport and services was held in Monastir, Tunisia to discuss support for productive bilateral cooperation between both countries and to gather opinions in order to improve services in the transport sector.

According to Tunisian sources, the establishment of a Tunisian-Libyan land transport company was announced with a view to transporting people and goods between both countries with ease.

Both sides also agreed to reactivate previous agreements between the two countries in various methods of transport, along with other connected services, such as life and property insurance, stressing the necessity of establishing a maritime line between both countries to develop the economic movement between the two.



Misrata Free Zone inks MoU with Turkish giant Yildirim

Misrata Free Zone has signed a preliminary cooperation memorandum of understanding with the Turkish giant Yildirim Group during a visit of a high-level delegation headed by the company's president to the city of Misrata.

According to the Misrata Free Zone's page, the delegation included the chairman and general manager of the company, besides directors of the company's regional branches.

The Director of the media office for the Misrata Free Zone, Alaa El-Din Baba, said in statements to The Libya Observer that the visit of this high-ranking delegation demonstrates the value the company places in the Misrata Free Zone.

"We signed a preliminary non-binding memorandum of understanding to identify the opportunities and activities the company could conduct within the free zone, especially in terms of port traffic and its development," Alaa El-Din Baba said.

"The Turkish delegation's visit comes to gain greater insight into our work on the ground and to explore the possibility of opening branches for the group within the Misrata Free Zone."

It may be worth noting that the Yildirim Group is the fastest growing industry in Turkey and among the leading industrial companies worldwide, with branches in 51 countries spread over four continents and 13,000 employees.



US urges Libya to improve fiscal transparency

The US State Department said in the Fiscal Transparency Report 2021 that Libya's fiscal transparency would be improved by publishing complete and reliable budget documents within a reasonable period of time; and by disclosing in its budget documents information on debt obligations, including state-owned enterprise debt and other financial data; publishing expenditures to support executive offices.

The report reiterated that Libya's fiscal transparency would also be enhanced by establishing a supreme audit institution that meets international standards of independence; subjecting military and intelligence budgets to further civilian oversight; and fully adopting internationally accepted accounting principles.

In addition, it would also be improved by making supreme audit institution reports of the government's executed budget and state-owned enterprises publicly available within a reasonable period of time; and ensuring the sovereign wealth fund discloses its source of funding or general approach to withdrawals.

"Internal political and civil conflict has prevented the Libyan government from fully implementing its budget processes, which has adversely affected fiscal transparency and the country's operations. An end-of-year budget report was available online. Only limited information on debt obligations, including state-owned enterprise debt, was publicly available." The report added.

It said earnings and some financial allocations to the National Oil Corporation (NOC) were included in the budget; in addition, allocations to another major state-owned enterprise, the General Electricity Company of Libya, were not explicitly outlined in the budget.

"Publicly available budget documents were not substantially complete and lacked sufficient detail. Audit reports for large state-owned enterprises, such as the NOC, were not publicly available, although the NOC is independently engaged in efforts to boost its transparency by digitizing its operations and improving its corporate governance structure." The report explained.

Opinions

When ignorance strikes, the first enemy is construction and development !!

Faraj Dardour, a Libyan writer



Most researchers know very well that the world has become one village, united by many common interests, including scientific research, and from my personal experience when I was working at the Center for Linguistic and Educational Scientific Research, at the University of Nancy, France, and through the CNRS Global Research Center, we were noticing the extent of international cooperation, as global research centers were competing to present the new and better alternative, and the results were distributed to all countries of the world that had cooperation agreements in all different fields.

Developing countries such as Tunisia and Morocco, for example, used to send their technicians and experts to these laboratories, taking advantage of international agreements, so that their delegates could obtain free courses in their specialized fields, and return with advanced expertise to benefit their countries, as their governments always take the initiative to request more support in all fields and do not delay in it.

Libya today needs to interact with the experts of the developed countries in order to get back on track, and this is what happened in all the countries of the world that were devastated by wars and accepted the help of others until it stood on its feet with the help of its people.

The failures and the corrupt are the stakeholders in the continuation of the chaos, and the few that follow them from the regionalists, they talk about colonialism and sovereignty that they have never experienced throughout their lives. They received it from the Italians, and handed it over to tribal sheikhs and dictatorships who deprived them of it again, with legalized slavery more severe than colonialism. They are chanting: (Universities give certificates, but not brains), in a clear indication of the slander of science and hostility to scientists.

What I regret is that the failures who reject change and resist development, who are a few of the mobs, want to impose their ignorant vision on the whole people, trying to deprive us of our ambition to establish a civil state that relies on citizenship as a way to achieve justice among people regardless of their regions. Instead, they implicated us in the position quota system that deprived Libya of its competencies. This system revolves around the program of sharing oil money in bags, and they do not strive to prepare any development plan in which these funds are spent and benefit their regions. In addition, the regional corrupt, who do not differentiate between public and private money, put it into their pockets.

The enemies of civilization are those who reject change and resist freedom, their voices will disappear because they only interact with the reality, and they will catch up on the subsequent trains after they wake up from their sleep, as they are accustomed to staying up late and sleeping in the morning and do not go to work, and receive their salaries at the end of a month and do not think of something called (haram livelihood), because these people do not care about the state as much as loyalty and dependence, with all my respect for those who work hard in their work!

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

Al-Zanati discusses health situation in Sabha



The Minister of Health for the Government of National Unity (GNU), Ali Al-Zanati, held a meeting with the directors of various health facilities in the municipality of Sabha to discuss the current health situation in the city.

During the meeting, all the difficulties and needs which hinder the provision of medical services in Sabha were presented, along with suggestions that could contribute to solving the obstacles, with the hope to positively affect progress.

The Ministry of Health explained that this meeting comes within the framework of the Ministry of Health's interest in primary health care as a fundamental pillar of the health system throughout the country.



Health

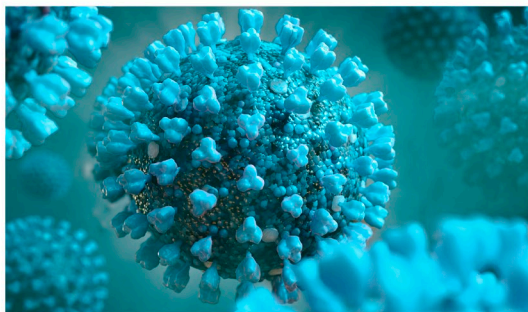
Libya, Greece discuss health cooperation

The Minister of Health, Ali Al-Zanati has discussed with the Greek ambassador to Libya, Ioannis Stamatekos, several issues of common interest.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the health sector, including cooperation in combating Coronavirus pandemic, importation of medical and auxiliary medical personnel, and the training of national personnel.

The meeting also touched on handing over the management of some hospitals to Greek companies specialized in this field, and setting up a mechanism to facilitate patient entry visa procedures into Greek lands for the purpose of treatment.

For his part, Al-Zanati expressed his desire to meet his Greek counterpart to formulate a clear policy for health cooperation.



Health

NCDC warns of threat of new Indian strain of Coronavirus

The Director of the Vaccination Department at the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Abdul Basit Samio, warned of a new danger of the entry and spread of an Indian strain of the Coronavirus in Libya.

Samio called on all citizens to take extra precautionary measures, advising them not to travel to high-risk countries, saying that the epidemiological situation in the country is considered good in comparison to recent months.

He also explained that this improvement is fraught with caution and anticipation, particularly with the spread of this new Indian strain of the virus in neighbouring countries such as Egypt and Tunisia, calling on the government to seek even more vaccines, pointing to the arrival of approximately 55,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine on June 24.

Migration

Libyan Navy thwarts new attempt to smuggle migrants to Europe



Libya's Navy forces have thwarted a new attempt to smuggle migrants to Europe through the Libyan coast, the Libyan Naval forces confirmed.

"The operation comes in the framework of the humanitarian and sovereign mission to protect the Libyan coast and to provide search and rescue services for migrants across the sea," the naval force explained in a statement.

On Sunday, the vessel "Fezzan" of the Libyan Coast Guard managed to rescue 270 migrants of different African nationalities trying to cross the Mediterranean on a rickety boat.

"After receiving a distress call, the vessel Fezzan moved to the rescue spot, and rescue teams performed their role to the fullest," the spokesman for the Chief of Staff of the Naval Forces said. The migrants were disembarked at the Tripoli Naval Base. They were then handed over to the Anti-Illegal Migration Agency, which will follow up on the case and complete the procedures for their repatriation to their countries, according to the navy's statement.

Education
Education Ministry amends plans for end of school year



The National Exams Center of the Ministry of Education announced changes to the scheduled dates for ending the academic year 2020-2021.

According to the center's decision, the 8th of July will be the end of classes for the first, second, and third primary pupils. Exams for the fourth and fifth grades of the same stage will start in July, 10. As for the sixth primary stage and high school students, classes will end on August 5, while the final exams for these stages will run from 7-19 of the same month.

Culture
Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development visits Embassy of Libya in Cairo



The Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, Mabrouka Othman, visited on Monday the Libyan Embassy HQ in Egypt, as she was received by the Ambassador, Mohammed Abdelali Mesbah.

The visit came on the sidelines of her current visit to Egypt to attend the opening ceremony of the Cairo International Book Fair.

During the meeting, the Minister expressed her thanks for the good reception and stressed the importance of the role played by the diplomatic mission in serving Libyan interests.

"We meet today in order to exchange views, the conditions of the Libyan community residing in Egypt, especially cultural affairs, and to follow up on the Libyan participation program in the Cairo Book Fair, and the cultural programs between the two countries", the Minister said.



Tracking device found strapped to dead bird of prey south of Libya

A man identified to be Abdul Hamid Al-Fantazi has handed over a tracking device he found strapped to the body of a black kite (Milvus migrans) to the Ministry of Environment.

Abdul Hamid found the remains of the bird while he was on his farm located in the southern region.

The Minister of Environment Ibrahim Al-Arabi Mounir received the device from Al-Fantazi at the ministry's HQ and offered him a shield in honor of his awareness of the importance of monitoring and following up on biodiversity, in addition to his enduring the hardships of traveling to hand the device to the Ministry of Environment in Tripoli.

Al-Fantazi said he had contacted the authorities concerned with following up on migratory birds to find out its source in order to deliver the device.

The Department of Nature Conservation at the Ministry of Environment confirmed after following up on the issue and reaching out to local and international organizations that the bird was released from the Czech Republic.



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weather



Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 02	38°/24°		Sunny	1%	NNW 17 km/h
Sat 03	36°/25°		Sunny	8%	NE 21 km/h
Sun 04	39°/27°		Sunny	0%	E 19 km/h
Mon 05	34°/24°		Sunny	0%	N 21 km/h
Tue 06	33°/23°		Sunny	3%	NNW 20 km/h
Wed 07	33°/23°		Sunny	4%	N 19 km/h
Thu 08	33°/24°		Sunny	4%	NNE 20 km/h
Fri 09	34°/25°		Sunny	3%	ENE 20 km/h

Cartoon



Photo of the Week



Features

The Town of Mizdah



Mizdah is a Libyan town located in the Nafusa Mountain region. Its population is about 30,000, most of them are from the tribes of Awlad Abu Seif, Qantrar and Mashashiya.

It was famous for the kindness of its people as they were linked by social bond, intermarriage, and good neighborliness. What distinguished the region in the past was the social respect of the sheikhs, as they were in charge of solving all the problems and obstacles that encountered from time to time the residents of the region, among the most famous of them Muhammad Al-Housh Hamida, Saad Al-Mabrouk Makari, Omran Attia Deira, Ali Ahmed Kajman, Sheikh Milad Khalifa Salem, the former mayor of Mizdah Municipality and one of the founders of the modern city of Mizdah, and Sheikh Ahmad al-Sunni, a mujahid and a scholar, as he was the teacher of the Holy Qur'an in that era, he also fought in many battles against the Italian invasion of the city, the most important of which was the battle of Marsit, which he was its leader, and a monument was erected for it in that area.

Historical Sites

Qasbet Al-Ghazala

A tower which looks like a reed, It was built in the late eighteenth century and is approximately 350 years old. It was used for military purposes and to defend the region. It has extensions, the most important of which are two smaller reeds in the same area.

Abdul Samad Mosque

It is about 400 years old and was built a few years before the Kasbah.

Old Mizdah

The 800-year-old houses located in the center of the city, which were built by Qantrar tribe, and these houses have become UNESCO-protected historical monuments.

Industries

The city of Mizdah was famous for its high-quality gunpowder handmade.



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