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## HoR members threatened, gunshots fired to fail vote on Libyan government's budget

Sources from Tobruk said some House of Representatives (HoR) members were threatened and gunshots were fired near the headquarters where the session to vote on the government's budget was held on Tuesday, in addition to statements by some members saying they feared for their lives if the budget bill was passed.

The spokesman for the HoR Abdullah Blehiq said discussions about passing the 2021 budget bill were suspended on Tuesday until after Eid Al-Adha holiday - after July 24 - to get a full quorum for the voting.

The member of the parliament, Asma Al-Khouja, said gunshots were fired near the session headquarters in Tobruk and that they heard threats made to several members outside.

Al-Khouja said they had heard intentions not to pass the budget from the start of the session and the legislative committee had conditioned the voting to 120 present members, knowing that the committee knew there were only 80 ones.

She added that if the budget was approved, HoR members could have been hurt and that most members were frustrated and decided not to attend any session in the future.

HoR spokesman Abdullah Bliheq denied that there was a shooting near the headquarters.

#### Politics

EU's Operation IRINI commander puts off Libya visit over visa issues



Italian news agency, NOVA, said the commander of the European Union's Operation IRINI, Fabio Agostini, postponed his visit to Libya because his accompanying delegation couldn't obtain entry visas.

NOVA said the visit was scheduled, yet Libyan authorities didn't give visas to six of the European delegation members, adding that three diplomatic sources confirmed this issue in Tunisia, Tripoli and Rome.

It also reported a European source in Tunisia as saying that they had to cancel the visit, while a Tripoli source said there was no coordination among Libyans due to the absence of a Defense Minister and the preparations for elections.



President of the European Council, Charles Michel, has reiterated the EU's commitment to supporting Libya's democratic transition.

The Libyan political settlement was the focus of talks between the EU Head and Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah during a video call on Monday.

"Progress on stability and political settlement is necessary," the European Council President tweeted out on his account.

He also underscored the EU's willingness to be Libya's reliable partner in tackling the many challenges ahead.

#### Politics

Russia reiterates position on need for nationwide consensus in Libya



The Russian President's Special Envoy for the Middle East and Africa, Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov, has reiterated his country's position on the necessity to ensure a joint Libyan consensus on major national issues, based on the principles of commitment to Libya's unity, territorial integrity, and sovereignty.

Bogdanov's remarks came during a phone call with the UN Envoy to Libya Jan Kubis, The Russian Foreign Ministry said Monday.



The two sides discussed the Libyan road map, its implementation, and the settlement approved by the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), including preparations for the upcoming elections on December 24.

Bogdanov and Kubis expressed their support for the UN role to help achieve these goals in strict compliance with the resolutions of the international community, including the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Politics

Libyan Presidential Council calls for agreement on constitutional basis for elections



The Libyan Presidential Council has urged for consensus by the House of Representatives and the High Council of State on a constitutional basis for elections to be held on December 24.

The spokeswoman for the Presidential Council, Najwa Wehiba, said they are committed to the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum's roadmap and want to hand over power to an elected executive authority, adding that consultations for the appointment of a defense minister was still ongoing as "it's vital to appoint one as soon as possible because it is part of efforts aiming to unify the military institution."

Wehiba said the Presidential Council retracted appointments of diplomatic missions abroad to preserve professional standards in such a process, adding that they had urged the Health Minister to follow up on the issue of Libyans stranded abroad regarding containing the spread of Coronavirus.



### Kubis meets Haftar and his representatives in 5 + 5 IMC

The UN Special Envoy, Jan Kubis, met on Saturday, with the warlord Khalifa Haftar, and his representatives in the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC).

Kubis and Haftar talks, which took place in the latter's HQ in Al-Rajma, reviewed the latest developments on the Libyan arena, and the necessity of holding the elections on their scheduled date, according the media office of Haftar's forces.

During the meeting, Kubis discussed with the representatives of Haftar's forces in the JMC, Geneva decisions and ways to implement them by focusing on expediting the evacuation of foreign forces, and completing the securing of the coastal road for its opening, according the Director of the Moral Guidance Department of Haftar's forces, Khaled Al-Mahjoub.

Al-Mahjoub said that the Kubis talks, which took place in Benghazi, touched on the mechanism of dismantling armed groups, and the payment of salaries to Haftar's forces by the Government of National Unity. In the same context, Kubis discussed on Thursday with the head of

the Presidential Council, Mohammad Menfi, developments on the Libyan arena, foremost of which is the elections file to be held next December, and the measures taken by JMC to reopen the coastal road, in addition to following up on the results of its other work.

conomy

G5S demand clear plan for evacuating mercenaries from Libya



The heads of state of the G5 Sahel countries have welcomed the UN Security Council's vote to adopt Resolution 2570, which calls on all parties to the conflict in Libya to ensure the full implementation of a ceasefire.

In a final statement following an extraordinary meeting, member states of Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, and Burkina Faso urged all countries to respect and support the Libyan peace process by withdrawing without delay all foreign forces and mercenaries from Libyan territory.

The statement also expressed deep concern over the security of the G5S countries and the sub-region since no plan of action exists concerning the withdrawal of foreign mercenaries from Libya, estimated at 30,000 fighters.

The concerned countries requested the United Nations and Libya to work on the drawdown plan of foreign armed militias from Libyan territory and to help them secure their borders during the withdrawal process.



Economy

## Ministerial committee discusses mechanisms of transferring the stock market to Benghazi

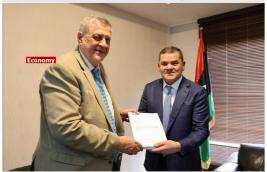


The Ministerial Committee, responsible for reactivating the Libyan stock market, held its preliminary meeting on Monday in Benghazi.

The meeting covered the mechanisms for implementing the government's decision regarding the transfer of the main head-quarters of the Libyan Stock Exchange to the city of Benghazi.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Ali Al-Habri, along with the Ministers of Planning and Finance of the GNU and a group of various financial and legal experts.

## Dbeibah receives from UN envoy preliminary version of international audit report on CBL



The UN Envoy to Libya Jan Kubis on Wednesday handed over a preliminary version of the international audit report to the accounts of the Central Bank of Libya in Tripoli and Al-Bayda to Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, which was prepared under the UN mission's supervision.

The PM media office said that Dbeibah assured the UN envoy that unifying the central bank is a top priority for his government and must be achieved as soon as possible, indicating that this would be a step towards building the country.

Dbeibah also stressed that any observations related to the GNU's performance in this report will receive the necessary attention from the government.



## Libyan PM, CBL Governor review financial services

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah discussed Wednesday with the Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir cooperation between the CBL and the Government of National Unity in distributing salaries on time and availability of liquidity at banks at all times.

Observers believe the meeting could have included discussions on breaking away from the House of Representatives' regulations regarding the budget and approving financial arrangements with the agreement of the Presidential Council: an idea not verified by any official sources.

The House of Representatives failed for the fifth time on Tuesday to pass the 2021 budget bill and this opened the door for speculation as to whether there would be an agreement between Dbeibah and Al-Kabir to resort to the financial arrangements without the endorsement of the House of Representatives.

Al-Kabir also met with the first deputy of the Prime Minister, Hussein Al-Gotrani, and reviewed the need of liquidity at all banks across Libya before Eid Al-Adha holiday, in addition to removing several restrictions on commercial and private banks in eastern Libya and adding to the limit of bank clearing transactions in the east.



## Minister of Economy declares Benghazi's Jaliana Port a Free Zone

Minister of Economy and Trade Mohammed Al-Hawij officially declared from Benghazi Tuesday that the Jaliana Sea Port is a free trade zone.

The minister conducted yesterday an inspection tour to the port in the presence of the Undersecretary for Commercial Affairs, Suhail Abu Shiha, mayor of Benghazi, and several local and government officials.

Al-Hawij met during his visit with the management of the Libyan Ports Company to follow up on the progress of work and coordination between all competent authorities.

The minister got an insight into the procedures for regulating export and import operations and proposals for developing performance and raising the level of trade exchange.

Opinior

## What is happening in Afghanistan and Libya!!

Hesham Al-Shelwi, a Libyan writer



I wonder about some of us who are passionate about the Taliban, which began to control large parts of Afghanistan, the land locked away from a sea port and adjacent to powerful nuclear countries such as Pakistan, China and India, or countries on their way to join this terrifying club.

Since the intervention of the British in the 19th century in this country, through the Soviet invasion in 1978, and the end of the United States' intervention in 2001 to overthrow the Taliban regime, and this country is the focus of the great border conflict with Afghanistan, or even non-border, since British intervention in 1838, Afghanistan has been suffering from continuous wars, coups, foreign military interventions, and polarization of all local tribal forces, completely destroying this country.

Afghanistan will not be stable because the Taliban will extend its control over it, or because the world accepted the Taliban as a realistic and practical negotiator with influence on the ground. This afflicted land will continue to suffer from local conflicts and an outlet for all external forces to settle their accounts with each other on this land.

Certainly, neither China nor Russia will allow absolute US control near either its borders or its strategic areas of control, and the Pakistani military intelligence has its internal calculations or the balance of power, and the United States for twenty years has made allies on the ground and will continue to support them.

In sum, this country will not rest or settle unless the major countries neighboring it and even those that are far from it but are able to influence it reach consensus.

Afghanistan is an enlarged picture of what is happening in Libya, where the regional and international powers have not yet agreed on an equation for the stability of our country. Thus, we and Afghanistan, will remain as a swing between these powers, either for the same countries or our connection to other files, and it is therefore a complex process after the emergence of new types of conflicts and wars from afar. The major countries have not yet agreed to address issues related to cyber wars and the emergence of epidemics and viruses that shook the economies of the world.

Some may see this opinion as a wave of anger against the Taliban, rather than a sober analysis, and this is right in some aspects, but it is anger directed against the reverence of destruction and destroyers.

### Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Libya Observer

A post of Translator-cum Receptionist is lying vacant in Embassy of Bangladesh in Tripoli, Libya going to recruit soon. Interested candidates are invited to send their CV along with Academic & Experience certificates on or before 25 July 2021 to the following email addresses of the Embassy:



Experiences & Qualifications: Graduated in English of Arabic speaker, Job experiences as English-Arabic- English translating, Mandoub may be considered as extra-qualification.



تعلــن سفارة جمهورية بنغلاديش الشعبية بطرابلــس عن رغبتها في توظيف مترجم مع موظف استقبال في وظيفتهــا شــاغرة قريبــا. فمــن لديـه الرغبة فــي التقدم للعمــل، يرجــي إرســال ســيرته الذاتيــة مــع الشــهادات الأخاديمية والخبرات في غضون 25يوليو 2021 إلى عناوين البريد الإلكتروني الثالية للسفارة:

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تخـرج فـي اللغـة الإنجليزيـة مـن المتحدثيـن بالعربية، والخبـرات الوظيفيـة فـي الترجمـة مثـل الإنجليزيـة -العربيـة - الإنجليزيـة، وتعتبـر العمل كالمنــدوب مؤهلا إضافياً.

#### Al-Zanati, Egyptian ambassador discuss facilitating patient entry visas for Libyans



Minister of Health Ali Al-Zanati held a meeting on Monday with the Egyptian Ambassador to Libya, Mohamed Tharwat, to discuss several files linked to the health memoranda and agreements of understanding signed between the two countries.

Facilitating patient entry visas for Libyans was the focus of talks between the Health Minister and the Egyptian official, said a statement by the Health Ministry.

The meeting touched upon other files, including cooperation in primary health care and recruiting Egyptian medical and auxiliary personnel.

Minister Al-Zanati discussed the possibility of handing over some hospitals to Egyptian companies specialized in managing and operating hospitals.

The two sides also reviewed proposals for training national personnel, especially drug inspection, drug vigilance, drug manufacturing, economic pharmacist, and clinical pharmacy.

For his part, the Egyptian ambassador welcomed the activation of agreements between the two countries, stressing their full readiness to cooperate in all fields.

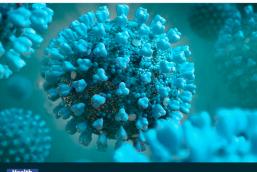


The Libyan Health Ministry has taken additional measures to tackle the increasing number of Coronavirus cases, including vaccinating more people and obliging people to follow preventive measures like social distancing.

The Health Minister, Ali Al-Zanati, met Monday with epidemiological experts and doctors and the scientific committee of the National Center for Disease Control and discussed the latest developments about the situation of Coronavirus.

The meeting saw agreement on updating vaccination policies to fit the current situation and adopting the new treatment protocol inside isolation centers, while the experts gave recommendations on the epidemiological status.

The National Center for Disease Control recorded in the last 24 hours 2679 Coronavirus cases, three deaths and 343 recoveries, bringing active cases' total to 22,000, deaths to 3,243 since the start of the Coronavirus outbreak in Libya, where cases have gone up in the last ten days due to a new variant outbreak, according to a center official, Abdelbaset Samio.



#### Libyan government takes precautionary measures to limit spread of Coronavirus

The Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, has called for precautionary and preventive measures to limit the spread of the Coronavirus, as infection rates rise in the country.

In a government decision issued on Sunday, Dbeibah instructed all ministries, agencies, institutions, and public and private companies to take the precautionary and preventive measures for a period of two weeks.

He set working hours from 9:00 am to 13:00 pm with 25% of all employees, obligating all employees and visitors to wear masks throughout the working hours.

Dbeibah also issued another decision to close cafes and social event halls for a period of two weeks, and to prevent funerals and weddings and the use of public transportation.

The decision also imposed penalties on violators according to the emergency and penalties laws.

The total number of Coronavirus infections since the beginning of the pandemic in Libya in March 2020, has risen to 204,090 cases, including 180,860 recovery cases, 19,990 active, and 3240 deaths, while the number of people vaccinated against the epidemic reached 425,119 people.

The National Center for Disease Control announced on Sunday the registration of 2,854 new infections, in addition to 376 cases of recovery, and 8 deaths, in the highest number of infections since the beginning of the epidemic in the country in March 2020.

Health

#### **UNICEF: Covid-19** infections in Libya is on the rise



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has warned that the number of Covid-19 infections in Libya is on the rise.

In a statement Friday, UNICEF's office in Libya indicated that the positive coronavirus cases in the country exceeded 200,000, among them 3,200 fatalities.

The organization urged citizens to protect themselves, their families, and society by obtaining vaccination. It also called on all to adhere to safety precautions by wearing a mask, maintaining physical distance, and washing hands constantly.

#### Life

#### Social Work Experts Forum kicks off in Corinthia



The Social Studies Centre organized on Wednesday in cooperation with the Tripoli Municipality the Social Work Experts Forum under the slogan "Social Work Experts in Community Service and State Building."

The event kicked off this morning at the Corinthia Hotel in Tripoli with a large host of experts, pioneers of social work, academics, and members of various judicial bodies.

The forum highlighted social work, its impact on society, the role of social institutions and discussed the approach of the relevant institutions in serving the individual, the family, and society as a whole.

The organizers said they aim to unify efforts and create a professional framework that helps build the state and serve the community.

Panelists reiterated the need for seminars, conferences, and dialogues and to developing scientific and field capabilities for experts in state-building and community service.

They also advocated for awareness-raising campaigns to promote the importance of social work in all state institutions.

The forum featured a visual presentation highlighting social work in Libya and its role in addressing crises and disasters.



## Universities cease studying and schools are awaiting instructions due to Coronavirus pandemic

The Ministry of Higher Education issued a decision to temporarily suspend all studies in universities, until after the Eid Al-Adha holidays, due to the rising number of infections with the Coronavirus in the country.

The Ministry of Education made it clear that it would take a decision to stop all studies, if and when the Ministry's Scientific Advisory Committee recommended it.

On the subject, the Scientific Advisory Committee in the Ministry recommended the stoppage of all study for one week, following the Eid Al-Adha celebrations, due to fears of a sharp increase in cases following the religious holiday for the welfare of all students and teaching staff.

#### GECOL tests sixth steam turbine at West

Tripoli Power Plant

The General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) announced on Sunday the beginning of operational trials on the sixth steam turbine at West Tripoli Power Plant, which had been redundant for at least ten years.

The West Tripoli Power Plant is the oldest in the country and its operation dates all the way back to 1976, however it is one of the larger and more significant plants, which is capable of producing 600 megawatts.

The GECOL also announced on Saturday that the second turbine of Ubari Gas-fired Power Plant, which is located in the southwest of the country, had been connected with the electrical grid for the first time, adding that the turbine is now in the operational trial stage.



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weather

#### **Tripoli Weather Forecast**

Fri 16	<b>33°</b> /25°	Sunny	<b>✓</b> 8%	➾ NE 22 km/h
Sat 17	<b>31°</b> /23°	Sunny	<b>√</b> 7%	⊰ NNE 23 km/h
Sun 18	<b>31°</b> /23°	Sunny	<b>1</b> 7%	➾ NNW 22 km/h
Mon 19	<b>32°</b> /24°	Sunny	<b>/</b> 4%	考 N 19 km/h
Tue 20	<b>32°</b> /24°	Sunny	<b>/</b> 4%	→ NE 21 km/h
Wed 21	<b>33°</b> /24°	Sunny	<b>1</b> 4%	⇒ NE 21 km/h
Thu 22	<b>34°</b> /25°	Sunny	<b>/</b> 3%	⇒ ENE 19 km/h



## **Dual Nationality** and **Election**



Photo of the Week





A Libyan coastal town overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, located approximately 75 km east of the capital, Tripoli, and is considered one of the suburbs of the Greater Tripoli area.

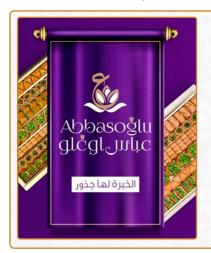
The town's administrative scope extends from the town of Ghanima in the east to the Qarabulli in the west via the coastal highway and is bordered by the sea to the north, and the city of Msallata to the south, it has been affiliated with the Tripoli municipality since 2012 and is considered the popular gateway to the eastern Tripoli.

Qasr Al-Akhyar consisted of a mixture of tribes and families. This mixture appeared since the Ottoman era in a crucible that formed a single cultural pattern, from which one sub-culture was formed. Racial tribalism has no significant role in building this semi-urban area.

It is a more than 4,000 years old, and the reason for its name is due to the Bani Khiar tribe, a branch of the Hawara tribe, which inhabited the Nafusa Mountains, the area of Khums and the north of Tarhuna since ancient times.

It was said that the Bani Khiar tribe built five palaces, as just one of them remains, which was restored at the end of the ninth century by the district administrator at that time, which is what we know today (Qasr Al-Akhyar).

And the center of Al-Akhyar Palace is an archaeological area. Most of the area's monuments date back to the Roman era. Several caves were found in it, samples of its pottery tools were studied, indicating that they ranged between 1500 and 2000 BC, and some of which may date back to the Numidian era.



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