

Politics

Joint Operations Force arrests top ISIS leader in Libya



The Joint Operations Force of the Government of National Unity in Libya said Tuesday it had arrested a notorious ISIS leader named, Embarak Al-Akhazmi, in Bani Walid; some 180 km east of Tripoli.

The force said in a statement that Al-Khazmi was responsible for accommodation of ISIS terrorists in Bani Walid when ISIS controlled some areas in Libya, adding that the apprehension was in coordination with the Attorney General's Office.

The Attorney General, Al-Siddiq Al-Sour named Al-Khazmi as a wanted ISIS leader in Libya in a 2017 press conference.

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah hailed the arrest and said on Twitter that it was a huge success for the Joint Operations Force and security apparatuses that are continuing to fight terrorism across Libya.

Politics

Presidential Council announces release of Gaddafi's personal secretary from prison



The Libyan Presidential Council announced the release of Muammar Gaddafi's personal secretary Ahmed Ramadan as well as a number of "political prisoners" whose jail terms had ended or hadn't been charged.

The Presidential Council said the release comes as part of national reconciliation efforts and added that it would continue its work to achieve comprehensive reconciliation and coordinate to free all prisoners who haven't been charged with any crimes.

It also said that it reiterated in last April in a meeting with the Justice Minister Halima Ibrahim to release all arbitrarily held prisoners with no crime charges and send those who are held pending legal measures to courts as soon as possible to achieve justice and respect human rights.

Meanwhile, Muammar Gaddafi's son Al-Saadi was released on Sunday upon a release order by the Attorney General as the spokesman of the Government of National Unity Mohammed Hammouda said the Prime Minister instructed authorities not to keep any prisoners behind bars if they are not charged for crimes.

Sources said Al-Saadi went to Turkey after release and he would leave for Egypt to join his mother who is staying in Cairo.

Politics

Saadi Gaddafi leaves to Turkey after freed from prison



Libyan authorities have released Saadi Gaddafi, a son of the longtime ruler Muammar Gaddafi who was toppled and killed during the 2011 uprising in Libya.

The spokesman for the Government of National Unity (GNU), Mohamed Hammouda, said Sunday that Saadi Gaddafi was set free upon an order from the Public Prosecutor Office.

Saadi Gaddafi fled to Niger during the 2011 uprising but was extradited to Libya in 2014 and has been imprisoned ever since in Tripoli.

The 47-year-old faced charges for committing crimes against protesters in 2011. He was also accused of killing Libyan football coach Bashir al-Rayani in 2005, before he was acquitted of al-Rayani's murder in April 2018.

The GNU's spokesman insisted that the release of Saadi was based on Prime Minister Dabaiba's assertion that no prisoner can be detained outside the law, and reconciliation can only be achieved through the establishment of justice and compliance with judicial rulings.

However, Reuters said that it had learned from an official source that Saadi Gaddafi's release resulted from negotiations that included senior tribal figures and Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, while another source told the agency the negotiations also involved former Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha.

Al-Saadi Gaddafi departed upon his release to Turkey but is likely to settle in Egypt, where his mother is residing at the present time.



Haftar's forces release 8 civilians from western Libya



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The Libyan Army said Sunday that Khalifa Haftar's forces had released eight civilians who come from the western region.

The spokesman for the Sirte-Jufra Operations Room, Abdelhadi Drah, told reporters that the handing over of the captives took place at 50km checkpoint in western Sirte.

He said four civilians are from Gharyan, three from Misrata, and one from Al-Asaba.

The member of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission from Haftar's forces Emrajea Al-Emami, said the release of the eight civilians will be followed with releasing another group from the eastern region in a couple of days, adding that this step is part of the exchange of prisoners' process by the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and the Social Committee for Releasing Prisoners.

The 5+5 Joint Military Commission handed two weeks ago 17 prisoners from western Libya, kept in Haftar's prisons, to Misrata Elders Council.

Politics

Al-Mishri: Election laws are near completion



The head of the High Council of State (HCS), Khaled Al-Mishri, said on Tuesday that the laws regulating the upcoming December elections are nearing completion.

Al-Mishri's remarks came during his meeting with Maria Casellati, President of the Italian Senate, in the capital, Rome, according to a statement by the HCS media office.

He underscored that the council is working to reach an agreement and a common vision to establish a constitutional basis that leads to elections.

For her part, Casellati confirmed that the Italian Senate is following up with great interest the developments in Libya, stressing support for the political process within the framework agreed upon in the political agreement and the Berlin Conference regarding the elections. The two parties also reviewed the major challenges facing the electoral process other than the election laws, such as the mercenaries, who are controlling entire Libyan cities, in addition to the government's lack of control over the entire country.



Libya's HoR convenes government questioning session

The Libyan House of Representatives (HoR) has finally convened a questioning session of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in Tobruk in the presence of the Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah and a number of Ministers.

The session took place on Wednesday morning after it was suspended on Tuesday over claims by the HoR Speaker Aqila Saleh that the government officials arrived late.

The session included lots of questions on the performance of the GNU since receiving a vote of confidence last March, yet it also con-

tained a number of verbal and physical fights just like previous sessions at the HoR.

Questions included government spending, relations with neighboring countries, especially Tunisia, military institution, electricity, health and Coronavirus response.

The Prime Minister said he respects state institutions, especially the HoR which is the supreme power in Libya, however; he accused the HoR of delaying development projects by not approving the budget up until now, complaining about the way the HoR suspended Tuesday session and said the late arrival was caused by the lines of protesters who blocked the entrance to the HoR headquarters.

Dbeibah said the government spent from the emergency chapter of the budget and criticized the HoR for delaying the approval of the budget while it ventured to hold the GNU accountable for its spending, which - using the emergency chapter of the budget-, included 700 million dinars for Interior Ministry, 1.2 billion for Health Ministry, 50 million for medical centers, 150 million for Transportation Ministry, 250 million for Local Governing Ministry, 100 million for various ministries, and 500 million for Social Security Fund.

Dbeibah said the GNU needs the budget because cities are in need of reconstruction, infrastructure projects such as hospitals, roads and electricity.

Economy

Tripoli gears up for Libyan-Algerian Economic Forum



Tripoli is gearing up to host the Libyan-Algerian Economic Forum in the coming period, says the head of the Economic and Social Council of Algeria, Rida Teer.

In an interview with the Russian "Sputnik" news agency, Teer clarified that the forum would deal with several economic files, most notably those related to the reconstruction of Libya.



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He indicated that there are major reconstruction companies that will participate in the forum, noting that the Libyan demand for Algerian products is increasing through these meetings.

Last May, Algeria hosted the Libyan-Algerian Economic Forum, with the participation of Libya's Prime Minister Abdelhamid Dbeibah, and the Algerian President, Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

Economy

Oil Ministry says decision to dismiss NOC Chairman still in place



The Ministry of Oil and Gas said the decision to dismiss the Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) Mustafa Sanallah is still in effect and pending legal measures.

The Ministry added that it is doing its job despite hurdles and hindrances, saying its recommendations for replacing the board of directors of the NOC are still in place.

A dispute came into effect lately between the Minister of Oil and the Chairman of the National Oil Corporation as the former issued an order of dismissing NOC Chairman and appointing the board of directors' member Jadallah Al-Awkali as a replacement, but Al-Awkali said he wouldn't take the job after he was prevented from entering the NOC headquarters while Sanallah was abroad.

The Libyan Prime Minister intervened on Sunday and met both Oun and Sanallah but the meeting seems to have had no effect and thus warns of hindrances to oil production and exports in Libya.

board of directors' member Jadallah Al-Awkali as a replacement.

Energy sector experts warned that the dispute between the NOC and the Ministry of Oil could affect investment opportunities in Libya, while the two sides are working to sort things out in the few coming days.

Economy

Finance Minister: Libya is expected to produce two million barrels of oil per day by end of 2022 depending on budget



The Minister of Finance, Khalid Al-Mabrouk predicted that Libya's oil production is expected to rise to two million barrels daily by the end of 2022, providing the National Oil Corporation (NOC) was granted the 1.1 billion dollars allocated in the budget.

Al-Mabrouk informed the Arab News, on the side-lines of the annual general meeting of the Islamic Development Bank, that oil exports rose to approximately 1.2 million barrels per day, explaining that it is expected to continue rising to reach 1.3 million, noting that if this is the case, it could reach two million barrels daily by 2022.

He went on to stress that the oil industry in Libya faces only one difficulty, which is that the oil fields, along with some refineries and ports require extensive maintenance, which has not been conducted over a ten-year period, according to what he said.

Economy

Libya's NOC announces end of division in oil sector



Libyan PM says won't allow administrative hindrances to blockade oil output

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah instructed oil officials to tackle the issues presented by the Oil Minister, Mohammed Oun, and National Oil Corporation (NOC) Mustafa Sanallah to avoid such challenges between the Oil Ministry and the NOC in the future.

Dbeibah's remarks came in a meeting on Sunday in Tripoli with Sanallah and Oun to discuss the issues of the oil sector in the presence of State Minister for Prime Minister Affairs Adel Jumua and the Deputy Minister of Oil Refaat Al-Abbar.

Dbeibah told the attendees that he won't allow administrative or technical hindrances to blockade oil production, listening to the remarks of the officials about the work mechanism and saying that measures should be based on wisdom when it comes to the oil sector.

The meeting came after the dispute between the Minister of Oil and the Chairman of the National Oil Corporation as the former issued an order of dismissing NOC Chairman and appointing the



The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) said Saturday that it had fully ended division in the oil sector after years of split in the bureaucracy main source of revenue in the country.

The NOC said in a statement that it had started integrating employees of the parallel NOC and its firms as per the demands of each work section at the oil sector

The NOC Chairman, Mustafa Sanallah, said this step ends a period of partition in the oil sector, adding that the Government of National Unity has been keen, since its day one in office, to unify all economic institutions in Libya, hoping that everyone could understand how important the oil sector is and allow it to operate away from politics."

The step came as per the instructions of the Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah, according to the NOC, which didn't specify the number of integrated employees.

Opinions

The debate over elections has rendered them useless

By Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



Talking about December elections is no longer about the possible results, and what they can produce of new personalities who are relatively free from the legacy of previous conflicts, and are able to reach an acceptable consensus on all background issues, foremost of which is the draft constitution. The Libyan stubbornness entered the crisis line, and the conflict raged over holding them on time or postponing them, and between holding the presidential elections with the legislative, or limiting them to parliamentary elections only.

The elections would not have been proposed as a solution to the crisis with this momentum, had it not been for the insistence of a group of members of the Political Dialogue Forum to set a date for it on December 24, and the support of the American Embassy and some European countries for it, this is because the effective and influential international powers decided to resort to it to resolve the conflict over legitimacy, and the parties to the local authority acquiesced to this international trend without conviction, and they demand it in every talk, warning of the consequences of postponing it, but in fact they are working by all means to obstruct it because its results are not guaranteed, and the price may be to overthrow it from the party that held it in power, and then lose all the advantages that it enjoys.

It is not expected that the elections, if they take place on their time or at any later date, will bring about a real change that breaks with the previous stage and establishes a new stage in which the country and the people will be helped as long as the political class that managed the political and military scene during the past years, with all its failures, corruption, and external connections, is the one who will decide the rules of the electoral game.

No one looks at this potential change from the angle of vision or the national project against foreign agendas and projects, and thinking about developing short-term plans for urgent problems such as confronting the Coronavirus pandemic, power outages, school disruptions, the cash liquidity crisis, and everything that would alleviate the suffering of people in all the country, as well as laying the correct foundations to address chronic issues such as the proliferation of arms and armed factions, transitional justice, national interests, unification of institutions and the expulsion of mercenaries and foreign forces. Everyone is working to tame the storm of elections, and (if you do not raise one to a higher position, do not overthrow him from his current position at least).

What is the use of elections if they bring back the same personalities, the same entities entrenched behind their personal or regional interests, and responsible for all this devastation? The way to change is to remove the entire political class through free and fair elections that bring in new personalities to run the stage. (The following example is suitable for simplification). What is the first and most important step to save a football team that failed to remain in the first division and was relegated to the lower division? The rescue process usually begins with the dismissal of the coach, the majority of the players and the administrative staff, and their replacement with new faces before proceeding with the development and implementation of the return plan. What if this step is not taken and the losers remain in their positions? The likely is to continue downhill over the seasons until the team settles to the bottom of the lower division.

There is no radical change in the rules of the international game on Libya. The same countries that are involved in the struggle over their interests through local agents are still in the same alignments and orientations, and will stand behind their agents to guarantee them a position in power if elections are held, but if there are any surprises, expected or unexpected, the scenario of questioning its credibility and integrity will be ready. There is no hope for the people to unite and rise to regain the initiative, to overthrow these agents, to decide their fate, and, willingly, to draw a roadmap for their future and the future of future generations, without outside interference.

But even with a weak hope for the results that does not reach the ceiling of ambition, there is no alternative or inevitable for the elections, there is no way to bring about peaceful change without them, and backtracking on them will have dire consequences, as frustration will accumulate and despair will prevail over the people, the opportunity to oblige the current entities to hold elections in the near future may be lost and they are working in every way to avoid them, and then they will continue in their positions indefinitely.

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

Italian medical delegation due to visit Libya to assess various forms of cooperation

The head of the Italian GKSD Investment Holding, Kamel Al-Gharibi, concurred with the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity (GNU), Abdel Hamid Dbeibah, to send a medical delegation shortly to Libya to evaluate possible methods of cooperation on the ground.

This came in a meeting between them on the sidelines of the Ambrosetti Forum in Italy, where Al-Gharibi said that the initial step should be to assist a group of children in need of serious cancer treatment, offering the provision of all support and co-operation in this field.

In his meeting with the PM, to discuss issues affecting Libya's future and its path toward democracy, Al-Gharibi added that the reconstruction of Libya necessitates a professional health system, not to mention hospitals designed and engineered specifically for the needs of the people of Libya, as he put it.



Health

Minister of Health initiates the new vaccination center in Misrata

The Minister of Health of the Government of National Unity (GNU), Ali Al-Zanati, on Thursday, inaugurated the third vaccination center at the Misrata Medical Fair, announcing the launch of the exceptional national campaign for vaccination against the Coronavirus pandemic in the city of Misrata.

During the ceremony, the minister stressed that the goal of the vaccination drive is to intensify vaccination operations and work towards expanding the areas of coverage, in order that all individuals, be they citizens or foreigners, can easily access the obvious benefits of the campaign.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Health has already opened the first center for vaccination in Tripoli, followed closely by the second center in Benghazi, announcing the opening of the fourth center in the city of Sabha in the upcoming period.

Health

WHO: Coronavirus cases in Libya dropped in August



World Health Organization (WHO) said Libya reported a declining trend in cases for August with overall increased testing compared with July, saying it achieved the highest number of tests done in the month since the pandemic, with 217,948 tests conducted for August 2021.

WHO said it is important to note that there is still ongoing community transmission in all districts in the country, and case and death numbers, remain very high in most districts of East and South.

It said in July, the number of new deaths (699) showed a 100% increase compared with 350 deaths. As a result, the mortality rate for Aug increased from 5.1 to 10.3 deaths per 100,000 cases, with a case fatality rate of 1.3%.

"The national positivity rate for August dropped to 25.5% from 32.8% in July, representing the West with a positivity rate of 23.8%. However, it increased in the East (from 28.7% to 38.3%) and South (from 61% to 70%), differing markedly from the national-level positivity rate. Therefore, national numbers of cases, deaths and lab tests are mainly represented. West WHO recommends that positivity rates should be kept below 5% in all districts in a country," WHO explained.



Health

EU dispatches more than 6,000 anti-Coronavirus vaccines to Benghazi

The European Union Mission in Libya confirmed the allocation of 38 official vaccination sites to assist in the vaccination of more than 6,000 citizens.

The mission said that the vaccination campaign against the virus is held in the Suleiman Al-Darrat complex in Benghazi, with approximately 6,480 doses expected to be delivered, explaining that the complex opens from 8am through until 8pm daily.

It called on all citizens to attend the designated headquarters to receive the vaccine, noting the important contribution of the EU mission, the German Ministry of Development, along with the German embassy, in supporting UNICEF and the Libyan Ministry of Health to ensure the readiness of the health sector to react to the needs of the Libyan people in response of the pandemic



Libya tops Group F in Qatar 2022 World Cup qualifiers

Libya on Tuesday picked up an important, 1-0 World Cup qualifying win against Angola in the away match at the November 11 Stadium in the capital Luanda.

A goal by Omar Al-Khouja 43 minutes from time gifted the Mediterranean Knights a vital away win.

The goal kept the Angolan team on alert, trying to find the equalizer before the break, but the Libyan defence managed to keep their net clean throughout the first half.

After the break, Angola pressed hard to score a tie, while the national team sat back and confined itself with counter-attacks holding to their win to the final whistle.

With this win, Libya leads Group F with six points ahead of Egypt with four points while Gabon is in third place with one point and Angola trailing last with zero points.

Migration

19 migrants rescued north of Benghazi



Authorities in the Benghazi seaport announced on Tuesday that 19 illegal migrants had been rescued approximately 110 miles northwest of Benghazi.

A media representative at the Benghazi seaport confirmed that based on an official report by the Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre MRCC to the Benghazi seaport security officer, that a migration boat needed assistance.

A patrol boat of the coast guard immediately departed to lead the rescue of 19 migrants, who when rescued were further referred to the competent authorities.

The statement did not, however, clarify the nationalities of the rescued migrants.

Crimes

Libyan Crime Watch: Gunmen kidnap man, his three sons in Al-Marj



Man named Muftah Al-Asbali in Al-Marj town in eastern Libya was kidnapped along with three of his sons by so-called Haftar's Chief of Staff - Abdelrazik Al-Nathori - Protection Brigade, which is commanded by his son Abdelfattah, Libyan Crime Watch said.

It added that the gunmen stormed the house of the man in Al-Marj and kidnapped the father and three sons, after one of whom was injured, blaming the incident on Haftar and his Chief of Staff.

Libyan Crime Watch called on the Government of National Unity and authorities in eastern Libya to unveil the whereabouts of the abductees and urged for their release, demanding the Public Prosecutor to probe the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice.



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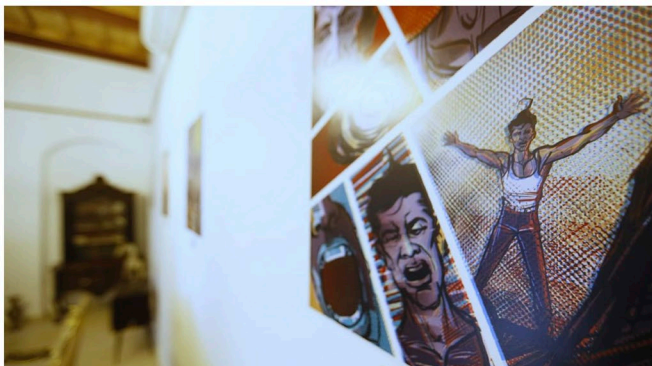
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|--------|---------|---|---------------|-----|------------|
| Fri 10 | 36°/25° |  | Sunny | 1% | W 16 km/h |
| Sat 11 | 32°/24° |  | Partly Cloudy | 10% | NNW 19 km |
| Sun 12 | 31°/23° |  | Mostly Sunny | 17% | NNE 19 km |
| Mon 13 | 31°/24° |  | Sunny | 4% | NE 20 km/h |
| Tue 14 | 32°/24° |  | Sunny | 3% | ENE 22 km, |
| Wed 15 | 33°/24° |  | Sunny | 3% | E 21 km/h |
| Thu 16 | 33°/25° |  | Sunny | 1% | ENE 20 km, |

Cartoon

Road to elections



Photo of the Week



Features

The Town of Zella



It is a Libyan town 750 km away from Tripoli, in the northeastern Fezzan region of southwest Libya. It is approximately halfway between Marada and Hun in the Jufra District. A paved road with a length of 164 km connects it with the city of Waddan, and another with a length of 225 km connects it with the city of Marada.

Zella is characterized by its popular weddings and abounding in its popular holdings, and there are many herbs that are used in folk medicine.

There is an annual festival known as Balkanqa, which is after the harvest season (dates) and it lasts for three days. There is also a festival known as (Zella Festival for Poetry and Story) and it is also lasts for three days.

The city's archaeological landmarks

Zella fortress is one of the historical monuments inside the city. It is located on a high fortified height and there is a well inside it and surrounded by sand dunes. Originally, it is one of the Roman fortresses that were opened by the Arabs in the campaign of Uqba bin Nafi, who sent the conquerors led by Bisr bin Abi Artah, who paved the way for Islam and Arab culture, which was reinforced by Arab migrations in the subsequent centuries. The fortress was rebuilt several times. The current building is relatively new and dates back to the Italian colonial era.

- * Medwin area, is a very ancient oasis characterized by the abundance of water.
- * The Al-Horouj mountain range, where there are volcanic vents at the top of some of its mountains, from which hot fumes still come out.
- * Terza Oasis, which is a palm forest that was established on the nearby groundwater.
- * The Taqrift Oasis, where the famous battle of Taqrift took place between the Libyan Mujahideen and the soldiers of the Italian aggression, and it contains a fortress and a monument commemorating the battle.
- * Umm Al-Ghazlan Oasis, which is one of the palm forests, which was the source of food for the population.



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