

El Sisi tells Haftar, Aqila Saleh: Egypt coordinates with all Libyan parties

The Egyptian President, Abdel Fattah El Sisi, met with the Speaker of the Libyan House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, and Khalifa Haftar in Cairo on Tuesday, in the presence of Egyptian Intelligence Chief, Abbas Kamel.

The Egyptian Presidential spokesman, Bassam Radi, said the meeting covered the latest developments in Libya as per Cairo's support for the country's stability in politics and security, which entails Egypt's stability as well.

Radi said El Sisi reiterated that Egypt would continue to coordinate with all Libyan parties to reach holding elections in December, stressing the need to end foreign intervention and the presence of foreign forces and mercenaries in Libya.

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah is also set to arrive in Cairo on Thursday to attend meetings of the Libyan-Egyptian Joint High Committee with his Egyptian counterpart, Mustafa Madboullil.

Politics

US court obliges Haftar's defense to respond to victims' attorneys' questions



The Chairman of the Libyan American Alliance, Esam Omeish, said US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia ruled in obligation for Khalifa Haftar's defense team to provide the information requested by the court and answer victims lawyer's questions.

Omeish said the judge said the victims' lawyer was in the right to call for answers from Haftar whose defense team shall provide answers as soon as possible to start final trials in the coming weeks.

"Haftar's defense team was refusing to give information and answers to the questions of the victims' families saying they were sensitive national security issues." Omeish added, saying the lawyer convinced the judge that the law compels Haftar to provide information on crimes committed during the offensive on Tripoli, including indiscriminate killing of civilians, shelling field hospitals and civilian houses.

Omeish said earlier that the US Department of State sent a letter in last May to a federal judge saying it wasn't going to provide any opinions on the lawsuits filed against Haftar.

Politics

Bashagha sets his sight on presidency, urges Turkey to foster dialogue with the east



Former Libyan Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha has emphasized the importance of holding presidential and parliamentary elections to unify Libya and facilitate its transition to sustainable development. Bashagha made his remarks at a meeting with Turkish intellectuals, academics, and journalists in Istanbul Monday.

He called for opening channels of dialogue with the Libyan East, saying that Turkey could play a positive role in this regard as it did in the western part of Libya.

"We hope it will have a positive role in the eastern region by opening channels of dialogue...We want the region to see renaissance and scientific progress to guide Libya towards prosperity."

He went on to say that there is a rapprochement taking place between the East and West after the cessation of hostilities, which created an environment for establishing security in the country, referring to the resumption of air traffic and the opening of the coastal road. Bashagha called on Turkey to look at the situation in Libya from multiple angles and work to build bridges with the eastern region.

"The relationship with Egypt has improved, and there is an ambassador for Egypt in the western region, so that is why we are asking Turkey to be present in the East and West," Bashagha said.

He explained that Libyans give more attention to the relationship with Egypt than the Emirates. "Egypt is a neighbour and a big country, unlike the distant Emirates...We want to reduce the number of our enemies."

Talking about the agreements with Turkey, the former foreign minister stressed the necessity of preserving the maritime border demarcation agreement between Turkey and Libya because of the interest of both countries.

He also addressed the planned elections next December, indicating that the key actors in the eastern region acknowledge that the presidential elections are difficult to win, so their eyes are set on the parliamentary elections, while the western powers are focusing more on the presidential elections.



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"The retired Major General Khalifa Haftar has lost his popularity among the people in the eastern region because he lost his project."

"The families lost their children, he (Haftar) attacked the capital and lost control of the rest of the region. People always walk away from the loser."

He underscored that Libya needs strong leadership that can make the right decision and leads the country on the path of development, but that should not be through dictatorial and military rule.

"How can we guarantee a strong president but not a dictator? The election must take place directly from the people, and the president must derive his authority from the people and all regions of Libya," Bashagha added.

Politics

Al-Mishri: Aqila Saleh's elections law isn't consensual



The Head of the Libyan High Council of State (HCS) said in a session for the HCS on Sunday that the House of Representatives (HoR) is obligated by the Libyan Political Agreement to consult with the HCS in preparing the elections law, which it said must be approved with consensus.

The Head of the HCS said it isn't looking for sharing the HoR in issuing and approving laws, but in preparing them as per the constitutional declaration and political agreement.

Al-Mishri said the HCS is continuing with the work to devise a constitutional basis and if the HoR insisted on working solo, the HCS would find new ways to tackle the monopoly of political decisions by a group of the HoR.

Meanwhile, the second deputy head of the HCS, Omar Bushah, said a unilateral method to shape the upcoming political process in Libya via this elections law is dangerous, saying the only way out for Libya to remain stable and cast away chances of military conflicts and that there is a need to expand consensus on enacting elections laws and the constitutional basis even outside the HoR and HCS.

The HCS has more than once rejected the unilateral work of the HoR in enacting the elections law, reiterating the need for keeping the Libyan Political Agreement as the legal framework for any legislations for elections.

Politics

Ahead of December elections, Haftar agrees to \$960,000 to lobby D.C



The Wall Street Journal said on Wednesday that warlord Khalifa Haftar is seeking US support before the December elections in Libya.

Haftar intended to travel to the US to advocate for the December 24, 2021 elections in Libya during meetings with US officials, a document obtained by the newspaper shows.

The newspaper revealed that documents submitted to the US Department of Justice confirm that Haftar has made a \$40,000 advance payment to retain the services of a former special counsel to President Bill Clinton Lanny Davis and ex-Republican House lawmaker Robert Livingston to influence the Biden administration and obtain political support.

It indicated that he has agreed to pay around \$960,000 over six months, for these services, according to an engagement letter contained in the Justice Department documents.

The newspaper further noted that Lanny Davis and Robert Livingston are to arrange meetings for Haftar between White House, Pentagon, and State Department officials, as well as key members of Congress despite accusations against him by human rights organizations and international prosecutors of war crimes.

It indicated that Haftar is facing several lawsuits in US courts from Libyans accusing his forces of torture, extrajudicial killing, and other war crimes during his military operations in Libya.

Meanwhile, the Livingstone and Davis companies said in a joint statement that their work would be limited to supporting Haftar for free and fair elections under the supervision of the United Nations on December 24, and facilitating the establishment of a peaceful, stable, united, and democratic Libya.

Davis and Livingstone explained that among their priorities is to free Haftar from the designation of the "warlord" that has stuck with him widely over the years since he broke away from the authorities in Tripoli and launched a rogue military campaign in 2014, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Economy

Libyan-Egyptian Joint Higher Committee due to convene in Cairo next Thursday

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The Egyptian capital Cairo is due to host scheduled meetings of the Libyan-Egyptian Joint Higher Committee next Thursday in the presence of the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity (GNU), Abdel Hamid Dbeibah, along with his Egyptian counterpart, Mustafa Madbouly.

The Libyan Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohamed Al-Hawir, ar-



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arrived in Cairo on Monday leading a ministerial delegation in preparation for the forthcoming meetings, according to a statement by the Ministry of Economy on its official Facebook page today, Tuesday.

The statement further indicated that the committee's meetings fall within the framework of strengthening relations, the raising of trade exchange between both countries and concluding agreements in several areas of mutual interest.



Reuters: Oil prices increase amid fears of hindrances to Libya production

Reuters said the remarkable six-week highest increase of oil prices came amid of fears that Libya's oil production would be suspended.

Reuters reported an engineer at Al-Hariqa oil port in Libya as saying that protesters were still blockading the port while the National Oil Corporation said it had resumed exports at As Sidr and Ras Lanuf ports since last Friday.

A protester at the Oi Crescent region denied Monday that the strike had ended, saying it would go on until demands are materialized.

Local media said Monday that pro-Haftar Petroleum Facilities Guard commander, Naji Al-Maghrabi, met with protesters' representatives and agreed to end the strike to resume oil exports.

The protesters had been demanding jobs for local residents at the Oil Crescent region and calling for the change of the National Oil Corporation's board of directors. They closed Ras Lanuf, and As Sidr ports last week.

Economy

Libya signs contracts with Egyptian companies to build power stations



Libya's State Minister for Economic Affairs, Salama Al-Ghwal, said that contracts had been signed with Egyptian companies to implement electricity projects, estimated at a value of between one and a half to two billion dollars.

In a statement to Egyptian media, Al-Ghwal estimated that the Egyptian companies should win between 60 to 70% of the reconstruction projects in Libya.

He also indicated that the cost of work necessary to rebuild Libya is estimated at approximately \$111 billion and is due to be implemented over the coming decade, however, the plan remains stalled until the budget is approved and the political consensus is achieved between all parties.

Economy

Libyan Oil Minister: British companies' role in upgrading sector is pivotal



The Libyan Oil and Gas Minister Mohamed Oun said the participation of the British oil companies in developing and upgrading the sector is important as the UK's stance toward Libya's conflict is neutral and boosts Libya's stability.

The Minister met with the UK ambassador Caroline Hurndall in Tripoli and expressed his wishes that she would succeed in her tasks amid the current regional and international developments and provide assistance to Libya on the road to security and peace.

Oun said Libya was keen on cooperation with the UK in the oil and gas sector for the best interests of the two sides.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Minister of Oil and Gas; Refat Al-Abbar, who attended the meeting, said the participation of British companies in developing Libya's oil sector is very important as they have high-ranked expertise in this sector.

Economy

NOC considers assigning Deloitte to audit Melitah and Arabian Gulf



The National Oil Corporation (NOC) is considering commissioning the international financial auditing company Deloitte to audit Melitah and the Arabian Gulf Oil Company.

In a statement Sunday, the NOC said that its head Mustafa Sanalla met with Deloitte representatives on Sunday to discuss the necessary procedures in this regard and means of benefiting from the experience of Deloitte in this field.

The NOC said that this comes within the framework of its interest and keenness to achieve transparency and adherence to the principle of governance in the oil sector.

The international financial audit firm Deloitte had previously audited the accounts of the Central Bank of Libya and its parallel in Al-Bayda under the supervision of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. It submitted its report in this regard to the Presidential Council and the Government of National Unity weeks ago.

Opinions

The recycle of warlord

By Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



Things are not going well in American political circles for Haftar, it seems that his shares are in decline, and the US administration is no longer betting on him to take the helm in Libya, whether by armed force or through elections.

A strong indication of the validity of this hypothesis is the news published in last Thursday's issue of the Wall Street Journal, where it stated that Haftar contracted with Lanny Dennis, aide to former US President Bill Clinton, and Bob Levinston, a former member of the House of Representatives, to promote and publicize him in the White House and other American institutions, adding that the first step of the duo, Dennis and Levinstone, in the project of recycling Haftar, is to remove the title of warlord that the American and Western press in general called Haftar on the eve of his failed attack on Tripoli in April 2019. The value of the contract between the American duo and Haftar amounted to about one million dollars, and because money is the god that has no partner with Levinston and Dennis, the newspaper indicated that they justified their acceptance of the task despite the lawsuits filed against Haftar in American courts, on charges of war crimes and human rights violations, that Haftar's advisors denied the charges and affirmed Haftar's innocence of these allegations, as if this denial is sufficient and there is no reason to wait for the court's ruling! Or even pay attention to the issue of the agreement of most newspapers to describe him as a warlord, or to read the reports of experts of the Security Council and human rights organizations, and the pleadings of the International Criminal Prosecutor before the Security Council.

Haftar did not need publicity and promotion with the American decision-maker during the past years, as successive administrations turned a blind eye to his crimes and violations, and did not seek to curb him by threatening to hold him accountable internationally, and the support reached its climax when former President Trump contacted him during his war on Tripoli, praising him for his security of the flow of oil and his war against terrorism, and the call was interpreted at the time as a green light for Haftar to proceed reassuringly in the invasion of Tripoli.

About a month before the move to contract with promoters in Washington, the US ambassador and special envoy to Libya, Richard Norland, summoned Haftar and met with him in Cairo, the meeting took place urgently on August 10, following a speech delivered by Haftar the day before, taking advantage of the anniversary of the founding of the Libyan army to announce that it would not submit to any authority, and that it would confront all conspiracies targeting his forces. During this meeting, which took place late at night in Cairo, Norland expressed to Haftar his annoyance with what was stated in the speech, as it clashed with the international plan for a political solution in Libya, and that if he wanted to reach power, he had to present himself to the Libyans through elections to accept him or reject him and respect the choices of the people. "All roads to power are blocked except for elections", this is the message of the American administration to Haftar after his military failure, and the situation worsened with the Russian incursion into Libya. This development in the American position forced Haftar to appear on several occasions in civilian clothes, to promote himself in what resembled electoral festivals in cities and villages under his influence. But the matter requires moving in more than one direction by restoring American support by removing the image of the warlord from him through the Dennis and Livingstone company, and presenting him to the White House as a civilian leader ready to take off the military uniform, and give up the medals that his chest entailed to carry, and a potential candidate to win the Libyan elections.

Politically, Parliament Speaker Agilah Saleh initiated the issuance of the presidential election law, on conditions that allow Haftar to run in the elections, while maintaining his military position if he does not win, a law issued in violation of the road map, the Skhirat Agreement, the constitutional declaration and Security Council resolutions. Despite the international emphasis on holding the elections on the date set for them in the road map, Saleh's unilateral issuance of the presidential election law will further obstruct it, and UN envoy Jan Kubis will surely retract his cautiously welcome position after the law was rejected by the Supreme Council of State, and 22 deputies, emphasizing not to vote on it in Parliament after discussion. All attempts by Haftar and his ally Saleh will eventually reap failure. No promotion in the White House will bear fruit, because the number of crimes and violations of international law over the years is greater than all counter-propaganda, reinforced by lawsuits before the American judiciary that his defense team was unable to refute. No politician will venture to support a war criminal whose fate is inevitable to stand before justice, and any elections that are uneven with all constitutional and security conditions will be rejected. The most that he can do is to further obstruct the political solution, and he has succeeded in this several times before, most recently by blowing up the National Forum with his sudden attack on Tripoli. Will he succeed this time too?

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

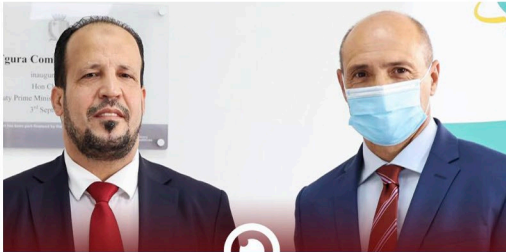


Health

Italy intends to send anti-Coronavirus vaccines to Libya

"Rome intends to allocate doses of the vaccine against the Coronavirus to Libya", the Italian news network "The Local" stated.

It also added that Italy delivered 100,000 doses of the "Astra-Zeneca" anti-Coronavirus vaccine to Iraq, on Monday, explaining that they were delivered under the supervision of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as part of the cooperation program with the Italian government to supply the countries affected by the spread of the epidemic with vaccine.



Health

Libya, Malta sign deal on medical cooperation

Libya's Health Ministry on Friday signed a deal with its Maltese counterpart for cooperation in the training of medical and paramedical personnel.

Health Minister Ali Al-Zanati, who is visiting Malta with Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, signed several agreements in the health field with his Maltese counterpart, Chris Fern, a statement by the Health Ministry said.

The agreement included cooperation on hospital management and health centres through localizing treatment inside Libya. The two sides agreed on hosting Maltese consultants to perform complex surgeries in Tripoli, Benghazi, and other cities.

Under the agreement, Libyans will also have access to medical treatment in Maltese hospitals for oncology, pediatric oncology, orthopedics, and neurology.

The Maltese minister expressed his pleasure to work closely with the Libyan health authorities in the health domain.



Health

NCDC reviews implemented plans and programs during past period

The Director-General of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Haider Muftah Al-Sayeh, has held a meeting with the directors of departments and offices in the center in order to discuss the latest developments.

The meeting came in the framework of preparations of plans and programs for the departments of the center for the last quarter of the current year and to review what has been implemented during the past period.

Al-Sayeh stressed the need to expedite the implementation of all programs and projects before the end of the fiscal year.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Al-Sayeh honored the former Director General of the Center, Badr Al-Din Al-Najjar, for his efforts during his tenure at the center, wishing him all success.



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Travel

Libya, Malta discuss resumption of flights

The Minister of Transport, Mohammed Al-Shahoubi has discussed with the Ambassador of Malta, Charles Saliba, the resumption of flights between the two countries, taking into account the precautionary measures and the mandatory vaccination measures against Coronavirus.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the mechanism of granting landing and take-off permits for unscheduled "Medavia" airlines, and the current procedures regarding visas between the two countries.

193 illegal immigrants arrested in a security drive in "The Old City" in Tripoli



Security patrols of the Office of the General Administration of Central Support Authority in the Old City (Al-Madina Al-Qadeema), during the late hours of Saturday evening, managed to capture 193 illegal immigrants, in a security drive, in cooperation with the Internal Security Agency.

The administration said in a statement on Sunday, that the seizure process comes within the framework of the General Administration of Central Support continuing its tasks entrusted to it in controlling legal violations and taking all necessary measures against them, in addition to supporting and assigning all security agencies to perform their official tasks as required.

According to the statement, all those individuals arrested were referred to one of the official shelters of the Anti-Illegal Migration Agency to take the appropriate legal measures against them.



Crimes

Libyan authorities arrest Somali crime lord for human and organ trafficking

The 444 Fighting Brigade had arrested a Somali national, identified to be Hassan Qidi, on an accusation of leading an organized network for illegal immigration and human trafficking. Qidi had deliberately killed dozens of migrants to trade in their bodily organs, besides committing other crimes such as rape, detention, and ill-treatment, forcing families to pay ransoms for the release of their relatives, the brigade said in a statement Saturday.

The Public Prosecutor had given orders to look into the victims' needs before hearing their testimonies to confront the perpetrator with the evidence gathered against him.

He also called for action against members of the criminal organization and to track all those involved, inside and outside the country, in cooperation with international partners.

Crimes

Egyptian citizen impersonated surgeon caused death to woman in Benghazi



The Public Prosecution ordered to arrest an Egyptian citizen, Hisham Shehata, who resides in Benghazi, accused of impersonating a surgical doctor.

Shehata caused the death of the citizen, Zahia Abdel-Qader, after committing a medical error for not complying with the rules and principles governing the medical profession, including his failure to obtain the qualification required to practice surgical operations, according to the media office of the Attorney General.

It also stated that the accused had previously been sentenced by the Egyptian judiciary, for having committed the crime of trafficking in human organs.

The Public Prosecutor, Al-Siddiq Al-Sour, instructed to follow up on the procedures for determining medical responsibility in relation to the case of the victim, Zahia Abdel-Qader.

He also ordered to collect inferences related to the search and investigation of the facts of non-compliance with the rules of importing medical and auxiliary medical personnel from abroad, requesting the Egyptian authorities criminal records in accordance with the mechanism established in the agreement on cooperation in criminal matters concluded between Libya and Egypt.

Sports



CAF cancels match between Al-Ahly Tripoli and Sudanese host

The match between Al-Ahly Tripoli and its host Hay A-Wadi FC from Sudan has been cancelled, per orders from the CAF, after Al-Ahly refused to play on the grounds of the Halim Shaddad Stadium for its poor condition and facilities.

The game for the first leg of the preliminary round of the CAF Confederation Cup was supposed to take place on Sunday but Al-Ahly objected to the poor ground of the stadium and submitted a complaint to the African Union in this regard.

The CAF considered postponing the match to Monday, with a view to playing the game in another stadium.

However, after difficulties in finding a suitable alternative, the CAF emergency committee decided to cancel the game and to take the results of the second leg match, which will be played in Benghazi.

weather

The Weather Channel

Tripoli Weather Forecast

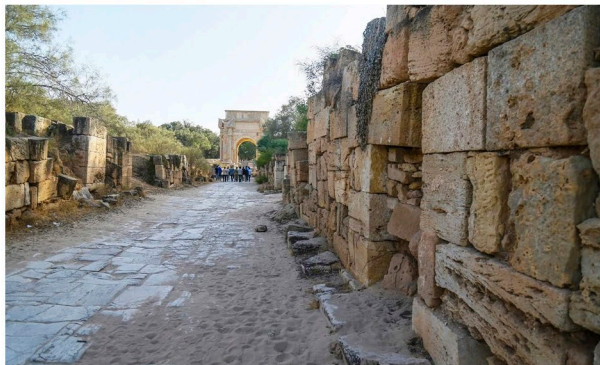
Fri 17	35°/25°		Sunny	0%	ESE 20 km/h
Sat 18	35°/26°		Sunny	0%	E 18 km/h
Sun 19	35°/25°		Sunny	0%	NW 17 km/h
Mon 20	34°/26°		Sunny	1%	NE 20 km/h
Tue 21	33°/26°		Mostly Sunny	1%	NE 22 km/h
Wed 22	32°/24°		Partly Cloudy	1%	NNE 19 km
Thu 23	31°/24°		Mostly Sunny	6%	NNE 19 km

Cartoon

The militias



Photo of the Week



Features

The Oasis Town of Tazerbu



Tazerbu is an oasis town located in the Libyan Desert in the Kufra District of Libya, about 250 km to the northwest of Kufra. The oasis is 25–30 km long and 10 km wide. In the middle of the oasis and parallel to it runs a shallow valley with salt ponds and salines. There are about ten villages in Tazerbu town, the most important is called Al-Jezeera. In the oasis grow groups of palms, tamarisks, acacias, esparto and Juncus. Several kilometers to the north of this village lie the ruins of an old castle, named Gasr Girānghedi, which was the seat of the Sultan.

Tazerbu is famous for its palm trees with high productivity of the finest types of dates and the cultivation of mango and citrus trees. What distinguishes this oasis town from the rest of the oases of southern Libya is the proximity of fresh groundwater suitable for drinking and human use, where the distance of the water from the surface is only about four meters, as it is one of the main sources of the Man-Made water.

It is also characterized by the proximity of picturesque tourist areas such as Bezima, which is a picturesque tourist place in the middle of the desert, where sand dunes and a lake of water surrounded by palm trees and stone coves.

Bezima Oasis (Al-Shifa)

It is located in the southeast of Libya, about 120 km from the city of Tazerbu, and 150 km from the city of Kufra, in the middle of the desert. It has very salty water and sulfur springs. It is used to treat some skin diseases. It is called Al-Shifa Oasis, which means "healing". Also, there is a part from it which has fresh, pure water surrounded by palm trees and a mountain range. This oasis is one of the treasures of Libya in the far desert.

Origin of the Name

The name means "main seat" in the Toubou language, because this was the seat of the Toubou Sultanate before the Arab invasion.



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