



5+5 JMC convenes in Tripoli in presence of US AFRICOM Commander

The Libyan 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) convened in Tripoli for the first time since its establishment and first meeting in Geneva in the summer of 2020.

The meeting took place in the presence of the US Africa Command (AFRICOM) Commander General Stephen Townsend and Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah as well as the US ambassador and special envoy to Libya Richard Norland.

"Today's joint in-person meeting of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission in Tripoli joined by General Townsend and Ambassador Norland is a historic step in bringing Libyans together, particularly in the security sphere. The United States remains committed to facilitating full implementation of the October ceasefire agreement, the full withdrawal of all foreign forces and fighters, as well as the full unification of Libyan military institutions." The US embassy said on Twitter.

Meanwhile, the Libyan Foreign Minister Najla Al-Mangoush said in a ministerial meeting on Libya in New York on September 22 that the 5+5 JMC would hold an important meeting to devise a timeline for the withdrawal of foreign fighters and mercenaries.



Libyan PM, US AFRICOM Commander discuss removing mercenaries

The Libyan Prime Minister and Defense Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah met the Commander of the US Africa Command (AFRICOM) General Stephen Townsend in Tripoli on Tuesday, when they discussed removing foreign mercenaries and the presence of foreign forces in the south, in addition to the joint efforts with bordering countries about this entanglement.

The meeting, attended by the US ambassador and special envoy to Libya Richard Norland, discussed fighting terrorism in south Libya and agreed to continue strategic cooperation between Libya and the US for the stability of Libya under an elected national government and regional stability without foreign interference.

The US embassy said, after meeting for the AFRICOM delegation with 5+5 Joint Military Commission, remains committed to facilitating full implementation of the October ceasefire agreement, the full withdrawal of all foreign forces and fighters, as well as the full unification of Libyan military institutions.

"US military cooperation can help Libya improve its ability to remove unexploded ordnance, brought to Libya by foreign actors, and continue toward recovery from conflict." The embassy said in a tweet.

Politics

Libyan Fatwa House denounces brutal killing of Muslims in India's Assam



The Libyan Fatwa House has decried the oppression and killing of Muslims in India at the hands of the Hindu government, demanding immediate action to protect the victims and hold the aggressors accountable.

In a statement, Monday, the Sharia Research Council of the Fatwa House expressed its bewilderment at the silence and lack of appropriate response of the international community to this situation.

"The Council is following what is happening in India at the hands of the criminal Hindu government under the eyes of the so-called international community that raises the slogans of human rights, women's rights, children's rights, and other slogans, which they use to blackmail other countries, but ignore them when it comes to Muslims in reprehensible racism and hateful intolerance," the statement reads.

The council also called on media outlets to address these aggravated offenses in order to bring them to the center, reminding Muslims of their duty to use any legitimate means to defend the Muslims of India, including severing ties with the Indian government.

The Indian authorities have launched a campaign to drive hundreds of Muslim families from the Dholpur Gorukhuti area of Darrang district in the northeastern province of Assam.

A video that went viral on social media shows a group of Indian police officials charging a local man before shooting him and subsequently beating him while he lies on the ground unconscious.

A photographer appointed by the Indian administration to cover the eviction drive also appears in the video while beating and jumping on the dead body.



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Politics

Pakistani Embassy in Tripoli celebrates Libya-Pakistan Friendship Day



The Pakistan Embassy in Tripoli celebrated Sunday the Libya-Pakistan Friendship Day at the Radisson Blu Al Mahary Hotel with broad participation of both state and civil societies, diplomatic corps, media, and the Pakistani community in Libya.

Speaking to The Libya Observer, Pakistani Ambassador Rashad Javid highlighted the historical, religious, and cultural bonds that link both nations and affirmed his government's keenness to consolidate its ties with Libya.

"This day is to reinvigorate our cooperation with Libya and help our brother country in any field they deem appropriate," the ambassador said.

He lauded the efforts of Libya's interim government in managing the peace-building phase.

"The present government is doing a lot for its people, there is a movement of national reconciliation, they have been able to maintain the ceasefire, and they are seeking to maintain the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of Libya."

Ambassador Javid expressed hope that the elections proposed for December would take place at the set time in order to bring stability and peace into Libya.

The event also featured speeches by guest speakers, including Libyan pupils studying at the Pakistani English school, besides an exhibition showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan.

Politics

Menfi announces initiative 'to preserve political process'



The Head of the Presidential Council (PC), Muhammad Menfi, said on Sunday that he had established an initiative to preserve the political process and to guarantee the December elections go ahead as planned.

Taking to Twitter Sunday evening, Menfi repeated his call to the political actors to try and reach common ground on the voting law. He underscored that reaching a consensus on this issue would enhance the credibility of the electoral process and the acceptability of its outcome. "In order to ensure the preservation of the political process and the conduct of safe, transparent, fair and acceptable elections, I announced during my speech in the UN General Assembly the launch of an initiative based on inviting political actors to facilitate reaching consensus on the constitutional basis among all parties and accepting the results of the election," Menfi tweeted.

He explained that if the concerned parties fail to reach an agreement, he will ask candidates for December elections not to take part and to open the way for other candidates to avoid any possible political impasse until creating more favorable conditions that allow the approval of a permanent constitution for the country.

Menfi's initiative comes in light of the continued absence of consensus on the constitutional basis for the December elections, despite the parliament's unilateral issuance of the presidential election law.

Politics

Business Insider: Biden's son asked for \$2 million to help unfreeze Libyan assets



Business Insider said on Thursday that two previously unpublished emails sent by business contacts of Hunter Biden – the son of the US President Joe Biden, indicated that he had requested an annual retainer of two million dollars to help recover billions in Libyan assets frozen by the Obama administration.

"While it appears from the new emails that the Libya deal was never consummated, the documents offer a window into the mechanics of Beltway influence peddling, and the stock that was put in Biden's political connections — particularly his relationship with his father, who was vice president at the time." The website added.

It also said the first email, dated January 28, 2015, was sent from Sam Jauhari, a Democratic donor with businesses in the Persian Gulf, who was helping spearhead the Libya project. It was addressed to Sheikh Mohammed Al-Rahbani, another Obama campaign donor involved in the proposal.

"In the email, Jauhari is frank about what Biden would bring to the table, and what he says Biden wanted in return." Business Insider exclusively reported.

"My recollection was that anything that had to do with Hunter started at \$2 million," said Jauhari and his partners, according to other documents obtained by Business Insider.

It added that Hunter Biden was expected to pocket as much as 5% of whatever sanctioned money they could free up for Libya.

"That meant a possible payday in the hundreds of millions. It's unclear whether any success fees for Biden would have been pegged in some way to those proceeds." Business Insider added.

It's worth mentioning that Obama administration froze 15 billion dollars of Gaddafi-era Libyan assets.

Business Insider said the White House refused to comment and a lawyer for Al-Rahbani said his client was certain he didn't talk to Hunter Biden about such a matter.

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Economy

Libyan Oil Deputy Minister resigns



The Deputy Minister of Oil and Gas, Refat Al-Abbar, filed his resignation to the Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibeh, according to the media office of the state ministries and institutions.

Al-Abbar said his resignation was driven by personal issues, thanking Dbeibah for his trust and saying he was happy to take on the job over the last few months, working on solving problems in the oil and gas sector and exerting efforts to increase production.

During the dispute between the Oil and Gas Minister and the Chairman of the National Oil Corporation, Al-Abbar refused the former's decision to sack the latter and recommended that he continued in his position.

Observers close to the government say the resignation was driven by pro-Haftar personalities, especially that Haftar's sons had been close to Al-Abbar whose appointment in Dbeibah's government was made to satisfy to Haftar's supporters when Dbeibah was looking for a positive budget vote at the House of Representatives in April.

Economy

France affirms support for Libya Energy & Economic Summit



The Ambassador of France, Beatrice du Helen, met on Monday with both the Senior Director of Energy Capital & Power, James Chester, and the Deputy Director of the American-Libyan Chamber of Commerce in Libya, Ahmed Al-Ghazali, a representative of Energy Capital & Power and the local partner of Libya Energy & Economic Summit.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed France's support for Libya Energy & Economic Summit to be held in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, next November.

For her part, the Ambassador welcomed the conference and affirmed the French support for the summit, indicating that there will be a French presence at a high level.

The Libya Energy & Economic Summit will be held on 22-23 November 2021, and represents the first major energy conference to be held in-person in Tripoli for a decade. Prime Minister Dbeibeh has pledged the support of his office and the Libyan government for this momentous event.

Economy

Libyan GNU to build oil refinery, gas factory in the south



The spokesman for the Libyan Government of National Unity (GNU) Mohammed Hammouda said the Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah allocated in a meeting Monday a budget for building an oil refinery at the Sharara oilfield and a cooking gas factory in the south.

The GNU cabinet attended a seventh regular meeting in Tripoli

and discussed services provided to Libyans and measures to be taken to better the living conditions of the people.

Meanwhile, the National Oil Corporation said it was ready to build the oil refinery and a gas factory in south Libya after getting its budget so that the south residents can have better services.



AH.C.C, German KHD discuss suspended work since 2011

Ahlia Cement Company (AH.C.C) said Saturday it is negotiating with the German KHD firm to complete the latter's suspended work in some operating lines since 2011.

The Cement Company's delegation headed by Abdul Bari Al-Arousi met with officials from the German KHD branch in Turkey.

AH.C.C had contracted the German company to install clinker coolers for the two operating lines in Libya's cement company. Besides the maintenance and technical issues, the meeting also touched upon the financial dues to the KHD Company.

KHD agreed to dispatch a technician team to Libya to provide the requisite support, says the AH.C.C, adding that the visit comes within the framework of its efforts to find solutions to the bottlenecks standing in the way of achievements.

Economy

Libya, US to boost agriculture cooperation



Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Hamad Al-Marimi, has discussed with US Ambassador Richard Norland collaboration opportunities arising from private agricultural companies from both sides.

The online meeting grouped the political, economic, and agricultural attaché of the US embassy, the Director of the American-Libyan Chamber of Commerce, Dubai Hurst, her deputy Ahmed Al-Ghazali, and the Director of the International Cooperation Office at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The two sides explored the possibility of harnessing US technologies, especially in the solar energy field, to operate pivot irrigation machines and water wells.

They also discussed plans to develop methods of controlling agricultural pests and animal epidemics and to activate training and rehabilitation programs in all fields, besides encouraging investment.

Opinions

December elections between American desire and Russian evasion

By Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



Unexpectedly, the Security Council failed to renew the mission of the United Nations mission in Libya for a year, due to a British-Russian dispute over a draft resolution prepared by Britain and rejected by Russia, deciding only to extend it until the end of this month. The dispute centered on the imposition of sanctions on perpetrators of war crimes, and on the formula contained in the resolution regarding the exit of foreign forces and mercenaries, as it appears that it carried indications that the concerned countries, including Russia, had to remove their forces from Libya, while Russia preferred a wording that spoke of withdrawal only, which gives it more flexibility in dealing with the file without pressure and bargains, and locks up any space for Western powers opposing its direct military presence in Libya, as part of its strategy to establish a sustainable presence that serves its interests to expand and build influence in Africa.

The hardening of the new Russian position in the Security Council in the face of the British draft resolution can be understood, as a reaction to the American position opposing any political role of Saif Gaddafi, as expressed by the US Assistant Secretary of State, saying that Saif Gaddafi's candidacy represents a problem for the world, while Russia is betting on him as an important card through which it can regain its former influence in Libya, especially with the decline of Haftar's role, which she cannot trust because of his relationship with the American intelligence, and then his role will be determined by the stage as a justification for the survival of its forces, and as a channel of communication with the Americans.

Intensifying the recent international movements with the visit of the Counselor of the United States Department of State, Derek Chollet and his meeting with officials in Tripoli, and the expected high-level meeting in New York, which will be chaired by Italy in partnership with France and Germany on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, and what is expected of movements during the remaining time before the date of the elections, is to push the Libyan parties to agree on the electoral laws, lest the passage of time and then having to postpone, which seems inevitable, given the intransigence of the Speaker of House of Representatives and his supporters among the MPs. In the same context, the Egyptian move came at the invitation of Haftar and Aqila Saleh, two days before receiving the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdel Hamid Dbeibah.

It was expected that Dbeibah and Haftar meet under Egyptian sponsorship, but Haftar does not seem to be in the process of conceding and recognizing the government for fear of possible repercussions. His popularity is declining in his areas of influence, in return for the rise of Dabaiba's shares, and if the meeting that Egypt sought for takes place, he will not be able to prevent the government from moving comfortably in Benghazi, and this will increase his isolation in areas where no one will be allowed to compete with him. However, the conclusion of several agreements and contracts of economic benefit to Egypt with the Dbeibah government indicates a remarkable development in the Egyptian approach to the Libyan crisis. This development will be reflected in Saleh's positions on the issue of withdrawing confidence from the government, and disrupting the budget that Egypt will need to approve if it wants to activate the agreements on the ground and the beginning of the work of Egyptian companies.

The relative decline in the support that Egypt provided to its allies in the Libyan east during the past years, in return for consolidating the relationship with Tripoli and crowning it with economic contracts, was imposed by several variables, the first of which was the American trend towards calming conflicts in the region, the Egyptian-Turkish rapprochement and the disintegration of the Gulf front against Turkey and Qatar, but these developments in international and regional positions may clash with a different Russian position after Russia's rejection of the Security Council resolution, and Haftar may find in them a last resort after a retreat.

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

Ministry of Health considering formation of joint emergency facilities with Egyptian counterparts

The Minister of Health of the Government of National Unity (GNU), Ali Al-Zanati discussed the prospect of forming joint emergency facilities with the Egyptian Ministry of Health.

This came in a closed-circuit meeting that included both sides, during which they reviewed methods to unify all efforts in combating the Coronavirus and to provide Libyan isolation centers with medical oxygen apparatus for the purpose of expanding cooperation between the two countries.

It is worth noting that both the Libyan and Egyptian sides signed an agreement on April 20 of this year, which covered free treatment for Libyans in all Egyptian government hospitals and facilities relating to the study and support for confronting the Coronavirus pandemic.

telecommunications sector in Libya and its employees, describing it as an unprecedented and distinguished achievement.

He expressed hope that the step would move the company closer to digital transformation and help it develop innovative solutions for establishing a creative working environment.

For her part, Camille Mindler, chair of the award jury, confirmed that the TM Forum Excellence Awards are among the toughest in the telecommunications and technology industry.

"We had such an impressive array of submissions this year that it's hard to choose from, so congratulations to the winners. You truly reflect the best of cases in terms of customer experience, digital transformation, automation, and innovation around the world," Mindler said.



Education

University professors organize strike over "offensive remarks" by Libyan PM

The general syndicate of higher and technology education teaching staff called for organizing an open strike at the beginning of the first semester on October 10.

The announcement came after an emergency meeting to discuss "offensive remarks" by Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah claiming the teaching staff is living in luxury.

The syndicate said Sunday the teaching staff are about 30,000, in addition to 10,000 teaching assistants, who all teach half a million students, adding that they had given a lot to the country and are capable to contribute to change.

"After deducting 15 months of our salaries and denying us incentives and promotions as well as leaves and funds for the scholarship-approved staff, we expected applauding statements by the Prime Minister not otherwise." The statement reads.

The syndicate called for "honorary stance" by the teaching staff who are in official positions in the government, saying it had started contacting international and regional organizations to exert pressure to obtain the rights of the staff across Libya.

Technology

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LITC wins excellence award at TM Forum

The Libyan International Telecom Company (LITC) has won the Excellence Award year prize presented by the TM Forum, a leading group that includes more than 850 global companies providing services across 180 countries around the world.

The LITC, a subsidiary of the Telecom Holding Company, was awarded the prize at a recent ceremony with the participation of 95 companies from 23 countries.

A panel of 22 independent experts in technology recognized the LITC's role in cultural transformation by investing in employee upskilling and its ability to keep going and expanding despite the pandemic and conflict.

Engineer Adel Abu Fares, COE of the LITC, congratulated the



Migration

865 sea migrants returned to Libya in a week, says IOM

Libya's Coast Guard returned around 865 sea migrants to Libya last week, said the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Monday.

Since the start of the year, Libyan rescue vessels picked up 25,285 from the sea, including women and children, according to the IOM data.

The IOM noted that during 2020, Libya's coast guard returned 11,891 migrants to shores. It also documented 381 fatalities and 597 missing people during the same period.



Travel

Afriqiyah Airways set to resume flights to Cairo at the end of September

Afriqiyah Airways announced on Monday the resumption of scheduled flights to Cairo Airport, following a stoppage of several years.

The company stated on its official Facebook page that the first flight is due to take place on September 30.

The company indicated that it intends to operate nine flights weekly from Mitiga, Benina and Misrata International Airports, according to a set schedule.



Art

Sabha Municipal Theater inaugurated after completion of maintenance

The city of Sabha inaugurated on Monday the Municipal Theater of Sabha, after the completion of the first phase of the maintenance process in it.

The Sabha Municipal Council said on its official Facebook page that the maintenance work in the theater was carried out by the International Organization for Migration with funding from the Japanese people, and in cooperation with the Sabha Municipality.

The municipality commended the maintenance work targeting all the city's facilities and sectors, because of their effective role in developing culture and arts, in addition to considering them as spaces for rehabilitation and training within the municipality.



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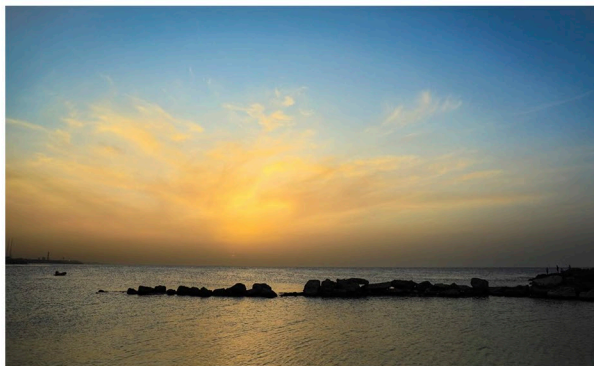
Fri 01	29°/19°		Sunny	12%	NNW 19 km/h
Sat 02	29°/20°		Sunny	8%	NNW 15 km/h
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Wed 06	32°/22°		Sunny	1%	ENE 18 km/h
Thu 07	29°/21°		Sunny	4%	NNE 18 km/h

Cartoon

Aqaila Saleh's Tailor Shop to sew up the elections law

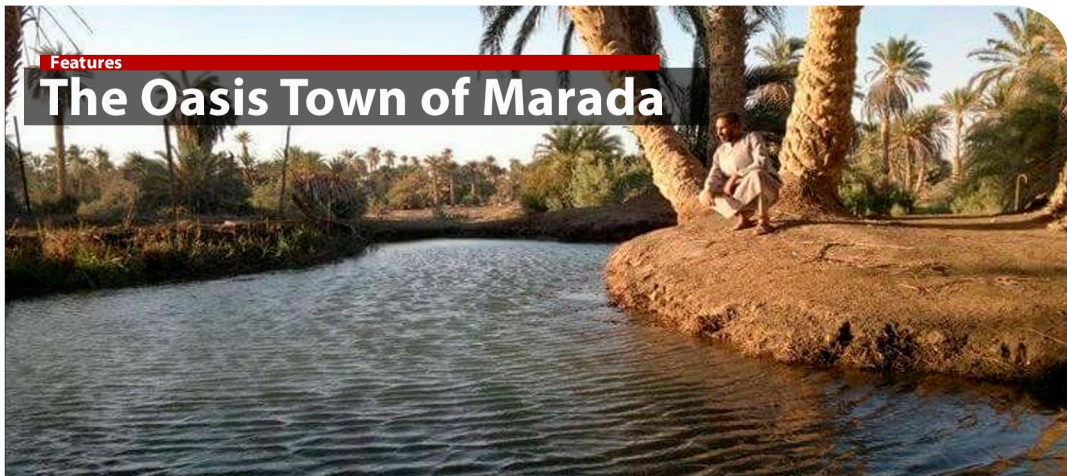


Photo of the Week



Features

The Oasis Town of Marada



It is an oasis town in the Al-Wahat District, Cyrenaica region, in northeastern Libya, about 120 km south of El-Agheila, east of the Zella oasis, at a distance of 225 km, and west of the Jallow Oasis. Travelers to Marada use other much longer roads than the El-Agheila-Marada road because of its bad condition.

It is inhabited by a number of tribes such as Al-Zawiya, Al-Ahamoud, Al-Tawat and Al-Shawashnah.

After walking hundreds of miles in a barren desert, you see the natural beauty spreading over the desert, and what truly amazes man is the presence of a large number of palm trees and natural water springs, where water flows from about 35 natural springs such as Ain Haqqana, Ain Al-Malah, Ain Lahmal, Ain Al-Arek, Ain Al-Qatrah and Ain Al-Jarm.

Origin of the Name

It was called Marada, because it is loved by the hearts of its people, and the meaning of the word is the beloved or a goal that is intended to be achieved and a hope that is sought.

History

It was mentioned, in some Egyptian and Greek writing about 3000 BC years ago, because it is close to them from the western side.

The first oil fields were discovered in Libya in 1932 in the oasis, which is the Al-Raqba field.




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