

Politics

Fierce clashes rock Sabha on backdrop of attack on police officers



A group of police officers from Sabha have been attacked by a militia force affiliated with Khalifa Haftar while on a mission to transfer new police cars dispatched by the Interior Ministry to the Sabha Security Directorate.

In a correspondence submitted to the Ministry of Interior, the Security Directorate of Sabha said that the team of officers was assigned to receive eleven new four-wheel-drive vehicles allocated to the Sabha police by the Ministry of Interior.

"When the squad was driving the new vehicles back to Sabha, an armed group loyal to Haftar under the command of Mabrouk Sahban attacked the police at the "Qira" area in the Shati Municipality, and took the vehicles and the officers to the Brak Base (the southern operations HQ), the security directorate said.

The officers were reportedly hassled in a truck and sent back to Sabha. The security directorate held the militias of Haftar and Mabrouk Sahban responsible for destabilizing the southern region.

In consequence, a fight erupted in the early hours of Tuesday morning in Sabha between a military formation belonging to the Government of National Unity and a pro-Haftar militia force.

Anadolu news agency quoted a source from the Security Directorate of Sabha as saying that the clashes erupted in Central Sabha between the Tariq bin Ziyad Brigade of Haftar and the 116th Brigade of the Presidential Council and lasted for hours.

According to Libya's social platforms, the two parties exchanged fire with heavy and medium weapons near the Qurda area, forcing residents in nearby neighbourhoods to flee their homes. There was no information about the losses or damage caused by the fresh clash.

responsibility of the Government of National Unity," the NCHRL said. It underlined that such hostilities in densely populated civilian areas might fall under the war crimes category, demanding prosecution for the perpetrators at the international level.

The Sabha Security Directorate confirmed to The Libya Observer Wednesday that the situation in the city is calm but remains tense. However, a family residing in Sabha told The Libya Observer that tension and fear remain overwhelming in the city.

"On our way home, we could see more and more military vehicles massing in several points and fighters erecting earthen berms, the source which wanted to stay anonymous for safety reasons said, confirming that many government buildings and services, including schools, remain closed.



Libyan General Staff releases details on military meeting in Sirte

The General Staff of the Libyan Army has unveiled the main features of the Sirte meeting that brought together the Chief of Staff Muhammad Al-Haddad with the commander of Haftar's forces, Abdel Razek Al-Nadiri, on Saturday.

It's the first time the two sides get engaged in talks at this level.

"The friendly consultative meeting centered on seven main themes," the General Staff said in a statement Sunday.

The meeting's outcomes underlined that shedding the Libyan blood and internal strife is prohibited. It also stressed the importance of respecting the territorial integrity of the homeland and covered border security issues, combating illegal immigration and organized crime.

Politics

Following deadly clashes in Sabha, NCHRL urges protection for civilians



اللجنة الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان - ليبيا
THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - LIBYA

The National Commission for Human Rights in Libya (NCHRL) has expressed concern about the armed clashes that residence in Sabha experienced on Tuesday.

A fight broke out in the early hours of Tuesday morning between a military formation belonging to the Government of National Unity and a pro-Haftar militia force after the latter attacked a group of security officers and looted around ten new police vehicles.

The NCHRL called on both sides to immediately stop the "violent acts" and hostilities, holding them responsible for the consequences of what could happen.

Meanwhile, the Sabha Medical Centre confirmed that Tuesday's clashes resulted in the death of one person and the injury of two others.

The NCHRL urged the authorities to intervene urgently to stop the fighting and restore security and stability in the city.

"The safety and protection of the civilian population is a core respon-



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"The army's mission is to protect the homeland, the citizen, and the constitution, with no militarization of state and no politicization of the military institution."

Both agreed to support efforts to establish a civil state and develop a comprehensive plan to organize the militants and armed formations. It also stipulated the formation of joint committees to set up an organized mechanism for unifying the military institution away from political strife.

The 5 + 5 Joint Military Committee (JMC) had held meetings in Turkey and Russia to discuss the withdrawal of mercenaries and foreign forces from Libya.

In November, the JMC met in Tunisia with representatives of the African Union, led by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, besides the Special Envoy of the United States Ambassador to Libya Richard Norland.



Libyan Government of National Unity vows to hand power after elections

The Prime Minister-designate, Ramadan Abujanah, has vowed that the Government of National Unity (GNU) will hand over power after December 24 elections, saying Libyans should preserve the achieved stability by voting.

Abujanah added, in a joint press conference in Tripoli on Sunday with a number of GNU ministers, that the GNU supports holding elections on time, saying the judiciary has had its say regarding election appeals.

Meanwhile, the Interior Minister, Khalid Mazen, said all things are being done as planned regarding preparing for elections on December 24 and that all security measures are now in place. He called on all parties to commit to the election process regulations. The Minister of Justice, Halima Abdulrahman, said the first phase of election process succeeded, saying the GNU "is ready to deliver the December 24 vote" which, if successful, would be "a turning point in Libya's history and future."

She hailed the Libyan judiciary and its integrity and transparency in tackling the electoral process and candidates' appeals.

The Deputy Minister of Health said there will be an election operations room at the Ministry of Health, asking Libyans to abide by precautionary measures against the spread of Coronavirus, and saying that readiness alert to be announced at all medical facilities across Libya 24 hours before the start of voting.

It's still uncertain whether or not presidential elections will take place on time, especially after the implied rejection of some candidates by several members of the House of Representatives, delayed announcement of the final candidates' list and the statement of the High National Elections Commission on Saturday that said it would take legal and judicial measures before publishing the final list of candidates.

Politics

Libya: First meeting for Chief of Staff and Haftar forces' counterpart



The Libyan Chief of General Staff, Mohammed Al-Haddad, met Saturday in Sirte with the Chief of Staff of Khalifa Haftar's forces, who is acting now as a General Commander in place of Haftar, Abdelrazik Al-Nathori for the first time.

The meeting in Sirte was held in the presence of a number of military officers from both sides.

After the meeting, Al-Nathori said they had discussed unifying the Libyan military institution without foreign intervention, adding that the viewpoints of the two sides were close as they stem from their keenness on protecting the country, its constitution and military institution.

Al-Nathori said they are expecting the 5+5 Joint Military Commission to join the meetings of unifying the military institution, adding that there will be consecutive meetings without foreign intervention.

"The previous governments blocked our military institution budgets for 11 years, we won't allow politicians to dismantle the military institution." Al-Nathori further explained.



Williams reiterates importance for the oil sector to stay independent

Adviser to the UN Secretary-General for Libyan Affairs, Stephanie Williams, has emphasized the need to preserve the integrity and independence of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and to avert it from any interactions that might hinder its work.

During her meeting with the head of the NOC, Mustafa Sanalla, Williams stressed the need to support the corporation in order to pre-

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preserve the country's unity and independence and bring it to safety.

She praised the work of the NOC and its ability to maintain production rates, despite all difficulties and challenges.

Meanwhile, Sanalla briefed Williams on the situation and the problems hindering the oil industry's work, including the debts issue and the limited financial resources, which he said was essential for running the sector.

the exported oil helps support the economy and overcome issues created by the war and COVID-19." Al-Kabir said.

Al-Kabir met with his deputy Ali Al-Hibri in Tunisia in the presence of Deloitte representatives. They agreed at the meeting on a plan for the unification of the Central Bank.

Economy

NOC Chairman says Libya oil revenue has been excellent, citing improved prices



The Chairman of the Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) Mustafa Sanallah said the NOC had transferred 16.883 billion dollars of oil revenue to the government on the last seven months.

Sanallah told reporters on Tuesday that the NOC made excellent revenues due to the improved oil prices, saying it can gain more profits in the rest of the year, denying that the NOC had received its requested budget: a statement made by the Governor of the Central Bank of Libya Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir to Bloomberg.

He also said the government can take alternative measures to support the oil sector, given the fact that the House of Representatives hasn't approved its budget.

"9000 workers of the NOC haven't received salaries and we have also debts to foreign companies, one of which is worth 190 million dollars. There's deliberate negligence of the measures needed to support the NOC financially due to the illegal Audit Bureau's review of the NOC accounts. Despite that, the NOC achieved a high revenue due to the efforts of the workers and the hike in global prices," Sanallah explained.

He called on the companies that consume energy to resort to renewable energy instead of gas because of the shortage of funding for the NOC.

Economy

Governor says unification of Libya's Central Bank to take 6 months



The Governor of the Libyan Central Bank Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir said unifying process needs six months, in which all challenges will be overcome.

Al-Kabir told Bloomberg that there's no budget deficit in Libya, neither there is a deficit in private expenditures with the last month's increase of oil prices, reiterating the need for cooperation between the government and parliament to tackle the increase of public debt (270%) of the GDP.

He also said that the unification of the CBL will help monitor the exchange rate of the dinar better and more effectively, in addition to supporting the government's financial policy, adding that unifying the Central Bank will boost the country's economy and relations with international partners.

"The oil sector is vital to us. It makes up 95% of our economy and

Economy

Karanfil: We will expand voyages between Libya and Turkey to include new destinations



The head of Turkey-Libya Business Council Murtaza Karanfil said they are planning to expand voyages between Libya and Turkey to include new destinations such as Istanbul, Muğla, Antalya and Bursa, for both tourism and trade purposes.

Commenting on the first voyage between Libyan city of Misrata and Turkey's Izmir, Karanfil stated that everyone is very satisfied with the launch of the new sea line between both countries.

"Economic relations between the two countries should progress faster," he told DHA news agency, calling on Turkish non-governmental organizations to come together with their Libyan counterparts to boost cooperation.

Karanfil expected that Turkey's presence in Africa, especially its investments and exports to Libya will increase.

Economy

Libya Investment Conference kicks off in Ubari



The Libya International Conference for Investment and Trade kicked off in Ubari Friday under the slogan (Towards the South). At the conference professionals, from various countries will cover a broad range of investment and trade topics and review experiences of leading countries in this field.

The Conference sessions will cover areas related to investments inside Libya and its geographical and regional surroundings.

A particular focus will be on renewable energies, mining, agriculture, tourism, real estate investment, infrastructure, and free zones.

The conference is undergoing under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture in Sabha, with Arab and international participation.

Opinions

The Next Day Scenarios

Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



Some analysts and observers of the Libyan issue have noticed the sudden amendment made by Aqila Saleh to the President's Elections Law, regarding the minimum age for a candidate, and reducing it from 40 years to 35.

At the time, suspicions went that the reason for this amendment was to allow one of Haftar's sons to run for the elections, because most of the terms of candidacy were designed to nominate Haftar and prepare the way for his victory, and if any unexpected development occurred and Haftar was excluded or refrained, his son would run in his place.

This amendment was not a desire or a suggestion from the MPs, but rather a suggestion by the High National Elections Commission, which during the time of mobilization for the elections, turned as a destination to the western ambassadors, and the MPs did not hesitate to approve or amend the last version of the law, which may a major active country was behind it, for the purpose of pushing a new candidate from outside the well-known political and military blocs.

But opinion polls do not indicate the possibility of winning a candidate other than the well-known controversial names. How can the voters be persuaded of an unknown figure who has no chance of competing with senior figures, and then this non-controversial candidate will not be the dark horse in these elections?

But pushing an unknown, non-controversial figure is possible if things go towards establishing a new political agreement, as happened in the Skhirat Agreement, no one expected Fayed Al-Sarraj to be chosen as president, and the same thing was repeated in the Geneva Agreement through the list of Menfi and Dbeibah.

One of the contingency scenarios, after the postponement of the elections became likely, is to go to another political settlement by forming a new government that includes all parties, and obtains local and international acceptance comparable to what the current government enjoys. As usual, the UN mission, with the active countries behind it, supervises the formation of this government through the Political Dialogue Forum, or from the candidates after a first round of elections, the results of which are expected to be close due to the large number of applicants, with the exception of the most fortunate names, which do not exceed five, most notably the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdel Hamid Dbeibah and Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi.

The controversy over the legality of the Prime Minister Abdel Hamid Dbeibah's candidacy to run in the competition is heading towards the formation of a wide bloc of candidates to face him as the expected winner, after judicial appeals failed to expel him. Therefore, the map of alliances will change sharply in order to achieve a missing balance with him. As for Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi, given the strict Western stance in excluding him, and this may be done accidentally through judicial appeals. If he bypasses the appeals and returns to the race, the path will change towards a political settlement that will not enable him to play an influential role, or the election law will be re-drafted to invalidate his candidacy, as the US-British position did not leave any room for the possibility of accepting him in a leadership position that would force them to deal with him.

The point is that the intensity of the international and regional conflict for different and sometimes conflicting goals, with the protracted dispute over who will take the position of the UN envoy to succeed the resigned envoy, and the reliance of some candidates on international support, may push the continuation of managing the crisis and freezing the conflict, with an acceptable settlement through the Political Dialogue Forum, or after a first round of presidential elections, after which the 10 or 20 highest votes will be chosen to achieve a settlement and share power in a new government.

In addition to these expectations, USA, along with some allies, may push other suggestions that satisfy most of the parties to the conflict, and not push matters towards provoking the Russian opponent, or dragging the country into a new war, as the complex chaotic scene is open to all expected and unexpected ends.

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

Health Minister in Italy to discuss plans for training Libyan doctors

Minister of Health Ali Al-Zanati has visited the Italian group of San Donato Hospitals in Milan, at the head of a delegation from the ministries of health and education.

The Italian Nova news agency says that the delegation is likely to discuss a cooperation agreement with the San Donato group regarding the training of Libyan doctors in Italy remotely and to receive oncology, cardiovascular and orthopedic patients from Libya.

According to the same source, Al-Zanati visited Ircs Policlinico San Donato, the first cardiology center in Italy, and listened to a presentation on the center's services and cardiovascular diseases from some specialists in this field.



Education

Education Ministry: More than 1.5 million students enroll this year

The Ministry of Education announced that around 1,599,466 male and female students have enrolled in the school system this year.

Studies were inaugurated last week in all educational institutions across the country.

Education Ministry figures show that 1,531,148 pupils enrolled in elementary and middle schools, including 179,147 children attending first grade of the elementary stage.

It indicated that the number of secondary school students in public education institutions reached 250,679, including 173 in religious secondary schools.

The Ministry of Education said it has agreed with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to launch a mandatory vaccination campaign in all educational districts.

According to the ministry, students will attend schools three days a week in accordance with the protection guidance developed for a safe return to classes.



Sports

Al-Ittihad wins Libyan capital's derby against Al-Ahly Tripoli

Guinean player scored the only goal and winner of the Tripoli derby for Al-Ittihad against Al-Ahly Tripoli on Monday at Misrata Stadium in the match that was delayed from the second round of the Libyan Football League.

After the 1-0 win by Sheikh Kamara's goal at the minute 47, Al-Ittihad presented itself as the dominant team in the capital once again.

Al-Ittihad will play on Friday Nigerian Enyimba club at Benina Stadium in Benghazi for the qualification for group stage of the CAF Confederation Cup.



Migration

Libyan Interior Ministry thwarts attempt of migrants' trafficking to Italy

The security directorate of Tripoli port has foiled an attempt of human trafficking of illegal immigrants from Al-Shaab port in the capital to Italy.

The Interior Ministry said the operation was done after receiving information about dubious movements off the port, and afterward, the investigation unit in cooperation with the Coast Guard seized a docked vessel at the port with Arab nationals on board preparing to make an illegal sea journey to Italy, each having paid 8000 dinars (over \$1500) in advance.

After the interrogation, the security directorate detained the owner of the vessel, who is an Egyptian national. It added that he had registered the vessel under his Libyan wife's name. The case was sent to the Public Prosecution for further legal action.



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Migration

UNHCR organizes humanitarian evacuation of 176 asylum seekers from Libyan soil

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has evacuated 176 vulnerable asylum seekers from Libyan soil on a humanitarian flight to Rwanda.

The head of the UNHCR mission in Libya, Jean-Paul Cavalieri, applauded the Libyan authorities in facilitating the trip successfully.

"It is reassuring to see more people evacuated to safety in Rwanda," said Ahmed Baba Fall, the UNHCR representative in Rwanda.

He continued, "We commend this country's leadership and supporters for their generous assistance with all relevant efforts to revive the hopes for the evacuees."

Local

Al-Abdali: We have reached threatening rates in the growth of electricity consumption



The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) Wiam Al-Abdali said that the electrical network has reached a very high rate in the growth of the use of electrical energy consumption, being 12%.

In a workshop on domestic demand for natural gas, Al-Abdali explained that the annual growth is huge in a country like Libya, which has suffered from several political problems throughout the years.

Al-Abdali pointed out that the Electricity Company is working in partnership with the National Oil Corporation (NOC) to produce electrical power, due to its contract with companies working with the NOC.

He reiterated that the most relevant contract is an agreement with the French Total to produce 500 megawatts of renewable energy.



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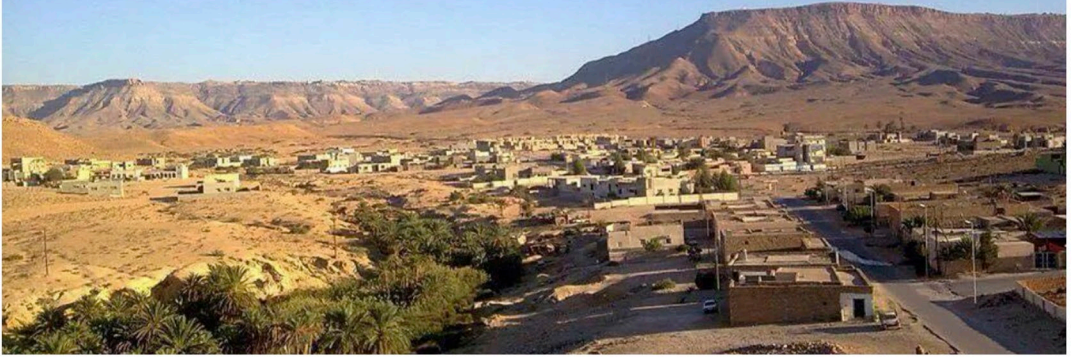
Fri 17	17°/12°		Showers	52%	NW 15 km/h
Sat 18	16°/11°		Light Rain	74%	NW 24 km/h
Sun 19	14°/10°		Light Rain	75%	NNW 26 km/h
Mon 20	14°/9°		Showers	74%	NW 23 km/h
Tue 21	15°/8°		AM Showers	38%	W 24 km/h
Wed 22	16°/9°		Mostly Sunny	3%	WSW 19 km/h
Thu 23	16°/10°		Partly Cloudy	5%	WSW 19 km/h

Photo of the Week



Features

The Shakshuk Town



It is located in western Libya in the Nafusa mountain at the bottom of it, about 170 km away from the Libyan capital, Tripoli. It is bordered to the south by Jadu, to the west by Al-Jawsh, to the east by Qasr Al-Hajj, and to the north by Sahal Jafara. It consists of three tribes; Awlad Al-Badri, Awlad Shebl, and Al-Shaqran.

It is considered an oasis, it has palm trees and more than six water springs. In the past, it supplied Jadu area and other areas with vegetables and grains, as it was famous of the cultivation of the cress or onions at the level of the western mountain. Most of its residents depend on sheep and camels grazing.

It has many archaeological sites, among of which is the Qasr Al-Ahmer (Red Castle), which is about 400 years old and was named because of the use of red bricks in its construction, in addition to a number of old houses in which our ancestors lived. It also has an electricity station, which feeds most of the mountain regions.

Its population reached about 3000. It has hot climate and is famous for its rocks, as it was a destination for geology studies at Libyan universities, due to the diversity of rocks in it.



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