

Politics

Libya's GNA recaptures Al-Watiya airbase



The Libyan Army forces under the command of the Government of National Accord (GNA) have taken full control of Al-Watiya airbase in western Libya from Khalifa Haftar's forces, who have fled the base leaving behind all their military equipment, weapons and ammunition.

The liberation was confirmed by the Presidential Council's announcement, which said that Libyan Army and backup forces have recaptured the airbase from the "criminal militias and terrorists mercenaries of Haftar."

The Presidential Council also hailed the courage of the Libyan Army and backup forces after they had defeated Haftar's forces and pushed out of the strategic airbase in western Libya.

In the meantime, the spokesman for the Volcano of Rage Operation Mustafa Al-Majaie told local media Monday morning that GNA forces had seized Al-Watiya and all military equipment inside it from Haftar's forces, including a Russian Pantsir anti-aircraft system that was provided by UAE to help Haftar in his war on Tripoli.

Footage and photos from inside Al-Watiya showed GNA forces seizing massive amounts of ammunition and arms left by the fleeing Haftar's forces.

The spokesman added that after seizing Al-Watiya airbase, GNA forces can now easily advance on Tarhouna, vowing to liberate the city along with southern Tripoli frontlines from Haftar's forces as a next phase of the liberation efforts led by Libyan Army and backup forces.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Minister of Defense of the GNA, Mohammed Al-Sharif, confirmed to Libya Alahar TV that after liberating Al-Watiya airbase, GNA forces will liberate southern Tripoli and Tarhouna from Haftar's forces, praising the bravery and patriotism of the fighters under the command of the GNA.

Politics

Abu Sahmain hails Libya-Turkey MoUs, saying countries supporting legitimacy should have privileges and priority over others



President of Libya's former legislature, the General National Congress, has said that the liberation of Al-Watiya Base was the result of sustained efforts that continued for years and cost many lives and blood.

In an interview with Tanasuh channel on Tuesday, Nuri Abu Sahmain said, "Sustaining the gains is more difficult than obtaining them, therefore, we must give serious thought about how to preserve this victory and repel the aggressors".

"No one wants war, but when it comes to preserving the homeland and principles, we will not hesitate to go into battle," added Abu Sahmain.

He indicated that the war on legitimacy did not begin on April 2019, but even earlier on February 2014 when the renegade Haftar attempted via a televised statement to oust the legitimate authority and claimed that the constitution was invalid.

Abu Sahmain recalled the crimes of Haftar in Benghazi and Derna, and his offensive against the south, Jufra, Gharyan, and other cities in the western region.

As he congratulated the Libyan army forces for the liberation of the Watiya Base, Abu Sahmain paid tribute to the martyrs and wished recovery to those injured.

He called for the Watiya Base to be neutralized from any local, ideological, political and regional strife, insisting on the necessity of chalking a comprehensive military plan to consolidate the Libyan army's control over the base and block the road in front of any suspicious movements that might drag the country to another war under the cover of legitimacy or other regional military forces.

Abu Sahmain urged Libyans to disregard calls for the partition of the country. "However, there is no harm in adopting a decentralized system, such as the provincial system with broad powers or other criteria, determined by specialists," said Abu Sahmain.

He also advised fighters of the Volcano of Rage Operation to organize themselves under a legal body based on a previous law issued by the General National Congress, regarding forming the National Guard Force, with the view to preserve victories, and ensure that the principles of the revolution are not overthrown.

"The agreement with Turkey was too late, said Abu Sahmain, adding it was possible to sign this agreement early since 2015 or 2016 at most.

Abu Sahmain appreciated Turkey's support at a time the international community turned its back to the Libyan people, as he put it.

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Abu Sahmain welcomed the agreement with Turkey and called for developing the military agreement in a manner to meet the best interests of both countries.

"We must pay no attention to the counter-revolutions mouthpieces attacking the agreement," said Abu Sahmain. "Libya has concluded agreements with France, Britain, and other countries, and no one said it was treason," he added.

"Realism obliges us to give the state that stood with Libya in its plight privileges and priority over other states that turned their backs when we needed them," the General National Congress head underscored. He also thanked the State of Qatar for standing with Libya and called on neighboring countries to cooperate to protect the borders.

At the conclusion of his interview, Abu Sahmain called on the Libyan people to shake off the dust of war and think of a better tomorrow and look forward to a prosperous future in order to build a strong unified state that rejects tyranny, exaggeration, and extremism.

"All sectors of the population should take part in the construction of their future independent state based on justice and respect for the law," Abu Sahmain said.

He also appealed to the judicial and police authorities to release those who have been unjustly imprisoned and to give consideration to the humanitarian and compassionate factors in these special blessed days of Ramadan, as he put it.

Politics

Backed by Turkey, Libyan Airforce of the UN-recognized Government of National Accord has increased drone attacks against warlord Haftar's militia groups, cutting off supply lines and destroying armed convoys heading from central Libya to fighting zones in southern Tripoli.

"Some fighters have turned against Hemedti and joined rebels fighting the Sudanese government," the source said.

Hundreds of RSF fighters have been already deployed in Sirte to join fighting in Abu Grein frontline. Haftar and his foreign backers are attempting to seize Abu Grein town and get closer to Misrata to become in the range of their missiles.

RSF fighters have been also deployed in the oil crescent region to protect oil terminals while hundreds others were deployed in southern Tripoli fronts.

Khalifa Haftar's self-styled armed, dubbed LNA, is awash of mercenaries from Sudan, Chad, Russia and Syria. There are reports that the UAE has established contacts with Shia groups in Iraq to join the fight for Haftar following many defeats by forces of the Government of National Accord.

Politics

HoR discusses action against Haftar's foreign allies



The Foreign and International Cooperation Committee of the House of Representatives in Tripoli chaired a meeting to discuss actions against the countries supporting Haftar in his aggression against Tripoli and the western region.

This aggression backed by foreign and regional powers has caused the bloodshed of Libyans, destructed infrastructure and homes, and plunged the country in an economic, humanitarian, and security crisis, the HoR said on Facebook.

The Arab administration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Cooperation of the GNA, and the head of the Intelligence Service joined the meeting held at the HoR's HQ in Tripoli, according to the HoR information office.

The parties discussed mechanisms of cooperation between the Foreign Ministry and the Intelligence Service and the initial steps taken against governments involved in the offensive against Tripoli.

They also looked into steps to safeguard the supreme interests of the state and maintain its sovereignty, in addition to means to secure the life and well-being of its people.

The participants agreed to harmonize efforts in order to come up with a common platform and a plan of action to meet the challenges arising from the aggression.

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Politics

Hemedti agrees to send another 1200 Sudanese fighters to Libya after UAE threats to cut off financial aid



The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has asked the commander of Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Mohamed Hamdan Dagal, to urgently send 1200 fighters to Libyan frontlines to support warlord Khalifa Haftar's ongoing war in southern Tripoli and western Sirte, The Libya Observer has learned.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a reliable source said that Dagal, known as Hemedti, promised to meet the UAE request despite internal opposition, after threats from the UAE rulers to cut off financial aid.

Hemedti is under fire from Sudanese army for sending thousands of Sudanese fighters for war in Libya where they could be easily killed in drone attacks, which have intensified in recent weeks.

According to the source, high-ranking Sudanese army officers disapprove Hemedti's unilateral actions which may put Sudan in legal troubles. Hemedti has already started sending his fighters to Libya via Eritrea to avoid direct confrontation with opposition officers.

"There are now 350 RSF fighters in the Eritrean town of Sawa waiting for deployment in Libya," the source disclosed, adding that Hemedti refuses to send the elite squad of RSF and his close tribesmen as he might need them to carry out his plans to become Sudan's next president.

Politics

Foreign Ministry complains about UNSMIL's attribution of Tripoli strikes to "unknown parties"



The Libyan Foreign Ministry has summoned the Humanitarian Coordinator of the UNSMIL Yacoub El Hillo and complained about the UNSMIL statements that attribute attacks and shelling on Tripoli to "unknown parties".

The Foreign Ministry said the summoning of El Hillo was prompted by UNSMIL's unfair statements in reaction to the repeated attacks by Khalifa Haftar's forces on civilians in Tripoli and on civilian infrastructure as well as vital state infrastructure and institutions, which all amount to war crimes.

El Hillo was informed by the Head of International Organizations Department Salah Al-Deen Abboud about the surprise of the Ministry at the rhetoric of his office that equalizes the attackers and the victims, knowing that the crimes committed in Tripoli are clear and everyone knows the perpetrators, calling on the Humanitarian Coordinator to issue fair statements in the future.

Meanwhile, El Hillo said his office was avoiding pointing fingers at any party and accusing them of crimes as this would be the specialization of fact-finding commissions, adding that he did cross such protocols more than once by naming Haftar and his supporters such as his interview in New York last February, which made the Jordanian mission to the UN file a request to withdraw the interview from the UN website.



Foreign Ministry to file violations of countries supporting Haftar at Security Council

The Libyan Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it would coordinate with relevant authorities to document the violations of countries supporting "putschist Khalifa Haftar's forces" through the weapons and military equipment found in Al-Watiya airbase after being liberated by the forces under the command of the Government of National Accord.

The Foreign Minister Mohammed Sayala said in the statement that the violations of Haftar and his supporters will be filed at the Security Council and its Libya Sanctions Commission, adding that the Ministry will work with all international powers which advocate for a civilian and democratic state in Libya.

Meanwhile, the spokesman for the Libyan Foreign Ministry Mohammed Al-Giblawi told reporters that the Ministry was documenting evidence of UN arms embargo violations at Al-Watiya airbase, especially the Russian Pantsir Anti-Aircraft System that was given to Khalifa Haftar's militias by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to bring the violators to international justice.

Al-Giblawi said the Ministry informed the Libyan representative at the International Criminal Court to file a lawsuit against the UAE as it took part in the bloodshed in Libya by supporting Haftar with aircraft, military equipment and mercenaries.

He said that documenting evidence of arms embargo violations will be in the best interest of the GNA as it will embarrass Haftar's supporters, especially UAE, Egypt and Jordan, adding that GNA diplomacy managed to distance France from Haftar's support after finding the US Javelin missiles in Gharyan last year.

Politics

UN confidential report details UAE support to Haftar in Libya



A company from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has purchased six helicopters and two boats to raid ships off Libya in a move to support Khalifa Haftar in his ongoing war on Tripoli, a UN panel report revealed, according to Anadolu Agency.

According to confidential letters by a Panel of Experts, under the Security Council's Libya Sanctions Committee, the sale of at least \$18 million in military equipment was made through a Jordan-based company that was founded by Fulcrum Holding in the UAE.

Anadolu Agency added that a source familiar with the letters, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the committee got a tipoff in mid-January that the UAE was trying to fund a special team of mercenaries to back Haftar.

"The Fulcrum Holding set up the company allegedly to carry geographical researches and used it to purchase three Puma helicopters from South Africa. The helicopters were transported to Jordan and then to Libya." The report added, citing the source as saying that it was unclear if South Africa's Starlite Aviation company sold-

the helicopters or mediated the transportation process.

The UAE-based company also bought three French-built SA 341 attack helicopters from Gabon to deploy to Libya and two 20-person MRC1250 boats via Malta-based Sovereign Charterers for the mercenaries to use, according to Anadolu Agency.

Meanwhile, Bloomberg reported Friday that two Dubai-based companies sent 20 Western mercenaries to Libya to help Haftar forces seize Tripoli.

The source said the letter revealed 20-25 mercenaries went to Benghazi to receive the helicopters and boats, and the purchase of six helicopters and two boats were actually made to carry out raids on vessels off Libya, pull them to the coast and search them for military equipment.

Anadolu Agency said that against the risk of being noticed by satellite, the source said a logo of the Jordan-based company was embroidered on the helicopters and boats to give the impression they were doing "geographical researches."

Politics

Malta reiterates readiness to host Libyan dialogue meetings

The Maltese Ambassador to Libya, Charles Saliba has affirmed his country's readiness to host any meetings between the parties to the conflict in Libya to reach a permanent ceasefire.



The Maltese Ambassador underscored during a video call with Speaker of the Tobruk-based House of Representatives that his country rejects any military interference in Libya, insisting that the only solution is to return to dialogue under the Berlin summit umbrella.

"Seeing the Libyans in this situation is just heartbreaking," said Saliba. He indicated that Malta will be the most affected European country by the conflict in Libya, given its geographical location in addition to the historical ties between the two countries that date back to hundreds of years.

"Malta does not have any agenda in Libya, but it hopes to see peace and stability in the country, and this could only be achieved by the Libyans themselves," he added.

It may be important to note that the Maltese Ambassador reached out last April to the GNA to confirm his country's support to the Libyan

people amid the ongoing fighting and the outbreak of coronavirus. He also condemned the recent military escalations in Tripoli, including the attacks on health facilities.

Politics

PC extends curfew for ten days imposing a total ban throughout the days of Eid Al-Fitr



The Presidential Council (PC) has made a decision to extend the partial curfew for a further ten days, beginning from today, insisting that the ban should be applied for the full 24-hour period, without exception, throughout the days of the Eid Al-Fitr celebrations.

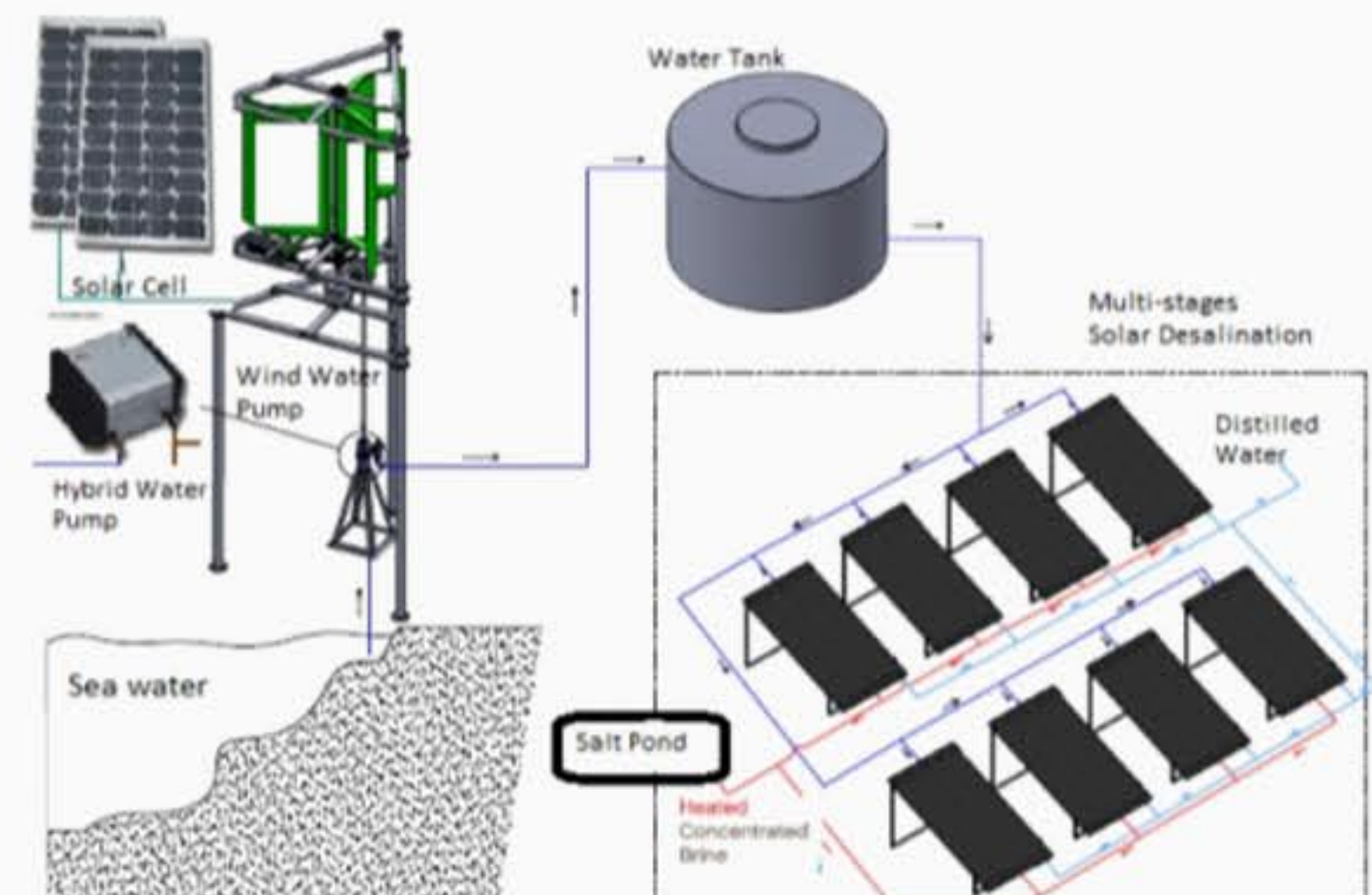
The Supreme Committee, formed to confront the Coronavirus pandemic, recommended these measures to the PC on Sunday, as a precaution in order to reduce the possibility of spreading the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Committee's other recommendations included, requiring citizens to wear protective medical masks when leaving their homes and the implementation of set hours for administrative work in institutions at 10%, which represents working hours from 9am until 2pm, whilst keeping major stores and markets fully closed for now.

Opinions

Empowering Agents of Development for Preparing Basic Need Utilities

By *Mohammad Amar Ma'ruf, Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Indonesia in Libya*



Since decades the world has faced many challenges. Today the world is introduced again with the word of New Normal. This term is appeared following unprecedented even that may be caused by unnatural disasters. Surely, this event gives impact to human life and its environment. Let say war or conflict, pandemic of dangerous virus (SARS and COVID 19) make human interaction dramatically changed and strongly affected.

Even though experts says blessing in disguise that during COVID-19 the sky becomes blue or less polluted, the worse news is still there, namely environment still under permanent threat where the quality of the world environment is getting degraded. In this situation even one small thing will give big impact to others.

It is realized that the earth capacity become less while the population is growing rapidly. The competition among peoples will be tighter. It is afraid that it may also create blind competition which neglects humanity and environment aspects. Soon or later, it will give direct and indirect negative impact for harmony of human relations with and it's surrounding or even with its Creator. The sustainability is very vital to sustain the life of human being and its environment. And if it is unprotected, it will make unprecedented change again.

As part of global community, it is good to be part of the local development by exploring and trying to connect local wisdom that may be worked it out for sustainable development with its counterpart in Libya. I am very thankful that local authorities are giving the same attention and efforts that encourage our initiative to strengthen connectivity between development agents to share their technical knowledge and capacity.

Libya has strategic location and has abundance of resources in term of human resources and natural resources. These two aspects are main asset for creating more prosperous land not only for their own but also for their surrounding or even for international society. Both should exist interactively and could not be separated to each other's. Without proper support and wise policy for these aspects, it is believed that sustainability of normal life will be affected.

While the above point of views are becoming fundamental, some local prominent figures share views that the above values challenged with the excess of usage of information technology that may hamper the value of local wisdom among current generation. It is not easy task for local stakeholder to cope this alone.

Opinions

For the above reason, the Embassy in Tripoli and General Authority for Libya Culture have explored their respective local wisdom to be reintroduced to our current/existing generation. Both sides have formed Joint Committee to collaborate in collecting their local wisdom which in fact have become not only as part of national heritages but also has become part of world heritages. Both countries are admitted as diverse in culture and civilization. The diversity becomes the asset for the founding father of the nation to develop their statehood leadership. To mark this event, The Embassy has opened Historical Archives Exhibition that describe Libyan founding fathers participation along with other Asian African, including Arab Leaders in the Asian African Conference held in 1955 in Bandung-Indonesia. This event is center of excellence for current generation to know more about their national founding father struggle in their independence period, especially to unify their voice as one Libya.

In tandem with the above efforts, now, both have moved to other aspect of humanity, namely fulfilling their basic needs for supporting their daily life which have been blockaded due to war or conflict. Many public utilities are destroyed and need to rebuild. People become suffered due to lack budget for development. At this point, as humanitarian gesture, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia shares its empathy in collaboration with agent of development in Libya discusses on issues relating to basic needs. One issue that embassy address is access and availability of Fresh Water.

Libya with their main activity is on oil and gas sector are in need continuity of fresh water besides for fulfilling their domestic consumption. In that regards, as part of Libyan citizen, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia and its staff, feel called to share what Indonesia can share for Libyan society, especially in sharing technical information (know how expertise) of building fresh water unit by using very practical technology that may be called applied technology for water desalination.

Actually, this issue is not only part of the problem of Libya but also part of problem of the world today. The world population with almost achieved 7 billion peoples is now in dire need to the fresh water. The thing that has made this access more complicated in Libya is prolonged conflict. This situation makes development in Libya look challenging or even degraded. If it is happened, it is more like patchwork development.

Without any intention to forget the existing problem, Embassy and technical ministry in this case along with international partners always share each other on how and what activity that Indonesia can share for Libyan society. For Indonesia as country that located is quite far from Libya and Libya as well, explore the pragmatic approach in strengthening its communication and cooperation via virtual line by focusing technical aspect that being primarily needed by Libyan. In this regards, Indonesia also has shared to the Ministry of Planning of Libya regarding the Indonesian Mapping Resource Centre prepared by the Ministry of Planning and Development of Indonesia that describe many development program which may in line with Libya need under the Program of Reverse Linkages and South-South Cooperation.

Keeping in mind that issue should also involve many stakeholders from government and non-government, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia always invites multi tracks stakeholders. Communication involves many stakeholders not only the government organization but also non-government organization and international organizations. It is believed that with full participation of agents of development, every capacity that being shared will give multi benefit and may generate other sources of kindness for all.

During the April and May 2020, Indonesian Embassy has organized 2 (two) technical virtual programme under the title of Initiating for Supporting Technical Information on Building Portable Solar Based Water Distillation and Desalination Technology for Libya Community that prepared substantially by the Senior Engineering of Indonesian Institute of Sciences/IIS or Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia/LIPI under supervision its initiator Dr. Yoyon Ahmudiarto, Senior Engineering of IIS/LIPI and the Share Best Practices on Building Rapid Disinfectant Booth/RDB to avoid the spreading of COVID 19.

For the case of Water Desalination, the model is quite practical since Indonesia and Libya are a coastal state that the sea water becomes more than just a source of social, economic value, but it should be used with the proper and practical technology. The engineer of the unit develops a solar based portable water distillation unit. This distillation unit able to convert contaminated water into pure-clean water. This unit could overcome the pure and clean water shortage. Furthermore, the unit with several technical arrangement could process sea water into both pure-clean water and salt. The installment of the unit may also create job opportunity especially for small scale enterprises.

Beside this programme, Indonesia also open for receiving the request for all Libyan technical communities who want to know more about the Rapid Disinfectant Booth with Ultra Violet that being invented and developed by the Graduate Technical Faculty of University of Indonesia and other products that related to the avoid of spreading of pandemic COVID 19.

In that regards, Indonesia always opens to share and welcome to all Libyan stakeholder who want to study about two above projects. Indonesian Engineering always opens to share their knowledge and expertise for Libyan Brothers who want to empower their technical society to optimize their human capital and natural resources.

Hope technical innovation and technical information that have been shared to Libyan communities will be positive for current and future generation. May Allah Subhanahu wata'ala give us His protection and guidance. Aaameen Ya Robbal Aalamiin.

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

Turkey sends second medical supplies to Libya via Tunisia

Turkish Ambassador, Serhat Aksent, has handed the second batch of medical supplies sent from his country to Libya to the director of the Emergency Department of the Health Ministry of the Government of National Accord (GNA), Tawfik Harisha.

The medical supplies come within the Turkish efforts to help Libya in the fight against the coronavirus

The first medical supplies arrived in Tripoli on April 11.

GNA health ministry officials expressed appreciation for Turkey's help during these times.

The second batch of medical equipment was first delivered to Djerba Airport in Tunisia by a cargo plane of Turkish Airlines, together with medical supplies sent to Tunisia from Turkey. The shipment was later transferred from the Tunisian border to Tripoli.

Media outlets loyal to warlord Haftar claimed that the shipment of medical supplies was "a suspicious cargo flight from Turkey to Tunisia", although the entire trip was coordinated with the Tunisian government.

The medical supplies consisted of surgical masks, face and eye protection masks, protective garment for health personnel and also sterilizers and disinfectants.

Health

WHO: Libya has not crossed the barrier of the 'risk-free stage' regarding the Coronavirus pandemic



World Health Organization

A member of the Coronavirus Pandemic Team, at the World Health Organization (WHO), office in Libya, Ramadan Osman, said that Libya had not passed the danger zone, regarding the Coronavirus, despite the promising health status of results from testing.

Osman said in a press statement, that all the cases which were held in isolation, have now been released, bar one case, which was recorded two days ago, adding that the health status of the rest of the patients did not require any further hospitalization or any form of intensive care.

Health

WHO, UNICEF: Children's lives in Libya at risk due to shortages in vaccines



UNICEF and WHO said in a joint statement that the lives and health of over a quarter of a million children under one year of age in Libya are at risk from vaccine-preventable diseases due to critical shortages in vaccine supplies.

UNICEF and WHO have raised the alarm over severe vaccine shortages in Libya that are putting more than 250,000 children at severe risk.

"The situation is made worse by the continued armed conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic, disrupted health care services, regular power cuts, shortages of safe water supplies and the closure of schools and child-friendly spaces." The statement reads.

UNICEF Special Representative, Abdel-Rahman Ghandour, said immunization is one of the most effective public health interventions and when routine vaccinations are missed, there is a high chance of a resurgence of a measles outbreak, other preventable diseases, and fatalities among the children.

"There is an urgent need to ensure an uninterrupted flow of funds for vaccine procurement to cater for the current shortfall." Ghandour added.

He said UNICEF renews offering its procurement services to the Government of Libya to procure WHO prequalified vaccines at competitive prices and have them delivered to Libya urgently.

Health

Libya's Disease Control Center to conduct large-scale survey of Coronavirus spread



The Libyan National Center for Disease Control said it would conduct a comprehensive survey of Coronavirus spread in the country starting Sunday.

In a presser, the Head of the National Center for Disease Control Badr Al-Deen Najjar said the first phase of the survey would be in three Tripoli municipalities: Ain Zara, Souq Al-Jumua and Abu Salim.

"The survey will be a basis for future precautionary measures, as to whether increase or decrease them. We want to know the percentage of infection and spread of Coronavirus in the areas through the survey." He added.

Meanwhile, Libya registered a new COVID-19 case, bringing the total number to 65 after the National Center for Disease Control had announced that out of 56 samples, one tested positive and 55 negative.

The center said the new Coronavirus case is a new one; meaning a person who hasn't been in direct contact with the people infected with COVID-19.

Recovered Coronavirus cases stand now at 28 and deaths at three, leaving Libya with 34 active cases out of the total 65.

Health

Team of Libyan doctors heads to Italy to help in the fight against



A team of Libyan doctors has left for Italy to help in the fight against the Coronavirus pandemic, according to the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs on its Facebook page, which is all part of the ongoing cooperation between Italy and Libya in efforts to combat the pandemic.

The team of doctors, led by Dr. Kamel Al-Tlaou, traveled to Italy to provide assistance in the coordination between the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), and the Italian Health Authority and it is expected that the program may extend from two weeks on to a month, if necessary.



Education

Classes to resume in mid-June in Libya

The Ministry of Education has revealed its plan to restart schools by June 13, 2020.

Pupils preparing for the preparatory and secondary certificate will be the first to resume lessons said Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Adel Jumaa, noting that they will spend two months back at school before taking their exams.

Jumaa confirmed that the decision was approved by the scientific advisory committee for managing the Covid-19 pandemic and the anti-Covid-19 supreme committee.

Schools only managed to give 41% of the overall curriculum for this academic year, due to delays in the start of the school year, and Haftar's offensive against the capital, according to the undersecretary.

Accordingly, the decision to transfer or calculate the average of the two terms cannot be implemented, therefore, the ministry decided to restart schools instead," Jumaa added.

"To ensure pupils are studying in a safe environment, education institutions will be provided with the necessary hygiene and sterilizing supplies, periodically," said Jumaa.

The undersecretary also announced that the Education Minister has formed a committee to supervise and monitor the restarting of schools in coordination with the National Center for Disease Control and to ensure that all measures recommended by the relevant bodies for the safety of the children at the education institutions are implemented.



Education

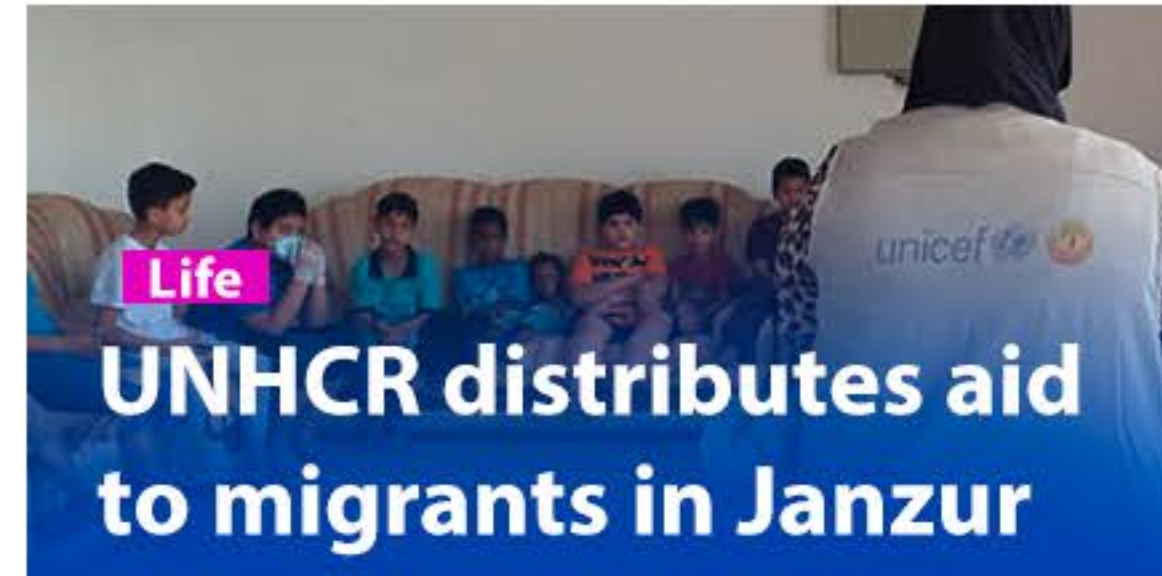
Education Ministry launches platform for virtual learning

The Minister of Education, Mohamed Amari Zayed, has attended the launch of the educational platform 'Let's Learn', which was supervised by the Information and Documentation Center, in coordination with the Microsoft Company.

Zayed praised this innovative step, which will assist educational institutions to open 'virtual classes' and allow them to download curricula for use in planning lessons and assisting students to reach the grades needed to further their education.

He said that although this new incentive was originally formed as a method of support during the Coronavirus pandemic, the Ministry of Education is set on including the program in its annual plan of education.

The chief of the Information and Documentation Center, Yousef Abu Zowaida, said that training for use of the platform and the installation of programs and lessons on the virtual site is perhaps the most difficult stage, which the center is presently undertaking.



Life

UNHCR distributes aid to migrants in Janzur

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has distributed urgent aid to 340 migrants in Janzur district, western Tripoli.

The UNHCR has provided aid, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to migrants from Sudan and Syria. The aid included food baskets, hygiene kits and water purification tablets.

The UNHCR distributed in April aid to 500 migrants in Tripoli, as part of a plan aimed at providing assistance to 4000 people throughout the month of Ramadan.

Economy

British court says current Libyan Investment Authority board is legal



A London court of appeals has ruled that the current board of directors of the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) and the decisions of the Presidential Council of the Government of National Accord about LIA are legal.

In a statement, LIA said it would take measures to remove the judicial guardianship and to tackle the tasks and assets under its authority, in addition to finishing the legal representation procedures at state financial institutions.

It also said that the British court had rejected altogether the allegations of the parallel parties that claimed legitimacy to represent the LIA.

LIA called for lifting the judicial guardianship of assets so that it can operate with and develop those assets as per the laws and the current sanctions system.

Last March, British Commercial Court ruled for recognition of Ali Mahmoud Hassan as the legal Director of LIA.



Life

Charitable organization distributes entertainment kits for displaced children

Noor Alhayat charitable organization, in cooperation with UNICEF Libya Office, has provided entertainment kits for displaced children who fled their homes due to the offensive on Tripoli.

The work is part of the "Safety" campaign launched to elevate the difficult conditions the displaced children are experiencing amid the strife and the outbreak of the Covid-19 in the country, says the charitable organization.

According to the IOM, more than 200,000 people have suffered internal displacement, including Libyan families and migrants since Haftar's aggression in April 2019.

Displaced children staying at the Ittihad Club in Tripoli received packages containing books, toys, drawing kit, handicraft, and clay, as well as stickers and leaflets on how to keep safe and healthy during the Covid-19 outbreak.

The campaign aims to relieve anxiety and grief among those children and help keep them safe, calm, and well entertained during the current emergency situation they are going through, according to the organization.

weather

The Weather Channel

Tripoli Weather Forecast








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|--------|---------|---|-----|-------------|-----|---|
| Fri 22 | 25°/17° |  Partly Cloudy | 10% | N 19 km/h | 60% | ▼ |
| Sat 23 | 26°/15° |  Sunny | 10% | ENE 26 km/h | 55% | ▼ |
| Sun 24 | 27°/17° |  Sunny | 0% | E 28 km/h | 50% | ▼ |
| Mon 25 | 28°/18° |  Mostly Sunny | 0% | ENE 23 km/h | 50% | ▼ |
| Tue 26 | 27°/19° |  Mostly Sunny | 0% | ENE 21 km/h | 55% | ▼ |
| Wed 27 | 27°/18° |  Sunny | 10% | ENE 29 km/h | 55% | ▼ |
| Thu 28 | 26°/17° |  Sunny | 0% | ENE 27 km/h | 55% | ▼ |

Photo of the Week



Features

The University of Mohamed al-Senussi

The University of Mohamed al-Senussi is one of the most ancient, prestigious and popular universities in the Arab world. It's the second university established in Libya and the first of its specialization in the systematic teaching of Islamic studies.

Situated high above the Green Mountain in the city of Al-Bayda, it is known for its jihadist history and the ferocity of its resistance during colonial times. The city was also buoyant by scientific and cultural life. It was a science sat, which was to become a major centre of learning and culture at that time in the whole world that atmosphere created an internationally recognized university and a library containing hundreds of thousands of references, which was added to the historic aura of the city.

The University was founded as early as 1841 AD. It was first known as a centre of Islamic learning, originally a "Zawia", teaching students at different levels, but has since been developed into an intermediate college, thereafter, to the University of Muhammed al-Senussi with its modern curriculum of Islamic studies in 1960, with three Faculties, including Arabic, Theology and Islamic Law. It is ranked first in Libya in the Webometrics University Rankings.

The University has experienced political instability, and was renamed for several times following the military coup led by Muamar Gadhafi in 1969. The three faculties were incorporated into one as an Arabic language faculty and the university was named The Islamic Bayda university before being disbanded and students were forced to finish their course in the law faculty of Benghazi university. After 2011, the university reverted under its first name.

Students who graduated from Ahmed Bash secondary school in Tripoli are to travel to Al-Bayda city to finish their studies at this University, but it also attracted additional audiences from all over the world, including Egypt, Chad, Indonesia, Cyprus, Malaysia, Malta and others, due to the high qualified staff, in addition to the advantages it offered in different factors, as its provision of a competitive atmosphere by awarding honours and high level remuneration for best researches and top students.

The institution drew highly efficient scholars from different countries, especially from Egypt; all who have worked there expressed their appreciation for the warmth and brotherly welcome given to them from the King, students and people of Libya, in addition to the beautiful landscape and climate of Bayda city, which made it a favoured spot to live in after the homeland.

King Senussi dedicated the university with great interest and respect to its staff and students. He offered large income and operating budget, it was under his direct supervision.

He granted the university's director, Sheikh Masour al-Mahjoub, direct contact with the royal court; the highest institution in the stat. He was a courageous and brave man who managed to impose the university's respect on all state institutions. Anyone who exposes to the university, its students, its teachers or its curricula will find himself facing the royal court. That helped to increase the university's visibility in the country.

The top students of the three colleges were sent to pilgrimage every year on the university's account, beside tickets to multiple countries were awarded to successful students in the research field.

One of the beautiful journeys was the bus trip to the Maghreb countries and Spain. It originated from Ahmed Pasha Mosque carrying 120 students, in addition to professors via Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, and then across Gibraltar to Andalusia "Spain." The trip lasted two months with luxury accommodation at the expense of the university.

Among the travellers was Sheikh Mahmoud al-Qandi, director of the Department of Preaching and Religious Guidance at the time. He had the privilege to make Azan (call for paryer) above the famous Minaret of Seville and over the Mosque of Cordoba; it was such a poignant moment for those who have witnessed the event.

Seven courses graduated from the university before being disbanded by Gadhafi's regime. The first class was in 1962 and its alumni were the ones who carried the light of knowledge in the country in the language and theology field. Its alumni list also included some key figures who had their say in the 2011 revolution and played an important role.

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