

Politics

Libya's Fatwa House calls for full mobilization against "Russian invasion"



The Libyan Fatwa House has urged all Libyans to be part of full mobilization and total uprising against what it described as "Russian invasion" in Libya.

The Libyan Fatwa House published a statement issued by the Sharia Research and Studies Council, calling on the Libyan people who are eager to defend their religion and land to be part of full mobilization and total uprising against the Russian invasion of Libyan cities.

"This fatwa comes after the growing presence of Russians in Libyan cities, airports and oilfields ahead of their control over Libya's territories and resources." The Fatwa House said, adding that "all Muslims wherever they are and who are able to fight should do so against them anywhere in the world and should boycott their goods."

The fatwa comes amid the growing numbers of Russian Wagner Group mercenaries in Sirte and their recent control over Libya's Sharara oilfield.

The Russian intervention for Haftar's forces could have been very critical and on Haftar's benefit side, but the Government of National Accord forces managed to tip the balance to its side and defeated them with massive support from Turkey.

Politics

Al-Sarraj calls for urgent ICC mission to probe Haftar's crimes in Libya



The Head of Presidential Council Fayeza Al-Sarraj called on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to urgently send a team to investigate crimes committed by Khalifa Haftar's forces.

The call came in a letter by Al-Sarraj to the ICC, according to tweets by the spokesman for the Libyan Foreign Ministry Mohammed Al-Giblawi, who remarked that Al-Sarraj vowed to facilitate the work of the investigation mission in Libya.

"Impunity has encouraged Haftar's militias to commit more heinous crimes that have not been reported since the Nazis and Apartheid in Rwanda and Bosnia Herzegovina." Al-Giblawi said.

Al-Sarraj's letter said as well that Haftar forces' shelling on civilians, Military College in Tripoli and other crimes, including forced disappearance of HoR female lawmaker Siham Sergawa and the bombardment of the immigrants' center in Tajoura are war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Last week, the ICC said it had received reports about 11 mass graves in Tarhouna, saying its investigations in Libya would expand to include all war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In the meantime, the UN Human Rights Council approved sending a fact-finding mission to Libya to probe all violations and abuses since 2016 in the country.

Politics

US warns of Russian activities in eastern Mediterranean threatening Africa and Europe



The head of US Naval Forces in Europe and Africa, James Foggo, said Russian buildup is turning the eastern Mediterranean Sea into one of the world's most militarized zones, warning that Moscow could cement its dominance in the region if it's allowed to gain a foothold in Libya.

"The eastern Mediterranean is becoming one of the most kinetic areas in the world," Foggo said Thursday in a virtual seminar hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"The Russians are deploying quiet, modern diesel submarines capable of launching Kalibr cruise missiles. A Kilo-class submarine can go anywhere in European waters and strike any European or North African capital from under the waves," he said from Naples, Italy, where NAVFOR has its headquarters.

"This highlights the need to maintain a vigilant, highly capable naval presence throughout European waterways." He added.

Foggo added that Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, and a base in the coastal Syrian city of Tartus, have become air defense and maritime hubs for Russia.

"Now, think about what Russia is doing in Crimea and Tartus, and what threat they could pose by gaining a stronghold in Libya," Foggo indicated.

Last month, US Africa Command called out Russia for sending mercenaries and more than a dozen fighter planes into Libya.

The presence of the aircraft, which have since become operational, could be a prelude to a larger Russian presence, US military officials have said.

Politics

Bashagha: Arab state involved in blockade of Libyan oil through sponsoring Haftar



The Libyan Interior Minister of the Government of National Accord (GNA) Fathi Bashagha said an Arab country - without revealing the name - is involved in the crime of blockading Libyan oil and shutting down Sharara oilfield by funding Russian Wagner Group mercenaries.

Bashagha said on Twitter that the control of Russian mercenaries over Libyan oil is a dangerous threat to the Libyan national security and to the interests of US and European companies working in Libyan oil sector.

The Libyan Interior Minister called on the European Union to list Wagner Group that is linked to the Kremlin for sanctions against entities supporting and sponsoring terrorism after its elements had committed several crimes against humanity in Libya.

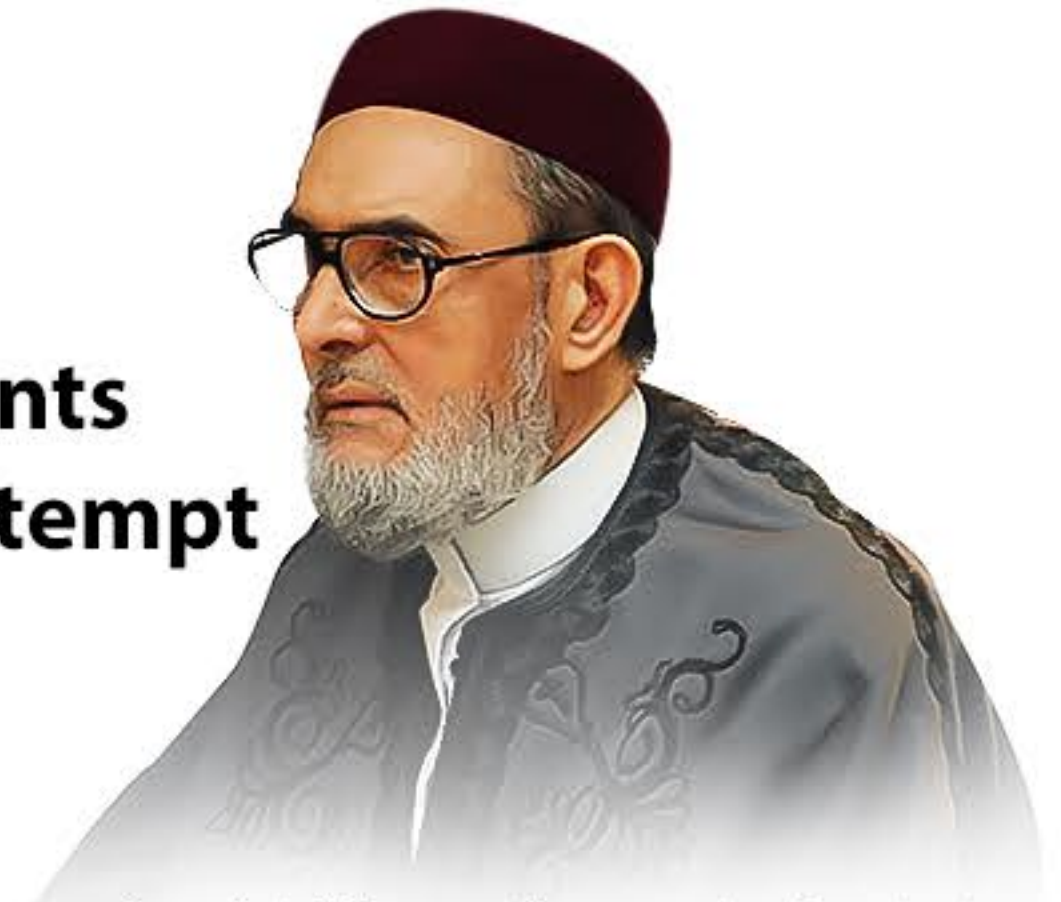
Meanwhile, The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) said Friday it was deeply concerned by the presence of Russian and other foreign mercenaries inside Sharara oilfield - Libya's largest - after a convoy of vehicles entered the field on the evening of Thursday June 25, 2020 and met with representatives of the Haftar's Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG).

Relatedly, the US embassy in Libya reaffirmed Washington's full support to the NOC, saying there is an unprecedented campaign supported by foreign powers to undermine the energy sector in Libya and prevent the resumption of oil production, and regretted that the Libyan parties were unable to reach a solution that would lift the blockade on oil and gas.

The US embassy called for allowing the NOC to immediately resume its operations as they are a crucial step to restore Libyan sovereignty and a decisive assurance to prevent further manipulation from outside parties.

Politics

Libya's Mufti says statements of Egypt's President are attempt to "escape forward"



The Mufti of Libya Al-Saddiq Al-Gharyani said "Egyptian ruler's statements about arming tribes in Libya and intervening militarily in the country are an attempt to export his country's problems and an escape forward from the crippling crises in Egypt."

The Mufti told a Tanasuh TV Channel program that Egyptian ruler (President) was aiming to keep the Egyptian public busy with Libya statements to distract them from the crises inside, adding that Egypt had already been intervening in Libya to support Haftar with arms, officers and intelligence, since the start of the latter's coup project.

"The Egyptian ruler will continue to support the coup project and no more. This is as far as he can get. He chooses to intervene in Libya instead of resolving Egyptian issues such as the water dam crisis with Ethiopia which could inflict drought on Egyptian farmers' lands, thus leaving them unemployed; a thing than can worsen Egypt's crises." The Mufti added, also referring to many fields of services that are lacking attention of the government in Egypt, such as health sectors amid the pandemic of Coronavirus.

The Libyan Mufti indicated that the international community gave the Egyptian President authority to destabilize Libya, saying he is tasked to work for the benefit of "Zionist enemies" against the Islamic nation.

Politics

Al-Mishri to Tunisian President: You can't apply Afghan Experience in Libya



The Head of the High Council of State Khalid Al-Mishri said that tribes in Libya are social components not political parties, responding to Tunisian President Kais Saied by saying that "we can't apply true experience of Afghanistan in Libya".

Al-Mishri added in a presser in a Tripoli, responding to Tunisian President who said Libyans should look for permanent legitimacy instead of temporary one, that the Government of National Accord's legitimacy came as a result of months-long dialogue held by Libyans, saying that the one who hindered elections is the party that tried to take power by force (referring to Haftar).

"We don't need a lot of initiatives but we need to activate the political agreement and the control of GNA over the entire country." He added.

Al-Mishri also said that Saied said he met 35 Libyans representing tribes from the country, saying those people didn't represent Libyan tribes and that the Tunisian President's statement was a call for ending legitimate authorities in Libya.

"Haftar should be tried for the crimes he committed and the Berlin conference conclusions should be activated." He said, adding that the Egyptian initiative cannot be approved as it contains lots of fallacies.

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Economy

Turkey, Libya's NOC plan to cooperate in oil exploration

The Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Donmez said Ankara was planning to cooperate with the National Oil Corporation, and international firms, in Libya in oil and gas exploration.

Donmez told a local media outlet in Turkey that Ankara spends about 40 billion dollars a year on energy resources' imports, saying the cost should be cut by local alternatives.

He also said that despite the fact that Ankara and Tripoli have a cooperation agreement in energy sectors, the Libyan resources must first be used for the development of the country and the wellbeing of its citizens.

"Turkey will continue with oil exploration activities in Libya in cooperation with the National Oil Corporation. Turkey could also cooperate with international firms in energy resources. This will be clear as time goes on." Donmez explained.

He mentioned a win-win situation policy to be adopted by Turkey with the Libyan oil companies operating in Libyan oilfields, adding that the "other side has been positive about this proposal".



Economy

Cement Factory to reopen after improvement of security conditions

The Economic and Social Development Fund has announced the forthcoming resumption of the Cement Factory, which the fund owns 33% of its shares.

The factory is located in "Souq Al-Khamis" district. The area was an arena for intensive fighting during the aggression on Tripoli.

The Economic and Social Development Fund said in a post on Facebook that security conditions in the region have improved since the cessation of military operations and the defeat of Haftar's militias in southern Tripoli, making it appropriate for the factory to resume its activities.

The factory is a subsidiary of the National Cement Company and its annual production capacity amounts to one million tons.

Economy

Governor of CBL discusses cooperation with his Turkish counterpart and finance minister



The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Saddiq Al-Kabeer met with the Turkish Minister of Finance and Treasury, Berat Albayrak, in Istanbul.

In a separate meeting, Al-Kabeer also met with his Turkish counterpart, Murat Uysal.

Both meetings discussed ways of boosting cooperation between the two countries in addition to other issues of common interest.



Economy

Bani Walid carpet factory to reopen at full capacity

Maintenance work at the Bani Walid Carpet Factory is at full swing to resume its production at full capacity after its ownership was passed to the Economic and Social Development Fund by a decision of the Presidential Council.

The factory sustained damage in the 2011 uprising, resulting in the suspension of several of its production lines.

The Economic and Social Development Fund will provide the factory with material and logistical support to get the factory back on its feet. It will also develop new production lines to ensure the quality and competitiveness of its products on the global market.

The Bani Walid Factory was established in 1983 as a subsidiary of the National Company for Spinning and Weaving before its ownership was transferred to the Economic and Social Development Fund in 2018.

The factory produces two types of carpets, including luxury carpets made of pure natural wool. Its products were showcased in several internal and external exhibitions, including the Tripoli International Fair and the Bani Walid International Tourism Festival, in addition to carpet exhibitions in Dubai and Germany.

Economy

Libyan Airlines: Our losses due to Haftar's aggression amounts to 272 million dinars

The Libyan Airlines Company estimated the losses caused by targeting its planes at Mitiga Airport at approximately 272 million dinars.

The Company added in a statement that the greatest damage was inflicted to two aircraft, one of which was rendered completely inoperable.

Haftar's militias targeted Mitiga International Airport dozens of times during the aggression on Tripoli, which caused great damage to the Airport itself, leading to exclusion of a number of aircraft from service.

Opinions

Sisi is free to put on airs when it comes to Libya, but water has a pretty price

By Yasin Aktay, adviser of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

🐦 @yaktay



We had seen Libyan warlord Khalifa Haftar rush to the mercy of Aqilah Saleh, speaker of the Tobruk-based House of Representatives and Egypt's Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi after the Government of National Accord (GNA) forced him to retreat last week. There, or the first time, they mentioned the Cairo declaration pertaining to a ceasefire, something they could not be convinced of to accept until now despite all the pressure, and a political solution that can be carried out together with all sides of Libya. However, it's too little, too late for this solution to be put into practice.

Of course, the political process will eventually going to pick up where it left off and the people of Libya will decide their own destiny; however, neither Haftar, nor Saleh, nor Sisi, or anyone else who provided them with all sort of support to fight against the people of Libya will have any role in this process.

Forget being apart of the political process; Haftar will now stand as defendant and be brought to account for the crimes he committed against humanity. Those who backed him in these crimes also need to defend themselves; this is what things have currently come to.

At least eight mass graves were found in the Tarhuna area, which was last captured from Haftar's forces. The vast majority of those killed consist of children and women; it is stated that there is evidence they buried alive. What business can a criminal, who is so ruthless towards the civilians of his own country, have at any negotiation table where the future of the Libyan people will be discussed?

GNA forces are continuing to purge Libya of Haftar's forces, and currently, their fight is ongoing at the gates of Sirte. Sisi, who insists on stopping at this point, made a very surprising outburst during the visit of Air Forces units the previous day, saying, "The Egyptian army may launch a military operation outside the borders of the country, if needed," and added, "Sirte and Jufra are our red line. Libya will not be defended by anyone other than Libyans. We are ready to help and give our support. There is now legitimacy for Egypt to intervene in Libya."

These statements, on the one hand, are a confession that the operations conducted by Egypt in Libya so far had no legitimacy whatsoever. On the other hand, it is the expression of a clear opposition for the first time against Turkey's presence in Libya.

What legitimacy might Sisi be talking about with respect to Egyptian presence in Libya? He is talking about Egypt's shared border with Libya, and the circumstance caused by Libya's instability.

However, the common border with Libya dos not necessarily present a security risk to Egypt. On the contrary, Egypt is the one threatening Libya's security right now, not the other way around. There is currently no recorded threat, attack or terrorist infiltration from Libya to Egypt. Quite the opposite: Sisi's Egypt is the one that supports and arms former Gen. Khalifa Haftar, who has nothing left to do with Libya, and provided him with mercenary soldiers to directly attack Libya. Egypt, which has been under Sisi's rule since 2014, inflicted all sorts of grief, massacre, and instability on the people of Libya with this attitude. Therefore, Libya may have the right to intervene in Egypt for posing a security threat right now, but Egypt does not have any such right.

Nonetheless, Egypt currently has more real enemies and problems that are truly threatening its borders. The construction of the Nahda Dam built by Ethiopia on the Nile, which makes up 93 percent of Egypt's water source, is continuing as Sisi idly watches on. The true threat against Egypt, which is now considering the serious security problems in Sinai as a "chronic," has always been Israel. Yet, while it has taken no step against Israel to date, what is the meaning of him talking the talk against Libya, and consequently Turkey, and how compatible is it with its own realities?

It seems that it is the deeper problems pushing Sisi to flex his muscles like this. The crisis that has long been ongoing with Ethiopia, has reached a peak upon water starting to be stored to fill the reservoir, and Sisi has not been able to come up with any viable solution. A serious water problem awaits Egypt. It could have at least taken measures against this, but it has not.

Sinai has currently turned into a quagmire for Sisi; there is a Zionist plan that will eventually be implemented there and Sisi's hands and are all tied up – or, on the contrary, he has no argument or effort to explain his policies that facilitate these plans.

On another note, the stance taken against the coronavirus, which is not at all befitting the qualification of a state, is an important matter of perturbing the people. Of course, such a charade will not save Sisi against all his failures, however, he is seeking some cold comfort.

The other dimension of it is that there is nobody in Sirte and Jufra, which he declared Egypt's red line, who will pay any attention to him. In the current state, this matter is more so a subject of negotiation between Turkey and Russia.

There is no legitimate power that will request his presence in Libya. The operations (armament, training, and war) he says he will carry out through the tribes he has pinned his hopes on, will only serve to add to his already-bulging international crime file. The GNA, recognized by the UN as a legitimate administration, identifies all his interventions as an invasion attempt and rejects it.

Follow next page

Opinions

Meanwhile, Egypt's direct intervention in Libya will require it so stand against both Algeria, which perceives the matter as a threat against its own security, and NATO – through Turkey.

Sisi neither has the power nor intention to risk this, but talking a big game is free. But for him, even water is too expensive a price to pay.

Credit: This article was first published by Turkish daily newspaper Yeni Şafak

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

Tripoli Central Hospital conducted 100 cardiac catheterization since receiving advanced US-made device

The Tripoli Central Hospital said it had conducted around 100 cardiac catheterizations at its catheters department since it underwent some development work.

The catheter unit has begun conducting cardiac catheterization operations, after receiving a new advanced US-made device from the (GE Company).

The catheter unit of the internal medicine department consists of an operation room, an intensive care unit, and an accommodation room, in addition to a warehouse for operational supplies.

The management of Tripoli Central Hospital has expressed their hope to open soon a specialized cardiac clinic that would deliver services 24-hours a day.



Health

Filipino nurse recovers from Covid-19

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has informed the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli that the 47-year-old Filipina emergency room nurse, has recovered from Covid-19, after more than a week of infection.

This came in a meeting between NCDC director, Badereddin Annajar, and Chargé d'Affaires of the Philippine Embassy in Libya, Elmer G. Cato.

Annajar also informed G. Cato that with the recovery of the first case and the negative test results of other Filipinos, not a single Filipino in Libya is positive for the virus.

The Embassy confirmed that all members of the Filipino Community in Libya are safe.



Health

The southern region has highest number of Covid-19 cases nationwide

The head of the National Center for Disease Control of Sabha branch, Abdel Hamid Al-Fakhiri said that the southern region has the highest number of coronavirus cases in the nation.

He indicated that the center's branch in Sabha registered 292 cases since its outbreak in the south about a month ago, that's almost half the country's total count, noting that 90% of the infections were reported in Sabha alone.

Al-Fakhiri warned that suspected cases are still moving freely inside the city, ignoring the self-isolating instructions issued by the competent authorities. He renewed his call for citizens to abide by the Covid-19 precautionary orders for their safety and to help slow down the spread of the virus.

The Ministry of Health said it would send additional supplies and trained teams, in order to raise the center's capacity and enable it to increase coronavirus tests to 350 per day.

The Coronavirus cases in Libya hit 713, after registering 15 new cases, according to the figures released by the National Centre for Disease Control late Friday.

Health

Health officials hold meeting to discuss difficulties hindering the distribution of medical supplies



The Chairman of the Medical Supply Authority, Dr. Al-Taher Al-Khair discussed during a regular meeting with the directors of the Medical Supply Authority departments, solutions for the problems facing the Medical Supply Authority, in particular, the administrative and procedural barriers when receiving the medical shipments at the ports.

The participants emphasized the need for a coordination mechanism between the Department of Medicines Affairs and the Warehousing Management and the Distribution of Supplies to organize the distribution process, where 20% of the stocks should be designated for the coronavirus Pandemic Control Committee, according to a statement by the information office of the Medical Supply Authority.

It was also agreed that the work should be enhanced by reports to track the imported medical shipments with details on each consignment received by the civil and security institutions.

The meeting further reviewed the proceedings of the cooperation program with the "Germa" maritime services company and the accumulation of some drugs in warehouses due to the reluctance of hospital management to receive their share from these items, as they prefer dealing with private parties.

Crimes

Attacks on medical personnel continues in Benghazi



A source from Al-Jalaa Hospital for Surgery and Accidents in Benghazi, reported that armed men had assaulted Dr. Salem Al Hemmali, whilst he was performing his duties in the hospital.

The source went on to confirm that the armed men assaulted Al-Hemmali having verbally abused him, as he performed a procedure in the hospital's emergency room, however the source did not disclose the details of the reasons behind the attack.

The Association of Young Doctors denounced the attack on their colleague Al-Hemmali and noted that this is not the first incident against the medical staff, demanding an end to these unlawful and immoral acts

Education

Sabha University holds second virtual conference on Covid-19 impact on economy and politics



Sabha University held on Saturday the second international virtual conference entitled "The Effect of Coronavirus Pandemic on Economy and Politics" with the participation of specialists from Libya and other countries.

The Dean of Sabha University, Dr. Masoud Al-Raqiq says that the conference comes in light of the spread of the Covid-19 that has swept the world interrupting global economies and politics.

"Considering the whole world is at an utter stalemate, this conference is seeking to develop plans and strategies to minimize the impact of the pandemic on the economy and politics" Al-Raqiq explains.

The conference discussed around 38 scientific papers from several universities of Arab countries, including Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, and Iraq, according to member of the conference scientific committee, Dr. Hamid Al-Hudhairi.

The entries covered several axes, such as the direct and indirect effects of the Coronavirus outbreak on the local and international economy and its impact on the oil and financial market, in addition to the e-banking role during the crisis.

Politically, the participants discussed the effects of the pandemic on the global system and the international relations in the post-Covid-19 era.

It is noteworthy that Sabha University organized last April its first virtual international conference which was dedicated to discussing e-learning during the Covid-19 crisis.

Travel

Stranded citizens abroad to be quarantined in Libya



The committee in charge of monitoring citizens stranded abroad has decided to begin an internal quarantine program in a number of cities, including Tripoli and Misrata.

The committee confirmed in a statement that June 30, will be the last day for quarantine abroad.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the arrival of the first two flights to Mitiga International Airport, arriving from Alexandria Airport in Egypt, carrying 200 passengers. The Libyan delegation in Cairo announced on Thursday, the start of the process of returning stranded citizens from Egypt, with two flights scheduled daily.

Travel

Libya, Philippines cooperate for repatriation of stranded nationals in Tripoli and Manila



The Philippines and Libya successfully carried out the repatriation of more than 60 Filipino and Libyan nationals from their respective capitals last week, in a reciprocal gesture that underscored the deep friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

18 Libyan nationals stranded in Manila are now back in Libya after they were accommodated on a Philippine Airlines B777-300ER that was sent to Algiers and Tunis by the Philippine Government to repatriate Filipinos in North Africa.

43 Filipinos are also now reunited with their families in the Philippines after the Libyan Government of National Accord provided a Libyan Airlines A330 to fly them to Tunis where they took the Philippine Airlines flight to Manila along with more than 200 Filipinos from Algeria and Tunisia.

Also on board the Libyan Airlines flight were the remains of two Filipino nurses who passed away in Tripoli and four officials of the Philippine Embassy.

The cooperation between the two countries also included the testing of their respective nationals for the coronavirus disease prior to their repatriation. This was undertaken by the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) in Libya and by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) in Manila.

weather

The Weather Channel

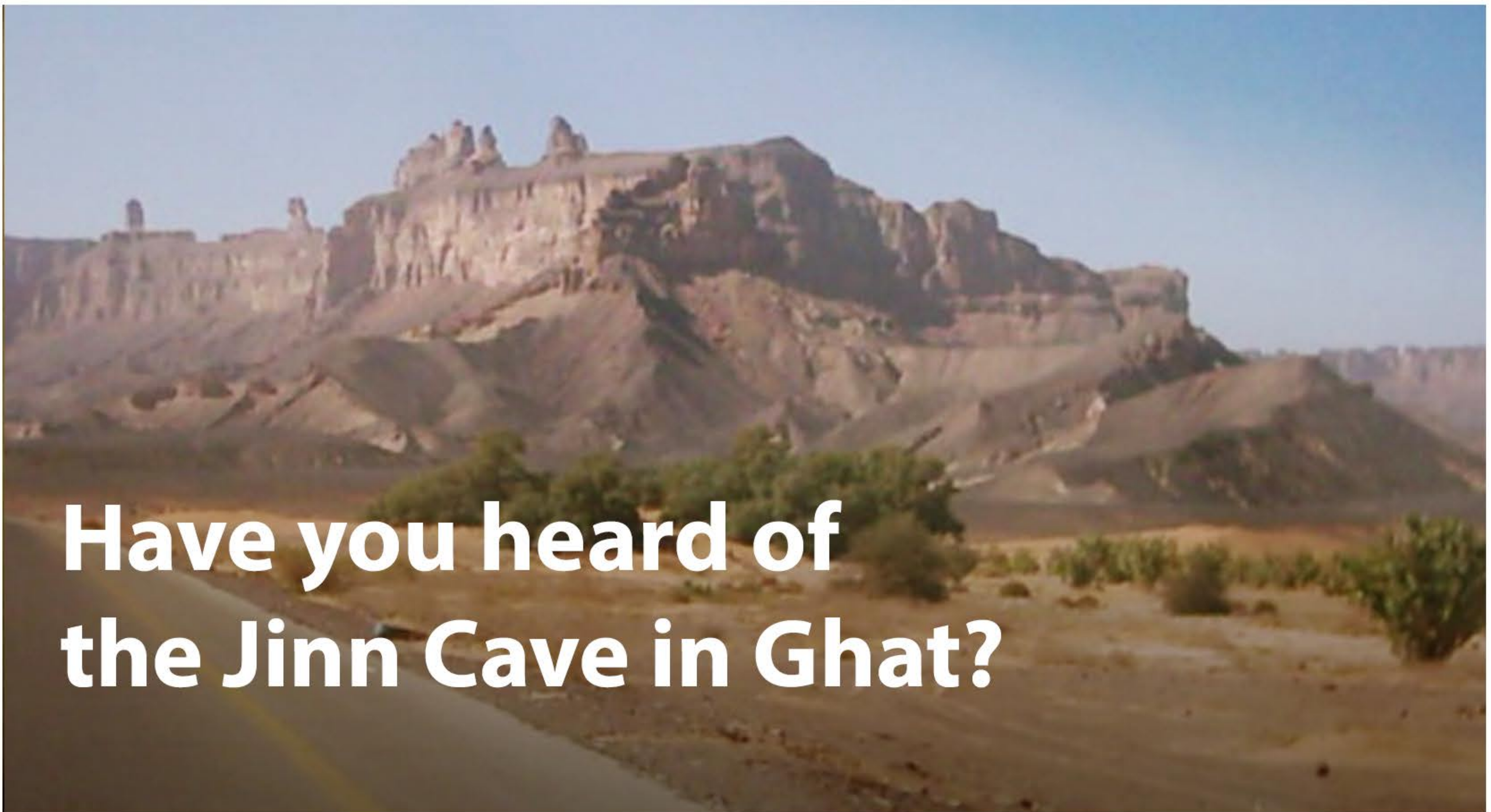
Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 03	33°/22°	 Sunny	0%	N 18 km/h
Sat 04	30°/22°	 Sunny	10%	NNW 21 km/h
Sun 05	28°/21°	 Sunny	10%	NNW 22 km/h
Mon 06	29°/21°	 Sunny	10%	NW 22 km/h
Tue 07	29°/21°	 Sunny	0%	NW 19 km/h
Wed 08	30°/22°	 Sunny	0%	NNW 17 km/h
Thu 09	30°/22°	 Sunny	0%	NNE 18 km/h

Photo of the Week



Features



Have you heard of the Jinn Cave in Ghat?

The Libyan desert has a lot to offer, It embraces countless and inspiring sites that are to impress anyone and everyone. From the golden sand dunes to the fascinating natural lakes, but there are other places that impress in a much different way; the jinn cave or as called by the Tuareg the cave of Indinan.

The mountain is located in the desert city of Ghat, southwest of Libya, and consists of an amazing rock formation that makes it closer to fiction than to anything in reality.

The cave carved in the mountain is reportedly one of the most haunted places in the world. The residents of the area rumour that this mountain is not like any other place, for the visitor they say; never returns!

The cave in its creepy form tells several stories in which the truth is mixed with imagination and where the world of jinn is always present.

Some have reported seeing a deer in the cave at night; this deer cannot be caught, where it is believed to be Jinn in the form of an animal. Others told of hearing mysterious voices coming out from the cave.

Among the cultural heritage of the Tuareg that is still maintained is wearing a sword or a knife and in particular on special occasions such as marriage ceremonies, although the sword is not to fight the jinn, the Tuareg believe that the jinn fear iron, which makes them feel immune to evil spirits.

Several have tried to climb the cave and get into its secrets, but the mountain terrain limited the attempts making it more mysterious than before.

Jinn stories might take the breath of some and leave them with a chill, but for the people of the desert community, the Jinn stories are no concern and talking about the unusual and unfamiliar is part of their heritage legacy.

However, the quiet surrounding and the awesome views that the desert offers might actually make you want to never be seen again!

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