

Politics

Tripoli-based HoR rejects Egyptian threats of military intervention in Libya



The House of Representatives (HoR) in Tripoli has rejected the decision of the Egyptian Parliament to mandate President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to send armed forces to western borders for combat missions, saying it was a direct threat of force against Libya.

The Deputy Speaker of HoR Jalal Shuwaihi said in a televised statement that Egyptian Parliament's call for military intervention in Libya isn't directed at national security as Libya doesn't pose threats to Cairo, which has been neck-deep in helping the aggression against legitimate authorities in Libya.

"The decision of the Egyptian Parliament is a direct threat of military force against Libya and its national security, in violation of international law." The statement reads, adding that the Egyptian Parliament's decision was based on an illegitimate request by some individuals who claimed to represent Libyan tribes.

Deputy Speaker of HoR called on the international community to take up its responsibility and issue a public condemnation of Egypt's intended military intervention in Libya, adding that the Government of National Accord should respond to this "aggression" politically and practically.

The GNA and its Presidential Council has not yet commented on the Egyptian Parliament's threat of sending troops to Libya to support Haftar's forces.

The Egyptian Parliament approved Monday sending armed forces on combat missions abroad, especially on the western borders - hinting at Libya and of course at more support for Haftar's forces.

Politics

Libya's Interior Minister meets with Maltese counterpart, Turkish Defense Minister



The Libyan Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha met with the Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar and Maltese Interior Minister Byron Camilleri in Ankara to discuss cooperation, developments in Libya and stability in the Mediterranean.

Bashagha said in a joint press conference with the Turkish and Maltese officials that the tripartite meeting aimed at boosting cooperation among the three countries in fighting illegal immigration, organized crime, fighting terrorism, and improving security capabilities.

The Libyan Interior Minister indicated that Libya's stability is an essential part of the cooperation between the Government of National Accord (GNA) and Turkey for a united Libya, adding that the GNA is looking forward to holding dialogue with all Libyans, but it still rejects the military coup project.

Bashagha remarked that Khalifa Haftar and his backers had launched a military operation aimed at destroying Libya and killing Libyans as well as destabilizing the entire region.

Turkish Defense Minister said they held a highly positive, productive and constructive meeting, discussing issues such as the fight against trafficking, illegal immigration, regional security, and peace.

"Our military training, cooperation, and consultancy activities continue in Libya. Turkey's approach to the war-torn country is based on the principle of (Libya belongs to the Libyans.)" Akar indicated.

He said that everyone should know that Turkey always stands by the "Libyan brothers," adding that Ankara's goal is that Libya lives in peace, tranquility, and security.

"We do know that the biggest obstacle to this goal is the putschist Haftar," Akar said, urging the immediate halt to all aid and support for the warlord and his forces.

Politics

Algerian President saddened by attempts to arm tribes in Libya



The Algerian President Abdelmajid Tebboune said he was saddened by attempts to arm Libyan tribes, saying it would be a very hazardous issue that could turn Libya to the scenario of Somalia.

Tebboune told reporters that he thinks that Algerian solutions for Libya could be Algerian-Tunisian efforts in a form of dialogue as military solutions won't work.

"We don't agree with individual decisions and Algeria won't be alone in making any initiative for a solution in Libya. Any solution should be passed through UN and Security Council." Tebboune remarked.

These remarks come as a comment on Egyptian President's statements in which he urged for arming Libyan tribes and for training them by the Egyptian Army to hinder GNA forces' advance on Sirte and Jufra.

The Speaker of Libya's House of Representatives (HoR) Aqila Saleh delayed his visit to Algeria as part of difference in visions for a solution in Libya between Algeria and Egypt.

Tebboune reiterated in a meeting with Acting Head of UNSMIL Stephanie Williams in Algeria the need for a political solution and ceasefire in Libya, according to an Algerian Presidency statement.

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Politics

Turkish source: Russia behind airstrikes on Al-Watiya base in western Libya



Al Jazeera Net reported an exclusive source from Turkish Presidency as saying that Russia had carried out airstrikes on Al-Watiya airbase in western Libya not Egypt, UAE or Haftar's forces.

The source said the Russians intentionally avoided hitting Turkish weapons at the airbase but only targeted the US weapons inside it, adding that there had been Turkish defense systems, radars and jamming systems and all weren't damaged.

The source denied to Al Jazeera Net rumors on social media about the deployment of Russian S-400 anti-aircraft system by Turkey in Libya as a precaution for any Egyptian intervention.

Meanwhile, former Turkish Intelligence Chief said there couldn't be any direct conflict between Turkey and Russia or Egypt in Libya, adding that US support to Turkey will hinder UAE and Egypt's direct confrontation with Ankara, while Russian-Turkey cooperation in different international issues will impede any war to break between them. He didn't eliminate a proxy war scenario in Libya.

He also reiterated that Ankara will continue to support the legitimate Government of National Accord in Libya until it liberates Sirte and Jufra and then will back up political negotiations with eastern Libyan parties and their supporters.

Unidentified warplanes carried out on July 04 airstrikes on Al-Watiya airbase. The spokesman of Libyan Army Mohammed Gununu said at the time that they would respond to the airstrikes at the right time and place.

Politics

Foreign Ministry: El Sisi is fueling conflict in Libya



The spokesman for the Libyan Foreign Ministry of the Government of National Accord (GNA) Mohammed Al-Giblawi said the statements of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi had been fueling conflict in Libya as he claimed to be proposing peace.

Al-Giblawi told Al Jazeera TV that the Egyptian President had repeated his statements that implied threats of military intervention in Libya and encroachment on the country's sovereignty as he met Thursday with pro-Haftar tribesmen.

The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry reminded El-Sisi that the forces under the command of the Government of National Accord were the ones who defeated ISIS terrorists while he (Sisi) is still suffering from what he describes as terrorism in Sinai Peninsula.

Al-Giblawi indicated that the Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) is the only party allowed to control what happens on Libyan soil, adding that the GNA had always reiterated the desire to enter Sirte without bloodshed.

In the meantime, Egypt's Sisi said in a meeting with the pro-Haftar elders in Cairo on Thursday that his red lines in Libya aim for peace, adding that when he mentioned Sirte and Jufra as red lines, he called for peace and stability.

"We're ready to train Libya's tribesmen to build a united national army as we won't sit idly by to watch threats being made to our national security," Sisi added.

He also remarked, threatening Libyan people that his country won't allow Libya to become a hub for terrorism even if it meant starting a direct Egyptian military intervention in Libya, which was requested by the elders who arrived in Cairo based on the Tobruk-based Parliament's request as well.

Economy

NOC: Oil production losses exceeded seven billion dollars



The National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced in a statement that the losses resulting from forced closure of oil ports and fields by Haftar militias since January 18, amounted to \$7.104.931 billion.

The NOC lifted the force majeure on oil exports last Friday; however, Haftar militias forced it to shut-down once more two days later at the behest of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), who continue to support Haftar, according to NOC.

The NOC called on the international community to hold the countries responsible for the closure of oil exports accountable; however, they announced that return to 'normal' oil production may take some years to achieve.

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Economy

Trade exchange between Libya and Tunisia continues despite the Coronavirus pandemic

The Media Office of the Directorate of the Ras Ajdair Border Security said that the operation of trade exchange through the border with Tunisia is continuing as normal, despite restrictions imposed by the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Security Directorate indicated in a statement that the delivery procedure takes place at a designated point between both countries, with the proviso that goods are reloaded into different trucks without direct input of the drivers, amid strict procedures.

It added that all workers, drivers, traders and security control service personnel at the border are required to fully comply with all preventive health measures in order to ensure that the Coronavirus pandemic is not spread from one country to the other.

Economy

Libya ranks 33rd globally for possession of gold



Libya presently holds 33rd position in the world, in terms of countries possessing the most gold reserves, amounting to 116.6 tons, according to data of The World Gold Council, which is released annually in July.

The United States of America continues to hold the record on the list with the largest reserve of gold of 8133 tons, constituting 78% of the total world reserve, followed by Germany with an estimated reserve of 3336 tons, followed closely by the International Monetary Fund which has 2814 tons.

Economy

Libyan Ministry of Planning, US Embassy review aspects of cooperation between both countries

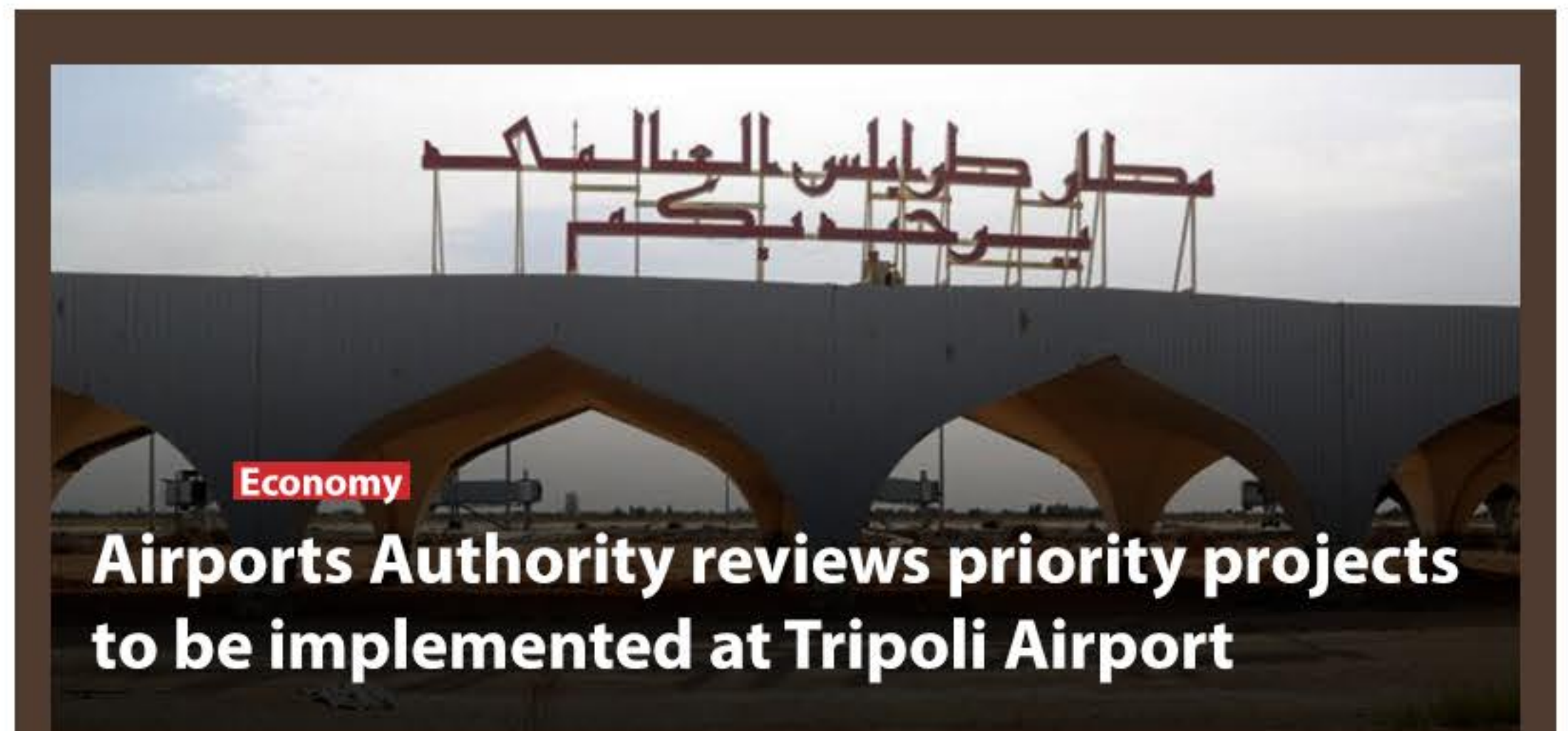


The Ministry of Planning along with the US Embassy in Libya have conducted a comprehensive review of the aspects of cooperation between Libya and the United States within the framework of the Memorandum of Intent signed between the US Agency for International Development and the Ministry of Planning in October 2019.

This came during a video meeting, which included the Minister of Planning, Taher Al-Jahimi, the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy in Libya, Joshua Harris, and the Country Director of the United States Agency for International Development, John Penel, according to a statement by the US Embassy on Wednesday.

The meeting reviewed the progress made with regard to technical cooperation in foreign assistance programs, and provided a forum to study strategic priorities, said the US embassy on Facebook.

For his part, the Chargé d'Affaires, Joshua Harris has confirmed that the United States has invested more than \$ 715 million to support the Libyan people since 2011, with a focus on bolstering Libyan institutions and communities in advancing national stability and self-reliance.



Economy

Airports Authority reviews priority projects to be implemented at Tripoli Airport

The Airports Authority held a meeting to review the priority projects intended to be implemented at Tripoli International Airport, during the coming period.

The meeting included officials from the Airports Authority, the Transportation Projects Implementation Authority, the Civil Aviation Authority, and the National Meteorological Center, in the presence of the heads and managers of the relevant departments of the aforementioned authorities.

A working group will be formed from members representing each party, who will work to identify the targeted projects and follow up on the stages of implementation.

The task force will also take over preparing work areas for construction and maintenance projects, based on the recommendations submitted by specialists from the present authorities after their visit to the airport site recently.

Cartoon



Opinions

The unlikely war between Egypt and Turkey in Libya

By **Hassan Abu Hanya**, a researcher in political philosophy and Islamic movements

Credit: This article was translated by The Middle East Monitor from Arabi21 on July 14, 2020



Many countries are engaged in what is a complex conflict in Libya, and so some obvious proxy wars are shaping up. For several reasons, Egypt and Turkey are the most involved due to the profound impact of what is happening in Libya on their national security and vital interests.

The Turkish intervention to support Libya's Government of National Accord (GNA) came after the signing of an agreement last year for the demarcation of the maritime borders between the two countries. Turkey wants to secure a greater role for itself in the planned exploration for natural resources in the Mediterranean, and is seeking to weaken the anti-GNA forces of renegade Field Marshal Khalifa, who is backed by Egypt, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Russia, France and even Greece.

The US position on Libya is inconsistent and confused due to the lack of strategic interests. Washington put Libya on the margins of its military and diplomatic efforts, but Russia's increased involvement in the conflict changed the US position, leading Moscow to impose a limit on its own intervention.

Italy supports Turkey and the GNA, while France supports Haftar's forces and Egypt. Greece's role in support of Egypt and opposed to Turkey is limited to that of a spectator. Meanwhile, the UAE and Saudi Arabia back Egypt but have different perceptions, as Saudi Arabia goes no further than verbal support while the UAE cannot provide more backing to Haftar, and Egypt has exceeded its capabilities and capacity to do anything.

While Turkey conducted naval exercises and manoeuvres with Italy recently, France concocted an "issue" with a Turkish naval vessel. NATO — Turkey and France are both members — paid no attention to the French incitement.

Haftar's catastrophic failure to take Tripoli following Turkey's intervention was a strong blow to his allies, especially the UAE and Egypt. If Egypt decides to cross the border and intervene in its capacity as the most affected by the drawback, the UAE will find itself under pressure from the international community to find a peaceful solution and settle the conflict. Moreover, if Russia becomes more involved, it will face a major response from the US.

In this context, Egypt found itself in an awkward position when President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi threatened last month to intervene directly in Libya if the internationally recognised GNA enters Sirte, which is more than 900 km from the Egyptian border. Al-Sisi described Sirte as a red line, the crossing of which threatens Egypt's national security. To demonstrate his seriousness, he carried out military manoeuvres on Egypt's side of the border. Codenamed "Decisive 2020" they included exercises aimed at "eliminating mercenary elements from irregular armies".

It seems that the Egyptian threats and manoeuvres will not change the new reality in Libya, and it is clear that Cairo's aspirations have become more realistic. According to the Jerusalem Post, the current conflict in Libya is split along two tracks: Haftar's control will bring to Libya a kind of conservative military rule that resists change, as in Egypt and the Gulf states.

As for the Turkish-backed GNA, it may have a problem regarding the fragile stability after the blows caused by Haftar. Despite this, Turkey has proven that it is more skilful in transferring arms and defence technology to Libya. Its drones defeated the Russian missile defence system that the UAE took to Libya. This is how the Turkish backed forces managed to push Haftar's militias back.

Given the international politics and developments in the field, will Libya remain physically divided along the red lines that Sisi referred to, and before him Putin, preventing the GNA from controlling Sirte and Al-Jafra Air Base in the heart of the country? Will Egypt interfere in a direct manner in Libya, rather than just providing arms as well as technical and air support? Will Egypt engage in a confrontation with Turkey?

All of this seems unlikely, as any intervention, if it happens, will be limited. Haftar and his supporters' dream of controlling all of Libya is no longer possible.

On paper, the strength of the Turkish army is more or less the same as its Egyptian counterpart; both have F-16 jets and hundreds of other combat aircraft. The Egyptian army is the ninth strongest in the world on paper, with thousands of tanks. Turkey's is placed at eleventh, but it is likely that being a member of NATO makes its forces more effective than Egypt's.

That's the theory. In reality, there is a wide gap in ability and effectiveness. Egypt has not been tested in any external confrontation for a long time, and for nearly half a century has been engaged in fighting weak armed groups at home. Its confrontations with the Daesh forces in the Sinai Peninsula for the past seven years have exposed its inefficiency in eliminating a limited insurgency by fewer than 700 fighters.

Turkey has experience and effectiveness in the face of a rebellion; its army has been involved in Syria for years, and deals with the Kurdish PKK forces. Turkish forces also tackled Daesh at its strongest.

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Opinions

The bottom line is that a war between Egypt and Turkey in Libya is unlikely. Such talk is illogical given that Al-Sisi's "intervention" would be limited if it happens at all. Turkey, however, has shown that it is serious about standing alongside the GNA and committing to its vital interests and national security.

Russia is aware that Turkey will not shift from its position in Libya, while the US realises that Ankara is determined to achieve its goals, and Washington is keen to support the Turkish government in order to limit its cooperation with Moscow and Tehran.

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
Libya initiates the use of COVID-19 plasma treatment

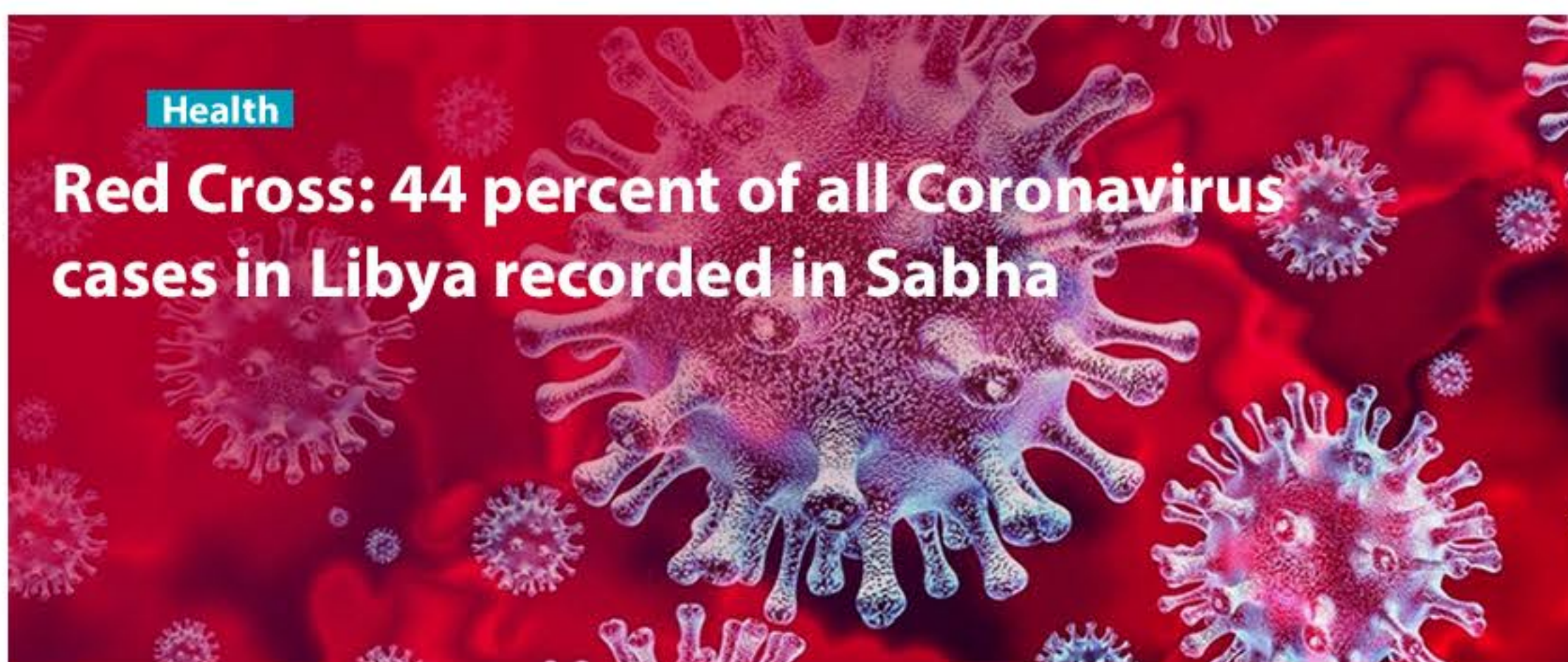
Libya has begun treatment for the Coronavirus by using blood plasma of patients who have recovered from the virus.

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), clarified that blood plasma samples from two recovered patients were extracted, having tested the level of plasma antibodies present.

The NCDC added in a statement, that those patients in critical condition are being treated with the blood plasma, stressing that the results so far have been positive, stating that the Scientific Committee performing these procedures is highly qualified and experienced in blood plasma transfusions.

The Ministry of Health said that this shipment was sent to intensify the readiness and speed of response to the Coronavirus pandemic and is due to be delivered to the Center for Research and Biotechnology in Tripoli, to lend support to the Center's laboratory.

The Ministry of Health had already announced the delivery of a shipment of supplies to combat the pandemic from Turkey on July 5, arriving at Mitiga International Airport.



Health
Red Cross: 44 percent of all Coronavirus cases in Libya recorded in Sabha

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said that 44% of all recorded COVID-19 cases were in Sabha.

The ICRC confirmed in a statement that there were 486 cases in the city, including 20 doctors, out of a total of 1151 active cases throughout Libya.

It added that the city of Sabha is struggling to deal with the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic, along with its economic re-



Health
Man regains hearing after successful operation in Tripoli

A 30-year-old patient has restored his hearing thanks to the quick action of specialists at the Tripoli University Hospital.

The patient was suffering significant hearing loss. Tests at the hospital revealed it was a cholesteatoma in the middle ear.

The operation, which took over three hours, was conducted by consultant otolaryngologist Amal Abu Sriwil, who confirmed that the patient will now be able to lead a normal life.

Dr. Amal explained that the disease was in an advanced stage which required immediate surgical treatment; otherwise the infection would have spread beyond the ear to affect the brain as well as causing other multiple complications such permanent hearing loss, facial nerve palsy, and meningitis.

It is worth noting that the University Hospital of Tripoli has previously performed several intricate operations, despite the circumstances the country is experiencing.

Among the operations carried out were removing a brain tumor and a heart implant surgery. They also managed to restore the sight of a 30-year-old woman who lost her vision due to health complications.

Such operations which would have cost hundreds of thousands of dinars abroad are carried out free of charge at the University Hospital of Tripoli



Health
Medical supplies to combat the Coronavirus arrive in Libya from Turkey

The Ministry of Health announced the arrival of a shipment of medical supplies, including two Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) units and 200,000 pieces of nasal swab test kits, at Misrata International Airport coming from Turkey.

Education

Education Ministry reviews financial difficulties facing Libyan students abroad



The Ministry of Education held a meeting to discuss the financial and administrative difficulties facing Libyan students abroad.

The meeting which took place at the ministry's HQ included the Director of the Attachments and Delegates Affairs Department, Ahmed Al-Banouni and Chairman of the Salary Rationalization Committee at the Ministry of Finance, Hussein Al-Daisi.

According to a statement by the Education Ministry, the meeting dealt with the obstacles facing the students who have closed their file in the Department of Attaches and Delegates Affairs regarding returning the salary value to what it was before they started their studies abroad.

The ministry clarified that it has agreed with the committee formed for this purpose to set a future mechanism that would facilitate procedures regarding the restoration of the salary amount.

"The Attachments and Delegations Affairs Department will provide the salary rationalization committee with the data of the delegated students who have completed their studies or have exhausted their period of dispatch, including any extensions obtained by the student," the ministry explained, noting that the committee will also be provided with the discounts owed by students who did not obtain the degree for which they were dispatched for, due to reasons of their own.

Culture

Culture Authority opens 'The Bride of the Sea' Forum in Tripoli



The General Authority for Culture hosted "The Bride of the Sea", (Arous Al-Bahr) Forum, at the Astronomy Dome (Gobba Falakia), with a lecture titled 'Reading in internet times'.

At this event, the Culture Authority presented Professor Ramiz Al-Nuwaisiri, who discussed the concept of reading, saying, "it is an intellectual process by the reader to understand and comprehend the written text and the intended message in the writings, it is also a collaborative process between the writer and the reader and is considered a quest to obtain information, and improve knowledge."

Al-Nuwaisiri in his oration, also discussed the stages leading to the use of e-books, pointing to the various methods of reading and indeed the principles of reading itself, adding that the 'book' alone is no longer the only source of knowledge and data, but that radio, television and satellite broadcasting no longer depends on reading alone, but the use of the ear, eye and all of the senses combined.

The lecture concluded with Al-Nuwaisiri presenting the technical data and numbers on the significance of the 'reality of reading itself'.

Life

NCDC calls on all beachgoers to strictly adhere to preventative measures against COVID-19



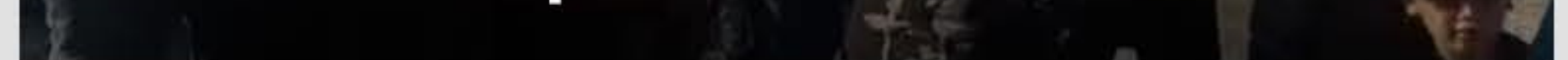
The National Center for Disease Control expressed its concern that beachgoers, who have crowded beaches over recent times, are not complying with steps to protect against the Coronavirus.

In a statement, the Center called on all citizens to maintain a physical distance both inside and outside of all bodies of water such as the sea or swimming pools, of at least two meters taking all necessary precautions, including the wearing of masks whilst out of the water.

The NCDC has appealed to all those who suffer symptoms of respiratory diseases and those people who are awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test, to stay home while awaiting verification of their health status.

Community

Al-Darsa youth demand eastern authorities to release two police officers



A group of young men from Al-Darsa tribe who call themselves "The Youth League of Al-Darsa Tribe" gave the authorities in the eastern region 48 hours to release two police officers belonging to the tribe, who was arrested a few days ago.

This came during a video statement released by this group that was recorded at the "Batta" area located on the coastal road linking the cities of Al-Marj and Al-Bayda, during which they threatened to escalate the situation and block the main roads until their demands are met.

The protesters accused the security services of the eastern authorities of arresting the two officers, after appearing in a video clip in which they expressed their distress at the deplorable living conditions in the eastern region, including the delays in the payment of salaries and the lack of cash.

Lt. Col. Muhammad al-Daghari al-Darsi and his colleague Lt. Col. Abd al-Salam al-Ubaidi, both of whom work as police officers, filmed themselves while working as builders under an Egyptian contractor.

The officers spoke bitterly about their struggle to make ends meet amid the harsh living conditions, explaining they are forced to seek other side incomes to support their families, which sparked widespread controversy on social media platforms.

Local sources said that the two officers are being held at the Kuwaifiyah prison, but their fate has not been ascertained yet.

weather



Tripoli Weather Forecast





Fri 24	32°/22°		Sunny	10%	ENE 20 km/h
Sat 25	33°/23°		Sunny	0%	ENE 20 km/h
Sun 26	34°/24°		Sunny	0%	NE 17 km/h
Mon 27	34°/25°		Sunny	0%	ENE 18 km/h
Tue 28	34°/24°		Sunny	0%	ENE 22 km/h
Wed 29	33°/24°		Sunny	0%	ENE 22 km/h
Thu 30	33°/25°		Sunny	0%	ENE 22 km/h

Photo of the Week: Celine, Khoms city



Features

Libyan costume the "Farmila"



Many traditional costumes in Libya have left room for western clothing, such as jeans, T-shirts, and shorts, but the men's "Farmila" remains one of the most commonly worn traditional outfits you can still see today even in rural areas.

Basically, it is worn with a loose knee-length shirt with a pair of baggy trousers; however, the Farmila is part of a wider ensemble, consisting of a stitched jacket the "Zaboun" and a cloak the "Juba" or "Jalabia", which is usually worn in occasions and formal events.

The Libyan dress has undoubtedly been influenced by other cultures. Libya, as most of the Arab countries, had lived under the Ottoman umbrella for a while. Historians indicate that the Farmila had been passed on to Libya by the Ottoman sailors, this might explain why it is most common in the north coastal part of the country, however, others believe it goes way back to the Berber era.

The Farmila is a sleeveless top, embroidered with a decorative cord from the front part. Women's Farmila is also of this form, but it is embroidered with golden and silver threads and enhanced with golden buttons, which makes it a special occasion outfit.

The price of the men's Farmila depends basically on the type of material, the fineness of the thread, and the embroidery, which could vary from the simple to the elaborate.

There are five primary patterns used for decorating the Farmila, the designs followed in the stitching are based on the occasion concerned or whether it is for daily wear, as well as the age group, however, nowadays only discerning consumers care for such details.

The "Dafirah" and "Al-Koustik", are the simplest among the group, they are lightly embroidered, making them affordable to a large cross-section of the population, while other versions like the "Lalaja" stayed well out of reach of middle-class people for its high price.

Next comes the "Sanadiq" or the boxes version, its design is more detailed than the first two, but still, it remains an economical option, as it is lightly stitched with square patterns which is where it got its name from.

As for the upper class of businessmen and merchants, they go for the "Qassat Al-Wasat" meaning the middle cuts, and the "Qassat Al-Bar-nous" also called the "Lalaja" design, characterized by a small pocket on the left side made especially for the pocket watch.

To make the Libyan Farmila, you need a piece of fabric, an appliqué cord, and a needle not more than five cm large, but it's the skilled hands which make the difference and turn the garment into a piece of art.

The classic version of the Farmila requires the colour of the cord and the material of the garment to be similar, but times have changed, designers these days have introduced new styles with an amalgamation of daring colours pairing white and gold cords with dark-coloured fabric, not typically found in older designs.

Talented hands can stitch their way through the fabric without a ready-printed design, each finger has a task, one for stitching another for holding the fabric and the left thumb for measurement and for "guiding the way". Some claimed they can accomplish the task in total darkness.

If you ever jump in a plane to Libya don't miss visiting the "Souq Al-Mushir" historic market in the Old City of Tripoli the "Medina", where you could purchase your own Farmila, as it is the main market for Libyan traditional costumes.

Libyan Farmila has also attracted world celebrities such as the Rock and Roll singer, Elvis Presley and the football icon Maradona, who did not miss the chance to take a picture in the Farmila outfit.

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