

Politics

GNA, Turkey agree to expand economic and development cooperation



The Government of National Accord (GNA) has agreed with the Turkish government to expand cooperation during the next stage in various economic and development fields, a statement by the Presidential Council head media office said on Facebook.

The PC statement came following the meeting that took place in Istanbul, between the PC Chair, Fayez Al-Sarraj, and Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in the presence of senior officials from both sides.

The visit comes within the framework of consultation, coordination, and exchange of views between the two countries, the PC head media office explained.

The meeting reviewed the latest developments in Libya and the political solution to the ongoing crisis within the framework of the Berlin conference.

In this regard, Al-Sarraj emphasized, "While we are seeking to achieve peace on all of the Libyan soil, our forces will remain on standby to face any potential danger, taking advantage of previous experiences." Issues relating to security, military, and combating terrorism were also discussed during the two-hour meeting which took place at the "Wahid Al-Din Palace in Istanbul.

The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the field of building Libyan defense and security capabilities through training, rehabilitation, and equipping programs, in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries in November 2019.

On another front, the Libyan dialogue discussed the return of Turkish companies to complete the stalled projects in Libya, with priority given to companies specialized in vital sectors, foremost of which are electricity and health.



Politics

Libyan Representative at UN Human Rights Council: Intervening countries deny us the right to life

The Libyan Representative at the UN Human Rights Council Tamim Bayo has called on the countries intervening in Libya and causing people's suffering to give Libyans the right to "life, peace and prosperity."

Bayo said in his briefing at the Human Rights Council that the international community bears shared responsibility for how things turned out in Libya as it could help the country by regaining people's trust by tangible results on the ground.

He also said that Libyans had been cooperating with the international community for a decade but now needed more collaboration and political will so that the suffering can end and human rights violations can be handled.

Bayo stressed the need for technical support for a better governance in Libya and for mechanisms that help fighting corruption and ending impunity as well as activating accountability against all the countries that are violating the UN arms embargo on Libya "and more than that." "We need assistance in border management against illicit trafficking and cross-border criminal enterprise so that Libya can be stable. We need the return of diplomatic missions to the country and the good work of international organizations that will have good impact on everyone." He said.

Bayo added that there's now a chance for a sustainable peace as dialogues are taking place in different countries hoping to see tangible results toward building a stable Libya, which leads to a stable region.

Politics

Libya's Interior Ministry inks MoU with the US K2 Intelligence



Libya's Interior Ministry has signed a memorandum of understanding with the US (K2 Intelligence) firm specialized in the field of financial integrity and anti-terrorist financing, according to a tweet by Fathi Bashagha, Minister of Interior of the Government of National Accord on Monday.

Bashagha explained that by cooperating with K2 Intelligence, the ministry aims to lay out a national strategy to combat terrorist financing, money laundering, and track related networks, as well developing a department in the Ministry of Interior to deal with such matters.

"This partnership will help us track financial crimes and their networks inside and abroad. It will also ensure a secure and reliable system for exchanging information," Bashagha added.

The step comes within the framework of the ministry's general policy to combat corruption and elaborate a basis for establishing departments needed for implementing the ministry's strategies professionally and efficiently, according to Bashagha.

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Politics

Berlin II Conference welcomes talks for fair distribution of Libyan oil revenues



Germany's capital hosted virtually Berlin II Conference on Libya under the auspices of the United Nations in the presence of the countries that attended Berlin I last January in addition to Libya's neighboring states and Switzerland as well as the Netherlands.

The final statement welcomed the ongoing talks for managing oil revenues and distributing them fairly across Libya, urging authorities to carry out economic reform and unite financial institutions as well as speed up demilitarization of Sirte to become a headquarters for state institutions. The statement called for ending oil blockade so that exports can be resumed.

Meanwhile, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Libya's future is at stake and called on all Libyans to continue to work towards a lasting ceasefire.

"I implore all of you to encourage and support the Libyan peace efforts facilitated by the United Nations – not only in words but in actions," he continued, urging the "full and unconditional implementation" of a Security Council arms embargo on Libya.

"Violations by countries that continue to deliver arms and other military support to the combatants are a scandal and call into question the basic commitment to peace of all involved," Guterres explained.

While the British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said on Twitter that he "stands with Guterres and German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas in helping Libya chart its path toward peace."

Politics

Fact-finding mission in Libya says budget crisis hindering its work



The United Nations Fact-finding mission said its work has been hindered by the late funds needed to operate, citing funds' crisis at the UN.

The Head of the mission, Mohammed Aujjar from Morocco, said delayed funding hampered outlining the operations for the mission to work on once sent to Libya.

He added that the freezing of appointment of mission members due to lack of money doesn't go with expected facilitation of the mission's work as it expected appointing forensic and transition experts among other expertise.

Aujjar said the timeline set for the mission is challenging as the ironic issue is that it is supposed to report to the Security Council in next March while it was only mandated in June, in a decision that sees the mission spend a year in Libya, adding that with the delay, the reports won't help and that they are considering rescheduling the operations of the mission.

"The Security Council will send letters to the families of victims to inform them that despite delay, the international community won't let them down." He added.

The mission of three experts was mandated in last August by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to document violations of human rights and war crimes.

Economy

LBC demands to be part of the Geneva dialogue



The Libyan Businessmen Council (LBC) has denounced the UN mission's action regarding the economic dialogue committee to be formed during the coming period.

The council expressed its dissatisfaction with the lack of a clear mechanism and criteria for selecting the representatives in the committee referred to.

In a letter addressed to the UNSMIL Acting Head, Stephanie Williams, LBC Chairman, Eng. Abdullah Al-Falah emphasized the importance of including the council within the economic dialogue talks, as it represents the interests of the private sector, as he put it.

"The LBC works as a unified economic institution that represents all Libyan regions without exception and is not seeking government positions," Al-Fallah said, stressing that the UNSMIL's move shows disregard to the council and its role.

"The council will continue its efforts to establish civil peace, support the national economy, and contribute to building a healthy and effective economy that serves our country and contributes to its development," Al-Fallah added.

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Al-Hibri says Al-Thinni Government spent anti-coronavirus budget in 10 days



The governor of the parallel Libyan Central Bank Ali Al-Hibri said he approved a budget of 300 million dinars for the Interim Government of Abdullah Al-Thinni in eastern Libya for anti-coronavirus measures, 284 million of which the government spent in 10 days.

Al-Hibri told a local TV channel that there's no transparency and the way the anti-coronavirus committees are working is wrong, blaming the Interim Government for the squandering of the budget.

He also said Al-Thinni asked the House of Representatives for one billion dinars but the latter agreed on 300 million only then became 360 million dinars.

It's worth mentioning that the Chairman of anti-coronavirus commission in eastern Libya is Abdelrazik Al-Nathori, who is also the Chief of Staff of Khalifa Haftar's forces.

Authorities in the east arrested several medical equipment company owners over corruption in the coronavirus file, including giving water in bottles of sanitizers to hospitals and state institutions.

Videos circulated on social media showing people with Covid-19 complaining about the lack of quarantine centers or ventilators as well.

Economy

Labor Ministry to ease procedures of recruitment from the Philippines

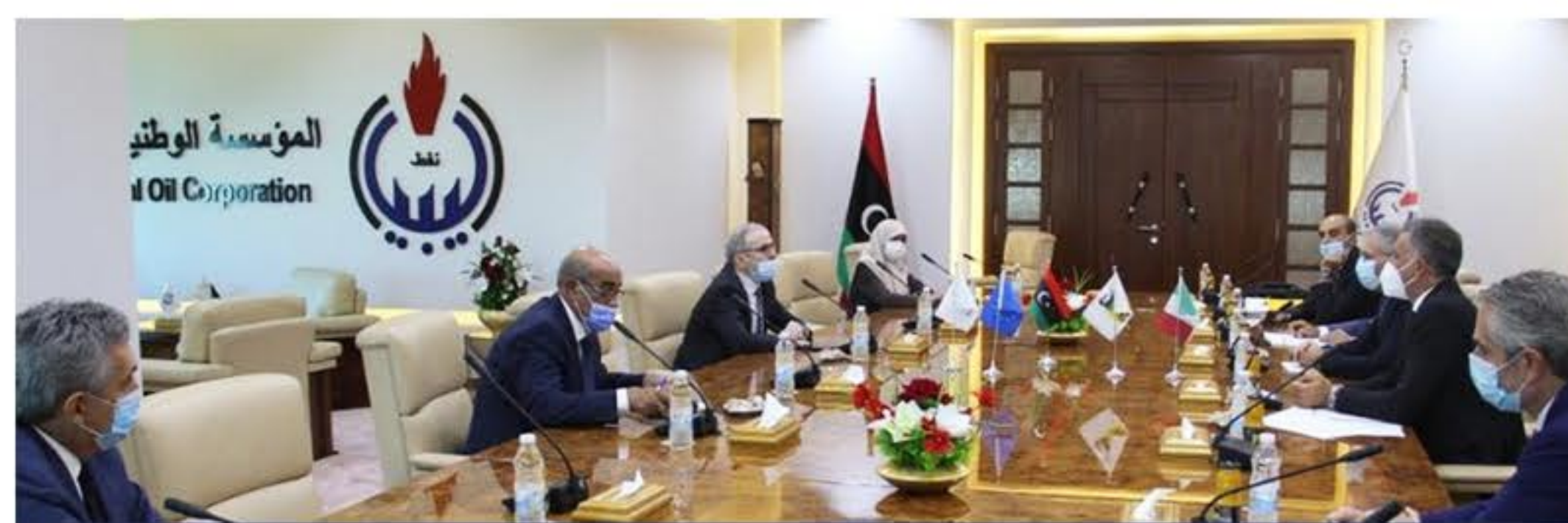


Libyan Ministry of Labor of the Government of National Accord (GNA) said it would ease procedures of recruitment of workers from the Philippines and complete measures of contracting the Filipinos who had already come to Libya.

The Ministry of Labor said it had agreed with the embassy of the Philippines to recruit Filipino workers to fill the gaps left by the lack of manpower in Libya, especially in medical jobs.

The Ministry of Labor also said that the agreement says Libya has to first fix the problems of the Filipino workers who are already in Libya in terms of providing them with residence permits and other important contracting privileges.

According to the official of recruitment at the Ministry of Labor, Libya is suffering from a lack of workers at technical jobs as Libyans choose not to work in certain jobs.



Economy

Libya to strike a deal with Belarusian industrial MTZ firm

The Chairman of the Libyan National Oil Corporation Mustafa Sanallah met with the Chief Operating Officer Natural Resources of Italian oil giant, Eni, Alessandro Puliti, and discussed "A" and "H" complexes that Mellitah Oil and Gas Company started to work on in cooperation with Eni.

The NOC said the meeting discussed the work of Mellitah Company and the needed support as well as the necessary decrease of costs amid the current conditions, especially that the company had been providing gas to power plants.

Sanallah said NOC had started oil production in secure oil fields and that there should be security in all facilities for the workers who began working once the force majeure was lifted.

Sanallah also said the workers should also be provided with transportation, saying the first flight for such purposes took off from Tripoli's Mitiga Airport to Al-Nafoura oilfield with Mellitah and Arabian Gulf Oil Company's workers on board.

Economy

LIA completes first phase of the transformation project



The Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) has completed the first phase of the transformation project, which is one of the main paths of the institution's approved strategies, a statement by the LIA said on Friday.

"The initial stage included the design and approval of an operating system that would ensure an effective operational process, while achieving transparency and internal control and governance, in compliance with the Generally Accepted Principles and Practices (the Santiago Principles)," the LIA explained.

The first phase of the project also developed an organizational structure to meet the set goals, besides a comprehensive package of financial and investment policies, as well as regulations and internal control systems that mimic the latest practices in global sovereign funds, according to the LIA.

It pointed out that the new measures have already enhanced its position in the Santiago Principles rating by scoring 20 points out of 24, after marking only 6 points out of 24 in mid-2019.

It expressed hope that the new strategy will support its objective to manage its global assets as effectively as possible, in line with the United Nations sanctions regime on Libya.

Opinions

Will Haftar resign?

By Abdularazag Al-Dahesh,
a Libyan journalist and writer



When the project is a Homeland, we should open the auction with the highest threshold.

Al-Sarraj has not said that, but he opened the way of the Homeland with a wide area of concession.

He could be satisfied with declaring his intention to hand over the tasks to a new executive authority, but he set a sooner date for this renouncement.

Who could cede more for the sake of the Homeland!! at the time of power clinging, looting and blackmailing!

Whatever it saying or it said about Al-Sarraj, through the demonization, resentment and revenge speeches.

The important question remains: Can Haftar take the same step, at this same time?

Can he ask the dialogue committee to choose a new army commander before the end of October? Considering that the homeland is greater than everyone, and greater than all!

We do not want talk about 8,000 young Libyans who died in an unnecessary, even reckless, and crazy war.

We do not want to talk about more than 10.000 injured people, 250,000 displaced, and more than 15,000 housing units destroyed.

We do not want to open files and dossiers that will not be closed, and crimes that do not fall out politically.

We do not even want to ask what if the money that was spent in the war on Tripoli was spent on the reconstruction of Benghazi.

We want to build a democratic country, in which everyone respects the election results and the term office. Peaceful deliberation is not only about holding elections, but also leaving with it.

We want a Military Institution that based on the doctrine of defending the homeland and protecting the constitution, considering that the leaderships are built for the army, and not to create the army for leaders.

Al-Sarraj tried many times to be part of the solution; could others try not to be part of the problem, at least once?

This is Libya, and this is Al-Sidra, and who will concede more?

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 bids farewell to Palestinian doctor who died suffering from Covid-19



The Libyan Health Ministry of the Government of National Accord said the Palestinian doctor Rafat Abdelaziz, whom it described as a pillar of the Tripoli Central Hospital, died after contracting coronavirus by treating a Covid-19 patient with serious conditions.

The Libyan Doctors Syndicate also expressed condolences to the family of the doctor whom it said was Palestinian on paper by Libyan in identification.

It said the Palestinian doctor got Covid-19 as he was treating a serious coronavirus case at the intensive care unit.

The Syndicate added that the doctor had spent 25 of his age in service at the intensive care unit saving thousands of lives, saying he was one of the founders of heat care center at the Tripoli Medical Center.

Health

Health authorities receive children vaccines



The Medical Supply System stores in Tripoli received a shipment of vaccinations for children, including the rotavirus vaccine, the Health Ministry said in a statement.

The ministry explained that the vaccines are to be distributed through the Medical Supply System branches across the country, to immunize the target groups through the specialized health care centers.

Last August, the Health Ministry provided quadruple and quintuple vaccines, as well as polio, hexagonal, rabies, and yellow fever vaccines.

Health

Wadi Zamzam opens surgery department in the village hospital



The Zamzam Village Hospital, located in Wadi Zamzam Municipality, 100 km east of Misurata, has developed a surgery department to improve the service delivered to the local people of the area.

An opening ceremony was held on Tuesday to mark the occasion with the participation of the Local Council members and doctors of the Field Hospital.

"Thanks to God and the efforts of the Field Hospital staff, an integrated operations department was opened at Zamzam Village Hospital for the first time since it opened in 1984, a statement by the Field Hospital said on Facebook.

The new department will spare local people from making long journeys to larger hospitals in other cities to undergo surgeries. It will also provide medical services to the Libyan army forces stationed in the fronts near Sirte, the Field Hospital explained.

On opening day, the doctors at the surgery department conducted two surgeries, one of which was for a war-wounded officer and the other for a resident who had his gallbladder removed, according to the Field Hospital.



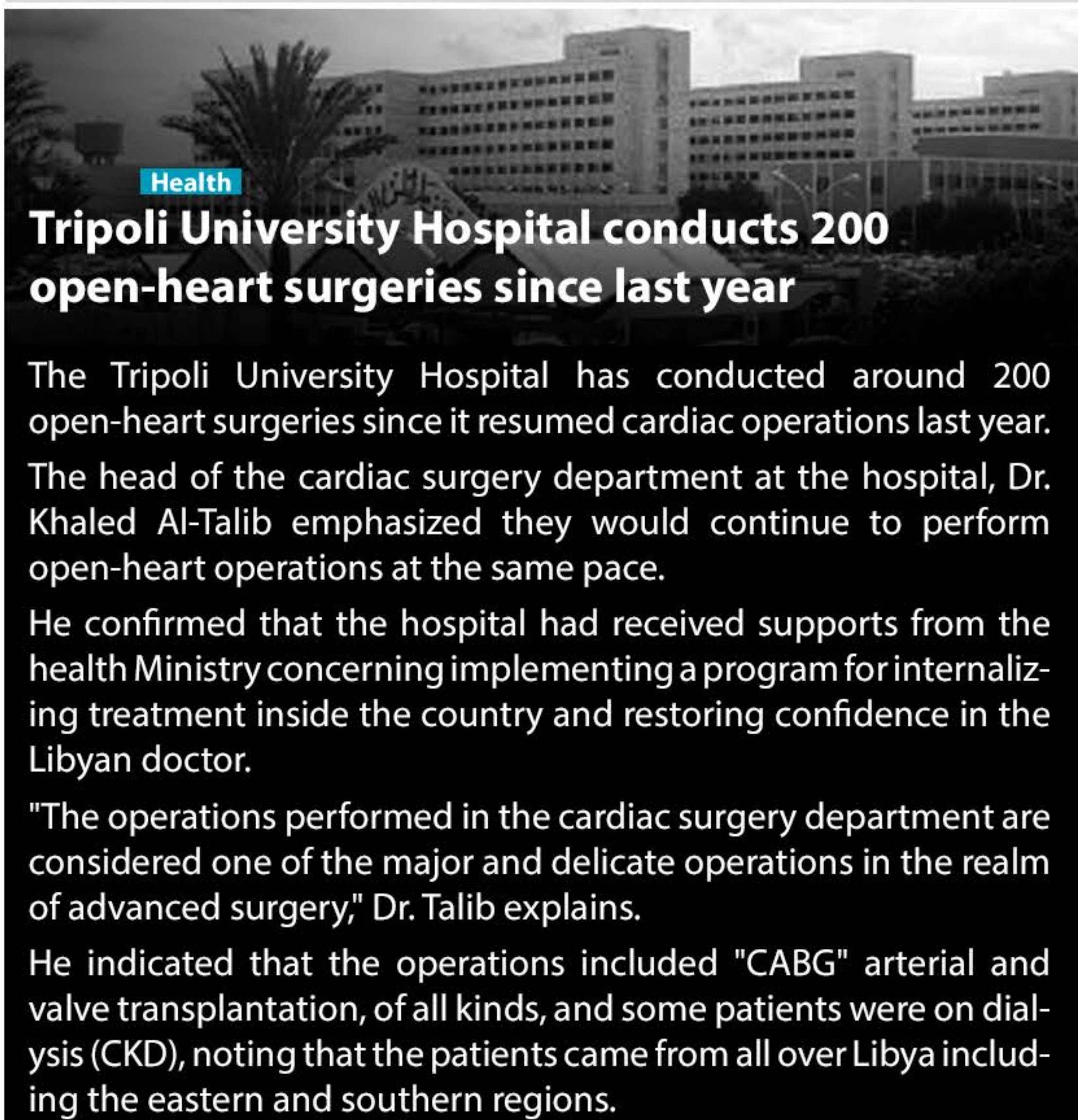
Health

GNA equips laboratories in Benghazi, Al-Bayda, Ajdabiya and Sidra

A center affiliated with the Government of National Accord (GNA), sent integrated medical equipment to the medical laboratories in Benghazi, Al-Bayda, Ajdabiya, Sidra and Sirte to assist in the confrontation of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Director of the Biotechnology Research Center of the Ministry of Education, Adam Al-Zughaid confirmed that the comprehensive supplies were sent to the city of Al-Bayda on Sunday in vehicles belonging to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Al-Zughaid indicated that they are presently seeking to equip all laboratories of the cities of Derna and Tobruk with all necessary equipment needed to confront the Coronavirus pandemic.



Health

Tripoli University Hospital conducts 200 open-heart surgeries since last year

The Tripoli University Hospital has conducted around 200 open-heart surgeries since it resumed cardiac operations last year. The head of the cardiac surgery department at the hospital, Dr. Khaled Al-Talib emphasized they would continue to perform open-heart operations at the same pace.

He confirmed that the hospital had received supports from the health Ministry concerning implementing a program for internalizing treatment inside the country and restoring confidence in the Libyan doctor.

"The operations performed in the cardiac surgery department are considered one of the major and delicate operations in the realm of advanced surgery," Dr. Talib explains.

He indicated that the operations included "CABG" arterial and valve transplantation, of all kinds, and some patients were on dialysis (CKD), noting that the patients came from all over Libya including the eastern and southern regions.



Education

Man regains hearing after successful operation in Tripoli

The National Center for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Educational and Training Institutions (NCQAA) in Libya has organized a workshop on the Libyan University Classification project, launched by the NCQAA earlier this month.

The step comes within the framework of rehabilitating Libyan universities competing in the Libyan universities ranking, for the year 2020, the NCQAA said on its website.

The workshop presented a detailed explanation of the quality standards and measures used in the ranking, in addition, the submission and evaluation mechanisms and the documents required in this regard.

Libya is the second country after Egypt in the 10 Arab North African states to produce a university ranking system after it was approved by Minister of Education, Mohammed Ammari Zayed last June.

The classification criteria have been developed by a national committee with an aim to enhance the quality of performance and foster a competitive environment among national universities.

The basic indicators include teaching and learning, knowledge productivity, community service, the environment, international cooperation, and university website, besides other performance sub-indicators, some were specifically designed to address Libya's needs, such as the socio-economic and developmental impact of universities and their partnership with local organizations.

Libya has 24 public universities, 29 technological higher learning institutions, and one academy, along with seven accredited private Libyan universities and two accredited higher education institutions, according to the NCQAA.

However, none of its universities are listed among the recent lists of top-100 world-class universities.

Science

GNA funds solar project in Tajoura



The Government of National Accord (GNA) will finance a project to build a solar power plant with a capacity of 62 kWp in the eastern suburb of Tripoli, Tajoura.

The project will be implemented in the Centre for Solar Energy and Research (CSERS) in Tajoura, by the Alhandasya Company from the private sector, specialized in the field of engineering services and renewable energy.

The new project will enhance the public's grid capacity to cover, as a first step, the energy needs of the population of Tajoura.

This solar project is part of the 2030 vision of the General Authority for Electricity and Renewable Energy, based in Tripoli, with the view to exploit alternative sources of clean energies, particularly solar and wind power.

Meanwhile, the municipality of Hay Al-Andalus revealed last month it would switch to solar energy amid the persisting electricity outages.

The municipality plans to install solar panels at homes via private financing in collaboration with the Jumhouria Bank.



Migration

Rescue of more than 500 migrants off the Libyan coast

The International Organizations for Migration (IOM) announced the rescue of approximately 517 illegal immigrants off the Libyan coast during nine separate operations.

The IOM confirmed that the rescued migrants were of varying nationalities and included women and children, confirming that the Libyan Coast Guard patrol rescued and returned them to Libya.

The IOM indicated that the total number of migrants rescued since the beginning of this year off the Libyan coast, rose to approximately 9,500, however the number of those who lost their lives, reached 184, whilst the number of those unaccounted for and still missing, exceeded 274 migrants.



Corruption

Special Operations Force arrests Director of the Libyan Foreign Bank

Several sources confirmed the arrest of the Director of the Libyan Foreign Bank (LFB), Mohamed Bin Yusef, by the Special Operations Force of the Ministry of Interior on Monday.

The sources stated he was arrested as a result of an arrest warrant, sent by the Attorney General at the Office of the Attorney General, Abdul Basit Shahran.

The arrest comes within the framework of an official report received by the Attorney General's Office, which included an accusation of the Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Sadiq Al-Kabir that Mohamed Bin Yusuf entered LFB by force despite his suspension from work, due to suspicions of corruption and the wasting of public funds.



Local

Infrastructure work in Abu Salim gets underway

The Municipality of Abu Salim has kick-started repair and infrastructure work after the long wait for action, due to outstanding issues with the company assigned to implement the target projects.

"In the neighborhood of Blousa, work is well underway to pave primary roads as well as side streets, in addition to developing the water and sanitation network, and improving storm-water retention by linking the pipelines directly to the valley," the Abu Salim Municipality said on Facebook.

The municipality indicated it is debating with the concerned companies to clear the backlog of infrastructure work in the Abu Salim district, noting that the step comes within its strategy to promote the well-being of its citizens.



Local

Abu Salim mayor calls for fair distribution of load shedding hours

The Mayor of Abu Salim Municipality, Abdul-Rahman al-Hamidi, has called for an equal distribution of load shedding hours among the municipalities.

Al-Hamidi called on the state's power grid (GECOL), to name the areas refusing to take their share from the load shedding process.

"The GECOL needs to concrete efforts to raise the production capacity of the generation stations, conduct maintenance operations, and implement emergency projects to face the supply shortage," al-Hamidi said.

Abu Salim mayor also urged the GECOL to work to ensure that the electricity needs of Tripoli are met, taking into consideration the population growth, also to accelerate the maintenance work of the network damaged during the aggression on Tripoli.

weather



Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 09	27°/19°		Partly Cloudy	 0%	 N 13 km/h
Sat 10	28°/19°		Sunny	 10%	 ESE 14 km/h
Sun 11	31°/22°		Mostly Sunny	 0%	 E 16 km/h
Mon 12	31°/20°		Partly Cloudy	 10%	 WNW 23 km/h
Tue 13	25°/19°		Mostly Sunny	 20%	 WNW 21 km/h
Wed 14	28°/21°		Sunny	 0%	 WSW 13 km/h
Thu 15	27°/21°		Partly Cloudy	 10%	 NW 17 km/h

Photo of the Week: Gharyan



Features

Tripoli's Old City (Medina)

It is the ancient center of the city, which overlooks the Mediterranean Sea and surrounded by a wall. It contains plenty of shops, cafes, and many of archaeological and historical buildings, including former consulates of countries such as Spain, France and the United States.

For instance, the main building of the Bank of Rome in Libya, built in 1917, became a branch of the Al-Omma Bank, also a Turkish prison building that built in 1664, later turned as a headquarters of the Spanish Consulate to become a library for children.

The Old City Markets:

The commercial and crafts markets of the old city of Tripoli spread within its urban framework, which confined between the city walls, extending over an area of 48 hectares, have taken different styles of their own architecture.

The Tripoli markets were organized in the middle of open-road squares, and others covered with roofed corridors, which numbered about 29 multidisciplinary markets.

Names of the markets:

Al-Mushir Market, Al-Turk Market, Old Rabaa or (Arab) Market, Al-Laffa or (New Rabaa) Market, Al-Qazdara Market, Al-Quwai'a Market, Al-kutub Market, Al-Riqriq or (Al-Framil) Market, Al-Harir Market, Al-Nijara Market, Al-Sagha Market, Al-Attara Market and the Traditional Industries Market.

The Old City Gates:

There are 8 gates of the surrounding wall of the old city, some of them are:

Bab Al-Hurriya: It was located near the southern wall of the city, which was also known by many names such as: Bab Al-Arab and Bab Al-Naser, but its features have disappeared.

Bab Al-Jadid: It is located near the Bab Zenata gate on the western side of the wall, which is a large opening in the wall in the form of an arch of building, fixed with a large wooden door clad with a metal layer.

Bab Zenata: It is located close to the Bab Al-Jadid gate, which is a large opening in the wall from the south side; it is famously called "Bab Zenata" because it was opposite to the Zanata tribesmen who lived in the south of the city wall.

Ban Al-Bahr: It was made of double doors and located opposite to the arch of Marcus Aurelius that was demolished by the Italians during their occupation of the country.

Ban Al-Khandaq (trench): It was famous by this name because it was located at the entrance to the trench, which originally surrounded the castle, and was submerged by sea water, that was backfilled and converted into a road known as the Al-Khandeq (trench) Road.

Bab Al-Menshia: It is located at the entrance to the Al-Mushir Market, opposite to the Martyrs Square, it is one of the oldest gates of the city, and many names have been given to it, the most famous are, Bab Hawara and Bab Al-Menshia.

Assaraya Al-Hamra or Tripoli Red Castle:

It is one of the most important landmarks of the city, it was so called because some parts of it were painted red, and it is located in the north-eastern side of the old city of Tripoli with an area of about 1300 square meters. It overlooks Tripoli port and the Red Castle Lake, which was previously a sea before it was filled in the 1970s.

The Tripoli Red Castle was a great fortress to defend the city of Tripoli in the Byzantine era, where it is narrated that when the Muslim Arabs under the leadership of Amr bin Al-Aas marched on Tripoli in 21 AH to 642 CE, they found the city surrounded by a strong wall, and they were not able to enter the city until after a siege that lasted a month.

And when Italy seized Tripoli in 1911, the Castle became the Governor-General's residence, and some parts of it were also used as museums. During this period, many changes occurred to it, the most important of which was the removal of some of the external buildings that were adjacent to it, and the paving of the road that leads to the port of Tripoli.

In 1919 the castle became a museum for the first time in its history.

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