

Politics

Erdogan: Legitimacy will triumph in Libya



The Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said The Government of National Accord, led by Fayez Al-Sarraj, is the only legitimate structure in Libya that is recognized by the international community.

His remarks came in an interview with the Qatari English newspaper, The Peninsula while visiting Doha.

Erdogan said Turkey and Libya, which have the longest coastline in the Mediterranean, signed two memoranda of understanding concerning the delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas and military cooperation.

"The registration of this memorandum by the UN proved that the step we took did not pose any problem in terms of international law and established practices," Erdogan added.

He also explained that in line with the legitimate GNA's request, the Turkish Armed Forces are carrying out training and support activities in Libya.

"The putschist Haftar, on the other hand, has neither legitimacy nor international recognition. He is waging a dirty and bloody war with legionnaires and foreign militias against the legitimate government of Libya," Erdogan said about warlord Haftar.

Erdogan indicated that Haftar is also a mercenary, adding that through his uncompromising stance both in Moscow and at the Berlin Conference, he showed the entire world that he had no intention of reaching a ceasefire and a solution.

"The legitimacy will succeed in Libya, and the putschists will lose. The opportunity that has emerged thanks to peace established on the ground as a result of Turkey's initiatives and that will maintain peace and stability both in Libya and in the region must not be wasted," Erdogan added.

Abdulaziz Taher Hariba, a member of the High Council of State, told Times of Malta that they decided to meet in Malta because it is a neutral country and it has always opened its arms for Libyan dialogue.

Maltese Foreign Minister, Evarist Bartolo, said that his country had facilitated the meeting between various parties involved in the peace talks because Malta wanted to see peace and stability in the neighbouring country.

He added that this initiative should be guided by the United Nations' and Berlin processes.

Speaking to the participants, Maltese President George Vella called for dialogue and unity in Libya, saying this meeting should be made along the lines of the Skhirat Agreement of 2015, the UN-led talks and the outcomes of Berlin process.

Meanwhile, Maltese President, George Vella, and Foreign Minister, Evarist Bartolo, held separate talks with the speaker of Libya's former General National Congress and current head of Ya Biladi Party, Nuri Abu Sahmain.

The talks focused on the Libyan crisis and ways of resolving it, in addition to Malta's role in helping Libya to get out of the crisis.

Politics

Algerian President says solution to Libya's crisis comes through elections



The Algerian President Abdelmajid Tebboune has said resolving Libya's crisis comes through elections based on institutions and a new constitution that strikes balance in the country's political polarization.

Tebboune told French journal, La Opinion that the diplomatic movement to solve Libya's crisis are like "painkillers to extremely ill people", adding that the solution is through elections, as such temporary solutions wouldn't give viable results.

"Over nine years since the Libyan revolution, the international community has been only doing small solutions that didn't work and wouldn't be effective no matter what time they take," Tebboune said.

He added that the viable way for a solution in Libya is elections to reflect the will of the people, saying it could only take three or four years so that building the country's institutions can ensue afterwards.

Politics

Malta hosts Libyan peace talks



Members from Libya's House of Representatives and the High Council of State have met in Malta for peace talks in a new effort to get the country out of the current crisis.

The politicians said they were hopeful that a solution is "close" following Malta-facilitated peace talks

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"Elections will bring a new parliament, prime minister or even a president and then a new constitution can be drafted." He added.

Meanwhile, the UN is now supporting various dialogues of Libyan parties in order to reach a political settlement, knowing that similar understandings and agreements through previous dialogues, including Skhirat in 2015, didn't work effectively.

While some other Libyan political personalities are calling for a referendum on the constitution and then elections to end the presence of current political groups and their transitional phase, yet no answers from the UN or international community has been given to such calls.



Members of the Libyan Constitution Drafting Assembly (CDA), politicians, and members of the House of Representatives called on the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to facilitate the first referendum on constitution in Libya's history.

They criticized in a letter to Guterres the "negligence of the UNSMIL toward the constitution draft, thus plunging Libya into a new transitional phase that prolongs corruption and chaos".

"Was the UNSMIL formed to help Libyans decide on their future state via referendum and then elections or to manage the armed conflict inside Libya and their supporters abroad? Was it formed to help Libya achieve a state of law and institutions or not?" The letter reads, asking Guterres to redirect the work of the UNSMIL to push the constitutional track forward via referendum and then help Libyans choose their leadership via elections.

The letter says most attempts to prevent the referendum from happening come from initiatives proposed by the UNSMIL or action plans that go against the constitutional plan as per the temporary constitutional declaration.

The signatories called on the UN Secretary General to remove the hurdles hindering Libyans from practicing their constitutional right to a referendum, which would be a first in Libyan history.

Politics

HCS, Tobruk HoR sign agreement on criteria for appointments to key institutions



Delegates from the Libyan High Council of State (HCS) and the Tobruk-based Parliament signed an agreement at talks in Moroccan Bouznika on criteria for appointments to key institutions.

In a joint statement, following the close of the meeting, the two parties confirmed that they had reached a comprehensive understanding regarding the mechanisms and criteria for appointments of leadership positions in the sovereign institutions stipulated in Article 15 of the Libyan Political Agreement.

Delegates from both sides will brief their bases in Libya on the consensuses reached in the first and second round of talks, before moving on with the restructuring of the sovereign institutions, according to the statement.

The HCS and Tobruk HoR dialogues renewed their thanks to the efforts of the Moroccan Kingdom and its "keenness to bring about a genuine Libyan consensus", which conforms to the requirements of the Libyan Political Agreement.

They also underlined the "positive interaction" of the Acting Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to Libya, Stephanie Williams, and her efforts in developing bridges and facilitating dialogue at various levels, as they put it.

"The Berlin conference held back in January constituted an international bet on the political solution to the Libyan crisis, yet the political process still awaits clear and real support from the international community."

The Libyan delegates stressed that the outcomes of the Moroccan talks constitute a platform for restoring political stability and ending the split of state institutions.

They concluded their statement by affirming their commitment to continue consultative meetings in Morocco to coordinate the work of political, executive, and oversight institutions, with the view of ending the transition phase in Libya.



Libyan telecommunications investor LAP GreenN has threatened to seize Zambia's international assets as the Zambian government owes the Libyan telecom body \$380 million, according to a report by "Capacity Media" website.

The debt Libya is after dates back to Zambia's nationalisation of Zamtel in 2012, a year after LAP GreenN bought the company from the previous administration for \$257 million.

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The chairman of the Libyan Post Telecommunications & Information Technology Company, a holding company that manages Libya's telecoms assets, Faisal Gergab said the company has found itself forced to assess other options to claim the debt it says Zambia owes, according to the report.

Libya has been trying to regain the money from Zambia for a number of years now but to no avail, even though Zambia lost a case three years ago before the High Court in London.

Libya says it has patiently sought an amicable resolution to the dispute, while Bloomberg has quoted an email from Gergab saying LAP GreenN "will use all avenues or remedies available to it if the defaults continue".

Economy

Production of Sharara Oil Field is expected to hit 40,000 barrels of oil per day



Reuters has reported that the production of the Sharara Oil Field is set to reach 40,000 barrels per day as soon as the resumption of work begins, following the lifting of the force majeure.

The National Oil Corporation has given the green light for the field operator Akakus Oil Company to immediately begin production procedures.

It added in a statement that safety and security standards must be taken into account, stressing that the decision to lift the force majeure from the oil field had come subsequent to agreements reached, which obligates the Petroleum Facilities Guards to end all obstructions which the Sharara Oil Field has recently faced.

Economy

EU voices support for Libya's National Oil Corporation



Ambassadors of several European Union countries reiterated Saturday to the Chairman of the Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) Mustafa Sanallah their full support for the NOC to regain oil production rates as before the January shutdown.

Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Spain, Belgium, Norway, Finland, Poland, Hungary, and Holland's ambassadors hailed NOC efforts to maintain output capacity and to boost transparency by publishing oil revenues' reports since 2018.

Meanwhile, Sanallah said if oil sector was stable, all of the region would be stable too, including EU countries, reaffirming that the NOC remained away from political polarization as it's the main source of income to the state of Libya and that the revenues should be managed fairly across Libya.

"When Libya is stable, all of us can overcome many obstacles, including illegal immigration. We need the support of the EU in this effort, especially in stabilizing southern Libya by securing the borders." Sanallah remarked.

Economy

Libya's Central Bank warns of financial collapse due to immense debts



The governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir warned Tuesday of a financial collapse due to the increased general debt of the state.

Al-Kabir, in a briefing at the Tripoli-based House of Representatives, said the general debt of the state reached a record high of 270% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), adding that Libyan oil revenues dropped dramatically from 53.2 billion dollars in 2012 to almost (Zero) 2020.

He said this led to the shelving of economic reform in 2018 and 2019, adding that Libya lost over 180 billion dollars in oil blockade, which is "a bullet in the head."

Al-Kabir also warned that the suspension of oil production and exports would be catastrophic to the state amid the unprecedented decrease of CBL reserves and plummeting oil prices globally, saying Libya should work immediately to increase oil output to reach 1.7 million barrels per day to cover the basic expenditures of the state.

"The efforts of the CBL and Audit Bureau led to a decrease in 2020 monetary arrangements from 51 billion dinars proposed by the Ministry of Finance with 40 billion dinars deficit to 38.5 billion dinars - a drop of 13 billion and deficit of 27 billion." He said.

Al-Kabir added that the parallel CBL in eastern Libya printed 15 billion dinars in Russia and used it to fund the parallel government's expenditures there. It also made some new systems that led to a surge of commercial banks' accounts reaching 43 billion dinars, but they can't use the money to give their clients what they rightly ask for.

"Not to mention that the Commerce and Development Bank gave a direct loan of 6 billion dinars to Haftar's forces." He explained.

Economy

Agoco: Sarir refinery working at full tilt



The Sarir Oil Refinery has reached its full production capacity since it opened on 29 September, following the National Oil Corporation (NOC) announcement regarding lifting the force majeure on the oil fields and ports, said the Sarir field operator, the Arabian Gulf Oil Company (Agoco).

"The Sarir refinery has been operated ably and successfully thanks to the hard and diligent work of all staff at departments, fields, and oil sites," the Agoco head, Muhammad bin Shatwan said in a statement posted on the company's Facebook page.

Agoco has also restarted the Hamada field, which is pumping crude oil to the Zawiya plant, in addition to the Messla field, which is producing 67,000 barrels daily.



Opinions

A birth of crescent oil region

By Issa Baghni, a professor interested in Libyan affair

Operation Dignity and its supported countries did not win the conflict, but it managed to divide the leaders of the western region, and the leaders became scattered.

Those leaders were silent when the cannons were raining down on the strongholds of fools, rebels, Sudanese mercenaries, and Russian infidels, who were assisted by them in the war. And when the war ended, the stalkers and those whose powers had expired raced to reap the benefits.

This frenetic race is to share power to stay in the Libyan scene for the next coming years, not to solve the country problem, at the expense of the Libyans afflicted by those corrupts.

The Head of High Council of State got his hopes down in order to accept him as an interlocutor of Agilah Saleh, the man who recruited all the federalists in his side.

The Deputy of the Presidential Council went to Moscow shoeless to meet Haftar's sons, to become an interlocutor of Russian, and give Haftar an 'emergency dose' even if it were at the expense of the return of oil exports, before his fall by Agilah, whose hoping to gain power.

Whereas the President of the Presidential Council hinted at resignation in response to US pressures. After Libya-Turkey maritime agreement registered in UN body, no one will feel sorry about his absence and he may be the only winner because all parties involved have not reached any agreement.

This political and societal division does not matter much to the outside world as much as it is concerned with its interests.

However, opposing the interests of the Americans and the Russians over influence in Libya will escalate the crisis, unless there is a Turkish-Russian agreement in particular.

The UN game keeps repeating

For instance, the war in the present Nagorno-Karabakh province in 1923, when administrative borders were established for the Armenian (the Black Garden Mountains) within the Republic of Azerbaijan, which has no geographical connection with Armenia, the war has not stopped so far with external support for both sides.

In the Muslim-majority region of Kashmir, the governor of the Indian state, Hari Singh, annexed the region to India in 1947, and the war broke out in the region, which lasted for two years, and then Pakistan separated from India in 1949 and the Kashmiri problem was not resolved despite Pakistan's four wars with India.

In the west of Libya, the French authorities annexed a border strip 60 km wide from Ras Jdir in the west and 600 km long until Ghadames in 1894 CE, and despite Al-Baroni's efforts, the land was lost. And the tribes in that region turned from the Nawil, Awlad Salaam, and Hamaila to the Libyan lands, however the Libyans forgot their land because the tribes had shifted from it and they were replaced by Ajlas, Awlad Dabbab and Wraghma.

The current un-innocent talks between Agilah Saleh and a group of federalists with the Egyptian intelligence support may not lead to any agreement, their aim is to create a situation similar to the previous scenarios, namely, the continued presence of two governments, one in the east in Benghazi and the other in Tripoli and specify a disputed area called the oil crescent that will be invested and its export revenues placed in the external bank, which will share the financial revenues to the Central Bank in Tripoli and Al-Bayda.

This scenario will continue until all parts are subjected to federalism, as an alternative to separation, which has strong opposition from many sides. In the Libyan East, especially the White Cyrenaica 'Burqa Al-Bayda', from Ajdabiya to Kufra.

There is an Egyptian, Emirati and even Russian desire to take this course, which faced many internal and external stumbling blocks, but it remains a means to shuffle the cards, perpetuate the war and prevent the formation of any successful political structures.

It is likely that such bilateral talks and agreements between Agilah, Al-Mishri and people like them will not lead to any solutions, unless the active states such as America and its shield Turkey, with the Russians, agree on effective solutions, the most important of which is the removal of the current worn out political structures.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of The Libya Observer



The Ministry of Health opened on Monday the "Qurtuba" Dialysis Centre in the Municipality of Hay Al-Andalus of Tripoli.

The new center comes in the framework of the health ministry's plan to develop the public health sector and enhance the medical services provided to citizens, a statement by the Health Ministry said on Facebook.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by several officials, among them, members from the Health and Environment Committee of the Tripoli-based House of Representatives and the Mayor of Hay Al-Andalus, as well as officials from the health sector.

In a speech to mark the occasion, the Medical Director of the Qurtuba Centre Dr. Muhammad Akra, praised the efforts of the Ministry of Health in supporting the center by providing it with advanced appliances and facilities.

The center contains 45 dialysis machines and medical beds with a state of the art system to facilitate communication with patients, besides a central air conditioning system, water purification system, and an oxygen system, according to the media center of the Ministry of Health.

Health

Ministry of Justice steps up precautionary measures against Covid-19



A team from the Health Care Department of the Ministry of Justice has conducted an inspection visit to the DNA department at the ministry to examine the newly obtained PCR device and determine its operational requirements.

The Ministry of Justice set up a PCR machine as part of its Covid-19 response plan to prevent the spreading of the disease within its departments, offices, and the correction and rehabilitation institutions.

During the visit, the inspection team convened a meeting with officials from the DNA department as well as experts from the National Center for Disease Control, and the head of the Judicial Inspection of Tripoli Branch to discuss the steps needed to implement the plan.

They agreed to train a team to survey and take samples and to develop a guideline to prevent the spread of the coronavirus inside the prisons and other facilities.

Health

Isolation centers in Sabha ceased to operate due to lack of fuel



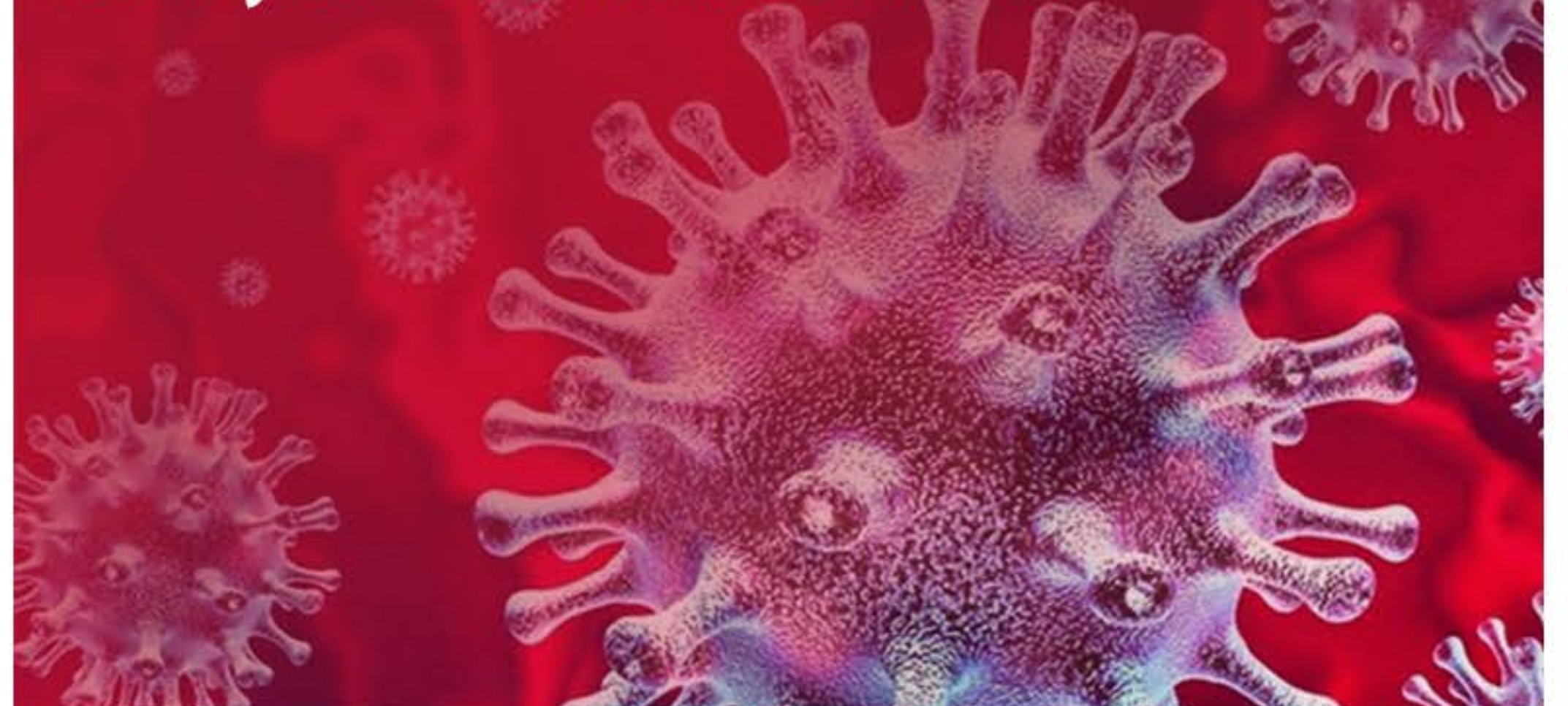
The Director of the Health Isolation Center in Sabha, Ali Al-Saeedi, said that the isolation center has ceased to efficiently operate and has stopped receiving cases, being totally closed since the September 25 last.

Al-Saeedi attributed the situation, in a press statement, to the 'all too frequent' power outages, along with the depletion of fuel stocks to run the generators necessary to run the facilities, as well as the lack of medical oxygen supplies.

He indicated that many suspected patients of Coronavirus, who clearly show symptoms, head to Sabha Medical Hospital to be subjected to isolation, whilst those showing milder symptoms, are being sent home to self-isolate with their families.

Health

Germany warns its citizens against traveling to Libya due to the Coronavirus



The German government warned its citizens on Friday against traveling to Libya, as it is on the list of countries which is classified as 'dangerous areas' in the world to travel to, due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus in the country.

Germany considers any area in which the number of cases of infection of the virus exceeds 50, per 100,000 residents, over a period of one week a dangerous area, According to the German broadcaster Deutsche Welle.

The total number of Coronavirus infections in Libya, up until Friday last, has reached 41,368 cases in total, of which 17,294 remain active, 23,453 were recovered patients, whilst 621 infected patients lost their lives to the virus.



Libya loses 2-1 to Comoros in friendly game

Libya's national football team has lost its match against its Comoros opponent, with two goals to one, during a friendly game that took place in the Tunisian capital, in preparation for the 2022 African Nations Cup qualifications.

The first half of the match looked well for the Mediterranean Knights as the Comoros defender shot by mistake the ball in his teams' net, giving the Libyans the lead.

However, Comoros' Ibrahimi Youssefou scored the drawing goal at the minute 75, before his teammate Yusef Shaqama gave his team the winning goal just before the final whistle blow.

The match was marred by many technical errors from the Libyan side including, poor performance and lack of control of the game, besides failing to make the most of their opportunities, which casts a dark shadow at the level of play expected by the national team in the upcoming matches.



Tripoli University explores cooperation with a centre for children with disabilities

Staff members of the College of Education at Tripoli University have conducted a visit to the al-Rashad Center for Children with Disabilities located in Souk Al Jumaa Municipality.

The delegation, which included Dr. Majda Abu Menjil, head of the Psychology Department at the Education Department, met with the Director of the Special Categories Office for students, in which they discussed means of cooperation between Tripoli's University and the Education Supervision Office in Souk Al Jumaa to expand the educational opportunities provided for children with disabilities.

The visitors toured the center and expressed their admiration for the center's work and its role in developing the ability and skill of children with special needs.

This center is the first of its kind in Libya in the public sector, as it provides services that were only available in the private sector at a high cost.



Interior Ministry arrests criminals on charges of killing, kidnapping and extortion

The Ministry of Interior has arrested a suspect wanted for several cases of kidnapping and extortion.

"The Operations Unit of the General Administration at the Central Support Branch of Tripoli has apprehended the suspect "A, A, Q," wanted on various charges, including cases of kidnappings and extortion," a statement by the Interior Ministry said on Facebook.

The ministry emphasized it had taken all necessary legal measures against the defendant before referring him to the competent authorities to complete the rest of the procedures.

In a separate operation, the Interior Ministry also arrested three Libyan criminals for burning a foreign worker from Niger to death in a warehouse east of Tripoli.

The three criminal were referred to the Office of Public Prosecutor to face justice, according to the ministry.



Zawiya Civil Registry Office launches a cultural caravan

The Civil Registry Office of Zawiya has launched a cultural caravan to its service offices in the city.

A committee has been formed by the Secretary of the Zawiya Registry Office to prepare and gather printed as well as online books containing sources of legislation and policies related to this field, in addition to other scientific specializations, according to a statement by the Civil Registry Office of Zawiya.

The convoy was organized in cooperation and coordination with the General Authority for Culture, Zawiya University, and Zawiya Book House, with the view to encourage staff to develop their knowledge and skills in this area.

weather

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Tripoli Weather Forecast





Fri 16	26°/21°		Mostly Cloudy	 10%	 NNE 20 km/h
Sat 17	25°/20°		Partly Cloudy	 10%	 NE 21 km/h
Sun 18	26°/19°		Partly Cloudy	 10%	 ENE 20 km/h
Mon 19	26°/18°		Mostly Sunny	 10%	 E 19 km/h
Tue 20	27°/18°		Mostly Sunny	 10%	 E 18 km/h
Wed 21	28°/19°		Mostly Sunny	 10%	 ESE 16 km/h
Thu 22	28°/21°		Partly Cloudy	 0%	 ESE 14 km/h

Photo of the Week: Tripoli's Martyrs' Square



Features

Ruins of the Roman city of Leptis Magna



Leptis Magna 'Greater Leptis or Lebdah' is one of the former major North African cities, which located on the Mediterranean coast at the mouth of Wadi Lebdah, a natural port 3 km east of the Khoms city, which is 120 km east of Tripoli, the capital of Libya. Lebdah city was one of the most prominent cities in North Africa in the era of the Roman Empire. It also classified by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on the list of World Heritage Sites in Libya since 1982.

Foundation of the city

Lebdah area was home to some human groups in prehistoric times, as evidenced by some stones found on the banks of the Ramla Valley. It appeared as a natural harbor used by Phoenicians sailors and merchants during their trade trips in the Mediterranean. The Phoenicians founded the Leptis Magna city, which named 'Lepcis' in Latin, by the end of the 7th-century BC (around the time of the Carthage foundation). The founders were people from the Phoenician city, Tyre (Sur), worshiper of the goddess Ishtar and the god of the universe (earth), which the word 'earth' came from it. These two deities were not worshiped before in Libya, even in the other Libyan cities like Oia and Sabratha, this indicates that the people of Sur city were brought it with them to the greater Lebdah.

However, the commercial port quickly grew to become one of the important Mediterranean basin, which later contained the Lighthouse of Lebdah, that was built by the Roman Emperor, Septimus Severus around the year 200 BC.

And now Lebdah is one of the most beautiful archaeological sites in the Mediterranean region, and it is also one of the largest remains of Roman cities in the world.

History of the city

The Phoenicians were able to quickly urbanize the city due to the fertility of its land, its mild climate and its habitability. And because it has a safe and navigable port and located near Ain Kaam River, which is slightly to the east of it, also the good relations between the people there and the Phoenicians increased the developments of the area in a very quick way.

A big accident was mentioned by Herodotus at the mouth of Wadi Kaam River (Cinyps), in the late sixth century BC where the Greeks were concentrated mainly in Cyrenaica (Burca), a group of them led by the Spartan prince, Dorieus tried to establish a colony at the mouth of the river 'Cinyps' Ain Kaam River, taking advantage of the delay and decline that Lebdah suffered from at that time. And they got what they want.

The Carthaginians feared the leakage of Greek influence west of Sirte, and soon after they attacked it, destroyed its colony, expelled the Greeks and seized Lebdah and its surroundings. And they returned to it what it had lost of its buildings and civilizations.

The king of the Carthaginians settled between Great Sirte and Small Sirte, and he called this area 'Amporia', and it became part of the possessions of Carthage.

Whereas Lebdah remained the main center of the region between the two Sirtes, with internal independence, and remained under the rule of the Carthaginians until the early second century BC.

Market Place in the City

In the early second century BC, it became a follower of the Numidians in the period between the Punic Wars, which are a series of three wars between 264 and 146 BC fought by the states of Rome and Carthage.

Its affiliation to the Numidians was as a formality, because it was limited on the payment tribute.

In 111 BC, it sent a delegation to Rome, seeking friendship and alliance with it to get rid of the rule of the Numidians, and in 107 BC Rome provided it with four battalions of soldiers to fight the Numidians. It appeared that it could not overcome them, and remained under their nominal sovereignty, with internal independence until the Romans occupied it in 42 BC, and the rule of the Numidians ended.

Its coasts became part of Roman Africa, while the interior remained under the authority of a ruler from Numidia until the early 3rd century CE, where a line of defense was established against the people of the south and they called it 'Lemes Tribolitanus'.

Lebdah was subjected to the raids of the Garamantes between 24 and 17 BC, with the help of some other tribes from the south, due to the Oia 'Tripoli' appeal over a dispute erupted between it and Lebdah due to the kidnapping of cattle and the assault on some people.

They attacked Lebdah, defeated it and ravaged its suburbs, its people were forced to take refuge in the city walls until Valeriovisto realized them with his army and expelled the Garamantes. He returned to the city its reassurance and the importance that it had lost as a convoy station that were connecting the Mediterranean coast to the south and Sudan.

In 146 AD, one from the noble families in Lebdah called 'Stemio Sever', appeared and assumed its throne and took care of its affairs, he spread knowledge and security in it, and took over the pursuit of the aggressors from the southern tribes until he kept them away from it. He provided it with the basics of a good life, including the means of development and progress in it. In recognition of this reformer man's work and his sincerity, the people called themselves 'Stemyans' after the name Stemio, and became famous for that.

Grandeur wealth of the City

The location of the city is distinguished by its proximity to important agricultural areas such as the three heights of (Tarhuna, Al-Sanbas River and Wadi Kaam)

As an indication of its wealth and richness, that the Roman Emperor, Julius Caesar imposed a tax on it for supporting his opponent, Pompey, who defeated him in 48 BC, amounted to three million pounds of olive oil annually. Despite this unfair tribute, Lebdah flourished and reached a great affair in the second century AD, especially when one of its sons, Septimius Severus (193 AD - 211 AD) ascended the throne of the Roman Empire, Whom his family's rule of the empire extended to 235 AD. During this period, the city witnessed its greatest expansion, as it built the the Suwariyya Square, the Iwan Al-Suwarya (Bazilka), the Baptized Street, the Triumphal Arch of Septimus Severus and the Lighthouse of Lebdah.

The old square and the ruins of the temples around it and adjacent to the harbor, was the center of the city before its expansion in the Roman era.

In these places we track the growth and expansion of the city by examining the successive dates in which the luxurious public buildings were erected, such as the Punic Market Building that stablished in 8 BC, the Semicircular Theater in first year BC and the Kalkidicum building in 11 AD - 12 AD, then the construction of other buildings continued during the first and second centuries AD, among which were the Baths of Emperor Hadrian (built between 126 AD - 127 AD) and renewed during the reign of Emperor Septimius Severus.

Emperor of Roman Lebdah, Septimius Severus

In the 3rd century AD, the time of Emperor Septimius Severus, 193 AD to 211 AD, and Alexander Severus, 222 AD to 235 AD, Lebdah has reached a great level in civilization and urban progress, its people were a mixture of Libyans, Carthaginians, Romans and Greeks, and its population reached 80,000. During this era, Oia 'Tripoli' did not reach anything that would enable it to compete with Lebdah in power, but by the 4th century, Dakyanus ordered to give Oia the title of state, and began to compete Lebdah.

Between 363 and 366 of the 4th century AD, the Asturianans attacked the governorate of Lebdah and inflicted severe damage on it, especially in the city, its conditions worsened and began to decline until the Vandals coveted it.

In 455 AD, the Vandals occupied it and destroyed it, they did not care about it and left it in chaos, plundering extended to it from the Berber tribes residing in and around the city, the largest of which is the Luwata tribe.

During this period, it was hit by a great flood from the Ain Kaam Valley, which broke bridges and walls, and had the worst effect in paralyzing the workforce, and despair seeped into the souls of the ability to reform. Then the sands covered it and its affairs were neglected until the spirit of rebellion and greed spread among the tribes around it.

By 533 AD these chaotic tribes turned the city into devastation, until the Byzantines coveted to occupy it. Their occupation was the beginning of a new era for its urbanization and the recovery of some of its lost civilization, it took the seat of the military ruler, Justinian whose reformed much of what the corrupts had spread to it in the previous era. Roman architecture and decoration were added to it, which increased its magnitude and beauty.

After Justinian, the country began to decline, and to walk into devastation again.

In 643 AD, the first Arab pioneers of the Islamic conquest reached it, nothing found in Labdah of urbanization except the remnants of its great palaces and magnificent houses, in addition to some mixture people of different races living in these ruins.

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