17.10.2020 - 23.10.2020 Week *30*

THE LIBYA OBSERVER

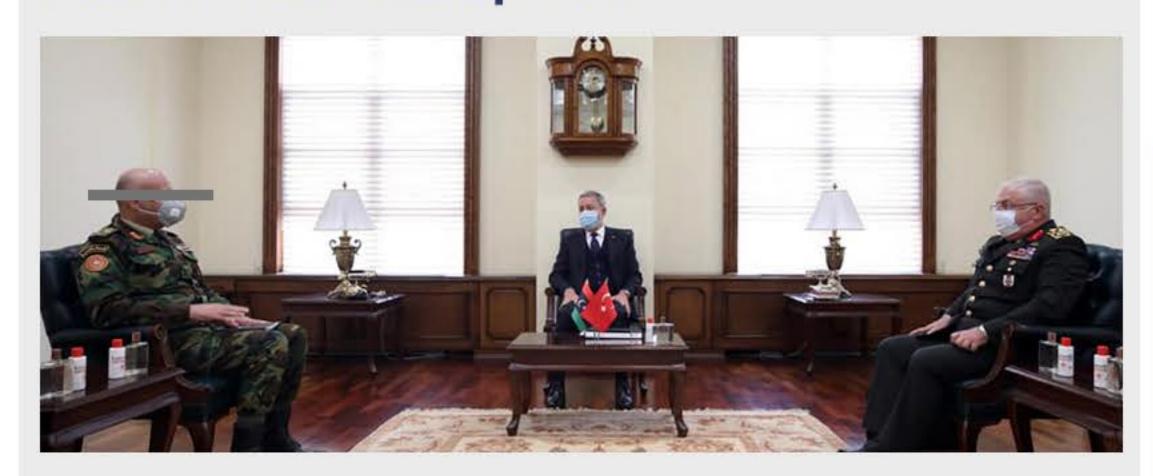
Nº029

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Politics

Turkey's Defense Minister, Libya's Chief of Staff discuss latest developments



Turkey's Defense Minister Hulusi Akar received the Libyan Chief of General Staff Mohammad Al-Haddad in Ankara, according to a Turkish Defense Ministry statement.

Akar underlined the importance of the two centuries' old bilateral relationship, saying Ankara will continue to support Libyans to live more comfortably, happier and more safely.

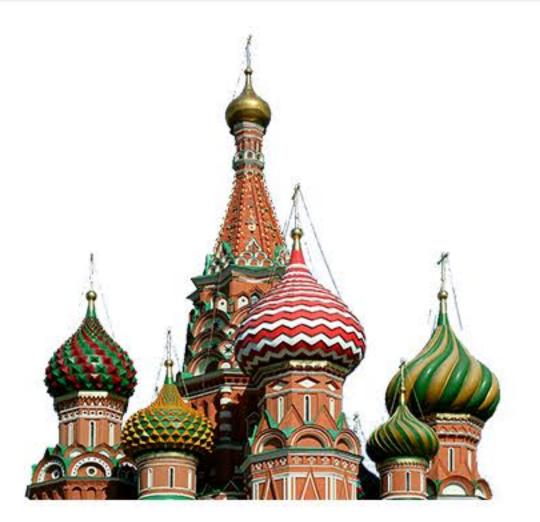
Exchanging views on the latest situation in Libya, Akar said Turkey supports a stable and sovereign Libya, and would carry on its efforts in this regard.

"In line with mutual agreements, Turkey will continue its activities of training, support and consultancy in the field of military and security." Akar added.

He congratulated Al-Haddad for his recent appointment during a meeting also attended by Turkey's Chief of General Staff Yasar Guler.

Politics

Russian newspaper: Moscow isn't convinced that Libyan dialogues will succeed



Russian newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta said Moscow is looking at the ongoing dialogues for solutions to the Libyan crisis as trials and isn't convinced of the success of UN efforts to end the conflict, form a government and hold elections.

The newspaper added that neither Russia nor Turkey are convinced of the ongoing tlaks but are committed together with Egypt to give them chance to see if the UN will be able to avoid more fighting in Libya.

It also said that the fact that Libyan parties had been working on forming new executive authorities would be a good step for reconciliation after the delegations of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State had agreed on negotiating about the constitutional arrangements.

"Ankara and Moscow are interested in boosting Libyan economy and Russia has not interest in hampering the flow of oil production in Libya." The newspaper added

This comes after many meetings between delegations from the Tobruk-based House of Representatives and the High Council of State of the Government of National Accord in Hurghada, Cairo, Bouznika and other areas.

They have lately decided to resume military talks under the auspices of the UNSMIL in Cairo starting the beginning of November.

Misrata says yes to dialogue, no to Haftar

A prominent figure of Misrata's community Sheikh Ibrahim bin Ghashir has reiterated that they are open to any dialogue with their brothers in the eastern region, provided that Haftar is excluded from any talks.

His remarks came during a meeting with a delegation of representatives from the eastern tribes who supported Haftar in his war against Tripoli, according to a source who attended the meeting.

The eastern delegation arrived in Misrata last Monday to start negotiations for exchanging prisoners between both sides of the conflict.

Sheikh bin Ghashir told the delegation if they want to hold talks, Haftar must be excluded.

"Haftar has killed Libyans, destroyed their homes, and brought mercenaries to the country, with Haftar in the scene, there will be no dialogue", he said.

Sheikh bin Ghashir explained that the eastern region's problem is not with Misrata alone, telling them "You will have to face all those who have been displaced and harmed by Haftar."

He emphasized that they welcome any genuine dialogue that aims to solve the crisis and ends the division in the country, but criminals who killed, harassed, exhumed bodies, destroyed homes, and brought in mercenaries to the country must be excluded.

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Members from civil society organizations, along with some trade and professional unions, have denounced what they said attempts by the UN mission to create new transitional stages, warning it would lead to an even more catastrophic scenario.

The organizations staged a stand in front of the UN mission's HQ in Tripoli, demanding the latter to stop the ongoing "suspicious dialogues and meetings" as it would just deepen the rift and further disintegrate the social fabric, according to the protest leaders.

They called on the UN mission to set dates for parliamentary and presidential elections, in addition to the constitutional referendum, and to exclude controversial figures from political life.

Politics

EU imposes sanctions on Yevgeny Prigozhin for support of Wagner activity in Libya



The European Union (EU) has imposed sanctions on the Russian businessman Yevgeny Prigozhin, nicknamed 'Putin's chef', who is a close personal friend to the Russian President, due to the obvious existence of not only financial, but other links, which connects him with the private military 'Wagner Company', which was used by warlord Haftar in his failed war on Tripoli.

The EU said in a statement that Prigozhin participated in supporting Wagner's activities in Libya, which threaten not only the country's peace, stability and security, but also that of the entire region.

The EU noted that the sanctions were to include travel bans and the freezing of assets, saying that the Russian group had, on several occasions, violated the Security Council Resolution issued in 2011 regarding the embargo on arms supplies to Libya, including the delivery of weapons, along with the deployment of mercenaries in Libya in support of Haftar's forces.

They also pointed to Wagner's participation in several military operations against the Government of National Accord (GNA), which is recognized by the UN as the official governing body in Libya, along with contributing to harming the stability of Libya and the undermining of the peace process.

Prigozhin was and is the primary funder of Wagner's forces with reports concluding that he is funding training groups of Russian mercenaries, presently operating in Syria, Eastern Ukraine, Sudan and Libya.



The Head of Libya's High Council of State Khalid Al-Mishri arrived in Malta for talks with Malta's Foreign Affairs Minister Evarist Bartolo on Wednesday and discussed the state of affairs in Libya.

Times of Malta reported the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Malta as saying that the meeting was being held in the spirit of UN Resolution 2510 that calls on neighbouring countries to support the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya.

Bartolo emphasized the need for all parties to respect a ceasefire agreement in place in Libya and to continue the process to develop resilient state institutions in the country that could protect citizens.

He added that any peace initiatives should be taken and led in the same direction as the United Nations' and Berlin process because any other initiative could cause more harm than good.

The Maltese Foreign Minister indicated that these were two essential elements for economic recovery and for the Libyan people to benefit from Libya's vast wealth once again.

Al-Mishri also met with the Speaker of the Maltese Parliament and then met with the Maltese President George Vella.

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Labour Ministry seeks cooperation with Indonesia

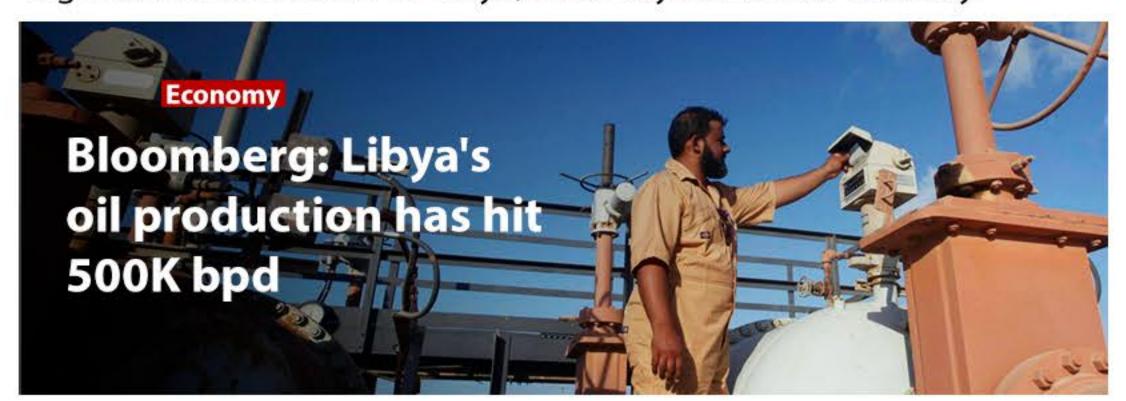
Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation, Mahdi Al-Amin, has convened a meeting with several Indonesian officials via the Zoom platform.

From the Indonesian side, the meeting was attended by the Chargé d'Affairs of the Indonesian Embassy in Libya, the Minister of Labour, the Director of the Labour Office at the Ministry of Environment, a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and professors from the University of Jakarta, according to a statement by Libya's Labour Ministry on Facebook.

The two sides discussed enhancing cooperation, and agreed to work more collaboratively to leverage the expertise of the Indonesian system in nursing and physical therapy.

They also explored other avenues of cooperation in the fields of waste and garbage recycling, as well as the establishment of water desalination and solar energy plants.

Constellations will continue in the coming days to cover other common issues with a particular focus on the regulatory measures for recruiting Indonesian labour to Libya, said Libya's Labour Ministry.



The Libyan daily oil production has increased to around 500.000 barrels, according to people familiar with the situation, reported Bloomberg.

The newspaper indicated that Sharara, the country's biggest oilfield, is pumping roughly 110,000 barrels a day, according to two people with knowledge of the situation, who asked not to be identified because they're not authorized to speak to media.

"The southwestern deposit, which has a capacity of 300,000 barrels daily, restarted on Sunday." Bloomberg explained, citing its own sources.

Libya was producing 1.2 million barrels a day before tribal gunmen, loyal to Khalifa Haftar, blockaded oil ports and fields as a pressing card to use in the then-going war in Tripoli.

Libya is home to Africa's largest crude reserves and the return of its barrels is weighing on oil prices just as tighter virus restrictions in many countries sap demand for energy.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. forecasts that Libyan output could hit 1 million barrels a day by March, though that will depend on the truce holding.

Libya's oil exports averaged 385,000 barrels daily in the first two weeks of this month, up from 213,000 barrels a day for all of September, according to tanker-tracking data monitored by Bloomberg,

which said that many of those shipments are from storage tanks at ports, rather than freshly-pumped crude, the report added.

"Al-Zawiya port, which handles Sharara's crude, is set to load 630,000 barrels this month on to the tanker Aegean Nobility, according to an initial loading plan; the exports will be the first from the port since January. The two eastern oil ports of Es Sider and Ras Lanuf, the country's largest and third-biggest respectively, are still closed. Brega is set to export three cargoes next month." Bloomberg explained.



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Libya and Turkey, which allows Turkish contracting firms to continue their incomplete projects in Libya, has entered into force, said Turkish Trade Minister Ruhsar Pekcan on Friday.

"The agreement entered into force as of September 24, according to a presidential decree published in Turkey's Official Gazette," Pekcan tweeted.

She noted the importance of this agreement, as it gives the Turkish companies the green light to start negotiations with Libyan employers and conclude their business processes, whishing the Turkish companies engaged in the reconstruction projects in Libya every success.

Turkish Trade Minister Ruhsar Pekcan signed on August 13 last, an MoU with Libyan Minister of Planning, Al-Taher Al-Juhaimi, regarding suspended Turkish projects in Libya.

Pekcan explained at the time that the understandings aim to lay the ground for Turkish contracting firms to complete their projects in Libya and solve outstanding issues with the Libyan employers.

Economy

Sayala, Turkish Ambassador discuss return of Turkish companies to Libya



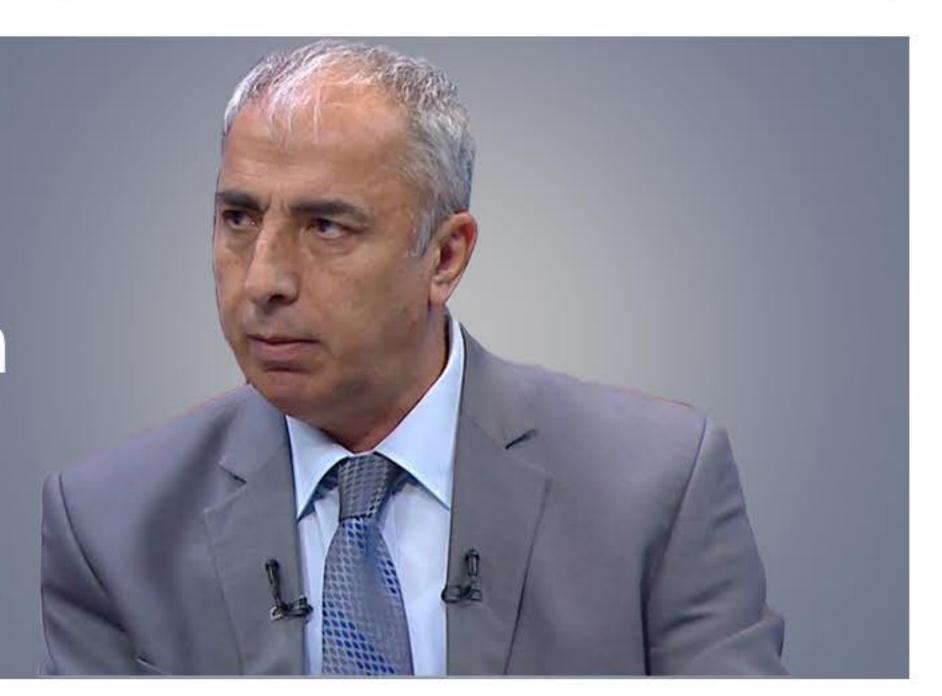
Libyan Foreign Minister, Mohamed Sayala, and the Turkish Ambassador to Libya, Serhat Aksen, discussed in Tripoli the return of Turkish companies to work in the country.

According to a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting dealt with the revival of the restoration of joint committees for cooperation between both countries and the return of Turkish companies to work in Libya, with a view to implementing some projects in restoration of major infrastructure work.

The meeting happened to coincide with the hosting in Istanbul of the Turkish-Libyan Economic Forum, with an attendance of at least 200 Libyan, both governmental and non-governmental institutions in the field of economy, which was aimed at restoring former economic relations between the two countries. **Opinions**

Behind the United Nations registration of Turkish-Libyan Agreement

By Sameer Salha, Turkish writer and researcher



The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres ratified at the end of last month (September), the memorandum of understanding signed nine months ago (last November), between Turkey and Libya, regarding delineating the areas of maritime jurisdiction of the two countries in the eastern Mediterranean, in accordance with Article 102 of the United Nations Charter.

The United Nations' registration of the agreement, at a Turkish request, means that the UN organization did not take into account the objection verbal note submitted to Guterres' office in July, by Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Greece and Greek Cyprus, confirming that the agreement is not without legal effect as it was said and it can be registered in the UN body, adding that it accepted the legal personality of the both parties (Turkish and Libyan), and their right to conclude an agreement of this kind.

Emphasizing that the General Secretariat said the opposite of what was said and demanded by the Speaker of the Libyan Parliament, Agilah Saleh, in an official letter, in which he calls for not registering the Memorandum of Understanding, under the pretext that it conflicts with the Libyan Political Agreement, Skhirat, signed in 2015.

And that the agreement is not an infringement on the rights of the riparian states in the Mediterranean, or the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, clarifying that with the United Nations acceptance of the agreement, all legal provisions related to the delimitation of the maritime borders in the eastern Mediterranean region between Turkey and Libya are accepted.

This registration also means, according to the United Nations Secretariat, that the agreement enshrines Turkey and Libya's legal rights in the Eastern Mediterranean, in terms of concluding agreements and protecting their water rights.

The Turkish-Libyan agreement is considered a strategic breakthrough for the two countries in the exclusive economic zone that binds them together, and it will increase the area of the continental shelf belonging to them significantly.

With the acceptance of the registration of the Turkish-Libyan agreement in the United Nations, Ankara has foiled all attempts to obstruct the Turkish-Libyan understanding, and obligated many to respect the Turkish and Libyan legitimate rights in the Mediterranean, and contributed to consecrating their sitting in front of any dialogue table, discussing the sharing of gas in the maritime region of the Eastern Mediterranean, And it got a historic opportunity to cut off the road to attempts to isolate, weaken, and marginalize their role there, and dropped the dream of the regional alignment led by France, Egypt, Greece, the UAE and Israel against Turkey, and the most important thing will be to open the way to the calls of the Turkish President, Erdogan, to involve all riparian countries in taking advantage of plans to demarcate the maritime borders, and to share the benefits of the invading region in a fair and equitable manner, Instead of the show that emerged between some capitals, to impose itself on the rest of the parties.

The Turkish-Libyan agreement linked Turkey's interests in the Mediterranean and the South of the Caspian, as the energy transmission lines are being prepared in coordination with Russia, Germany and Azerbaijan, which means building a new Turkish strategic equation in front of lines that intersect interests between USA, Russia and China, it also guarantees the right of Turkey and Libya to participate in drawing up the policies of the Eastern Mediterranean.

By this agreement, Turkey and Libya spoiled all the scenarios that were being prepared at their expense, and they succeeded in imposing themselves on the scene as regional players. Reaching this conclusion is linked to the extent of the attempts to bring it down and thwart it and the mobilization efforts that accompanied it, even by countries that are not directly concerned with the issue, such as the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and France.

Some parties inside Libya are trying to escalate against the agreement, and raising its illegality through the parliament.

The registration of the agreement is not less important than its content and strategic provisions for Turkey and Libya, but its most prominent results are the recognition of the right of the Government of National Accord in Tripoli to conclude such agreements, as long as its aim is to protect the interests of Libya and its people. The agreement registration is a new right opportunity for all experts and politicians who have gambled on the impossibility of accepting it, including Arab and European capitals, such as Cairo and Paris.

Voices in Cairo were attacking Al-Sarraj and Erdogan agreement and inciting against the Chairman of the Government saying that he "placed the Libyan Constitutional Declaration under his shoes, since the Tripoli government is nothing more than a circumstantial government to confront exceptional circumstances and conduct daily life activities, drumming all the time, and that the United Nations will reject the Turkish request, for its contradiction with Chapter Seven of the United Nations Charter, which endangers international peace and security.

Follow next page



The same voices are back again to simplify what happened, marginalize and ignore it, describing it as a formal procedure, without value or legitimacy, because the agreement is null and void, and because the registration does not imply the validity of the agreement or establish any obligation on a third country, and its acceptance would be a political gesture that is being exploited by Al-Sarraj And Erdogan.

As for Paris, it tried to drag the European Union towards declaring that the agreement violates the sovereign rights of the three surrounding countries in that region, and that it is inconsistent with the law of the sea, and that it does not lead to binding legal consequences for other countries, as if Brussels is the source of legislation, legal theorizing, and defining powers, rights and responsibilities in the world.

"Egypt rejected Erdogan's pleas", an Egyptian international law professor said a few days ago, but the United Nations rejected the pleas of Egypt and its four allies to cancel the Turkish-Libyan maritime border demarcation agreement!! Which is stronger politically and legally, the allegations and conclusions of political solicitation, or the United Nations' legal adoption of the Ankara and Tripoli understandings and their dedication and confirmation?!

Turkey and Libya guarantee their right to participate in drawing up the policies of the Eastern Mediterranean by their agreement

No matter how some of them sought to mitigate the repercussions of the UN move, it has made the Turkish-Libyan agreement a strategic breakthrough for the two countries in the exclusive economic zone that binds them together, and it will increase the area of the continental shelf belonging to them significantly, it will also drop the Greek plan to dominate the wider area by playing the card of Crete island and Greek Cyprus, and will oblige the rest of the riparian parties to remember the rights of the Turkish Cypriots and the Gaza Strip, and not to take any decisions at the expense of Lebanon and Syria.

However, it is surprising that the Saudi, Emirati, and Bahraini moves in the eastern Mediterranean to object to an agreement signed by an Arab country that protects its interests and water shares in the face of Greece, Israel and Greek Cyprus.

Some of them inside Libya, are trying to escalate against the agreement, and raising its illegality through the parliament.

Does this agreement protect Libya's interests in the eastern Mediterranean, give it its maritime rights, and strengthen it in its future negotiations with the rest of the riparian countries, especially with the existence of maritime disputes between Italy and Malta?

The discussions of the Turkish-Libyan agreement in Egypt will help the eastern leaderships in Libya to determine their positions, perhaps. Arab media recently published a document leaked from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, recommending not signing the maritime border demarcation agreement with Greece, because it harms Egypt's interests, reduces a large area of its maritime borders, and prevents it from signing a future agreement with Turkey.

As the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Sameh Shoukry said that "the agreement between Turkey and Libya does not affect the interests of Egypt", so what will it do? And to whom will it give priority? Will it give it to its new regional alliance with Greece, Israel and France at the expense of the rest of the riparian countries, even if they are from the same house?!!

The card once again in the court of Egypt and the eastern Libya leaderships, on monitoring what is going on and drawing policies on it.

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

WHO team visits health centres east of Tripoli



The World Health Organization (WHO) office in Libya has conducted a visit to several health centres in the Municipality of Qasr Akhyar of Al Margeb district, east of the capital.

The WHO team toured the Al Amareen PHC Centre, Al Themmaneen PHC Centre, and COVID-19 Isolation Center, according to a statement by the organization on Facebook, on Wednesday.

During the visit, the WHO delegation held respective meetings with several health officials, including managers of PHC centers, pharmaceuticals store manager, vaccinations administrator, medical services manager of the municipality, and management of the local COVID-19 isolation center.

They also met with doctors on duties and members of rapid response teams who briefed the WHO team on the progress of their work and the issues confronting them.

The World Health Organization stressed the importance of fieldwork and the role of its teams on the ground, noting that it has activated a network of field coordinators throughout Libya.



Abu Salim Municipality has launched a campaign to help stem the tide of rising Covid-19 cases in the country.

The campaign kicked off on Tuesday morning under the slogan "Be knowledgeable" with the direct follow-up of the municipality's mayor, a statement by the Abu Salim Municipal Council said on Facebook.

The program of the campaign is being rolled out by the health and infection control operating room, the monitoring and response team of the municipality, and in cooperation with the National Center for Disease Control, the Youth Campaign Against Coronavirus, and the Scout and Guide Movement.

The municipality aims to raise awareness among citizens before the onset of winter and encourage people to adhere to the precautionary measures issued by the concerned authorities.

The activities included the distribution of posters, as well as sterilizing public places, while some were lucky enough to get a (swab test) to check if they were infected with Covid-19.

The Health Minister, Khalifa Al-Bakoush, said at a press briefing on Tuesday that the epidemiological situation in the country is daunting, blaming the social gatherings for the increase of Covid-19 cases during the last two weeks.

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A street gang in the Hafatr-controlled Benghazi attacked a security patrol while it was carrying out its duty on Sunday night, a source from the city reported.

The source, who preferred to stay anonymous, clarified that the mobsters opened fire at the patrol and shot the head of the detective division of the Criminal Investigation Department, causing injuries to both his left and right legs.

The notorious gang called "Biha" controls the neighbourhood of Abu Hadeema and is known for its involvement in drug activities.

The gang that holds the family's name of its members has joined Haftar's militias, which gave them easy access to arms and ammunition.

The city of Benghazi, in particular, and the eastern region in general, is experiencing a state of security chaos since it fell in Haftar's hands.



The desert town of Taraghin southwest of Libya has hosted the "Murzuq Dates Exhibition" with the participation of palm farmers, beekeepers, olive producers from various Libyan cities.

The exhibition, which was held at the Palms Hall in Taraghin, featured various displays of palm tree fruits, as well as associated industries.

Those who took part were awarded at the closing day special certificates for their participation by the sponsor of the exhibition "al-Ghaith" Organization for Development, Environment, and Charitable Activities.

The event was also attended by various heritage, art, and craft organizations, who enriched the exhibition by their distinctive hand made products.

The exhibition included other activities such as artistic performances, folk poetry, and songs, in addition to a traditional costume fashion show portrayed by children.



The Ministry of Education has finalized preparations for opening a school uniforms factory in Khoms city, east of Tripoli.

The factory is among the investment projects approved by the Board of Directors of the Social Solidarity Fund, affiliated with the Education Department of Khoms, the education Ministry explained on Facebook.

The regulations of the Social Solidarity Fund allow its governing board to carry out investment projects and benefit from the yields of that investment.

Many of the regional education departments have established the fund referred to under the Labour Act No. 12 of 2010, but the law was only activated in 2017.

The ministry reaffirmed it had dedicated its efforts to create a fund that would benefit teachers from all regions.

In this regard, the ministry has worked to develop a comprehensive uniform regulation of the fund and sought to obtain the approvals from the Ministry of Finance to ensure better health and social services for teachers, the Ministry of Education noted.



The Mayor of Suq al-Juma'a Municipality, Hisham bin Yosuf, discussed with the General Manager of the General Service Company, the mechanisms for starting the implementation of the projects contracted between the two parties.

"The meeting reviewed the problems and obstacles that hinder the implementation of projects and ways to solve them", the municipality clarified on its official Facebook page.

The meeting concluded that the stalled projects should be resumed immediately, including the completion of the implementation of the Al-Marghani Road, the implementation of a road in Al-Fateh district, the scraping of the Al-Gas Street road in preparation for paving it, and the paving of the road linking Al-Burj Street with the 20th Street of Ramadan in front of Al-Sorour Clinic, in addition to implementing Maintenance of road landings inside the municipality.

The municipality confirmed that the works had already started immediately after the end of the meeting.



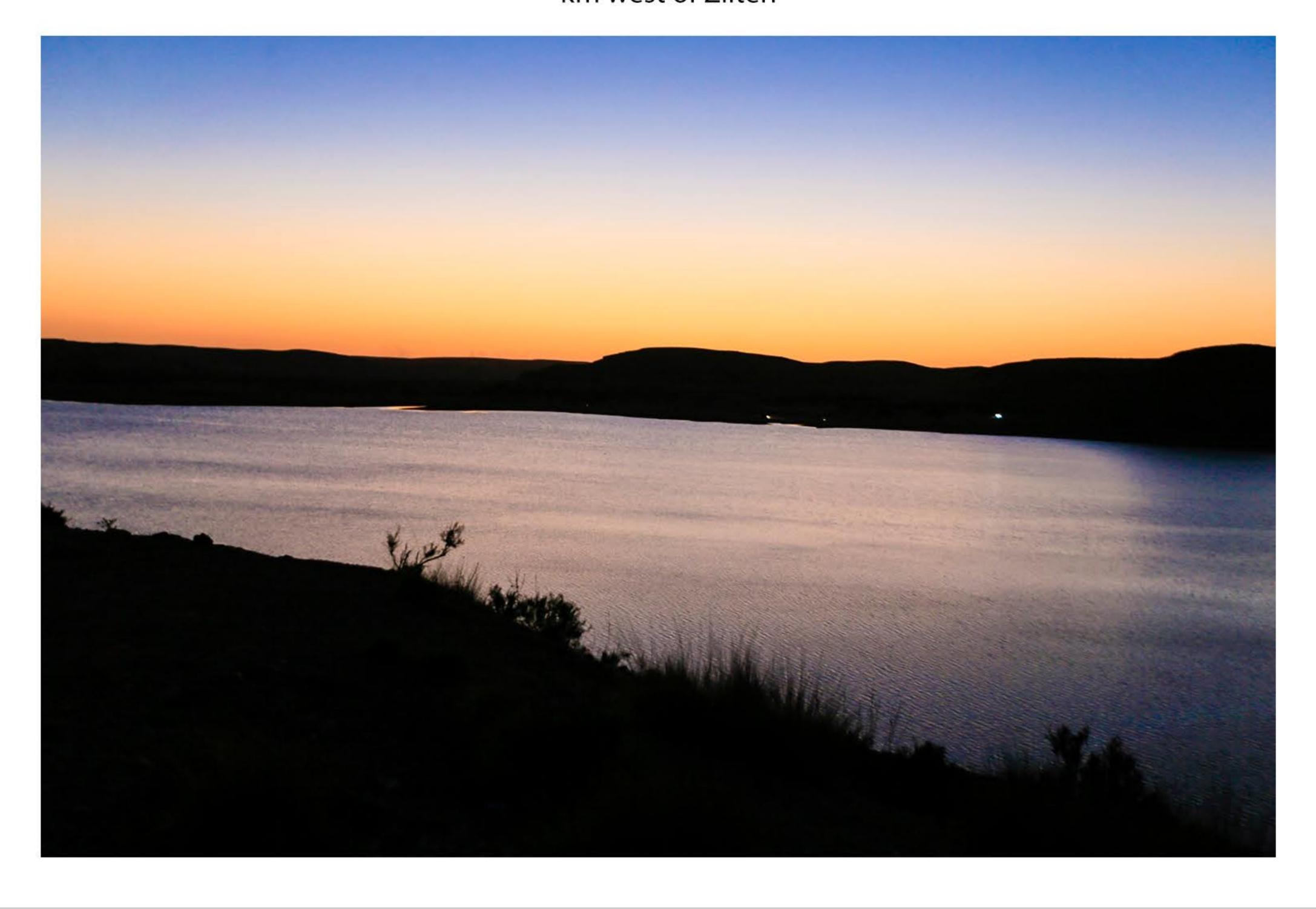
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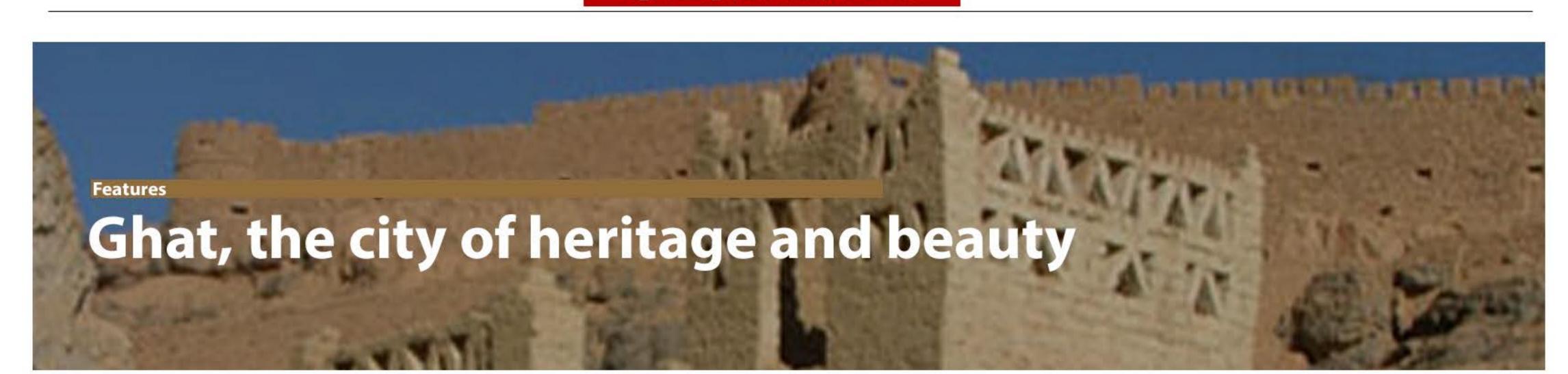
Tripoli Weather Forecast



Fri 23	28°/16°	Sunny	/ 0%	⇒ ESE 17 km/h
Sat 24	28° /18°	Mostly Sunny	/ 0%	
Sun 25	27° /18°	Partly Cloudy	/ 10%	⊰ NNW 13 km/h
Mon 26	27° /19°	Mostly Sunny	/ 10%	→ NE 13 km/h
Tue 27	26° /18°	Partly Cloudy	/ 10%	→ NE 18 km/h
Wed 28	23°/18°	Partly Cloudy	/ 20%	→ WNW 23 km/h
Thu 29	24° /18°	Mostly Sunny	/ 20%	→ NW 22 km/h

Photo of the Week: The Wadi Kaam Dam, an embankment dam located on Wadi Kaam, 22 km west of Zliten





Ghat is an ancient city, which is 1400 km away from the capital, Tripoli, and is located in the western Libyan desert on the outskirts of the Libyan-Algerian border. The city follows the Ghat governorate, which is its capital, and it has an airport for domestic flights.

Population

The inhabitants of the city are Tuareg and its population is approximately 32,000. Some of them are Amazigh, speaking and writing Amazighian language, using the Tifinagh or the ancient Libyan letters. The rest are speaking Arabic language and few of them are speaking the Hausa language because their origins are from Nigeria and Niger.

Origin of the name

The opinions differed about the origin of its name. Some people said that it comes from the rain (Ghaith), meaning that it helps the traveler in the desert and provides him with food and water. While others said that it is named after a religious man, named Guth, who used to live in the city, and when he died the city was named after him, and his grave is still in the old city of Ghat. However, the latter name is more likely among the people of Ghat.

History

Ghat is characterized by its geographical nature, with valleys, golden sands and mountains that border it from all directions. It contains an ancient Turkish fortress, which is surrounded by the ancient Acacus mountains range from the eastern side, at an altitude of not less than a thousand meters, in which the oldest mummy in the world was found and its name is (Wan Muhuggiag or Wan Mughjaj). It also has a number of villages belonging to it, and from the southern side, about 100 km away, there is the Tassili mountain range, which contains the oldest archaeological inscriptions dating back to 7,000 years BC and that area is considered one of the largest natural museums in the old days, the city was a route for trade caravans and was closely linked to the city of Timbuktu, which locates in the heart of the Sahara Desert.

Fortress of Ghat

The Fortress was built by the Ottoman Turks' Empire during their rule of Tripoli and Fezzan, and it destroyed by the Italian colonialists who occupied the city in 1913. It is not excluded that the French also used it during their occupation of Fezzan (1943-1952) after defeating the Italians in the last years of the Second World War. It has been rebuilt and is now a distinctive tourist attraction in the city. The road to the top of the fortress definitely passes through the paths of the ancient city of Ghat, 'Agram', standing at the top of Ghat Fortress can easily get a bird's-eye view of the city and the nearby palm plantations, as well as the Acacus Mountains, with their charming rock carvings, and golden sand dunes, whereas under the fortress' western wall there is an underground tunnel that might have been used in emergency situations, such as sieges.

Kaf Ajnoun Mountain (Mountain of Ghosts)

The mountain is 35 km from Ghat, and 25 km from Tahala, it is begin from the city of Ubari through the city of Ghat and even Algeria, which is about 600 km. And it is called by this name because of the many stories told by the people of Ghat that a lot of ghosts live in these mountains.

Acacus Mountains

What increases the importance of the tourist city of Ghat is that it is a major stop on the road of discovering the rock inscriptions in the Acacus and Tassili Mountains, which date back to past eras in the history of the inhabitants of the Sahara, and indicate the magnitude of climate change that has passed throughout the region. It has a large variation of landscapes, from different-colored dunes to arches, gorges, isolated rocks and valleys. Major landmarks include the arches of 'Afzejare' and 'Tin Khlega'. Although this area is one of the most arid in the Sahara, there is vegetation, such as the medicinal Calotropis procera. The area is famous for its ancient caves, and its rock art, which was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985 because of the importance of these paintings and carvings. The paintings date back to 21,000 years, which reflect the culture and nature of the changes in the area.

Ghat Festival

The people of Ghat hold a cultural and tourism festival for three days at the end of December, every year. The festival activities included artistic performances by folklore groups, camel races, in addition to artistic evenings accompanied by the songs of desert cities.

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