

Politics

Qatar, Turkey supported Libya in its toughest crisis, Al-Mishri says



The Head of the High Council of State of Libya Khalid Al-Mishri underlined that Qatar and Turkey were the only two countries to stand with Libya in its toughest crisis and difficult times.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the occasion of his visit to Doha, Al-Mishri said Qatar is a strategic ally of his country and has played a great role at all regional and international levels to stop the fighting in Libya and support the internationally-recognized legitimate authority.

"Qatar and Turkey were the only countries to stand by Libya in its crisis, especially when Haftar's forces were on the outskirts of Tripoli." He said, stressing the importance of continuous communication between brothers and friends in the current stage in particular.

Al-Mishri indicated that his visit to Qatar was preceded by visits by the Libyan Foreign and Interior Ministers, and that the Libyan Defense Minister will visit Doha next week.

He indicated that the visits aim at coordination between the Qatari and Libyan sides regarding the upcoming intra-Libyan talks after the ceasefire agreement, as the upcoming talks will determine the fate of Libya for a long time.

Al-Mishri stated that the position of Qatar stresses the need to adhere to the political solution in Libya and welcomes the ceasefire and the negotiations that will take place soon in Tunisia and all political tracks.

Al-Mishri held fruitful meetings with Qatari officials, including Emir Tamim pertaining to the future of the political situation in Libya, especially after the ceasefire agreement reached in Geneva.

It also said that they are not obliged to the outcomes of these dialogues, calling on UNSMIL to adhere to fairness in selecting the participants of the dialogues.

Earlier, the UNSMIL had invited 75 participants, saying that they represent all political and social spectrum of Libyan society.

Politics

Backup forces of Libyan Army demand legitimate status under National Guard



The backup forces and brigades of revolutionary fighters, who took part in Volcano of Rage Operation, loyal to the Government of National Accord (GNA) urged the House of Representatives and High Council of State in Tripoli to activate the formation of National Guard, which was agreed on in 2015, as it would cast legitimacy on the brigades of revolutionary fighters and backup forces.

The forces and revolutionaries called in a statement Saturday for speedy approval of a budget for the National Guard so it starts working on securing the country and in a way help collect the weapons spread among criminals and outlaws.

They also urged all revolutionary fighters and backup forces across Libya to thwart the "coup project" by joining the National Guard.

The revolutionary fighters and backup forces said their statement came in a time of deteriorated economy and bad living conditions as well as amid speedy political and military developments and dialogues in and out of Libya.

Politics

Libya's Amazigh Council rejects UNSMIL-sponsored dialogue



The Supreme Council for the Amazigh of Libya, mayors of Amazigh municipalities and notables of Amazigh regions have disapproved the methodology of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) regarding the Libyan crisis, and the mechanism for selecting participants in the political dialogue forum to be held in Tunisia.

The Supreme Council said in a statement that the UNSMIL is working "to destabilize Libya and prolong the crisis", adding that all previous and current dialogues sponsored by the UNSMIL do not have any representatives of the Libyan Amazigh.

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Politics

ICC urges Saif Gaddafi to surrender himself to Libyan authorities



The International Criminal Court (ICC) said Libya remains under an obligation to arrest and surrender Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi to be tried at The Hague, adding that the Prosecutor's Office notes that efforts made by the Government of National Accord (GNA) to date have not succeeded in securing his arrest and surrender. "As previously reported to the Council, on 5 May 2020, the Appeals Chamber unanimously rejected an appeal brought by Mr Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi against a decision issued by Pre-Trial Chamber I, confirming the admissibility of the case against him before the Court." ICC said in a statement Friday.

The ICC repeated its call to Saif Gaddafi to immediately surrender to the competent Libyan authorities so that he can be transferred to the court.

Meanwhile, the ICC welcomed the signing of a ceasefire agreement by the Libyan parties in Geneva on 23 October 2020 under the auspices of the United Nations, hoping that this would lead to peace, stability and accountability in Libya.

"The Office was able to make significant progress in its investigations and conducted a number of missions in the field, including two important missions to Libya. These missions strengthened the mutual cooperation with relevant national authorities and stakeholders and enabled the Office to collect important evidence." The statement reads.

The statement said the Prosecutor's Office informed the Security Council before that credible information established that forces associated with Khalifa Haftar carried out airstrikes that resulted in civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure, adding that it recently received credible reports indicating that mines have been used in the south of Tripoli of a type and in quantities not previously seen in Libya as part of crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law.

The ICC also called for the arrest and surrender of Mahmoud Al-Werfalli and Al-Tuhamy Khaled, saying: "Neither the civilian authorities in eastern Libya nor Haftar's have facilitated the arrest or surrender of Al-Werfalli to the Court, nor have they taken concrete steps to hold Al-Werfalli accountable for these alleged crimes. As a result, Mr Al-Werfalli remains at large in the Benghazi area." The statement reads.

"Pursuant to Resolution 1970 (2011), the Office urges all States to remind prominent commanders including Mr Aqila Saleh, Supreme Commander of the LNA and Mr Wanees Boukhmada, Commander of Al-Saiqa Brigade to take all the necessary steps to arrest and surrender Mr Al-Werfalli to the Court." It adds.

Politics

Libyan Defense Minister says Haftar must be tried for his crimes



The Ministry of Defense of the Government of National Accord (GNA) has rejected to include warlord Khalifa Haftar in any future solution to Libya's crisis.

The Minister of Defense, Salah Al-Din Al-Namroush, said in a statement on Sunday that Libyan army forces are committed to the truce sponsored by the international community, however warlord Haftar has tried since the previous declaration of the ceasefire, and for more than eight times, to violate it by continuing to mobilize forces and mercenaries and set up fortifications.

The statement reaffirmed that the joint military cooperation with the Turkish side and the training programs are continuing, confirming that the 5 + 5 Military Commission agreement does not affect the military cooperation with Turkey.

Politics

Libya, Qatar sign MoU to increase security and cooperation



Libya and Qatar signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Monday to strengthen cooperation in the field of security.

The signing came after a meeting in Doha, which brought together the Prime Minister of Qatar, Khalid Bin Khalifa Al-Thani and the Libyan Foreign Minister, Mohamed Sayala, along with the Minister of Interior, Fathi Bashaga.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed bilateral relations of cooperation between both countries and various aspects of its positive development in diverse fields, particularly within the field of security, whilst considering the latest developments on the situation in Libya.

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Economy

NOC inaugurates a new oilfield in Nalut

The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mustafa Sanallah, inaugurated on Friday the Sinoun oil field in Nalut, west of the country.

Sanallah said that "Sinoun is considered the first field to be developed after the revolution of the 17th of February 2011, as part of the corporation's plan to increase Libyan oil production".

He explained that the field will initially produce 10,000 thousand barrels of crude oil per day until it is developed to reach its maximum production capacity of 50,000 thousand barrels per day.

Economy

Fuel Crisis Committee stresses the need to limit fuel trade in parallel market



The Fuel Crisis Committee has emphasized the necessity of limiting the fuel and gas trade in the parallel market to ensure that it reaches citizens with sufficient daily needs, in addition to organize the work of distribution stations in all regions.

This came during the meeting of the head of the committee, Mohammad Fathallah, on Tuesday, with the directors of the operations departments of some oil services companies.

Fathallah stressed the need to work at the same pace that the committee has worked with over the past months in order to be able to perform the tasks assigned to it.



Economy

Libya, Malta sign MoU in maritime, aviation transport cooperation

Libyan airports authority of the Ministry of Transportation of the Government of National Accord said it had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Malta in maritime and aviation cooperation.

The MoU outlined Wednesday the resumption of flights between Libya and Malta via Mediava airliner with certain measures, especially amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. It also included the need to register one of Libya's airliners in Malta.

The MoU also says that Libya and Malta should amend the bilateral aviation agreement and the assistance of Maltese firms in training Libyan aviation cadres.

On August 06, Libya, Malta and Turkey announced agreement on joint cooperation, return of Maltese and Turkish firms to work in Libya, resumption of flights from Libya to Malta and Turkey, fighting human trafficking and smuggling and training Libyan coastguards.

Economy

Libyan Fatwa House calls for boycott of French products



The Libyan Fatwa House has called for a boycott of French goods in protest over President Emmanuel Macron's insults against Islam and the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him.

The Research Council of the Fatwa House issued a statement on Thursday calling all Muslims, consumers, and traders to boycott all French goods, including food and others.

"The boycotting weapon is painful and effective, and no one heeds to the frustrating and discouraging calls led by governments which had chosen to normalize ties with the Zionists," the statement read. The Fatwa House stressed the need to activate the boycott at all levels, including at official capacities and among the general public.

It also called on scholars, preachers, and elites to contribute to the campaign by educating people about their duty to defend their religious beliefs and sanctities.

President Emmanuel Macron defended in recent public statements the cartoon of Charlie Hebdo magazine of the Prophet Mohamed peace be upon him, which sparked anger among Arab and Muslim nations around the world.

In Libya, activists launched online campaigns calling for the boycott of French products by sharing lists of French brands that consumers should avoid.

They also circulated the application "Made in" in which the consumer could know the origin of products by scanning its code.

French-made products -from food to beauty items- have also been removed from display at many supermarkets in Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, and Egypt.

Meanwhile, many protests took place in Libya, Syria, and the Gaza Strip, Turkey, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, in addition to online calls for a similar step in other countries, including Saudi Arabia, the Arab world's largest economy.

Charlie Hebdo, which Macron insists on defending, is no stranger to such policy and language in its editorial line.

In 2015, the magazine published two cartoons depicting the Sinai air crash in which 224 people died.

A year later, the magazine went at it again and published a cartoon depicting Italian earthquake victims as pasta dishes, which provoked outrage across Italy.

Opinions

Turkey-Libya ties are becoming a game-changer in the region

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After Turkey and Libya's deal was registered by the UN the two sides have deepened their relationship.

Recently, the UN registered the Turkey-Libya deal on the delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas in the Mediterranean.

On November 27, 2019, Turkey and Libya's legitimate government, the GNA, signed two separate memorandums of understanding (MoU), one on military cooperation and the other on maritime boundaries of countries in the eastern Mediterranean. The agreement enables both Turkey and Libya to protect their rights and interests in the eastern Mediterranean waters.

Greece, Egypt, Israel and the Greek Cypriot Administration (GCA) have previously signed maritime agreements, excluding Turkey, to draw up their respective Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) in the eastern Mediterranean and starting their own exploration efforts.

Turkey, with the Libya deal, will have a significant impact on the energy geopolitics of the eastern Mediterranean. The deal is likely to restrict other coastal states' unwarranted greed for the eastern Mediterranean's resources.

Libya's Prime Minister Fayez al Sarraj recently declared his departure and willingness to hand over authority to a new government by the end of October – but that could change. Turkish President Erdogan recently described Sarraj's resignation decision as saddening.

According to Ibrahim Kalin, presidential spokesperson for the Turkish Presidency, Sarraj's decision to resign will not affect the country's cooperation and agreements with Turkey. "These agreements will not be affected by this political process because these are decisions taken by governments, not individuals," Kalin said.

Turning the tide

In recent months, there has been a drastic change on the ground in Libya, the UN-backed GNA, with significant support from Turkey, has broken the siege of Tripoli by Haftar's self-declared Libyan National Army (LNA), backed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, Russia and France.

The Turkish government helped the UN-backed government in a moment of need while other countries have mostly failed to give practical support to the GNA, despite their official stances of recognising it as the legitimate government entity. As a result, Turkey has become a more reliable partner for GNA against Haftar and his backers. Turkey has become a vital factor in Libya internally and also on a global stage.

Most recently, Libya's UN-backed GNA and the Turkish government met in Istanbul with strong representation on both sides. They agreed to boost cooperation in security, defence, economic and investment fields. Since Libya's UN-backed government signed a military corporation agreement with Turkey, the operational capacity of the GNA has developed, and Ankara continues to support Libyans in training and consultations in security and military fields.

Turkey could provide more resources, including exploration and drilling operations in order to increase oil production in the country. Libya has unique advantages as an oil producer, and its reserves remain significant: with over 48 billion barrels, or just under 3 percent of the world's total, the deposit is Africa's largest.

The Libyan economy has experienced a serious decline because of fighting over the control of oil fields, naturally resulting in a decline in production. However, Libya's oil output has recently risen to 295,000 barrels following a truce and the lifting of a blockade on energy facilities. Intra-Libyan meetings

The majority of Libyans seem to remain uneasy that current backroom deals could fail and reignite the conflict. Over the past four years, attempts to find a political settlement to Libya's ongoing conflict have failed at several conferences. However, the latest ceasefire call might serve as an incentive to a formal agreement between eastern Parliament (HoR) and the UN-backed GNA in the 5+5 Joint Military Commission talks that are ongoing in Geneva as part of the Berlin Peace Process.

The shaky truce declarations, which are still in place, were welcomed by a range of foreign actors including Turkey, Italy and the US but were met with scepticism by Haftar's LNA. The warlord Haftar rejects the idea of enforcing a demilitarised zone in Sirte, which was proposed by the UN and some international actors.

There are a number of potential spoilers, chiefly from eastern Libya, where the prime suspect seems to be Haftar who has made it clear that he is not willing to compromise and is insistent on retaining control over Sirte and Jufra district.

Haftar has failed miserably to capture the capital and his defeat in Tripoli was not just a military humiliation, it also led to the collapse of narratives as he was trying to sell himself as a strongman, yet he still has enough military power to spoil the ongoing peace negotiations.

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

Ministry of Health set dates of compulsory vaccination for school students

Libyan Health Ministry started on Saturday the compulsory integrated vaccination program for school students.

The Ministry's Vaccination Department said that the program includes students in the age of 6 years, 15 years and 12 years in all vaccination facilities.

The National Center for Disease Control called on the Ministry of Education last September to coordinate with it to start vaccinating school students during the new academic year (2020-2021).



Health

NOC supports Zuwara municipality to combat Coronavirus

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) delivered on Sunday medical equipment and operating supplies to the municipality of Zuwara.

These efforts were part of the sustainable development programs that are provided to support municipalities, under the sponsorship of the Italian oil company Eni, NOC said on its official Facebook page.

It added that the equipment includes a PCR, 10,000 tests, and other supporting equipment.

Health

Doctors call on PC to declare all deceased medical personnel due to Coronavirus 'martyrs of duty'



The Syndicate of Doctors in Libya called on the Presidential Council (PC) to issue a statement, declaring all doctors and nurses, who lost their lives to the Coronavirus pandemic whilst performing their work, 'martyrs of duty'.

The syndicate also expressed regret at the failures attributed to the newly appointed Minister of Health to undertake his duties as expected whilst voicing their extreme concern for the position of Undersecretary of the Ministry remaining vacant, particularly in light of the present extreme circumstances facing the health sector.

Crimes

Libyan Interior Ministry frees a citizen after 11 days of his kidnapping



The Ministry of Interior has liberated a citizen after a gang stormed his home and kidnapped him for 11 days for a ransom. The Ministry added that its forces arrested on Monday the persons involved in this crime and referred them to the Office of the Attorney General to take the necessary judicial measures.

Crimes

Four new mass graves discovered in Libya's Tarhuna



The General Authority of Searching for the Missing has discovered four more mass graves in the city of Tarhuna.

The authority said in a statement that "the search teams have begun exhuming bodies from the new sites and their numbers will be announced upon completion of the recovery process".

It added that the total number of bodies recovered from the areas of Tarhuna and the south of Tripoli after Haftar's aggression has reached 114.



Crimes

GECOL announces theft of 1050 meters of copper wire in Qasr bin Ghashir district

The General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) announced on Saturday the theft of 1050 meters of copper wires on Al-Marazeeq Line in Qasr bin Ghashir district.

"Several regions in the country witnessed electricity components theft, which further complicates the condition of the public grid", GECOL said.

Earlier, GECOL announced the replacement of many dilapidated power stations with new ones and maintenance of many transformers in the medium-voltage network.



Local

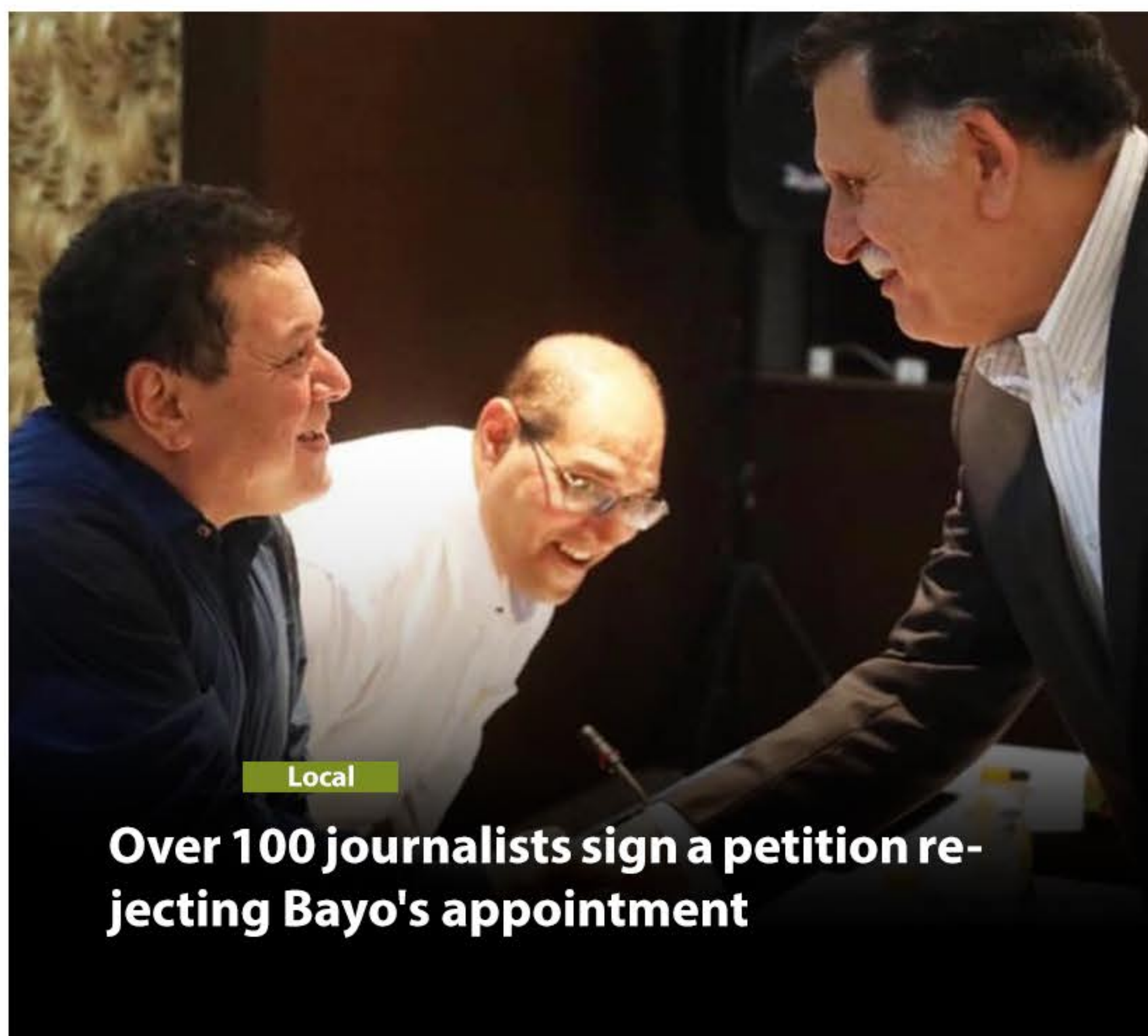
Herds of camels claim lives of travelers on Oil Crescent Road

Residents of the Oil Crescent area have complained about the herds of camels that spread in abundance near the traffic road for cars, which caused fatal traffic accidents, according to them.

They also demanded the competent authorities to take deterrent measures against the owners of camel herds.

A security source called in a press statement, all car drivers to take precautions while driving on the road linking Ajdabiya and the areas of the Oil Crescent.

It is noteworthy that the Ajdabiya - Ras Lanuf road witnessed the death of a citizen, after his vehicle collided with a camel without a shepherd, as there are no barriers preventing camels from crossing the road.



Local

Over 100 journalists sign a petition rejecting Bayo's appointment

More than 100 journalists signed on Saturday a petition rejecting the decisions of the Presidential Council regarding the establishment of the Media Foundation and the appointment of Mohammad Bayo to head it.

The journalists confirmed in a statement their rejection from the beginning of these two decisions, which completely contradict the freedom of press.

They also demanded to withdraw the two decisions, in addition to the restoring and building of the Media Foundation, to be governed by a code of honor and regulated by advanced laws that guarantee freedom of expression and facilitate the flow of information.



Local

Agricultural Police arrest aggressors on public land in Sabratha

The Ministry of the Interior, in coordination with agricultural Police Service and the Sabratha Security Directorate, organized a campaign to arrest the aggressors on public lands in the city.

According to the Ministry of the Interior, the sites included the Al-Kroum project in the northern forest, known as the Fanar forest, the lands adjacent to the medical company, the quarries on the beach, in addition to the Talil forest, and the Sabratha National Park.

"All violations were seized at the sites and all legal measures were taken", the Ministry said.

weather



Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 06	25°/15°		Partly Cloudy	10%	E 12 km/h
Sat 07	24°/16°		Mostly Sunny	10%	NE 13 km/h
Sun 08	24°/15°		Mostly Sunny	10%	ENE 12 km/h
Mon 09	24°/15°		Mostly Sunny	10%	E 9 km/h
Tue 10	24°/15°		Partly Cloudy	0%	E 11 km/h
Wed 11	24°/15°		Partly Cloudy	10%	NE 10 km/h
Thu 12	24°/16°		Partly Cloudy	10%	WNW 9 km/h

Photo of the Week: Man fishing with a spinning rod on a beach in Tripoli



Features

Libyan Cuisine: Couscous Aslooz

Cheap and Cheerful are the best words to introduce this lovely meal. Couscous Aslooz is a popular Libyan dish, especially in the west region of the country.

It is a vegetarian economical dish composed of steamed Couscous, carrot sauce and the plant Aslooz.

The Aslooz weed grows wild and is not a cultivated farm crop; it can be picked off the side road in the countryside or in the mountains.

Since it has a short growing season between January and February and apparently, it is not available in America and European countries, you could enjoy Couscous Aslooz at any time of year and anywhere by using other similar weeds, for instance, you could use carrots and cumin leaves, or If you are a resident of Europe you could try asparagus or broccoli that will give you similar results.

It is considered as a perfect family food that was meant to be prepared, cooked and served with family, for preparing the meal we use only the tender twigs and the flowery branches, after washing it several times and chopping it firmly, it is placed in a steamer with a pinch of salt and steamed for a while before adding the Couscous on top of it and steamed again until the twigs are nicely cooked and tender.

To prepare the carrot sauce, boil the carrots in the water under the steamer while cooking the Couscous and then mash them and season them with a generous quantity of lemon juice, garlic, spherical, Asperger, tomato paste and chili pepper to give it a spicy twist. Lower your ingredients from the heat and just bring together and mix, leaving some of the sauce for topping and decoration.

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