

Politics

Grand Mufti: UN Mission crossed Libyans and turned into a ruler of the country



The Grand Mufti of Libya, Sheikh Al-Sadeq Al-Gharyani said that the UN mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has turned into a ruler of the country, giving itself powers contrary to the law, instead of being a guardian of the law.

Speaking in his weekly program on Tanasuh TV, he added that the UNSMIL neglected the Libyans by selecting their representatives who obey their orders in the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum.

"This will lead to a repeat of the Skhirat dialogue and its disastrous results", Sheikh Al-Gharyani explained, calling on the Libyan Army's Volcano of Rage Operation to prepare for the war that is being plotted against them.

Politics

Abu Sahmain: Participants of Libyan Political Dialogue Forum have no knowledge of the agenda



The former speaker of the General National Congress and Leader of the Ya Baladi Party, Nuri Abu Sahmain, said on Saturday that he had received an offer to be a member of the new Presidential Council for the western region, pointing out that the UN Mission contacted him before April 04, 2019 to attend the Ghadames conference.

Speaking to a group of politicians, activists and media organizations in Tripoli to discuss the current situation in Libya, Abu Sahmain explained that he requested the UN Mission to provide the agenda and the details for that conference, but he didn't obtain any clarifications.

Commenting on the UN-sponsored Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, to be held in Tunisia this week, he challenged the participants to know the agenda.

Abu Sahmain reviewed during the Saturday meeting, the party's vision of recent political events, giving a briefing on his visits and dialogues with some countries and organizations and Libyan personalities.

He described the party in his speech as "an ambition for sincere patriots to express their hopes and fulfill their needs", explaining that the establishment of the party came as a result of the complexity of the political scene in the last five years.

He clarified that the Ya Baladi Party is working on taking advantage of the previous governments' mistakes in the political experience, the sovereignty of the homeland and the fragmentation that occurred, pointing out that there are some basics and principles will be re-focused on in a pragmatic way.

He also expressed his hope that the same mistakes that imposed a bitter reality on the Libyan people from the distress of living, the war on Tripoli and the violation of national sovereignty would not be repeated.

In response to a political blogger's request to hold Abu Sahmain accountable for the "millions" he paid to the Benghazi and Derna revolutionaries during the Benghazi war, he said that he feared being held accountable for lack of support them against Khalifa Haftar's militias, expressing his regret at the lack of support had led to the loss of the two cities.

Politics

Libyan political dialogue kicks off in Tunisia with new government atop the agenda



Libyan Political Dialogue Forum started Monday in Tunisia with 75 Libyan negotiators representing political, regional and social components across the country under the auspices of the UN Support Mission.

The UN acting envoy to Libya Stephanie Williams, in the presence of Tunisian President, said in her opening statement that they are firmly moving forward in the various tracks of solution under the auspices of the UNSMIL.

Williams thanked the members of the dialogue for their efforts and cooperation in order to come together in Tunisia and attempt to reach a consensual solution to the Libyan crisis.

She also indicated that the path to the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum wasn't an easy one, commending the cooperation of the 5+5 joint military commission, which was later named the commission of 10, saying it was very helpful in leading to this dialogue.

Williams said the upcoming new government will pave the way for holding elections and launching anti-corruption and reconciliation work across Libya, saying the failure to resolve any conflict on the dialogue's table would make it impossible to resolve in the future.

Meanwhile, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in a message to the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum participants that they hold the key to Libya's future and that all parties should make concessions to reach a solution to the crisis.

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Politics

Libyan Technocrats Assembly: UNSMIL is prolonging the crisis in Libya



The Libyan Technocrats Assembly (LTA), one of the political parties in the country, has accused the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) of “marketing delusions” to the Libyan people by signing agreements that cannot be applied on the ground.

LTA said in a statement that UNSMIL is “practising international guardianship” over Libya and it does not have any mechanisms to implement the ceasefire agreement.

It noted that the UNSMIL does not have the right to manage the Libyan affairs, explaining that the UN mission “imposes its will” on Libyans without regard to most of the political and social entities in Libya.

“UNSMIL is selecting participants in the Libyan dialogue according to personal relations and interests, which does not serve the Libyan people,” read the statement, adding that the UNSMIL is complicating the situation and prolonging the crisis in Libya.

LTA expected that the UNSMIL would “install” a new Presidential Council and form a quota government to “proclaim” victory in solving the Libyan crisis.

Cartoon: French president Macron attacks Islam



Politics

Turkey continues training program for Libyan forces

The Turkish newspaper Yeni Safak has revealed that Turkey is continuing its training program to Libyan forces in five training centres, at the request of the Government of National Accord, in order to establish the Libyan regular army and to raise the level of its forces to international standards.

The newspaper added that more than 2,000 Libyan soldiers have received special training in many fields, clarifying that these training courses last from four weeks to six weeks.

It also said that approximately 500 candidates from the Libyan Police are scheduled to receive training, pointing out that 30 employees of the Libyan Ministry of Interior are receiving special operations training, in addition to 1,200 soldiers are studying in Turkey in the current time.

“It is decided that the Libyan army students will continue receiving education in military schools in the new academic year”, the newspaper added.

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Economy

LAAHCO to amend A350 deal with Airbus

The General Assembly of the Libyan African Aviation Holding Company (LAAHCO) held its first meeting for the year 2020, chaired by the Minister for Transport, Milad Matouq.

The meeting reviewed the deal reached with Airbus to purchase A350 aircraft.

LAAHCO said in a statement that the General Assembly discussed the initial go-ahead by Airbus regarding the amendment to the deal and replacing the A350 aircraft with the A330-A321-A320 models.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of attracting both national and international investors to purchase new jets.



Economy

Production of oil exceeds one million barrels per day

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) said on Saturday that the rate of oil production has exceeded one million barrels per day, pointing out that the credit for this great achievement is due to the workers in the oil sector in various Libyan regions.

The NOC indicated that it is facing a financial strain and a great shortage in its budgets, which has led to the accumulation of debts on the sector companies, which has led to delays in payment of salaries of its service companies.

The corporation warned that it may not be capable of maintaining the current levels of production, as it is very possible that it would have to decrease or completely stop its output in light of the lack of cooperation of some parties, which obstructed the corporation's efforts to increase its production and revive the nation's economy.



Economy

NOC: September and October oil revenues reach over 347 million dollars

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced in a statement on Friday that the revenues of crude oil and derived products reached 347.1 million dollars during the months of September and October of this year, showing a downward compared to the same period during 2019 as the revenues reached 3.7 billion dollars.

NOC recorded a slight increase in revenues during October, after the status of force majeure was lifted at the port of Al-Harika and Brega, in addition to the resumption of exports as of September 24th.

NOC's Chairman Mustafa Sanallah expected a significant increase in revenues during the months of November and December, as a result of the gradual resumption of oil operations.

Sanallah also cautioned that the NOC is facing challenges represented in the lack of funding that it needs, which affects the maintenance of regular production levels, according to the statement.

Economy

NOC and Italy's Eni discuss development of Al-Buri offshore oilfield



The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mustafa Sanallah has discussed with the Chief Operating Officer of the Italian Eni Group, Alessandro Puliti, the resumption of the second phase of developing Al-Buri offshore oilfield.

The NOC said in a statement that the meeting reviewed issues related to the project, financially, legally, technically and logistically, as well as the current challenges represented in the lack of funding that the NOC needs.

The NOC and Eni Group confirmed the strategic cooperation between the two sides which extends to nearly fifty years, hoping to extend it for the development of the oil and gas sector in Libya.

Opinions

Before power-sharing deals, Libyans must define a national vision

By Maruan El Krekshi, Head of Crisis Management Initiative's Middle East & North Africa desk in Helsinki, Finland

Credit: This article was first published by The Africa Report on October 26, 2020



The military stalemate in Libya has revived political talks under the auspices of the UN. But they seem to be directed at maintaining the current transitional governing institutions.

That approach risks prolonging the life of institutions that many Libyans see as illegitimate and ineffective.

Instead there should be much greater emphasis on supporting Libyans to identify an inclusive national path towards establishing a constitutional order.

Nine years have past since the fall of the Gaddafi regime in 2011, and Libyans are still struggling to find their way out of a conflict that has become increasingly embroiled with regional rivalry, while ruining a country that used to score highest on the UN Human Development Index in the African continent.

Libya now has a generation of youth of an average of 19 years old, that have experienced in their formative years nothing but armed conflict. The heritage of the Gaddafi era Jamahiriya system, while relatively positive from a development perspective, has been disastrous from a governance perspective for the Libyan state.

The governance system enforced in the Great Peoples' Libyan Arab Jamahiriya since 2 March 1977, was by design anti-institutional, and ultimately led to the concentration of power in the hands of Gaddafi.

This governance model did not undergo reforms that would have enabled the system to evolve, despite a relatively short period in the late 1990s whereby Saif Al Gaddafi was allowed to spearhead Tommorrow's Libya Libya Al Ghad) project, which was flirting with the idea of re-establishing a constitution in Libya as well as liberalising the state dominated economy.

The old guard, and most notably key figures of the revolutionary committees that were tasked to enforce the Jamahiriya system and that were the main beneficiaries of state resources, managed to block these attempts at reform.

'The institutionalisation of corrupt practices'

The 2011 uprising, which started peacefully, calling for democratic change, quickly became militarised following attempts at military repression by Gaddafi's loyalist forces, as well as the consequence of UN sanctioned NATO military intervention that ultimately led to the fall of the Gaddafi regime.

Ever since, the hopes of the Libyan people for a more dignified life are becoming more and more elusive, with a proliferation of armed groups and the high-jacking of key state institutions by interest groups advancing narrow sub-national or external interests, and with a high degree of predatory inclinations towards state assets and resources.

This has led to the institutionalisation of corrupt practices and an intensification of armed conflict around control of key oil production facilities, as well as competition over the control of so-called sovereign institutions such the Central Bank, the National Oil Corporation and Libyan Investment Authority.

Libyans today, instead of hoping for democracy, are hoping for electricity, security, and minimum liquidity to feed their families.

Following the demise of the Jamahiriya system in 2011, national and international efforts aimed at steering the country towards a new democratic political order have failed.

One of the key shortcomings has been the absence of an inclusive national process to lay the foundation for the vision of a new Libya.

Instead, there has been revolutionary zeal by the winners of the 2011 civil war, that translated into the adoption of punitive legislation such the Political Isolation law, as well as an over-reliance on elections as an instrument to provide legitimacy to transitional governing institutions. Three general elections conducted since 2012, have reinforced political polarisation rather than the legitimacy of governing institutions.

The main reason is that the UN supported transition process emphasised power-sharing modalities, and did not pay enough attention to the establishment of a new social contract in Libya.

No c^onstitution since 1969

The Libyan state has been governed without a constitution since 1969, after the Gaddafi military coup abolished the independence-era constitution.

[Follow next page](#)

Following the 2011 toppling of the Gaddafi regime, the national debate has revolved around two approaches to re-establish constitutional order: return to the independence era constitution with a possibility to reform it, or elect a Constitution Drafting Assembly following the footsteps of the UN supported pre-independence era 60 member constitutional committee, that drafted Libya's independence constitution in 1951.

The latter approach prevailed, and elections for the selection of the Constitution Drafting Assembly (CDA) were conducted in 2014. However, the elections were conducted in a tense atmosphere with only 498,000 Libyans voting out of three million registered voters.

Thus, the legitimacy of the CDA was put in question from the onset, and the subsequent further deterioration of the security situation meant that the CDA developed a constitutional draft without broad national consultations.

The initial timeline for submitting the constitutional draft for referendum is long overdue. There is a need for concerted efforts to complete the constitutional process.

To its credit, the UN envisaged National Conference that was due to take place in April 2019, had the constitutional process as one of its key agenda items.

Unfortunately, the conference which was prepared over a period of 18 months, had to be cancelled following the military attack of Khalifa Haftar affiliated forces on Tripoli before the start of the conference.

The current military stalemate in Libya has created a renewed momentum to revive the political process under the auspices of the UN. However, the outcome of various preparatory rounds of talks held in Morocco, Egypt and Switzerland seem to be directed at maintaining the current transitional governing institutions that emanated from the UN mediated 2015 Libyan Political Agreement, and reforming their composition by introducing geographical selection criteria.

Such an approach will prolong the life of institutions that are seen as illegitimate and ineffective in the eyes of many Libyans.

Bottom line

Instead of subjecting Libyans to yet another transitional governance formula based on short term power sharing interests, the international community should put greater emphasis on supporting Libyans to identify an inclusive national path towards establishing a constitutional order.

Libyans need to rebuild their common house before deciding who will rule the house.

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



UNICEF: Lives of Libyan children at risk due to shortage of vaccines

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has warned of severe shortages of basic crucial vaccines in Libya due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus, which led to the closure of borders and restriction of movement.

In a statement, UNICEF pointed out that 200 vaccine sites, chosen from Libya's 700 sites, showed that each of the 200 sites were low on the BCG vaccine, used to protect children against tuberculosis (TB).

"There were also exceptionally low quantities of the Hexavalent vaccine, used to protect against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, haemophilus B and hepatitis B," read the statement.

UNICEF noted that polio and measles vaccines were rapidly diminishing and would be depleted by the end of this year unless urgent measures are undertaken to replenish the vital vaccines.



Al-Hadba Hospital utilizes an advanced cardiac catheterization device

Al-Hadba General Hospital announced the use of a revolutionary new device in the Cardiac Catheterization Department, which uses sound waves on the coronary artery of the heart.

This is the first time for this device to be used in Libya, as the hospital explained on Tuesday.

The device is used to examine the internal condition of the coronary artery in terms of narrowing and possible deposits inside the artery, with an accuracy of up to a quarter of a millimetre.

The Cardiac Catheterization Department at Al-Hadba General Hospital recorded on January 29 the highest rate of these procedures and general heart surgery taking place in the hospital in more than a decade.



Training

Korean Ambassador promises to support Libya for training purposes

The Minister for Labour and Rehabilitation, Al-Mahdi Al-Amin, held discussions with the Ambassador of South Korea on supporting the Libyan-Korean Center to continue implementing its training programs.

The meeting, which was held in Tripoli, included a strenuous review of the training programs which the Ministry of Labour intends to hold.

The Meeting included an inspection tour throughout the Center to ascertain its requirements and the way to provide them.

The Korean Ambassador confirmed that his country would increase its support for the Center in order to ensure the continuation of the training process and increase the capacity for training.



Education

Libya's Diplomatic Institute resumes studies

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on Monday the resumption of studies at the Diplomatic Institute, in implementation of the institute's training plan for the year 2020.

The Ministry clarified that the courses for the second semester of the 16th class of diplomatic attaches started on October 31 after completing a training program in the field of protocol, etiquette, information security, international relations, and diplomatic terminology.

It added that the classes will continue until December 15, 2020.



Crimes

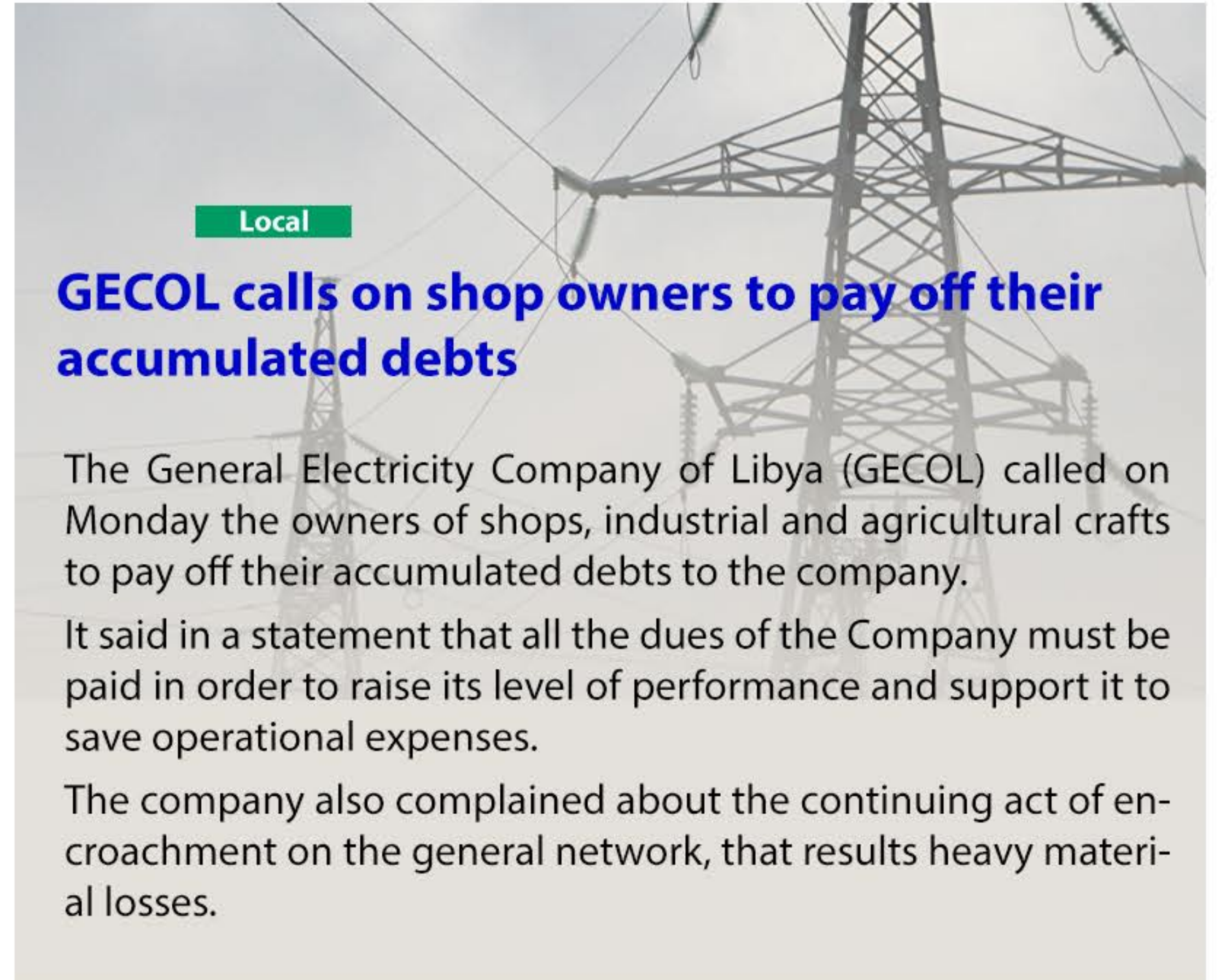
Body of former Libyan Interior Ministry official found in a Tarhouna mass grave

The Interior Minister of the Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) Fathi Bashagha said the body of Mabrouk Khalaf; the former director of information and follow-up office at the Ministry, was found in a mass grave in Tarhouna.

Bashagha said on Twitter that Brigadier General Mabrouk was killed by Al-Kani militia and was found in a mass grave in Tarhouna, stress-

stressing the need for local and international accountability for the "gang of Al-Kani for their heinous crimes and terrorist acts."

Meanwhile, the general authority for finding the missing said the number of bodies recovered from the last five mass graves reached 17, including remains. This came after the announcement of unearthing of the new mass graves in Tarhouna on Thursday.



Local

GECOL calls on shop owners to pay off their accumulated debts

The General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) called on Monday the owners of shops, industrial and agricultural crafts to pay off their accumulated debts to the company.

It said in a statement that all the dues of the Company must be paid in order to raise its level of performance and support it to save operational expenses.

The company also complained about the continuing act of encroachment on the general network, that results heavy material losses.



Crimes

Female lawyer Hanan Barasi murdered in Libya's Benghazi

Lawyer Hanan Barasi has been killed on Street 20 in the city center of Benghazi in eastern Libya as gunmen have opened fire on her once she got out of her car, sources from Benghazi said Tuesday.

The sources said the gunmen were in three cars and then three men were seen getting out of the cars and shooting Barasi on a busy Benghazi street.

The lawyer said many times that she had received murder threats if she would keep on talking about the misbehavior of officials in Benghazi.

Barasi has been accusing officials in eastern Libya of corruption and stealing public money, appearing in social media footage lately with women accusing officials under Khalifa Haftar's command of sexual harassment in order for them to get the money allocated for their late husbands who died fighting for Haftar in Tripoli war.

Despite being a staunch Haftar supporter, Barasi started a campaign of criticism lately against the warlord and his sons, threatening in her last footage to scandalize Saddam Haftar's military promotion and his family's newly-gained wealth.

Two days ago, the lawyer appeared in a footage saying her daughter escaped a murder attempt, adding that she would say who is behind it amid attempts of pro-Haftar officials to silence her.

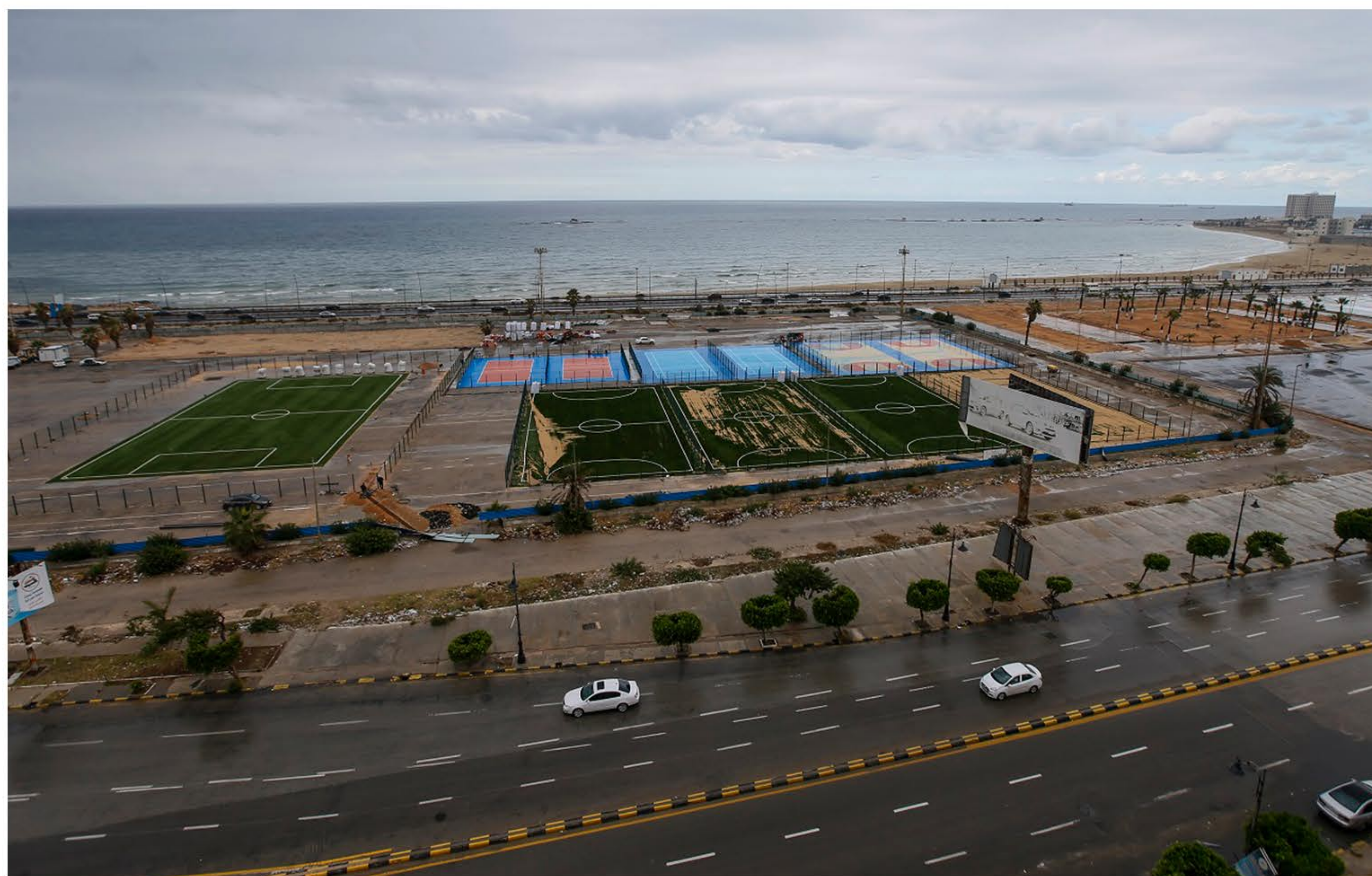
weather



Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 13	23°/14°	Partly Cloudy	20%	NW 9 km/h
Sat 14	23°/14°	Mostly Sunny	10%	W 8 km/h
Sun 15	24°/14°	Partly Cloudy	10%	WSW 10 km/h
Mon 16	24°/14°	Partly Cloudy	10%	WNW 10 km/h
Tue 17	23°/16°	AM Showers	30%	NNW 13 km/h
Wed 18	22°/16°	AM Showers	50%	NW 15 km/h
Thu 19	22°/16°	AM Showers	50%	NW 19 km/h

Photo of the Week: The Sports Authority has transformed Tripoli's former Girls' Military College into a sports compound



Features

Libyan Cuisine: Sharba



The classic Libyan soup, Sharba, is an inevitable dish on the Libyan Ramadan table. It's a starter to the rest of the menu and intended just to whet the appetite.

It is all about combining various ingredients in a large pot to create a nutritious simple to-make dish.

Sharba contains meat of any sort, could be lamb, beef, chicken or fish, grains of chickpeas, onion, tomatoes and spices that are usually used in most Libyan dishes, no creamy consistency involved, typically, Libyan soups are mainly broths.

This soup has a base of only water with no extra stock needed. As the soup cooks, flavours from those ingredients are released into the broth, whichever meat you choose to throw in, the flavor will show off and make the taste, and if you could add a few chunks of liver and kidney with the lamb meat, enjoy! It truly is a mouthwatering dish to make.

After the meat is cooked, add birds tongue noodles, as called in Libya, tiny pieces of pasta shaped like a birds tongue, gently simmer for another five to seven minutes, then finish with a hand full of fresh chopped parsley, leave to stand and sprinkle some dried, grounded mint leaves on top, serve hot or warm along with bread and lemon zest.

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