

Politics

Surviving Derna residents protest negligence, call for toppling HoR



A crowd of surviving people gathered Monday afternoon in front of Al-Sahaba Mosque in Derna demanding the overthrow of the House of Representatives and its Speaker Aqila Saleh, and the Municipal Council of the city of Derna, holding them responsible for the extent of the damage and the number of victims because of their corruption.

The protesters called on Libyans in the rest of the country to take to the streets and protest against the existing political bod-

ies, and to consider the Derna disaster as a starting point for change, expressing their pride in the popular stance in support of Derna, and appreciating the world's sympathy with them, especially the rescue teams' work.

The protesters called on the Attorney General to investigate the city's calamity and hold those who neglected Derna accountable, stressing the need to dismiss and replace the steering council of the city, as well as to refer it for investigation.

The residents, in the city where Storm Daniel hit the hardest leaving thousands dead and other thousands missing, confirmed that the Municipal Council was imposed on the city despite its people's rejection.

Meanwhile, the Speaker of the HoR, Aqila Saleh, was the one who personally appointed Abdelmonem Al-Ghaithi as Chairman of the Steering Council of the Municipality of Derna, shortly after Haftar's forces had taken control of the city in late 2018.

Politics

Libyan Local Governing Minister: Extra month's salary to be paid for employees in disaster areas



The Minister of Local Government in the Government of National Unity, Badr Al-Deen Al-Toumi, confirmed that Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah had decided to disburse an additional month's salary to employees in the affected municipalities to be paid with September's salary.

Al-Toumi added in a press conference that September's salaries of public sector employees across the country would be transferred to the Central Bank of Libya this week, Hakomitna platform said on Sunday.

Al-Toumi, who is the head of the Dbeibah government's emergency and rapid response team, indicated that the PM requested to begin disbursing the fourth quarter of the wife and children's grant, in the same week, explaining that the priority was for citizens in the eastern region.

Regarding the registration of the damaged buildings, Al-Toumi spoke about assigning the Survey Authority to register the areas of the affected areas, and to determine the number of damaged buildings and residents in the affected areas. He pointed out that cases of contamination of drinking water had increased to 150 cases in the east as a result of being mixed with sewage, according to the National Center for Disease Control, which declared a state of emergency for an entire year in the floods-ravaged area.

Al-Toumi said that the Ministry of Health sent 63 containers of medical supplies to the branches of the Medical Supply Authority, bringing the total containers sent to the east to 99. Meanwhile, teams from the Ministry of Justice took DNA samples from 360 bodies.

The Minister of Health in the government appointed by the House of Representatives, Othman Abdel Jalil, said last Friday that the Public Prosecution was currently continuing to take samples from the bodies to match them with the DNA of their families in order to identify the bodies.

Politics

AG: Investigations into collapse of dam involve government officials



The Attorney General, Al-Siddiq Al-Sour on Wednesday said that officials from the present administration would be involved in the investigation into the collapse of the Derna Dam.

Al-Sour pledged to take all necessary measures to ensure justice is served and to bring those responsible to account.

Negligence and financial corruption have been ongoing issues for a long time, says Al-sour, indicating that investigations will encompass the actions of prior administrations spanning over the past two decades. The AG called on the executive authorities to create an appropriate environment for the prosecution to complete the investigation procedures. However, he did not give a specific deadline for the completion of the process.

"Had measures been taken during the past several years, the Derna disaster could have been averted," Al-Sour said, stressing that the tragedy that struck the city requires a review of contracts for other dams. According to the AG, the investigations will also include the Water and Water Resources Authority and the Derna Reconstruction Committee.

Politics

Youth Minister tells UN General Assembly: Derna disaster united Libyans



The Minister of Youth of the Government of National Unity (GNU), Fathallah Al-Zeni, addressed the UN General Assembly, saying that the Derna disaster resulting from the floods that swept the city and the Jabal Al-Akhdar areas over a week ago had united Libyans, indicating that the people now no longer needed weapons, after criticizing the negative international intervention in Libya, a statement by the Ministry of Youth said on Facebook.

Al-Zeni delivered Libya's speech at the 78th session of the General Assembly in New York on Thursday after the Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, and the Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, apologized for not participating this year due to the flood disaster that the eastern regions of Libya was witnessing.

At the beginning of his speech, Al-Zeni offered his condolences to the Libyan people

and the families of the victims of the massive floods in the east of the country, especially Derna, Al-Bayda and Sousse. He also offered his condolences and sympathy to the Moroccan king, government and people after the earthquake that struck several Moroccan cities two weeks ago.

Al-Zani said, "The Libyans and the entire world woke up on the morning of Sunday, September 10, to a terrible scene and a major disaster that befell the city of Derna. We were astonished by the disasters below it that spread around the cities and villages of Jabal al-Akhdar in the east of the country. On this day, thousands were killed or lost touch, after... "The floods swept away their homes." Al-Zeni said that despite the efforts made by the GNU, security and medical agencies, and rescue teams from all parts of the country that participated in dealing with the disaster, including evacuating the population, help-

ing the stranded, burying the dead, and containing the health situation, the size of the disaster exceeded all local capabilities.

He added that the disaster in Derna gave the Libyan people the spirit of unity, solidarity and cohesion, explaining that the Libyan people, immediately after the disaster occurred, shook off the accumulations of political division and war to rise above the wounds of the past, and lay the features of the future that they saw with their own eyes for future generations, not through the eyes of politicians and warmongers.

Al-Zeni concluded his speech by saying that the Libyan people no longer needed weapons to fight with, and all the hotbeds of incitement and seeds of tension that negative international interventions had been creating and which narrow personal and factional ambitions had maintained were swept away by the floods into the sea.

Politics

Four Greek rescuers died as bus crashes between Benghazi and Derna



The Health Minister of the east-based government in Libya has confirmed the death of four Greek rescuers in a bus accident as the vehicle burnt with a number of people inside en route to Derna.

The accident, Othman Abduljalil said, took place between Marawa and Gandoula towns on the way to Derna. Three Libyans – from one family – died in the accident as well, brining the total number to seven.

15 others of the Greek rescue team were injured, including seven in a critical condition, Abduljalil added in a televised news conference. Two others of the Libyan family were also in critical condition, he added.

The Greek General Staff said late Sunday that a C-130 type military transport aircraft was sent to Libya to provide first aid and transportation of the injured Greek nationals back to the country.

International search and rescue teams started arriving in Libya a week ago following the devastation that befallen Derna and surrounding areas in eastern Libya in the wake of Storm Daniel and ensuing floods.

Politics



Menfi receives Norland, AFRICOM commander

The Head of the Presidential Council (PC), Mohamed Menfi, received at his office Wednesday the US Special Envoy to Libya, Richard Norland, and the Commander of the US Military Command in Africa (AFRICOM), General Michael Langley, in the presence of Libya's Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Mohamed Al-Haddad.

The AFRICOM Commander offered his condolences to the PC and the Libyan people for the victims of Derna and other cities who died in the recent floods triggered by the Medetarainian storm Daniel.

According to the PC, the meeting discussed the repercussions of the floods that lashed Derna and the areas of Jabal Al-Akhdar last week.

They also reviewed mechanisms for organizing American support for the affected areas and the importance of coordination with the American leadership and its organizations on the ground.

The group also touched on developments in the political situation in the country, the security conditions of neighbouring countries, and its impacts on Libya, as they stressed the importance of focusing on border security and terrorism during these challenging times.

Meanwhile, Norland renewed Washington's support for the PC's steps to reach a comprehensive political settlement in Libya and the progress made by the Supreme Financial Committee.



Politics

Pakistan offers condolence to flood victims says Libya is facing a tragedy

Pakistan has expressed deep concern for Libya after the floods that hit the eastern cities of the country, calling it a “humanitarian disaster” and a “tragedy”.

Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch conveyed Pakistan’s sympathies to the Libyan people during a press conference in Islamabad.

Baloch also confirmed that Islamabad is currently coordinating with the International Committee of the Red Cross to provide assistance to Libya in these challenging times.

Amidst contradictory reports from various government officials and aid agencies, the United Nations initially reported that the death toll from the floods in Derna had exceeded 11,300.

However, the UN later revised the figures on Sunday, citing data from the World Health Organization, and declared the death toll to be 3,958.

The discrepancy in the figures highlights the chaotic response on the ground in a divided country.



Politics

UNICEF says ready to cooperate in implementation of Storm Daniel response plans

UNICEF’s representative, Michele Servadei, expressed on Thursday their readiness to cooperate with local authorities in Libya to implement emergency plans to confront the latest developments in the aftermath of the floods that the eastern region witnessed as a result of Storm Daniel.

Servadei’s remarks came during a meeting with the Minister of Local Governing of the Government of National Unity and Head of the Government’s Emergency and Rapid Response Team, Badr Al-Deen Al-Toumi.

The two sides discussed confronting the impact of the rainstorm that struck Libya on September 11, leaving thousands of victims and displaced people and widespread destruction, especially in Derna, according to government’s media platform Hakomitna.

It added that the meeting touched on coordination and cooperation mechanisms between the crisis teams formed by UNICEF, which work with their counterparts from the teams formed by the state sectors in the fields of education, nutrition, health, water, and child protection, to implement a rapid, coordinated and effective response.

Al-Toumi presented a comprehensive overview of the efforts made by the government’s team in dealing with the crisis, especially search and rescue operations, recovery of bodies, and relief, in addition to evaluating and rehabilitating the infrastructure of the electricity and telecommunications networks, roads and bridges, educational institutions, and health centers.

The International Organization for Migration announced earlier on Thursday the displacement of more than 43,000 people following the deadly floods in eastern Libya, especially in Derna.



Politics

US aid shipment arrives at Benina Airport in Benghazi

The US Agency for International Development (USAID), has delivered critical supplies to Benghazi in support of flood relief efforts in Libya.

The supplies from our Dubai warehouse include blankets, hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, shelter kits, & water containers to be distributed to flood-affected communities to address their most urgent needs, the US Embassy in Libya said on X platform.

On Monday, US President Joe Biden announced that his country would provide humanitarian aid to Libya worth \$11 million to confront the effects of the devastating floods that struck the east of the country, leaving thousands dead, missing, and displaced.



Politics

Tebboune affirms support for inter-Libyan solution to crisis in Libya

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has reiterated his country's support for international efforts aimed at finding an inter-Libyan solution that preserves Libya's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Tebboune's remarks came during his participation in the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, on Tuesday.

In his speech, he underscored Algeria's commitment to peaceful solutions and bridging the gap between conflicting parties, especially in Libya, Mali, and Niger, in addition to Sudan.

It may be worth noting that Algeria provided significant support to Libya during the recent natural disaster, flying nine planes carrying rescue teams, doctors, and humanitarian aid to assist local efforts in dealing with floods in eastern Libya.



Politics

4.6 earthquake hits the coast of Libya's Tobruk

The European Mediterranean Seismological Center (EMSC) recorded Wednesday at 03:33 am an earthquake with a magnitude of 4.6 on the Richter scale in the Mediterranean Sea, approximately 70 kilometers northeast of Tobruk city in northeastern Libya.

According to local sources, this tremor was felt by residents of the eastern Libyan coast in the Qaara and Kambut regions, located 30 and 50 kilometers from Tobruk.

Politics

Libyan PM, US AFRICOM commander review mechanism for aid delivery to disaster areas



The Libyan Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, has reviewed with the Commander of the United States (US) Africa Command (AFRICOM), General Michael Langley, in Tripoli the situation of Derna city after the devastation caused by Storm Daniel and ensuing floods in there. The meeting took place Wednesday in the presence of the Libyan Chief of General Staff, Mohammed Al-Haddad, and the US Special Envoy to Libya, Richard Norland. According to a statement by the media platform of the Government of National Unity, Hakomitna, Dbeibah and Langley

also reviewed the need to organize the mechanisms of US aid delivery to the disaster areas in eastern Libya via the Government of National Unity as well as its executive bodies and relief teams on the ground. Dbeibah reiterated the necessity of coordination between his government and the US government as well as its Libya-based organizations to help people overcome the calamity and regain development and stability. He also discussed with Langley coordination in border security and fighting terrorism, as well as

the latest political developments in the neighboring African countries and their impact on Libya. Langley said, according to the US embassy: "In our meeting today with PM Dbeibah, Special Envoy Norland and I reaffirmed U.S. support for nationwide Libyan efforts to help those in need in flood affected areas. It is now more important than ever for all Libyan political leaders to work together to serve the Libyan people."



Opinions

The passing hurricane and the resident hurricane!

By Abdullah Alkabir,
Libyan political writer and commentator

Words cannot describe the horror of the disaster, and the vocabulary of the language falls short of translating the feelings of sadness and pain, the pain of sudden loss, of those who, few hours earlier, were socializing and laughing before going to sleep, to be met with the impact of heavy rain that they thought were like those familiar in the rainy seasons, and they had prepared themselves to wake up in a new morning with streets covered in pools of water.

What multiplies sadness and pain is weakness of the preparations to respond to the disaster, as it was possible to reduce the magnitude of its damage, and save lives, by following the appropriate methods of managing the crisis, because the date of the hurricane's arrival on the Libyan coast was known, and its path was also known, and everyone knows that heavy rain will wake the valleys from their resting place, and the torrential rain and dam water will sweep away whatever comes in their path. Experts and engineers know that the dams are cracked, threatening to collapse if the retained water exceeds the limits.

Scientific study published by the Sebha University journal last year, about the two dams in Wadi Derna, raised warning signals, and it is a strange irony that the Derna Cultural House held a scientific symposium under the title "Wadi Derna, consequences of neglect and dangers of collapses," just few days before the disaster, which means there are voices that warned, but the failed, tyrannical authorities did not listen, or they heard but did not take the warnings seriously due to their failure to take responsibility.

We do realize that all focus at the present moment must be on rescue and relief efforts, and recovering the bodies of those who died. Nothing now overrides exerting all efforts, harnessing all capabilities to save the victims,

and dealing with all effects and repercussions of the major disaster, unprecedented in our contemporary history. Previous natural disasters, such as the valley floods in recent decades and the Al-Marj earthquake, pale in comparison to the horror of the Hurricane Daniel disaster and its horrific consequences.

Later, the moment of accountability will come, as this event cannot pass without us knowing the answers to many questions.

How were the preparations for a declared hurricane? How was the crisis managed? Was its management committee up to the level of responsibility? Is it aware of the daunting and multi-dimensional task? Did the committee have experts with knowledge and experience to manage the crisis in its three stages? Is there a national figure in its leadership known for his experience and competence? Or is it headed by a frivolous, failed child who has not achieved any success in his life other than seizing bank funds?

The answers will inevitably lead us to the root cause of the afflictions in our country these years. They will lead us to the brutal authority, that obstructed the natural transition towards a more just system, after the February Revolution, it is the real hurricane residing in eastern Libya, which prevented governments from working there, and blocked all ways for young people to build their lives. Opening for them only one path that leads to death in his senseless wars. This is the hurricane that we must uproot and get rid of, by throwing it into the passing Hurricane Daniel.

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 confirms control of polluted water poison in flood-hit areas

The Ministry of Health of the Government of National Unity has confirmed the control of poisoning cases due to polluted water in the flood-hit areas east of Libya.

Ministry spokesman Muhyiddin Nweji said, "the environmental situation in the region is considered stable as eight field hospitals affiliated with the Ministry of Health are currently operating in the affected areas, in addition to a number of health units".

Nweji added that the Ministry's field teams are continuing to evaluate the maintenance and restoration work needed by the rest of the hospitals in order to open them as soon as possible.



Health

Authorities develop committee to deal with environmental issues following the floods

The food and drug control authority Al-Bayda has set up an emergency committee to receive reports about water contamination or epidemic situations in the flood-affected areas east of Libya.

The Food and Drug Control Centre on Sunday hosted a meeting grouping its director, besides the head of the Agricultural Research Centre, the director of the Environmental Sanitation Office, the director of the Bioresearch Centre, the director of the National Centre for Communicable Diseases, and the Al-Bayda Municipal Guard.

According to the Food and Drug Control, the committee, which is comprised of the aforementioned agencies, will handle any reports of polluted water resulting from the floods.

The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) confirmed Saturday that 150 people have been poisoned by contaminated water in the flood-hit areas east of Libya.

The Centre quoted its head, Haidar Al-Sayeh, as saying that clean water was mixed with sewage sources during the storm, which led to the contamination of groundwater.



Health

NCDC: The epidemiological situation in Derna is stable

The director of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Haider Al-Sayeh, has confirmed that the epidemiological situation in the city of Derna is stable, denying the news circulating about diseases and epidemics caused by corpses in Derna.

This came in a videoconferencing during the visit of the Prime Minister of the National Unity Government, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, at midnight on Saturday, to the Center for Emergency Operations and Community Health, affiliated with the NCDC.

Al-Sayeh alerted the people of the affected areas and the displaced to stay away from well water.

He explained that the emergency rooms in the affected areas follow the instructions of the Prime Minister and respond to any urgent developments, as he put it.



Health

NCDC reports 150 cases of water poisoning in flood-hit areas east of Libya

The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) confirmed Saturday that 150 people have been poisoned by polluted water in the flood-hit areas east of Libya.

The Centre quoted its head, Haidar Al-Sayeh, as saying that clean water was mixed with sewage sources during the storm that flooded the area last week.

He said that regular water supplies in Derna are unsafe for consumption and asked residents to seek alternatives.

"The Centre decided to declare a state of emergency for a full year in the areas affected by torrents and floods in the east of the country," the NCDC head noted, explaining that this measure comes to prevent the spread of any disease.

Al-Sayeh recommended dividing Derna into three sections, including a damaged, fragile, and safe one, indicating that such a division would help the relevant authorities address the situation on the ground.

He also confirmed that the vaccination centres in Derna are operating normally and are ready to function starting Sunday.

On Friday, the NCDC said that 55 children were poisoned in Derna after drinking from groundwater sources, which many dwellers rely on.

The floods triggered by Mediterranean storm Daniel have so far killed at least 3,000 people according to the health authorities in eastern Libya, though other official statistics reported more than 5,000 fatalities and 10,000 missing.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Friday that more than 38,640 people have been displaced in the most affected areas in northeastern Libya, including 30 thousand in Derna alone.

It added that the storm has also ruined buildings, roads, bridges, and water supplies.



Sports

Abu Salim gets import win against Ugandan KCCA FC

Abu Salim team bagged an important win against Ugandan KCCA FC 3-1 in the first leg of the round of 32 of the CAF African Confederation Cup in Tunisia on Sunday.

Abu Salim scored two goals within seven minutes of the first half of the match, as Al-Muatasem Bushnaf opened the score in the 26th minute, and seven minutes later Abdel Moneim Okasha scored the second. Afterwards, Hossam Al-Abani made it 3-0 at the start of the second half, before KCCA FC reduced the deficit in the 75th minute.

With this result, Abu Salim team takes an important step toward qualifying for the group stage, awaiting the result of the second leg match that will take place in Uganda a few days later.

While CAF rejected Al-Hilal Club's request to postpone its match

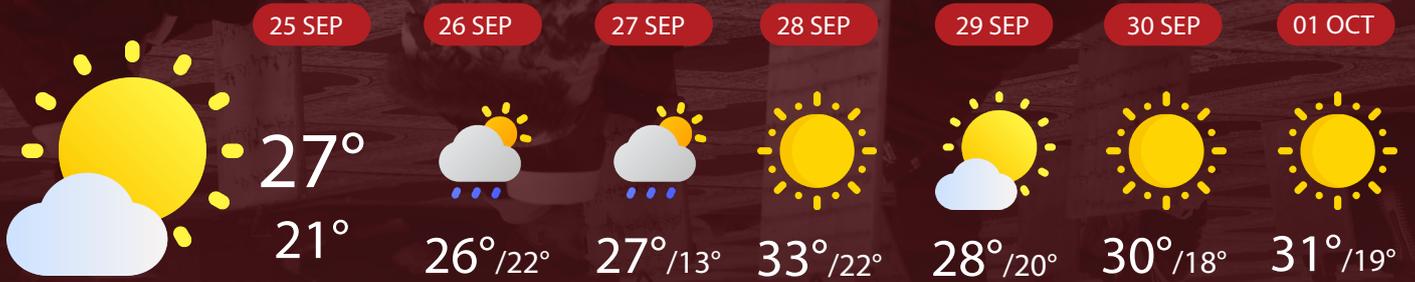
against Rayon Sport Rwanda in the second preliminary round of the Confederation Cup due to the toll of victims of Storm Daniel, Rayon Club officials responded by holding the two matches at the Rwandan capital's stadium. The first leg will be held on Sunday, September 24, and the second leg will be held on Monday, September 30.

This was the case for Al-Ahly Benghazi, as the club's management confirmed that there was no adequate response to the request to postpone its match against ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast in the first leg of the Champions League, and agreed to postpone it for 24 hours, as the match would be held at the Sousse Stadium in Tunisia on Monday, September 18.



Photo of the Week

Tripoli Weather Forecast



+218 94 424 69 28 libyaobserver.ly lyobserver

info@libyaobserver.ly lyobserver

ar.libyaobserver.ly lyobserver.ar lyobserver.arabic

libyaobserver thelibyaobserver

Contact Information