

Politics

Libya decries behavior of Greek FM after "he refused to get off his plane in Tripoli"



The Foreign Ministry has deplored the Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias's action, who refused to get off his plane after landing at the Mitiga International Airport in Tripoli Thursday morning. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said the visit was planned at the request of the Greek side, as it dismissed such behavior.

"The Foreign Ministry approved the request of the Greek foreign minister to visit Tripoli despite the crude policies and stances that 'he' (Dendias) adopted during the past days towards the interests of the Libyan state, which were reflected in his unbalanced statements regarding Libya's sovereignty and its right to relations that fulfill the aspirations of its people," a readout from Libya's foreign ministry said.

According to the statement, FM Najla Al-Manqoush was at the airport to receive her Greek counterpart according to diplomatic norms.

"However, in a surprising situation - which calls for resentment - the Greek minister refused to get off his plane and returned to where he came from without any explanations."

The ministry dismissed the conduct and pledged to take diplomatic measures to preserve the prestige and sovereignty of Libya.

Politics



Italian academic: Russian Wagner in Libya is a threat to Europe's stability

Professor Alicia Melkangi, at the La Sapienza University in Rome, says that Wagner's presence in Libya is consistent with Russia's broader determination to pressure NATO states and create political outcomes on multiple fronts, accusing Moscow of seeking to control nearby energy sources and sow instability on the EU borders.

"The Russian mercenaries Wagner Group are still present in Libya, despite the war in Ukraine," Melkangi said at the (Shadow of the Mediterranean 2022) Conference, which kicked off on Tuesday.

The conference, organized by the EU maritime operation, IRINI, addressed the Libyan situation in a seminar entitled "The Political Stalemate in Libya and its Repercussions in the Sahel Region." The Italian professor insisted that the group has only conducted modest adjustments, but there was no significant withdrawal of Russian fighters from Libya in the aftermath of the war in Ukraine, noting that Wagner mercenaries remain entrenched in and around the main military bases and oil facilities in Libya.

Politics



Libya, Tunisia sign several agreements in various fields

The Minister of Economy and Trade in the Government of National Unity, Mohammed Al-Huweij, signed an agreement with the Tunisian Minister of Trade and Export Development, Fadellah Ben Hamza, that includes the establishment of a joint free economic zone at the Ras Ajdair border crossing, Hakometna platform said on Wednesday, adding that the agreement also includes lifting restrictions on citizens of the two countries, in addition to cooperation and trade exchange, and facilitating the procedures for entering goods of foreign origin into Libya through Tunisian ports. The spokesman for the Government of National Unity, Mohammed Hammouda, said in a statement that the agreement includes the formation of a joint working group that will study the establishment of a joint border economic zone between Libya and Tunisia on the Ras Ajdair border, as well as the free entry of goods between the two countries and the lifting of all restrictions, in addition to facilitating administrative and financial procedures of Libyan businesspersons. "It also includes the formation of a joint working group for food and drug security between the two countries, inviting Libyan and Tunisian businesspersons to participate and invest in infrastructure projects, emphasizing the application of mutual recognition to certificates of conformity and quality, in addition to facilitating the entry of goods of foreign origin imported to Libya through Tunisian ports, and the conclusion of a twinning agreement between the Libyan Competition Council and its Tunisian counterpart." He added. Earlier on Wednesday, Hammouda announced the signing of an agreement to launch a sea line to transport passengers and goods between Libyan and Tunisian ports, and the formation of a technical team from the Libyan and Tunisian ministries of transportation to prepare the necessary preparations for the opening of the line at the end of this year. This announcement came in bilateral meetings that included the Libyan Minister of Transport and Tunisian Minister of Transport, during which a memorandum of understanding was signed for scientific and technical cooperation in the field of meteorology, climate and fighting climate change. The two ministers also agreed to open the new lanes at the Ras Ajdair crossing by the end of November to reduce overcrowding, in addition to the presence of special corridors for ambulances. A Tunisian ministerial delegation made of the ministers of industry, energy, transport and trade, and the director of the Tunisian Company for Refining Industries, began a visit to Libya on Wednesday, during which they met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Najla Al-Mangoush, who discussed with the delegation the bilateral cooperation relations and the strengthening of the strategic partnership that brings the two countries together in all fields to serve the interests of the two peoples.

The delegation also met the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, who stressed the need to intensify security cooperation between Libya and Tunisia, increase trade exchange and ease restrictions.

Politics



PM Dbeibah orders investigation into alleged cordon of HCS HQ

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has ordered the Defence Ministry to investigate claims regarding an attempt to prevent the High Council of State from holding a session on Monday by an affiliate force with the government.

The HCS Head, Khalid Al-Mishri, accused Dbeibah of attempting to block a session to vote on a set of constitutional laws and discuss the issue of sovereign positions after (the Constitution Protection Force) operating under the Defence Ministry allegedly besieged the HCS HQ and prevented its members from entering the building.

A press release by the PM office said that Dbeibah gave his orders to the Deterrence Force to disperse the protesters and secure the building, indicating that the protesters were few in number, according to the Defence Ministry's report. "We reject the state of incitement and amplification carried out by the same parties seeking to obstruct the elections," PM Dbeibah's office quoted him as saying.

Dbeibah called on political parties to maintain open communications with all segments of the Libyan people "who are awaiting elections and fear the risk of veering towards parallel transitional paths."


The PM indicated that protests are common in light of the little confidence the people have in political parties that strike deals in dark rooms to extend their stay in power, adding that some of these protests "may be undisciplined at times."

"We instructed the Ministry of Interior to secure the HCS HQ without prejudice to the right of citizens to peaceful protest," the PM said.

The statement called on the "patriotic" members of the HCS not to drag the council into "individual political gambling" and to turn down any attempts to extend the transitional stage and push towards elections.

"It has become clear that there is a party seeking to jump, after about 11 years, from the legislative power to the executive branch, through a power-sharing deal that postpones the elections, but the Libyans will not accept that, and we are behind them," the statement concluded.

Politics



Al-Mishri files complaint against Dbeibah at AG Office, sources say

A source close to the High Council of State (HCS) confirmed that the HCS Head, Khalid Al-Mishri, filed an official complaint against the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah with the Attorney General's Office, accusing Dbeibah of obstructing the work of the HCS and preventing its members from holding an official session.

In an exclusive statement to the Libya Observer, the source, who refused to reveal his name, confirmed that Al-Mishri asked the Attorney General to investigate the circumstances that occurred on Monday, which prevented the HCS from holding an official session at its headquarters in the Radisson Blu Hotel in the center of Tripoli, after "the personnel of the government's Constitution Protection Force encircled the headquarters and prevented members from entering it."

The source added that one of the items on the agenda of Monday's session, which was postponed; was voting on the constitutional basis and resolving the file of the incumbents of state sovereign positions, which the source said was likely to be the cause of the security tension that prevented the session from taking place

The HCS said on Monday morning that armed group loyal to Dbeibah encircled the headquarters and prevented the members from entering it, adding on its Facebook page that a militia affiliated with Dbeibah hindered the entry of members to the session's location, as armed vehicles were present in the vicinity.

Politics



US may reevaluate relationships with obstructionists to political solutions in Libya

The US Special Envoy and Ambassador to Libya Richard Norland said Washington may reevaluate its relationships with actors and institutions who delay and obstruct progress toward political solutions, cautioning that the status quo is not sustainable.

The remarks came in a statement by the US embassy on Thursday, saying that Norland visited Tripoli on November 8-10 for meetings with government officials, international partners, and the donor community including representatives from the Government of National Unity, UNSMIL, World Bank, Presidential Council, High State Council, and High National Elections Commission.

During his visit, Norland underscored the urgency of concrete steps to establish a constitutional basis for credible, transparent elections in keeping with the aspirations of the Libyan people. He appealed to all Libyan leaders and institutions to use their influence to push toward this goal.

Norland lauded the unanimously approved recent extension of the UNSMIL mandate as an opportunity to reset a credible roadmap for elections, achieve the necessary buy-in from key actors, and establish reasonable timelines for the international community to rally behind.

He reiterated US support for UN envoy Abdoulaye Bathily in his mission, and for the Libyan people's right to live in a democratic and sovereign Libya defended by a unified Libyan military not reliant on foreign powers.

"The continued threat of oil shutdowns, recent militia clashes, and the public outcry after the Audit Bureau report all highlight the need for greater financial transparency and accountability for the benefit and prosperity of all Libyans. The United States chose Libya as a key country in its Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability and is committed to partner with Libyans in support of a more stable and prosperous future, led by an elected, unified government that provides needed services and builds on the natural resources of the country," the statement said.



Politics

Expanded meeting to follow up on gov't spending

The Presidential Council held an expanded meeting on Wednesday to follow up on the government's commitment to transparency and the quality of expenditure, according to a statement by the PC media office.

The PC Head, Muhammad Menfi, chaired the meeting that included PC members Musa al-Koni and Abdullah al-Lafi, Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, the Governor of Libya's Central Bank (CBL), Saddek Elkaber, and the head of the Audit Bureau, Khaled Shakshak.

The gathering comes nearly three months after the last session, held on August 23, in which the PM and the CBL governor reviewed the bank's observations regarding government spending.

On Tuesday, Dbeibah instructed ministers, undersecretaries, and heads of public agencies and bodies to limit escort and protection convoys to only two cars and not to display weapons carried for protection except for necessity, in respect of the citizens and rationalizing government spending.

It is noteworthy that government spending from January 1, 2022, to September 30 of the same year had exceeded 70 billion dinars, according to data from the Ministry of Finance of the Government of National Unity, compared to revenues of 79 billion dinars.



Economy

Container terminal at Misrata Free zone is 70% complete

The first phase of the container terminal at the Misrata Free Zone, the gate to the Libyan market, is 70% complete, says the country's first free-trade economic zone.

The business platform disclosed that the first stage, which targets an area of 50 thousand square metres of the integrated container terminal project, will be ready soon.

According to the Free Zone, the three-stage project targets an area of 150,000 square meters.

Besides paving and infrastructure works, the plan includes setting up a station to operate refrigerated containers, an illumination system, and an in-built fire extinguisher.

The business hub emerged in 2000 as the first free zone in Libya, on an approximate area of 3500 hectares, with the potential for future expansion up to 20,000 hectares.



Economy

Counterfeit banknotes signed by east-based CBL deputy governor seized

The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) said it had seized counterfeit banknotes (50 dinars) signed by the deputy governor of the CBL, Ali Al-Hibri, who is based in eastern region.

The Central Bank said in a statement on Thursday that the seized counterfeit banknotes are different in characteristics to the ones printed in Russia that were also signed by Al-Hibri.

The statement added that the CBL notified the Office of the Attorney General regarding the incident. It asked people to be careful about the banknotes and report to the security authorities if they go their hands on the counterfeit banknotes.



Economy

Libya's daily crude output exceeds 1,200 million barrels

Libya's crude outputs reached 1.2 million barrels during the past 24 hours, while the condensate production stood at 54 thousand barrels, according to the National Oil Corporation (NOC) data on Wednesday.

The NOC says that the total consumption of natural gas in the domestic market reached 820 million cubic feet during the same period, noting that 635 million cubic feet of gas were distributed to the General Electricity Company and 78 million to the National Oil Corporation.

As for the iron and steel complex and other small factories, their consumption amounted to 88 million cubic feet, while cement factories consumed 19 million cubic feet, according to the statement.

On Tuesday, the National Oil Corporation discussed with the French company Total the lifting of force majeure and the resumption of the company's exploration activity in Libya.



Economy

Libyan Presidential Council reaffirms full support for NOC

The Deputy Head of the Presidential Council Abdullah Al-Lafi reviewed with the Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat Bengdara, the challenges facing the oil sector, especially increasing production rates in accordance with future plans, according to the media office of the Presidential Council. During the meeting, which was held at the NOC's headquarters in Tripoli, Al-Lafi expressed the full support for the NOC and vowed to keep it away from political strife so that it can carry out its responsibilities and achieve its goals.

Bengdara, meanwhile; reaffirmed that the NOC would continue its tireless work toward a sustainable increase of oil production.



Economy

CBL head attends conference on corruption in Tripoli

Governor of the Libyan Central Bank (CBL), Saddek Elkaber, attended Tuesday a conference at the Corinthia Hotel in Tripoli entitled (Fighting Corruption and its Role in Supporting Stability,) with the participation of ministers and officials from oversight and security organs.

Elkaber highlighted during his keynote address the efforts of the bank and its cooperation with state institutions to combat corruption, as he underlined three determinants for tackling this phenomenon.

In his address uploaded on the CBL's Facebook page, Elkaber cited the bank's leadership of the anti-corruption campaign carried out in cooperation with the relevant state institutions, noting that the bank is the monetary authority and the direct supervisor of the banking and financial sector through the National Committee for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, the Libyan Information Unit, and the rest of its departments. "Combating corruption requires harnessing all capabilities, reinforcing efforts, and the strong will," Elkaber said.

The scientific conference was attended by the PC member, Musa Al-Koni, the head of the Administrative Control Authority, Suleiman Al-Shanti, representatives from the Audit Bureau, the head of the Internal Security Agency, and a group of ministers.



Economy

Dbeibah orders giving a new location for Brega Oil Marketing Company in Tripoli

The Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, instructed the State Properties Authority to start the procedures for handing over the new site to the Brega Oil Marketing Company so it starts implementing a project to build new tanks to ensure the sustainability of fuel availability, in light of the suffering of the Brega Company due to the lack of tanks for more than 8 years, which led to shortages from time to time.

Dbeibah stressed during a meeting held Tuesday at the headquarters of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) the need to start settling obligations between the Ministry of Finance and Brega Company, in order to straighten the company's situation, reiterating the need to monitor the organization of the fuel file in terms of the relationship between Brega Company and distribution companies, so that the contractual relationship is tackled in all aspects.

The Chairman of the NOC, Farhat Bengdara, welcomed Dbeibah's quick response to the call for the meeting, which was attended by the ministers of oil and gas, economy, trade and finance, in addition to the director of the Brega Oil Marketing Company, underlining the need to find the necessary solutions to ensure the stability of the operations of supplying fuel to all Libyan cities.

According to the NOC, the meeting concluded with an agreement on a number of procedural steps that contribute to the stability of the company and enhance its ability to get its tasks done.

Meanwhile, a number of the Brega company's tanks in the Airport Road warehouse were completely burned as a result of the violent clashes that took place in the area in the summer of 2014, while several other tanks were damaged as a result of the sporadic clashes, the latest of which was the war on Tripoli in 2019.



Features

Waw an Namus, a piece of the moon in Libya's desert

The Libyan Desert is a whole other world, whether you're looking for adventure or want to escape the day-to-day life; it's a place with endless wonders, weirdness, and secrets.

Waw an Namus is another fantastic site from the desert region, one of the weirdest geographic landscapes on our planet, most famous for being the spot that had the best visual experience of total solar eclipse of all time, where thousands of tourists travelled there to observe the total solar eclipse that occurred in 2006 under the transparent desert sky.

The place boasts a volcanic mountain that rears to (575m); its surface extends from 10 to 20 km which consists of dark volcanic tephra and black basaltic rocks, if you are eager to visit the moon, this will be a great choice, seeing that the nature of the land makes it the closest thing we have to the moon on Earth, this could be seen clearly from an aerial shot, as Google Earth program shows, therefore it is called "A piece of the moon".

Scientists are uncertain of the last volcanic eruption happened here, it may have been centuries ago, it is also thought that the Knowledge of iron use in Africa dates back to the ancient Nok civilization that used iron powder located in the southwestern part of the site.

The mountain is surrounded by palm and bamboo trees with colorful lakes scattered on its foot fitting in perfectly with the golden sand and creating an incredible natural scene, while the nature of the region makes it a natural reserve for dozens of birds and animals. It was first visited by a French expedition commissioned by the French traveler Laurent Roubeli in 1918, followed gradually by other expeditions.

"Waw an Namus" was also the title of the book of the Italian geologist Angelo Bessi, who wrote about the extended area from south-central Libya to the northern region of Chad. The book was published by the Petroleum Exploration Society in Libya in 1966.



Health

Tripoli hosts scientific conference on medical responsibility

The 4th Scientific Conference on Medical Responsibility kicked off on Saturday, in Tripoli, under the slogan (The Doctor's Responsibility: History and Reality).

The conference, organized by the National Council for Determining Liability and sponsored by the Medical Insurance Authority, will last for two days.

The event features the participation of government officials from the Health Ministry, the medical community, and interested parties.

The organizers say their goal is to highlight the issue of medical responsibility and discuss the mechanism followed in this field.

Discussions will also focus on finding modern and advanced means to raise the efficiency of the practicing physician and reduce the incidence of medical error.



Health

Libya set to pay off debts to Maltese hospitals

The Deputy Prime Minister/ Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Jinnah, has vowed to settle Libya's debts to Maltese health facilities during a meeting with the Maltese Vice President and Ambassador of Malta to Libya in Tripoli.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to develop them, especially after the top Maltese diplomat visited Tripoli and his meeting with Libya's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Abu Jinnah promised to form a supreme committee composed of the Prime Ministry, the Central Bank, the Audit Bureau, and the ministries of finance and health to review the outstanding debts owed to Maltese hospitals.

The meeting also touched upon activating the agreements signed in 2008 and 2012 to enhance cooperation between Tripoli and Valletta.

Health

WB: Three health programs to start in Libya by next year

The World Bank (WB) working group in Libya announced, on Monday, the launching of three health programs in the country early next year.

The disclosure came during a meeting between the WB team and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity/ Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Jannah.

Abu Jannah discussed with the WB officials the activation of three main programs, namely (human resources, economic health expenditures, and primary health care), which the team is working on with experts from the Ministry of Health, according to a statement by Libya's Health Ministry on Facebook.

The World Bank team provided a detailed overview of the adopted programs and confirmed that they would be a reality on the ground by the beginning of next year with the help of local health authorities.

Abu Janah highlighted that Libya is part of the World Bank and a major supporter of its work, as he emphasized the need to draw on the WB's experiences in delivering services to health facilities and providing technical advice in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and the competent department of the Ministry of Health.

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Sports

LFF inks MoU with Norwegian counterpart in training field

The Libyan Football Federation (LFF) has signed a memorandum of understanding with its Norwegian counterpart on cooperation in the field of training.

The LFF President, Abdel Hakim Al-Shalmani, and the Honorary President of the Norwegian Football Federation, Per Raven Omdal, inked the MoU in a ceremony at the Libyan Embassy in Algeria.

The Second Deputy of the Libyan LFF, Naji Al-Kikli, Chargé d’Affairs of Libya in Algeria, Nasser Mazeq, and a group of officials in the Libyan embassy also joined the signing ceremony. Al-Shalmani expressed his gratitude at the NFF initiative to train female football coaches and provide technical support as the Norwegian Federation has long-standing experience in this area, as he put it.

For his part, the NFF President confirmed his approval of the agreement that targets female coaches, noting that the Norwegian Federation has carried out similar tasks in Egypt and Tunisia.



Education

Libya’s Minister of Education, UNICEF representative discuss organization’s plan for next years

The Minister of Education, Mussa Al-Magaryif, has discussed with the Special Representative of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Libya, Michele Servadi, the organization’s plan for the next three years.

Servadi stressed the importance of skills development for first graders, distance learning, and teacher training, paying attention to students with disabilities, and the availability of an appropriate environment for them.

Al-Maqaryif praised the efforts of the organization and its programs during the current year, reviewing the efforts of the departments of kindergarten and school activity in the ministry in developing children’s skills, according to the Minister of Education media office.

He also pointed to the efforts of the ministry in the file of distance education, and what has been reached in particular, expressing his hope to sign a memorandum of understanding with the organization based on a clear timeline.

Both sides also reviewed the plan of the General Center for Training and Education Development, the memorandum of understanding signed between the Ministry and the National Autism Center, and its contribution to rehabilitating 12 children of the center and integrating them to study in a number of educational institutions affiliated with the Ministry.



Tech

Taqnya annual ICT exhibition kicks off in Tripoli

The Prime Minister Abdel Hamid Dbeibah, accompanied by the Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Hawij, inaugurated on Monday the Taqnya annual Information and Communications Technology (ICT) exhibition.

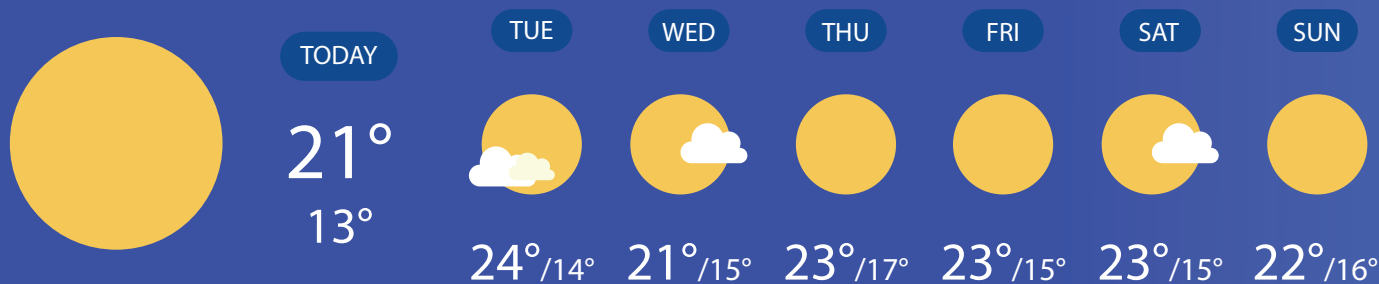
Dbeibah toured the pavilions of the exhibition, during which he listened to a number of participants and interested parties, stressing the need to activate the role of the private sector in the field of technology and communications.

The exhibition is scheduled to continue from November 14 to 17, with the participation of many countries, including China, Japan, Turkey, Sweden, Korea, Italy and Tunisia and more than 100 companies and institutions from the private and public sectors.

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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