

Politics

Ministry of Justice says no ground for reopening Lockerbie case

Libya's Ministry of Justice says the Lockerbie case has been closed totally from the political and legal point of view according to an agreement signed between Libya and the US on August 14, 2008. The ministry noted that the agreement was also reinforced by a presidential order signed by US President George Bush No. 13477 on October 31, 2008.

In response to reports regarding the reopening of the Lockerbie file, the ministry underscored that there is no ground for revitalizing the case once again.

The High Council of State dismissed in a statement Saturday, efforts to reopen the Lockerbie file, saying that the case has been closed politically and legally under a Libyan-US agreement.

On the 32nd anniversary of the Lockerbie tragedy in December 2020, the US judiciary pressed charges on the former Libyan intelligence officer, Abu Ajila Al-Muraimi, for allegedly participating in the Lockerbie attack in 1988 in Scotland.

Politics

HoR, HCS are set to name new govt in few weeks, sources say

Libyan diplomatic sources revealed to Al-Jazeera Network that the House of Representatives (HoR) and High Council of State (HCS) are planning to name a new government that would end Abdul Hamid Dbeibah and Fathi Bashagha's administrations during the next few weeks.

Private sources from the two chambers confirmed the news, explaining that the two legislative bodies had already entered into negotiations regarding sharing sovereign positions in the proposed government after intensive contacts between Speaker of the HoR Aqila Saleh, and the HCS Head Khaled Al-Mashri, who both - according to the sources- made no secret of their desire to replace Dbeibah.

They indicated that the agreement would lead to a new government consisting of 18 ministers, and the naming of the occupants of sovereign positions, as Saleh and Al-Mishri have been negotiating the issue for weeks.

The sources assumed that Fathi Bashagha would be part of the agreement by taking, most likely, the ministry of defense helm. According to the sources, the step enjoys regional and international support, while political analysts anticipated that the new government will meet the fate of Bashagha's administration in the lack of a comprehensive dialogue that includes all the conflicting parties.

Politics

Dendias: Athens to strengthen relations with east Libya to boost position against Turkey

The Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias said on Saturday that they are working to maintain and strengthen their relations in eastern Libya as well with the House of Representatives (HoR) to strengthen Greece's positions in rejection of the agreement signed with Turkey and to prevent its expansion contracts.

The Greek Foreign Minister added that the Government of National Unity (GNU) headed by Abdul Hamid Dbeibah "is usurping power in Libya and exploiting the country's resources to sign illegal agreements with the Turks."

Dendias created a diplomatic dilemma last Thursday with Tripoli as he refused to get off the plane after arriving in Mitiga Airport, heading instead to Benghazi.

The Greek Foreign Minister justified the incident by saying that the Libyan Foreign Minister, Najla Al-Mangoush, tried to force him into meeting with her, but he didn't want to because he came to Tripoli to meet with the Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, who later issued a statement in which he didn't condemn the Greek stance, but hinted at an implied sympathy with Dendias.

Dbeibah rejected the Greek move and said in a meeting with Al-Mangoush that mutual respect must be based on diplomatic relations among countries. Al-Mangoush rendered the move nondiplomatic and stressed that no state is allowed to disrespect the sovereignty of Libya. She summoned the Greek ambassador and chargé d'affaires to clarify the issue.

Politics

Libyan HoR Speaker meets with Qatar's ambassador to Libya

The Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR), Aqila Saleh, met in his office in Al-Qubba, in the east of Libya on Thursday the Qarari ambassador to Libya Khalid Al-Dossari.

The media office of the HoR Speaker said that the two sides discussed bilateral relations, the latest developments in Libya, and ways to end the Libyan crisis through holding elections.

The media office added that the Qatari ambassador to Libya, Khaled Al-Dosari, affirmed the State of Qatar's support for Libya to overcome the current crisis, preserve the unity of the Libyan soil, the political track, and hold free and fair elections on a constitutional basis by consensus among Libyans.

The media office added that the Qatari ambassador reaffirmed Qatar's support for Libya to overcome the current crisis, preserve the unity of the Libyan soil, the political track, and hold free and fair

elections on a consensual constitutional basis.

The Qatari embassy in Libya said in a statement that Al-Dosari affirmed to Aqila Saleh “the commitment of the State of Qatar to support the political track, the relevant Security Council resolutions, and all peaceful solutions that preserve Libya’s territorial integrity and push for free and fair elections that the Libyan people aspire for, based on a consensual constitutional basis.



Libyan Foreign Minister Najla Al-Mangoush reviewed “promising opportunities” in Libya in energy fields and Libya’s role in compensating for any shortage in energy supplies, highlighting in her participation in the Forum of Union for Mediterranean (UfM) in Barcelona Libya’s vital role in light of the global crisis of the war in Ukraine, and stressing that maintaining global peace and security is the responsibility of everyone.

Al-Mangoush added on Twitter that Libyan stability is important to the stability of the Mediterranean, the European Union and Africa, urging for concerted efforts by the friends and allies of Libya to support fair elections, and end transitional periods.

She also reaffirmed Libya’s humanitarian solidarity with the issue of illegal immigration, explaining that it is a global issue that requires cooperation by all.

The UfM Forum is attended by the foreign ministers of the European Union and the countries bordering the Mediterranean. Following the end of the Forum, the fourth ministerial meeting will be held between the European Union and the southern border countries as part of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.



High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell has said the situation in Libya is discouraging in light of no indication of any possible agreement on elections any time soon.

“The Union and its international partners can make a difference by proactively supporting mediation efforts, and this is what we intend to do,” the EU foreign policy chief said before the European Parliament.

He underscored the need to encourage the Libyan parties to the

conflict to enhance dialogue and reach a consensus and urged that the call for foreign forces to withdraw from Libya be implemented on the ground.

Borrell affirmed support for the UN envoy and the Libyan stakeholders to build a new and joint road map towards the elections, hoping that the appointment of UN envoy, Bathily will create a positive dynamic for all Libyan actors to work together.

The European official indicated that there is a large consensus that the only permanent way forward is to encourage a consensual and comprehensive solution with Libyan leadership and ownership, as he stressed that building a meaningful and coherent umbrella for the political process in Libya will require the joint and solid support of the European Union.

He disclosed that the EU has considered sending a mission to monitor the parliamentary and presidential elections, confirming that this offer still exists.



The Deputy Head of the Presidential Council, Mossa Al-Koni, apologized on behalf of Libya to all countries that were affected after 2011 by the flow of weapons from inside the country.

Al-Koni’s remarks came in a meeting with the representative of the European Union for the Sahel countries, Emanuela Del Rey, in the presence of the Chief of the General Staff of the Libyan Army, Mohammed Al-Haddad, on the sidelines of the meetings of the regional conference on border cooperation between Libya and the Sahel countries, which was held Tunisia.

Al-Koni stated that the weapons and support provided to terrorist groups, which come from Libya, are caused by the insecurity in the country, and that this situation has nearly caused the collapse of the state, stressing the need for all countries to shoulder their responsibilities and not allow a small group of terrorists and human traffickers to sow instability in the region.

Al-Koni added that the situation in the region requires the formation of joint operations rooms to follow up on any movements, and to develop a clear strategy by means of permanent communication with the European Union and the concerned countries.

Al-Koni added that the European Union is also concerned with this matter because it sees itself as the first victim of the huge numbers of immigrants that Europe cannot host, indicating that the southern borders in Libya are vast and difficult to control, noting that the Sahel countries need a lot of assistance so that they can secure their vast borders, which are almost impossible to control.



Politics

Manqoush: Morocco plays a positive role in supporting Libya's stability

Foreign Minister Najla al-Manqoush has hailed Morocco's approach in addressing the Libyan crisis, saying it plays a positive role in supporting stability and the Libyan government's efforts to arrive at a free and fair electoral process accepted by the Libyan people.

FM Al-Manqoush was talking at a joint press conference on Tuesday with her Moroccan counterpart Nasser Bourita, after a meeting on the sidelines of the 9th Global Forum for the Alliance of Civilizations, sponsored by the United Nations and hosted for the first time by the African continent in the Moroccan city of Fez.

Libya's top diplomat said she is looking forward to seeing Fez's forum be a platform to share reflections and insights for a better future for the two countries, underscoring the importance of

strengthening bilateral relations between Libya and Morocco. Via her Twitter account, Al-Manqoush disclosed that she discussed with Bourita the Kingdom's efforts to support the stability of Libya and the process aimed at ending the transitional stages in the country.

For his part, Bourita reaffirmed his country's position towards the developments in Libya and said it comes "within the context of the King's concern for the stability in this brotherly Maghreb country." He added that Morocco is following all positive developments in the Libyan arena in light of the "institutionalist and dialogue-based" solutions proposed today that serve the interest of the Libyan people, a readout from the Moroccan Foreign Ministry said.



Economy

Al-Kabir, Turkish Minister of Trade discuss the bank letters of guarantee file

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, accompanied by a number of Libyan bank managers, held on Monday, an extensive meeting with the Turkish Minister of Trade, Mehmet Muş, in the ministry's office in the capital, Ankara.

Both sides discussed the bank letters of guarantee file and joint cooperation between the Libyan and Turkish banking sectors, according to the CBL media office.

The Turkish Central Bank previously issued a decision on June 10, 2020, to cancel the bank letters of guarantee issued in favor of Libyan banks.

However, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan issued a presidential decision lifting the restrictions imposed by the Turkish authorities on letters of guarantee issued by Turkish banks in favor of Libyan institutions, according to what was announced by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs in the Government of National Unity, Adel Jumaa, in September 2021.

Economy

Libya's HoR appoints replacement to Al-Hibri as deputy governor of CBL

The First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR), Fawzi Al-Nuwari, decided to appoint Maree Al-Barasi as the parallel Central Bank of Libya's (CBL) governor. The decision said Al-Barasi will be "deputy governor of the CBL until the governor assumed his duties. He was appointed also as the head of the Benghazi and Derna stability committee.

The executive departments of the parallel Central Bank in Al-Bayda announced Wednesday the suspension of work, after the HoR's decision to sack Al-Hibri.

"We were surprised by the sacking of the Deputy Governor by the HoR without any real justifications, especially in these critical and sensitive circumstances that require concerted efforts and solidarity. We denounce such ill-considered behavior and we will suspend the CBL's work until the issuance of a statement indicating the end of this controversy from the legislative authority and reinstating Al-Hibri." The departments said.

The HoR announced Tuesday the sacking of Al-Hibri and the termination of his membership and chairmanship of the committees to restore the stability of Benghazi and Derna, according to the spokesman of the HpR, Abdullah Blehiq.

The HoR asked the Audit Bureau to review and examine all financial and administrative transactions of the two committees since the date of their establishment, as well as to address the Attorney General to take all legal measures regarding the committed crimes and to initiate preliminary investigation procedures regarding those crimes.



Economy

Aoun, Gasly Co. review plans to revive "City Gas" Project

The Minister of Oil and Gas, Muhammad Aoun, paid a visit to the General Gas Transmission and Distribution Company (Gasly) on Monday after the latter transferred its affiliation to the ministry.

A statement by the Oil Ministry said that minister Aoun got an insight into the company's major projects through a visual presentation and discussed mechanisms for implementing and reviving the "City Gas" project again.

Addressing international companies, Aoun said there are still vast areas in Libya waiting to be explored, as he urged them to come and invest in oil and gas.

The minister also checked out the lines established by the company to feed power plants such as the Sarir electric station.

He pledged to support the company to overcome the difficulties hindering the finalization of the stalled projects and praised its efforts "despite the scarcity of budgets."



Economy

Libya, Tunisia to hold meeting for more cooperation in energy

The Tunisian Ministry of Industry said the agreement with its counterpart in Libya is seeking to restore bilateral cooperation in the field of oil and gas, provided that this cooperation will be activated by organizing a meeting for representatives of institutions in the two sectors in Tunisia next week.

The Tunisian Ministry of Industry added, in a recent statement, that the agreement was reached during a visit by a Tunisian government delegation to Libya on November 6 - 17, indicating that the upcoming meeting will be devoted to discussing mechanisms for activating trade exchange and technical cooperation in the oil and gas fields as well as the prospects for a win-win partnership in these two fields.

The delegation, which included the Director-General of the Tunisian Company for Refining Industries, held a number of meetings in the energy sector, amid assurances by Libyan officials, including the Libyan Foreign Minister, Najla Al-Mangoush, to give priority to supporting Tunisia.

Economy

HoR dismisses parallel CBL chief Al-Hibri



The House of Representatives (HoR) has dismissed the chief of the parallel Central Bank of Libya, Ali Al-Hibri, during an official session at the Parliament's original HQ in Benghazi.

Al-Hibri was fired from the helm of the parallel CBL and the Benghazi and Derna stability committees in a session headed by the HoR First Deputy Speaker, Fawzi Al-Nuwairi, spokesman for the House of Representatives, Abdullah Blehaq said on Facebook Tuesday.

The Audit Bureau will review and examine all financial and administrative transactions of the Benghazi and Derna stabilization committees since their establishment until now," Blehaq wrote. He said the Public Prosecutor and law enforcement officials will take legal measures regarding suspected violations in the work of these committees and initiate preliminary investigation procedures into the alleged infringement.

Economy

Audit Bureau monitors conclusion by executive bodies of more than one contract for a single project

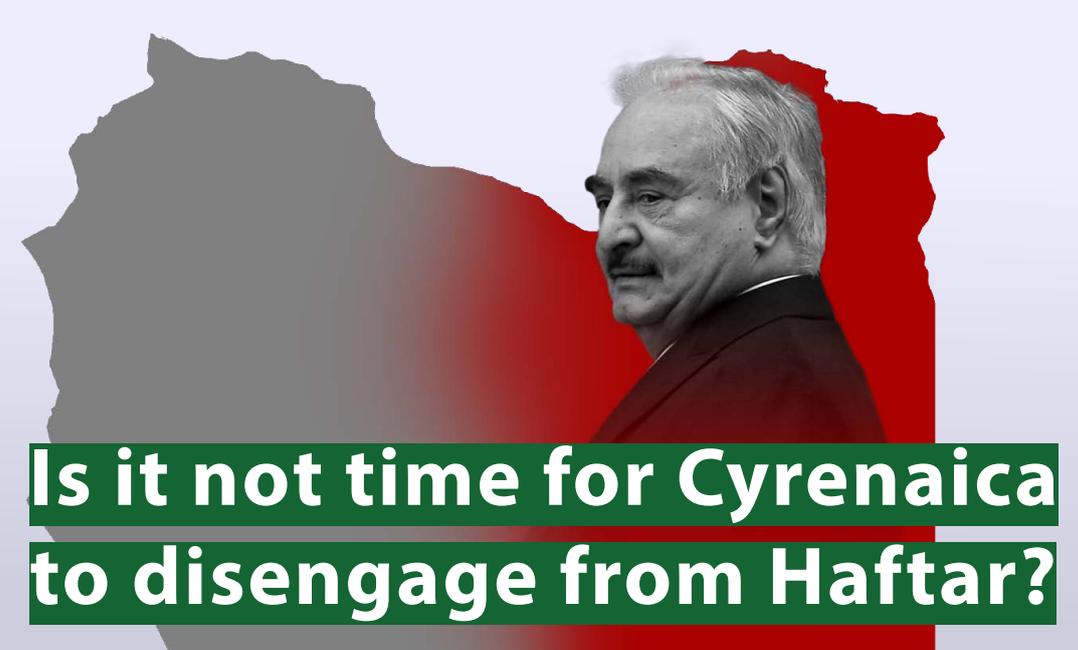


The head of the Audit Bureau, Khaled Shakshak, has monitored through the examination work, the conclusion by the executive authorities of more than one contract for one project.

The Audit Bureau head attributed the reason to the overlap in the competencies between the executive authorities, and the failure to develop general framework organizing the work between the different administrative levels, and the lack of electronic linkage of the financial systems between the concerned authorities

This came in a letter he addressed to each of the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity and the heads of bodies and agencies.

The Bureau called on all concerned parties to abide by the adoption of the model of non-duplication of the project and circulate it to the executive authorities, considering it the most important justification for contracting and disbursement.



Is it not time for Cyrenaica to disengage from Haftar?



By **Ahmed Khalifa**,
Libyan journalist

The Cyrenaicans failed miserably in betting on a military solution to the crisis in the country. This led to the defeat of the will of Cyrenaicans, who rallied behind Khalifa Haftar for years, believing that he had a sincere will to combat what he called terrorism at the time, while he and his militias practiced various types of terrorism and before the very eyes and ears of the world, starting from displacement and the demolition of homes, to mass liquidations and unprecedented massacres in the history of Libya, leading to the burial of the victims in mass graves, but what became clear later, and after years of bloodshed and wars in Cyrenaica, that Haftar was nothing but a mad aspirant for power, and Cyrenaica was only a bridge that he and his sons used to pass over to achieve their ambitions.

Haftar turned into an executioner for Cyrenaica, there is no difference between him and Graziani. Haftar did not give Cyrenaica anything but killing its sons and cutting off the limbs of those who remained alive after he used them as cheap firewood to ignite and fuel the fires of his wars, and after that he incited his sons to rule Cyrenaica.

The Cyrenaican political, military and security decisions are now completely dependent on Haftar and his sons. Even the legislative decision is hijacked and is not issued by the House of Representatives in a way that gives the decision its legislative value. So much so, that decisions are issued from Aqila's setting room at his Qubah town home, upon instructions from Haftar or his sons. The legislative institution -which should work in accordance with international standards as it is the case for such institutions - really does not exist in Libya in this sense. Members of the House of Representatives have no value whatsoever in the face of influence of Haftar and tyranny of his sons, they are mere cheap puppets for this family, which believes that it is the only one capable of leading Libya and its army.

In a session that took place in a regional country concerned with the Libyan crisis - if the description is correct - Aqila told his interlocutors that he would not leave the Presidency of the House of Representatives until Libya is stabilized. He said that, yet he is unable to run a legislative institution according to the

sions through swindling.

What is the solution?

To overcome its pain and get rid of its shackles, Cyrenaica needs a brave political project that will pull it out of the Haftarian quagmire that drowned it in blood. Cyrenaica must be freed from its tormentor and overthrow him and rid itself of his chains and those of his sons, and to present to Libya a real project for stability instead of projects of war and killing. There are Cyrenaicans, regardless of their origins, whether they are from Cyrenaica, or from the south or west of the country - who can create a project for stability that brings together Libyans after years of displacement and Haftarian oppression.

What we can describe as the Cyrenaica grievance, the outcry of the pro-federal system extremists or the ultra- extremists of those calling for the division of Libya in particular, has become an illusion that many of them are resorting to, and indeed fleeing forward from confronting Haftar, his sons and gangs that seized the capabilities of Cyrenaica and turned it into a mere large warehouse for collecting scrap and transforming its seaports and airports to mere outlets for bringing refugees from Africa and Asia and smuggling drugs and oil, with instructions of international mafias.

Lost Benghazi!

Benghazi, the vibrant city in Cyrenaica, has become just a miserable and worthless city in the equation of Libyan political action, in which Haftar and his sons do whatever they want. Its name is associated with killings, wars, and with the shar'a al-ziet (Oil Street), after it was in a time ago a leader of change and an important piece in the Libyan chessboard. If a change takes place from Benghazi, and its giant rises from captivity, then Cyrenaica has nothing but to listen and follow on its footsteps, after it gets rid of its tormentors who stripped it of everything and turned it into a mere large prison where tyrants sit in front of its gates.

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

Dbeibah launches "Shifa" project to organize cancer treatment in Libya



The Libyan Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, launched "Shifa" project to organize cancer treatment in Libya, and decided to establish the National Cancer Control Commission, which will be independent and financially and administratively affiliated with the Prime Minister, Hokoometna platform said, adding that the remarks came in a ceremony to launch the Prime Minister's project at Corinthia Hotel in Tripoli, in the presence of the head of the local and abroad treatment support and development body, the director of the National Center for Disease Control, and the deputy head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, the Resident Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs.

The National Cancer Control Commission will be under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister, in order to develop the necessary policies, plans and programs to combat cancer, follow up on their implementation, and take measures to localize the treatment of patients inside.

The decision to establish the National Cancer Control Commission also includes all cancer centers under the Commission, and the preparation of a database to determine the needs of medicines and devices needed to treat patients.

Dbeibah also approved the National Document for Prevention and Early Detection of Cancer, which will begin with the stages of awareness and prevention until February 2024, after which the mandatory examination phase for all Libyan women over the age of 35 will begin.

Dbeibah also instructed the head of the treatment development body at home and abroad, to form an emergency committee to follow up on 60 cases of child cancer in Benghazi, and to send serious cases abroad.

Meanwhile, Dbeibah honored more than 60 teams participating in the 12th breast cancer awareness campaign, which helps reduce the death rate from cancer among women.

Health

Nine children died of scorpion stings in Rabiana municipality this year



The director of the office of the Rabiana municipality mayor, Youssef Hamdan, has reported that nine children died as a result of scorpion stings this year, despite the availability of anti-scorpion venom serums in the hospital.

In a statement, Hamdan attributed the causes of death to the lack of doctors inside the hospital, adding that the hospital has been closed for more than a year, and it lacks medical and paramedical staff.

He also indicated that there is no private clinic in the municipality, and that there is a single pharmacy whose work is limited to providing insulin medicine and first aid.

Health

NCDC starts up training program to combat malaria-transmitting mosquitoes



The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) launched on Sunday a training program for environmental sanitation and service teams in the field of controlling mosquitoes that transmit malaria.

The event kicked off under the slogan "Together for an environment free of disease vectors," in cooperation with the Environmental Sanitation Office in the Jufra Municipality, central Libya.

The program's objective is to raise and refine professional competencies in the mosquito control field using modern scientific methods that are safe for humans and the environment.

The organizers said the training course would be the first step towards a comprehensive campaign to combat mosquitoes in Sukna town and from there to the rest of the cities.

Health



Animal Health warns bird flu spreading rapidly across northern Mediterranean

The National Centre for Animal Health has warned that a strain of the highly pathogenic avian influenza, commonly known as the bird flu virus, is spreading rapidly across the northern Mediterranean.

The centre said the country is at increased risk for bird flu as the migration season through Libya continues.

In a statement, the center called on farmers breeding poultry inside closed barns to remain alert and follow biosecurity procedures and veterinarian's instructions.

Meanwhile, open poultry farms also urged assistance to quarantine birds inside closed spaces, saying they need to prevent wild birds from mixing with poultry or reaching drinking water and fodder used in farms.

The statement also called on breeders and veterinarians to immediately report any wild birds die-offs and diseases or any suspected cases in poultry pens.



Education

Italian Embassy confirms its continuation of training students of Italian language departments in Libya

The Italian Embassy in Libya has confirmed the continuation of the training program for students of the Italian language for qualifying them to be teachers of the Italian language in Libyan schools.

This came in a meeting that included the Minister of Education, Mussa al-Maqaryif, and the Italian Ambassador, Giuseppe Buccino, at the ministry's headquarters in Tripoli, according to the Ministry of Education medical office.

The meeting reviewed the schools in which the Italian language will be taught as a first stage and preparations for sending the second batch of teachers to Ca'Foscari University in Venice as part of their academic qualification.



Education

Al-Maqaryif: Education's accumulated problems need collective action

The Ministry of Education has put in place plans to construct alternative schools to replace the tin shacks used for schooling children in some areas, the Minister of Education Musa Al-Maqaryif said.

Al-Maqaryif reaffirmed the government's plan at a meeting with the head and representatives of the Supreme Council of Tribes and Cities of Fezzan on Monday.

He confirmed that his ministry received a list of the targeted shacks from the relevant offices in various municipalities and has placed a plan to establish temporary spaces to accommodate pupils.

The council's delegation highlighted the problems facing the educational process in the region, including the stalled maintenance projects, the overcrowding of classes, the lack of tutors, and the need to establish new school buildings.

But there is no easy answer to problems accumulated over the past five decades, according to the minister, who told the delegation that reforming the educational system requires a national vision and collective action.

In a ceremony to open a new monitoring education department in Misrata earlier this month, Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah said his government is ready to establish 500 new schools from the 1,500 education facilities it plans to construct during the three years ahead.



Culture

French report says stolen Libyan antiquities are sold in France and England's auctions

A television investigation by the French channel TF1 revealed this week that some stolen Libyan antiquities that had been sold around the world ended up in the French Central Office for Combating Trafficking in Cultural Property, which is responsible for investigating incidents of stolen artifact and dismantling smuggling networks.

The investigation added that the French office seized a stolen Roman bust from an unnamed Libyan archaeological site, and said that antiquities' smugglers take advantage of wars or political instability to loot archaeological sites before reselling this heritage for imaginary prices, and these stolen items often end up in the most prestigious exhibitions and auctions where it is difficult to trace their origin. The French archaeologist Morgan Belzic, who is investigating the stolen pieces that appear again illegally in the art market, was cited as saying that there is a statue that was sold at an auction in 2016 in London and was later proven to have been stolen from Libya in 2012. He explained that the smuggling networks had hidden the statue's source by destroying parts of it.

The French archaeologist pointed out that the illegal trade in cultural property occupies the third place among international criminal activities after trafficking in weapons and drugs, saying that smugglers destroyed parts of the stolen antiquities so that they did not appear that they came from Libya. He also said that once the origin was forged, the Libyan piece reappeared in a sale carried out by one of the three largest global auction houses.



Culture

Al-Maqaryif discusses removing Ghadames old city from list of threatened sites

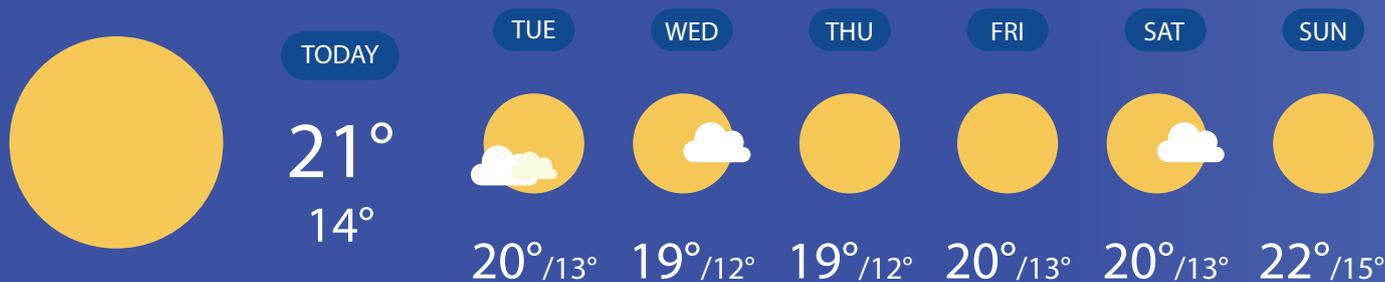
The Minister of Education and Chairman of the National Committee for Education, Culture and Science, Mussa al-Maqarif, has met with the director of the Ghadames City Development Agency, Abdel Salam Haiba, and the director of the Ghadames Center for Research, Studies and Heritage Documentation, Mukhtar Houda.

They discussed establishment of cultural activities in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO), the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO), and the National Organization for Education, Culture and Science, to remove the old city of Ghadames from the List of World Heritage in Danger and back to the List of World Heritage Sites.

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