

Politics

Al-Mishri ceases communication with HoR over establishing supreme constitutional court



The Head of the High Council of State (HCS), Khalid Al-Mishri, has sent an official letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR), Aqila Saleh, calling for the necessity of annulling the law establishing a Supreme Constitutional Court in Benghazi, which it said was issued in violation of the constitutional provisions and points of agreement between the HCS and the HoR.

Al-Mishri explained in the letter that the process of communication between the HCS and HoR's presidencies and the work of the joint committees are now considered suspended until the supreme constitutional court's law is revoked.

Al-Mishri said that he does not consider the law to be among the legislative powers of the HoR, and that the establishment of a constitutional court is a constitutional matter, indicating that it is an act that undermines confidence between the two chambers, demolishes efforts to reach consensus on the constitutional path, and deepens the institutional division in the country, stressing the need for holding an urgent HCS session to look into the violations.

The Head of the HCS sent an official letter to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and its advisors, the Chief of the Supreme Judicial Council and its members, and members of the judicial bodies, in which he indicated the seriousness of establishing the supreme constitutional court by the HoR.

"This is one of the attempts of the HoR to seize control of the judicial system and plunging it in the political polarization of the country. The ramifications of this sham law can further partition Libya and add to its fragmentation. It would definitely undermine the autonomy of the judiciary," Al-Mishri told them. He said that the HCS had come a long way in agreeing with the HoR to constitutionalize articles related to the Libyan judiciary and the Constitutional Court, and had devoted an entire chapter to the Constitutional Court.

"Passing the 'flawed' law was a circumvention of what was agreed upon, in order to subjugate the Constitutional Court to private desires that do not serve the country and to disrupt the work of the Constitutional Circuit Court so that it does not look into appeals, as well as to immunize laws that may be issued later in violation of all norms and constitutions," Al-Mishri added.

Politics

Libya deplores Greek's move to explore disputed areas



Libya's Foreign Ministry decried on Wednesday Greek's government after the latter struck a deal with international companies to start research and exploration for oil and gas in the Libyan-Greek maritime borders.

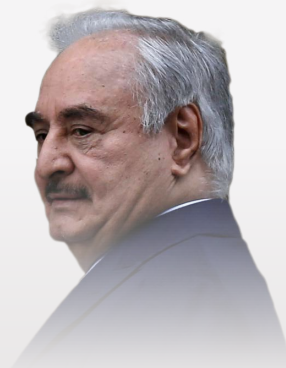
In late November, Greece announced new seismic survey operations for oil and gas in a disputed area off the island of Crete.

Libya accused Greece of taking root to exploit the Libyan crisis and impose a fait accompli in defining the common maritime borders between the two countries. The ministry said it had verified reports concerning Greece's contract with international companies and the Sanko Swift ship, which specializes in research and surveying in the eastern Mediterranean.

"Greece is conducting exploration contracts in a disputed area in the south and southwest of the islands of Crete," a readout from the Foreign Ministry said, pledging to take legal and diplomatic measures to defend Libya's rights and sovereignty in its maritime areas.

Politics

Haftar rejects any Libyan constitutional basis that prevents military leaders from running for elections



Khalifa Haftar said he still wants to run for Libyan presidential elections and rejects any constitutional basis that prevents military leaders from candidacy.

Haftar said in a speech on his visit Monday to Ajdabiya city that those who demand disallowing military figures from participating in elections express their weakness in politics, adding that they fear that their ballot boxes will remain empty while the boxes of their military competitors will be filled with votes.

He called for the need to leave the choice to the people and their votes, saying that those clinging to power are not part of the military institution, and stressing that the temporary solutions led by politicians have proven useless, as they are a waste of time and effort, and they can only contribute to the worsening of crises.

Haftar indicated that what he described as the armed militias' control of Tripoli and the center of the supreme executive authority for years led to the failure of all efforts to resolve the Libyan crisis, vowing to take a decisive decision to manage their affairs, build their institutions, and employ their natural resources for their benefit, adding that the institutions of the state have become fragile entities under the grip of armed groups. He also explained that in this case, the position of the armed forces will only be supportive and protective of the people in their choices.

In the meantime, Haftar failed to mention all the wars his forces fought in the east, south, and west of the country and ventured to say that the current situation has hindered building the future of the Libyan state. He called for respect for the aspirations of the Libyan people for freedom and dignity, in addition to siding with the interests of the country above all other considerations.

Politics



Meeting between heads of HoR, HCS in Zintan called off at last minute

A meeting between Parliament speaker Aqila Saleh and the High Council of State Head, Khaled Al-Mishri, which was scheduled for December 4, has been called off, a statement by the UN mission disclosed on Saturday.

"For logistical reasons beyond our control, this important meeting for the resumption of the political dialogue between the HoR and the HCS cannot take place in Zintan," the Head of the UN Support Mission In Libya (UNSMIL) Abdoulaye Bathily stated.

According to media reports, Saleh and Al-Mishri had recently met in Cairo for talks on elections and the fate of the executive authority, which the GNU government based in Tripoli, rejects.

Bathily urged all Libyan institutions, including the HoR and the HSC, to engage in dialogue in the search for a solution and agree on a mutually acceptable location and date for their meeting.

The UN officials also called on Libyans and public institutions, including the Presidential Council, judiciary, and security institutions, to make their voices and concerns heard to end the current deadlock.

"The people of Libya deserve the opportunity to cast their ballot and chose their future leaders."

Bathily reiterated the UN's support to ensure a successful outcome to the meeting, which "must provide answers" to the growing frustrations and aspirations of the more than 2.8 million registered voters in Libya and allow them to bestow legitimacy to the future leaders and institutions of their country.

Mayor Omran Al-Ambani of Zintan has revealed in a press statement that the Municipal Council of Zintan received a request from the UNSMIL to host a meeting between the HoR Speaker Saleh and the HCS head Al-Mishri.

Al-Amiani said the municipality stipulated that the Government of National Unity approves the meeting as per the correct administrative sequence followed in this regard.

Politics

MPs, HCS members deny knowledge of Saleh-Al-Mishri meeting in Zintan



High Council of State (HCS) member, Saad bin Sharada, said Monday that the planned meeting between the heads of the House of Representatives (HoR) and the HCS in Zintan city was organized by the UN mission, which later decided to postpone the meeting without referring to either council.

"The UN mission Head, Abdoulaye Bathily, since assuming his duties, informed the political parties that his strategy was based on holding political meetings inside Libya and not abroad," Bin Sharada said in media statements.

The HCS member denied that the meeting, which was scheduled for last Sunday, was the result of an agreement and coordination between the HoR Speaker, Aqila Saleh, and the HCS Head, Khaled Al-Mishri.

In a related context, MP Salem Quneidi said Saleh is eying to head the Presidential Council, while Khaled Al-Mishri wants to be the next prime minister.

According to Quneidi, Saleh and Al-Mishri disclosed their desire to obtain these positions in previous official sessions, adding that any agreement is doomed to fail as both are seeking narrow interests.

Politics

Italian envoy hails Bathily's efforts on the constitutional track



The Italian Special Envoy to Libya, Nicola Orlando, has praised the consultations conducted by the Head of the UN Mission in Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, during his meeting in Tunis, on Wednesday.

In a tweet, Orlando expressed Italy's "respectful and convinced" support for Bathily's mediation of a Libyan path towards elections, hoping it would lead to a consensual and inclusive executive and the equitable use of national resources.

He also praised Bathily's efforts to finalize the constitutional base as a prerequisite for elections and stressed the need for the institutions and their leaders to put the people's democratic aspirations before their particular interests.

Politics



German ambassador says empowering municipalities is the key to stability in Libya

The German Ambassador to Libya, Michael Ohnmacht, has stated that empowering municipalities is the key to stability in Libya.

"Germany is proud to support GIZ's decentralization project in close cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government", Ohnmacht tweeted.

Ohnmacht published pictures of the meeting of the German Agency for International Cooperation, GIZ, with the Minister of Local Government, Badr Al-Din Al-Toumi, without providing any information about the meeting.

For its part, the Ministry of Local Government in the Government of National Unity did not issue any statement regarding Al-Toumi's meeting with the German Agency for International Cooperation.

Politics



Tebboune commends work of AU on reconciliation in Libya

The Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has reiterated his country's support for the African Union in its efforts towards achieving national reconciliation in Libya, as he wished the chairman of the AU Commission success in achieving this endeavor and creating a suitable environment for holding elections.

Tebboune made his remarks during a phone call with the President of Congo Brazzaville/ head of the high-level African Commission on Libya, Denis Sassou Nguesso, on Wednesday.

A statement by the Algerian Presiden-

cy said the two sides discussed bilateral relations, prospects for cooperation, and issues of common concern.

Meanwhile, the African Union Commission Head, Moussa Faki, has called for intensifying efforts to help mend fences between conflicting parties in Libya before going to presidential and parliamentary elections.

In this context, the African Committee on Libya, chaired by Congo-Brazzaville, has been conducting multilateral consultations inside Libya and abroad to mobilize support for the national reconciliation project.

Economy



CBL: Libya's revenues hit 92.6 billion dinars and expenditures reached 85.7 billion in last 11 months

Recent statistics of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) showed that public revenues amounted to 92.6 billion dinars from the beginning of 2022 until November 30, while expenditures amounted to 85.7 billion dinars in the same period.

The CBL added on Wednesday that revenues were 67 billion dinars from oil sales, while oil royalties revenues amounted to 11.9 billion dinars, revenues from oil royalties for previous years reached 11.4 billion dinars, and taxes hit 875 million dinars.

It also said that customs revenues amounted to 191 million dinars, telecommunications revenues 330 million, revenues from selling fuel in the local market 205 million, and other revenues 652 million: revenues received from financial services' controls in Libyan cities in return for public services (passport fees, car ownership, fines, etc.).

As for expenditures, the CBL's statistics showed that public salaries (chapter one) amounted to 40.9 billion dinars, and management expenses (chapter two) amounted to about 7.9 billion dinars. It said 550 million dinars were allocated for development (chapter three), of which 144 million were allocated to the Educational Curriculum and Research Center, in addition to grants for students that were transferred to Libyan embassies abroad.

As for subsidies (chapter four), they amounted to 17 billion dinars, while an exceptional budget was allocated for the National Oil Corporation at a value of 19.2 billion dinars. No funds were allocated for emergency (chapter five).

Economy

Libya, France's Total discuss boosting energy field cooperation

Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah discussed with the vice chairman of the French company Total strengthening cooperation in the field of alternative energy, and benefiting from the company and its entry into new projects.

According to Dbeibah's media office, the two sides discussed the steps taken in the solar energy production project concluded between Total and the Renewable Energy Agency. It said that Dbeibah confirmed that the government is working to overcome the difficulties facing the oil sector to increase production and enter the field of alternative energies.

Total vice chairman expressed his gratitude for the Libyan government's decision to lift force majeure on oil exploration, stressing its importance for international companies to contribute to increasing oil production.



Economy

NOC reviews with Chinese BGP resumption of work in Libya

A member of the Board of Directors of the National Oil Corporation, Khalifa Abdulsadiq, discussed with the director of the BGP branch in Libya and his accompanying delegation, the resumption of the company's activity in Libya.

According to the delegation, the Chinese company expressed its desire to return to work again in Libya as soon as possible, confirming the start of procedures to reopen its office in Libya, the NOC said on Monday.

BGP was present in several locations in Libya before 2011 and its most prominent work was in the Masak area, southwest of Ubari, which started in 2005.



Economy

HoR, CBL review 2023 budget

The Governor of Libya's Central Bank (CBL), Saddek Elkaber, met on Sunday with members of the Planning and General Budget Committee in the House of Representatives, including the committee's head, Omar Tantoush, and members Amer Omran, Abdul Moneim Balkour, Muhammad Al-Fuwairis, and Khalifa Al-Daghari.

The meeting focused on four main files, including public spending, the 2023 budget, the status of commercial banks, and the stalled infrastructure projects.

The two sides also reviewed the implementation of the extraordinary budget that the Government of National Unity allocated for the NOC.



Economy

OPEC continues to exclude Libya from contributing to production cuts

The Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Aoun, has participated in the 35th meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which was held via Zoom platform.

The participants confirmed the previous decisions, especially the decision to reduce production by two million barrels per day, with the continued exception of Libya from contributing to the reduction.

They agreed to follow up on market developments and to hold meetings to monitor production every two months or when the need arises.

Economy



Aoun joins 185th session of OPEC's ministerial meeting

Minister of Oil and Gas Mohamed Aoun has joined an online meeting for the Ministerial Council of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) via zoom.

The main topics on the organization's agenda were a proposal for the 2023 budget and an update to OPEC's long-term strategic plan.

In OPEC's 185th session, the ministers assigned a new president and an alternate president for the Ministerial Council, as well as the chairman of the board of governors.

Libya's governor in OPEC, Mustafa bin Issa was selected as the alternative chairman of the board of governors for this term, according to Libya's Ministry of Oil and Gas.

The Libyan crisis and its forthcoming scene

By **Abdullah Alkabir**, a Libyan political writer and commentator



The bet on the House of Representatives and the High Council of State to hold elections have failed many times. At this time, a year ago, everyone was preparing for December 24 elections, except for the few who knew that they would not take place because they were working to abort them.

At that time, as the date approached, other emergency factors emerged that contributed to aborting them completely, such as the candidacy of controversial figures who were rejected by large swaths of the population, so that the elections day came as a normal day just like all other days, while everyone disavows responsibility and holds opponents responsible for this failure.

International and local pressure did not cease driving the parties to conduct elections as soon as possible, but Aqila Saleh, Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR), and Khaled Al-Mashri, the Head of the High Council of State (HCS) continue their maneuvers to disrupt them, by invoking the existence of contentious points in the draft constitution, the need to form a unified government that extends its influence throughout the country, and to change the leaders of the sovereign institutions, as steps that must be taken to hold the elections.

Indeed, the media reported that several meetings took place between them in Cairo, to be followed by another meeting in Zintan, to put the final touches on what was agreed upon. However, the UN mission did not comment on these bilateral meetings, which the UN envoy should have participated in at least one of them.

Today, the picture is very clear, Al-Mashri and Aqila will not leave their positions unless they secured higher positions in a new transitional phase, while the Government of National Unity insists on not handing over its duties except to a government formed by an elected parliament. As for the Presidential Council, it is still distancing itself from the conflict dialectics, and disavows all responsibilities that it should shoulder. Even during the recent crisis with Greece, it did not stand up for Libyan sovereignty and issued a dull statement half of which was an unjustified courtesy to Greece.

Those fighting for power do not want to resort to elec-

tions, as they realize that it will be the first and last nail in the coffin of overthrowing them, and stripping them of lavish life and privileges that they never dreamed of, and the scene, despite all its complications, is at a crossroads. The first option is the continuation of the present moment, in futile and endless negotiations, meetings and dialogues, and the second is the success of Aqila and Al-Mishri, with the wing supporting them in the two houses, in reaching a comprehensive consensus to form a government and a presidential council, and to name new personalities for sovereign positions. However, the path towards putting these consensuses into practice is not without significant obstacles. The American, British and Turkish positions do not view a way to change the government except through elections that resolve the debate over legitimacy, and the majority of the popular position basically rejects the extension of the transitional stages and the continuation of power-sharing between the same personalities, and does not see an alternative to conducting the elections. In addition to the constitutional and legal obstacles, as Saleh and Al-Mashri are unable to provide the required quorum to pass what they agreed upon in official sessions of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, as well as the need for the UN mission to supervise this political transformation, and then there will be a need for a political dialogue forum, which will not be limited to the HoR and the HCS, but will include political figures and other civil society organizations, and therefore things may go in directions that Saleh and Al-Mashri do not want.

The third option is serious and practical popular rejection through demonstrations against any attempt aimed at continuing the transitional stages and postponing the elections, and this way is the most viable and easiest option to force everyone to submit to the will of the people and hold elections.

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



Al-Sayeh denies spread of unknown diseases in Sabha and Kufra

Director General of the National Center for Disease Control, Haider Al-Sayeh, denied on Saturday the spread of meningitis in Sabha, saying: "There is no unidentified disease in Kufra."

He also explained, in a post on his official Facebook account, that what was "detected and diagnosed in our branch in Kufra is the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) known to spread at this time," reassuring the public that the syncytial virus "is not dangerous."

Al-Sayeh confirmed that if something dangerous was detected, the NCDC would announce it immediately, warning against disseminating such information by the media without verification.

Libyan media reported Friday that an unknown virus had spread among children in the city of Kufra.

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Migration



21,457 migrants returned to Libya during the current year, IOM says

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has announced the rescue and return of 633 migrants off the coast of Libya from November 27 to December 3, 2022.

The IOM indicated on its Facebook page that 21,457 migrants have been rescued and returned to Libya, including 1,089 women and 678 children, since the beginning of 2022.

The organization stated that 517 illegal migrants have died and 830 others have gone missing off the Libyan coast on the central Mediterranean route so far this year.

Crimes



Law Enforcement Force clashes with armed human traffickers near Sabratha shores

The Law Enforcement Force said that it had clashed with an armed group working in human trafficking in front of the beach of Sabratha, adding that its units spotted a suspicious movement near the sea.

The Force said that upon their arrival, they came under heavy fire from the armed group that was preparing to set on sail a boat of illegal immigrants.

It also confirmed its control over the area after the armed group had fled, saying it had seized the boat used to transport immigrants and its equipment, in addition to two SUVs and a car, which were transferred to the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

Sports



Ministry of Sports starts procedures to establish three sport stadiums

The Minister of Sports, Abdul Shafi' Al-Juwaifi, has instructed to immediately start implementing the decision issued by the Council of Ministers of the Government of National Unity, regarding the contracting to establish three main sport stadiums, in accordance with Technical standards set by FIFA, in each of the cities of Tripoli, Benghazi, and Sabha with a capacity of 30,000, 20,000, and 10,000 spectators, respectively.

The minister stressed the Ministry's projects office the need to work with the largest international companies specialized in establishing modern sport stadiums in order to implement the three stadiums.

He also emphasized that the coming period will witness more positive signs that include the implementation of several sports projects, and great organizational steps aimed at advancing Libyan sports.

The Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah had issued a decision assigning the Ministry of Sports to work on establishing three sport stadiums in each of Tripoli, Benghazi and Sabha.

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Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



TODAY

23°
14°

TUE



24°/17°

WED



25°/18°

THU



26°/18°

FRI



25°/17°

SAT



23°/15°

SUN



20°/14°

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