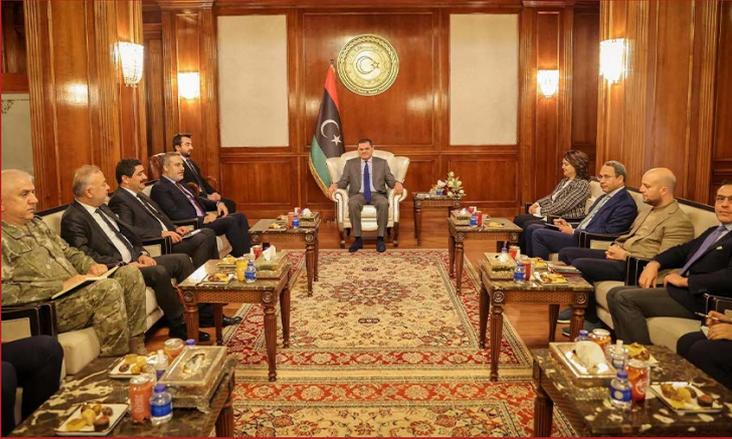


Politics

Turkish chief of intelligence meets Libyan Prime Minister in Tripoli



The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah met in his office in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, with the visiting chief of Turkish intelligence agency, Hakan Fidan, and they discussed files of joint interest as well as local, regional and international developments.

The meeting took place in the presence of the Libyan Foreign Minister Najla Al-Mangoush, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Adel Jumaa, and State Minister for Communication and Political Affairs, Walid Ellafi.

Afterwards, Fidan met with the Head of the High Council of State Khalid Al-Mishri, who reiterated the importance of bilateral relations and the need to boost them in all fields.

Turkey's spy chief expressed Ankara's keenness to develop relations with Libya and reiterated their unwavering support for political efforts aiming at finding a solution to the crisis and prevailing stability in Libya.

Turkish chief of intelligence arrived in Libya just five days after the CIA Director William Burns had landed in the country to meet with Dbeibah.

Politics

HoR Speaker:

Dispute with HCS is over whether or not dual nationals can run for presidential elections



House of Representatives' (HoR) Speaker Aqila Saleh said that the dispute with the High Council of State (HCS) is centered on the issue of the candidacy of dual nationals presidential elections.

"Perhaps, if we were in a stable country, we might establish a rule that gives the right for one or three figures to run for election, but we are in a state of fragmentation, and we must look at the circumstances surrounding." Saleh said in an HoR session on Tuesday in Benghazi.

Saleh called for allowing the candidacy of dual nationals, pointing to the possibility of adding an article that says: in the event of dual nationals succeeding in presidential elections, he/she would show documents of renouncing the other nationality.

He also called for leaving the choice to the people, and asked the opponents to accept the results in order to end the transitional periods, urging for the formation of three parliamentary committees: a political committee, an advisory committee to develop the constitutional basis, and an economic committee.

He gave the HCS 15 days to respond to the HoR regarding the file of the constitutional basis for the elections, urging the members of the HCS to assume their responsibility and thwart the "clear conspiracy", and warning them of foreign interference and division.

The HoR voted in favor of forming temporary committees for a period of two weeks to deal with what it called the political impasse. The proposal to form these committees won the support of 17 members out of the 37 present, according to what was announced during the session by the First Deputy Speaker Fawzi Al-Nuwairi.

Politics

Tripartite meeting in Cairo held by Libya's Haftar, Saleh and Menfi

Sources confirmed that a meeting was held on Sunday in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, by the Head of the Presidential Council Mohammed Menfi, Khalifa Haftar, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, with the aim of finding a common ground on differences.

The sources indicated that the meeting had discussed the mechanism of holding elections with a roadmap that would satisfactory to all political parties, saying that this came within the rapproche-

ment between Menfi and Haftar that began since the failure of the Presidential Council's initiative to bring together Saleh and Khalid Al-Mishri for a meeting in Ghadames last week.

This was the second meeting within a week, as a source in the Presidential Council said on January 09 that the Menfi met with Haftar in Cairo.

Commenting on the tripartite meeting; the media advisor to Saleh, Fathi Al-Maryami, said in a press statement that the results of the Cairo meetings had not been disclosed, expecting that they would include agreeing to hold presidential and parliamentary elections according to a specific timetable after agreeing on a constitutional document regarding the file of dual nationals and the military leaders' candidacy. He added that the outcomes of the Cairo meeting are also expected to confirm the need for strict security arrangements to protect polling centers.

Sources close to Saleh had said earlier that he agreed to meet with Menfi under Egyptian pressure and mediation, especially since the relationship between the two men was severely damaged because Saleh accused Menfi's brother of orchestrating the storming of the House of Representatives' headquarters in Tobruk last July and tampering with its files



Politics

Cairo steps up pressure on Haftar to accept a settlement

Egyptian pressure has forced the rogue military commander Khalifa Haftar to "make concessions," as his primary concern has become to pass the power from father to son, according to the Italian newspaper La Repubblica.

In a report titled "The Road to Tripoli," the newspaper said the Libyan issue has returned to the center of the international agenda citing that a recent meeting between CIA Director William Burns and Libyan actors confirms this fact.

The publisher says that the US priority is to uproot Wagner's mercenaries from eastern Libya and counter the increasing expansion of the Kremlin's warriors in Africa.

Achieving this goal lies in the agreement of all Libyan warlords, starting with Khalifa Haftar.

For decades, the CIA had generously hosted Haftar in the US as an alternative to Muammar Gaddafi if needed.

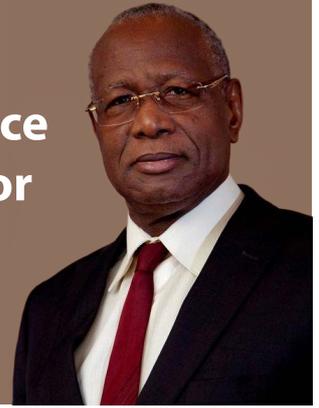
The report adds that the regional powers that used to challenge each other in Libya and support one party over the other are no longer enemies.

"Egypt is no longer an enemy of Qatar after Sisi eased tensions with Erdogan, on the other hand, the UAE reconciled with Turkey, creating the favorable environment to push Tripoli and Tobruk to sit and negotiate."

As La Repubblica put it, the Russian-Ukrainian war has altered the balance in the Mediterranean region, saying that Libya's hope of building a path for elections, establishing joint institutions, and a unified government is beginning to revive.

Politics

Bathily says Justice is fundamental for reconciliation in Libya



There can be no reconciliation in Libya without justice and Libyans listening to each other, the UN Envoy to Libya Abdoulaye Bathily said in his address before the preparatory meeting for the National Reconciliation Conference, which wrapped up in Tripoli on Thursday.

"National reconciliation in Libya will succeed if it is inclusive and managed by a dedicated and qualified team whose work is based on the Libyan historical experience as well as lessons learnt elsewhere in the region and Africa, Bathily tweeted, praising the opposing parties for coming together "to promote national reconciliation."

Following the preparatory meeting on Thursday, the UN official met with the Presidential Council Deputy Abdullah Al-Lafi and affirmed the UN's full support to advance the process led by the National Reconciliation Commission, in close coordination with the African Union.

The Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, chaired the preparatory meeting for the National Reconciliation Conference that kicked off in Tripoli on Sunday with the participation of various political parties, besides representatives of the African Union and the international community.

Politics

Senior security Maltese chiefs meet counterparts in Tripoli

A Maltese security delegation arrived in Tripoli on Wednesday for talks with their Libyan counterparts on cooperation and to discuss security issues of common concern.

The Acting Minister of Interior, Emad Trabelsi, received the delegation headed by his Maltese counterpart, Byron Camilleri, Libya's Interior Ministry said.

The delegation included the heads of the Maltese intelligence and the armed forces, besides a group of diplomats, among them the Maltese special envoy to Libya.

The two sides discussed strengthening security cooperation in combating illegal immigration, transnational organized crime, terrorism, and training programs.

They also reviewed ways to activate the joint security committee between the two countries and facilitate the entry visas for Libyans traveling to Malta, besides opening an air navigation line between Tripoli and Valletta.

In conclusion, the Undersecretary of the Interior Ministry, Major General Mahmoud Saeed, accompanied the Maltese delegation to the General Directorate of Security Operations in order to inaugurate the Libyan-Maltese Center for Joint Security Operations.



Politics

5+5 JMC rapporteur: News about efforts to unify military institution is untrue

The member and rapporteur of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC), Mustafa Yehya, said that the JMC is working on implementing the terms of the ceasefire signed in October 2020, adding that it does not include unifying the military institution or appointing and proposing names to occupy leadership positions in the mili-

tary institution.

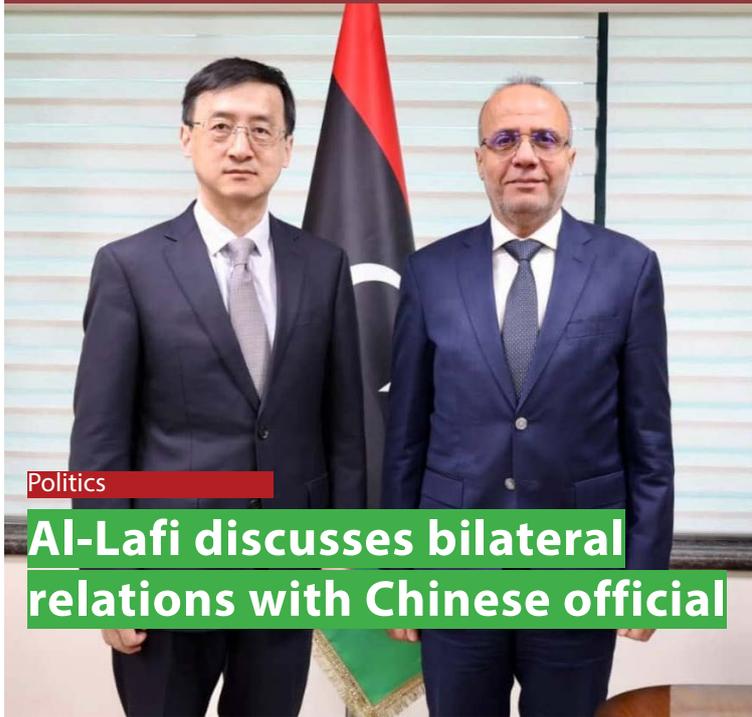
Yehya said in a press statement that the joint military force, which was formed by consensus, is concerned with working to consolidate the ceasefire by containing any breach, assisting the Security Arrangements Committee, and securing the work of local and international monitoring teams.

He stressed that the information about appointing military leaders or the committee taking steps towards unifying the military institution or securing oil fields and ports is baseless, saying it's just rumors to confuse the work of the JMC, pointing out that the members are professional military leaders who know very well the limits of their duties and work with dedication to imple-

ment them.

The UN envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, said a meeting would be held in upcoming weeks with neighboring countries to southern Libya to discuss ways to remove mercenaries, indicating that important decisions had been taken regarding the mercenaries' file, specifically with Sudan, Chad and Niger.

Bathily added in a press conference following the meeting of the 5+5 JMC in Sirte that they sensed in the members' determination and commitment to work towards peace and stability in Libya, saying that the work of the JMC confirmed that the armed forces in Libya are ready to support the political process.



Politics

Al-Lafi discusses bilateral relations with Chinese official

Vice President of the Presidential Council, Abdullah Al-Lafi, received the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires Eng Zhimin on Tuesday.

A statement by the PC media office said the talks focused on strengthening bilateral relations and developments in the Libyan political scene.

Al-Lafi reviewed with the Chinese diplomat ways to enhance Libyan-Chinese cooperation in various fields, resuming the work of the Chinese embassy in Tripoli, the return of Chinese companies to Libya, and finalizing stalled projects.

For his part, the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires expressed his country's support for the national reconciliation project, praising the work of the recent preparatory forum that gathered all political parties.

He also reiterated the need to move forward with the peace process in order to achieve the desired elections.

Advertising

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No. Admn-1/16/2022 18th January 2023

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Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Libya invites Sealed Bids for the sale of his old Car "as is where is" basis with following specifications: -

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Model:	523i/2008
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- The above mentioned car may be seen between 10:00 am to 04:00 pm from Sunday to Thursday in the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan located at Al-Jarabah Street, Tripoli, Libya. Email: paretripoli@gmail.com, Phone numbers +218-21-3614830 & +218-21-3614831
- The last date for receiving bids is 15 days after the publishing of this circular.





Economy

Libyan-Tunisian meeting to activate reconstruction projects

The Minister of Housing and Construction of the Government of National Unity, Abu Bakr Al-Ghazi, has discussed with his Tunisian counterpart, Sarah Zaafarani, the conditions of Tunisian companies operating in Libya, and the activation of the projects of the Tunisian General Company for Contraction, Equipment and Works.

This came in an expanded meeting in the city of Misrata, on Monday, in the presence of the Minister of Transport, Mohammed Al-Shahoubi, the Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Hawij, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Housing for Planning and Development, Mohammed Al-Sharif Ahmed, and the Tunisian Ambassador to Libya, Al-Asaad Al-Ajeel



Economy

Libya's Central Bank denies World Gold Council's report about losing 27 tons since August 2011

The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) has confirmed that its gold reserves are the same without any decrease since August 20, 2011, according to a statement posted on its Facebook page on Monday in response to a report by the World Gold Council regarding gold reserves in Libya.

The CBL did not say how much Libya had of gold reserves, but it said that it carried out, within the framework of its plan for transparency and disclosure, an international audit of the gold reserves in 2022, adding that the results confirmed that the CBL maintained the same reserves without any change since August 2011.

The CBL called on all media outlets to look for accuracy and credibility when publishing any information or news related to its activities.

The World Gold Council said in its annual report on gold reserves that 27 tons of gold had disappeared from Libya since the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, adding that Libya's gold reserves went down from 143.82 tons in 2011 to 116.64 tons in 2014. Libya, the Council said, ranked among five Arab countries at the top of gold reserves' list of Central Banks around the world.



Economy

Libya comes third in Africa in importing Turkish products

Turkish exports to African countries in 2022 have totaled a record high, exceeding \$21 billion, an increase of 12.3 percent compared to its exports in 2021.

According to the Turkish Exporters' Assembly, the data showed that the value of Turkey's exports to the countries of the brown continent during the past year amounted to 21.8 billion dollars.

Egypt ranked first among the African countries that imported Turkish products, with a value of \$3.9 billion, Morocco second with \$3 billion, and Libya third with \$2.4 billion.



Economy

Libya's oil minister: We have enough solar power to export electricity

The Libyan Minister of Oil and Gas in the, Mohammed Oun, said that Libya has sufficient solar energy to export "huge amounts of electricity to other countries".

During his participation via videoconference in the Global Summit on Energy Security in India, Oun stressed that the transition to clean energies should not take place at the expense of the African continent, especially since "more than half of the continent's population haven't seen electricity in their lives. He said those people have the right to a decent life and to exploit their nations' resources before switching to clean energies.

Oun reaffirmed the start of projects to generate electricity from solar energy in Libya, adding that Libya has ambitious projects in various fields of energy.

"We are hoping to work with partners on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, especially since Libya exports most of its production of crude oil as well as quantities of natural gas to contribute to alleviating the global crisis." Oun remarked.

He expected that the future of Libya would be promising, whether in oil wealth or other resources, calling on friendly countries to invest in Libya, as well as for the return of companies that left due to force majeure measures after 2011.

Opinions

New developments of the US stance on Libya, following CIA Director's visit to Libya



By: **Senussi Bsaikri**, a Libyan political writer and commentator

The visit by the CIA Director, William Burns, to Tripoli and Benghazi sparked a wide spread debate and indeed, became a subject for discussion for both Libyan and Arab satellite channels, as well as for many of those interested in Libyan affairs, both at home and abroad, who wrote about the issue, and rightly so, as this visit signals a shift in the US policy towards Libya. William Burns is a significant figure in the US political and diplomatic circles. He is close to President Joe Biden, and he has long career in American foreign and political relations, especially in the Middle East. He is also not new to the Libyan file. However, the shift is that he is no longer a US State Department ranking official, but he is today at the helm of the CIA, the largest and most critical intelligence services in the world.

Burns arrived in Libya with his political weight and experience as a statesman, but not in his capacity as a ranking diplomat, but rather as a CIA director, and this indication makes it much likely that Washington handed over the Libyan file to its intelligence. What reinforces this thinking is that Burns in his meeting with the Government of National Unity, dealt with various political, economic and security files of interest to the US administration, and therefore, his discussions were not confined to issues at the core of security and intelligence work.

There are several reasons for this very likely shift in Washington's approach to the Libyan file, such as assigning a ranking official from the White House or State Department means full recognition of the legitimacy of Dbeibah and Haftar. This is what the US administration does not wish to signal. When the official is a security figure, it does not mean a total recognition, as it is a well-known attitude in international relations.

Furthermore, the direction of the Libyan crisis, with its most prominent title 'dispute and conflict', and the overlapping of local actors, on whom the USA has reservations, requires that a security agency be in the forefront.

In addition to the above, foreign interventions, which took a sharp turn, ending up with military and intelligence presence of regional and international parties, some of which are threatening the very US interests, such as the Russian presence in Libya under the cover of the Wagner forces, prompting US increased interest in Libya during the past three years. As for the Turkish forces, although their intervention has achieved a balance that Washington desired, but the growing Turkish military influence in western Libya undoubtedly-

ly worries the United States too.

Choosing Abdul Hamid Dbeibah and Khalifa Haftar to be Burns' counterparts in the talks has an important significance, as this may be an expression of American reservations over other authorities, especially the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, because the state of international discontent towards them is on the rise, and Western ambassadors expressed this explicitly in their statements. The US representative to the UN Security Council recently did not hesitate to accuse those responsible for these bodies of adapting the political course and the constitutional basis to serve the interests of specific people. However, the most important element in choosing Dbeibah and Haftar, is the belief that they are the people having the most significant influence in their regions, east and west, and that the nature of this phase for Washington and its senior official, CIA director, is a practical one that requires executive decisions which heads of Parliament, the High Council of State, and the Presidential Council do not have.

This trend in analysis prompts the search for the files and issues carried by Burns with him, to Tripoli and Benghazi, and because the information is very scarce in this respect, the analysis should rather look into priorities of the US administration in dealing with the Libyan crisis, which could be:

- Foreign presence, Russian first, and Turkish second.
- Extremist groups.
- Economic interests represented by US companies operating in the oil field.
- Regulating the pace of transformation in the country in a way that does not threaten the interests of the United States and its allies.

The remaining issue is about the American approach vis-a-vis the Libyan crisis, and the current dispute following Burns' visit to Tripoli and Benghazi. In this respect, it can be said that Burns may have included on the agenda of his visit, the need for consensus for the success of elections, and that Washington has become certain, that the two key actors capable of obstructing the elections are Dbeibah in the West and Haftar in the East, and that the guarantee for the progress of the political process and achieving consensus will only be attained by direct pressure on both of them.

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

NCDC launches vaccination campaign against Chickenpox, Viral Hepatitis for children



The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has given permission to start vaccinating children with the Chickenpox and Viral Hepatitis vaccines, starting from the beginning of next March. The center published a circular addressed to the supervisors of the National Program for Vaccinations in municipalities on its Facebook page, in which it clarified that vaccinations are given to children at the age of 15 months, those born in December 2021. It also pointed out to the concerned authorities the need to follow the instructions for the use of the vaccines and to inform parents of the specified date by launching awareness and warning campaigns.



Health

A convoy of ophthalmologists continues to visit Libyan cities

Director of the Eyes Hospital in Tripoli, the head of the Cornea Transplant Authority, Rania Al-Khoja, has announced that the eye convoy will continue to conduct visits to various Libyan cities. The medical convoy is to visit the cities of Al-Zahra, Ajelat, Misallata, Kufra, Ghat, Sabha and Traghen. According to Al-Khoja, the main goal of visiting these cities is to perform 500 surgeries in each city and more than 2,000 screening of patients. According to her, the next stage will be a visit to the cities of Al-Bayda and Surman, which will include corneal transplants.



Health

Indonesian chargé d'affaires says looking forward to boosting health cooperation with Libya

The chargé d'affaires of the Indonesian Embassy in Libya has expressed his country's desire to strengthen cooperation with Libya in the field of exporting medicines through international companies located in Indonesia. The Indonesian chargé d'affaires met on Sunday with the deputy prime minister and designated Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah. The meeting reviewed the prospects for health cooperation between the two countries, including providing the necessary support for the health of immigrants and providing them with medicines, in addition to bringing in medical personnel to increase the efficiency of hospitals in remote areas, as they rely on

medical and paramedic personnel to receive health services. Abu Janah reaffirmed that the Ministry of Health welcomed cooperation with the Indonesian side in accordance with the procedures and laws in force in Libya. On the other hand, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Privatization Affairs, Jamal Al-Lamushi, said that Libya would like to boost cooperation with Indonesia in joint projects, saying such a matter could be discussed further by a joint technical team.



Sports

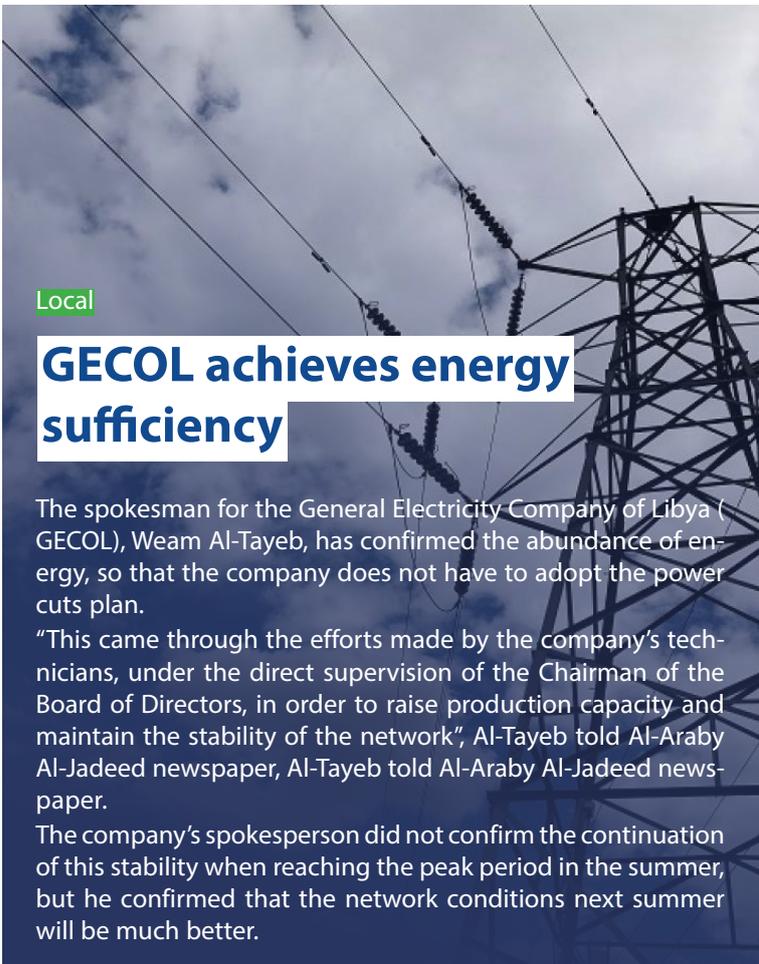
Libyan football team is the first out of CHAN 2023

The Libyan national football team lost for a second in its campaign in the 2023 African Nations Championship (CHAN) against Mozambique 2-3 to bid farewell to the tournament competitions from the group stage, with zero points in two matches.

Libya scored first by an own goal from a Mozambique defender at the minute 23, but later at the minute 74, Mozambique leveled the score.

Mozambique then went all-out on the attack and managed to score two goals in three minutes: 80 and 83, before Libya's Anas Salto got one back for the national team to make it 3-2 at the minute 94.

Libya lost two matches in the group stage and is left with one more match against Ethiopia, although it would not help the Mediterranean Knights to qualify even if they won.



Local

GECOL achieves energy sufficiency

The spokesman for the General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL), Weam Al-Tayeb, has confirmed the abundance of energy, so that the company does not have to adopt the power cuts plan.

"This came through the efforts made by the company's technicians, under the direct supervision of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, in order to raise production capacity and maintain the stability of the network", Al-Tayeb told Al-Araby Al-Jadeed newspaper, Al-Tayeb told Al-Araby Al-Jadeed newspaper.

The company's spokesperson did not confirm the continuation of this stability when reaching the peak period in the summer, but he confirmed that the network conditions next summer will be much better.



Education

Minister of Education follows up on the file of teaching English to students of different levels

The Minister of Education of the Government of National Unity, Musa al-Maqrif, has reviewed the efforts of teaching English to students of different levels of education.

This came during his meeting, on Monday, with the British Deputy Ambassador to Libya, Catherine Wilde, and her accompanying delegation, which included a number of British Council officials.

The meeting discussed the importance of cooperation between the Ministry and the Council in training a number of English language teachers on methods of teaching English, given that it is a basic language for students from the first grade of basic education.

Al-Maqrif expressed the Ministry's readiness to cooperate with the British Embassy in Libya and the British Council, stressing the importance of the British side's contribution to the development of the education system in Libya.

For her part, Wilde confirmed their enthusiasm for teaching the English language in Libya, expressing her happiness at the continuation of cooperation and communication between the two sides, referring in her speech to the Chevening Scholarship, which is funded by the British Foreign Office and in which Libyan students participate.

At the end of the meeting, the Deputy British Ambassador to Libya handed the Minister of Education an invitation signed by the British Minister of State for Education to attend the annual Global Education Forum, which will be held in London from May 7 to 10.



Migration

Libya deports 85 Chadians to their country

The Embassy of Chad in Libya has announced the deportation of 85 Chadian citizens from Libya, by the Anti-Migration Agency, after they had served their sentences.

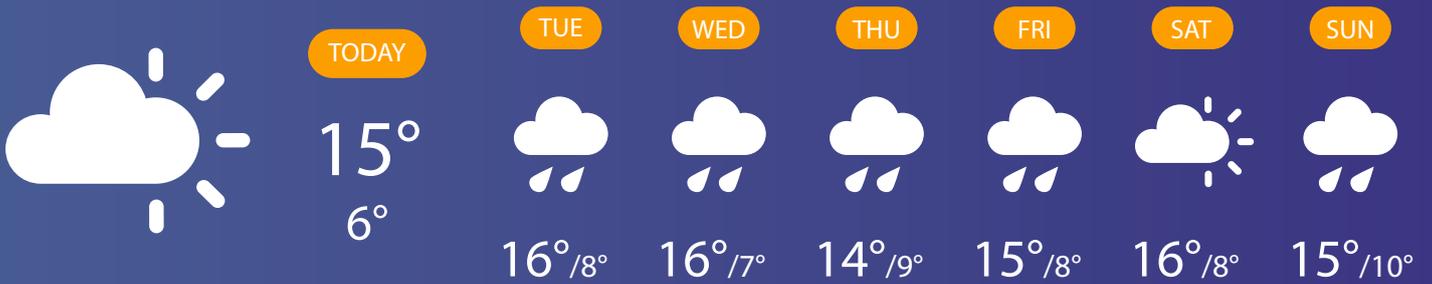
These Chadian citizens were identified by the embassy, which issued travel documents to facilitate their return to their country, according to a statement issued by the embassy.

The Chadian embassy thanked the concerned Libyan authorities for their cooperation and mutual coordination to facilitate the safe return of citizens to their country.

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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