

Politics

Libya's HoR Speaker calls for forming 45-member committee to select unified executive authority

The Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR) Aqila Saleh proposed forming a committee of 45 members to undertake the task of forming a unified executive authority "under international supervision".

Saleh reiterated in his speech at the annual conference of the Council on Libyan-American Relations on Thursday that the capacity of the HoR is to prepare and issue laws because it is the elected and internationally-recognized body, in addition to granting or withdrawing confidence in the government, underscoring that the High Council of State is just a consultative entity.

Saleh explained that his proposal to solve the crisis in Libya required forming a committee consisting of 15 members from the HoR and 15 from HCS, as well as 15 independents and specialists whose tasks would be to form a unified executive authority under international supervision.

He added that the task of the new unified authority would be providing citizens with their needed services, solving problems, and helping the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) to be able to organize parliamentary and presidential elections at the agreed date, as well as expelling foreign forces and distributing wealth to the country's regions.



Politics

Dbeibah, Bin Zayed stress need for international support for holding elections in Libya

The President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Mohamed bin Zayed has stressed to Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah the need for international support to hold elections in Libya, and to increase prospects for cooperation in the fields of renewable energy, gas and investment between the two countries. Bin Zayed met with Dbeibah on Wednesday in Abu Dhabi. Dbeibah was accompanied by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Adel Jumua, and the Prime Minister's Advisor for National Security, Ibrahim Dbeibah.

The media office of the Prime Minister said Dbeibah had explained to bin Zayed

the efforts of the Government of National Unity (GNU) to support the electoral process, which should be as per fair constitutional basis and electoral laws.

Dbeibah also stressed the need to boost economic cooperation with the UAE in the various economic and investment fields, referring to his agreement with bin Zayed to operate flights between the two countries, granting visas for citizens and resuming the work of the UAE embassy from inside Tripoli.

The official Emirates News Agency said that bin Zayed had discussed with Dbeibah bilateral relations, aspects of cooperation and joint action, in addition to the

importance of supporting all efforts and initiatives that preserve Libya's sovereignty and territorial integrity, ensuring the path of development and prosperity in Libya, and fulfilling the aspirations of the Libyan people.

The news agency indicated that the meeting was attended by the Special Affairs Advisor at the Presidential Office, Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan, Secretary General of the Supreme National Security Council Ali bin Hammad Al Shamsi, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Suhail bin Mohammed Faraj Faris Al Mazrouei.



Al-Mangoush reviews with African officials boosting African Union's role in Libya



Politics

The Libyan Foreign Minister Najla Al-Mangoush held a number of discussions with African officials on the sidelines of the opening session of the meeting of the Executive Council of the African Union (AU). Ethiopia

Al-Mangoush discussed with her Ethiopian counterpart, Demeke Mekonnen, the developments of the political process in Libya and the support of the Government of National Unity (GNU) for ending the transitional stages and holding elections. She also welcomed Ethiopia's desire to speed up the activation of the bilateral memorandum of understanding between the two countries regarding Ethiopian workers.

Meanwhile, the Ethiopian Foreign Minister reaffirmed his country's support for Libya within the AU, and the Libyan aspiration to build strong bilateral relations based on the historical relations between the two countries.

Somalia
The

Libyan FM also met with her counterpart from Somalia, Abshir Omar Jama, and talked about ways to strengthen bilateral, exchanging views with him on developments at the regional and international levels, and strengthening the role of the AU in Libya to support stability efforts.

Algeria

Al-Mangoush talked with her Algerian counterpart, Ramtane Lamamra, and stressed their keenness to continue coordination and consultation on various files and to exchange support in regional and international circles, especially regarding the support for the file of joint Arab action. The Algerian FM renewed his country's support for Libya and the GNU to hold elections as soon as possible.

Tunisia

The Libyan FM discussed as well with the

Tunisian counterpart, Nabil Ammar, enhancing prospects for joint cooperation in several fields to serve the interest of the two peoples, in addition to discussing the developments in the regional and international arena, and ways to support the role of the AU in Libya.

Niger

The Foreign Minister concluded her meetings with a conversation with the Nigerien counterpart, Hassoumi Massaoudou, and discussed developments in the political situation at the local and regional levels.

They also reaffirmed their keenness to continue coordination and consultation on various files, especially the activation of the role of the AU, as well as the Executive Secretariat of the Community of Sahel-Sahara States and its return to work from its headquarters in Tripoli.



Politics

Libya donates \$50 million to Turkey for rebuilding quake-hit regions

The Libyan Foreign Minister, Najla Al-Mangoush, has announced the donation of 50 million US dollars to rebuilding areas that have been affected by the earthquake in Turkey, adding that this sum is the first installment to be followed by others.

Al-Mangoush spoke in a joint press conference with her Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu, in Ankara, where she arrived Monday morning to offer condolences and solidarity to the government and people of Turkey.

The Libyan Foreign Minister explained that in addition to the Libyan team of rescuers that is currently in quake-stricken areas in Turkey, more teams will arrive in south Turkey for more support in the ongoing relief operations, not to mention the two flights packed with aids due to arrive soon in Turkey.

Meanwhile, the Turkish Foreign Minister hailed Libya's support and the efforts of as well as field medical points set up by the Libyan rescuers in the areas affected by the earthquake.

The humanitarian move by the Libyan Government of National Unity was hailed with some reservations by the Libyan people who criticized the government for not doing the same with Syria, which was hit by the same scale of devastation following the 7.8 earthquake. Other Libyans said they could really use those millions to rebuild Libyan cities destroyed by the different wars since 2011.



Politics

Business leaders from the US, UK, and Gulf states visit Libya

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has received, in the presence of his Foreign Minister Najla Al-Mangoush, a delegation of business executives from Britain, the US, and the Gulf states in Tripoli.

The visit came at an official invitation from the Government of National Unity, a government-run TV channel reported.

According to the same source, Dbeibah briefed the delegation on his vision to bring about a comprehensive renaissance leading to a better future in Libya.

He said Libya sits at the crossroads of Africa and Europe, which makes it a hub for economic, trade, and cultural links.

"With its location, Libya will become a gateway to Africa, which includes 1.3 billion people," the PM stated.

Al-Mangoush discussed with the group, opportunities for expanding partnerships and joint projects in various vital fields, such as infrastructure development and in the conference and exhibition industry.

A key topic was transparency and disclosure in Libya's justice institutions, including conditions in rehabilitation centres, human rights, reconciliation, and the role played by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The head of the Bureau of International Conferences, Exhibitions and Public Relations James Magee, who was among the delegation, lauded his experience in Libya, as he noted that "the people speak English, Arabic, Italian and French

Politics

HoR refers 13th constitutional amendment to HCS

The House of Representatives (HoR) referred, on Wednesday, the draft of the 13th constitutional amendment to the High Council of State (HCS) for consideration by what was agreed upon between the two councils, the HoR spokesman, Abdullah Blehaq said on Wednesday.

According to Blehaq, the amendment was unanimously approved by the Parliament at a session on February 7 in Benghazi.

The amendment concerns the legislative authority and its competencies and determines the powers of the heads of state and the Council of Ministers.

It also specifies the HQ of the National Assembly mentioned in Tripoli's amendment, which consists of 900 members.

The document stipulates that the Parliament be housed in Benghazi with 200 members elected according to population density.

If the HSC backs the amendment -which the HoR Speaker, Aqila Saleh, considers a constitutional basis for presidential and parliamentary elections- the next step will be forming a committee to pursue consensus on an election law to present it to the HoR for approval and promulgation.

Economy

NOC's Chief announces in Benghazi "strategic plan" of oil and gas sector

The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) Farhat Bengdara announced the start of developing the strategic plan for the oil and gas sector in Libya, adding in a meeting with the oil companies in Benghazi that the plan focuses on 4 important pillars: the structure of the NOC, capacity building, young graduates and sector's workers, and developing the workers' capabilities.

Bengdara added that the second goal of the plan focuses on increasing production to 2 million barrels per day (bpd), explaining that it is possible in terms of the availability of space, while the third goal will focus on gas and its importance, indicating that it will last longer than oil in the next stage as an energy source, and will last longer than oil as an important component of energy generation.

Bengdara indicated that there is no self-sufficiency in gas, saying that the gas they have is used in electricity and some factories such as iron and cement, adding that the availability of gas requires efforts in exploration and development despite its abundance. He said investment must be made to compensate for the decline that will occur in 2025.

Bengdara said that the American company "Kearney", which is one of the leading companies in the field of consultations in oil and gas, was selected to manage the plan, in addition to establishing an office under Bengdara's supervision.

He also pointed out that the first draft of the strategic plan will be discussed in mid-March, adding that they are discussing energy production from renewable sources in addition to selling gas to Europe.

Economy

Libya, Palestine sign MoU in investment field

The General Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture has signed a memorandum of understanding with its Palestinian counterpart in the field of facilitating investment and holding economic forums and exhibitions.

This came during the visit of a delegation of businessmen headed by the President of the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Mohammed Al-Raaed, to the State of Palestine, during which they met with the Palestinian Minister of Economy, Khaled Al-Osaily.

The two sides discussed aspects of cooperation and means of trade exchange, reviewing investment opportunities in accordance with the laws, regulations and facilities for the investor, according to the Ministry of Economy and Trade.



Economy

Strategic 2023-2035 plan to develop Libyan oil and electricity sectors

The Head of the Libyan Audit Bureau, Khalid Shakshak, and the Chairman of the Economic Council, Mahmoud Al-Futaisi, have reiterated in a meeting in Tripoli the importance of developing strategic plans to preserve oil wealth for future generations, stressing the need to develop the oil and electricity sectors as well as strengthen national economy.

The two sides discussed on Tuesday the Economic Council's vision regarding the national strategic plan for the oil and electricity sectors, with the aim of providing continuous "modern energy" to Libyans with affordable prices.

The period for the strategic plan for oil and electricity sectors' development will be from 2023 to 2035 to ensure the sustainability of the energy sector in Libya and maintain its position in global energy markets.

The meeting participants called for the commitment of all state institutions to develop strategic plans to increase their efficiency and provide their services at the best level.



Economy

Minister of Economy discusses ways to stabilize commodity prices during Ramadan

The Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohamed Al-Huwaij, has discussed with the Vice President of the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Farhat Al-Toumi, ways to stabilize commodity prices during the month of Ramadan.

The two sides also stressed the need to follow up on the local market and the flow of goods, solve all the obstacles and problems facing merchants, and activate the role of chambers according to a vision that contributes to economic development.



Economy

Libya exports 8,000 tons of iron to Turkey

Libyan Iron and Steel company is to export 8,000 tons of hot briquetted iron (HBI) to Turkey.

In a Facebook statement Monday, the company said the tanker, Michelle, which will ship the cargo, arrived at the company's port on Monday.

According to the company, the demand for its products is on the rise as it enjoys the customers' confidence and satisfaction in the Turkish market, which is considered one of the largest global markets in the region.

On February 6, the company announced that it had exported 17,500 tons of reinforcing steel on board the tanker Lady Divina to Albania.



Economy

2nd "Made in Algeria" exhibition kicked off in Tripoli

The second edition of "Made in Algeria" exhibition was kicked off on the grounds of the Tripoli International Fair, with the participation of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Youth, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy and Trade, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Algeria to Libya.

55 Algerian multi-specialty companies are participating in the exhibition, which will continue until February 8.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, an economic salon will be held with the participation of ministries and government agencies from both sides, which helps the participating companies to communicate directly with the ministry and its affiliates to facilitate procedures and services for the benefit of business owners, companies and investors.



Continued attempts to circumvent elections

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



The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, has fulfilled his promise, and threw at the High Council of State (HCS), a constitutional amendment labelling it No. 13, with a broad and accurate details of the conditions for running for parliamentary elections, for both House of Representatives (HoR) and the Senate, as well as their tasks, and number of members in each house.

However, the amendment did not refer to the conditions for candidacy for the position of president, which is key and the only point of contention, according to previous statements by members of HoR and the HCS. The head of the HCS announced at a joint press conference with the Speaker of HoR, early January in Cairo, that they agreed to hold a referendum on the candidacy of people with dual nationalities and the military people, as a way out of this hurdle.

Before Aqila's obviously unsurprising move, the HCS identified, in its last session, a list of names nominated to occupy some sovereign positions, and referred them to the HoR to choose one name for each position, in a practical application of what one of the representatives described as "clever theft", that is enabling close personalities with guaranteed loyalty and trust, and partially empowering them with important positions in a move that seems not to attract much attention.

Focusing on the file of sovereign positions at this time, despite international and local pressures on the two chambers, and their call to focus on the legal basis for the elections, does not at all indicate the seriousness of the main blocs in both chambers to leave the scene, and hand over tasks to a new, unified legislative authority through elections. Indeed, whoever is seriously preparing to leave, s/he will not focus on topics that are completely far from what the effort and work should be focused on. Is it right, for example, for a tenant of a house which s/he will leave in a few months, to work on changing doors and windows of its rooms, without any justification?

Complexity of the presidential elections, lies in enable a criminal, deeply blood-soaked, involved in killing and destruction to run for presidential elections, and to narrow the field for any potential competitor, a matter which is rejected by the prevailing current in the HCS.

The main dish on the dining table of sovereign positions is the post of the governor of the Central bank of Libya. The bargaining between Aqila and Al-Mashri is based on Aqila's fulfillment of the legal basis for elections, in exchange for granting him the nomination of a central bank governor loyal to him. The bargain, however, has not and will not be completed.

The election's complexity will not be bypassed by Aqila's insistence on opening the door for candidacy for military and persons with dual nationalities, while Al-Mashri waits to approach the screening of candidates for the position of governor. Their move is a compulsory response to international pressure, to show that steps are being taken on the road to consensus.

This fake progress was neither welcomed by the international parties, insisting on holding the elections, nor convinced the UN envoy, Abdoulaye Bathily, because he tweeted two days later calling on Aqila and Al-Mashri to facilitate the holding of elections, through a clear and enforceable agreement on a constitutional framework.

It seems there is no any breakthrough in the path of political transformation through the HoR and the HCS, and since there are no indications of a widespread popular uprising, which could drive everyone to submit to the will of the people for change through elections, and to end a decade of divisions and chaos, unless such uprising coincides with the celebrations of the anniversary of the February Revolution, with a large, continuous demonstrations at an escalating pace. Otherwise, the attention will turn to the briefing of the UN envoy before the UN Security Council at the end of this month, and the alternatives he will present to get out of the impasse, and bypass the obstructing entities and personalities.

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



Minister of Health discusses with his Jordanian counterpart health cooperation

Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah, has discussed with the Jordanian Minister of Health, Firas Al-Hawari, activating training programs for workers in the sector, in addition to enhancing joint cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides met on the sidelines of the Arab Board of Health Specializations Forum, which is being held in Jordan, the media office of the Ministry of Health stated.

Sports



PM Dbeibah attempts to resolve hurdles facing Libyan Football League

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah met Tuesday with the Minister of Youths and Sports, Abdelshafie Al-Jaweifi, heads of sports clubs, and the Chairman of the Libyan Football Federation (LFF) Abdelhakik Al-Shalmani, to review the difficulties facing some of the clubs which are suspending their league matches.

Dbeibah explained at the meeting that supporting youths and sports remained a priority for his government, stressing the need for the Ministry of Sports and the LFF to pay attention to the age groups, organizing the number of clubs, in addition to reiterating the importance of having an association for "Premier League clubs."

He also voiced support for the league clubs to ensure the continuation of the league matches, provided that the LFF and the Ministry of Sports have a plan and continue to focus on premier league clubs as well as age groups, adding that the support should be according to the activities of each sports club.

After the meeting, sources close to some clubs confirmed that the problems that caused the clubs to suspend their participation in the league had been resolved, and that the clubs which boycotted the first week of the second-leg round would resume their participation in the second week.

Nine football teams suspend playing in the second-leg until they obtained financial support from the government, just like to other teams, which they said had received significant financial support from the Government of National Unity.

In response to calls by the football clubs to freeze their participation in the league; the Chairman of the LFF, Abdul Hakim Al-Shalmani, said that the Committee for Organizing Tournaments would apply the regulations governing the Libyan League to the situation without hesitation in the event that any of the teams failed to play the matches of the first round of the second leg.

Sports



Libya's Al-Akhdar loses 1-4 to Marumo Gallants in opening match of CAF Confederation Cup

Libya's only representative in the African Club Competitions lost its opening match in the group stage of the CAF Confederation Cup to the South African Marumo Gallants 1-4 on Sunday, at Dobsonville Stadium.

Marumo Gallants came out strongly from the start when Lesiba Nuku gave his team the lead in minute five.

The South Africans continued to advance throughout the first half and after the break extending their lead in minutes 21 and 57.

Libya's Al-Akhdar efforts gave fruit when Akram Al-Zaway gave his team their only goal in minute 80.

Four minutes later, Marumo Gallants crowned their victory with a fourth goal from Joseph Malongwan.

As a result, Marumo Gallants tops Group A with three precious points, while Al-Akhdar gained nothing.

Al-Akhdar has a chance to make up for its loss next Sunday, February 19th, in a match against the Algerian Ittihad Al-Jazeera at the Benina Martyrs Stadium in Benghazi.

Science



Libyan Award for Scientific Excellence wraps up in Gharyan

The Libyan Award for Scientific Excellence wrapped up on Monday under the supervision of Gharyan University.

The closing ceremony was attended by academic officials, including the presidents of Gharyan, Jufra, and Zintan universities, besides scientific researchers.

The host of this version handed over the competition logo to Tobruk University, which will host the next edition of the award.

In conclusion, the organizers presented recommendations and honoured the winning researchers, including the youngest participant, who obtained a master's degree from Gharyan University.

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Travel



Sea line between Tripoli and Zarzis launched

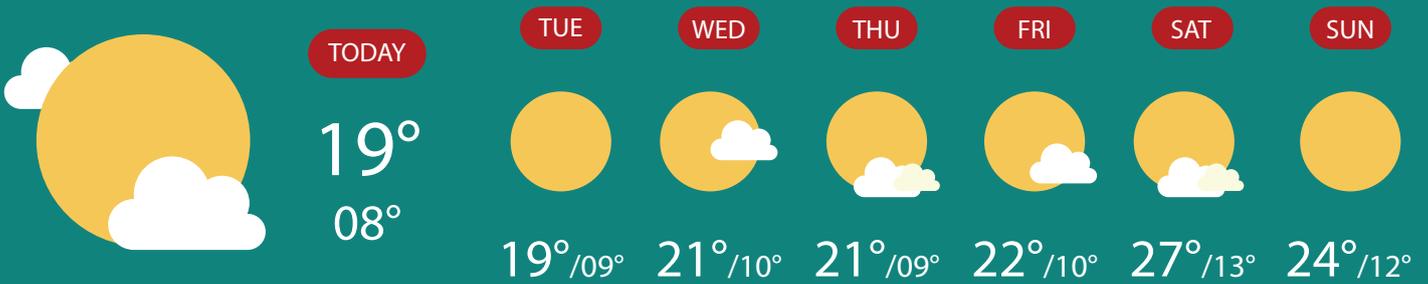
The first voyage for passengers departed on Sunday from the port of Tripoli, heading to the commercial port of Zarzis, in Tunisia, carrying 270 passengers, and a number of cars, after years of stoppage.

This step is coinciding with the reopening of the port terminal, which will be the starting point for the weekly trips, the director of the Tripoli sea port, Misbah Al-Taher, told the Libyan News Agency.

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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