

Politics UNSMIL warns against unilateral initiatives in Libya

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) said in a statement on Wednesday that it had repeatedly warned against unilateral initiatives in addressing the political stalemate in Libya, taking note of the approval of a roadmap produced by the 6+6 Joint Committee and the announcement of nominations for a new government by the House of Representatives (HoR).

UNSMIL added in a statement that the political process in Libya was at a critical stage that required an inclusive political agreement with the buy-in and participation of all major stakeholders.

"Unilateral actions, like similar attempts seen in the past, could inflict serious negative consequences for Libya and trigger further instability and violence." The statement said, indicating that Libya was already suffering

from deep divisions, and such moves could cause further polarization amongst the Libyan people, who had been suffering for over a decade.

According to the statement, the UN envoy to Libya Abdoulaye Bathily has been intensifying his engagement with major stakeholders to facilitate a political settlement to make the draft laws implementable, agree on a new unified government, and enable successful elections without delay.

The statement explained that UNSMIL had delivered its comments regarding the framework for elections to major Libyan stakeholders, adding that the document it had communicated was a product of discussions with all major Libyan stakeholders, who highlighted those areas of concern on the electoral framework.

UNSMIL said it "expects that those issues are seriously considered before the electoral framework is finalized in an inclusive manner." It warned against all actions that can undermine the people's continuous demands for national elections and finally bring legitimacy to Libyan institutions in a peaceful and democratic manner "Guided by Security Council resolution 2656 (2022), SRSB Abdoulaye Bathily has been engaging all Libyan institutions and key stakeholders to agree on a roadmap to deliver elections as soon as possible across the country, on a constitutional and legal basis, through dialogue, compromise, and constructive engagement, in a transparent and inclusive manner, aiming at, inter alia, forming a unified Libyan government able to govern across the country and representing the whole people of Libya." UNSMIL explained.

Politics

Libya urges stability in neighbouring Niger, expresses concern over situation

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has expressed concern over the situation in Niger after soldiers from the Presidential Guard of President Mohamed Bazoum sealed off access to his official residence in Niamey on Wednesday.

Calling for action to halt coups in Africa, the PM warned that the destabilization of an African country will be felt far beyond the region and the continent.

He urged adherence to the "principles of the African Union," which rejects unconstitutional changes of governments.

"We join our voice with the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in their call for the return of stability and the unity of Niger's democratic institutions," the PM's media office quoted him as saying on Wednesday.

Vice President of Libya's Presidential Council Musa El-Koni in a separate statement also condemned attempts to subvert the functioning of Niger's elected government, which he said charted an exceptional path for democracy and the unity of Niger.

He expressed support for President Bazoum and "the outcome of the ballot box."

West Africa's main regional and economic bloc, ECOWAS, said it was concerned about an attempted coup d'état and called on the plotters to free Bazoum. The African Union also condemned what it called a coup attempt and urged the "felon" soldiers involved to return to barracks immediately.

Politics

Fezzan political, social parties reject resettlement of immigrants in Libya

The "national forces, political entities, and civil society institutions in the Fezzan region - south of Libya - have rejected the principle of resettling illegal immigrants under any pretext and for any reason in Libya, adding in a statement that Libya is a "geographical victim, and it is a corridor country, not a country of source or destination, and that the attempts to resettle under the slogan of humanity and human rights are nothing but exposed intentions," adding that they will confront those attempts by all means.

"As we follow the file of illegal immigration, its humanitarian repercussions, and its geopolitical effects on Libyan national security and the continuous international pressure on Libya in order to sign the 1951 Convention and the Additional Protocol of 1967 regarding refugees, the country needs to change the immigration law, as proposed by the UN envoy and according to what was stated at the International Conference on Development and Immigration last Sunday in Italy.

The statement stressed that the correct handling of this issue starts from the southern borders of Libya, not by stopping immigrants at sea, calling on the Libyan government to secure and close the borders and control them urgently and to transfer the headquarters of the Border Guard and the Illegal Immigration Agency to the south in an urgent manner.

The statement called on the African Union to deal with the issue of migration in a humane manner, not politically, and to assist the

the source countries through development projects that limit immigration and provide immigrants with job opportunities in their countries, not in the countries of transit, calling on the Libyan authorities to reject any money or aid that would contribute to the resettlement of migrants and work to benefit from technology, as "European countries are in the process of closing and monitoring borders around the clock." They also called on the Attorney General to open an urgent investigation into everything that is happening regarding the resettlement project, and to send committees to the south to see the reality on the ground and refer those involved to the judiciary, with the need to disclose the results of these investigations.

Politics

UN envoy: Libya's electoral laws in their current state unlikely to facilitate successful elections



The United Nations (UN) envoy to Libya Abdoulaye Bathily has reiterated in his opening remarks at the meeting of the Security Working Group for Libya - a Berlin Conference committee - in Benghazi that electoral laws in their current state would not facilitate successful elections.

"Additional work is needed to refine the draft laws by filling the legal and technical gaps identified by the High National Electoral Commission (HNEC). We urge key stakeholders and Libyan institutions to reach an inclusive settlement on the main politically contested issues," Bathily added on Tuesday.

He called on all leaders to attend to the aspirations of the Libyan people, stressing that the continuation of the current

stalemate was dangerous, and adding that political obstacles should not prevent the Joint Military Committee (5+5) from continuing with the same commitment.

"Building confidence among military and security leaders is key to advancing the political process and creating an environment where transparent and inclusive elections can be conducted with all parties respecting the results. We emphasize in this regard the importance of the military actors as key guarantors of peace and stability in Libya," Bathily explained.

He further added that UNSMIL would continue to provide support and expertise to facilitate the 5+5 JMC tasks and ensure that their voices were heard, and their recommendations were respected by all

stakeholders. He called on all leaders in the east, west, and south to support consolidating peace in Libya and to respect the outcomes of your dialogues and deliberations.

Benghazi hosted Tuesday the meeting of the Berlin Security Working Group in the presence of the 5+5 JMC and Bathily. Tripoli hosted the first meeting of this kind on May 24.

Benghazi meeting discussed the formation of a joint military force in Libya's south and a mechanism for unifying the military institution in Libya, in addition to agreeing on a mechanism for removing foreign mercenaries and forces in implementation of UN resolutions 2570 and 2571.



Politics

First Italian Airways flight arrives in Libyan ahead of formal resumption in September

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, arrived Monday afternoon in Tripoli, from Rome, on board an Italian Airways flight that is meant to pave the way for a formal resumption of flights to Libya next September following a decade-long hiatus.

Hokoometna platform showed a live coverage of the moments of the Italian Airways plane's arrival at Mitiga Airport, with Dbeibah and his accompanying delegation and a number of travelers coming from Rome on board. He was received by the Minister of Transportation, Mohammed Al-Shahoubi, the Minister-designate of Interior, Emad Al-Trabelsi, the Italian ambassador to Libya, and a number of officials.

Dbeibah told reporters at Mitiga Airport upon his arrival that the flight was a "test flight" for the Italian Airways, saying that commercial flights for Libyans would officially start next September, indicating that his government was working on removing the ban

imposed on Libyan flights in European airspace.

"The percentage of approval for granting visas to Libyans has increased to about 75%," Dbeibah said, praising the Italian government, led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Italian and Libyan civil aviation employees, and the Ministry of Transportation.

Regarding his participation in the International Conference on Immigration and Development in Rome on Sunday, Dbeibah said they had conveyed the voice of the Libyan people to the world in the immigration file and confirmed Libya's position in rejection of resettlement, as well as its right to obtain international political and security support.

In the meantime, Al-Shahoubi said that the government was working on receiving Italian Airways flights at all Libyan airports, and confirmed that Libyan airspace is open to all foreign airliners.

Politics



Libyan Justice Ministry asks Lebanon to cooperate to resolve Hannibal Gaddafi's case

The Libyan Ministry of Justice said it had appealed to the Lebanese authorities to put an end to the "tragedy of Hannibal Gaddafi," and to cooperate with them to resolve this file.

The Ministry said in a statement that it had contacted the Lebanese government, but the latter did not acknowledge this communication, adding that the Lebanese authorities claimed that Hannibal's file was being considered by the competent departments in the Lebanese judiciary.

It confirmed that it had asked the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of National Unity and members of the committee formed to follow up on the file of Gaddafi's son to take the necessary measures, and to find out about the deteriorating health condition that Hannibal reached.

The Ministry indicated that the Government of National Unity was keen to end the grievances of all Libyans, regardless of their affiliations, and reaffirmed that "the Lebanese judiciary would achieve justice and decide to release Hannibal Gaddafi."

Politics



In first meeting after assuming his position, Al-Mangoush discusses cooperation with her Turkish counterpart

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Government of National Unity, Najla Al-Mangoush, has met with her Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan, in first meeting after assuming his position, in the Turkish capital, Ankara.

The two sides discussed aspects of joint cooperation and ways to enhance them in various fields, in addition to discussing developments in the regional and international situation and the efforts exerted in this regard.

Politics



Libya offers condolences to Saudi Arabia over air force fighter jet crash

Libya has expressed sincere condolences to Saudi Arabia over the fatal crash of a Royal Saudi air force fighter jet in Khamis Mushait, which left all crew members dead.

In a statement Wednesday, Libya's Foreign Ministry expressed the sympathy and solidarity of the Libyan government and people with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over the tragedy and asked the God Almighty to accept them as righteous martyrs.

According to Saudi press, the F-15SA Royal Saudi Air Force fighter jet crashed during a training mission near the King Khalid Air Base in Khamis Mushait, some 815 kilometers southwest of the capital, Riyadh, on Wednesday.

Saudi authorities said investigations are underway to determine the cause of the crash.

Politics



PM Dbeibah meets with ambassadors of Germany and Austria

The Prime Minister, Abdel Hamid Dbeibah, met on Wednesday, with the German ambassador to Libya, Michael Ohnmacht, and the Austrian ambassador, Christoph Meyenburg, to discuss the latest developments in the political situation in the country.

The meeting discussed the necessary preparations for the meetings of the Security Working Group, especially in light of its recent recommendations to provide a safe environment for holding the elections.

Dbeibah stressed his government keenness to hold the upcoming elections according to fair laws and an organized process that contributes to ending the transitional stages that the country has gone through for years.

Economy

National Drilling Co. signs agreement with US Schlumberger to drill 3 oil wells

The National Company for Drilling and Maintenance of Oil Wells, affiliated with the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and the US Schlumberger Company in Tripoli, has signed a turnkey contract to drill three oil wells.

Under this agreement, the US oilfield service company, Schlumberger, will provide the necessary support to drill three wells for the Al-Rimsa Company in the Al-Waha and Nasser fields, the NOC explained Tuesday.

The company noted that it is the first time for Libyan companies to sign a contract of this type, deeming it a crucial step for developing the oil sector.

Economy

Italian ambassador discusses economic cooperation in Benghazi

Italian ambassador Gianluca Alberini and consul general Francisco Di Luigi visited Benghazi on Wednesday and met the mayor Saqr Bujawari. This is the ambassador's first visit to Benghazi since assuming office last June.

The two sides discussed activating economic cooperation for the private sector and encouraging relevant initiatives, in addition to organizing a visit for Italian businesspersons to Benghazi, providing technical assistance for renovating historic buildings, opening direct flights between Rome and Benina airports, facilitating visas for Libyans and encouraging Italian companies to return to work in Benghazi.

The two sides also reviewed projects carried out by the Italian government in the areas of training and development for locals in order to enhance the work of Benghazi municipality, in addition to the impact of the current political situation on the work of the municipality, and the extent of the municipality's ability to provide services in light of the current situation.

They also discussed projects implemented by the United Nations Development Fund in Benghazi, and the importance of joint coordination with regard to the reconstruction and stabilization program in the city.

Economy



AMCHAM LIBYA
The American Chamber of Commerce in Libya

US Chamber of Commerce takes part in Libya Energy and Economy Conference 2023

The US Chamber of Commerce in Libya will participate in the Libya Energy and Economy Conference 2023, scheduled for November 8-9 in Tripoli, which will open new doors for American companies in the Libyan energy sector.

The US Chamber of Commerce in Libya aims to facilitate trade cooperation with Libya and identify investment opportunities to enhance the position of American companies in the Libyan energy sector, including in the oil and gas industry and renewable energy.

The conference provides an opportunity for American companies to expand into regional markets. Major companies such as Halliburton and Schlumberger participated in the first conference, which was held in 2021.



Opinions

Towards a fair distribution of organized plunder!

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

The path to a fair distribution of national wealth is clear and known, and has been pursued by scores of countries. It is a path based on a solid foundation of constitutional rules and annual budgets proposed by governments and approved by parliaments, with follow-up, control and accountability by legislative and oversight institutions.

Components of the people, regardless of the level of their ethnic, sectarian or tribal diversity, at the stages of founding years, agree on the basic rules on which the pillars of the state, and the type of the most appropriate political system will be based. They also agree on the organization of revenue management and spending with a high level of accuracy and care, and according to well-studied plans, based on sources of income, and the requirements for their development and sustainability, especially if it is the approach of a natural resource that is doomed to depletion, or loss of value over time. This requires focus on alternatives and preparing for the post-depletion phase, with the world turning to less expensive alternatives, and more environmental protection, with the adoption of sufficient guarantees to prevent plundering and squandering of national resources.

Local calls for the creation of a fair distribution mechanism seem logical on the face of it, with this clear disparity in living standards, and the accelerating class formation, between those who have millions and enjoy a high standard of living, and those who struggle to secure their basic needs.

However, in fact such calls for fair distribution of wealth are not really seeking to address this imbalance, and reduce the gap between the people, who are supposed to be equal in their political and economic rights, even if they claim so in their speeches.

The real goal is to seize a greater share of the revenues, to maximize influence and continue the race strife towards power, for the vocal personalities calling for fair distribution of revenues, themselves were never subjected to any accountability for what they have spent, despite numerous confirmed reports released by the National Audit Bureau and Administrative Control, for excessiveness and breaches over the past years.

In order to press for the implementation of this demand, oil fields and ports were repeatedly shutdown, and no one discussed the results of such closures, which those behind them claim that they are seeking justice in the distribution of resources. No one has yet questioned the huge toll of the shutdown. As a result, has the requirement of equitable distribution been fulfilled? Have the Marginalized and poor areas got

their share? The truth, however, today, everyone is aware that the closure, and the slogans voiced about it by organized media campaigns, are nothing but a means of blackmail to win a larger piece of the pie.

Let us recall the testimony of the former UN envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salame, in an interview with Al-Jazeera Channel said; "You cannot estimate the extent of the plunder taking place in Libya and the robbery of public funds in this country. Many cling to their positions because they reap the wealth. I only wish they would reinvest it in Libya. Rather, they transfer it abroad or launder it." Salame stressed.

As the situation remained as it is, it has not changed since Ghassan Salame left his position as special envoy to Libya. So, no one would imagine that the uproar about the fair distribution of revenues will end the plundering episode, indeed it may ostensibly appear so, but covertly it is a call for fair distribution of such plunder among the strong rivals.

As for international and regional support, it falls on the side of supporting a party that will receive an appropriate amount of revenue, or to ensure the continuation of a state of equilibrium between the parties to the conflict, and to remove any causes that could lead to tensions that should be avoided at the current stage.

Some incidental results may appear from the newly formed Finance Committee, which is charged with following up on revenues and spending, chaired by head of the Presidential Council. If it deals with the file technically rather than politically, and discloses the results of its work transparently, we may see that many of the allegations about marginalization are false, or that this marginalization is spread across the country, and we may discover that a significant part of the wealth has been appropriated by groups, entities and personalities, who are currently spearheading the call for a fair distribution of revenues, yet they bear the greatest degree of responsibility about wasting wealth and impoverishing the people.

In any case, no outcome will be produced by such action, no committees will work, and justice will not be achieved, neither in the distribution of wealth, nor in other rights, as long as elections are not held, the corrupt are not held accountable, and real institutions are not built that are governed by a constitution, run by officials who realize that the essence of their work is to serve the people, and not to race for power and money.

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

Ministry of Health reviews program to combat vector-borne diseases



The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Hospital Affairs in the Government of National Unity, Saad El-Din Abdel-Wakil, discussed Wednesday, with a representative of the Libyan-American Chamber of Commerce, and a representative of Orkin, a global company specialized in pest control and public health protection, combating transmitted diseases.

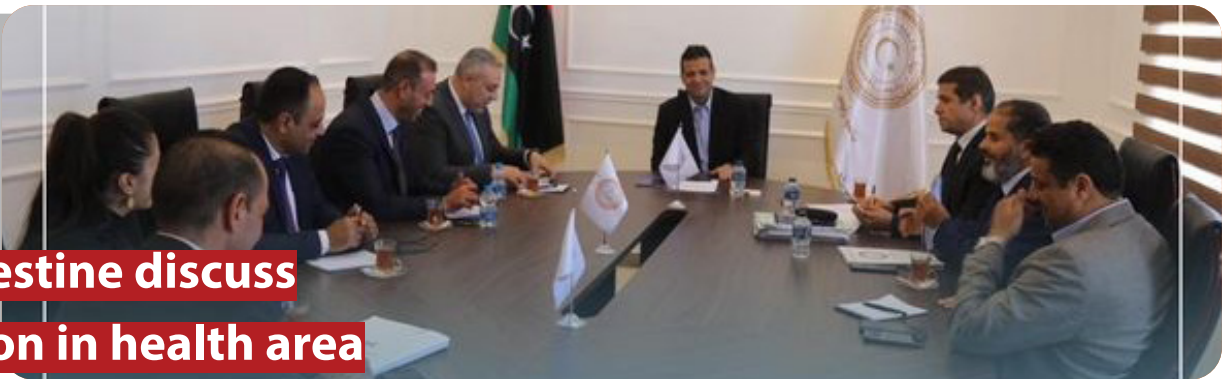
According to the Ministry of Health, the meeting discussed ways of joint cooperation to enhance preventive services, in order to provide a healthy environment free of any pathological obstacles or indicators of environmental deterioration.

The meeting concluded by emphasizing the coordination of efforts with the relevant parties and the Ministry of Health, to launch sustainable national programs and plans, in a way that enhances the prevention of vector-borne diseases.

Al-Taher Al-Shaibi, former director of the Diseases Control Department at the National Center for Disease Control, stressed that combating transmitted diseases requires joint work between various ministries, and that it is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Health alone.

Health

Libya, Palestine discuss cooperation in health area



Deputy Prime Minister/ Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Jinnah on Saturday received an official Palestinian delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister, Emad Al-Zuhairi, to discuss aspects of cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to form a joint working team to set priorities and a mechanism of action for the forthcoming period.

For its part, the delegation affirmed the Palestinian Ministry of Health's readiness to partner with its counterpart in Libya and exchange experiences.

They also agreed to dispatch Palestinian specialized medical cadres to develop the Libyan health sector in the fields of corneal transplantation and open-heart surgeries in adults and children.

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Education



Education Ministry approves secondary school certificate round 1 results

The Ministry of Education announced on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, the results of the first round of Secondary Certificate exams for the academic year 2022-2023 at home and abroad after Minister of Education Musa Al-Maqrif approved the results with a success rate of 62.50%.

Minister Al-Maqrif congratulated the graduating students and wished them success during a press conference to declare the results.

He confirmed that the secondary certificate pass rate for the scientific section was 67.72%, compared to the literary track at 43.48%, whereas the Sharia Secondary school made a 28.48% success rate.

A total of 77,042 male and female students passed the exams out of 123,264 of those who sat for the tests in Libyan-based schools compared to 629 graduates out of 855 students who took their tests abroad.

Following the announcement of the results, Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah contacted the highest-performing students in the scientific and literary tracks and wished them further future excellence in their academic and practical lives.

Tech



الشركة الليبية للبريد والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات القابضة
Libyan Post, Telecommunication & IT Holding Company

Hackers launch fresh cyber-attack on Libya's LTT data center

The Libyan Post Telecommunications & Information Technology Company (LPTIC) revealed on Thursday evening, a renewed denial of service attack on the data center of the Libya Telecom and Technology Company (LTT), which led to fluctuations in the center's services.

In a statement, the LPTIC confirmed that the LTT responded to this attack in cooperation with its cybersecurity team, noting that the services in the center are relatively stable despite this attack.

It is to be noted that these attacks on the LTT data center have been going on for about two weeks, according to an announcement by the LPTIC on July 12th.

Migration



Libyan Red Crescent issues urgent appeal for migrants at Tunisian-Libyan border

The Libyan Red Crescent has issued an urgent humanitarian appeal to help migrants at the Libyan-Tunisian border, confirming its readiness for cooperation with the United Nations organizations to provide emergency humanitarian services.

The Libyan Red Crescent said that it had received a report saying that the migrants are suffering from a critical humanitarian situation on the Libyan-Tunisian border, and they need protection, food, medicine, and assistance in these difficult circumstances.

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