

Politics

UN urges Haftar's forces for immediate halt of evacuations and demolishing in Benghazi

A report by United Nations (UN) experts urged Khalifa Haftar's forces to immediately stop forcibly evicting residents and demolishing homes in Benghazi - eastern Libya - and to end reprisals and violence against demonstrators.

The report that was issued on Monday said that more than 20,000 people from Benghazi had been forcibly evacuated from their homes in a short time, and coerced into giving up their properties and documents by Tariq bin Ziyad and 20/20 Brigades.

The UN experts indicated that there were no prior consultations with the residents regarding the eviction decision, noting that there was no plan to compensate them as

well, or to provide any assistance to secure new housing equal to the value of their homes.

The UN experts also expressed concern about the prevention and dispersal of demonstrators and the arbitrary arrest and detention of some human rights defenders and residents opposed to the eviction process.

Concerning the demolition of archaeological and historical sites in the city, the report said that the deliberate demolitions caused irreparable damage to the urban architectural structure in the city, explaining that the destruction deprived residents of important archaeological and religious sites

that bear witness to the long history of human civilization in the city.

The experts' report revealed the possible involvement of various domestic or foreign companies, calling for clarification of the situation and the prevention of further arbitrary destruction and human rights violations.

The experts expressed their regret that no investigations had been conducted so far by the judicial authorities despite the submission of complaints to the Public Prosecutor since March 2023, considering that the evictions involved criminal liability and other legal responsibilities.



Politics

Al-Lafi stresses importance of Italian role in supporting peaceful solution to Libyan crisis

The member of the Presidential Council, Abdullah Al-Lafi, has stressed the importance of the Italian role in supporting a peaceful solution to the Libyan crisis, and reaching the completion of the elections.

This came during his meeting with the Italian Ambassador to Libya, Gianluca Alberini, during which they discussed developing cooperation between the two countries in the fields of economy, development and culture, and protecting the southern borders of Libya, in light of the political and security developments taking place in neighboring African countries.

Al-Lafi renewed his call for activating the agreements concluded between Libya and Italy in various fields, and for Italian companies to return to resume their work in Libya, according to the Presidential Council media office.

Politics

Netanyahu scolds his foreign ministry over disclosure of Libya meeting

The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, appeared on Sunday to shift blame to his Foreign Minister, for the disclosure of a secret meeting in last August with the Libyan counterpart, Najla Al-Mangoush, that had caused a backlash in Tripoli.

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen's office on August 26 went public with his having met Najla Mangoush, his Libyan counterpart, in Italy earlier in the month. The statement came on the heels of an Israeli media report about the meeting. "It is not helpful, now that's clear," Netanyahu told Cypriot TV station ANT1 when asked about the publication of the meeting. He said he had issued a directive to all our government ministers that such meetings of this kind had to be cleared in advance with his office, and certainly their publication had to be cleared in advance with his office.

Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah issued a decision suspending Al-Mangoush pending investigation, and he later said in his first comment on the Rome sit-down between Al-Mangoush and her Israeli counterpart Cohen that "what happened in Rome was a serious matter, even if it was a side meeting or occurred by chance."

The Office of the Attorney General announced on Saturday the formation of a probe regarding the Rome meeting, saying that the task of the committee would be investigating the amount of damage that happened to the interests of the Libyan state: based on the reports of the intelligence apparatuses; and to collect evidence materials to perform the procedure of interrogation of those who were invited to the meeting; including hearing the statements of those who knew about it.



Politics

Sudan's war inching closer to border with Libya

Sudan Tribune news website said a high-ranking military official in North Darfur state had revealed that the Sudanese army conducted a series of intense airstrikes targeting a military base belonging to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in North Darfur, located near the Libyan border.

The website said that in a bid to prevent the delivery of military supplies to the RSF via Libya, the Sudanese army had seized control of the Chevrelet military base, located on the Libyan border, just a few days after the outbreak of hostilities on April 19.

"Without explicitly naming the countries involved, the Sudanese army has accused some countries in the region of providing weapons and ammunition to the RSF through Libya and the Central African Republic." The website indicated.

Press reports have confirmed the involvement of Khalifa Haftar's forces in sending military and logistical support to the RSF in Sudan. In mid-August, the Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah accused a "Libyan party": without naming them - of being involved in sending military support to one of the warring parties in Sudan.

The Sudanese ambassador to Libya, Ibrahim Ahmed, also confirmed in an interview with Al-Jazeera channel about a week ago that Khalifa Haftar had sent weapons to the RSF in Sudan before the start of the war.

Politics

UN envoy: Ready to support consensus on forming unified government to lead Libya to elections

The UN envoy to Libya Abdoulaye Bathily has stressed on X that the UN stands ready to support Libyan leaders and institutional players at all levels to come together in a constructive dialogue to reach a political settlement, including on the formation of a unified government to lead the country to elections.

Bathily made his remarks Wednesday after he had returned from "a productive visit" to Al-Aziziya, where he said he was warmly welcomed by a diverse group of people from Warshafana, including elected officials, academics, women, youth, notables & elders, community leaders, civil society activists, unionists, and security officials.

"They expressed frustration about the marginalization of their region and called for meaningful national reconciliation, inclusion in the political process and decision-making, fair distribution of resources. They also expressed their aspirations for a safe and united Libya," Bathily explained. Bathily's visit to Al-Aziziya came as part of his extensive contacts that he pledged before the UN Security Council to make in order to mobilize support for the faltering political process, which the UN and Libyans want it to end in holding elections.

Politics

Libya's Mufti: HoR is legally and lawfully dissolved

Libya's Grand Mufti, Sheikh Al-Sadiq Al-Gharyani, on Wednesday, said that the House of Representatives (HoR) is committing a crime by continuing to hold power, as it has been "legally and lawfully dissolved."

Sheikh Al-Gharyani referred to the HoR's recent decision to repeal a law approved by the General National Congress in 2013, which prohibits Riba-based interest (usury) in banks.

During its Tuesday session, the HoR adopted a draft resolution to amend some legislation, including Law No.1 2013, that prohibits Libyan banks from charging usurious interests.

In his weekly Fatwa program on the Tanasuh TV channel, the Mufti called for action to overthrow the HoR, stating that the decisions it makes are illegitimate.

Economy



Libyan HoR approves budget worth 89 billion dinars filed by parallel government

The House of Representatives (HoR) has announced the adoption of the draft budget law (worth 89 billion dinars) submitted by Osama Hammad's government in a closed session on Tuesday, according to what was published by spokesman Abdullah Blehiq.

The HoR considered the approval of the budget submitted by the government of Osama Hammad to unify the aspects of spending in light of the unification of the Central Bank of Libya.

In a brief statement, the HoR warned the High Financial Committee that any expenditure outside the rates of the budget would be a waste of public money and a violation of the state's financial law.

The budget was divided into four sections: salaries amounted to more than 56 billion dinars, management, operation and equipment expenses amounted to 11.3 billion dinars, and capital expenditures amounted to 3.5 billion dinars, while subsidiaries' expenses amounted to approximately 20 billion dinars.

The budget law stipulated that the value of the public debt was 15 billion dinars, which were allocated to cover the debts owed to the public treasury, provided that the amount would be distributed at the suggestion of the Prime Minister of the government based on a proposal from the Minister of Planning and Finance and referred to the Speaker of the HoR for approval.

Economy



Al-Kabir discusses cooperation with his Egyptian counterpart

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, has discussed with his Egyptian counterpart, Hassan Abdullah, increasing coordination and joint cooperation in the areas of technical support and exchange of experiences.

This came during their meeting on Monday in Cairo, during which Abdullah welcomed unification of the CBL, according to the CBL Facebook page.

The meeting touched on the global economic and financial conditions, specifically in the region.

Economy

Libya, Egypt agree to resolve intra-trade problems



The Advisor to the Minister of Economy and Trade of the Government of National Unity, Shather Al-Said, agreed with the Head of the Foreign Trade Sector in the Egyptian Ministry of Trade, Amani Al-Wasal, to set up a joint mechanism to resolve the problems of intra-trade in the two countries, and the obstacles facing load owners, merchants, and citizens at the Emssaed-Salloum border crossing.

This came in a meeting in the New Administrative Capital in Egypt on Sunday, when Al-Said referred to the agreements and memoranda of understanding signed between the two sides, and the need to implement them to facilitate the movement of goods and individuals, businesses and investors, and to increase the volume of trade exchange, noting the need for Egyptian exported products to adhere to the specifications and standards approved in Libya, according to the statement of the Ministry of Economy on its Facebook page.

Al-Wasal confirmed that Libya was one of Egypt's most important trading partners, highlighting the Egyptian Cabinet meeting in 2018 under the title "Facilitating Trade Relations with Libya." She also pointed to some problems on the Libyan side, such as the delay in the entry of goods through the border crossing due to maintenance and development operations, which were finally completed, and promised that the Egyptian Ministry of Trade would consider the issue of prior authorization imposed on some Libyan commodities in coordination with the Egyptian Food Safety and Agricultural Quarantine Authority, in addition to working on activating agreements regarding the recognition of the certificate of mutual conformity between the two parties.

Economy



Al-Hawajj, Palestinian FM review agreements between Libya and Palestine

The Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Hawajj, has stressed the depth of Libyan-Palestinian relations and the importance of activating the agreements between the two countries.

Al-Hawajj, who led the Libyan delegation at the 160th session of the Council of the Arab League, highlighted during a meeting with the Palestinian Foreign Minister, Riyad Al-Maliki, in Cairo, that the Palestinians in Libya are treated at par with the locals.

For his part, Al-Maliki praised the bilateral relations binding the two nations and noted the growing importance of the Libyan state to Palestine, as he called for better economic and trade ties between the two countries.

The meeting grouped Libya's Ambassador to Egypt, Abdul Muttalib Thabet, Permanent Representative of Libya to the Arab League, Osama Baghani, Director of the Department of Arab Affairs, Muftah Boukhris, and the Permanent Representative of Palestine to the Arab League, Muhannad Al-Aklouk.



Economy

International report: Central Bank of Libya bought 30 tons of gold last June

An economic report by the Canadian website Kitco Metals revealed that International Monetary Fund data showed that the Central Bank of Libya bought 30 tons of gold last June.

The Canadian website, which is the largest global platform for basic metals news, added in a report published on Thursday that Libya, Qatar and Singapore continue to buy gold to add this precious metal to their foreign reserves, as the reserves in Libya reached 147 tons, an increase of 26% from what they were at the end of 2022, achieving the highest level, since 1956.

Economy

High Financial Committee endorses disclosure method for unified 2024 budget

The High Financial Committee approved Sunday, at the fifth meeting held in Sabha in the south of Libya, headed by the Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, a proposed method for disclosure and the briefings it would issue to national and international public opinion, as well as the proposed principles and criteria for the unified budget for 2024.

The Committee said in a final statement that it had assigned a team to work on preparing the foundations and criteria for the unified budget in its final form provided that it would guarantee the quality of public spending, fair distribution and improvement of services.

The meeting in Sabha also reviewed a report submitted by the National Oil Corporation (NOC) on oil and gas revenues and

their derivatives, according to the disclosure rules required by the NOC, tasking a team to prepare the standards for disclosure of revenues.

The committee also reviewed the results of the work of the team assigned to prepare the foundations and criteria for development spending for 2023: (Chapter Three), represented in the fair distribution of projects and the priority to complete ongoing projects as well as strategic projects related to direct services to citizens, municipal projects, and the promotion of administrative decentralization.

The committee announced the termination of the membership of the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Marie Al-Barasi due to his "repeated absence from attending meetings without

an acceptable excuse."

Al-Barasi announced his resignation from the membership of the High Financial Committee, considering that it was formed in violation of the laws and legislation in force in the Libyan state, and in violation of the political agreement signed in Skhirat, Morocco, according to what he said in a letter of resignation addressed to Menfi. In his speech at the committee's meeting on Sunday, Menfi said he was surprised at the questioning of the legality of forming the committee after more than 60 days had passed since its formation, stressing that the Constitutional Circuit Court had been activated and could accept any appeals in this case.



Opinions

The Great Sin of the Government

By Abdullah Alkabir,
a Libyan political writer and commentator

Revelation of the secret meeting between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of National Unity and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the state of occupation was not expected at all, so the public opinion was shocked by the news immediately after it was widely circulated by the media. Angry demonstrations broke out in condemnation, rejection and denunciation of the move, and indeed all political forces agreed to reject this step, calling on the government to retreat, and even resign, while some political parties tried to exploit the event to bring down the government. This is an old demand that has been renewed by the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS), and some opportunistic figures who were waiting for such chance.

Justifications made in the Foreign Ministry's statement were not convincing, and no one believed that Al-Mangoush would take this step on her own, and through her personal efforts. Rather, most observers believed that the Prime Minister arranged this meeting through Italian mediation and American encouragement.

The meeting, which was supposed to remain secret, confused the government and weakened it, while all lurking parties were prepared to direct the demonstrations to overthrow the government.

Over the two days that followed the revelation, the government took several measures to appear coherent and sought to work to absorb popular anger. The calls to overthrow the government did not receive a strong response despite the state of popular anger. This was due to several reasons, the most important of which was the refusal to give the HoR and the HCS the opportunity to extend the transitional phase by forming an interim government, and the spread of news about meetings between other Libyan figures with officials from the State of Occupation that had previously been published by major reliable newspapers.

The majority of people have become convinced that their leaders, who lack internal legitimacy, are seeking to obtain such legitimacy from abroad, and because the State of Occupation has wide influence in decision-making circles in the USA, some took the initiative, and others prepared, to communicate with the government of the State of Occupation, race to appease it, and make promises to establish diplomatic relations, and develop them until full normalization, in exchange for leveraging the US decision-maker to empower these parties to assume power in Libya.

However, the move to real action is the greatest sin, which will destroy any politician, whether a person or a party. The Libyans know their historical enemy, and they know their highest interests, despite all prevailing difficult circumstances.

Disrupting elections and forming another government was and is still the goal of the majority of the parties in power, but there is no international consensus on this approach yet. While Bathily talks about a unified government, but without clarifying the unification mechanisms. Moreover, no progress has been made by the track of the 6+6 committee, and all of these are indicators that the peoples' desired change, whether through a new political agreement or through elections, is not on the offing in the foreseeable horizon.

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

Surgical team at Preventive Medicine Hospital treats infant with rare condition

A team of medical experts at the Preventive Medicine Hospital in Tripoli has successfully treated a five-and-a-half-year-old girl who suffers from a rare congenital defect in the bile duct.

The hospital, which posted the news on its Facebook account on Saturday explained that such conditions can turn into cancer if left untreated, and can cause wheezing recurrent infections, or develop (Choledocal Cyst type 1 excision with Roux-en-Y hepaticojejunostomy).

The girl underwent a three-hour surgery to remove the cyst and gallbladder and connect the small intestine to the bile duct under the liver.

The procedure allowed the bile juice to be successfully drained, eliminating the recurring abdominal pain caused by the cystic dilatation in the bile duct wall.

The hospital said the patient received full follow-up by her doctors and was discharged from the hospital after undergoing all required tests and examinations, confirming her ability to lead a normal life.

The operation was performed by a team of specialized medical experts, led by consultant Dr Muhammad Al-Maghrabi, with the participation of specialist Dr Reda Zubaida, specialist Dr Ashraf Ishteivi, Dr Nouri Al-Maddah, and Dr Khadija Haqiq, besides anesthesiologists Dr Mahmoud Qasim and surgical nurses and technicians.

It may be worth noting that the Preventive Medicine Hospital, which operates from inside the Isolation Center at the Mitiga Base in Tripoli, was formed upon a decision by the Presidential Council during the Covid-19 outbreak in 2020.



Health

Health authorities review National Health Strategic Plan

The Ministry of Health has convened a meeting with the National Planning Council to coordinate efforts aimed at launching the National Health Strategic Plan to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting grouped the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Saad El-Din Abdel-Wakil, and the Undersecretary-General of the National Planning Council, Anwar Bashir Al-Sharif, besides officials and experts from both sides.

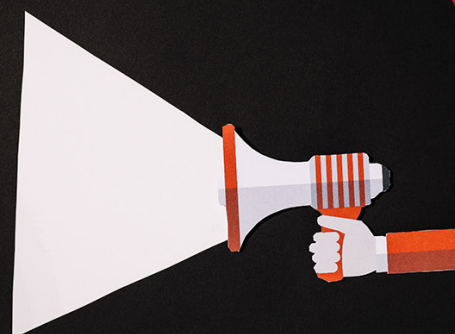
The parties reviewed the objectives and axes of the National Health Strategic Plan 2013, which was designed to guarantee the citizen's right to a fair, comprehensive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative health service.

The 2013 plan also includes a plan to build a financing system based on comprehensive, mutual health insurance that allows sharing the burden of medical costs.

According to the Health Ministry, the National Health Strategy adopts a group of objectives, such as developing the health information system, approving a national e-health strategy, combating infectious and endemic diseases, improving primary health care services, implementing the family doctor system, and ensuring complete care for the wounded and people with disabilities and their psychological and physical rehabilitation.

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Sports

Libya draws Equatorial Guinea at AFCON qualifiers' final round

Libya drew Equatorial Guinea 1-1 on Wednesday at Benina Martyrs Stadium in Benghazi as part of the final round qualification matches for African Cup of Nations (AFCON) which is set to be held in Ivory Coast.

With the draw, Libya got only four points at the bottom of Group J, while Equatorial Guinea got 13 points and temporarily topped the Group ahead of Tunisia which had 10 points.

Libya's team was made up primarily from youngsters led by a Libyan coach, Salim Al-Jalali. The team disqualified for the upcoming AFCON, while Equatorial Guinea and Tunisia went through.

Education

Libyan schools welcome students back on September 3

A new academic year began for 2,345,668 students in Libya on Sunday, September 3.

Approximately 1,982,422 pupils will enrol in primary schools, while 363,246 others will head to secondary education classes.

The students will be distributed across 6,608 educational institutions, 4,271 of which are public schools, besides 52 adult education institutions, and 225 homeschools.

As per decision No. 1046 of 2023 of the Education Ministry, the first week will focus on activities to help students adapt to the academic routine.

Minister of Education Musa Al-Magarif praised the academic community and pledged to make the current school year "perfect as before".

He highlighted the ministry's efforts to start the school year as scheduled as well as providing the textbook without delay, and deemed it a success.

Al-Magarif also praised the parents for their efforts in preparing their children for the new school year and stressed their significant role in the educational process.

Education

Education Ministry says operating budget for schools has reached 85 million dinars

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Masouda Al-Aswad, said that the operating budget of educational institutions for the new academic year amounted to about 85 million dinars.

Masouda told the government's media platform Hakomitna that the distribution was according to the number of students in each area, indicating that 80% of the schools fulfilled the data and were ready to spend their budget, and that the schools located in 45 areas out of 90 had bank accounts that received their checks.

She clarified that schools that didn't have bank accounts would have their funds disbursed to them as a trust fund to be received by the school principal, pointing out that the disbursement items includes four chapters: light maintenance operations, school activity, general hygiene, and stationery.

Meanwhile, the number of schools that received students in their new academic year amounted to 6,383 schools, while the number of pupils and students for the primary and secondary education levels reached 2.345.668 million.

Culture

Antiquities Authority organizes seminar to mark the 110th anniversary of cooperation between Libya and Italy

Tripoli's Red Castle (Assai al-Hamra) hosted an international symposium sponsored by the Antiquities Authority and the Italian Embassy in Libya. The two-day seminar targeted Italian archaeological missions that have been working with the Antiquities Authority for over 30 years, providing archaeological cooperation and training.

The event marked the 110th anniversary of cooperation in the field of antiquities between Libya and Italy, spanning from 1913 to 2023.

Among the activities was a presentation that highlighted the efforts of archaeological missions in Libya, as well as the obstacles that hinder their work.

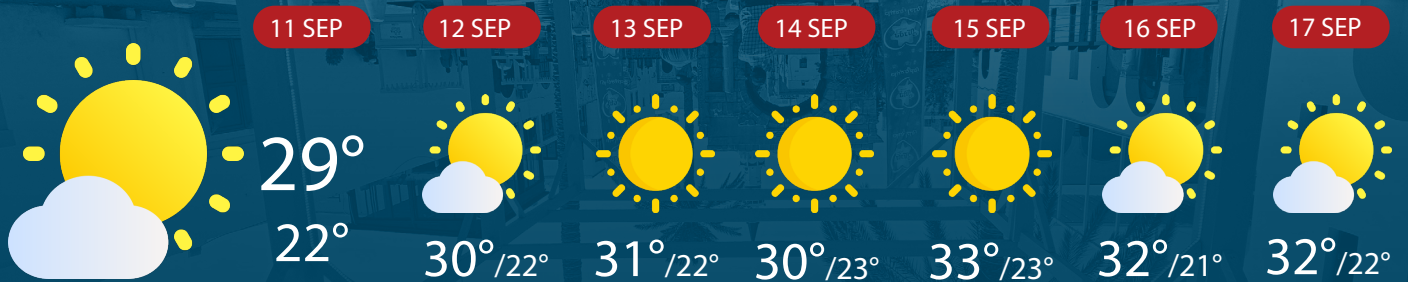
In conclusion, the participants outlined several recommendations, including establishing two restoration laboratories in each of the Leptis Antiquities Monitoring and the Shahat Antiquities Monitoring to train local personnel in the restoration of archaeological sites.

They also agreed on the need to provide financial support for the relevant missions, enabling them to fulfil their obligations in their areas of work, including resuming their work that has been suspended for a decade.

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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