

Politics

El Sonni says Libyan ownership of political process is key to solution



Libya's ambassador to the United Nations, Al-Taher El Sonni, stressed that Libyan ownership and leadership of any political process is the key to the solution that leads the country to stability and the imposition of state sovereignty away from any external dictations and interference.

El Sonni called at the UN Security Council session on Libya on Monday for support for sincere national efforts that seek to produce a comprehensive Libyan national solution, regretting the failure to hold the elections that all the Libyan people aspired to, in order to get out of "the vicious circle, renew legitimacy, and end the current division".

He also expressed his support for the efforts of the UN envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, his proposals to end the current political crisis, and his attempts to find a dialogue method that would bring together the five main Libyan parties to discuss the challenges that hinder the completion of the

political process and the holding of general elections.

El Sonni stressed the importance of having a common ground for the success of such a dialogue, and for everyone to deal positively with the preparatory meetings, without preconditions, in order to give priority to the Libyan public interest and make compromises for the sake of the country, as well as for the purpose of this dialogue to be primarily aimed to resolve the points of contention to find a state of consensus among all parties to reach presidential and parliamentary elections to end divisions as well as all fragile transitional stages.

He also pointed out that the Libyan people were upset with the double standards that were exposed during the brutal aggression against Gaza, stressing that it is shameful for countries that "look at us with human rights principles to continue their approach in supporting the aggression."

Politics

Bathily: Unwilling officials must not be allowed to fail Libyan people



The UN Envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, told Security Council members on Monday that unwilling officials "clinging to their seats" must not be allowed to fail the people of Libya and put the region at risk of further chaos.

Bathily said that Libya has established a constitutional and legal framework for holding elections deemed executable by the HNEC. However, he emphasized that implementing these laws requires all concerned parties' sincere and genuine commitment.

In his remarks, the UN envoy described the positions of some Libyan leaders as procrastinating, emphasizing that forming a unified government that can lead the country to elections requires a consensus among all parties.

He confirmed that he is in talks with political parties, notables, security parties, civil society, cultural components, women, youth, and the business community to listen to their

proposals on resolving the remaining controversial issues through a genuinely inclusive political process led by Libyans.

In his address, Bathily conveyed several messages, including a more robust demand for holding elections as soon as possible and an expression of extreme weariness and dissatisfaction with the deception of the political class and its resort to time-wasting tactics. Bathily noted that community leaders, notables, political parties, women's and youth groups, civil society organizations, business people, the Joint Military Committee (5+5) and other prominent military and security bodies had shown full readiness to ensure the holding of peaceful, comprehensive and prosperous elections and that the HNEC is also prepared from a technical standpoint to start preparations for the entitlement.

He expressed optimism that the climate in the country "is ripe for a new political deal" and a new dispensation for a brighter future.

Politics

Former Libyan Defense Minister Al-Barghathi: Dead or Alive?



A source from Al-Baraghtha tribe in eastern Libya told local media that the leadership of Al-Rajma (Khalifa Haftar's forces) informed them of the killing of their son, former Defense Minister Mahdi Al-Barghathi.

This report comes at a time when Al-Barghathi's family has denied receiving news of his death, and appealed to local authorities and human rights organizations to seek his and his companions' release.

Meanwhile, Al-Awaqir tribe's youth movement, from which Al-Baraghtha tribe descends, demanded that the judiciary and Khalifa Haftar investigate the killing of Mahdi Al-Barghathi. It threatened what it described as an escalation of the situation in the event of failure to respond to investigations into the killing of Al-Barghathi, saying that "all those involved in his killing will confront the movement's youths."

Libyan Crime Watch has confirmed the killing of Ahmed Bufanara inside the prison of the Tariq bin Ziyad Brigade, which is affiliated with Khalifa Haftar's forces, in the city of Benghazi, saying in a statement Sunday that the Bufanara's family have received the body of the victim from Al-Jalaa Hospital on Friday "and the body had clear signs of torture." Libyan Crime Watch added that Bufanara was arrested on October 10 by the Internal Security Apparatus, following the arrest campaign that came after the military operation against former Defense Minister Mahdi Al-Barghathi.

In early October, Haftar's forces arrested Al-Mahdi Al-Barghathi, a number of his companions, and a number of the women of his family, after Al-Barghathi returned to his home in Benghazi, following clashes that lasted for hours between the two sides. Later, Haftar's forces handed over the body of Ibrahim; Mahdi Al-Barghathi's son to his family, after he was arrested with his father and his companions. They asked the family to bury the body and not hold a funeral.



Politics

PM, Head of HCS, two Deputy Heads of PC voice support for UN envoy's initiative

A statement issued by the Deputy Heads of the Presidential Council (PC), Abdullah Al-Lafi and Mossa Al-Koni, the Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, and the Head of the High Council of State (HCS), Mohammed Takala, announced unconditional support for the five-party initiative launched by the UN envoy Abdoulaye Bathily.

"National solutions must stem from pure local will, far from any external dictations. Libyans should not submit to the power of weapons and tyranny, or get involved in suspicious deals," the statement said, pointing out that the solution lies in creating fair and impartial electoral laws that end the transitional stages and pave the way for the simultaneous end of tenures of all bodies.

The statement also called on all parties to "completely abandon any sensitivities with a regional or factional dimension". On Saturday, a joint statement issued by

the Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, and Khalifa Haftar welcomed participation in the dialogue called for by the UN mission.

Those attending the Cairo meeting agreed, according to a statement issued by them, on the importance of the efforts led by the United Nations mission and the importance of supporting a balanced Libyan-Libyan solution in a way that achieves the aspirations and hopes of the Libyan people to hold simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections.

The attendees welcomed participation in the dialogue called for by the United Nations mission in Libya without excluding any party, provided that the reservations and demands of the attendees are taken into account. They called on the United Nations mission to find common ground to ensure the success of the dia-

logue.

Meanwhile, Al-Lafi said on Saturday that the positions of the Presidential Council are expressed in official statements that represent the entire membership, adding in a response to the statement issued by the consultative meeting in Cairo that as a member of the Presidential Council, he would like to clarify that he had no knowledge of the meeting that was held in Egypt, or what was proposed after that, except through media.

"Accordingly, the positions of the Presidential Council are expressed in official statements that are issued collectively in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Agreement," Al-Lafi added.

Bathily extended on November 23 invitations to key Libyan institutional stakeholders to attend a meeting in the coming period to reach a settlement on the politically contested issues pertaining to the implementation of the electoral process.



Politics

Russian diplomat says Libya is practically divided and the West wants it a war zone

A Russian diplomat, Director of the International Organizations Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, Pyotr Ilyichev, said that Libya has become practically divided into two parts, attacking some Western countries that he did not name for seeking to turn Libya into a new place for confrontation with Moscow.

Ilyichev said that Libya has not yet recovered from "the blatant aggression launched by NATO against it, which began in 2011 by circumventing UN Security Council resolutions," according to his interview with RIA Novosti on Sunday. He also pointed out that Libya is on the

brink of civil war, and has in fact turned into a source of illegal immigration, adding that against the backdrop of the Ukrainian crisis, individual countries, as part of a broad anti-Russian campaign, are trying to turn Libya into an arena for confrontation with Moscow, but he indicated that "these attempts only help to consolidate the existing lines of division on the ground and delay the possibilities of reaching a settlement among Libyans." He said that in order to settle the crisis politically, the situation on the ground in Libya can only be improved through dialogue between all warring Libyan par-

ties, with the help of interested external players and the central role of the United Nations.

"We are focused on the belief that expressing the will of the people can put an end to the long-standing dual power in Libya, and will become the basis for stability by restoring the country's unity and territorial integrity," He added.

The Russian diplomat also advised Libyans to determine the timing and measures for holding the elections, without external pressure or "artificially imposed deadlines."

Politics

South African hostage taken from Libya, freed from captivity in Mali

A Malian security source cited by AFP confirmed the release of a South African hostage who was kidnapped from Libya more than six years ago.

Van Deventer was an emergency paramedic working for a security company in Libya when he was seized on 3 November 2017 while on his way to a power plant construction site around 1,000km south of Tripoli.

The 48-year-old later appeared in a video while being held by a group allegedly affiliated with Al-Qaeda in northern Mali.

Three Turkish engineers who were abducted with him were freed about seven months later, but he remained in captivity.

AFP quoted a humanitarian source as saying that the paramedic was freed on the border between Mali and Algeria.

Politics

Dbeibah confirms to US envoy the need to end transitional periods in Libya

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah confirmed his government's support for holding elections and ending the transitional periods directly without any parallel tracks, in order to materialize the will of the Libyan people.

These remarks came during Dbeibah's meeting on Thursday with the United States (US) Special Envoy to Libya, Richard Norland, in Tripoli, where Dbeibah confirmed that the participation of his government in the meetings called for by the UN envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, came with the aim of creating a fair constitutional legal basis that enables elections to be held.

The meeting also discussed the reconstruction file of Derna and the challenges facing the actual launching of the projects' implementation.



Politics

Interior Minister tells US envoy: We're prepared to secure Libya's elections

The Minister-designate of Interior, Emad Al-Trabelsi, confirmed his Ministry's full readiness to secure the presidential and parliamentary elections and to work on preparing security plans for the vote.

These remarks came during a meeting between Al-Trabelsi and the US envoy to Libya, Richard Norland, the Chargé d'Affairs at the US Embassy in Tripoli, and the Political and Security Attaché at the US Embassy.

The media office of the Ministry of the

Interior indicated that the Minister had highlighted their efforts in redeveloping and securing the Ras Ajdair border crossing. He also informed them of the preparations the Ministry had been making to reopen and secure Al-Dabdab border crossing with Algeria and its operation by the security apparatuses affiliated with the Ministry of Interior.

Al-Trabelsi also talked about securing the border sector extending from Ras Ajdair to Mashahad Saleh, and that

work is underway to secure the border sector with Algeria.

Norland thanked the Ministry of Interior for its efforts in facilitating the procedures of the US Embassy and securing diplomatic delegations in preparation for its opening in Tripoli. He also requested the assistance of agencies working in Libya, and the Minister issued instructions to the Department of International Relations and Cooperation to provide assistance to ensure full cooperation.

Politics

Menfi confirms his commitment to ending transitional stages through elections

The head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, has reaffirmed his commitment to the necessity of ending all transitional stages through fair and free elections with the participation of all Libyans.

This came during his meeting with the British Ambassador to Libya, Martin Longden, to discuss the latest political developments in the country, according to the Media Office of the Presidential Council.

He expressed his appreciation for Britain's role in supporting the Presidential Council and stability in Libya.

For his part, Longden praised the role played by Menfi in bringing together the political parties and advancing the political process, in a way that achieves the desires and aspirations of all Libyans.

He also affirmed UK support for the initiative of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, which aims to make the electoral process successful and achieve stability in Libya.

Politics

Iranian Foreign Minister says relations with Libya are on the right track

The Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Tuesday that relations between his country and Libya are moving in the right direction, adding that they can quickly implement the joint agreements.

In a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of the Libyan Government of National Unity and Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah, in Tehran, Amir-Abdollahian expressed his satisfaction with the improvement of relations between the two countries over the past two years and said they had no restrictions on developing relations, according to the Iranian Fars News Agency.

"Tehran attaches importance to relations with Libya, and in this context, holding a joint committee meeting and a meeting between businesspeople from the two countries could be

on the agenda." He said, pointing to the progress achieved by Iran in the production of medical equipment in recent years, and stressing that a joint health committee can be formed between Iran and Libya for cooperation between the two countries in the field of medical exchanges.

Meanwhile, Abu Janah expressed his satisfaction with his visit to Iran and confirmed the existence of well-established relations between the two countries for a long time. He stressed the expansion of relations, especially in the economic and medical fields, calling for the unity and solidarity of Muslim countries in the current circumstances. The two sides agreed to form joint teams and working committees to study proposals and enhance joint cooperation according to what Abu Janah.

Economy

Ministry of Economy's delegation visits Beijing to review return of Chinese firms to Libya

The Libyan and Chinese Ministries of Economy agreed to form a working team of departments and affiliated agencies to establish a joint working mechanism to facilitate the return of economic and commercial activity between the two countries.

The Advisor to the Minister of Economy and Trade, Shazar Al-Sayd, discussed with the Director General of the Directorate of West Asian and African Affairs at the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, a joint working mechanism for the return of major Chinese companies to work in Libya.

The Ministry of Economy said that the meeting held in Beijing, in which attendees discussed the mechanism for overcoming all difficulties and obstacles that would complete previous projects, establish new projects, review memoranda of understanding and agreements concluded in the past, and amend them in line with the current stage for the benefit of the two countries.

The Advisor urged the Chinese side to encourage the return of Chinese companies and facilitate all procedures for them in accordance with the law, calling on Beijing to participate in the Tripoli International Fair, which is scheduled to be held in 2024 in its 50th session, in coordination with the General Authority for Libyan Exhibitions.

Al-Sayd also recommended that major Chinese companies take advantage of the benefits of the free zones and special economic zones and the promising opportunities for transit trade and investment, especially with Libya's geographical location that contributes to increasing the volume of joint cooperation.

The Chinese side stressed their Ministry's interest in opening the field of economic and trade cooperation, especially in the areas of investment in fishing, communications and infrastructure with the competent authorities, indicating that China will support and promote Libyan products by allocating spaces for them in international exhibitions.

Libya and China signed a memorandum of understanding in 2018 regarding joint construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

Economy

European Union funds program on public-private partnerships in Libya



بمّنة الاتحاد الأوروبي لدى ليبيا
DELEGATION OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION TO LIBYA

Tunisia has hosted the activities of a Capacity Building Program on public-private partnerships in Libya, which is funded by the European Union Delegation to Libya, and implemented by Expertise France in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Trade of the Government of National Unity.

The Ministry of Health participated in the program, which discussed different types of partnerships between the public and private sectors, their foundations and benefits.

It also focuses on the areas and priorities of partnership between the two sectors, including developing legal agreements and contracts for partnership projects, according to the Ministry Facebook page on Wednesday.

The training also addresses how to develop a suitable environment for implementing partnership projects and covers project structuring and risk management, while presenting suggested models and examining the methods used to monitor and evaluate the performance of partnership projects.

Economy



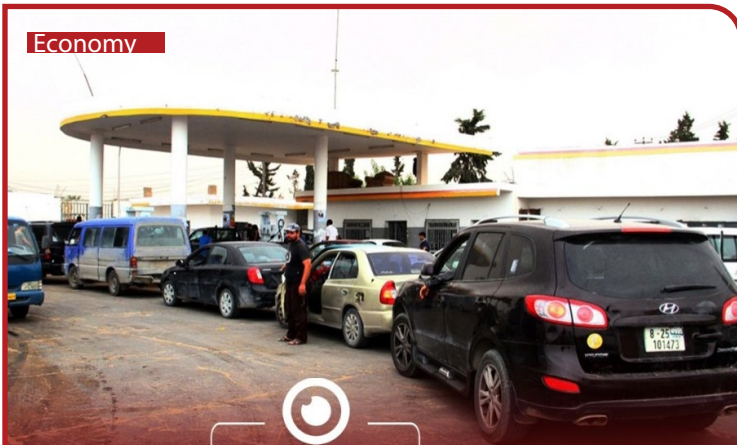
Libya International Exhibition for Sports, Fitness and Health kicks off in Tripoli

The Minister of Economy and Trade of the Government of National Unity, Mohammed Al-Hawij, has inaugurated the Libya International Forum and Exhibition for Sports, Fitness and Health.

During the opening of the forum and exhibition activities, Al-Hawij was accompanied by the General Director of the Tripoli International Fair, Islam Jaafar, and in the presence of a number of business owners and diplomatic missions accredited to Libya, according to the Ministry of Economy and Trade Facebook page.

The Libya International Forum and Exhibition for Sports, Fitness and Health includes wide participation from local and foreign companies specialized in the manufacture and supply of sports equipment.

Economy



Libya ranked sixth highest daily fuel consumption in Africa

The Business Insider Africa website has recorded Libya among the ten African countries with the highest daily fuel consumption.

According to the website, Libya ranked 6th after Egypt, South Africa, Algeria, Nigeria, and Morocco, with 262 million barrels per day, and 48th in the world rankings.

This comes amid government deliberations regarding lifting subsidies on fuel, as the head of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, says that about half of the general budget of the Libyan state spent as fuel subsidy for citizens.

Economy



Shakshak reviews financial reports of Oil Ministry

The head of the Audit Bureau, Khaled Shakshak, met with the Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohamed Aoun, on Sunday to discuss the ministry's financial reports and the Bureau's relevant observations.

The parties reviewed mechanisms to achieve transparency and accountability in the oil and gas sector, aiming for the optimal utilization of financial resources and their effective and sustainable employment.

Shakshak emphasized the importance of considering the Bureau's recommendations to improve the ministry's performance and enhance transparency.



Economy

LIA Board of Trustees convenes for the first time in 2023

The Libyan Investment Authority's (LIA) Board of Trustees held its first regular meeting for the year 2023 on Sunday, headed by the Secretary of the LIA Board of Trustees, Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah. The meeting was attended by members of the Board of Trustees, its Board of Directors, and the team of the international companies Deloitte and Ernst & Young (EY) as they are the external auditor of the LIA.

The meeting reviewed the Board of Directors' activity report for the fiscal year 2023, the report of the external auditor for previous years, as well as the plan for the year 2024.

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Ali Mahmoud, gave a presentation showing the settlement of accounts and financial statements, the preparation of consolidated financial statements, the proce-

dures taken by LIA regarding judicial seizures in cooperation with the Cases Department and the Attorney General's Office, and reviewing the management of the LIA funds in a number of local and international banking and economic institutions.

Deloitte team presented the steps taken over the past years with the aim of reaching the lists of consolidated financial reports in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards for financial reporting, given that these lists have not been approved since 2008, according to Hakomitna media platform. The global team of Ernst & Young (EY) also presented its activity with the LIA as the external auditor, which showed the financial assets of the LIA and its affiliated entities that were financially reviewed in its report completed in the

middle of 2023.

Dbeibah stressed the need to continue cooperation with accredited international institutions in completing consolidated financial statements, auditing procedures for all accounts of the LIA assets, and working in accordance with international financial reporting standards.

He added that LIA was late over the past years in preparing the consolidated lists and appointing an external international auditor to ensure the transparency of procedures. He praised the efforts currently being made by the Board of Directors to complete this important file.

The Prime Minister also stressed the need to submit investment plans for LIA and its subsidiaries, as the Libyan sovereign fund, taking into account the standards of transparency and disclosure of all its procedures.

Health



Ministry of Health proposes concluding twinning agreement with Turkish hospital

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Tawfiq Al-Darsi, has discussed concluding a twinning agreement between medical centers in Libya and Basaksehir Governmental Hospital in Turkey in order to bring doctors to perform precise and specialized surgeries.

This came during Al-Darsi's visit to the hospital in Turkey, where he discussed with its officials the possibility of concluding another agreement for training, exchanging experiences and knowledge, and transferring technology, while programming mutual visits for doctors from the two countries, according to the ministry's statement on its Facebook page on Monday.

Al-Darsi said that the proposed twinning agreements will reform the Sabha and Benghazi Medical Centers, as well as the Tripoli University Hospital, in the first phase.

Migration



UNHCR welcomes Italy's decision to evacuate 1,500 immigrants from Libya

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) welcomed the decision of the Italian Ministry of the Interior to extend the humanitarian corridor from Libya to Italy, providing better opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers facing increasing risks.

The Italian government has expressed its commitment to evacuate 1,500 refugees and asylum seekers from Libya in the next three years by signing a memorandum of understanding in this regard, the UNHCR said, confirming that it will work in cooperation with relevant partners to identify and select these people, while giving priority to those who have the most urgent needs. UNHCR urged other countries to follow Italy's example by providing humanitarian corridors to relieve pressure on host countries, and to contribute to providing a compassionate response to the urgent needs of refugees in Libya and elsewhere.

This commitment comes after the successful evacuation of 1,300 people from Libya to Italy since 2017 through evacuation flights and resettlement programmes, according to UNHCR.



Opinions

Destroying the strategy of domination

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

Normalizing relations with Arab countries is a strategic goal for all successive occupation governments, since the establishment of the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine. One of their most important political victories was the conclusion of the peace agreement with Egypt, following the Camp David negotiations, to begin a new chapter in the Arab-Zionist conflict, by neutralizing the major state in the Arab region, the spearhead of all Arab wars with the occupying entity. Successive agreements were subsequently made with the PLO and Jordan, while all Western mediations failed to drag Syria and Lebanon into the track of normalization to end the state of conflict, and therefore state of war remained in place.

During the past years, the occupying entity succeeded in normalizing relations with the Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco, and took advanced steps on the path to normalization with Saudi Arabia, as only some minor details remained, for the path to be finalized with an exchange of ambassadors.

The current Zionist government, described as the most extremist in the history of the entity, has placed at the top of its list of goals for full normalization with more Arab countries. Despite this breakthrough by the occupier through full normalization with some Arab countries, and continuing this approach to bring more Arab countries, to the point that the Netanyahu government is marketing it to the settlers as an achievement that cost nothing, after dropping the principle that some Arab governments had previously touted, land for peace, that is, concluding peace

agreements with the occupier, in exchange for complete restoration of territories occupied in June 1967, and the establishment of a Palestinian state on such territories.

The current occupation government offered an alternative, which is peace in exchange for peace, so the occupier gets what it wants without giving up anything.

The efforts of the occupation government in the course of normalization, despite the growing popular rejection in all past years and decades, prompted me to wonder. What is the point of normalization with the ruling authorities, regardless of their name and type of regime, if the position of the people is mostly consistent, the state of rejection of the occupation remains and has not changed, and the belief that Palestine from the river to the sea is Arab and not Zionist has not budged, so is it really useful to establish relations with governments despite such rejection? Won't these agreements fall in the future, with this firm popular position?

I did not find any convincing answer other than the bet of the occupation government, and behind it Western powers, on tightening control over the people through these governments, and preventing them from controlling their national decisions through democratically elected governments that reflect and embody in word and deed the national will and popular positions on all local, regional and international issues, foremost is the Palestinian cause.

The unelected authorities in most Arab countries will receive American support, and Western support

in general, by normalizing relations with the occupying entity, thus gaining the satisfaction of Western countries, which will turn a blind eye to the corruption of these governments and their violations of human rights. In light of the American withdrawal from the Middle East, to devote itself to and mobilization for an inevitable coming confrontation with China, the US strategy for the region becomes clear, to fill any vacuum left by its withdrawal, so that China expands into it, as a rising power qualified to play the role of the superpower, by strengthening the alliances between the occupying entity and the normalizing countries, to assume leadership of the region, keeping it an American zone of influence, and given the entity's military and technological superiority, as well as its democratic system of government, the actual leadership will be purely its own, and the rest of the Arab countries will be proxies.

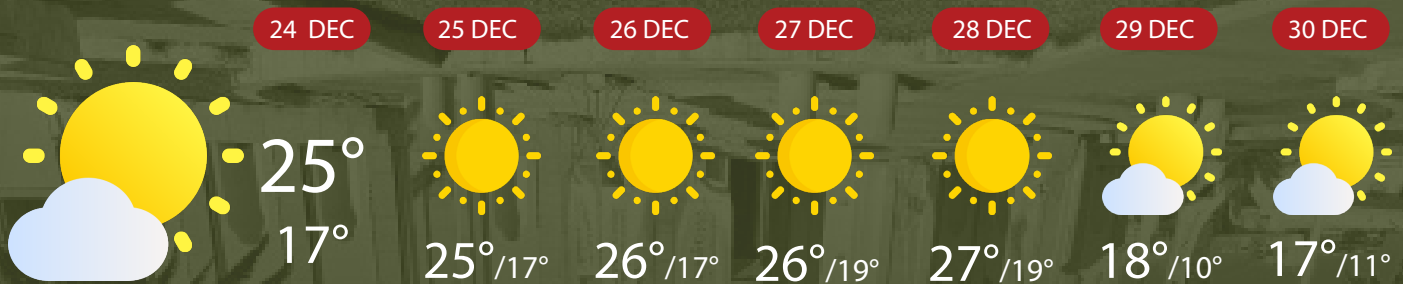
However, the October 7th attack destroyed this strategy, stopped the train of normalization, and brought the Palestinian cause back to the forefront globally. For the path of liberation to be completed, not only for Palestine, but for all the peoples of the region, and to end Western hegemony, the cause of Gaza must be championed, and Gaza must emerge victorious.

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

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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