



Politics

Menfi applauds Erdogan's role in support of Libya elections

The Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, hailed Turkey's pivotal role in supporting stability in Libya, and supporting international efforts to hold elections as soon as possible, according to the media office of the Head of the Presidential Council.

Menfi's remarks came during his meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and his accompanying delegation in Tripoli on Wednesday evening, when Fidan conveyed to Menfi the greetings of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, praising the depth of the bilateral relations that bring the two countries together.

He also stressed the continuation of support for the Presidential Council in all its steps to reach the electoral entitlement according to the national reconciliation file.

The media office added that the meeting between Menfi and Fidan touched on cooperation in all fields, especially resuming Turkish Airlines flights with Libya and the partnership between Libya and Turkey in various economic fields, including the completion of suspended projects. The Turkish Foreign Minister hailed Menfi's positive stance in rejection of the aggression on Gaza.

Fidan met earlier with Prime Minister Dbeibah, with whom he discussed a number of political and economic files, and aspects of cooperation between the two countries, according to the Prime Minister's Media Office.

Fidan arrived in Tripoli on Wednesday morning. He was received by the Minister of State for Prime Minister and Cabinet Affairs, Adel Jumua, and the Turkish Ambassador to Libya, Kenan Yilmaz.



Politics

Turkish Foreign Minister visits Libya, meets with PM Dbeibah

Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah discussed on Wednesday with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan a number of political and economic files and aspects of cooperation between Libya and Turkey.

During his reception in Tripoli of the Turkish Foreign Minister and his accompanying delegation, Dbeibah hailed Turkey's role in supporting stability in Libya and backing up international efforts to hold elections and end the transitional stages, while Fidan conveyed the greetings of Turkish President Erdogan to the Prime Minister and the Libyan people.

The Turkish Foreign Minister confirmed that his visit to Libya came within the framework of unifying efforts between the two countries and discussing a number of joint files as well as international issues, especially the aggression against Gaza, as well as developments in a number of regional countries with the aim of coordinating efforts between the two countries.

Fidan arrived in the capital, Tripoli, on Wednesday morning on his first visit to Libya in his capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was received by the Turkish Ambassador to Libya, Kenan Yilmaz, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Adel Jumua, and a number of officials at Mitiga Airport.

On Tuesday, the Turkish Foreign Minister said in a joint press conference held with his Maltese counterpart in Valletta that Ankara had decided to reopen its consulate in Benghazi, eastern Libya, soon. Fidan stressed that Turkey did not want to see clashes between eastern and western Libya or in the south, according to what the Turkish Anadolu Agency reported.

Politics

High Council of State reviews alternatives to UNSMIL's initiative in case of failure

The High Council of State (HCS) discussed the political situation and the UN Support Mission in Libya's (UNSMIL) proposal to resolve the Libyan crisis and the alternative solutions if the five-party meeting proposal called for by the UN mission failed.

The HCS discussed what it described as "the House of Representatives' violation of the political agreement by issuing ill-considered and unconsensual laws as well as decisions to confuse the political scene and influence the future of official institutions, emphasizing adherence to the political agreement.

The HCS also discussed the environmental crisis in the municipality of Zliten and its effects, listening to the committee that the HCS formed to follow up on this crisis. It also decided by a majority of its members to declare the municipality of Zliten a disaster area and allocate a budget to its municipal council to alleviate the suffering of its people and intensify technical work as well as research to determine the cause of the problem.

The HCS discussed as well the file of national reconciliation and transitional justice as well as the measures taken in this file through the forums organized by the Presidential Council. It, therefore, agreed that the HCS Reconciliation Committee would submit a complete report covering all aspects of this file to the Office of the Presidency to hold a special session to discuss it.

The High Council of State also decided to task the Presidency Office with forming a committee to support the Palestinian Cause and to follow up on developments in this issue at the regional and international levels.

Politics

Libyan HoR declares Zliten a disaster city over rising groundwater



The Libyan House of Representatives (HoR) has declared Zliten city a disaster area due to the current high levels of groundwater and the impact on the houses of the city's residents.

The HoR called in a session on Monday on its designated government to allocate a budget for tackling the crisis and form an emergency-response committee to be responsible for the ongoing measures in Zliten.

It also said that there should be a rebuilding fund allocated for Zliten city as some houses were damaged by the rising groundwater, adding that they should also endorse an authority for emergencies to be tasked with responding to crises in Libya.

The HoR reiterated the need to evacuate Zliten from all residents due to the amount of rising groundwater, and it rejected waiting for the appointed teams' final assessment reports that extend for two months, calling on the HoR members representing Zliten to give a detailed report on the situation. An English team arrived in Zliten last Friday and began assessing the situation there to find out the reasons for the rise in groundwater levels in the city, which prompted a number of residents to leave their homes.

Politics



Libyan passenger ship "Kevalay Queen" collides with cargo ship in The Bosphorus

The Libyan-flagged passenger ship "Kevalay Queen," which transports passengers and cargo, has collided with a cargo ship off the coast of Istanbul, without causing any casualties.

Turkish media said that the Libyan ship was involved in a maritime accident that occurred on Friday in the Bosphorus Strait, confirming that there were no human casualties in the accident.

TRT Haber channel explained that the "Kavalay Queen", which is 147 meters high, collided while in the Sea of Marmara near "Yenikapi" with the cargo ship "Captain Adam 1", which is 103 meters high and showed the flag of Tanzania.

The media reported that the same Libyan ship caused pollution in the Bosphorus last August and was fined with 13 million Turkish liras after authorities in the Turkish port of Zeytinburnu detained the Libyan ship and its crew for hours.

The ship was detained on suspicion of causing water pollution in the port of Zeytinburnu, where the port police station demanded that it pay half a million US dollars in exchange for the release of the ship and its crew, before withdrawing this step on the condition that the case continues to be pursued.

Kevalay Queen began transporting passengers in September 2021 from the port of Misrata toward the port of Izmir, and later the port of Istanbul in Turkey, after sea trips between the two countries stopped for about four decades.

Politics

Takala reiterates rejection of dual nationals, military figures' candidacy for elections



The Head of the High Council of State (HCS), Mohammed Takala, said that the parallel government does not have international support, and the House of Representatives effectively ended its existence when it dismissed its former PM, Fathi Bashagha, and brought in another PM in his place.

"Therefore, it is the same as nonexistence, and it is merely a group created to put pressure on the legitimate government in Tripoli". He said, adding in a statement to Independent Arabia, that the solution could be in agreeing on new electoral laws and then going to a unified government.

"Libyans now have before them a draft constitution on which they can go to a referendum in the current political situation, and thus this constitution becomes binding on all sides. We can then establish a unified government that will supervise elections." Takala added.

Takala said that the electoral laws issued by the House of Representatives were flawed and non-consensual, adding that as long as they are not approved, they are considered invalid.

"If they are issued by the HoR and not approved by the HCS, any Libyan citizen harmed by them can appeal them and the appeal will win, which will return the crisis to square one. Therefore, the path must be shortened and the matter must be corrected by forming a joint committee between the HoR and the HCS to correct these laws". He explained.

Regarding the candidacy of dual nationals and military officers, Takala said "we did not ask for the impossible, but rather what is applied in most countries in the world, and we do not need laws that contradict what the countries know. Our position is clear and frank, and we reject dual nationality and the candidacy of military personnel because of our desire to live a true democracy far from dictatorship and military control, and this requires reconsidering the laws."

Takala said that the UN Support Mission in Libya is limited to the role of mediator, and does not interfere in local affairs by rejecting or accepting, but only manages and supervises the dialogue to reach consensus which must be reached on the electoral laws and then Libyans can go to an inclusive national conference with the aim of unifying the executive authority and issuing a charter to accept the election results.



Economy

Economy Minister says 733 companies will provide food commodities in Ramadan

The Minister of Economy and Trade Mohammed Al-Huweij said that the letters of credit opened during the last quarter of the year 2023 exceeded \$4 billion, pointing out that the number of companies obtaining credits for food and meat reached 733, adding that their products will be available in the market before the month of Ramadan to contribute to price stability.

Al-Huweij's remarks came during a meeting held by Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah on Monday with the Ministry of Economy and Trade and the Customs Authority to follow up on the provision of basic goods during the upcoming month of Ramadan and to establish the basis for their prices according to the cost of supplying them, a statement published by the government media office on Face-

book said.

Al-Huweij pointed out that the Central Bank of Libya reopened letters of credit for businesspeople for the year 2024 after a 40-day hiatus, which will help in the availability of basic goods before the month of Ramadan.

Dbeibah asked for monitoring markets and supply chains, starting from opening credit to ports until reaching points of sale, monitoring prices, controlling cases of monopoly if they occurred, taking legal measures against them, and emphasizing the competitive environment in the market.

He also called for the refusal to grant an exception for the supply of a prohibited commodity to a specific company, and the need for the Ministry of Economy to undertake its procedures to provide equal

opportunities for all suppliers, recognize health certificates issued by internationally accredited centers, and determine a periodic list announced by the Ministry in order to contribute to the flow of goods without monopoly by certain businesses. The Libyan PM stressed the necessity of following up on the main private suppliers and factories, ensuring the quantities available during the coming period, and not allowing speculation in prices, reiterating the need for continued coordination to ensure the availability of basic goods, and focusing on the Ports and Customs Authority in working around the clock to facilitate the speedy release of goods as well as ensuring its access to various points of sale.

Economy



Oil revenues reached 1.4 billion dinars for this January

The Ministry of Oil and Gas in the Government of National Unity announced on Sunday, that oil revenues for the month of January 2024 reached 1,4 billion dinars.

The General Administration of Accounting at the Ministry of Oil and Gas said, in its monthly report, that these amounts are collected from concession and participation contract companies ConocoPhillips and Total Energy, including royalties and taxes on the quantities produced and exported of crude oil during this month.

Economy



Minister of Oil meets with Expertise France official

The Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Aoun, has received the Deputy Director of Programs at the Expertise France, Mohamed Al-Aswad, to discuss intensifying joint work towards a green economy and clean energy.

Both sides discussed the green economy and digitization systems in the oil and gas sector, reviewing ways to keep pace with energy market changes and the extent to which education outcomes are compatible with the labour market.



Economy

Oil India explores potential return to Libya after 13-year hiatus

Oil India is exploring the possibility of returning to Libya 13 years after withdrawing from the country due to political instability.

Ranjit Rath, CEO of Oil India, confirmed to Reuters that the company is in talks with stakeholders to resume drilling operations in Libya.

Rath attributed the company's withdrawal to "some issues" but emphasized its "capability to endure long-term risks for foreign assets."

An informed source on the deal reported that Oil India is seeking more foreign assets and is discussing the resumption of drilling operations in Libya, focusing on two blocks without specifying a timeline for the potential deal.



Economy

Dbeibah transfers 7 public companies to Investment Promotion Authority for privatization

The Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has issued a decision to transfer the affiliation of seven public companies to the General Authority for Investment Promotion and Privatization Affairs.

The companies included in the decision issued last January 24 are: Shahat Company for Shipping Agencies, Jarma Company for Shipping Agencies, International Company for Shipping Agencies, General Company for Rapid Transport, General Company for Roads and Bridges, Libyan Catering Company, and Libyan Company for Handling and Ground Services.



Economy

Elkabr, French Amb. explore cooperation in reconstruction and financial security

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Sadek Elkabr, on Monday held a meeting with the French Ambassador to Libya, Mustafa Mehrach, and the Political Advisor at the Embassy, Marie Favreliere.

The parties discussed the bank's role in reconstructing Derna and other affected areas, as well as the potential for leveraging the World Bank's expertise.

They also reviewed developments regarding the unification of the Central Bank and potential cooperation with the French Central Bank in combating money laundering and terrorism financing.



Health

Medical convoy performs 68 operations in southern region hospitals

Medical convoy marching from the Ministry of Health to the hospitals of southern region performed 68 surgical operations of catheterization and dialysis, and others suffering from injuries resulting from accidents.

The medical convoy was conducted in coordination with the Zintan Dialysis Center and the Cordoba Center for Kidney Services - Tripoli, to visit Al-Qurayyat Hospital, Brak General Hospital, Traghan Educational Hospital, Murzuq General Hospital, Tsawa Hospital, Ubari General Hospital, Tanahum Dialysis Center, Sabha Medical Center.



Health

Minister of Health confirms availability of oncology treatment drugs inside Libya

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health Ramadan Abu Janah has confirmed the availability of oncology treatment drugs inside the country.

This came during a meeting of the security committee charged with monitoring the health sector, which was chaired by the Minister of Health to follow up and address the obstacles facing the file of oncology patients.

The Minister urged oncology patients or their families to register within oncology treatment centers and units to obtain medicines, pointing out that a committee had been assigned to inventory oncology patients receiving treatment in Tunisia, and to provide treatment services to them inside Libya, according to the ministry.

The Minister indicated that an agreement had been reached with companies supplying oncology treatment drugs to provide medicines to patients in coordination with the Medical Supply Agency.



Health

Tripoli Eye Hospital: More than 400 operations performed within 5 days

Tripoli Eye Hospital has announced that more than 400 surgeries were performed within five days in the specialties of retina, strabismus, and cataracts, carried out in five cities, including Sirte, Ajdabiya, Al-Bayda, Al-Khoms, and Tripoli.

The hospital explained on its Facebook page that through this medical campaign, which it launched at the beginning of this year, national cadres were also trained in these cities.



Migration

Tunisian authorities continue to transfer immigrants into Libyan territory

The National Commission for Human Rights in Libya (NCHRL) announced that it was monitoring the continued efforts of the Tunisian authorities to transfer immigrants to the Tunisian-Libyan border areas, and to push them to enter Libyan territory.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the NCHRL indicated that the Stabilization Support Apparatus announced on Sunday the arrest of 100 illegal immigrants of different nationalities as they illegally crossed Libyan territory across the Tunisian border.

NCHRL held the Border Guard Apparatus, which is affiliated with the Ministry of the Interior, and the designated Minister of the Interior fully and legally responsible for the continuation of what it called "collusion with the Tunisian side" in the operations of deporting illegal immigrants and asylum seekers who are on Tunisian territory and bringing them to the Libyan border, despite the Minister's announcement that his Ministry is responsible for the Government of National Unity's controlling and fully

securing the Libyan-Tunisian border during the month of December last year.

NCHRL also called on the Attorney General's Office to open a comprehensive investigation into the operations of bringing illegal immigrants and asylum seekers from the Tunisian border to the Libyan border, and to hold those responsible from the Border Guard accountable for negligence in securing the Libyan border with the Tunisian side.



Local

Zliten mayor announces comprehensive measures to combat rising water levels

Zliten's Mayor, Miftah Hamadi, has announced plans to address the issue of rising water levels in the area.

During a press conference, he revealed that the municipality would be opening new paths utilizing a drainage network approved by a foreign consulting team.

In coordination with the Water and Sewage Company, a surface network for pumping groundwater towards the sea will also be established, covering an area of 5,000 meters.

He said such measures represent a significant step towards minimizing makeshift solutions, such as suction and back-

fill operations and reducing the rising water levels in the area.

Furthermore, Hamadi revealed that the municipality received a water desalination network with a capacity of 72,000 litres from the National Center for Disease Control. He said the authorities will rent apartments or provide rent allowances to assist those affected by the water levels, anticipating that 80 families will be evacuated in the coming period.



Opinions

Current developments of the Libyan crisis

By Abdullah Alkabir, a Libyan political writer and commentator

There were reports of arrangements for a meeting in Morocco between Mohamed Takala, Head of the High Council of State, and Agila Saleh, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The purpose of the meeting is to resume consultations on controversial issues in election laws and unify the executive authority.

If the meeting is to take place, it will be an indication of the failure of the UN envoy's initiative, and a return to a futile path with no expected outcome to address the political impasse, and open a path that leads to peaceful elections. For the positions are fixed and no change has occurred. Aqila and his deputies declare on all occasions that the laws are ready and do not tolerate any amendment or change, while Takala and the majority of members of the High Council of State reject such laws and call for a reconsideration of the entire path.

More than one member of the High Council of State confirmed that Agila had not yet agreed to meet with Takala, and then stipulated that Cairo and not Morocco, be the venue for the meeting.

In the previous and only one meeting between them, they only agreed to continue consultations on the political crisis to reach a Libyan solution that achieves the aspirations and interests of the Libyan people, which is a diplomatic formulation that hides the difference in the agenda of each party. Agila presented the issue of forming a new government by consensus, while Takala stipulated that the points of disagreement in the electoral laws be addressed first, before any consultations on forming a new government.

The recent meetings of the American envoy, Ambassador Norland, with the five parties invited to the Bathily table, do not appear to have succeeded in pushing Agila Saleh and Khalifa Haftar to abandon their conditions for participating in the negotiations. As the mission has not yet commented on the fate of the initiative

following Norland's round, although it is counting on American support to soften the positions of the stubborn parties, to participate in negotiations without preconditions. During the past few days, Bathily met with other active parties in the political, security and military scene, and it is possible that these meetings will be broadened to include other components, to listen to various opinions and points of view, about the easiest and shortest path to the elections, as if there is an alternative plan in place in case the parties to the five-party table continue to procrastinate.

With this political stagnation, Russia continues to implement the African Legion project, through successive visits conducted to east of Libya by Yunus Bek Yevkirov, the Russian Deputy Minister of Defense, without any political parties attending these meetings. There is no doubt that the environment of division, political turmoil, and the lack of a legitimate, elected authority is very convenient for Russia to continue its expansion project in Africa by consolidating its presence in Libya, to become a launching pad towards the targeted African countries, thus opening another front with the West which can help reduce their pressure on Russia in the Ukraine.

It is unfortunate that the political elites do not feel the danger of playing with the big guys and turning the country into an arena in which they fight and settle their scores.

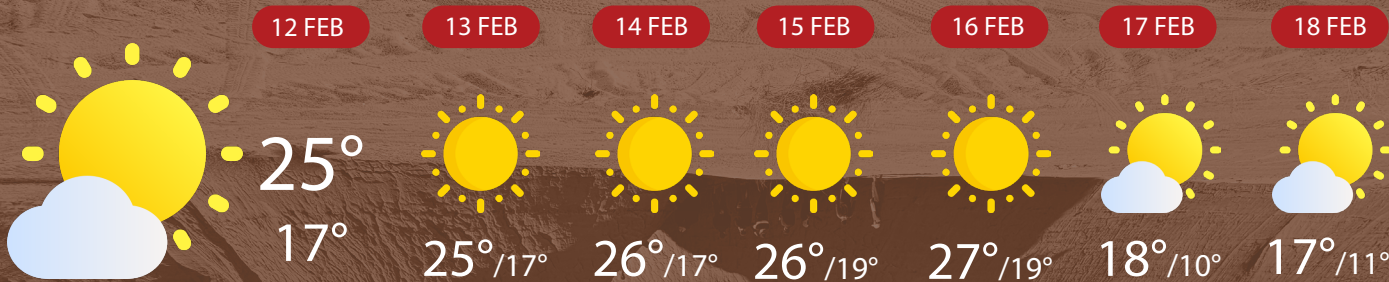
There does not appear to be any way out of the prevailing stalemate on the horizon, and this conclusion is reinforced by the major powers' preoccupation with the emerging challenges in the Middle East and Yemen, as well as the conflict in Ukraine. In the face of these inflamed fronts, which establish a new international order whose features have not yet emerged, it appears that the Libyan political stalemate would remain indefinitely.

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



+218 94 424 69 28 libyaobserver.ly lyobserver
info@libyaobserver.ly lyobserver

ar.libyaobserver.ly lyobserver.ar lyobserver.arabic
libyaobserver thelibyaobserver

Contact
Information