

Politics

UNSMIL calls on Libyan authorities to focus on the needs of people affected by Derna floods

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has called on Libyan authorities and actors to collectively take forward reconstruction that focuses on the needs and best interests of the people whose lives were so severely affected by the floods of Derna. A statement attributed to the Head of UNSMIL, Abdoulaye Bathily and the Humanitarian Coordinator Georgette Gagnon, said that six months after Storm Daniel and devastating floods had struck the city of Derna and the surrounding areas in eastern Libya, the mission's thoughts and condolences remained with the people and communities affected by this disaster, citing the outstanding efforts of local people to rebuild and enhance their communities and commend their re-

markable resilience and strength. "We underscore the need for a coordinated national platform for reconstruction, for the release of funds for long-term reconstruction efforts, and for their transparent management and distribution with effective oversight and accountability to the Libyan people. The UN reaffirms its commitment to supporting a coordinated national platform for inclusive and resilient recovery that prioritizes the livelihoods and efforts of affected people." The statement reads. Since the floods UNSMIL has been working in Derna and the affected municipalities in coordination with local and national authorities, humanitarian agencies and international partners, to provide assistance and support to



the affected people. To date, the UN in Libya and its humanitarian partners have reached 247,000 people, with emergency humanitarian assistance, including shelter, clean water, food, educational support, medical and psycho-social support. UNSMIL said it would remain committed to supporting the people of Derna and the surrounding areas with their recovery as the humanitarian response concludes, adding that it was working closely with local and international partners to assist in rebuilding lives and communities, promoting sustainable development, and advocating for the rights and well-being of all affected people.

Politics

Haftar meets with Italian Interior Minister in Benghazi

Khalifa Haftar received in Benghazi a high-level delegation from the Italian government headed by Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi, Deputy Foreign Minister Edmondo Cirielli, the head of Italian intelligence, Gianni Caravelli, and a number of Italian government officials. In addition to Haftar, his son Khaled, who was assigned as the chief of staff of the recently-created security units, and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior in the parallel government, Faraj Agaim, attended the meeting.



The media office of Haftar's forces reported on Facebook that the Italian delegation's visit came within the framework of "discussions and exchange of views between the two countries, and to strengthen partnership and cooperation in the security, economic and commercial fields."

The statement cited the Italian side as reaffirming "the Italian government's support for all efforts to strengthen the political process and hold presidential and parliamentary elections in Libya to

reach a period of permanent stability." Last May, Haftar visited Rome and met with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, in addition to his meetings with the Italian Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Defense.

Italian media reported at the time that Haftar's visit to Rome included talks with senior officials in the Italian government about illegal immigration issues, the situation in Sudan, and the political process sponsored by the United Nations.

Politics

EU urges Libyan leaders to accept UN envoy's initiative, conduct nationwide reform



The Ambassadors of the European Union (EU) and of the EU Member States to Libya have extended their heartfelt congratulations to the Libyan people on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan, noting in a statement that Ramadan offers an opportunity to set aside differences and make progress in national reconciliation and unity, and thus asking the Libyan leaders to accept UN envoy Abdoulaye Bathily's invitation to come together without any further delay, possibly during the holy month, to discuss and resolve all pending obstacles that prevent citizens from returning legitimacy to the institutions through national elections.

"May this month of blessings bring joy and prosperity to all Libyans and all Muslim across the region in these trying times. At the beginning of this time of peace, forgiveness and tolerance, we call on all parties to act in the spirit of the holy month and, in a gesture of goodwill, release all people who are arbitrarily detained." The EU explained.

The EU's statement indicated that many security and economic challenges increasingly afflict the daily lives of citizens and across the country, appealing to Libyan leaders to urgently agree the necessary reforms needed to preserve stability and the economy, so that Libyans can celebrate free from fear and suffering.

"We wish all Libyan men and women a rewarding and peaceful month of Ramadan, in the hope that it moves all leaders past their differences to build a unified, sovereign, democratic and prosperous Libya together." The statement adds.

Politics

US envoy demands answers in abduction of Libyan Lawmaker Siham Sarqiwa



US Envoy for Libya Richard Norland has reiterated his condemnation of the abduction of parliament member Siham Sarqiwa, who was kidnapped from her home in Benghazi in 2019.

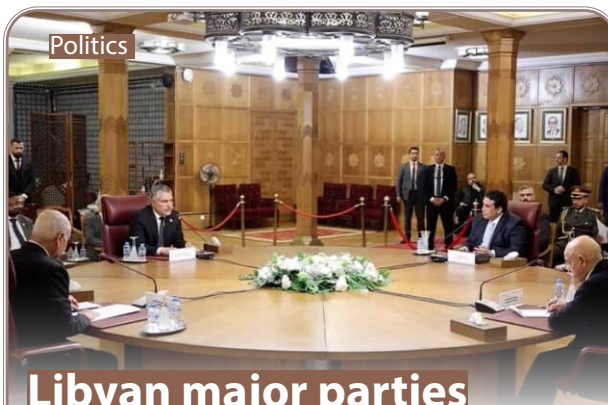
Norland took to his X account Tuesday to urge anyone with information about Sarqiwa's disappearance to "help the family learn the truth as to her fate."

His remarks came in response to an interview with her husband on a local TV channel.

The US envoy underscored that arbitrary arrest and detention based on political opinions undermines the rule of law and constitutes a serious violation of human rights.

It is worth noting that Siham Sarqiwa was kidnapped by militias affiliated with warlord Khalifa Haftar on July 17, 2019 after her appearance on a pro-Haftar Al-Hadath channel, where she expressed her rejection of the aggression on Tripoli at that time.

Politics



Libyan major parties agree on forming unified government in Cairo meeting

The Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, and the Head of the High Council of State, Mohammed Takala, announced in a joint statement their agreement to form a technical committee concerned with amending the laws of the 6+6 committee to expand the basis of consensus and acceptance and resolve outstanding issues regarding controversial points.

This agreement took place during a tripartite meeting on Sunday in Cairo at the invitation of the Secretary General of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, in an effort to bring views closer and end the political impasse through a Libyan-Libyan dialogue.

The statement of the heads of the three councils stressed the necessity of forming a unified government responsible for supervising the electoral process and providing the necessary services to Libyans. They also agreed to hold a second round urgently to complete this agreement and bring it into effect, while calling on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and the international community to support its outcomes.

The statement indicated that the meeting parties agreed to unify sovereign positions to ensure the activation of their role at the level of the Libyan state. It stressed Libya's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and rejected any negative external interference in the political process.

The host country, Egypt, considered the outcomes of the meeting an important step on the path to achieving the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people. In a statement issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs after the meeting, Egypt welcomed the Arab League's hosting of the meeting between Menfi, Takala and Saleh, explaining that this meeting comes "within the framework of supporting the exclusive Libyan ownership of the political settlement, and strengthening the role of Libyan institutions in fulfilling all necessary frameworks for holding presidential and parliamentary elections."

Politics



Hammad calls for probing Dbeibah to reveal sources of unknown spending

The Prime Minister designated by the House of Representatives, Osama Hammad, called on all judicial, auditing and supervisory authorities to expedite the application of the letter of the Governor of the Central Bank of Libya addressed to the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity - in which he spoke about the reasons for the rise in foreign currency exchange under the umbrella of accountability and investigation of everyone who committed crimes against the people of Libya and its future generations.

Hammad stressed the need to reveal the entity responsible for the spending from unknown sources, which Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir spoke about in his letter to Dbeibah, indicating that the practices of the Government of National Unity which he described as "expired," were wrong and had caused the deterioration of the living conditions, in addition to causing severe damage to the national economy and a rise in foreign exchange rates against the local currency.

Hammad said that his government was and is still working in accordance with the legislation in force, and is committed to the law approving the state's general budget issued by the House of Representatives. He pointed out that the responses by Dbeibah saying that the imbalance that struck the Libyan economy was due to bank credits were nothing but weak arguments to evade responsibility.

Hammad called on the Central Bank not to avoid responsibility for the deterioration of economic conditions in all areas, as it is the body responsible for implementing exchange orders issued by the Ministry of Finance of the Government of National Unity.

Politics

PM Dbeibah: Libya's decline in GTI confirms the restoration of security



Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, has stated that Libya's decline in the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) for countries most impacted by terrorism indicates the restoration of security throughout the country.

The 2024 GTI, which is an annual report produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) showed that Libya ranked 30th last year compared to seventh place in 2022, according to Dbeibah Facebook page on Wednesday.

Dbeibah added that his government is working to stabilize the country despite the challenges.

Economy



Libya calls for activating AU financial institutions

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mohammed Issa has called for activating African Union institutions, notably the African Investment Bank hosted by Libya.

During his chairmanship of Libya's delegation at the African Union alliance meeting, he highlighted the necessity of working towards a comprehensive renaissance for the African continent.

Moreover, Issa stressed the importance of addressing illegal migration and achieving sustainable development in line with Agenda 2063, with the goal of building a better future for the continent.

It may be worth noting that the African Union summit held in Nigeria in 2008 established the African Investment Bank with a capital estimated at around \$25 billion. The bloc also agreed to have Libya host the bank.

In 2022, Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, established a preparatory committee for the bank's activation.

In October of last year, Mustafa Al-Manae, advisor to the governor of the Central Bank of Libya, announced that the preparatory committee for the African Investment Bank had obtained approval from six African countries to become members of the bank.

Economy

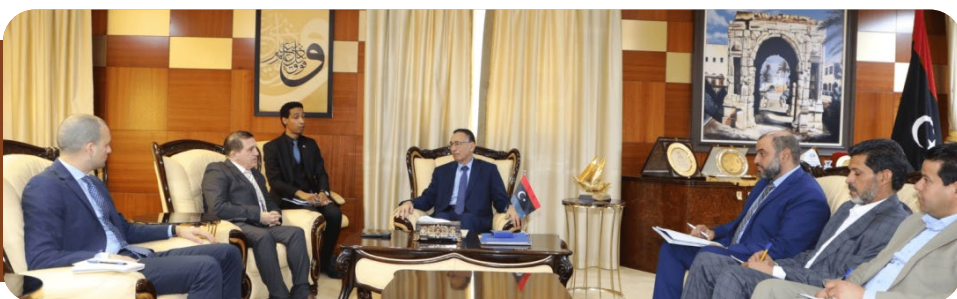
Libyan-Maltese trade forum to be held next April

The Minister of Economy and Trade Mohammed Al-Huweij discussed with the Maltese Ambassador to Libya, Charles Saliba, the current arrangements for holding a Libyan-Maltese trade forum during the period from 24 to 26 April in Malta, under the auspices of the Maltese Ministry of Trade and the Malta Trade Foundation, with the participation of the Ministry of Economy and Trade, the General Authority for Exhibitions and the Libyan Export Development Center, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Economy.

In addition to arranging for the forum to be held, the meeting discussed the difficulties facing the business sector and owners of companies in the two countries and ways to overcome them in coordination with the relevant authorities. Al-Huweij said Libya was moving toward political and security stability in all regions, which supported the development plan for the national economy and improved the business environment through the local and foreign private sectors. He said that the Libyan-Maltese forum represented an opportunity to

develop investment relations in various fields and increase the volume of trade exchanges and cooperation in the field of quality of European products to enable Libyan goods to enter the Maltese and European markets.

Al-Huweij called for the establishment of the Libyan-Maltese Business Owners Council to facilitate procedures for the benefit of company owners and investors with the competent authorities and to enhance trade and investment relations between the two countries.



Economy

Libya records biggest monthly increase in oil supplies in Africa

Libya recorded the biggest monthly increase in oil production in Africa, surpassing Nigeria, the continent's largest producer. Libya's production increase on a monthly basis to 1,167 million barrels of oil per day in February, compared to 1,023 million barrels per day last January, a daily increase of 144,000 barrels per day, according to OPEC's report on the oil market.

Nigeria's production in February reached 1.476 million barrels per day, compared to 1.429 million barrels per day in January, a daily increase of only 47,000 barrels per day.

OPEC's total production in February reached 26,571,000 barrels per day, an increase of 203,000 barrels per day compared to January, when production recorded 26,368,000 barrels per day.



Economy

Bengdara reviews development projects in the south with Repsol Company

Farhat Bengdara, the Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), met with the local director of the Spanish company "Repsol," Mikel Arkiaga, on Wednesday at the corporation's HQ in Tripoli.

According to the NOC, Bengdara was briefed on Repsol's plans and operations to ensure stability and increase of current production, along with sustainable development projects in cities neighbouring the oil fields in the south.



Economy



Algerian commodities exhibition to open in Libya next June

The Algerian Economic Renewal Council said that it would organize a trade exhibition to market local products in Libya on June 03, as one of its members, Abdelraouf Bouhabila, announced in statements to local radio the organization of this trade exhibition to bring together Algerian and Libyan traders.

Bouhabila pointed to the periodic visits conducted by the non-governmental council to several African countries in order to open the way for the marketing of Algerian products in international commercial spaces according to a new map. This comes after the announcement by the Algerian company Al-Ittihad Investment and Services and the Libyan Al-Mamlakah Holding Company on February 21 to open a showroom and warehouses for various Algerian products in Al-Kraimiya area, where the largest wholesale market in Libya is located. Meanwhile, marketing and distribution points were opened across Libya, especially in the most important cities.

The two parties brought goods into Libyan territory via Algerian trucks, for the first time, whereas goods had previously been exported using Libyan trucks.

Libyan capital, Tripoli, previously hosted two editions of the "Made in Algeria" exhibition, the first in June 2022 and the second in February 2023, with the participation of several Algerian companies specialized in the food industries, building, medical and electrical materials, and industrial equipment.



Economy

Al-Huwaij: 45 essential commodities available in markets at low prices

Minister of Economy and Trade Mohamed Al-Huwaij confirmed the availability of 45 essential commodities at low prices across all regions of Libya during a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah.

A statement by the Government of National Unity media office said the meeting aimed to review the availability of essential commodities and control their prices in anticipation of the holy month of Ramadan.

Al-Huwaij emphasized that the Economic and Security Committee will oversee the local factories and suppliers, distribution mechanisms, supply prices, and profit margins. He also highlighted the importance of coordinating with the Municipal Guard and other regulatory agencies to combat price speculation.

For his part, Dbeibah stressed the need for the Ministry of Economy to monitor the supply of essential commodities and local factory productivity. He also called for setting necessary controls to ensure the availability of commodities throughout the month.



Economy

Minister of Oil discusses with Total the development of Al-Waha fields

The Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Aoun, has discussed with officials from Total Energies - Libya, the acceleration of the development of the oil fields of the Al-Waha Oil Company, in order to achieve the goal of increasing Libya's crude production to reach two million barrels per day.

Aoun pointed out the importance of Total's contribution to oil and gas production operations due to its long experience in the Libyan oil sector, stressing the necessity of ensuring complete transparency, good governance, and adherence to the legislation in force in managing the contracts of Al-Waha Company.

Health



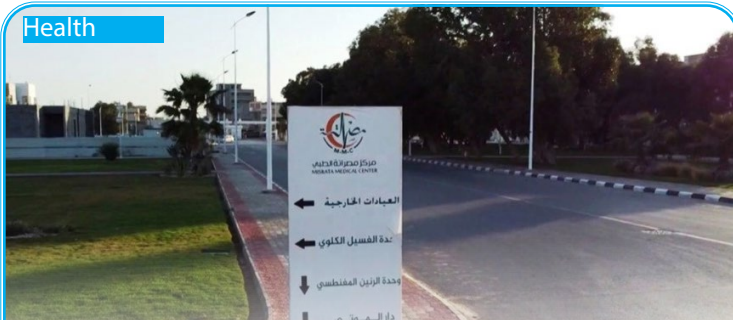
MSA receives 20 containers of kidney dialysis machines

The Medical Supply Authority (MSA) received 20 containers of kidney dialysis machines on Wednesday after they cleared customs at the Tripoli Seaport.

According to the Authority, the containers were supplied by the B.Braun company and transported directly to its warehouses in Misrata to address the existing shortage of kidney dialysis machines in the country.

On Tuesday, the MSA received a shipment of specialized medicines through the Tripoli Seaport, which will be distributed to hospitals, specialized centres, and primary health care centres to meet their needs.

Health



Misrata Medical Centre opens Emergency Department expansion, Nursing Institute

The Misrata Medical Centre has opened the new expansion of the Emergency and Accidents Department after undergoing maintenance and development work, Centre spokesman Mohamed Niehom announced on Saturday.

The expansion includes ten beds for emergency cases and the Minor Surgery Department.

Niehom stated in remarks to the media that the emergency intervention and observation rooms have been equipped with the latest artificial respiratory devices, medical equipment, and doctor's examination rooms.

The new educational building for the Intermediate Nursing Institute was also inaugurated during the opening ceremony. After a ten-year hiatus, students will now be able to receive education and training within the Centre, which consists of two floors containing classrooms, laboratories, and fully equipped teaching rooms.



178 illegal immigrants deported through Imsaed border crossing

The Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency in Benghazi has announced the deportation of 178 illegal immigrants of Egyptian nationality through the Imsaed border crossing.

The deportation process was carried out in cooperation with the agency's branch in the city of Tripoli, as 152 immigrants of Egyptian nationality were received from Tripoli including those infected with hepatitis.

The agency confirmed that the deported immigrants had been arrested through daily campaigns carried out by the branch within the jurisdiction, and some of them had security restrictions.

Education

Rahibat receives new school as Part of Ministry of Education's school construction plan



The Education and Training Supervisor in the Municipality of Rahibat received the "Al-Salamat" School after its completion, with a capacity of accommodating 360 students during both morning and afternoon sessions.

The school consists of six classrooms, four administrative offices, and other facilities, which are supervised by the Center for Development and Improvement of Administrative Centers.

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah previously announced the launch of the Future Schools project, which aims to establish 1500 new and model schools in various regions of the country to replace the dilapidated and makeshift schools.



Opinions

Drifting towards the abyss

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

Perhaps the statement/message from the UN mission in Libya to the group of members of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, who met in Tunisia a few days ago, is the clearest and most realistic of all its previous statements and declarations, as the statement responds to the meeting, its goals, and its outcome in a polite and at the same time, firm language .

The meeting brought together blocs and personalities whose orientations were well-known in the two chambers, without observing the accepted rules of communication between the two chambers, which is what the two chambers were keen on in previous dialogues, with the exception of the last period of Al-Mishri's presidency of the HCS, when he concluded a deal with his counterpart Agila Saleh, but the deal did not work. It only reaped failure and aggravated the crisis , as all dialogues between the two chambers, at the level of subcommittees or the presidency, did.

Some members of both chambers insist on repeating the attempts despite their proven failure, and the reason was stated indirectly in the mission's statement, which is that the political decision in the current Libyan situation is no longer in the hands of the local parties, but rather the regional and international parties involved in the conflict, who have the upper hand in engineering any transfer of power, and this was the case from the Sukhirat Agreement to the Tunis-Geneva Agreement.

There is no way to gradually restore sovereignty over national decision-making other than insisting on going back to the people to lead change through elections.

The mission's message included, between the lines, a rebuke to the representatives and members gathered, reminding them that they only represent themselves, and that the dialogue that could mark the beginning of Libya's exit from its crisis must include all or the majority of the parties. "We must acknowledge that this meeting of yours cannot be a substitute for a broader dialogue, with greater participation, and a more comprehensive agenda."

Candidly and directly, the statement/message accuses them, in its final lines, of bringing Libya closer to drifting into the abyss, because of their insistence on remaining in their positions, and making their personal interests override the interests of the state and the people. "A lot of time has been wasted for Libya and its people. And every day you insist on remaining in your positions, or other parties maintain their positions, brings Libya dangerously closer to the brink of the abyss. You must restrain this relentless creep toward the abyss and resort to reason and wisdom to save Libya."

The new American position explains this escalation in the tone of the UN mission in Libya towards some parties to the crisis. American diplomat Stephanie Khoury was appointed to the position of Assistant Special Envoy to Libya for Political Affairs, and the American Ambassador and Special Envoy to Libya, Richard Norland recently held several meetings with the Presidential Council and the government. and some other figures, announcing in brief statements the US administration's support for Bathily's initiative, which did not receive a response from some parties.

It was remarkable that these statements represent a retreat from support for the elections, to call for the formation of a caretaker government, and to link it to the importance of the participation of all Libyan actors in the political process, sponsored by the United Nations mission, to remove the remaining obstacles to the elections. The previous statements did not stipulate the formation of any type of government, but rather In a previous statement, Norland said that elections could be held even in the presence of two governments!

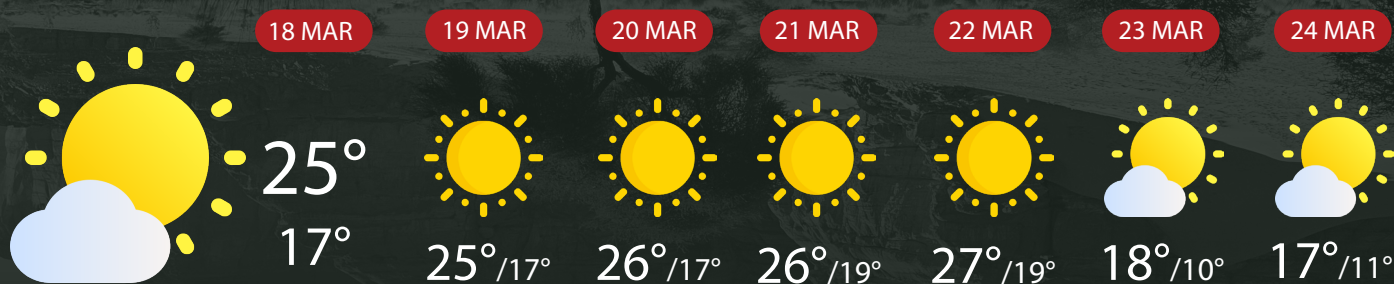
An international position supporting a fundamental change in Libya has not yet crystallized, which means that the conflict of interests of the countries active in the crisis does not allow such transformation now, but the escalation of the severity of the crisis, and the security and economic developments, require extending the current phase, but with reducing any emerging tensions, to remain at the brink of abyss, rather than falling into it.

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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