

Politics

HoR says agreement with HCS on mechanism to form new government is imminent



The Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR), Aqila Saleh, has confirmed that the HoR is in contact with the High Council of State (HCS) and that they have almost reached an agreement on the mechanism for forming a new government.

Saleh added, in an interview with the Egyptian newspaper "Sada El Balad" website, that it had been agreed in principle that whoever wanted to take over the government would receive the recommendation of 20 members of the HCS and 10 members of the HoR.

Saleh said that the electoral process was ready with all its details and only needed to form a unified government that will be accountable to the HoR because it is not reasonable to hold elections in the presence of two governments: east and west, stressing the need to avoid delaying elections until a new UN envoy is appointed, as waiting for a new UN envoy is a waste of time.

Saleh also expected that elections would be held before the end of this year, calling on the international community and Arab countries to assist, especially after the intervention of the Arab League. He pointed out that the obstacles that Libya was facing were the interference of the international community, and the inability of the international envoys who came to Libya to provide anything to resolve the Libyan crisis, adding that if the matter is left to Libyans and the implementation of the constitutional declaration and political agreement, things will move in a positive direction and quickly.

Regarding the Cairo meeting held under the auspices of the Arab League with the Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, and the Head of HCS, Mohammed Takala, Saleh explained that it gave a motivation to the political process in Libya, even though the Arab League was late in this matter and it had to have, from the beginning, its role in the Libyan issue. He stressed that the meeting of parties showed consensus on the necessity of forming a Libyan government to hold elections.

Saleh also stressed that the Cairo meeting had reaffirmed Libya's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity and rejected any negative external interference in the Libyan political process based on the political agreement, the formation of a technical committee within a specific period of time to consider amendments to electoral laws, and the necessity of forming a unified government whose mission is to supervise the electoral process.

Politics



Haftar holds discussions with Italian Prime Minister in Benghazi

Khalifa Haftar received in his office in Rajma, east of Benghazi, the Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and her accompanying delegation. Haftar expressed his appreciation for Meloni's visit to Benghazi to discuss the latest local and regional developments, as well as ways of cooperation and coordination between the two countries, according to a statement by Haftar forces' media office.

The statement cited the Italian Prime Minister as emphasizing "the importance of strengthening the partnership between the two sides in the commercial, economic and cultural fields, and continuing cooperation in the file of combating illegal immigration and human traf-

ficking networks as well as taking the necessary measures to reduce illegal immigration, in a way that serves the interest of the two countries."

They also discussed the importance of continuing to advance the political process to ensure the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections to reach a stage of stability in the country.

Meloni arrived in Benghazi from Tripoli, after meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah and Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi. In Tripoli, she stressed that cooperation with Libya in the field of combating illegal immigration flows, among other issues.

Politics

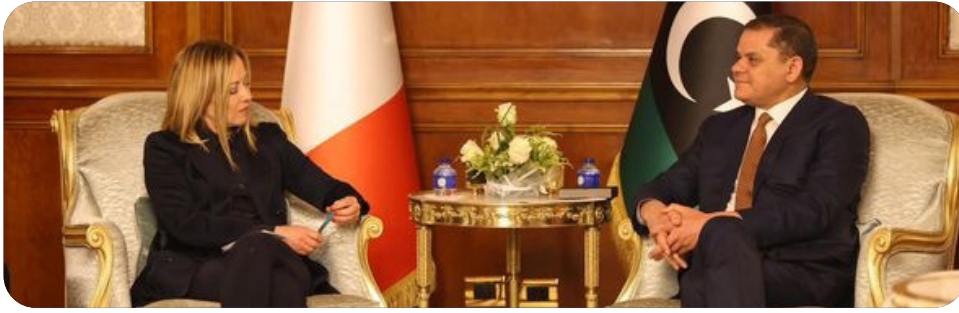


Interior Minister reviews security cooperation with Tunisian President

The Libyan Minister-designate of Interior of the Government of National Unity, Emad Al-Trabelsi, discussed Monday with Tunisian President Kais Saied the prospects for joint security cooperation, in the presence of Tunisian Minister of Interior Kamal El-Feki.

The Ministry of Interior said the two sides discussed "the procedures for reopening Ras Ajdair border crossing to passenger traffic between the two countries, and reviewed resolving some of the difficulties and problems facing the workflow at the border as it is important to the two countries." They also discussed the issue of securing the borders and cooperation in a way that achieves the common interest. The Tunisian President hailed the efforts of the Libyan Ministry of Interior in securing the borders and combating crime. He expressed Tunisia's readiness to cooperate with the Libyan side to achieve joint security.

Upon his arrival at the head of a security delegation to Tunisia, Al-Trabelsi was received by his Tunisian counterpart, Kamal Al-Feki, and a number of security officials in Tunisia.



Politics

Libyan PM meets with Italian counterpart in Tripoli

The Libyan Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, received Tuesday in Tripoli Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and her accompanying delegation.

Meloni arrived in Tripoli to meet with Dbeibah and the Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi.

Dbeibah said on Facebook he had held fruitful talks with Meloni to enhance the prospects for joint cooperation between the two countries, adding that the meeting

witnessed the signing of three agreements in the fields of health, higher education and scientific research, and sports and youth.

"I look forward to continuing the work with Meloni to advance bilateral relations in the upcoming meetings," Dbeibah said.

According to the Italian Nova News Agency, the delegation accompanying the Italian Prime Minister included: Minister of Universities and Research, Minister of Health, and Minister of Sports and Youth.

According to the Agency, declarations of intent will be signed by the three Italian ministers with their Libyan counterparts regarding university and research cooperation and in the fields of health, sports and youth.

Meloni is scheduled to visit Benghazi to meet Khalifa Haftar, in line with Italy's unified commitment to be present across Libya and open discussions with all Libyan parties.

Politics



NCHRL demands Tunisia uphold legal obligations towards migrants

The Institution of National Commission for Human Rights in Libya (NCHRL) has raised concerns over Tunisia's ongoing practice of expelling irregular migrants and asylum seekers to the Libyan borders.

In a statement, the Commission highlighted the growing humanitarian crisis along the Libyan border, accusing Tunisian authorities of "evading their ethical, legal, and humanitarian obligations."

The NCHRL revealed that large numbers of migrants have been taken to the Libyan border and transferred to the Border Guard Agency Centre in the Aseh border area, with 120 migrants being the latest group to arrive on Thursday.

Tunisian authorities assume that foreigners have passed through Libya or Algeria before entering Tunisia, even if some were intercepted at sea or entered via Tunisian airports, the statement says.

According to the NCHRL, some of these migrants have entered Tunisia through legal channels, such as airports, and some of them are registered asylum seekers with the Tunisian High Commissioner for Refugees.

Politics



Menfi stresses to Italian PM importance of completing Emssaed-Ras Ajdir road

During his meeting with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, the Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, stressed the importance of the Italian-Libyan friendship agreement signed between the two countries in 2008, the completion of the Emssaed-Ras Ajdir road, and the ongoing consultation between the two countries in the areas of combating terrorism, immigration, and unifying the Libyan military institution.

Menfi received Meloni in Tripoli on Tuesday after her meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah and the signing of a number of agreements in the fields of higher education, youth and sports and health.

The media office of the Presidential Council explained that Menfi and Meloni reviewed the impor-

tance of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in all fields and working to develop it in a way that serves the interests of the two countries. Menfi stressed the importance of the entry of Italian companies into all parts of the country, especially the existing reconstruction projects in the east, west and south.

The media office added that Meloni stressed the need to strengthen cooperation between the two countries, especially in the fields of education, scientific research, health, sports, investment and reconstruction, in addition to the files of illegal immigration and organized crime. She also stressed Italy's keenness to support the political process in Libya and engage positively to achieve the desire of the Libyans to hold elections.



Economy

Salaries dominate Libyan spending: 80% allocated to employee costs

The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) on Tuesday disclosed the figures for the state's revenues and expenditures during the initial four months of the current year. According to the bank's bulletin, the total revenues amounted to 31.951 billion dinars, while expenditures reached 26.083 billion dinars. The bank further detailed that revenues acquired in foreign currency during this period totalled 6.4 billion dollars, with total current expenditures and obligations amounting to 13.772 billion dinars.

Highlighting the revenue breakdown, the bank emphasized that revenues from oil sales constituted the majority, reaching 26.6 billion dinars, followed by oil royalties at 4.6 billion dinars. Tax revenues stood at 65 million dinars, while customs and local fuel market revenues amounted to 121 million and 30 million dinars, respectively. Additionally, the bank reported 535 million dinars in other revenues. Regarding expenditure, salaries took the lion's share at 20.4 billion dinars, followed by operational expenses at

1.1 billion dinars and subsidies at 3.6 billion dinars. Notably, no allocations were made to development and emergency funds. Moreover, the bank provided insights into the spending of governmental bodies, with the House of Representatives and its affiliated bodies spending 352 million dinars, the High Council of State spending 14 million dinars, the Presidential Council and its affiliated bodies spending 169 million dinars, and the Government of National Unity spending 584 million dinars.



Economy

British ambassador says UK supports CBL's efforts to maintain financial sustainability

The British ambassador to Libya, Martin Longden, has reiterated the United Kingdom's support for the Central Bank of Libya's (CBL) efforts to maintain financial sustainability, hailing its role in maintaining the stability of the Libyan state. These remarks came during a meeting between the Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, with the British ambassador to Libya, where they discussed the process of unifying the Central Bank, withdrawing the 50 dinars banknotes from circulation, imposing a fee on foreign exchange sales, approving a unified budget and fuel exchange, and addressing subsidies.



Economy

NOC Chairman, ambassadors of Italy and France discuss reducing carbon emissions

The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat Ben Qaddara, has met with the ambassadors of Italy and France to Libya, Gianluca Alberini and Mostafa Mihraje. In two separate meetings with the two ambassadors, the NOC Chairman discussed the work of Italian and French companies operating in Libya in the field of energy, and the NOC role in contributing to global energy security. The two meetings stressed the importance of supporting the NOC efforts to raise production and ensure the financial sustainability of its projects, in addition to discussing joint investments and cooperation in the field of reducing carbon emissions.



Economy

Ras Lanuf refinery: Appeal of Emirati firm to empty tanks rejected

The Misrata Court of Appeal issued a ruling rejecting the appeal of the Emirati company Trasta, the foreign partner in the Ras Lanuf refinery, against the process of emptying the refinery's tanks of petroleum products. This rejection came after a previous ruling by the Paris Court of Appeal in which it granted full control of the refinery to the National Oil Corporation, and obligated Trasta to pay outstanding fees. The former Head of the National Oil Corporation, Mustafa Sanalla, had explained that the process of emptying the tanks

was carried out by a judicial decision and with the knowledge of all parties, in order to remove the risks of the presence of huge quantities of stagnant fuel in the tanks for more than a decade, in order to preserve the safety of workers and citizens in the Ras Lanuf area. Sanalla pointed out that emptying the tanks also aims to protect the refinery and the Ras Lanuf petrochemical complex from the dangers of potential fires and explosions, especially since the refinery stopped working for years due to disputes between partners.

He welcomed the decision of the Paris Court of Appeal, considering it wise and in the interest of all parties, as it would allow the remaining quantities of fuel to be sold, reduce risks, and preserve the refinery's facilities. Sanalla believed that this ruling once again proved the justice of the National Oil Corporation's position, and the illegality of Trasta's demands, a stance confirmed by previous judicial and arbitration rulings that were issued locally and internationally in favor of the National Oil Corporation.



Economy

Dbeibah backs NOC's plan to double oil production

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) aims to boost production to two million barrels daily, NOC Chairman Farhat Bengdara affirmed during a meeting with Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah. According to the "Hakomitna" platform, discussions revolved around the developmental strategy of the NOC and its affiliated companies. Bengdara presented an executive overview of daily oil and gas production and progress on developmental projects designed to enhance output, aligned with the corporation's approved plan by the High Council of Energy. Emphasizing the primary goal of reaching two million barrels per day, Dbeibah urged Bengdara to adhere to project timelines, ensure financial flows, and disclose all contracts and procedures to all Libyans and relevant regulatory bodies for transparency and accountability.



Economy

Takala, Bengdara review NOC plans to increase oil production

The Head of the High Council of State, Mohammed Takala, discussed with the Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat Bengdara, the NOC's plans and programs to improve and increase oil and gas production. Takala's media office said in a statement that Bengdara had briefed Takala on the NOC's steps to develop the fields, including the "NC7" field. The meeting touched on the status of the Ras Lanuf refinery, and discussed the issue of renewable energies to reduce the consumption of oil and gas in generating electricity. Earlier, during his meeting with the Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, Bengdara confirmed that the NOC aimed to increase oil production to two million barrels per day.



Libya adopts new mental health strategy with WHO support

The World Health Organization (WHO) and Libya's Ministry of Health have jointly announced the approval of the National Mental Health Strategy 2024-2030.

Following a two-day workshop in Misrata, which brought together mental health experts from across Libya and the WHO, the strategy aims to address pressing mental health challenges by focusing on prevention, early detection, treatment, and ongoing moni-

toring of mental illnesses.

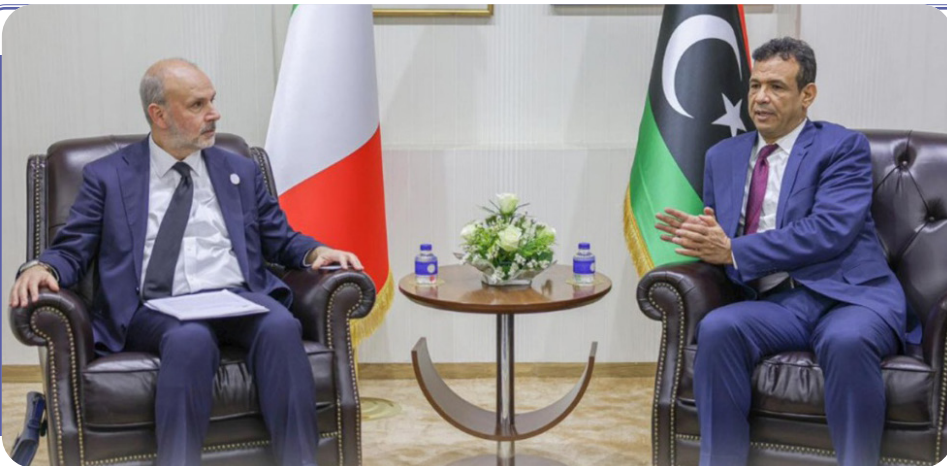
The initiative also seeks to establish a comprehensive healthcare system, ensuring all citizens receive high-quality mental health services and support.

Key schemes include forming a national mental health committee, training personnel across specialties, and engaging stakeholders for improved mental health outcomes.

Ahmed Zwieten, WHO Representative

in Libya, hailed the strategy's approval as a crucial step toward prioritizing mental health, emphasizing its role in building a resilient society.

For his part, Deputy Minister of Health Saad Al-Din Abdelwakil praised the collaborative effort between national experts and WHO, noting the strategy's potential to strengthen capacity and narrow gaps in mental health services nationwide.



Health

Minister of Health discusses activating agreements concluded with Italy in health field

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health Ramadan Abu Janah has met with Italian Minister of Health Orazio Schillaci, on the sidelines of the visit of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and a number of her government ministers to Tripoli.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed activating the agreements pre-

viously concluded between the two countries to improve health conditions within the country.

The two parties also discussed opportunities to expand the horizons of future cooperation between Libya and Italy in the fields of training medical personnel, exchanging experiences and transferring medical technology.

The meeting touched on activating the twinning agreements previously signed between medical centers in Libya and specialized medical centers in Italy regarding training, exchanging experiences and knowledge, and transferring technology, while programming mutual visits for doctors from the two countries.



Sports

Libyan Football Federation postpones convening of General Assembly after FIFA, clubs' meeting

More than 180 clubs that are members of the General Assembly of the Libyan Football Federation expressed their refusal to adopt the proposals to amend the system presented by the Libyan Football Federation because of the controversial points.

This came during their meeting with the representative of FIFA on Thursday. The General Assembly meeting, which was scheduled for Friday, was canceled and postponed for 45 days. Sports clubs had decided to form legal committees from all regions to discuss and amend the proposals before presenting them at the next meeting.

According to the clubs, the controversial points are "increasing the number of members of the General Assembly and extending the term of the President to 3 presidential terms without counting the previous ones, which allows the current president to remain in the presidency for a period of up to 20 years, and reducing the number necessary to achieve a quorum instead of two-thirds of the members to half +1."

In addition, the Board of Directors of the Libyan Football Federation, headed by Abdul-Hakim Al-Shalmani, announced that the date of the General Assembly will be held on June 4 in Tripoli.

The Libyan Football Federation published its decision on its Facebook page, and explained that, "Based on the requests of the members of the Federation's General Assembly to obtain a period to study the proposals contained in the two drafts of the systems and the Federation's electoral regulations in accordance with FIFA requirements, it has been decided to postpone the date of the Federation's General Assembly."

The Libyan Football Federation indicated in its decision that FIFA "expressed its understanding and approval of the clubs' demands."

Sports



Al-Swehly clinches 12th Libyan Premier Volleyball League title

Al-Swehly secured their 12th championship title in the Libyan Premier Volleyball League for the 2023-2024 season after defeating Al-Nasr by three sets to one in Monday's match. The contest kicked off with Al-Swehly displaying exceptional prowess, clinching the first set with a tight score of 25-23. Despite Al-Nasr's efforts to level the score in the second set with a 25-22 victory, Al-Swehly bounced back, dominating the third and fourth sets with scores of 25-22 and 25-21 respectively, ultimately sealing the match with a 3-1 victory. Al-Swehly's remarkable season saw them maintain an unbeaten record in local matches and deliver commendable performances in the Arab Championship, where they also secured the championships cup. Al-Nasr, meanwhile, claimed the run-

ner-up title in the league standings, followed by Al-Ahli Benghazi in third place, Al-Ittihad Misrata in fourth, and Al-Jazeera rounding out the top five.

Under the guidance of Tunisian coach Mehdi Ben Sheikh, Al-Swehly aims to achieve an unprecedented treble in Libyan volleyball history. Having already secured the Arab Championship title and the Libyan league title, they now set their sights on the cup, eagerly anticipating the final.

Al-Swehly's next challenge is to determine the winner of tomorrow's match between Al-Nasr and Al-Jazeera in Misurata. With the cup final set to be held on their home turf, Al-Swehly's ambitions are higher than ever as they seek to claim another historic victory in front of their loyal fans.



Education

Libya signs education pact with ICESCO, focus on modernization, technology

The Ministry of Education and Training has signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ICESCO). The memorandum was signed under the auspices of Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah with the aim of establishing a framework for bilateral cooperation and understanding in education and training between Libya and ICESCO.

Areas of collaboration outlined in the memorandum include curriculum development, digital transformation, e-learning, remedial education, addressing dropout rates, teacher training, support for educational institutions, and creating equivalences between certificates and degrees.



Opinions

The political aspect of the budget law

By Abdullah Alkabir,
a Libyan political writer and commentator

In a surprising step, not preceded by the familiar preparations that the House of Representatives has been accustomed to, whenever the force controlling it wanted to pass something. Agila Saleh's House of Representatives approved an annual budget estimated at more than 90 billion dinars for the parallel government that is not internationally recognized, the largest part of which was allocated to salaries and subsidies.

It did not include the development section, for which an additional thirty billion was allocated, because the government's budget, even if the issue of its implementation after liquidating funds from the Central Bank, is out of the question, but it is theoretically subject to follow-up and accountability and the enforcement of laws and regulations when implemented, while the reconstruction agencies that was established for one of Haftar's sons by Agila is not subject to any kind of follow-up, oversight and accountability, according to the text of the law establishing it, which is wide open for the practice of plunder and corruption.

Therefore, if the blackmail operation practised by Haftar's representatives at HoR and Agila succeeds in obtaining these billions, and the Governor of the Central Bank responds and transfers some or all of the allocations for the development item, Haftar the junior will be free to dispose of them as he wishes without fearing any oversight or accountability.

The parallel government does not have any assets or database to implement the budget. Salaries, subsidies, and other aspects of government spending are at the capital's institutions, and control and oversight institutions are ineffective in the areas of influence of Haftar and Agila governments.

Therefore, it is unlikely that the governor will respond to the decision of the House of Representatives, despite his recent rapprochement with Agila Saleh, by consulting him on the issue of imposing an additional tax on foreign exchange sales

As for the political level, which is the key to this step, and in most of the laws and decisions of the House of Representatives, it is an attempt to create a political reality that is difficult for the new acting envoy, Stephanie Khoury, as she embarks on her new mission, and finds before her a clearly defined state of division with two governments, both of which have a special budget to be implemented, through which, the affairs of the state are managed in their respective areas of influence, and within the folds of this division was a message that Agila Saleh never tired of repeating, that is the executive authority must be unified before going to elections

It is certain that Khoury began examining the Libyan crisis in all its dimensions, immediately after the decision was issued to appoint her as deputy to

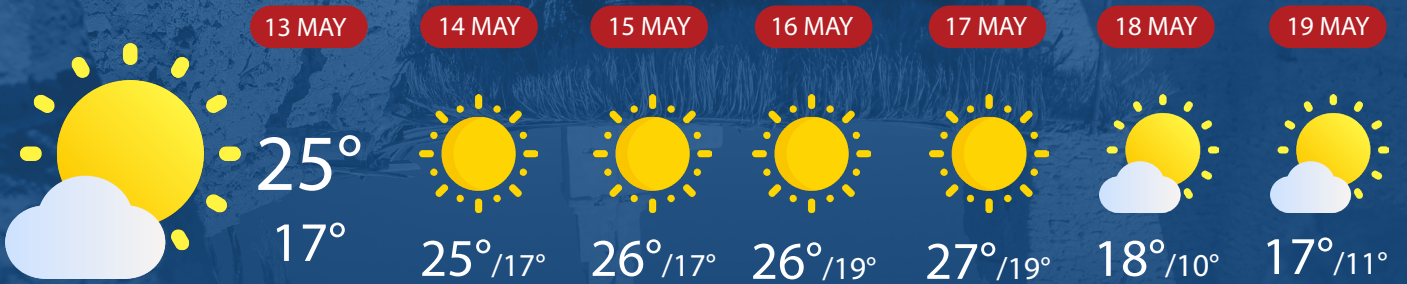
the resigned envoy Abdoulaye Bathily, who in turn would have presented to her the hidden aspects of the crisis and the level of foreign interference, with a set of advice on the best ways to deal with the selfish leaders, who often make their narrow interests override interests of the nation.

However, full knowledge of the crisis, the expected American-European support, and her previous experiences due to her work in the Arab region, will not be enough for Ms. Khoury to achieve a possible breakthrough into the crisis, and the most that is expected of her is to regain the initiative and bring the parties to the negotiating table, without guarantees of reaching an acceptable settlement to everyone. Therefore, the final result will be nothing more than a temporary calm, and extending the transitional phase by postponing the elections, because there is a crucial factor that Mrs Khoury lacks, which is the consensus of the major powers involved in the conflict, as Russia is not expected to cooperate and push towards a political solution, yet it finds the appropriate climate in the division and chaos, to achieve further political and military incursion, as well as ruling out the possibility of her cooperating with an envoy having US citizenship, who will consider her an implementer of her country's agenda, so, the Libyan file remains in the hands of America, which seeks to curb the growth of Russian influence in Libya, and in the region in general.

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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