

Politics

Russia refutes Reuters report linking Moscow to counterfeit money printing in Libya

The Russian embassy in Libya denied the validity of a Reuters report published on Wednesday regarding the printing of counterfeit Libyan dinar banknotes in Russia, questioning the credibility of the sources cited in the report, and saying that London continued to publish ridiculous topics.

The Russian embassy accused the Sentry group, which Reuters used in the report, of being affiliated with the British Intelligence Service, while Reuters defined it as an international group focused on corruption and war crimes.

"As for all official bodies that actually

have information and can expose these slanders, we refused to comment on the article, so as not to embarrass and disturb the authors."

Reuters cited three sources as saying that new Libyan banknotes, which the Central Bank of Libya described as "counterfeit," were exchanged for real dollars, allegedly to finance infrastructure projects in the east after the devastating floods in Derna and its surroundings last year.

It said that the three sources, which it did not name, were banking, east-based government and diplomatic ones. The

diplomatic source explained that the money "may also be used to finance the activity of Russian mercenaries in Libya and the Sahel region," while the three sources confirmed that some of the counterfeit banknotes were printed in Russia and exported to eastern Libya this year, while others were printed illegally inside the country.

Reuters explained that the counterfeit currency was replaced on the black market and through local banks, while the Sentry Group confirmed to Reuters Russia's role in sending new banknotes to Libya.

Politics

Libya intends to appointment non-resident ambassador to Palestine

The acting Foreign Minister of the Libyan Government of National Unity, Al-Taher Al-Baour, has revealed his government's intention to appoint a non-resident Libyan ambassador to the State of Palestine. He noted that this appointment was scheduled to be announced during the visit of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to Tripoli, but the visit was postponed.

Al-Baour has said that what is happening in the Gaza Strip shows the true face of the world that calls for freedom, justice, and respect for the principles of human rights, and shows how false those slogans are in light of the genocide to which the Palestinians are subjected.

In an interview with Palestine TV, Al-Baour stressed the necessity of forcing the occupying state to comply with international resolutions, which are always met with rejection, adding: "If we cannot implement UN resolutions, then everyone must review these laws and disavow them," according to Palestinian Wafa News Agency. Al-Baour pointed to an agreement between the Libyan and Palestinian Ministries of Labor to recruit labor, and to work on developing a mechanism to implement and activate this agreement, in addition to treating Palestinians residing in Libya similarly to Libyans in all fields, referring to the recent decision to exempt Palestinians from residency and visa fees.

Al-Baour indicated that the Libyan government joined the call submitted by South Africa against the occupation at the International Court of Justice, noting that Libya will be briefed on this issue next August.

Politics

Haftar's son meets with Turkish Foreign Minister in Ankara

Khalifa Haftar's son Belgassim who holds the position of Director General of the Libya Development and Reconstruction Fund, which was recently established by the House of Representatives, met in Ankara on Thursday with the Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan.

The Fund said in a brief statement that Belgassim and Fidan had discussed ways to develop bilateral cooperation between the two countries, without further details.

During the past months, Haftar's son signed many work contracts with Turkish and Emirati companies in order to implement several reconstruction projects, especially in the areas affected by the devastating floods that swept the city of Derna and Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar region, as well as the cities of Benghazi and Ajdabiya.

Last April, Belgassim Haftar signed contracts with Turkish companies to implement several projects in the field of general contracting, equipment and infrastructure in the city of Benghazi.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan previously confirmed that Ankara's relations with eastern Libya were progressing very well and that there was communication with Khalifa Haftar and his sons, referring to discussions with Egypt, the UAE and Qatar on how to unify Libya.



Al-Baour calls for launching comprehensive dialogue in Sudan

The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Government of National Unity (GNU), Taher Al-Baour, has called for the launch of a comprehensive dialogue that would achieve security and stability in Sudan. Al-Baour headed the Libyan delegation in the second consultative meeting on enhancing coordination of peace initiatives and efforts in Sudan in Djibouti, according to the ministry's official Facebook page.

In his speech, the Minister stressed the importance of resolving the Sudanese crisis and rejecting external interference, urging the Sudanese parties to implement an immediate ceasefire, allow urgent humanitarian aid to enter, and launch a comprehensive dialogue that would lead to the return of security and stability.

"Libya stands alongside the Sudanese brothers in all circumstances to achieve peace and end the ongoing conflict in Sudan", Al-Baour said.



Reuters: Illicit banknote in eastern Libya hit dinar

Unofficial Libyan banknotes have been exchanged for real dollars and contributed to the dinar's devaluing, three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters, adding that some notes were printed by Russia and exported to eastern Libya this year while others were printed illicitly within Libya.

Reuters said that the new banknotes have been described as counterfeit by the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) in Tripoli but are being changed into hard currency on the black market or through local banks, according to a source in Libya's eastern government, a Libyan banking source, and a diplomatic source.

The money has been used to fund infrastructure projects east following last year's devastating floods, and may also be used to finance Russian mercenary activity in Libya and the Sahel, according to Reuters.

31 political parties call for putting political agreements to referendum before approval



31 political parties called for a roadmap framed by time arrangements, and urged for the necessity of citizens' participation in approving any national political agreement through a referendum to provide a major guarantee for the implementation of any political agreement.

This call came in a statement issued by political parties and blocs commenting on the outcomes of the meeting of members of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, which was held in Cairo last Thursday, when they urged for forming a new government.

The parties stressed that the political decision related to the future of the political process should not be reduced to these "illegitimate" bodies, considering that they have contributed over many years to "political paralysis", citing the description of the former Secretary-General's envoys in their

briefing before the Security Council that the House of Representatives and the High Council of State "lack of legitimacy and legality."

The Libyan political parties reaffirmed that serious and responsible political dialogue between all Libyan parties, and joint cooperation between them, would enable them to contribute to finding solutions that avoid further suffering for the Libyan people.

They pointed to the necessity of forming a new government that could extend its authority over the entire Libyan territory, and whose mission would be to create the conditions to reach free, fair and transparent referendum and elections, noting that the proposed initiatives related to forming authority without setting a clear path for building the state "are a repetition of a track that has proven to be a failure."

The political parties said that they participated, over a period of two years, with a number of unions, civil society institutions, federations, social associations, and a number of political and social figures, in preparing and developing an initiative for a comprehensive solution to the Libyan crisis, noting that one of its most important foundations is addressing the causes of the conflict, not just dealing with "symptoms", and the formation of fragile, weak authorities that were unable to unite Libya.

They said that the true guarantor of the implementation of what is agreed upon is a national charter for peaceful coexistence, a peace charter that includes confidence-building measures among the parties, another for the future vision and its main executive stations, and a charter for local government.

Economy

Libya, Algeria, Tunisia forge deeper economic links



Libya, Algeria, and Tunisia are accelerating efforts to establish free trade zones and enhance economic integration as part of the Carthage Pathway, an initiative agreed upon by the countries' leaders in April.

Business leaders from the three nations convened in Algeria on Monday to discuss the swift implementation of this plan, which includes facilitating the transportation of goods and developing border areas.

The Algerian Council for Economic Renewal, the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture in Libya, and the Tunisian Union of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts have urged their governments to collaborate on cre-

ating an effective mechanism to open markets among the three countries.

The proposed measures include protecting registered trademarks and the origin of products, utilizing existing logistical infrastructure, and establishing land, sea, and air bridges to ease trade.

In a final statement, the organizations called for the removal of all practical and financial barriers to encourage joint investment. They also highlighted the need for a unified approach to facilitating the flow of goods and financial transactions, as well as the creation of a unified economic information database. The business groups emphasized their commitment to supporting security and stability, enhancing comprehensive

economic integration, and bolstering the private sector's role in development, economic cooperation, and investment. They aim to improve the ability of Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia to tackle challenges, achieve desired economic integration, and meet their citizens' aspirations for stability and growth.

The meeting concluded with an agreement to establish a joint working mechanism to promote economic integration and create a partnership council comprising the Algerian Council for Economic Renewal, the Tunisian Union of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts, and the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture in Libya.

Economy

Turkish company Tosyali signs agreement to establish steel plant in Benghazi



Turkish steel conglomerate (Tosyali) signed an agreement with the Libya United Steel Company for the Iron and Steel Industry (SULB) to establish a Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) plant in Benghazi, according to an Anadolu Agency report on last Thursday.

Tosyali also said in a statement that it had started a new steel investment in Libya following its investments in the domestic markets of Algeria, Senegal, Angola and Spain. As part of the agreement between Tosyali and SULB, a new company called Tosyali-SULB has been established in Benghazi, the report said.

The DRI plants, which will have a total capacity of 8.1 million tons, will be equipped with MIDREX Flexi DRI technology and will operate using hydrogen as a clean energy

source.

The integrated iron-steel plant consists of three phases, and preparations are being made for the investments in the first phase, which has a capacity of 2.7 million tons.

The plant is expected to meet the green steel needs of both the nearby region and Europe, and it aims to play an important role in the supply of HBI (Hot Bricket Iron), which is the basic intermediate product most needed in the green transformation process.

The chairperson of the board of directors of Tosyali Holding, Fuat Tosyali, said they would be very pleased to bring our knowledge and expertise in quality steel production to Libyan Benghazi with this new complex, for which we have completed ground surveys and engineering stud-

ies and whose construction and assembly will begin in the coming days.

"I strongly believe that by producing high-quality and standard green steel products with advanced technology, innovation and R&D, and with low carbon emissions at our integrated plant, we will lead the transformation into a high-quality production ecosystem in the global steel industry from Libya." He added.

SULB Chairperson of the Board of Directors Ahmed Gadallah, said the agreement was an important step for the industrialization of Benghazi and the development of the steel sector. He added that the agreements were both a major move for the future of the two groups and would bring Libya (Benghazi) and Turkey closer together economically.

Economy



Libya, Tunisia discuss strengthening trade exchange

Tunisia's Minister of Industry, Mines, and Energy, Fatma Zohra Chebib, received Libya's Ambassador to Tunisia, Mustafa Qadara, accompanied by several ministry officials.

The meeting reaffirmed the deep and longstanding bilateral relations between the two countries, according to a statement from the Libyan Embassy in Tunisia. The discussions encompassed the exploration of opportunities for economic integration and collaboration, focusing on the industrial and energy sectors, as well as strategies to fortify trade exchanges for the mutual benefit of both nations.

Федерации



Economy

Libya, Russia agree on boosting economic cooperatio

The General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Libya signed with its Russian counterpart a joint agreement for cooperation in the economic field, as both agreed to strengthen bilateral relations.

This signing came during a meeting held in the Russian capital, Moscow, between the Chairman of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and

Agriculture in Libya, Mohammed Raied and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Badalko.

The two parties agreed to commit to contributing to expanding communications between institutions, organizations, companies and businesspeople, and to provide assistance in organizing forums, conferences and meetings in the fields of economy and trade.

The agreement also stipulated the exchange of all information of joint interest related to the economy and foreign trade in the markets of both countries. It included holding regular meetings to evaluate the agreed-upon procedures, remove obstacles that hinder the development of economic cooperation, and consider current and future issues of bilateral cooperation.

Economy



Saipem signs contract for underwater monitoring-intervention for Libya-Italy gas pipeline

The Italian energy company Saipem signed a contract with Midstream Greenstream BV, a company specializing in pipeline services, to serve the gas line extending between Italy and Libya.

Saipem said in a press release that it would supervise underwater intervention services for the gas pipeline between Libya and Italy, both in the marine and onshore sections, including the Mellitah terminal and the Gela terminals in Sicily and Italy. The financial details of the contract were not disclosed.

The statement indicated that the contract

“brings together the activities that Saipem has undertaken for the Greenstream Pipeline since 2008, which include asset integration, inspection, maintenance, and emergency services for pipelines, and expands its scope to meet customer needs more broadly.”

Saipem, which is based in Italy, added that the activities will be managed by Sunsoap, its center of excellence in underwater technology and services. The activities will also be carried out in coordination with the Saipem Engineering Center located in Fano, Italy.



Health

WHO, GNU agree to support health sector

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health in the Government of National Unity (GNU), Samir Koko, has discussed with the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Libya, Ahmed Zuwaiten, the follow-up and evaluation of what has been accomplished of the projects agreed upon within the framework of work to advance and improve the health sector.

The WHO representative presented a brief report on the project to support the health system in emergencies and equipping the central operating room inside the Ministry of Health building, in accordance with international standards.

For his part, Koko expressed his appreciation for the role of the international organization in supporting the health system in the city of Kufra, and for providing medical assistance to the displaced from the State of Sudan.



Health

Misrata Medical Centre resumes open-heart surgeries with Egyptian support

A visiting medical team conducted 13 open-heart surgeries for adults at Misrata Medical Centre.

The surgeries were carried out by a team of Egyptian medical professionals collaborating with the centre's medical staff under the coordination and supervision of the Authority for Supporting and Developing Medical Services.

These procedures mark the resumption of surgeries following the return of the Egyptian team to the centre as part of the Authority's initiative within the Treatment Localization Project endorsed by the Government of National Unity.

Health



GNU announces new support measures for muscular dystrophy patients

The Government of National Unity has unveiled new measures to assist patients with muscular dystrophy. Announced on Monday, the measures include providing and importing genetic laboratories for patients and their families, continuing gene testing, and urgent treatment for children under two years old.

This announcement came during a meeting between Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah and the Muscular Dystrophy Patients Organization, attended by Deputy

Prime Minister/ Acting Health Minister Ramadan Abu Janah and other government and Central Bank of Libya officials. The organization presented a report detailing the conditions of muscular dystrophy patients, requesting the resumption of genetic testing, specialized medications, and increased support for families. According to a statement on the government's Facebook page, there are currently 793 diagnosed cases.

Dbeibah directed the Medical Supply Or-

ganization and the General Tender Committee to secure necessary medications from manufacturers and emphasized the importance of a domestic physical therapy program through an agreement with a specialized company.

Families of patients, during a protest in Tripoli, criticized the government for delays in providing medications and health-care, citing the deaths of several patients. They called for expedited procedures, particularly in the southern region.



Sports

On sidelines of Summer Days Festival, Tripoli hosts Maghreb Fencing Championship

The Libyan Fencing Federation has announced the holding of a Maghreb Fencing Championship, which will be held on the sidelines of the Summer Days Festival, with the participation of Tunisian and Algerian teams. According to Federation, the championship activities will start from Thursday, August 1, until Wednesday, August 7, 2024, on the floor of the fencing stadium in the Shatt Road in the city of Tripoli.



Sports

Libyan delegation arrives for Paris 2024 Olympics

The Libyan sports delegation has started to arrive in Paris for the 2024 Olympic Games. The team was warmly welcomed by the Libyan delegation's management. In a statement, the management overseeing Libya's participation in the Olympics confirmed that all necessary pro-

cedures and arrangements have been finalized. The first to touch down in Paris from the Libyan contingent was the shooting team, led by athlete Mohamed Bin Dalla. Bin Dalla is set to compete in the 10-meter air pistol shooting event. Following their arrival in Paris, the shoot-

ing team made their way to Châteauroux, the French city that will host the shooting competitions for the Olympics. Libya will be represented by a total of 18 individuals, encompassing athletes, coaches, administrators, and a media representative, competing in five different sports.



Sports

Al-Nasser, Al-Ahly Benghazi to CAF Champions League, Al-Ahly Tripoli, Al-Hilal to Confederation Cup

The fifth and final round of the Libyan Premier League concluded on Monday evening, after Al-Nasser won the 49th championship for the third time in its history. Al-Ahly Benghazi came in second place after a 1-1 draw with Al-Ahly Tripoli, ensuring its participation in the CAF Champions League. Al-Ahly Tripoli came third, and it will compete in the CAF Confederation Cup along-

side Al-Hilal, which finished in fourth place after losing to Al-Nasser 0-1. Fifth place went to the Al-Sweihli, which defeated Al-Madina 4-2. Al-Madina came sixth. Al-Nasser will play in the preliminary round of CAF Champions League against Al-Merreich of Sudan, while Al-Ahly Benghazi, will play against Al-Hilal. As for the Confederation Cup, Al-Ahly Tripoli will play in the preliminary round

against the Zanzibari team, Uhamiaji, and Al-Hilal will face the Ugandan team, Kitara. The first leg of the preliminary round will be held from August 16 to 18, with the second leg taking place from August 23 to 25, while the second preliminary round will be held between September 13 and 15, and the second leg will be held between September 20 and 22.

Opinions

Cairo meeting, a new agreement on failure

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



The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has fired the coup de grace on the outcomes of a group of members of the House of Representatives with about 25 members of the High Council of State in Cairo on July 18.

UNSMIL said in its statement that it "takes note of the meeting" and encourages members to "build on what has been agreed upon, by seeking an approach that includes other relevant Libyan stakeholders, to ensure that the outcomes lead to a politically implementable solution."

However, the Cairo meeting's outcome is not expected to bring about any change to the political scene. It was essentially a gathering of two political parties with their own vision and interests, and it was not between the House of Representatives and the High State Council, even if those meetings were members of both chambers.

The two chambers have no genuine existence or effectiveness, except in the light of adherence to the Constitutional Declaration, the Political Accord, and the Rules of Procedure, without which, they turn into a mere two or several political parties that are rather closer to parties or blocs, driven by their own interests and goals. These are different and contradictory to the interests and goals of other parties, that have influence or representation in the legislative authority. It perhaps does not have any influence or representation in the two chambers, but it does have power, authority, and money. This fact may not have been realized by members of the two chambers despite their many meetings on different tracks and issues.

Therefore, it is not an exaggeration, if the Cairo meeting is described as a meeting of political parties or even civil society organizations. Perhaps UNSMIL's statement regarding an approach that includes other concerned Libyan parties confirms our conclusion, and even says without ambiguity that there are other concerned Libyan parties that must be involved, otherwise the outcomes of their meeting will not find their way to implementation.

What it meant by the other parties is the active forces

on the ground, east and west, because of their power, influence, and ability to undermine any political agreement, as well as the Government of National Unity, which has become a political party that cannot be transcended except after the two houses returning to the normal path, that is, working through the texts of the Constitutional Declaration and the Political Accord. Only in such cases, the government may return to its status as an executive body that can be changed by mechanisms spelled out in the Constitutional Declaration and the Political Accord.

The Cairo meeting and the welcome by Agila Saleh, Speaker of the House of Representatives, of its outcomes, and his announcement of the start of accepting applications to run for prime minister position, indicate the failure of his recent decision to pass the budget. For what is the rationale behind resorting to forming a unified government if the budget will be disbursed and the parallel government will get its share?

The issue of building on what has been agreed, which UNSMIL called for in its statement about the meeting, requires the involvement of a broad political spectrum that cannot be transcended to ensure the success of any agreement on change. The other condition is that the path to elections be clear, but the parties to the meeting are members of parliament and High Council of state do not seek to solve the crisis, but rather they are obstructing the means of solution in order to continue obtaining their high salaries and other privileges they enjoy, which they will lose if genuine elections are held.

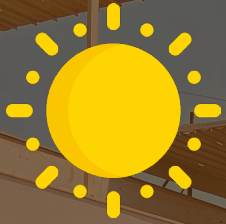
All these meetings and dialogues between the presidency of the two houses, the members, or their joint committees, are merely rotations in the same circle. The starting point is the same as the endpoint, and no progress will be made towards a political solution. This solution will not be achieved in the light of the current international circumstances except with the national will that goes directly towards only parliamentary elections, as unifying legislative authority is the beginning of the path, and any other path will be just a new formulation that is different only in form of the current political scene.

Cartoon

Water Wastage



Tripoli Weather Forecast



TODAY

35°
/25°

29 JUL



30° /24°

30 JUL



30° /24°

1 AUG



31° /23°

2 AUG



33° /24°

3 AUG



34° /23°

4 AUG



33° /22°

Photo of the Week

