



Politics

Trial of Libyans arrested in South Africa postponed to August 5

The trial of the 95 Libyans arrested after a raid on an illegal military training camp in the city of White River has been postponed to August 5, the South African National Police said Tuesday.

The case was postponed to August 5, and the Libyans will remain in custody after they appeared before the city's District Court on Monday, the police said in a post on X platform. A South African newspaper reported on Tuesday that Attorney General Martin Britz asked the court to postpone the case until next month, while the court seeks to hire an Arabic translator. The newspaper cited the Libyan detainees as saying that a famous Libyan businessman financed their trip to

South Africa and covered all travel and accommodation expenses.

They confirmed that he was the one who hired them and sent them to the training camp on a farm in Mpumalanga State, but he disappeared a month ago and stopped answering their calls. He also stopped sending money to those running the camp. The 95 Libyans appeared in the White River District Court Monday on charges of forgery and contravening immigration law while applying for South African visas. The discovery of the training camp has sparked public outrage in South Africa and raised questions about the country's internal security, the newspaper reported.

The arrested Libyans revealed that they arrived in South Africa last April in Mpumalanga, where they were scheduled to receive security training.

The arrested Libyans arrived in three trucks at the White River Courthouse on Monday and were divided into groups of ten before being allowed into the courtroom, which had been cleared to accommodate them all. Only journalists and staff were allowed to attend the hearing.

Last Friday, South African police raided a training camp belonging to a local security company, Militus De Sécurité, in White River. Police said the detainees were receiving illegal military training.



Politics

Over 10,000 DNA samples collected for Derna victims

Lutfi Tawfiq, Director of the Directorate of Search for Remains at the Authority for Identifying the Missing, has declared that the authority has amassed over 10,500 samples from the victims' families and remains in Derna for genetic matching.

In a press release on Wednesday, the official specified that all samples had been conveyed to the authority's laboratories and that the process of matching is currently underway.

He reported that over 3,800 remains have been unearthed from Derna up to this point, affirming that the remains have been duly documented, photographed, shrouded, and sampled prior to their reinterment in the Al-Fataih cemetery, which is dedicated to the martyrs of Derna.



Politics

Haddad meets with British military attaché

Chief of General Staff of the Libyan Army, Lieutenant General Mohamed Haddad, met with the British Military Attaché to Libya at his office on Tuesday.

Haddad congratulated the British Military Attaché on assuming his duties and expressed gratitude to the United Kingdom for its international support for Libya.

According to the General Staff media office, the meeting reviewed ongoing cooperation between the two countries and discussed prospects for cooperation, focusing on military training and security consulting between the two nations.



Politics

Al-Koni discusses with Al-Sayeh HNEC readiness to organize municipal elections

Member of the Presidential Council, Musa Al-Koni, has met with the head of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC), Imad Al-Sayeh, to discuss ways to support the electoral process.

During the meeting, Al-Sayeh provided a comprehensive briefing on the HNEC readiness to implement the municipal elections, reviewing the challenges it faces.

Al-Sayeh praised the efforts of the Presidential Council in supporting the political process, which paves the way for holding elections.

Al-Koni expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by the HNEC to complete the municipal council elections, stressing the Presidential Council's support to implement future entitlements.

Politics

Saudi Al-Hadath TV: Reports indicate 95 Libyans arrested in South Africa are part of Haftar’s forces



Saudi-based Al-Arabiya Al-Hadath TV channel said that the 95 Libyans arrested by the South African police inside a farm belonged to the 2020 Group, which is part of the Tariq bin Ziyad Brigade that is affiliated with Khalifa Haftar’s forces. Al-Hadath channel pointed out that those Libyans, who were arrested in a secret military training camp in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa, were sent by the General Command of Al-Rajma in official coordination with an Irish security company for training as special forces.

Commenting on this incident, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the parallel government headed by Haftar’s close associate “Osama Hammad” announced it was following up on the conditions of the detainees in South Africa and its efforts to provide them with legal support as well as ensure that their detention conditions were appropriate. But the Government of National Unity categorically denied that this group was affiliated with it, indicating that it had no connection to the procedures for send-

ing them or assigning them any mission, whether training or otherwise. The Government of National Unity indicated that it had assigned the Military Prosecutor and the Libyan Embassy to communicate with the authorities in South Africa to follow up on the details of the case to uncover the circumstances, while ensuring the safety of the detained citizens and their treatment in accordance with the relevant international agreements and procedures.

Politics

Libya’s House of Representatives opens door for candidates for new Prime Minister



The House of Representatives (HoR) announced the opening of nominations for new government’s Prime Minister position, calling on those who wish to be candidates to submit their documents to the HoR headquarters in Benghazi from July 28 to August 11. The HoR added in a statement on Sunday that its Speaker, Aqila Saleh, called on the HoR members and members of the High Council of State (HCS) to recommend those they see as qualified to fill the position of Prime Minister, according to a statement issued by the House of Representatives’ spokesman, Abdullah Blehiq. Blehiq said that this candidacy comes “based on the provisions of the Constitutional Declaration and the Thirteenth Constitutional Amendment, as well as on the provisions of the election laws issued by the House of Represent-

atives, in addition to what was agreed upon in the outcomes of the 6+6 Committee, and based on the agreement between the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Head of the High Council of State, and the Head of the Presidential Council at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, on March 10, 2024.” The statement added that the call also comes based on the statement issued by members of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State after the meeting held in Cairo on July 18. This announcement comes despite the disagreement between the Head of the HCS, Mohammed Takala, and HoR Speaker Aqila Saleh due to differences over the powers of the two chambers, especially after the House of Representatives had approved the draft state budget law.

Politics

HoR Speaker says Libya is moving toward ending current crisis



The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, said that the House of Representatives was working to end the crisis and had become close to implementing the election laws and forming a unified authority for the people to choose their rulers with their free will. Saleh added in a speech on Wednesday on the sidelines of the opening of projects in the city of Ajdabiya that the House of Representatives, its presidency, committees and members had worked “since the first moment on constants that couldn’t be compromised; the unity and sovereignty of the country, the preservation of its territory, the unification of its institutions, the support of its military, the cessation of foreign interference in domestic affairs and the fair distribution of wealth.” He advised everyone to work on appointing competent people, putting things in their proper places and delegating tasks to those capable of doing them, asking people not to listen to those who ignored Libyan values and principles, looted public money and spent millions without any change and had been obstructing the peaceful transfer of power.

Economy

Governor of Libyan Central Bank holds talks with Turkish Foreign Minister in Ankara



The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) announced on Thursday that its governor, Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, met on Wednesday evening in Ankara with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan. The CBL explained that the meeting between Al-Kabir and Fidan came “within the framework of discussing issues of common

interest and supporting the efforts of the Central Bank in the path of unification and maintaining the financial sustainability of the state and agreeing on unifying and rationalizing public spending and the efforts of the Central Bank and other institutions in unifying and stabilizing Libya.” The meeting between Fidan and Al-Kabir

comes a week after the first meeting between the Turkish Foreign Minister and the Director General of the Development and Reconstruction Fund for Libya, Belgasim Haftar, which was held at the ministry’s headquarters in the capital, Ankara, to discuss ways to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Economy



NOC, Sirte Company review increasing oil production to 120.000 bpd

A joint meeting between the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and Sirte Oil and Gas Production and Manufacturing Company focused on discussing increasing the company’s daily production to 120.000 barrels.

The NOC said on Thursday that during this technical meeting with Sirte Company, its activity during the current year was reviewed, and projects to increase production to 120.000 barrels per day were discussed as soon as possible.

The company indicated that the meeting was held in the presence of the directors of the technical departments of the NOC, the chairman and members of the management committee of the company, and representatives of Al-Jawf, Libya Technology, Construction and the Research Center companies.

Sirte Oil and Gas Production and Manufacturing Company was established in 1981 and its headquarters is located in Marsa Al-Brega. It is one of the national oil companies affiliated with the National Oil Corporation, and its current production rate of crude oil is about 86.000 barrels per day.

On Wednesday, the NOC announced that Libya’s total production of crude oil, condensates and natural gas amounted to 1,543,603 million barrels. It confirmed in its periodic bulletin that crude oil production reached 1,267,706 barrels per day, while condensate production reached 51,435 barrels per day, and natural gas production reached 224,462 barrels.

Economy



Libya, Algeria want to bolster cooperation in energy sector

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Algerian Sonatrach Company to provide drilling and well intervention equipment, as well as maintenance and training services.

The MoU was signed by the CEO of the National Petroleum Works Corporation (ENTP) and his counterpart from the NOC branch specializing in drilling and well maintenance, during a visit to Algeria at the invitation of the General Directorate of Sonatrach.

According to Sonatrach, the meeting of the two parties discussed developing a plan for the work to be carried out regarding the various topics specified in the agreement protocol signed between the two parties in February 2022 and its annex signed in January 2024.

According to the Algerian company, the technical committee formed by the two parties will study the possibility of cooperation between the branches of Sonatrach and the branches of the Libyan National Oil Corporation in the fields of drilling, geophysics, well intervention, stimulation and construction.

Sonatrach indicated that the annex signed with the National Oil Corporation “strengthens the axes of the partnership agreed upon between the two institutions, by including new areas of cooperation, particularly with regard to exploration and development of oil and gas resources, renewable energy projects, oil services, and areas of training, exchange of expertise and transfer of knowledge.

The first meeting was held remotely between teams from Sonatrach and the National Oil Company with the aim of forming a supervisory committee and technical sub-committees concerned with each topic.



Economy

Libya denies talks to supply crude to Dangote Refinery

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has firmly denied engaging in any negotiations to supply crude oil to Nigeria's Dangote Refinery after the later alleged ongoing discussion in this regard.

In an official statement, the NOC stressed its adherence to established contracts with international partners and the legal mechanisms for selling Libyan crude oil, underscoring that it does not engage in spot sales.

"The pricing of crude oil is determined by a committee of experts and approved by both the NOC and the Ministry of Oil and Gas," the statement read.

The denial follows an announcement on July 16 by Aliko Dangote, chairman of Dangote Refinery, Nigeria's largest, who said the facility would look to import crude from African producers, including Libya, amid a dispute with international oil companies in Nigeria.

Dangote indicated that the refinery, which has a capacity of 650,000 barrels per day, would begin these imports starting in October due to local shortages.

"We will start importing crude from countries like Libya and Angola... we will initiate contact with these countries and proceed from there," Dangote was quoted as saying by Legit, a Nigerian news outlet, on July 15.

During a tour of the refinery, Dangote also mentioned plans to source crude from the United States and Brazil in the near future.

"We have already purchased from the United States and Brazil. Therefore, I believe we will extend our reach to most African countries by next month," he stated.



Economy

Al-Huweij inaugurates international workshop on maritime trade

Minister of Economy and Trade Mohamed Al-Huweij inaugurated an international workshop titled "Maritime Trade: Opportunities and Challenges" on Monday.

The workshop, held in Tripoli under the ministry's auspices, was organized by the Libyan Trade Network and the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport. The event began with a presentation on the functions of the Libyan Trade Network as an informational link between local and international trade institutions, highlighting its role in overcoming challenges and developing Libya's trade sector. In his speech, Al-Huweij emphasized the importance of maritime trade to the economy and diversifying income sources. He noted that global goods trade accounts for 80% via maritime routes, and 90% of imports and exports to and from Africa are transported by sea.

The workshop will continue over the next two days, featuring discussion panels with Libyan and Arab specialists and academics from Egypt, as well as international experts from Belgium, Denmark, Spain, and Singapore.

The participants will address the transport sector's role in developing maritime trade, enhancing international cooperation, and diversifying the national economy.

Elkaber discusses CBL unification path and budget with Turkish ambassador

Economy



Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Sadek Elkaber, met with the Turkish Ambassador to Libya, Koven Begic, to discuss the CBL unification and a unified budget. During their meeting on Monday, Elkaber

highlighted the bank's efforts to maintain the state's financial sustainability. Earlier on Monday, Elkaber met with the Italian Ambassador to Libya, Gianluca Alberini, to discuss areas of cooperation in banking,

anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing, and associated risks. The discussion also covered ways to benefit from Italian expertise in capacity building in collaboration with the Bank of Italy.



Health

Tripoli hosts medical conference on kidney treatment development

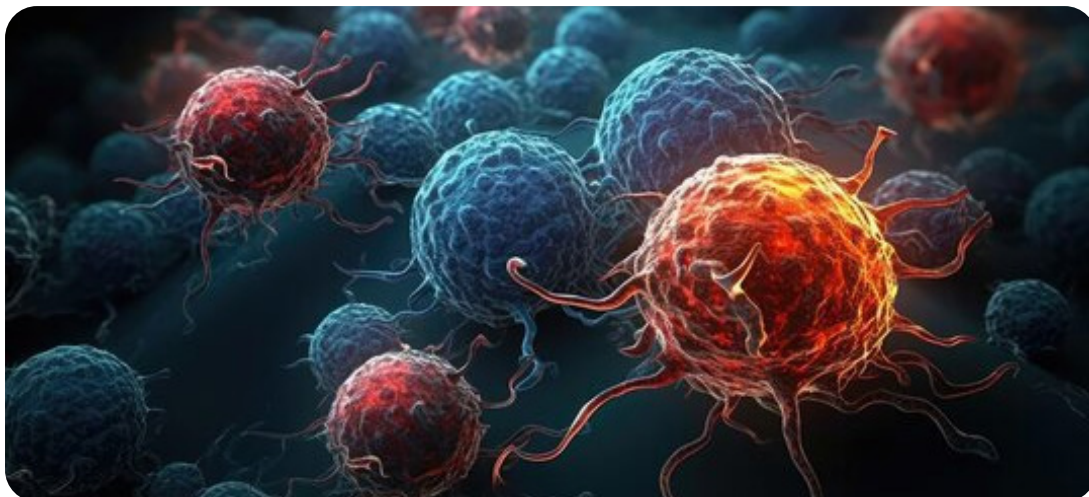
The second joint conference for kidney service providers in Libya, kicked off on Friday, discussing causes of death among dialysis patients and how to reduce them.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Samir Koko, attended the opening of the conference activities, in the presence of the President of the Libyan Society for Blood Purification, the President of the Libyan Association of Dialysis Technicians, and a number of specialists.

The conference, which lasted for three days, reviewed the latest developments in the field of blood purification, looking at new horizons for peritoneal dialysis, managing dialysis complications and improving the quality of life of patients.

Health

Scientific committees formed to unveil reasons of spread of tumors in Libya



The Minister of Health in the parallel government, Othman Abduljalil, decided to form several scientific sub-committees to study the causes of the spread of tumors in Libya.

The Ministry of Health has said that these committees are scheduled to complete their recommendations within a period not exceeding two weeks, which reflects the seriousness and speed in dealing with this important health issue.

The Ministry has confirmed that these decisions come within the framework of the work of the technical committee tasked with studying the causes of the spread of tumors, which is headed by the Minister himself, and includes in its


membership the ministers of agriculture, environment, higher education and scientific research, the director general of the Food and Drug Control Center, and representatives from the Nuclear Research Center and the Atomic Energy Corporation.

According to the Ministry, the scientific sub-committees include the Animal Products Safety Committee, the Committee for Evaluating and Determining the Risks of Radiation in the Occurrence of Cancer, the Committee for Studying Pollution in the Environment, the Medical Committee for the Development, Diagnosis and Treatment of Tumors, the Committee for Studying the Effect of Pesticides and

Fertilizers Used in Agricultural Products on the Incidence of Cancer, the Committee for Studying the Effect of Food Pollution, and the Committee for Studying the Effect of Cleaning Products on Cancer.

The committee will take urgent measures to investigate and verify the reasons for the high rates of cancerous tumors in the eastern region in particular, and conduct comprehensive examinations in cooperation with the relevant authorities to ensure that no carcinogenic and prohibited substances enter the industrial composition of some consumer goods, as well as medicines, agricultural and animal pesticides of all types and sources.

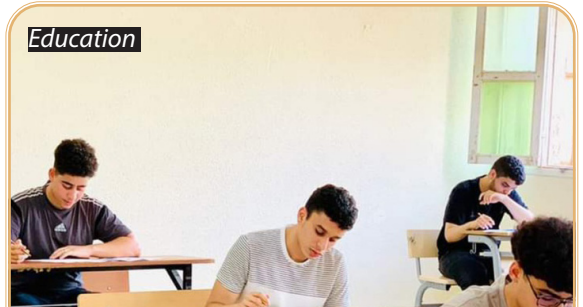
Health



National Center for Animal Health launches vaccination campaign against nodular dermatitis

The National Center for Animal Health announced on Tuesday the launch of the national vaccination campaign against nodular dermatitis. The center explained on its Facebook page that this comes within the framework of combating infectious and epidemic diseases and through cooperation and joint work with the World Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The center added that it has begun distributing the vaccine in the Western Region, the Central Region, and the Western Mountain, and preparations are underway to send it to the other regions of the country.

Education



High school exam results to be declared on Thursday

The Director General of the National Center for Examinations, Ahmed Masoud, has stated that the center is completing the results of the certificate of completion of secondary education, first round, reviewing school exam scores. Masoud added that the announcement day of the result will be next Thursday, according to the center's statement on its Facebook page.

Education

Education Ministry launches EMIS in cooperation with UNICEF

The Libyan Ministry of Education, supported by UNICEF Libya, launched on Sunday the Education Management Information System (EMIS). EMIS aims to provide an accurate statistical system capable of keeping pace with modern educational developments and avoiding errors that may result from entering data, including general information about the educational institution, detailed information about students, employees in educational institutions, and supervisors, administrators and teachers and their specializations, according to a statement issued



by the Ministry of Education. EMIS was launched during a ceremony held at the Corinthia Hotel in the presence of the Undersecretary of the Ministry, Masouda Al-Aswad, and a number of ministry officials, in addition to the UNICEF representative in Libya, the Deputy and Director of the Education Department at the organization, and representatives of the General Authority for Information and the Information Security Authority. The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Masouda Al-Aswad, said during her speech at the ceremony that

EMIS "aims to create an incubator for integrated educational databases that helps decision-makers in making and building decisions. Al-Aswad reviewed the ministry's steps to launch the project, which included launching the pilot phase for 205 educational institutions from all over the country, training thirty employees from the Information and Documentation Center, and the Planning and Strategies Department at the ministry on how to use and manage the system, in addition to creating online surveys to collect data from educational institutions.

Opinions

On the latest developments

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



Last week witnessed several events that will impact the development of Libya's political scene in the coming days and weeks. While these events won't suddenly shift the scene to a new angle, their impact will unfold over the long term. Notably, these developments involve only a subset of actors, rather than all parties. Despite the lack of a clear course, results may emerge without consensus among all actors, under international auspices and supervision.

The most significant event was the Turkish government's reception of Khalifa Haftar's son, and the Turkish Foreign Minister's statements indicating a rapprochement with Haftar's camp in eastern Libya. This comes after years of hostility when Turkey's military involvement played a role in undermining Haftar's military campaign against Tripoli in 2019.

Turkey maintains close relations with the authorities in Libyan West, while simultaneously exercising calculated openness with the East. Recently, Turkey received Agila Saleh, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and began opening its consulate in Benghazi. Additionally, Turkish companies secured contracts in the reconstruction programme led by the Haftar family in Eastern Libyan cities. Turkey aspires for further contracts, prompting direct communication with Haftar's sons, who hold actual authority in the eastern region.

This rapprochement is closely tied to the resumption of relations between Turkey and Egypt. Initial understandings between the two countries on various matters play a role. The level of rapprochement between Turkey and Haftar's camp will likely correlate with progress in Egypt-Turkey relations. Given Egypt's influence over eastern Libya, any breach in relationship levels with international or regional parties would be unacceptable.

Another significant event involved the South African police arresting 95 Libyans secretly training at a remote military base. Details about the training remain undisclosed, and the two Libyan governments hold differing positions. While the Tripoli government denies affiliation with the group, the parallel government offers legal support. The group's alignment with the gangs controlling the east becomes evident from this an-

nouncement. Transferring these groups to South Africa implies specialized, non-traditional military training, likely carried out by a security company in agreement with Haftar's commanders. The South African government has referred the group to the judiciary, and as their trial begins, the mystery will gradually unravel, revealing many details.

Furthermore, the exclusive Speaker of the Tobruk House of Representatives announces once again the opening of candidacy for the presidency of the government. However, the High Council of State officially rejects this step, emphasizing their opposition to unilateral actions by the Speaker. Despite previous failures, Agila Saleh persists in forming a new government, disregarding the Constitutional Declaration and the Political Agreement. He already knows the rejection of the move by his partner, the High Council of State, but he may be banking on an expected change in the High Council of State's presidency, which will hold renewal elections on August 5th. Agila Saleh and several political parties hope these elections will bring a new figure willing to negotiate with the party controlling the House of Representatives or even see the return of former President Khaled Al-Mishri who would resume his previous understandings with Agila Saleh, by sharing the new executive power, succeeding Dbeibah's government.

The Government of National Unity, committed to remaining in power until an elected government takes over, will work to thwart this step. The High Council of State holds a crucial position in this regard. Maintaining Takala's position or electing someone with similar views would force Agila Saleh and the extension movement to establish clear paths and agreed-upon election laws before forming a new government.

Agila Saleh's return to the government file and the opening of nominations confirm his failure to secure the substantial budget he approved during a closed session in the House of Representatives with fewer than 48 representatives participating. If the Central Bank's Governor has implemented the disbursement terms, part of the funds would go to the parallel government. In such scenario, Agila's intentions would have been realized, potentially diverting his attention from the government file.

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

Tripoli Weather Forecast



TODAY

35°
/25°

5 AUG



30°/24°

6 AUG



30°/24°

7 AUG



31°/23°

8 AUG



33°/24°

9 AUG



34°/23°

10 AUG



33°/22°

Photo of the Week



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