

Politics



## Takala sets August 20 for re-election of Head of HCS, amid rejection of rival Al-Mishri

The Head of the High Council of State (HCS) Mohammed Takala, announced that the second round of elections for the presidency of the HCS will be repeated on August 20 if the judiciary does not decide on it.

Takala explained in a video statement that this step comes out of keenness to embody the democratic process and in an effort to maintain the cohesion of the HCS, as well as after extensive consultation with the members of the HCS.

Takala added that choosing this timing comes with the aim of avoiding those who wanted impose a state of division on the council, considering that re-election is a compromise that preserves gains and avoids division and does not favor one party over the other.

Takala stressed that the voting process is a real opportunity for everyone to prove their worthiness of the trust of the council members, considering that whoever believes in himself that he is more worthy should not fear another round of re-election.

The ex-Head of the HCS, Khalid Al-Mishri, said that the announcement by Takala to postpone the round of elections to August 20 was "invalid", considering that he is the legitimate Head of the HCS and would begin performing his duties based on the results of the elections.

Al-Mishri pointed out that Takala referred the dispute over the ballot paper to the judiciary "despite his prior knowledge that the judiciary does not have jurisdiction over this dispute," noting that the council's internal regulations stipulate that its legal committee has jurisdiction to resolve this dispute, stressing that this referral is nothing but an attempt to buy time. Al-Mishri said that the council's internal regulations stipulated that the term of the presidency office of the council is only one year from the date of the election of the presidency office, and therefore Takala's term of office ended with the election and the legal term.

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## South African authorities shut down training camp where Libyans were arrested

South African authorities reported the closure of a training camp after arresting 95 Libyans, saying it was illegal.

According to what was reported by the Agence France-Presse (AFP), the South African authorities said that the camp provided military training to people coming from a country experiencing conflict, indicating that the place was suspected of being a secret army camp. They said that the detainees had entered the country to receive security guard training, according to the visas they were granted, but the camp in which they were arrested was intended for military training.

The head of the private security sector regulatory authority explained that the company that ran the camp: the Militia Day Academy, was registered with the authority, but the camp was not licensed.

The police also reported that some of the people making the training sessions were not from South Africa, without specifying their nationality, and that they used training methods from other countries.

According to the agency, the police revoked the company's license and suspended the use of the camp, noting that its owners would be tried on charges of violating the law.

Some reports said the group was sent to South Africa to train for Khalifa Haftar's forces. Police reported that 95 Libyans entered South Africa on visas issued in the Tunisian capital "illegally" and using deceptive methods.

The court, after arresting the Libyans on charges of violating immigration laws, adjourned the case to August 26 to conduct further investigations.

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## Presidential Council, US envoy Norland discuss solutions to Libya's political impasse

The two Deputy Heads of the Presidential Council, Mossa Al-Koni and Abdullah Al-Lafi, discussed with the US envoy to Libya, Richard Norland, the latest developments in the political process in Libya. The media office of the Presidential Council said Al-Lafi and Al-Koni had stressed during the meeting the importance of combining local and international efforts concerned with the Libyan issue to prepare an effective political project that could address the state of political deadlock, push toward resolving the political process, and pave the way for achieving elections that the Libyan people

aspire to.

The US envoy hailed the efforts of the Presidential Council aimed at bringing together all political parties and bringing the views of all parties closer, especially the national reconciliation file, which has reached advanced stages. Norland stressed the full support of the United States for the success of this file in order to restore stability and lasting peace to the country.

The meeting also followed up on the conditions in the southern region: both service and security, in coordination with the Presidential Council.

Politics

## Koury and Algerian Foreign Minister review impact of situation in Libya on region



Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf discussed with the acting UN envoy to Libya, Stephanie Koury, ways to advance a political process led and owned by Libyans, as the latter stated on "X" that she had constructive discussions with Attaf about the situation in Libya and its potential impact on the region. Koury explained that views were exchanged on ways to advance a political process led and owned by Libyans, facilitated by the United Nations with coordinated international support, to put the country on the path to elections. Following the talks, Attaf stressed, in press statements, four main priorities that must be focused on at the present time, the first of which is related to avoiding turning the electoral entitlement in Libya into an end in itself, as the end remains more comprehensive and broader, saying that the success of

this entitlement depends on the extent of progress made in the preparatory work that must be fully exhausted. As for the second priority, it is the importance of preserving the ceasefire agreement and working to consolidate it. As a third priority, he welcomed all initiatives, desires and paths that prioritize resolving the Libyan crisis, stressing the need for the latter to be an extension, support and assistance to the international effort, which remains the main reference in which the constants of resolving the Libyan crisis are embodied, While the fourth priority is not to abandon the Libyan national reconciliation project, stressing that despite all the difficulties that have obstructed the path of this project, it remains of great importance, as it will inevitably and without a doubt contribute to crystallizing a unified and comprehensive

platform for all the people of Libya, distancing them from the approach of conflict and division. Attaf attributed the long duration of the Libyan crisis, in the first place, to the increase, escalation and complexity of foreign interference in domestic affairs, believing that "the key to resolving this crisis lies primarily in excluding and ending these interferences, in all their forms, contents and political, military and security objectives." Meanwhile, Koury hailed Algeria's "important and essential role in supporting Libyans' efforts to reach a solution to the Libyan crisis," noting that the discussion she had with Attaf was deep and very useful, as the challenges were addressed in terms of security and economic divisions, as well as in terms of stability in the region and not just in Libya.

Politics

## Aisha Al-Gaddafi calls for action to release her brother from Lebanon



Aisha Al-Gaddafi has called on the Libyans to work for the release of her brother Hannibal, who has been detained in Lebanon since 2015. Aisha Al-Gaddafi sent a message through her Instagram account, asking those she called "the honorable sons of my country," the jurists and the ancient tribes, not only to have a voice, but to act, to put an end to this injustice and disdain for the rights of your fellow countryman, as she put it. Hannibal is serving his detention in Lebanon on charges of concealing information related to the disappearance of the founder of the Supreme Shiite Islamic Council, Imam Musa al-Sadr, during his visit to Libya, August 1978, at the invitation of Al-Gaddafi the senior.

Politics



## Foreign Ministry condemns terrorist attack in Somalia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of National Unity condemned the attack that targeted a hotel in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, which resulted in dozens of deaths and injuries, describing the attack as terrorist. The Ministry reaffirmed in a statement its solidarity with the Somali government and people, reiterating Libya's firm position that calls for the rejection and condemnation of violence and terrorism in all its forms. It also explained that this attack contradicted international laws and moral and humanitarian values, expressing its condolences to the families of the victims of this explosion.

Politics

## Libya's Grand Mufti: Former HCS leadership is colluding with Haftar and Egypt



Libya's Grand Mufti, Sheikh Sadiq Al-Ghariyani, has accused the former leadership of the High Council of State (HCS) of conspiring with Aguila Saleh -the Haftar-aligned Speaker of Parliament- and collaborating with Egyptian intelligence services. In his weekly program on the Tanasuh TV channel, the Mufti made a reference to the HCS former president, Khaled Al-Mishri, labelling him as "unsuccessful" and censuring his actions were harmful to the nation. In a recent address, Sheikh Al-Ghariyani expressed the view that both the HCS and the House of Representatives (HoR) have lost their legitimacy. However, he acknowledged the current leadership's efforts to counteract foreign intelligence interference. The Mufti also questioned the validity of votes cast by certain members for the previous leadership, arguing that their votes should be invalidated according to council regulations due to their employment outside the council.



Economy

## NOC declares force majeure at Sharara Oilfield



The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has declared a force majeure at the Sharara oil field due to circumstances impeding its ability to carry out crude oil loading operations.

In a statement, the NOC announced that the current conditions prevent crude oil loading, impacting production and halting exports at the Zawiya port. It emphasized that the force majeure will not apply to petroleum production loading and unloading operations and assured stakeholders that normal operations will resume once the issues are resolved.

The "Guardian" reported that Saddam Haftar, son of rogue military leader Khalifa Haftar, attempted to shut down the oil field operated by a Spanish company in retaliation for an arrest warrant issued by Spanish authorities over allegations of arms smuggling. Saddam was detained briefly at Naples Airport in Italy last Friday after his name appeared in an EU database. Haftar's associates maintain that he was questioned but not formally arrested.

Despite these reports, the NOC accused the local protest group Fezzan

Movement, which has previously disrupted operations at the field, of being responsible for the shutdown.

However, Bashir Sheikh, leader of the Fezzan Movement, denied involvement, stating that Saddam ordered the shutdown in response to his attempted arrest.

Barcelona-based newspaper Cronica Global noted that the arrest warrant stemmed from the Spanish police's seizure of military equipment and weapons a year ago, allegedly intended for the UAE but suspected of being diverted to eastern Libya.



Economy

## CBL reports revenue, expenditure figures for 1st half of 2024

Libya's Central Bank (CBL) announced that the nation's total financial revenues for the period from January 1 to July 31 reached 61.15 billion Libyan dinars, while expenditures amounted to 57.56 billion dinars.

The revenue was primarily driven by the oil sector, with oil sales accounting for 51 billion dinars and oil royalties contributing 8.8 billion dinars. Tax revenues were 395 million dinars, customs revenues were 129 million dinars, and the communications sector generated 73 million dinars.

Additional revenue sources included local fuel sales, which brought in 32 million dinars, and other revenues

amounting to 721 million dinars, derived from various financial services such as refunds, passport fees, vehicle registration, and fines.

On the expenditure side, the breakdown was as follows: Salaries: 36.5 billion dinars, operating expenses: four billion dinars, development expenses 160 million dinars, subsidies 9.4 billion dinars, and emergency expenses zero. Additionally, the National Oil Corporation received five billion dinars, and the General Electricity Company was allocated 2.5 billion dinars.

Meanwhile, government spending for the period included the Prime Minis-

ter's Office and affiliates with 1.5 billion dinars, the House of Representatives and affiliates with 700 million dinars, the Presidential Council with 321 million dinars, and the High Council of State 29 million dinars.

Foreign currency inflows to the central bank were reported at \$12.4 billion, with total foreign currency expenditures reaching \$21.5 billion. Revenue from foreign currency fees amounted to 14 billion dinars.

The CBL also noted that \$1.75 billion in foreign currency had been earmarked for the reconstruction of Libya's eastern region, highlighting ongoing efforts to rebuild and stabilize the area.



Economy

### **CBL, U.S. emphasize need for consensus on unified budget amid record spending**

Governor Seddek ElKaber and U.S. Special Envoy Richard Norland have stressed the importance of a unified East-West budget to enhance fiscal transparency and accountability. In a meeting, the two officials underscored the urgent need for a consensus-based agreement on a unified budget between Libya's eastern and western regions. The discussion, revealed by Norland in a post from the U.S. Embassy's account on X, highlighted the necessity of reducing spending and ensuring fiscal transparency and accountability across the country. Norland emphasized that Libya has been operating without this fundamental economic tool for too long, and a unified budget would allow for more coherent monetary and fiscal policies. The meeting comes in the wake of the House of Representatives (HoR) approval of Libya's largest budget in history, a 2024 fiscal plan totalling 179 billion Libyan dinars.



Economy

### **Al-Kabir and Shakshak discuss public spending and transparency**

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The Governor of the Central Bank, Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, and the Head of the Audit Bureau, Khaled Shakshak, have discussed public spending, disclosure and transparency. In a meeting, they touched on reviewing the Central Bank's budgets for previous years, which institutional division during those years prevented their review, according to a statement published by the Central Bank on its Facebook page. The meeting, which was held in the Audit Bureau, discussed aspects of coordination and cooperation to address the urgent challenges facing state institutions and ways to overcome them.

Economy

### **Al-Huwaij calls for strict enforcement of foreign business ban**

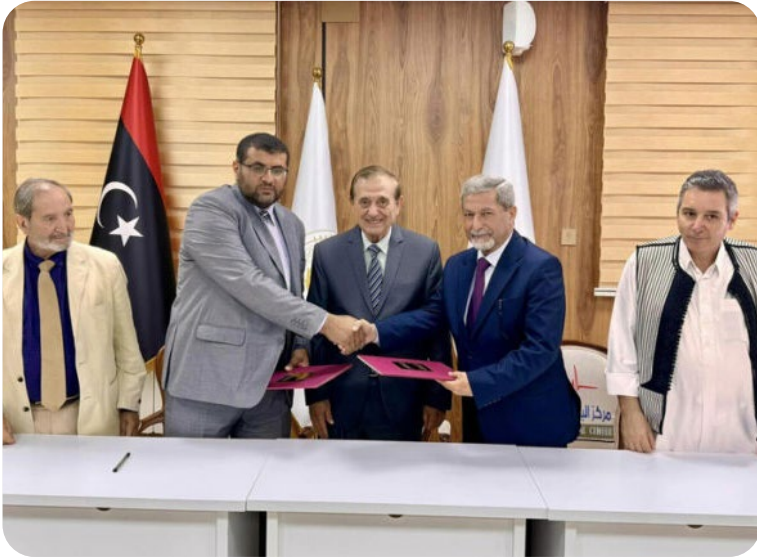
Minister of Economy and Trade Mohamed Al-Huwaij has called for the enforcement of the decision prohibiting foreign involvement in commercial activities. The Prime Minister's Office issued Decision No. 508 of 2022, banning non-Libyans from engaging in all retail and wholesale commercial operations. Al-Huwaij's remarks came during a meeting with the mayors of



Al-Maamoura, Al-Maya, and Al-Swani municipalities on Monday as part of efforts to regulate commercial activities within the municipalities. During the meeting, Al-Huwaij emphasized the importance of overseeing foreign labour in the local market within the municipalities in coordination with regulatory and relevant authorities. The meeting also discussed the role of academic institutions and Libyan

universities in studying the features of each municipality and leveraging natural resources to establish industrial and agricultural investment projects. The initiatives aim to support the Ministry of Economy's strategy for economic diversification, increase income sources, and create job opportunities for the youth, as stated by the Economy Ministry on Facebook.





Health

## Libya and Iraq sign training agreement

Al-Bayda Medical Center signed a cooperation agreement with the Iraq's National Center for Medical Competency Evaluation, which is the first of its kind in the country, according to the center.

Under this cooperation, specialists and consultants will be trained, with the aim of achieving the highest standards of quality performance in providing health services, in addition to the use of digital tools and modern developments in the field of artificial intelligence.

The agreement followed Al Bayda Medical Center obtaining a recognition from the Arab Council for Health Specialties, according to the center's media office.



Health

## Health minister meets western mayors to boost care

Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity/ Acting Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah, met in Tripoli with the mayors of Wazen, Al Rayayna, and Nalut.

The meeting discussed the general situation in the municipalities and explored solutions to support and improve medical services at primary healthcare facilities, general hospitals, and rural hospitals.

During the meeting, Abu Janah reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to addressing the health needs of the municipalities through effective coordination with relevant departments within the Ministry of Health.

Additionally, the minister underscored his personal commitment to overseeing the noted observations and ensuring the implementation of all proposals while overcoming impediments to facilitate the provision of medical services and healthcare to the citizens.

Education

## Education Ministry confirms beginning of school year on time

The Ministry of Education confirmed that the new school year will start on time on September 01, in accordance with the decision of the Minister of Education No. 984 of 2024.

This confirmation came after what news on some social media sites regarding postponing the start of school and increasing the hours of the school day in the next school year.

The Ministry also denied what was reported regarding increasing the hours of the school day in the next school year, saying that this is consistent with its efforts to implement the full school day initiative that has been partially implemented in the past year.

It noted that it would involve parents and those interested in the educational process in this regard through meetings, discussions, seminars and workshops before officially implementing the full-day school hours.





Education

## Secondary school certificate exams' success rate announced as 48.43%

The Ministry of Education in the Government of National Unity announced the approval of the results of the secondary school certificate exams with a general success rate of 48.43%.

23,503 students took the secondary school certificate exams in the literary section, of whom 7,783 students passed, while 15,720 students failed, with a rate of 33.11%.

In the scientific certificate, 91,230 students took the exams, 47,898 students passed, and 43,323 students had a second round, with a success rate of 52.05%.

430 students took the secondary school certificate exams in religious education, of whom 97 students passed, and 303 students are taking the second round, with a success rate of 22.56%, according to the ministry's press conference on Thursday. The ministry assigned an online link for the secondary school certificate results.



Education

## New university academic year in Libya to kick off on September 29

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Government of National Unity has announced that the new academic year 2024-2025 to begin September 29.

Minister Imran Al-Qayeb wrote to university presidents about adopting the academic year plan, according to our government's Facebook page.

The plan stipulates that faculty members will return on Sunday, September 1st, then registration and selection of modules will begin in the middle of the same month, beginning of studies on September 29, and ending on July 31, 2025.

Education

## Al-Ahli, Al-Hilal to host CAF Confed Cup ties at home

Al-Ahli Tripoli received confirmation from the Confederation of African Football (CAF) regarding the home and away fixtures for the first preliminary round of the CAF Confederation Cup against Zanzibar's Ohamiaji Club.

CAF has approved holding both legs at the Tripoli International Stadium. The first leg is set for August 18 at 7:00 PM local time, and the second leg will follow on August 23 at the same time. Additionally, the CAF Competitions Committee informed Al-Hilal that their first preliminary round matches against Uganda's Kitara will be hosted at the Martyrs of Benina Stadium in Benghazi.

Kitara's request to play the first leg at the Martyrs of Benina Stadium on August 16 at 7:00 PM was approved, with the return leg scheduled for August 23 at the same venue and time.

These confirmations serve as a gift for both Al-Ahli Tripoli and Al-Hilal, as they will play their home and away matches on their home turf in front of their supporters.



Opinions

# Elections deepen division within HCS

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



The failure of the High Council of State's (HCS) elections has deepened divisions among its members. The emerging dispute over the validity of a ballot could have been resolved early, as it did not violate procedural rules. However, the intense competition, driven by existing divisions and the intransigence of Al-Mishri and his supporting bloc, has pushed the Council to the brink of splitting into two factions, each claiming legitimacy and deeming the other invalid unless the dispute is resolved in only one of two ways as announced by the head of the HCS which is: awaiting the judiciary's final decision or proceeding to a third round of voting.

Disagreements over election results occur even in countries with a long history of democracy, so a candidate or party may demand a recount, or a re-vote in specific electoral districts. Years ago, the Justice and Development Party objected to the results of municipal elections, so voting was repeated and the second result confirmed the first.

The candidate for the US presidency, Al Gore in 2000 against George Bush, who won in the end, objected to the results of the state of Florida, demanding a recount because the results showed a thin margin. The votes were recounted automatically and then manually, but the Bush Party's objection transferred the dispute to the judiciary, and the US Supreme Court ruled so that George Bush would win the presidency. What is required at the end of any election is to resolve any dispute in accordance with the law and regulations, so that the winner emerges without any doubt about his legitimacy and the loser is convinced that the operation and its results are sound, and he has no

choice but to concede.

Praise is axiomatic for the regular elections held by the HCS for its presidency, as they are the only remaining manifestation of democratic practice. The Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR) did not allow any elections to be held for the presidency of the House of Representatives, and he remained in the presidency without real and effective objection from the representatives, weakening the House of Representatives and diverted its natural course, turning it into a political party managed through the setting room of its president.

However, this democratic practice of peaceful rotation of the presidency of the High Council of State is marred by many defects. Some members only attend the presidential election session, and some have other jobs in addition to continuing their membership of the HCS. This is a clear violation of the Council's regulations. The provisions for imposing the stipulated penalties on violating members spelt out in the same regulations are being bypassed.

Until the path that the HCS will take to address this crisis is determined, members of the Council, regardless of who will occupy the position of president, must seriously think about the quickest and best ways to leave together with members of the House of Representatives, through elections that were long overdue, in which the legitimacy of the HoR will be renewed with new representatives, who bear the responsibility of getting the country out of this crisis situation, without any tricks to continue prolonging their stay for more years.



Cartoon

# The price of sun shelters on the beach is rising



## Tripoli Weather Forecast



TODAY

35°  
/25°

13 AUG



30°/24°

14 AUG



30°/24°

15 AUG



31°/23°

16 AUG



33°/24°

17 AUG



34°/23°

18 AUG



33°/22°

## Photo of the Week

