

Politics

Saleh threatens oil shutdown over CBL governor dispute



The Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR), Aguila Saleh, has warned of a potential shutdown of the country's vital oil production if the Central Bank Governor is replaced, following the Presidential Council's (PC) controversial appointment of Mohammed Shukri to the role.

In a television interview, Saleh accused the PC of attempting to "loot public funds and perpetuate corruption" by appointing Shukri. He declared, "We will not allow the continued flow of Libya's wealth to individuals who have come through suspicious means and untrustworthy hands."

Saleh stressed that any changes to the Central Bank's leadership could trigger a halt in oil production and the suspension of revenue transfers to the Central Bank, a move that could have significant economic repercussions for the country. He also emphasized that Shukri has

no legitimate authority, asserting that both the HoR and the High Council of State (HCS) are committed to keeping Saddek Elkaber in his position as Central Bank Governor to protect Libya's financial stability, insisting that the decision to retain Elkaber is crucial for the ongoing process of unifying the Central Bank. Saleh criticized the PC's involvement in sovereign positions, arguing that it oversteps its mandate. He pointed out that the PC, established under a political agreement, has specific tasks and is not the head of state as it perceives itself.

Earlier this week, Saleh reiterated that Elkaber and his deputy, Mari al-Barassi, would remain in their positions until an agreement is reached with the HCS on key sovereign roles.

The Presidential Council recently issued decisions appointing Shukri as Acting Central Bank Governor and forming a new board of directors.

Politics



Al-Baour discusses with Japanese Foreign Minister enhancing bilateral cooperation

Taher Al-Baour in charge of running the affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has discussed in Tokyo with the Japanese Foreign Minister, Yoko Kamikawa, enhancing joint cooperation between the two countries. He agreed with the Japanese Minister in meeting Friday to continue deepening cooperation, especially in the field of human resources development and training, while stressing the importance of developing bilateral relations.

The two sides also exchanged views on a number of topics and issues at regional and international scene, most notably the Palestinian issue and UN Security Council reform.

Al-Baour is currently on a visit to Japan to participate in the "TIKAD" African-Japanese Conference.

Politics



PC begins handover at CBL amid leadership transition

The handover committee established by the Presidential Council (PC) has commenced its work from within the Central Bank of Libya's (CBL) headquarters. The committee announced that the process is underway with the involvement of Abdul Fattah Abdul Ghaffar, the Deputy Governor appointed by the PC, and Mohamed Al-Shohoubi, the head of the committee and the Minister of Communications in the Government of National Unity (GNU). The development follows a deci-

sion by the PC head to temporarily assign Abdul Fattah Ghaffar the responsibilities of the CBL Governor. The handover is expected to be completed shortly, with Ghaffar managing the bank's operations until the return of the appointed governor or the election of a new one. The PC's directive emphasizes the need for Ghaffar to adhere strictly to implementing financial arrangements, particularly until there is a consensus on a unified national budget.

Politics



Koury calls on Menfi to end Central Bank's crisis by dialogue

The Acting Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Stephanie Koury, called for resolving the crisis of the Central Bank of Libya through dialogue during her meeting with the Head of the Presidential Council, Mohamed Menfi.

Khoury said that as part of her ongoing efforts to address the crisis surrounding the Central Bank of Libya, she and Menfi discussed the importance of resolving all issues through dialogue and consensual arrangements.

The UN mission indicated in an X post about the meeting that the two sides discussed the urgent need for responsible and transparent governance of the Central Bank, and Koury stressed the importance of the equitable distribution of resources among all Libyans.



El Sonni: Security Council's briefings on Libya are "news bulletins"

Libya's ambassador to the United Nations, Taher El Sonni, described the briefings of UN envoys and representatives of member states in the Security Council on Libya as news bulletins that convey what is happening without providing solutions.

He said in a briefing at the Security Council session on the situation in Libya: "The specter of armed conflict is looming again on the horizon, and the stability that has been achieved, even if it is relative, may collapse at any moment."

"What is the position of this Council? How long will the briefings remain news bulletins that convey what is happening without providing solutions?" He asked.

El Sonni criticized the lack of agreement on appointing a new UN envoy and the position remaining vacant for more than four months, despite the fact that the decisions and statements of this Council call on the United Nations to play an active role and mediate to find practical solutions to the Libyan crisis.

"The international leadership of the solution under Chapter VII has not succeeded, and you have not left the Libyans to lead the solution themselves! What do you expect to happen... other than what has happened now?" He said. He considered that the only solution lies in supporting the will of Libyans to unify state institutions and end the division and all fragile transitional stages, through free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections. He pointed out that any future political path must be built on what was previously agreed upon, and any points of disagreement must be addressed, with a viable roadmap, and specific time frames, leading to transparent and fair general elections under direct international and UN supervision. El Sonni also called for a mechanism for transparency and justice in distributing resources and wealth to all regions of Libya, away from centralization and without any marginalization, noting that these policies must be among the priorities of the upcoming national dialogues so that they lead to a permanent consensus on the country's economic system.



Joint Military Commission (5+5) confirms ceasefire is still in place

The 5+5 Joint Military Commission reassured at the end of its meeting in Sirte on Sunday all Libyans of the stability of the ceasefire, referring to the agreement signed in October 2020 under the auspices of the United Nations in Geneva, stressing that "all committees supervising its implementation and monitoring affiliated with the 5+5 Commission continue their work with dedication and sincerity."

The Commission held its meeting in Sirte, in the presence of the two parties from the military and security leaders of the General Staff of the Libyan Army in Tripoli and their counterparts representing Khalifa Haftar's forces, as well as the Acting Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya Stephanie Koury and a number of officials in the mission.

The Commission said in the statement that its members discussed the security and political situation and its impact on the ceasefire agreement as well as the implementation of the rest of the agreement's provisions within the framework of the ongoing and usual meetings of the Commission, denying abandoning its role, and stressing that "all that is being circulated about the Commission abandoning its role is mere fabrication.

It stressed that it is working within a specific framework related to the ceasefire and monitoring its implementation, and that it was not tasked with unifying the military institution and does not have sufficient powers and capabilities to expel mercenaries and foreign forces or organize armed groups, adding that this is within the powers of the executive bodies of the state.

The Commission also reaffirmed its full commitment to activating its headquarters in Sirte and limiting its meetings to it until the end of its assigned mission, noting that it studied the state of political division and its impact on the implementation of the remaining provisions of the ceasefire as well as on the state of national security in general, saying that it will announce its position on this to Libyans in the coming few days. The last meeting between the Commission's members dates back to November 7, 2023 in Tunisia in the presence of the Security Working Group emanating from the Berlin track, and under the auspices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in Libya at the time, Abdoulaye Bathily.



Economy

AGOCO calls US Solar Turbines company to establish service center near Libya

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arabian Gulf Oil Company (AGOCO), Mohammed bin Shatwan, called on the US Solar Turbines company to establish a service and maintenance center near Libya to provide the necessary spare parts and complete maintenance work. This came during a meeting that brought together bin Shatwan with the President of the American Solar Turbines Company, Derek Burke, and the company's Regional Director for Europe, North Africa

and the Middle East, Enrique Pangesis, in addition to the General Manager of the American Caterpillar Company, Osiel Vian. Bin Shatwan stressed the importance of training a large number of Libyans, confirming the efficiency of the national cadres in operation and confidence in their professionalism. He also presented a shield to Solar Turbines company in appreciation of the achievement made in the turbines of the Sarir field, and their

efforts in receiving and operating the project. Bin Shatwan requested rapid maintenance of the mobile turbines in the Sarir field that need overhaul, indicating that the success of AGOCO is linked to the success of Solar Turbines company. The General Manager of Caterpillar confirmed their readiness to provide the necessary support and assistance in maintaining and changing the equipment of oil companies in general.



Economy

A Chinese delegation visits Al-Zawiya to discuss building seaport for the city

Zawiya Municipal Council has received a Chinese delegation that includes a group of companies specialized in the field of establishing seaports to discuss the establishment of the Zawiya Seaport. The Council welcomed the delegation and stressed its keen interest to complete

this giant project because of its great importance from an economic standpoint, according to the municipality's statement on its Facebook page. Council member Ezzedine Sharata made a presentation on the concept of the port and its stages. The Chinese delega-

tion also made a presentation about its capabilities and the projects previously implemented by its companies and expressed its interest in the project. Afterwards, members of the municipal council accompanied the Chinese delegation on a tour of the city.



Economy

Libyan-Italian Economic Forum to be held next November

The Government of National Unity has announced that the 30th session of the Libyan-Italian Economic Forum will be held next November. The forum's preparatory committee reviewed the agenda of the forum proposed by the two countries, the proposed economic and bilateral salons,

and the industrial and commercial exhibitions proposed by the Libyan and Italian sides, according to 'our government's platform'. The meeting concluded with a call for increased coordination between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the two countries to ensure effective

participation of business people and manufacturers. The forum is designed to provide a good economic and commercial opportunity for the Libyan private sector in creating partnerships and cooperation with the Italian side.



Economy

Iron and Steel strikes deal with Turkish firm to complete major project

The Iron and Steel Company has signed a contract with Turkey's "Partner Teknik" to complete the existing hexagonal cold rolling mill project.

The project aims to produce cold-rolled coils and strips with an annual production capacity of approximately 200,000 tons, with thicknesses ranging from 0.20 mm to 3 mm, to meet local demand and export the surplus.

As per the company's statement, the anticipated timeline for project completion spans seven months, followed by an additional four months allocated for operational support.

The scope of tasks outlined in the new contractual agreement includes finalizing all previously uncompleted electrical and mechanical work, conducting cold tests on the equipment, and proceeding with hot tests leading up to trial and commercial operations.

Furthermore, the contract includes a four-month term dedicated to providing operational support and training for technicians and engineers, focusing on operational and maintenance skills essential for achieving the requisite quality and standards.



Economy

China invites Libya to strengthen trade and investment

The Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Libya, Liu Jian, has invited Libya's Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohamed Al-Huwaij, to visit Beijing and lead a delegation at the upcoming China-Africa Cooperation Forum.

During their meeting, the two officials discussed the current trade and investment ties between China and Libya and explored ways to boost economic collaboration.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Economy, Al-Huwaij stressed the importance of advancing existing trade and investment agreements between the two nations and expressed Libya's readiness to support Chinese companies entering the Libyan market.

He also instructed the Libyan-Chinese Joint Economic Chamber and the Libyan-Chinese Business Council to work with the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture to organize a joint economic forum in Tripoli in early 2025.

For his part, Jian reiterated China's interest in strengthening trade and investment relations with Libya.



Economy

PC head urges Shukri to quickly assume CBL governor role

President Mohammed Menfi of the Presidential Council (PC) has urged Mohamed Shukri to swiftly assume his duties as Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), intensifying the ongoing power struggle over the country's financial leadership.

In a letter delivered through his office director, Menfi emphasized the need for Shukri to begin implementing economic and financial rescue strategies in collaboration with the CBL's board of directors,

which Menfi lauded for its "high professional competencies and broad political consensus." Menfi praised Shukri's "genuine patriotism" and commitment to national responsibility, reinforcing the legitimacy of Shukri's appointment under Resolution No. 3 of 2018. He noted that the resolution, reflecting the decision of Libya's representatives in a public session, remains in effect and was further endorsed by the High Council of State (HCS) in August 2024.



This move comes after Shukri stated that his acceptance of the Governor role would depend on agreement between the House of Representatives (HoR) and the HCS.

The committee affiliated with the PC announced that the new Central Bank administration would begin its duties on Saturday. However, the CBL rejected the PC's actions, declaring them "invalid, illegal, and issued by an unauthorized party."



Health

GNU signs agreement with German Ottobock to enhance prosthetics services

The Support and Development of Therapeutic Services Authority has signed a key agreement with German prosthetics company Ottobock to establish an advanced workshop at Abu Salim Accident Hospital and the National Prosthetics Center. The agreement was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah, according to the government platform "Hakomitna." Under the terms of the agreement, Otto-

bock will provide technicians to manage the workshop and train local staff, aiming to enhance Libya's capabilities in prosthetics manufacturing and services. Ahmed Melitan, head of the Support and Development of Therapeutic Services Authority, outlined the steps being taken to localize prosthetics production, including partnerships with leading global companies. Prime Minister Dbeibah emphasized the

importance of domesticating healthcare services within Libya, particularly in the specialized field of prosthetics. He highlighted that the initiative is designed to address the needs of a vital segment of the population requiring continuous and specialized care. Dbeibah also announced plans to extend the project to Benghazi and Sabha in the next phase, further expanding the availability of prosthetics services nationwide.



Health

NCDC Director calls for providing necessary needs for protection of monkeypox virus

Director of National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Haider Al-Sayeh, has stressed the importance of providing all necessary needs to ensure protection from the monkeypox virus. This came during a meeting held in the presence of directors of departments and offices concerned with epidemic and disease control to review and evaluate the center's plans and raise level of preparedness to confront monkeypox virus. During the meeting, Al-Sayeh reviewed the mechanism of work of monitoring and rapid response networks, the readiness of public health laboratories, and all aspects related to combating the virus. He also stressed the need to follow the local and regional epidemiological situation, and keep abreast of any new developments regarding the monkeypox virus.

Environment

IOM: Over 5,800 people displaced in Ghat

The International Organization for Migration has announced the displacement of over 5,800 people in Ghat in southwestern Libya, after heavy rains caused floods in the towns of Ghat and Tahalla. The organization's office in Libya said that the majority of the displaced were hosted by their families in their homes, while others were accommodated in camps and schools, according to a statement on its Facebook page on Monday. The displaced were 720 people in Thalla, 3,280 people in Ghat, 100 people in the Icnne Valley, and 1,725 people in Al-Barakat.





Sports

Al-Hilal and Al-Ahly Tripoli qualify for second preliminary round of CAF Confederation Cup

Al-Ahly Tripoli and Al-Hilal teams secured their qualification to the second preliminary round of the CAF Confederation Cup after they both won the first and second legs in the first preliminary round against Zanzibari's Uhamiaji and Uganda's Kitara.

In the first match at the Benina Martyrs Stadium in Benghazi, Al-Hilal team defeated Uganda's Kitara team of 3-2 to qualify to face Al-Masry of Egypt in the second preliminary round.

In the second match, which was held at Tripoli Stadium, Al-Ahly Tripoli defeated Zanzibari's Uhamiaji 3-1 to secure qualification to the next round to face Tanzanian Simba.



Sports

Libya's Al-Nasr out of CAF Champions League after loss to Sudan's Al-Merrikh

Al-Nasr bid farewell to the CAF Champions League from the first preliminary round after losing to Al-Merrikh of Sudan 0-2 in the second leg match that was held at Juba International Stadium in South Sudan. Al-Merrikh scored its first goal in the last minutes of the first half, and in the 73rd minute of the match, it managed to score the second goal by the same player Mohammed Jabani.

The first leg match at the Martyrs of Benina International Stadium in Benghazi, ended 0-0.

Al-Merrikh will play the winner of the match between the Royal Moroccan Army and Remo Stars of Nigeria, which is scheduled to be held on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Libya's representatives at the CAF Confederation Cup; Al-Ahly Tripoli and Al-Hilal secured their qualification to the second preliminary round after they both won the first and second legs in the first preliminary round against Zanzibari's Uhamiaji and Uganda's Kitara.

Migration

Germany says ready to support Libya in tackling immigration file



The Minister of State for Migration at the German Ministry of the Interior, Bernd Kroeser, expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with Libya at the bilateral level and at the level of the European Union Commission in order to provide the necessary support to address the issue of illegal immigration. This came during Kroeser's meeting with the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Taher Al-Baour. The German official referred to the difficult security situation that some countries in the region are suffering from, which has resulted in an increase in the number of immi-

grants flowing into Europe. The meeting focused on discussing the issue of illegal immigration and the Libyan efforts made by the concerned Libyan security services to address this issue. Al-Baour also referred to the importance of the Trans-Mediterranean Migration Forum organized by Libya last July, explaining that Libya is a transit country and cannot address the issue of illegal immigration and the negative phenomena that accompany it alone. Al-Baour stressed the keenness and readiness of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to push bilateral relations to broad-

er horizons in various fields. He also praised the important role played by Germany in supporting efforts to find a just settlement to the political crisis in Libya through the Berlin 1 and 2 conferences, welcoming any diplomatic efforts made in this regard by the German government.

The two sides agreed to form a joint committee that includes representatives from the sectors concerned with the illegal immigration file and other security fields in both countries.

Opinions

Conflict over the Central Bank of Libya

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



The front lines of the conflict have temporarily calmed down, except for the Central Bank front, as the struggle intensifies over control of the country's resources, through control of the bank, which has recently lost its balance between the two conflicting blocs, the Agila/Haftar camp and the Tripoli authorities.

The Agila' House of Representatives revoked its past decision to dismiss the current governor, Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, and appoint Mohamed Al-Shukri instead. This revocation came immediately after the Presidential Council moved towards implementing the very decision, and HoR decided through its last statement to keep Al-Kabir in his position, then it retracted and declared that the statement was forged.

This situation reflects the state of conflict within the Agila HoR, and its division into multiple blocs, due to the decisive influence of the ruling armed authority in the East on the decisions of Agila's HoR. The Central Bank front could reignite all political, military, security and media conflict fronts.

The Presidential Council (PC), which had long distanced itself from the circles of conflict, contenting itself with the role of a rational spectator seeking calm and extinguishing fires, no longer had the luxury of playing this comfortable role. Criticism, pressure, and flames of conflict prompted the Presidential Council to take action, so it issued the decision to establish the National Referendums and Polls Commission, which according to the decision, it will be mandated to holding national referendums and public opinion polls on various issues that concern the people.

The speed of the response by Agila and his HoR to the presidential decision reflects the state of existential threat that Agila and his HoR sensed. The PC decision implies withdrawing HNEC powers, and implementing it means returning to the people on important files such as the draft constitution. Therefore, Agila's HoR announced the repeal of the Geneva Agreement, and restoring the powers of the Supreme Command-

er from the Presidential Council, and considered the term of the Government of National Unity has ended. The rapid developments did not end there, as the Presidential Council hit back at the Eastern Front, dismissing the Governor of the Central Bank, and decided to reconstitute the bank's Board of Directors.

These are the developments of a tumultuous week of actions and their repercussions, and statements and counter-statements from all parties to the conflict. In parallel, and in a less intense battle, the debate continued between the Head of the High Council of State (HCS) and his competitor, Khaled Al-Mishri, over the presidency of the HCS after the disagreement and controversy over the voting paper of one of the HCS members in the recent elections for HCS presidency. All political disputes during the past months and years had only a minimal direct impact on the people's livelihood, so people were not overwhelmed by all the political tensions and conflicts, but they were angry at the tax imposed on foreign exchange sales, because its impact was direct on livelihood affairs, so if the dispute over the leadership of the Central Bank is not resolved with the acceptance of all parties, and is kept away from these tensions, the conflict will slide sharply to dangerous levels.

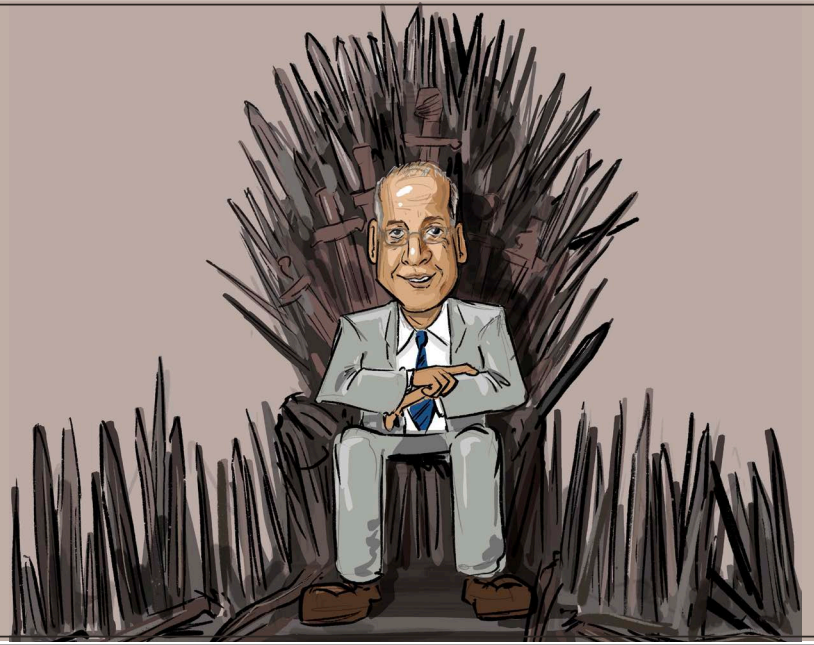
The Agila and Haftar camp were betting on the current governor, Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, to get at least half of the budget. If Al-Kabir is excluded and they have no role in choosing his successor, Haftar will take the initiative to shut oil production again, and if he obtains international support or even from his allies in the Arab region, he may initiate a new attack on the capital.

There are local and international calls for constraint and refraining from the language of escalation, but it is not clear whether or not these calls will be heeded. However, what is certain is that the country is ruled by gangs which do not possess even the minimum level of logic for managing the affairs of the state.

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

Cartoon

Game of Thrones at the Central Bank of Libya



Tripoli Weather Forecast

Photo of the Week

