

Politics

DiCarlo winds up visit to Libya and affirms commitment to standing by Libyan people



The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, has reaffirmed the United Nations' commitment to assisting the Libyan people in their efforts to achieve unity and lasting peace.

This came in a memo issued by the Office of the Spokesperson for the United Nations on Wednesday evening, at the conclusion of DiCarlo's visit to Libya.

On the final day of her fourth visit to the country, the Under-Secretary-General met with "Libyan political, military and civil society stakeholders in Tripoli and Benghazi, as well as with international partners."

DiCarlo noted that despite the economic progress made since her last visit to Libya in 2021, the country is now more divided, stressing that credible and inclusive elections are the only way to break the political deadlock and end the cycle of transitional

arrangements.

During the visit, DiCarlo met in Tripoli with Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah and Acting Foreign Minister Taher Baour, and raised concerns over the rapidly deteriorating political and security situation.

She also met with Head of the Presidency Council, Mohamed Menfi and his deputies Abdullah al-Lafi and Moussa Kony, stressing the need to resolve the crisis related to the Central Bank of Libya and to advance a national reconciliation process based on the realization of rights.

In Benghazi, DiCarlo met with the 5+5 Joint Military Committee and stressed the importance of unifying Libya's military and security institutions. In both Tripoli and Benghazi, she met with women's and youth groups, emphasizing the important role these groups can play as agents of change. She also met with Imad Al-Sayeh, Chairman

of the High National Elections Commission, stressing UN's commitment to facilitating a political framework leading to elections in Libya.

When meeting with heads of committees of the High Council of State, Ms. DiCarlo urged for the urgent resolution of the crisis resulting from the election of the presidency of the High Council of State.

On the last day of her visit, DiCarlo met with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Agila Saleh, in the city of Al-Qubbah, and discussed with him ways to find a consensual path forward to overcome the long-standing political stalemate in the country. In all her meetings, DiCarlo stressed, according to a statement by the UN, the UN's commitment to stand with the Libyan people in their efforts to overcome years of conflict and move towards achieving sustainable peace.

Politics

UNSMIL announces resumption of talks to resolve CBL crisis on Wednesday



United Nations Support Mission in Libya
بعثة الأمم المتحدة للدعم في ليبيا

In agreement with the delegates of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State on one hand and the representative of the Presidential Council on the other, UNSMIL will resume facilitating talks on resolving the crisis of the Central Bank of Libya at its headquarters in Tripoli on Wednesday (11 September).

UNSMIL said in a statement that it continues its extensive engagement with all stakeholders, emphasizing that time is of the essence in reaching a consensual solution to the crisis and mitigating its adverse effects.

UNSMIL announced last Tuesday, after two days of consultations, the extension of the agreement period for 5 days, that ended Monday. It previously announced in a statement that the representatives of the House of Representatives, the High Council of State, and the Presidential Council had achieved "important understandings" regarding ways to resolve the crisis surrounding the Central Bank and restore the confidence of Libyans and international partners in this vital institution.

Politics

Turkey refuses to allow Operation IRINI to inspect a ship heading to Libya



Turkey has refused to allow the European Maritime Operation IRINI team to inspect a ship heading to Libya, according to the operation's account on the X platform. IRINI reported that Turkey yesterday again rejected a request to inspect the ship "MV MATILDE A" in accordance with Security Council Resolution No. 2292/2016 on the arms embargo on Libya.

The UN Security Council calls on all UN member states to cooperate with the inspections, and after the first Berlin conference, the European Union Council decided to launch a new military operation, on March 31, 2020, under the name "IRINI", which is basically a naval operation.



Politics

Saleh to DiCarlo: Presidential Council's unauthorized actions led to CBL crisis

The Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR), Aqila Saleh, discussed with the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, the crisis of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), and ways to resolve it "based on the provisions of the political agreement and the Bouznika Agreement on sovereign positions", holding the Presidential Council responsible for the crisis.

This came during a meeting in his office in the city of Al-Gubba on Wednesday, in the presence of the Acting Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Stephanie Koury, where the attendees discussed avoiding the continuation of the crisis and stopping its negative effects on the national economy and the financial situation of the Libyan state, according to a statement by the media office of the House of Representatives. "The Presidential Council has exceeded its tasks and duties specified in the political agreement, and has ignored the powers of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State", renewing his holding the Presidential Council responsible for the incidents of "storming the bank and tampering with its administration, the latest of which was what happened in one of its most important financial and information departments". Saleh said.

DiCarlo called for resuming the political process immediately after ending the CBL crisis, forming a unified government, ending the political and institutional division, and working to organize simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections, praising what has been achieved in the field of reconstruction, development, and national reconciliation in southern Libya.



Politics

National day of mourning in Libya on the first anniversary of Storm Daniel

Libya is witnessing on Wednesday a national day of mourning for the victims of the Mediterranean storm "Daniel" that hit the eastern region of the country a year ago.

This came in a statement by the Government of National Unity on Tuesday evening, on the eve of the first anniversary of the storm that caused the death and disappearance of thousands of Libyans. "Wednesday is a national day of mourning and flags will be flown at half-mast in memory of the victims of the floods that swept the city of Derna and its surroundings last year. All state institutions will operate normally on Wednesday." The statement says.

Meanwhile, the parallel government in the east of the country announced that Wednesday is an official holiday in mourning for the victims of the floods caused by Storm Daniel in the city of Derna and other cities in the east of the country.

On September 10, 2023, Storm Daniel hit cities in eastern Libya, especially Benghazi, Al-Bayda, Al-Marj and Susa, while Derna was the most affected by the collapse of the city's dams.

While there is no final death toll yet, the death toll is estimated to have reached more than 4,333, according to official statistics and estimates by international organizations, which also indicated that the registered missing persons reached 8,500 people.

The United Nations said in a statement: "A year after Storm Daniel and the devastating floods that struck Derna and surrounding areas in eastern Libya, we commend the resilience and strength of the communities that have worked tirelessly to recover from the disaster.



Politics

Grand Mufti welcomes recent decisions of Presidential Council and calls for more

The Grand Mufti of Libya, Sheikh Al-Sadiq Al-Gharyani has praised the decision of the Presidential Council to establish and form the Board of Directors of the National Referendum & Polls Commission.

The Mufti described the decision to establish the Board of Directors of the Commission as correct in the program (Islam and Life) that airs every Wednesday on the Tanasuh satellite channel. Head of the Presidential Council, Mohamed Menfi, had issued a decision to form the Board of Directors of the National Referendum & Polls Commission headed by Othman Abu Bakr Al-Qajiji, the former head of the High National Elections Commission.

The Mufti called on the Presidential Council to take more important and urgent decisions at this stage to salvage the country from the tampering of bodies and entities that are spoiling state of affairs of Libya.

He considered the decisions of the Council during the past few days to be positive, welcoming these decisions and expressing his hope for the best in them, calling on the Council at the same time to do more of the same.

It is noteworthy that the Presidential Council had also issued a decision in mid-August to dismiss Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, the former governor of the Central Bank of Libya, from his position and refer him to retirement, and to form a new board of directors for the Central Bank.

Economy



Libya's oil exports plunge 81% amid Central Bank crisis

Libya's oil exports dropped by 81% last week as the National Oil Corporation (NOC) halted shipments amid a growing crisis involving the Central Bank of Libya and oil revenues, according to Reuters. Libyan ports averaged 194,000 barrels of crude oil per day during the period, a sharp decline from previous levels. Despite the severe drop, the NOC has not declared a full force majeure on all port shipments but has instead applied the measure to individual ones, particularly affecting output from the Al-Fil oil field and exports from the Sharara field. The NOC reportedly cancelled several shipments last week, though some tankers were still permitted to load oil from storage at Libyan ports in order to meet contractual obligations and avoid financial penalties.

Economy



Turkey to pursue energy projects in Libya following maritime invitation

Turkish Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar has expressed his country's interest in exploring energy resources off the coast of Libya following an invitation from the Libyan authorities. "Libya extended an invitation for us to conduct seismic surveys in their maritime territory, and we are eager about this," the Anadolu News Agency cited him as saying. The minister further expressed Turkey's interest in engaging in additional projects in Libya and is actively seeking suitable projects and partners. It is noteworthy that in 2020, Ankara concluded an agreement with Tripoli to demarcate the maritime borders, which sparked a dispute with Egypt and Greece, before signing a preliminary deal for energy exploration, which Egypt and Greece also opposed.



Economy

Libya elevates ties with China to strategic partnership

The high-level China-Africa Cooperation Forum has concluded in Beijing, culminating in the signing of two major documents, the "Beijing Declaration on Cooperation to Promote Modernization" and the "Beijing Action Plan (2025-2027)." The four-day event focused on economic cooperation and global development. Libya raised its diplomatic and economic ties with China to a strategic partner-

ship, signing an economic partnership agreement with China to boost cooperation in trade, investment, industrialization, and agricultural modernization. In a joint statement, the participants emphasized a commitment to deeper strategic coordination under the Global Development Initiative. They also expressed their willingness to work together to build an influential "China-Africa community" with a shared

future in the new era and to deepen the implementation of the China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035. Libya was among the African nations that signed a framework agreement with China for economic partnership and cooperation in trade, investment, industrialization, and agricultural modernization, aimed at fostering high-quality economic development and achieving shared progress.



Economy

CBL discusses dinar recovery with oil ministry and NOC

Libya's Central Bank (CBL) Acting Governor, Abdul Fattah Ghaffar, met with Oil and Gas Minister Khalifa Abdul Sadiq and National Oil Corporation (NOC) Acting Chairman Masoud Suleiman to discuss strategies for restoring the value of the Libyan dinar and boosting oil and gas production. The meeting, held at the Central Bank headquarters in Tripoli, aimed at enhancing coordination between the country's financial and energy sectors. The talks also involved members of the Central Bank's board and key NOC officials, underscoring the importance of collaboration in stabilizing Libya's economy. The Bank said the meeting comes in the framework of efforts to advance the banking and oil sectors in the country.



Economy

Libyan-Chinese Chamber of Commerce drives paper recycling initiative

A Libyan delegation, comprising officials from the Ministry of Economy and Trade and private sector representatives, visited Chinese companies in Henan this week to explore opportunities for establishing a paper recycling plant in Libya. The planned facility, which will cover a 4-hectare site, is expected to produce 200 tons of paper per day using environmentally friendly technologies. According to a statement from the Ministry of Economy, the factory is set to begin operations by June next year and will recycle used paper, contributing to environmental sustainability while reducing Libya's reliance on imports. The initiative is also seen as a strategic move to preserve the country's foreign currency reserves. The delegation, which included top officials and members of the Libyan-Chinese Joint Chamber of Commerce, examined modern paper production techniques in an effort to integrate advanced recycling technologies in Libya. This comes amid growing efforts to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce the burden on waste management systems.

Economy



Al-Kabir files complaint with Libyan AG over "storming of CBL financial information unit"

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Al-Siddiq Al-Kabeer, who was assigned by the House of Representatives, filed a complaint with the Attorney General (AG) against "Asem Al-Hajji" and others without mentioning their names, saying that they had entered the Financial Information Unit and stormed the office of its director. Al-Kabir added in his complaint that indicators of suspected corruption against "Abdul Fattah Ghaffar," whom he described as an impersonator of the Governor of the Central Bank, had previously been referred to the Attorney General's Office by the Director of the Financial Information Unit itself. He also said that what happened threatened to tamper with the unit's data, including the aforementioned file, and constitut-

ed a grave criminal risk.

Al-Kabir also stressed that the CBL headquarters contained highly confidential documents related to the work of the unit and the National Committee for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, in addition to evidence files related to money laundering and terrorist financing crimes, explaining that reviewing them would expose its work to high risks. He called on the Attorney General to take urgent legal measures against the individuals he referred to in the complaint and those who helped them enter the headquarters, holding them all fully responsible locally and internationally for the risks that could threaten the work of the unit and its data.



Health

Cochlear implant operations underway in Misrata

The Misrata Medical Centre has initiated cochlear implant surgeries, commencing on Friday and scheduled to continue over the next four days as part of the initial phase.

In media statements, a spokesman for the centre, Dr Mohamed Al-Naihoum, confirmed that a specialized team from the centre's ENT department is leading the procedures following the preparation of the necessary equipment and environment.

The surgeries aim to address the needs of patients on the waiting list, with the operations expected to run non-stop for four days.

Dr Al-Naihoum emphasized the complexities and costs associated with cochlear implants, highlighting that providing these services locally is part of an initiative to alleviate the financial burden on citizens. The implants have been provided by the Medical Supply Authority.



Health

NCDC distributes vaccinations to children in southern Libya

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has confirmed the distribution of vaccination allocations against measles and polio to 10 municipalities in the southern region of the country.

NCDC said in a statement on Saturday that the distribution of vaccinations comes within the framework of preparations for the national campaign for vaccination against Measles, Rubella and Polio in the coming period.

It is to be noted that these vaccinations are intended for children from one day old to before entering school; with the aim of keeping the country free of polio, and to stop the spread of measles after recording several cases in some cities and regions, according to NCDC.



Health

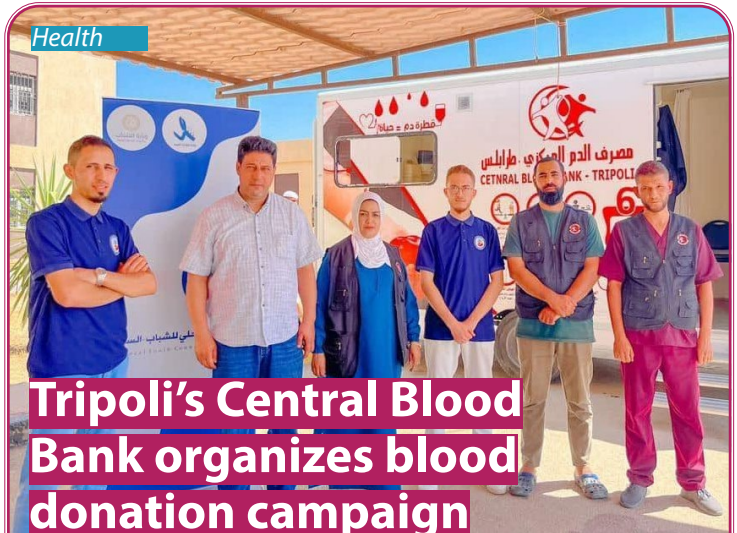
Zuwara Hospital reopening after 13 years



The Ministry of Health has announced the upcoming reopening of Zuwara Central Hospital, which has been closed for over 13 years.

This announcement was made during a visit by the Acting Minister, Ramadan Abu Janah, to the city, where he oversaw the operations of health institutions, ensured service availability to citizens, and addressed challenges and issues by implementing suitable measures.

The hospital's renovation commenced in 2009 but was interrupted during the February 17th Revolution before being resumed as part of the government's healthcare initiatives. Zuwara Central Hospital, one of the largest hospitals in the western region, boasts a capacity of 450 beds and is furnished with advanced facilities, including operating rooms, medical equipment, outpatient clinics, and even an aviation runway.



Health

Tripoli's Central Blood Bank organizes blood donation campaign

The Central Blood Bank in Tripoli, in coordination with the local council of Sidi Al-Sayeh Youth, has organized a blood donation campaign under the slogan "A drop of blood equals a life."

The Ministry of Health explained in a post on its official Facebook page on Saturday that the campaign aims to promote the culture of blood donation and support the strategic stock of the blood bank with its needs of blood of all types, in a way that supports the efforts and endeavors made by the Ministry of Health to achieve this goal.

The Ministry said that the campaign witnessed a great turnout from public who were keen to donate blood to save the lives of patients in hospitals and medical centers voluntarily.



Sports

Oman edge out Libya to win Arab Beach Volleyball title

Oman's national beach volleyball team claimed victory in the final of the Arab Championship, defeating Libya 2-1 in a closely contested match held in Hammamet, Tunisia. Libya started strong, winning the first set 21-17, but Oman fought back to take the second set 21-12. In the decisive final set, Oman triumphed 15-13, securing the gold medal. Libya finished in second place, earning the silver medal after an impressive tournament run.



Crimes

Commander of First Support Force and his assistant detained on assassination case

The Attorney General's Office has announced the detention of the commander of the First Support Force, Mohamed Bahron, and one of his assistants pending investigation on charges of their involvement in the assassination of Abdul Rahman Milad, known as "Al-Bidja". On Friday (September 6), the Attorney General's Office announced the compliance of Bahron with the procedures for investigating the killing of Al-Bidja. The office said in a brief statement that Bahron voluntarily complied with hearing his statements by the assigned law enforcement officer and presenting the results of the evidence to the investigating authority.



Education

MoE ready to receive over 2 million students for new school year

The Ministry of Education of the Government of National Unity announced on Thursday its readiness to receive more than 2 million and 300 thousand male and female students for the new school year 2024-2025 immediately after the end of the Holy Birthday of the Prophet and Martyr's Day holiday. The ministry renewed in a post on the government's Facebook page the granting of discretionary authority to education supervisors in municipalities affected by weather fluctuations to postpone the start of school until educational institutions are ready in coordination with municipal councils, and the entities occupying educational institutions in order to prepare them to receive students. Minister of Education of the Govern-

ment of National Unity, Musa Al-Maqrif, announced that studies will start on time next Tuesday, September 17, after the holidays of the Prophet's birthday and Martyr's Day. Al-Maqrif confirmed, in a statement posted on the ministry's Facebook page, that the Ministry of Education has provided textbooks and supplies for educational institutions necessary for the start of the school year. The new school year 2024-2025 was scheduled to start at the beginning of this month, but the Ministry of Education announced its postponement for two weeks, due to a number of educational institutions in a number of municipalities undergoing light and comprehensive maintenance.



Sports

Libya loses second AFCON 2025 qualifier

The Libyan national football team lost its second match in the qualifiers for the 2025 African Cup of Nations (AFCON) against Benin 1-2 on Tuesday at Felix Stadium in Ivory Coast. Libya took the lead through with a goal by Faisal Al-Badri from a penalty kick at the sixth minute of the match, ending the first half 1-0. In the second half, at the 50th minute, Benin leveled the score and at the 59th minute, Benin scored the winning goal from a penalty kick. With the results of the second round of Group Four, the Nigerian team is at the top of the standings with four points, followed by Benin in second place with 3 points, then Rwanda with two points, and Libya at the bottom of the group with a single point.

Opinions

The almost impossible mission of DiCarlo in Libya

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



Against the backdrop of the Central Bank crisis, oil production and exports halt, and failure of the parties to the crisis to reach an acceptable settlement, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, visited Libya and held talks with the parties in power in the east and west, as she was trying to determine degree of maturity of conditions for holding a new political dialogue, and to provide the necessary support to the Acting Envoy, Stephanie Koury.

It is not expected that this visit by a high-ranking UN official will open a new horizon for a political solution that will last for even a few years in Libya, similar to the first political agreement in Skhirat and then the second in Tunis and Geneva, because the international situation has changed in light of the direct and indirect confrontations today between the great powers, in Ukraine, Gaza, the Gulf and the South China Sea.

In order for initiatives to be put forward and negotiated to reach a formula that satisfies all parties, international and regional actors in the crisis, there must be a minimum level of consensus between these great powers, which have the decision-making power through the Security Council. The beginning is to appoint a new UN envoy who is acceptable to all and has full powers to activate the UN role in Libya. Through this assignment, he works to bring all parties to the negotiating table, and whoever hesitates or is stubborn is bypassed, or pushed to participate through pressure from his regional or international ally.

Western ambassadors are showing interaction and activity with the Central Bank crisis, in order to reach a quick solution that mitigates the serious repercussions. If the new administration that the international financial system will deal with is not determined, and the bank's communication channels with correspond-

ent banks and the SWIFT system are closed, and restrictions are placed on the supply of major currencies to the bank, and international banks stop accepting transfers from the Central Bank, the crisis will escalate financially and economically, and people's suffering will increase with rising prices and banks running out of liquid cash. Then this high level of crisis may lead to the outbreak of another war, and irregular migration rates will rise again. Therefore, Western countries are working to avoid this scenario by pushing the parties to the conflict to reach an appropriate settlement that restores the confidence of international partners in the bank, lifts the force majeure from the oil sector, and returns to the state of relative calm that prevailed before the outbreak of the bank crisis. They have many fires in more than one place, and the last thing they want is another fire to break out in their neighborhood.

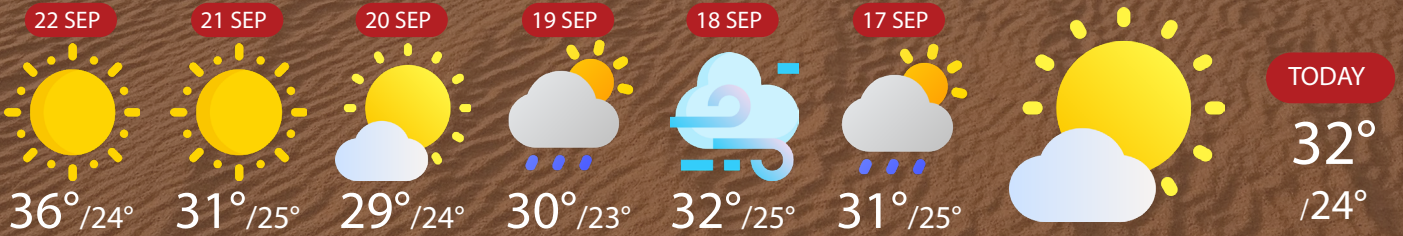
The Central Bank crisis is perhaps the most serious challenge in the Libyan crisis, because its impact is direct and immediate on the country's economy and finances, unlike the political dialogue, the elections file, and the unification of executive authority. These issues can be postponed until the right time comes to implement them. They are a real test of the UN mission's ability to facilitate a solution through an agreement that ends the legitimacy crisis of the governor and the board of directors, and then look at the extent to which the de facto authorities respond to the minimum level of consensus, to curb this recklessness in clinging to power, stop the escalation and intransigence of positions, and restore a state of relative calm. As for contemplating the convening of a comprehensive dialogue in which everyone participates to save themselves before even saving the country, under the auspices of the United Nations and the support of the international community, it is a wish that is difficult to achieve at the present time, so DiCarlo's mission seems almost impossible.

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

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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