

Politics



US Chargé d'Affaires reviews CBL crisis with delegation from GNU

US Chargé d'Affaires, Jeremy Berndt met with Adel Juma, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, and Ibrahim Dabaiba, Advisor to the Prime Minister, at his residence in Tunis on Wednesday.

"We discussed the ongoing crisis regarding the Central Bank of Libya and the urgent need for a consensus-based resolution through UNSMIL's mediation, as well as the legitimate concerns of many Libyans about oil field shutdowns that affect resources belonging to the whole Libyan people," Berndt said in an X post on US embassy's account.

The embassy added that the technocratic integrity, credibility, and legitimacy of key economic institutions is essential to Libya's prosperity and stability.

"For long-term stability and development, stakeholders must also agree on transparent and accountable distribution of oil revenues to benefit all parts of Libya." It added.

Berndt said he had appreciated the opportunity to exchange views on ways to strengthen the partnership between Libya and the United States during the meeting.

Politics



Al-Hadad emphasizes administrative reform

The Libyan Chief of Staff, General Muhammad al-Hadad, held a meeting on Wednesday with senior military officials to discuss administrative reforms within the military institution.

The meeting, which was attended by the Chief of Staff's deputies, military region commanders, and other key personnel, focused on identifying challenges and developing solutions to improve administrative efficiency.

General al-Hadad highlighted the importance of following specific procedures and improving administrative practices to ensure the military's ability to carry out its duties effectively. He emphasized the need for a more streamlined and efficient administrative system to support the military's operational capabilities.

Politics



US Envoy Norland holds talks with Egyptian officials on Libya's political process

US Special Envoy to Libya, Richard Norland, has engaged in discussions with key Egyptian officials to boost the political process in Libya.

In a statement on the US Embassy's social media platform "X," Norland said he held "an excellent and comprehensive discussion" with Karim Darwish, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in Egypt's Parliament, to deepen US-Egypt cooperation on Libya.

The talks focused on joint efforts to promote stability and progress in the Libyan political landscape. Earlier, Norland met with Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab League, Hossam Zaki, reaffirming the shared commitment between the US and the Arab League to Libya's unity, sovereignty, and stability at a crucial time for the country.



Politics

Child died drowning in floodshit municipality of Al-Barakit

The head of the Crisis Management Committee in the municipality of Al-Barakit, Jibril Ali, has announced the death of the child, Saif Abdul Karim, 13 years old, drowning in floods. Ali added that the rapid response teams, represented by the ambulance and emergency services, the central support forces, and the Red Crescent teams, recovered the body and transferred it to the Health Center, to take the necessary legal measures.



Politics

Ministry of Transport cancels contract with Italian company implementing Tripoli Airport project

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport in the Government of National Unity, Wissam Al-Idrissi, has announced the cancellation of the contract with the Italian company implementing Tripoli International Airport project, due to its "lack of commitment." The Tripoli International Airport project will be done by another company,

with a possible delay of two or three months from the dates announced by the Prime Minister, according to Al-Idrissi. The Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah said during a speech on the occasion of the opening of a new passenger terminal at Mitiga Airport, "work at the Tripoli International Airport will be completed by the end of 2025."



Politics

Italy's Interior Minister announces Libya's participation in G7 ministerial meeting

Italian Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi has confirmed that a G7 ministerial meeting will be held under the presidency of Italy and will include ministers from Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Ivory Coast. In a statement to the Italian news agency AKI, Piantedosi explained that the meeting will be held in two weeks and will provide an opportunity to

exchange Italian experiences and expertise in addressing immigration issues with his counterparts from the G7 countries, in addition to the ministers of the four countries that will participate. The meeting will seek to coordinate efforts among participating countries in order to develop effective strategies to confront illegal immigration.



Politics

Tripoli Criminal Court ruled to imprison former ambassadors of Libyan mission in Ukraine

The Tripoli Criminal Court has ruled to imprison three ambassadors, three health affairs officials, and cultural attachés at the Libyan mission to Ukraine. The Public Prosecutor's Office stated that the penalties include imprisonment for a period of eight years, a fine estimated at 13,000 dinars, and deprivation of their civil rights for the period of the sentence, and for a period of one year following its implementation.



Economy

CBL denies “rumors” about financial data, says it’s committed to transparency

The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) has denied what it describes as misleading news and rumors that are spread about the financial statements published by the CBL recently.

It explained in a statement on its official Facebook page that what it published regarding the public revenue and expenditure data comes within its full commitment to transparency and all regulatory legislation. It confirmed that it had sufficient resources to end the public debt, noting that the previous administration did not disclose those resources.

The statement also confirmed that all accounts, including tax fees and reserves,

remain as they are in the records, and no accounting restrictions had been taken regarding them, as well as no balances had been transferred from the CBL, calling on the regulatory authorities to review the records and systems to verify this information.

The statement called on the media to show a sense of responsibility and not to publish misleading news, stressing the need to carefully investigate information from its primary source through the CBL’s official platforms.

The statement concluded with a call to keep the monetary institution away from any political conflicts, to be an um-

rella that brings together all Libyans and works professionally in accordance with the Banking Law and its amendments.

The dismissed governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, had issued a statement two days ago in which he confirmed that ending the public debt would not be done with the stroke of a pen, and that it is the responsibility of the executive and legislative authorities according to specific procedures, considering what was stated in the statement of the CBL’s management assigned by the Presidential Council to be misleading the public opinion.



Economy

Minister of Finance, UNDP discusses cooperation in completing public financial reform project

The Minister of Finance of the Government of National Unity (GNU), Khalid Al-Mabrouk, discussed with the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Libya, Sophie Kemkhadze, enhancing cooperation between the two sides to complete the public finance reform project and the shift toward financial digitization in Libya.

Al-Mabrouk received Kemkhadze and her accompanying delegation at the Ministry of Finance in Tripoli on Tuesday, in the presence of the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions and Technical Cooperation at the Ministry.

The Ministry of Finance said on its Facebook page that the meeting discussed several topics, especially enhancing aspects of fruitful and constructive cooperation in medium-term and short-term financial planning to contribute to achieving sustainable development in all parts of the country.

Al-Mabrouk reviewed the role of the Ministry of Finance in achieving the goals of sustainable development, as well as the challenges facing the ministry in providing all financial services to entities funded by the public treasury in the easiest ways and within the timetable prepared by the ministry, including disbursing sal-

aries of government sector employees and preparing a proposal for the draft budget of the state.

He called for intensifying meetings between the two sides in order to enhance joint cooperation to achieve the sustainable development goals, while the UNDP representative confirmed the program’s readiness to harness all capabilities and solve the problems and obstacles that hinder the achievement of the sustainable development goals in Libya in accordance with the aspirations, hopes and ambitions of the Libyan people.



Economy

Ministry of Economy reviews investment in Libya with representatives of Chinese companies

The Ministry of Economy and Trade of the Government of National Unity discussed, on Monday, with representatives of 18 Chinese companies enhancing economic, investment and technological cooperation, in addition to reviewing the advantages and incentives granted to investors.

This came during a meeting of the Advisor to the Minister of Economy and Trade, Shather Al-Sayed, with the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Chamber of Commerce and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade of Henan Province, and members of its Board of Directors, in the presence of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Libyan-Chinese Joint Chamber, Nayeem Abu Abdullah, and the Director of the Department of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation at the Ministry, Essam Al-Malhuf.

More than 18 Chinese joint-stock and holding companies from the largest companies listed in the Henan International Chamber of Commerce and the Council participated in the meeting, and they have various activities working in various fields inside and outside China.

The companies participating in the meeting work in the manufacture of heat-resistant building materials such as glass, bricks, in addition to the Zhenjin Holding Company, companies building silos for grain storage, oil processing, transportation systems, companies manufacturing smart equipment, communications, various agricultural machinery, international commercial supply chains, energy efficiency technology, food industries and textile.

The meeting touched on the investment opportunities available in Libya, especially those related to foreign participa-

tion, encouraging the private sector in both countries, by establishing partnerships to localize industries, knowledge and modern technology, creating jobs for young people, and achieving transit trade, especially after raising the level of relations between Libya and China to strategic partnership.

Shather Al-Sayed stressed the ministry's keenness to provide the necessary facilities for Chinese companies, and provide an appropriate work environment to enhance economic and trade cooperation, in addition to implementing investment projects and entering the Libyan market in cooperation with the local private sector.

She also referred to the ministry's plan to target African markets with the aim of activating transit trade, noting the importance of Libya's geographical location, which makes it a major gateway to Africa and Europe at the lowest costs.



Economy

Libya's Minister of Economy reviews strengthening cooperation with Japan

The Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Huweij, discussed with the Japanese ambassador to Libya, Shimura Izuru, economic relations between the two countries in all fields. During a meeting on Tuesday in Tripoli, the two sides also discussed enhancing trade and economic cooperation and ways to open new horizons for developing bilateral relations in the fields of clean energy, industrial and free zones,

as well as the possibility of opening a branch of the Libyan-Japanese Center for Training and Consulting Agency in Libya. They agreed to prepare a memorandum of understanding to protect the rights of investors in the two countries, as Al-Huweij stressed that the ministry would provide all necessary facilities for Japanese companies and investors to work in various regions of Libya.

The Japanese ambassador expressed his country's desire to enhance economic and trade cooperation and increase trade exchange between business owners in the two countries, while the two sides agreed to hold a Libyan-Japanese forum in Tripoli in 2025, with the participation of the private sector from both countries.

Health



Ministry of Health investigates importation of "low-quality cancer medicine"

The Ministry of Health of the Government of National Unity announced its intention to form a multidisciplinary investigation committee to follow up on the source of the complaint related to (the supply of low-quality cancer drugs) and to limit the medicine used to the special batch numbers.

This came after the Scientific Committee of the Misurata Oncology Institute rejected drugs that were supplied from (India, Turkey, Cyprus, Malta) on the pretext that they were unknown to them and that some patients had developed their medical condition after using them previously through private companies, in addition to the appearance of side effects "stronger than before", advising to supply medicine from internationally known companies. In response to the committee's statement, the Ministry of Health expressed its surprise at "the Scientific Committee's failure to follow the correct scientific and professional methods when notifying the Pharmacovigilance Department through the reporting forms prepared for this purpose."

The Ministry denied receiving any letters from the National Authority for the Treatment of Tumors, stating that the disease had developed in some patients as a result of their use of certain types of medicine or the appearance of any side effects in patients as a result of using certain types of medicine. "A detailed report must be submitted that includes previous and current symptoms to be compared, otherwise this matter can only be understood as an irresponsible media escalation that is suspected of causing chaos and casting doubt on public institutions." It said. Regarding the fact that they are "unknown companies," the ministry responded that "some of the companies mentioned in the letter have been registered with the Ministry of Health for more than 10 years (since 2014) and these companies are among the companies that Libya has relied on to purchase medicine for patients with (AIDS and hepatitis) for years." The ministry indicated that "this medicine was not tested by patients in private sector, as the companies denied to the ministry that they had supplied any quantity of medicine to the private sector in Libya."

Health



US medical team performs pediatric heart surgeries in Benghazi

A medical team from the US Novak Foundation has performed heart surgeries on children at the Benghazi Medical Centre. The initiative was part of the team's specialized workshops at the centre, focusing on pediatric open-heart surgeries and improving methods of care and treatment for children.

The Benghazi Medical Centre announced on Tuesday the resumption of the pediatric heart surgery workshop, supervised by the Medical Supply Department for medical and therapeutic services.

Health



National Cancer Institute flags suspicious cancer drugs, halts distribution

The National Cancer Institute in Misurata has raised alarms over the importation of suspicious and unverified cancer treatments, halting their distribution due to safety concerns. A report from the institute revealed that the drugs, sourced from companies in India, Cyprus, Turkey, and Malta, were of questionable quality and unknown origins. According to

the institute's scientific committee, these medications triggered adverse reactions, including allergic responses and worsening symptoms, among cancer patients. The committee has strongly recommended that Libya source cancer treatments from globally recognized pharmaceutical companies to ensure the safety and effectiveness of patient care.

Health



Corneal Transplant Authority intends to perform 800 operations

The Corneal Transplant Authority, in cooperation with the Tripoli Eye Hospital, has begun preparing for the new cases that need a complete and stratified corneal transplant.

The Eye Hospital in Tripoli stated that the goal of the Authority, which is the only institution accredited in this field within Libya, is to perform 800 operations, after completing 800 successful operations since the Authority was activated last year after a 10-year hiatus.

Sports



Libya's Al-Hilal wins and Al-Ahly Tripoli draws in round of 32 matches of CAF Confederation Cup

Al-Hilal won against Al-Masry of Port Said 3-2 on Sunday evening at the Martyrs of Benina Stadium in Benghazi, in the first leg of the 32nd round of the CAF Confederation Cup. The visiting team took the lead in the last minute of the first half. In the second half, Al-Hilal scored the equalizer and after the goal, Al-Masry intensified its attempts to score the second goal, which was achieved at the 63rd minute. Al-Hilal pushed forward in search of the equalizer again, and scored the sec-

ond goal at the 67th minute, returning the match to the starting point. In the 80th minute, Al-Hilal managed to score the third goal to win the match. In another match held at Tripoli International Stadium for the same competition, Al-Ahly Tripoli played a goalless draw with its guest, Tanzanian team Simba. Al-Ahly Tripoli played a high-level match, but it ended in a goalless draw, so it now aspires to make up for it in next Sunday's match, to ensure qualification to the group stage.

Libya beats New Zealand in opening match of FIFA Futsal World Cup

Libyan national futsal team beat New Zealand on Sunday 3-0 in the opening match of the FIFA Futsal World Cup in Uzbekistan. The goals for Libya were scored by Mohammed Khamis, Mohammed Zereug, and Firas Abu Khashim, while Jordan scored for New Zealand in the last minute of the match.

The Libyan team is participating in the tournament for the third time in its history, and Sunday's victory is its first. The team is playing in this edition in Group Four with Spain, Kazakhstan and New Zealand. It will play its second match against Kazakhstan next Wednesday.

Sports



Education



New academic year 2024-2025 started on Tuesday

The new academic year 2024-2025 for the basic and secondary education levels began on Tuesday, which witnessed the enrollment of 236,098 students in the first grade of basic education. In a previous statement, the Ministry renewed the granting of discretionary authority to education monitoring offices in mu-

nicipalities affected by weather fluctuations to postpone the start of school until ensuring the readiness of educational institutions. The start of the new academic year was postponed by two weeks, due to the maintenance of educational institutions in a number of municipalities.

Opinions

NOC's Gas Failures Push Libya Toward Blackouts: Where Is Farhat Bengdara?

By Mohamed Abaid, Independent Libyan Analyst



Libya's already fragile electricity infrastructure is once again under threat, as the National Oil Corporation (NOC) continues to fail in providing the General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) with the necessary natural gas to power the country's major stations. The consequences are dire: power stations are unable to meet the nation's electricity needs, pushing Libya towards an inevitable series of blackouts that could cripple essential services.

Meanwhile, as the crisis deepens in Tripoli, NOC Chairman Farhat Bengdara has reportedly chosen to vacation in Egypt, seemingly oblivious to the escalating problems at home. This level of indifference would be shocking if it wasn't so sadly predictable from a corporation that has been mired in corruption and inefficiency for years.

Power Plants Running on Empty: A Crisis of Supply

GECOL has made it clear that the shortfall in natural gas from the NOC is the single biggest factor behind the looming power outages. According to recent reports, major power stations like Zawia, Khoms, and Benghazi North are receiving only a fraction of the gas they need to keep the lights on for millions of Libyans.

For example, the Zawia Steam Station requires 2,500 million cubic feet of gas daily but has only been supplied with a meager 130.1 million cubic feet. This pattern is repeated at station after station, with GECOL's demands for fuel being consistently ignored by the NOC. It's not just an energy problem; it's a failure that jeopardizes hospitals, schools, businesses, and even access to clean water for ordinary citizens.

To put it simply, a power plant without fuel is like a car without gas – no matter how advanced or well-maintained it is, you cannot expect it to operate if it doesn't have the fuel it needs to run. And just as a car stuck on the side of the road is useless, a power station with no natural gas supply leaves entire cities in the dark.

Mismanagement and Corruption: The NOC's Longstanding Failures

The failures of the NOC aren't new. They are part of a much larger pattern of corruption and mismanagement that has plagued Libya's oil and gas sector for years. Despite being allocated vast sums of money, the NOC has repeatedly failed to deliver the natural gas needed to power the nation's electricity grid. Where is the gas going? That's the question everyone is asking, but NOC leadership has yet to offer a clear answer.

According to an internal report from 2022-2024, NOC's failure to supply natural gas to GECOL has been an ongoing issue. The corporation's budget, despite exceeding LYD 56.9 billion in recent years, hasn't translated into the needed infrastructure or improved supply chains. Instead, it has seemingly evaporated into thin air, much like Libya's electricity, leaving both GECOL and the Libyan people to suffer the consequences.

Worse still, as power shortages and blackouts loom, NOC Chairman Farhat Bengdara is reportedly on vacation, living it up in Egypt while the people of Tripoli brace for more electricity disruptions. This level of disconnect from the realities on the ground would be comical if it wasn't so tragic.

Gas Shortages: What It Means for Libya

The impact of these gas shortages is devastating. Not only does it threaten to plunge Libya into darkness, but it also cripples essential services that rely on electricity to function. Hospitals cannot run critical equipment, businesses cannot operate efficiently, and people's daily lives are disrupted by the unpredictability of power availability. This is all happening as Bengdara enjoys a vacation abroad, apparently unconcerned with the unfolding crisis.

Let's be clear – GECOL has made every effort to work with the NOC to ensure that natural gas supplies are delivered. They've sent request after request, only to receive token amounts of fuel that barely make a dent in the demand. For NOC to consistently ignore these requests, knowing full well the consequences, is nothing short of gross negligence.

The Clock is Ticking

As Libya's fuel crisis worsens and blackouts become inevitable, the NOC must be held accountable for its failures. The consequences of inaction will affect every facet of life in Libya, from economic growth to basic human services. It's time for the NOC to get its act together, and it's time for Chairman Farhat Bengdara to come back from vacation and do his job.

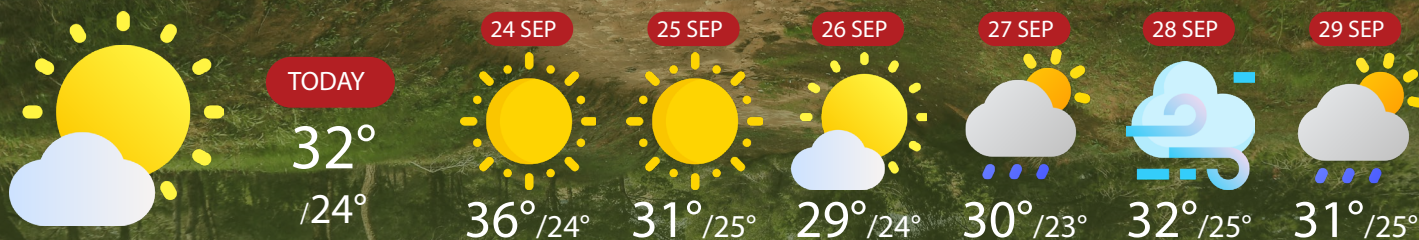
Without immediate action, Libya risks descending into chaos, and all the while, NOC leadership remains indifferent.

If the NOC can't do its job, maybe it's time for a leadership change – one that prioritizes the needs of the people over luxurious vacations.

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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