



Politics

Libya condemns attack on Turkey's TUSAS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Government of National Unity has condemned, in the strongest terms, the terrorist attack that targeted the Turkish aerospace and defense company TUSAS.

In a statement on Wednesday, the ministry expressed its deep solidarity with the Turkish government and people, saying "the attack that poses a serious threat to regional and international security and stability."

"Targeting vital facilities and strategic industries represents a dangerous escalation that only serves parties seeking to destabilize global security and peace." Read the statement.

The ministry called for intensifying in-

ternational efforts to combat terrorism and prosecute those responsible for these heinous crimes, and to firmly confront everything that would undermine the stability of countries.

It also renewed Libya's commitment to supporting international cooperation in confronting security challenges, and stressed the importance of protecting vital infrastructure and defense and space industries, as a fundamental pillar of national and international security.

Earlier today, Attackers set off explosives and opened fire at state-run aerospace and defense company TUSAS, killing five people and wounding more than a dozen, according to the Turkish interior ministry.



Politics

PC prepares for national referendum

President Mohammed Al-Menfi of Libya's Presidential Council held discussions in Tripoli with the Minister of State for Communication and Political Affairs, Walid Al-Lafi, on Tuesday, focusing on the upcoming national referendum.

The talks covered efforts to ensure transparency, integrity, and broad participation by the Libyan public.

Al-Lafi briefed the council on preparations aimed at boosting public engagement, ensuring that the necessary mechanisms are in place for smooth and fair polling.

The meeting also highlighted plans for independent monitoring by local and international civil organizations, aiming to provide confidence in the transparency of the process.



Politics

New UN envoy to Libya must be quickly appointed, Menfi tells Guterres

The Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, called on the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, to expedite the appointment of a permanent UN envoy to Libya.

Menfi also demanded in a post on his account on X platform that this appointment be accompanied by the Security Council's extension of the UN Support Mission in Libya's work for a period sufficient to reach the holding of national elections that had been postponed several times indefinitely.

He also pointed out that the continuation of unilateral decisions without trying to address them as a package through the dialogue of the parties led by the UN Support Mission in Libya, encourages institutions to continue their unilateral approach.



Politics

Tripoli, Ankara ink MoU in law enforcement and combating crime

The Acting Minister of Interior of the Government of National Unity, Emad Al-Trabelsi, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with his Turkish counterpart, Ali Yerlikaya, on the sidelines of the Saha Expo 2024 in Istanbul.

According to the Government of National Unity, the MoU aims to consolidate security relations and enhance the exchange of expertise in the fields of law enforcement and combating crime.

The two sides discussed facilitating visa procedures for Libyan patients and students, and a number of issues of common interest, stressing the importance of developing security cooperation to ensure the protection

of joint interests as well as to enhance regional stability. They also discussed ways of cooperation in the fields of security training and qualification as well as the exchange of information to combat terrorist threats and organized crime.

In a separate meeting, Al-Trabelsi met with the Turkish Minister of Industry and Technology, Mehmet Fatih Kacir. They reviewed prospects for joint cooperation, with a focus on benefiting from Turkish expertise to support the Ministry of Interior in the fields of technology, and developing work in various sectors of the ministry, which would contribute to improving performance and increasing efficiency.



Politics

PM Dbeibah vows to prevent return of military rule

Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah has vowed not to allow a return to military or autocratic rule in the country.

Speaking at the liberation anniversary event in Misrata, Dbeibah stated that he would not permit those who lost legitimacy ten years ago to impose their conditions on the Libyan people.

He emphasized that the upcoming period requires determination and strength to counter any efforts aimed at undermining Libya's pursuit of freedom and stability.

The PM also expressed his dedication to taking decisive measures towards facilitating elections and pledged to remain steadfast until the aspirations of the Libyan people for a free and stable state are realized.

The speech took place on Wednesday, October 23, marking the 13th anniversary of Libya's liberation from the 42-year rule of Muammar Gaddafi.



Politics

Haftar reviews with Italian ambassador political developments in Libya

Khalifa Haftar reviewed with the Italian Ambassador to Libya, Gianluca Alberini, the political developments in Libya, in the city of Benghazi, on Tuesday.

Haftar's media office said that the latter's meeting with the Italian ambassador during which stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between the two countries in various fields, in order to achieve common interests and enhance stability in the region.

On Monday, Haftar met with the French Ambassador to Libya, Mostafa Mihraraj, who was briefed on the results of the meeting of the Joint Military Commission 5+5 and the Security Working Group of the Berlin Process, which was held in the city of Sirte last Thursday.



Economy

Haftar’s fund inks Turkish deals for Benghazi, Suluq

Belkacem Khalifa Haftar, the Director of the Libyan Development and Reconstruction Fund, signed new contracts on Wednesday with Turkish company “Selahattaroğlu” to execute several projects in the cities of Benghazi and Suluq.

According to a statement on the fund’s Facebook page, the projects include the development of the Juliana Lake area and the surrounding roads, along with the construction of five new bridges in Benghazi. In Suluq, the contract covers the construction and development of integrated infrastructure for the city. The exact value of the contracts was not disclosed.

Earlier, on Sunday, Belkacem signed agreements with Egyptian companies “Wadi Al-Nile” and “NEOM” for various projects, including the Tobruk-Emssaad road and the completion of the Derna Corniche.

Economy

Governor of Central Bank of Libya holds extensive talks in Washington DC



The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Naji Issa, discussed in separate meetings the latest developments in the CBL with the Deputy Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund, Kenji Okamura, the Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund, Jihad Azour, and the Turkish Minister of Finance, Mehmet Şimşek.

These meetings came on the sidelines of

Issa’s attendance at the annual meetings in Washington DC, where he participated in the meeting of the Governors of the African Group at the International Monetary Fund with the Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, in the presence of the Governors of African Central Banks.

According to the CBL, the Governor presented his vision for the next stage, and the most important priorities and prob-

lems that he wanted to solve in the short term, especially liquidity, exchange rate stability, regulation of the foreign exchange market, and expansion of electronic payment services.

Issa also stressed that the next stage would require developing a medium-term economic vision in which all economic policies are in harmony with the aim of maintaining financial stability and sustainability.

Economy

Libya participates with two research papers in MOC Egypt

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has participated with two research papers in the Mediterranean Conference MOC 2024, which was held in the Egyptian city of Alexandria on Tuesday.

The first paper discussed permeability modeling using various methods such as electrical charges and machine learning algorithms, while the second paper focused on integrating well pressure data and fluid characterization with the aim of improving reservoir models and production strategies.



Economy

Egyptian investors propose building mega industrial zone in Benghazi

The Head of the Arab Cooperation Committee at the Union of Egyptian Industries, Mohammed Al-Bahi, said a number of Egyptian investors submitted a proposal to the Libyan government a few days ago to establish a mega industrial zone in Benghazi, adding that the proposal was accepted by the Libyan side, while the Union of Egyptian Industries will begin taking a set of measures to transform the proposal into an official request to be submitted to the Libyan

government. Al-Bahi indicated in media statements that the Union of Egyptian Industries would address its affiliated industrial chambers to collect requests from Egyptian investors wishing to establish factories within the anticipated industrial zone, the areas to be allocated, and the size of the allocated investments, in preparation for a complete vision for the industrial zone to be presented to the Libyan side to make a decision.

He expected the implementation steps for the industrial zone to begin in 2025, especially with the interest of the two countries in enhancing joint investments and increasing trade exchange. He added that the upcoming period will witness the participation of a large number of Egyptian companies in reconstruction projects in Libya, in addition to working to achieve a kind of industrial and commercial integration between investors in the two countries.



Economy

US welcomes appointment of CBL Board of Directors

The United States (US) welcomed the appointment of a new Board of Directors for the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), saying that it was a critical step toward strengthening the CBL's governance and credibility in the eyes of the international financial community.

The US Embassy in Libya issued a statement saying that the independence and technocratic integrity of the Central Bank are vital to achieving stability and prosperity in Libya. It stressed the need not to politicize or subject key technocratic institutions in Libya to pressure.

The US Embassy's statement also mentioned that Washington commended the efforts of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya in helping the country make progress in this area.



Economy

Arabian Gulf Oil Company connects two wells at Nafoura field with production capacity 3,500 bpd

The Arabian Gulf Oil Company has completed the mechanical connection work for the two wells K-7 and K-9 in the K area of the Nafoura field with a production capacity 3,500 barrels per day (bpd).

The National Oil Corporation explained, in a post on its Facebook page, the company's teams are continuing the mechanical connection work to complete the connection of 11 additional wells distributed over four contracts, to raise the productive capacity of the Nafoura field and improve operational efficiency.



Health

Libyan-Japanese discussions to enhance cooperation in health field

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Tawfiq Al-Darsi, has discussed with the Japanese Ambassador to Libya, Shimura Izuru, cooperation in the field of scientific research, reviewing establishment of a center specialized in scientific research, to study the genetic and epigenetic factors of disease causes. According to the Ministry of Health, both sides agreed to prepare a joint memorandum

of understanding in the fields of training and equipment maintenance, exchange of experiences and knowledge, and transfer of technology, while programming mutual visits for doctors from the two countries. The meeting also discussed enhancing the prospects for cooperation with international Japanese pharmaceutical companies.



Health

Tourist Police complete first aid training in preparation for Hun Festival

The Tourist Police's Training Department, in collaboration with the Red Crescent's First Aid department, has concluded a three-day intensive first aid course in Hun, Jufra.

The training, aimed at equipping officers with essential skills to respond to emergencies, comes as part of preparations for the upcoming International Autumn Tourism Festival in Hun and the Te Te Desert Rally in Waddan.

The course involved both practical and theoretical sessions, covering emergency scenarios like fractures, heart attacks, and sudden high blood pressure. Officers were trained in the administration of first aid and the safe transport of individuals to healthcare facilities.



Education

Libya, Tunisia strengthen academic ties with new cooperation agreement

The Libyan Academy of Graduate Studies in Tripoli has signed an agreement with the University of Sfax in Tunisia aimed at enhancing scientific cooperation between the two institutions.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed by Ramadan Al-Madani, President of the Libyan Academy, and Ahmed Haj Qassem, President of the University of Sfax, focused on joint scientific research projects, co-hosting academic conferences, and co-supervision of postgraduate research.

It also outlines plans for student and researcher exchanges, further development of postgraduate programs, and enhanced access to research facilities. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Haj Qassem emphasized the importance of international collaboration in advancing education and research, noting that the University of Sfax is committed to working with global partners.

For his part, Al-Madani provided a brief overview of the Libyan Academy of Graduate Studies, founded in 1988, highlighting its specialized postgraduate programs and facilities. He also praised the strong relationship between the two neighbouring countries.





Education

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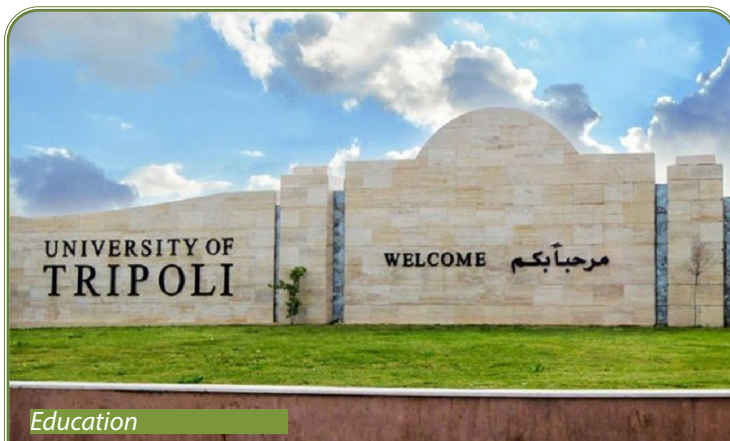
Libya to welcome Sudanese students and teachers amid ongoing conflict

Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah has pledged to support Sudanese citizens affected by the ongoing conflict, emphasizing Libya's commitment to help end the crisis.

During a meeting with Sudanese Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Mohammed Hassan Dahab, Dbeibah announced measures to facilitate the entry of Sudanese students and teachers into Libya's education system.

The PM directed the Ministries of Higher Education and Education to expedite procedures for enrolling Sudanese students in Libyan schools and universities. He also instructed the Ministry of Labour to grant work permits to Sudanese teachers, addressing gaps in Libya's educational workforce.

The Sudanese minister expressed gratitude for Libya's efforts, particularly in aiding Sudanese refugees arriving in Kufra, where support for health and education services is being enhanced.



Education

Sudanese students exempted from tuition fees at state educational institutions

The University of Tripoli has accepted all Sudanese students who submitted their applications to join the university and exempted them from tuition fees.

The Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, directed the Ministries of Education and Higher Education to facilitate the procedures for Sudanese students and receive them in educational institutions, after a meeting on Sunday with the Sudanese Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research.



Sports

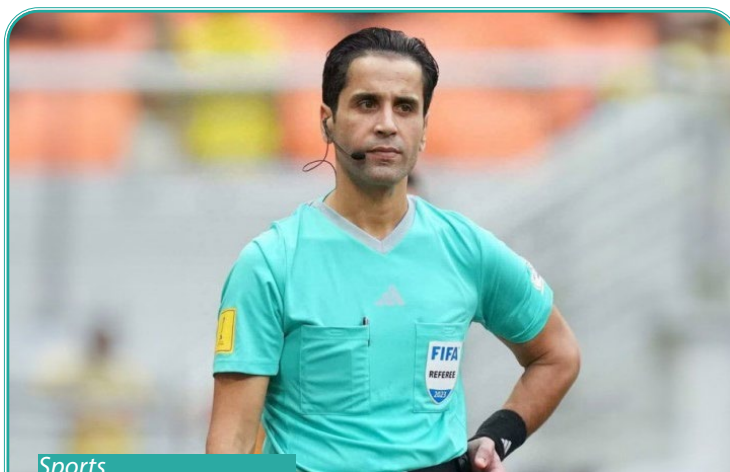
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Libya prepares to host Arab Mini Football Championship

The city of Derna is preparing to host the Arab Mini Football Championship for National Teams in February 2025.

The announcement came from the head of the Arab Minifootball Federation, Ahmed Samir, in a press conference on Saturday.

The championship will take place at the newly inaugurated international stadium.



Sports

FIFA selects a Libyan referee for Club World Cup

The International Federation of Football Association (FIFA) has selected Libyan international referee Moataz Al-Shalmani to manage the Club World Cup matches that will be held in the United States of America on June 15, 2025.

The list included 13 referees from the African continent, and FIFA will hold a meeting for them in Qatar between October 26 and 29.

The selection of international referee Moataz Al-Shalmani among the elite referees came after his remarkable performance in managing major international matches, the last of which was his management of the African Super Cup final that brought together neighbours Zamalek and Al-Ahly of Egypt in Saudi Arabia.

Opinions

Yes, Libya Does Matter

By Owen Kirby

– IRI's Regional Director for North Africa and Middle East



At the Red Castle in downtown Tripoli, one day this past Spring, I observed Libyan school students gaze up at a tall, iron clad replica of what is said to be (and contain the remains of) the mast of the USS Philadelphia, scuttled in the nearby harbor in 1804 by the U.S. naval hero Stephen Decatur.

Wherein American telling, Decatur led a dramatic rescue of the Philadelphia's captured crew before setting it ablaze, in the Libyan version of events the details likely take on a different hue. The incident over two hundred years ago was the beginning but not the end of American involvement in what was then the Barbary Coast.

Long-serving International Republican Institute (IRI) chairman Senator John McCain, who visited Libya a half dozen times before the U.S. Embassy was relocated in 2014 to neighboring Tunisia due to civil conflict, toured the Red Castle in December 2013 (his second visit to Libya that year). Two years after the killing of U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens in Benghazi, standing before the mast of the Philadelphia, McCain remained positive about the country, stating "[a]lthough these are difficult times, we are very optimistic about the future."

In 2016, with Libya split, both territorially and administratively, between Tripoli in the west and Benghazi in the east, McCain declared U.S. policy towards the country "an abject total disgraceful failure on the part of this administration." Passing away in 2018, McCain was arguably the last American political figure of any standing on either side of the aisle to champion the country and U.S. interest in its stabilization.

For McCain, an energetic supporter of democratic activists and freedom fighters across the globe, he saw the potential of Libya; not just a people unshackled from decades of an authoritarianism with a bizarre twist, but also a large country close to Europe with a rich history, a relatively small population, and the largest hydro-

carbon deposits on the continent. In the eyes of most Libya watchers, the country's future should have been bright, akin to that of the oil and gas producing states of the Persian Gulf, if only given the chance. In the aftermath of Amb. Stevens' killing, the overall U.S. approach, diplomatically and militarily, in Libya, however, has been what AFRICOM Commander Waldhauser described in a frank nomination back-and-forth with McCain in 2016 as an "economy of force mission." When asked what the Obama administration strategy was to confront the deteriorating situation in the country, including the presence of ISIS, Waldhauser answered, "I am not aware of any overall grand strategy at this point." Eight years and two U.S. administrations later, little has changed, at least in terms of American attention to a situation that should be uppermost in the ranks of U.S. strategic priorities in the region. On the ground, though, much has changed and not just in Libya. What had been a limited Russian footprint, in the guise of the Wagner Group, ostensibly to assist with de-mining in 2017 in the east, has since morphed into a Russian forward operations base, a few hundred miles from key NATO allies in southern Europe. Initially backed by the UAE, in 2019 Russia firmly entered the Libyan political fray with Wagner forces joining an eastern push against Tripoli. A late intervention in 2020 by Turkish forces blunted the advance, saving the internationally-recognized government.

Since a 2020 ceasefire brokered by both Russia and Turkey, things have settled into an uneasy stalemate between Tripoli and Benghazi. This has allowed Russia to refocus Wagner, now under the command of Russia's military intelligence (GRU), towards opportunities for self-aggrandizement further to the south. Restyled the Africa Corps, ex-Wagner forces, which include thousands of foreign mercenaries, are being bolstered by a recruitment drive for deployment throughout the con-

continent. The trail of havoc that has ensued, fueled by war profiteering (mining, oil, human trafficking et al) should be keeping the White House up at night.

From Mediterranean ports on the Syrian coast to safe harbors and airstrips in eastern Libya, Russia has developed a sophisticated pipeline, moving men and military material in one direction and pilfered African natural resources in the other. The implications for stability and U.S. national security interests across the continent are not insignificant. Since 2020, there have been at least five military coups in sub-Saharan Africa and civil war in Sudan is resulting in the worst humanitarian crisis of the 21st century. Lurking somewhere in the background has been the Africa Corps or whatever name it chooses to go by. Perhaps not a key instigator in all, Russia is present nonetheless, ready to avail itself of unfolding opportunities and riches, at the expense of retreating European and American interests.

While this has been occurring, the West seems stuck in some post-Arab Spring malaise or, where the U.S., specifically, is concerned, the lingering aftershock of Benghazi. Southern European nations, when looking south, seem solely focused these days on preventing illegal migration across the Mediterranean, so its diplomatic and assistance efforts are thus narrowly focused; but this overlooks Libya's continued deterioration as a nation state. For its part, the U.S. economy of force approach has ceded much of the necessary diplomatic lift to the Europeans, who have demonstrated little interest beyond the parochial, and to the UN, which, not surprisingly, lacks the necessary clout and leverage to effect positive change.

The U.S. Global Fragility Act, enacted in 2019, is intended to bring the full weight of U.S. military, diplomatic, and assistance efforts to bear on cases such as Libya, where the regional implications of instability are wide-ranging. But, apart from the recent appropriation of some funding



fa-like factions, meanwhile, have made an art out of manipulating public institutions like the Central Bank and the National Oil Co. as well as key assets such as oilfields to line their pockets, sowing bitter seeds among a public that can only look on as prospects diminish with each new headline or crisis.

This dynamic illustrates a peculiar form of helplessness that not only blesses the cannibalization of Libya but also amplifies the disenfranchisement of its citizens, setting an example the world over of the failures of the international community and its endless verbal diarrhea of statements,

press releases, declarations, and resolutions.

After all, as political actors deepen their grip, ordinary Libyans find themselves with ever less to lose, heightening the risk of popular backlash despite the prevalence of arms across Libya's sprawling black markets.

Recent clashes between rival militias in Tripoli and UNSMIL's concerns over threats of force tease how quickly the veneer of stability can easily and so swiftly shatter. The longer this state of inertia persists, the more likely Libyans are to take matters into their own hands. This is not a sustain-

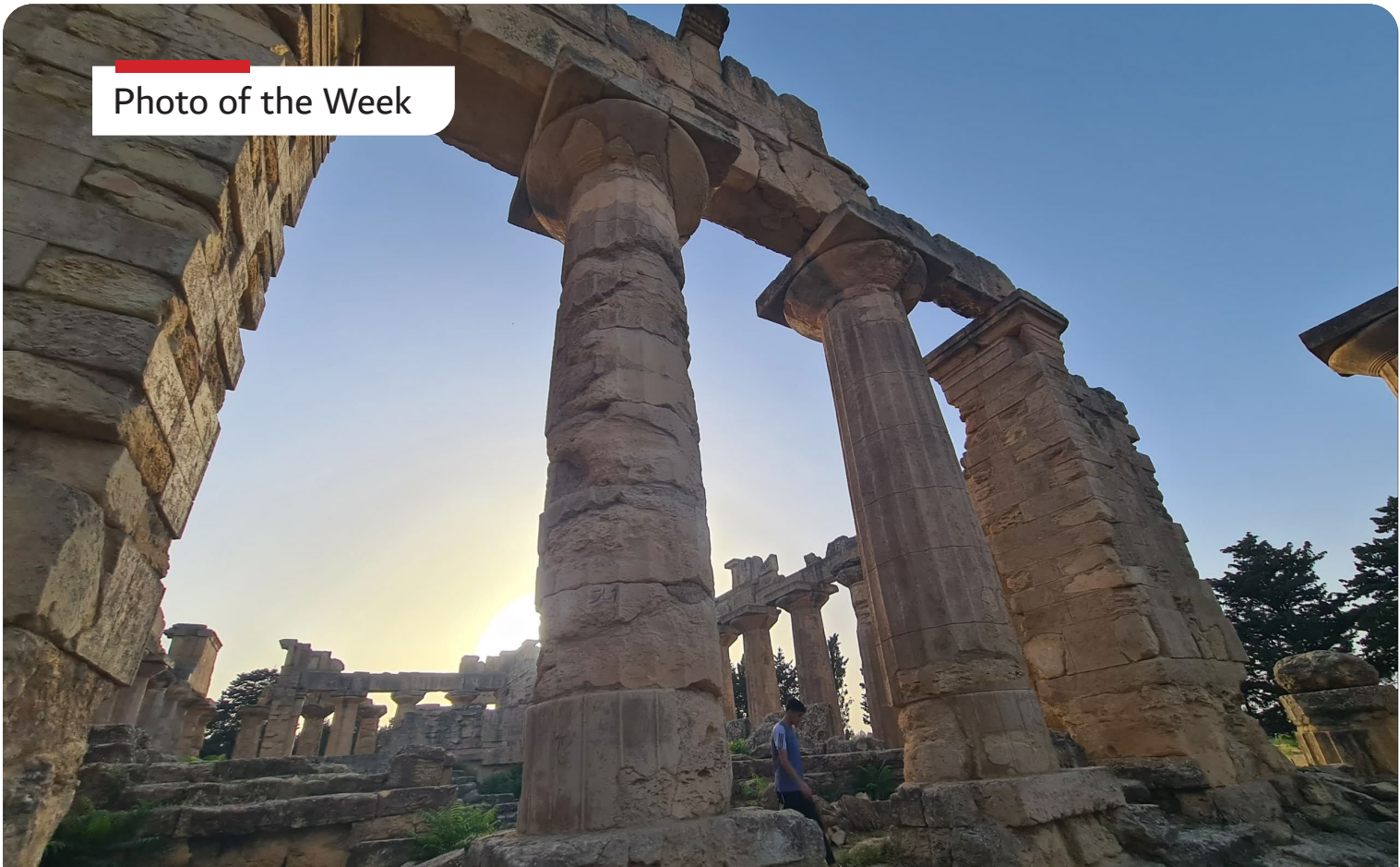
able model, nor should it be the legacy of international intervention in Libya.

The UN Security Council must confront a sobering truth if genuine progress is to be made: The cyclical renewal of mandates and surface-level agreements do little to address the root causes of Libya's woes and only chip away at what is left of UN credibility elsewhere. Without a decisive, coordinated, and genuine effort to implement lasting solutions, the cycle of dysfunction will continue — much to the detriment of Libyans and, ultimately, driving another nail in the already precarious state of global stability.

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

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Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast

