09.12.2024 - 02.12.2024 Week 202

Since 2014

Politics

OBSERVER

OG libyaobserver.ly

Nº201

Dbeibah denounces "conspiracy to disrupt referendum for constitution"



The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah stressed on Wednesday the necessity of reactivating the role of the Constitution Drafting Assembly, considering that completing the constitutional entitlement is the basis for Libya's stability and political future.

This came during Dabaiba's meeting with an unspecified number of members of the Constitution Drafting Assembly, where he denounced what he described as a "conspiracy to disrupt the referendum on the constitution" without clarifying the manifestations of this conspiracy or who is behind it, indicating that the obstruction represents targeting the will of the Libyan people.

"The people elected the members of the assembly directly and for a clear and specific purpose, which is to draft a constitution that expresses the aspirations of all Libyans," Dbeibah said, adding that any attempts to obstruct this path are a direct obstruction of the Libyan people's march toward building a state of law and institutions, and stressing the government's commitment to supporting the efforts of the assembly and assisting it in achieving what he described as "the important national goal."

Dbeibah insisted on the need to hold a referendum on the current draft constitution prepared by the assembly and issue fair laws to hold elections, while the House of Representatives demands the formation of a new unified government before going to the elections, as the assembly supports the Prime Minister's point of view and insists on holding a referendum on the draft constitution.

The Communications Committee assigned by the assembly to draft the constitution decided in mid-November to resort to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to prosecute those it described as the "de facto authorities" in Libya, accusing them of preventing a referendum on the draft constitution devised on July 29, 2017.

Politics

Report says Haftar's forces need permission from Russia to enter some military bases in Libya



The Telegraph said in a report that Russia had developed its military facilities and increased its weapons in three air bases in the country during 2024 according to analysis data from satellite images, adding: "Russian military aircraft continue to land and depart from Brak Al-Shati and Al-Jufra bases, indicating that supply deliveries are ongoing and that Russia had developed facilities at the Brak Al-Shati base and renovated an airstrip that enabled military aircraft to land." The Telegraph also confirms that Russia has subjected Al-Qardabiya base to extensive renovations of the runways and worked to fortify it as well as to strengthen the surrounding defenses, pointing out that the American Sentry Investigation Institute confirms that Haftar's forces need to request permission to access Russian bases on Libyan territory. Two weeks ago, Oil Price website said that Russia was working to strengthen its relations with Haftar to disrupt European

energy supplies and expand its geopolitical influence in North Africa.

The Telegraph has said that Moscow seeks to displace Western oil companies by exploiting Libya's huge oil reserves and increasing its military presence in key bases. It added that Libya's interest in joining the BRICS group and Russia's growing influence highlighted potential shifts in global alliances that could jeopardize Europe's energy supplies.

The website pointed out that Libya could supply Europe with huge amounts of oil and gas if a peace plan and a power-sharing agreement were reached between Haftar in the east and Dbeibah in the west, noting the possibility of Moscow expelling Western oil and gas operators and replacing them with its own companies if this does not happen. It also considered that if Moscow succeeded, it would not only be able to use Libya's energy resources, but also access precious minerals in the country and in sub-Saharan Africa.



ItaMilRadar: US conducts aerial surveillance over Libya

The Italian news site ItaMilRadar, which specializes in tracking military aircraft and ships, reported that an American "Northrop Grumman MQ-4C" aircraft carried out aerial surveillance operations over Libya. The aircraft focused on the eastern region, the port of Tobruk, which considered one of the options proposed as an alternative destination for the Russian fleet, in the event that it is forced to leave the Syrian port of Tartous, especially after the recent developments in Syria.

Libya wants to retrieve \$60 billion invested by Gaddafi in US Treasury Department

African Energy website revealed Monday that Libya had asked to retrieve from the US State and Treasury departments more than 60 billion dollars in Libyan assets, adding that Tripoli said the assets were secretly invested in US Treasury bonds by Muammar Gaddafi's regime.

A delegation headed by the Director General of the Libyan Asset Recovery and Management Office (LARMO) Mohammed Mansli is expected to meet with US officials this December to claim the assets, the report said, stressing that the existence of these assets was unknown until very recently, according to a source familiar with the claim who spoke to African Energy.

The website indicated that starting in the 1990s, the money was directed through a complex network to be secretly invested in US Treasury bonds, in defiance of the strict sanctions imposed by the US and other countries on Libya. It explained that hundreds of bonds were purchased - some of which had reached maturity and others were still valid - in a process that continued until just before the overthrow of Gaddafi's regime in 2011, while LARMO's investigations showed that the money was not returned to Libya. African Energy has pointed out that most of the assets, including the bank accounts into which the money from the expired bonds and coupon payments were paid, are in financial institutions based in the Midwest of the US, indicating that these deposits could constitute a large part of the capital requirements of some smaller banks. It also said that there was some concern in within LARMO that these institutions could resist handing over the money due to the potential instability this could cause to parts of the American financial system. The report also indicated that in most cases, it was not yet clear who owned the nominal ownership of the assets, and in one case, a company registered in the US owned by a now deceased Libyan national from Misrata had three bonds worth \$800 million, and the heirs of the original owner were cooperating with LARMO.

The report also said that there were bonds

that had been discovered by analyzing data extracted from computer floppy disks found in the home of Gaddafi's son-inlaw, the head of internal security, Abdullah Al-Senussi, immediately following the 2011 revolution; as these disks contained the numbers of the Committee on Uniform Securities Identification Procedures (Cusip) for the bonds, which determine the type of securities and their maturity date.

It also said that LARMO's investigators, with the help of British expert Jonathan Berman, traced the chain of business fronts and European banks used to direct Libyan funds to the US. The website confirmed that those bonds were separate from Libya's frozen sovereign wealth estimated at about \$200 billion, which included real estate, bonds and financial instruments held in banks around the world.

African Energy website said that the Libyan Investment Authority "hopes that the United Nations Security Council will soon unfreeze its \$70 billion portfolio so that it can make new investments.

Politics

Dbeibah to Fidan: Libya backs an inclusive solution in Syria



Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has held talks with the Turkish Foreign Minister, Hakan Fidan, on the developments in Syria and current regional issues.

In a phone call on Thursday, Dbeibah reaffirmed Libya's firm position on the importance of reaching an inclusive political solution that meets the aspirations of the Syrian people and realizes their hopes for a safe life, freedom and dignity, and puts an end to their ongoing suffering.

According to "Our Government" platform, Dbeibah stressed during the phone call the need to give priority to the needs and protection of the Syrian people. The call also touched on the importance of finding sustainable solutions to the issue of Syrian refugees and displaced persons, conducive to their voluntary return to their homes which is linked to achieving a safe and stable environment Dbeibah stressed in the phone call that Libya supports any international or regional efforts that would contribute to alleviating the suffering of the displaced and ensuring their human rights.

For his part, Turkish Foreign Minister, Hakan Fidan expressed his appreciation for the Libyan position and his support for international efforts aimed at ending the Syrian crisis in a sustainable manner.

"Our Government" platform pointed out that this phone call comes within the efforts of the Government of National Unity to enhance regional cooperation and joint action to achieve stability in the region, in line with the vision of the active parties supporting peaceful solutions in Syria.



Politics

16th General Assembly of AFROSAI meetings concluded in Tripoli

The 16th General Assembly of the African Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (AFROSAI) meetings concluded in Tripoli on Friday, which hosted by the Libyan Audit Bureau, with the participation of delegations of 40 countries.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Tripoli Charter was read, which summarized the results of the work of the 16th General Assembly of AFROSAI, and a number of committees were approved, including the Technical Capacity Building Committee and the Organizational Committee.

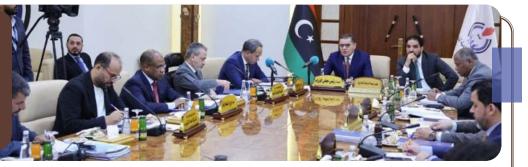
Senegal was announced as the winner of the AFRO-SAI Scientific Competition Prize for the year 2024.

OBSERVER

Nº**201**

Politics

NOC puts 22 onshore and offshore areas for explorations



The technical committee assigned by the National Oil Corporation (NOC) said it would offer 22 new blocks in onshore and offshore areas for exploration in a public tender that the NOC intended to present to international oil companies during the coming period.

This came during the eleventh meeting of the Supreme Council for Energy and Water Affairs, which was held on Thursday at the headquarters of the NOC in Tripoli, headed by the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah.

Hakomitna media platform said on its Facebook page that the meeting was devoted to discussing a number of files related to the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors, including the executive procedures for starting the public tender round that aims to offer new exploration blocks and settle the status of the Ras Lanuf refinery after completing the procedures for the foreign partner's exit as well as the approval of the NOC to purchase the share and the project to establish the Great Tripoli Reservoir, which is planned to be implemented by the Man-Made River Project Implementation and Management Authority.

The NOC Chairman and member of the Supreme Council for Energy Affairs Farhat Bengdara gave a presentation on the public tender round to offer the 22 new blocks for exploration after approving the procedures manual and preparing

the new standard agreement following the necessary technical amendments. The NOC technical departments also reviewed before the Supreme Council for Energy Affairs the progress of the production increase plan, confirming their commitment to the approved timetable, noting that production reached 1.422 million barrels of oil and condensates. At the end of the meeting, Dbeibah stressed his government's support for the NOC's plan to increase oil and gas production, and to give priority in the development plan to drinking water supply projects as well as the implementation of water supply lines.

Economy

CBL continues meetings with IMF in Tunisia

The Central Bank of Libya's (CBL) team continued for the second day in a row the preparatory meetings for the 2025 Article IV consultations with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) expert mission in Tunisia.

The CBL reported that the meeting discussed efforts to maintain the financial sustainability of the state.

The balance of payments of the Libyan state was also discussed, as well as an assessment of the status of the banking sector and its most important indicators in light of the available monetary policy tools, in addition to the Central Bank of Libya's exchange rate policy.



Economy

Libya to open new oil exploration licenses in 2025

The Ministry of Oil and Gas is set to launch a new round of oil exploration licenses in early 2025, according to a report by Energy Media Platform. The initiative aims to boost oil production and strengthen the nation's economy.

The new licenses will focus on the Sirte, Murzuq, and Ghadames basins, regions considered among the most hydrocarbon-rich in the country. Despite their potential, these areas remain largely untapped, the report highlights.

Estimates suggest that the Sirte and Murzuq basins account for 93% of Libya's recoverable reserves, with the Murzuq Basin alone holding approximately 5 billion barrels of oil equivalent.



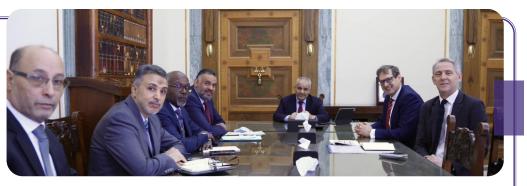
OBSERVER

Economy

CBL governor reviews with British company latest developments on printing 30 billion dinars

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Naji Issa, discussed with a delegation from the British company De La Rue, which specializes in printing banknotes, the latest developments in implementing contract annexes related to printing different denominations of the Libyan currency worth 30 billion dinars.

He discussed with the delegation, which included the company's CEO, Clive Fisher, and its regional manager, Michael Wilson, the schedule for receiving the various



shipments of currency. Issa stressed the need for the company to adhere to the dates agreed upon in the delivery schedules and to work on this without delay, with the importance of concerted efforts between the company and the bank's currency printing and minting committee, which leads to implementing the annexes of the printing contracts concluded with the company without obstacles, in support of the vision and directions of the CBL's board of directors in this regard. Last Sunday, the CBL announced contracting to print 30 billion dinars to inject them into the banking sector and replace the old currency. Issa held successive meetings with the directors of the relevant departments in the CBL, the liquidity team, and the general managers of the banks suffering from a lack of liquidity in their branches in order to determine the Central Bank's plan to solve the problem of cash shortages.

Nº201

Economy

Libya accounts for most of OPEC oil production increase for second month

Bloomberg reported that OPEC's crude production increased for a second month as Libya continued to recover from a political feud that had shuttered its biggest oil field, according to Bloomberg.

Bloomberg indicated that Libya has made up most of the increase in oil production of OPEC countries for the second month in a row.

OPEC pumped an average of 27.02 million barrels a day in November, up by 120,000 from the previous month, according to a Bloomberg survey, after Libya restored its disrupted production.

Bloomberg noted that Libya's production increased by about 110,000 barrels to reach 1.14 million per day, the highest since last July following the reopening of Sharara oil field in October.



Economy

Libyan delegation reviews boosting trade and economic cooperation with Turkey

A delegation of representatives of leading institutions in commercial and economic development in Libya discussed with the Head of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, Şekib Avdagiç, opportunities for bilateral cooperation and strengthening trade relations between the two countries.

This came during the visit of the Libyan delegation headed by Murtaza Karanfil, representative of the Turkish Independent Businessmen and Industrialists Association (MUSIAD) in Libya, to the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce.

According to what was reported by the Turkish Anadolu Agency, the two sides discussed opportunities for bilateral cooperation, evaluating infrastructure investments in Libya and completing unfinished projects.

Karanfil expressed Turkey's readiness for all types of cooperation with Libya, noting that these meetings further strengthen the bonds of friendship and relations. He also called on Turkish companies to make Libya a hub for transit trade in North Africa.



Health

Seasonal flu vaccination campaign launched by NCDC

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has officially launched its seasonal influenza vaccination campaign on, Sunday.

The initiative, which runs until the end of the month, is part of a broader effort to bolster community immunity and protect public health.

According to the centre, the campaign aims to prevent infections among healthcare workers, ensuring the safety of medical service recipients, especially those at high risk of complications. Officials have stressed that vaccination remains the most effective way to prevent the spread of influenza.

The campaign specifically targets vulnerable groups, including senior citizens aged 55 and above, children aged 6 months to 18 years, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic illnesses such as diabetes and heart conditions. Healthcare workers are also a priority group to ensure the safety of the sector as a whole.

In addition to providing vaccines, the campaign places a strong emphasis on raising public awareness about the importance of prevention and aims to ensure the widest possible reach for vaccinations among citizens.



Health

Libya, Russia sign health cooperation agreement

Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah, signed a memorandum of understanding with Russia's Ministry of Health during an official visit to Moscow.

The agreement covers collaboration in healthcare system management, short-term professional training, maternal and child health protection, implementation of digital healthcare technologies, and joint medical research.

It also includes the exchange of expertise and healthcare data, the organization of medical conferences, and establishing direct links between Libyan and Russian scientific and medical institutions.



Health

National Center for Disease Control launches flu vaccination campaign

The head of the vaccination department at the National Center for Disease Control, Salem Eshnesheh, said that the center was preparing to launch a new campaign to combat seasonal influenza after completing the vaccination campaign against polio and German measles. Eshnesheh said in a press statement that the vaccination campaign against polio and measles ended without receiving any reports of any side effects for more than 700,000 children nationwide. He added that the campaign was implemented with high efficiency under the supervision of an independent external observer, in accordance with international standards.

Eshnesheh called on citizens not to listen to rumors nor waste the opportunity for vaccination, which may not be repeated except in the event of the emergence of new pandemic foci.

The number of children vaccinated against polio nationwide reached 81,751, while the number of children vaccinated against measles and German measles reached 67,868, with a rate of 100% in all municipalities.



Education

Minister of Education grants education monitors offices discretionary authority to suspend studies

The Minister of Education, Musa Al-Magaryif, confirmed that the Ministry had previously granted discretionary authority to education monitors offices in municipalities, to take appropriate decisions regarding suspending studies or granting holidays to students in such rainy weather. The minister explained to Hakomitna platform that this decision aims to protect students and ensure their safety, while emphasizing the importance of following developments in weather conditions and dealing with them in a way that serves the public interest.

The Ministry places the safety of students at the top of its priorities, he added, calling for continuous coordination between relevant authorities to ensure that the necessary measures are taken in a timely manner.



№**201**

Sports

Libya climbs FIFA rankings despite AFCON disappointment

Libya's national football team has risen four places in the latest FIFA World Rankings, securing the 118th spot globally, despite failing to qualify for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

The new rankings place Libya 30th in Africa and 7th among Arab teams on the continent. This comes after a tough qualifying campaign that saw the team finish at the bottom of its group, trailing behind Nigeria, Benin, and Rwanda.

While the team's AFCON hopes were dashed, the ranking boost offers a glimmer of optimism. Libya's next major test will come in March 2024, when they face Angola in the fifth round of qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The rise in rankings reflects FIFA's consideration of recent performances, even in the face of setbacks, as Libya works to rebuild momentum on the international stage.



Education

Libya holds workshop on educational policy development

The Libyan National Security Council hosted its second workshop on Saturday in Tripoli, titled "Educational Policies: Between Reality and Development." The event brought together education specialists, school administrators, training centre representatives, curriculum developers, social workers, and parents to discuss Libya's education system.

Participants examined key issues such as the structure of the education system, curriculum design, learning environ-



ments, and the importance of primary education. Discussions aimed to analyze the current state of education in Libya and propose restructuring efforts to align with national values.

The National Security Council has formed an Educational Policy Committee under its advisory board to study education policies and support capacity-building in the Ministry of Education.

The council highlighted the importance of such workshops in addressing societal

concerns about globalization and its impact on education, particularly during primary and preparatory school stages. The workshop aimed to contribute ideas to enhance educational policies and integrate national security concepts into Libya's education system, with a focus on preserving cultural identity.

The council previously submitted a draft law to the House of Representatives proposing the creation of a Supreme Council for Education.

Opinions

For a real national reconciliation

By Abdullah Alkabir, a Libyan political writer and commentator

After the end of the dispute and conflict over the Central Bank of Libya file, with an agreement on a new governor and the formation of a board of directors for the bank, signs of a new crisis loom on the horizon between the Presidential Council and the House of Representatives over the file of transitional justice and national reconciliation.

Achieving national reconciliation in order to be the basis for the rest of the legislative and political entitlements falls within the powers of the Presidential Council according to the Tunis-Geneva Agreement. The African Union assigned a high-level African committee to follow up and coordinate with the Presidential Council to achieve reconciliation, without any noteworthy results despite the conferences, seminars and dialogues held at home and abroad to discuss this file between political, social and military parties.

The House of Representatives intervened in this file with a statement by the lifelong president of the House, Aguila Saleh, with a group described as "notables of the western region" in which he spoke about national reconciliation and the passing of the Transitional Justice Law by the House of Representatives, stressing that "the law was formulated under the principle of fair justice, the establishment of rights and redress for harm by compensating those affected and completing customary social and legal reconciliation."

We do not know what kind of fair justice, he is talking about by a person who gave legitimacy to bringing foreign mercenaries to Libya, and supported and blessed, as head of the House, Haftar's war on Tripoli, before admitting that it was a mistake when he presented himself for the presidency position, before the Geneva Forum! In addition to the laws and decisions he issued in violation of the constitutional declaration, the political agreement, and the rules of procedure of the House of Representatives, and his insistence on the presidency of the House without holding any elections that confirm his position, and then his acceptance of the peaceful rotation of power until the decision of the House of Representatives became his exclusive property. Head of the Presidential Council called on Aguila Saleh to approve the National Reconciliation Law referred by the Presidential Council last February without making any amendments in a transparent and properly convened session of the House of Representatives.

The condition that the Head of the Presidential Council set for the Speaker of the House of Representatives is an impossible one, because Aguila did not and will not adhere to any transparent or due procedures in the House's sessions, and the majority of the representatives accepted or surrendered to the current state of the House of Representatives, either for fear of being harassed by Haftar's gangs, or because they are just ordinary people who are only concerned with their high salaries and the benefits of the House's membership.

The law is not circulated in the media, and the people have not seen it to express their opinion, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives will not hold a referendum on it, as all disputes over the election laws, the draft constitution, and the state system can be resolved quite simply through the referendum mechanism after good preparation, giving activists and elites the appropriate time for dialogue, and educating the general public about the advantages and disadvantages of all options, but none of the parties in power want to awaken the slumbering giant (the people).

In the file of national reconciliation, a



set of rules must be emphasized so that reconciliation can be established in a sound manner that can be built upon to consolidate the values of coexistence and peace among all components of the Libyan people.

First. Neither the Presidential Council nor the current House of Representatives are qualified to lead a real national reconciliation. This file requires an elected body (parliament) that has the full mandate of the people to advance this reconciliation. The legitimacy of the current House of Representatives has been eroded, and it was only rehabilitated through political agreements. The Presidential Council was elected by a special group under the auspices of the United Nations, in a meeting that smelled of bribery and corruption.

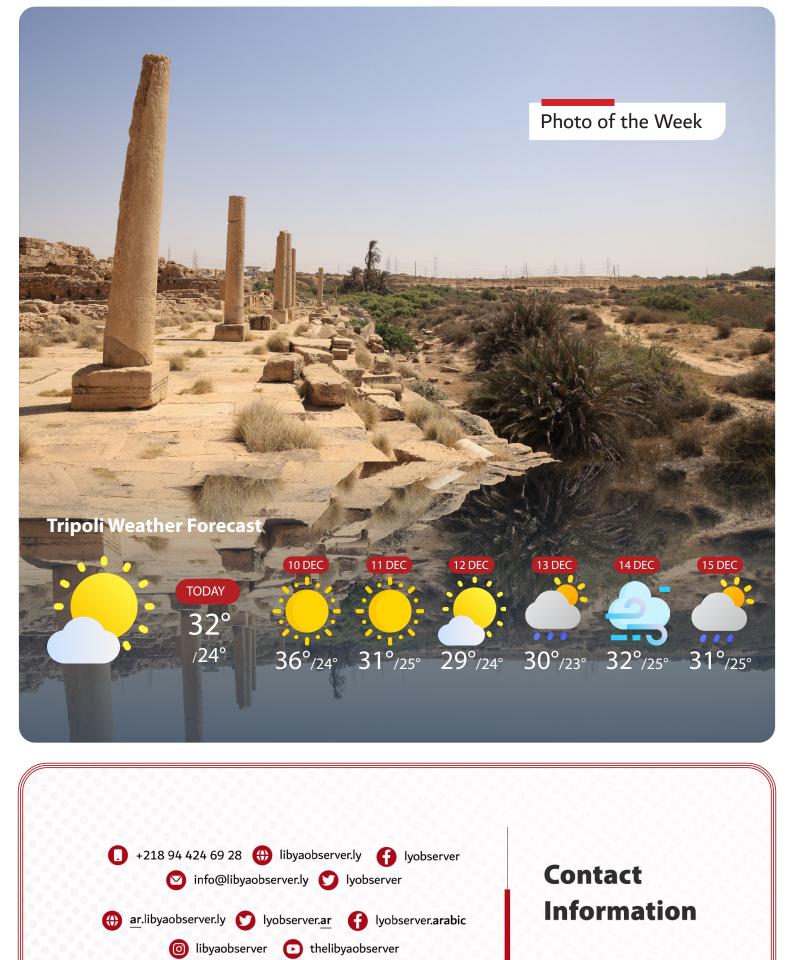
Second. Emphasizing that transitional justice precedes reconciliation, and that justice cannot exempt criminals from symbolic and material punishment. Then comes the talk about compensation, redressing the damage, and establishing covenants between the parties to the reconciliation.

Third. Defining the parties to the reconciliation, that is, answering this question. Reconciliation between whom? Since most cities and tribes succeeded in achieving reconciliation following the violent events and attacks that occurred between them during or after the February Revolution, therefore, is the aim to recycle political figures who committed crimes against Libyans in the name of reconciliation?

Fourth. Tapping into all local and international reconciliation experiences and seeking the assistance of experts and scholars to formulate a law that is fair to all and a reconciliation acceptable to all components of the people, in which the page of all previous disputes and conflicts is turned and the country embarks on a new beginning.

OBSERVER

Nº**201**



8