

Politics



The Grand Mufti: Libyans must fight the Russians and drive them out

Libya's Grand Mufti Sheikh Al-Sadiq Al-Gharyani has urged all Libyans to unite and fight the Russians who arrived in the eastern part of the country after fleeing Syria, saying they are not civilians but combatants.

In his weekly program on Tanasuh TV, the Mufti said the Russians have expanded their presence in Libya and started arriving in the country with their military equipment from Syria. They are hosted by the eastern warlord Khalifa Haftar and his sons.

"The Libyan people in the eastern, southern and western regions of the country must refuse their presence and take up arms and fight them," he said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has rejected the arrival of Russian military equipment and forces from Syria in Libya.

In a dialogue session on Thursday, he warned any party entering Libya without permission or agreement will be fought, adding that he will not accept Libya being an international battlefield.

Warlord Khalifa Haftar remained silent on successive assertions that Russia had flown cargo planes carrying air defense equipment, including radars for S-400 and S-300 interceptor systems, weapons, personnel and other military equipment from Syria to bases in eastern Libya.

Politics

PM Dbeibah rejects entry of Russian forces to Libya coming from Syria

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah announced on Thursday his rejection of the entry of any Russian military equipment or forces into Libya coming from Syria.

This came during his participation in a dialogue session at the opening of the Government Communication Forum, as part of the activities of Tripoli Media Days. Dbeibah was asked about the government's position on the entry of Russian forces coming from Syria into eastern Libya, after Syrian factions overthrew the regime of Bashar Al-Assad, Moscow's ally, on December 08.

"No patriotic person accepts the entry of a foreign country and imposing its hegemony, and we will not accept the entry of any foreign force except through official agreements and for the purpose of training. Any party that enters Libya without permission or agreement will be fought, and we cannot accept Libya being an international battlefield," Dbeibah said.

He added that his government had addressed Russia regarding allegations of transferring weapons and military equipment from Syria to Libya, and that his government had summoned the Russian ambassador and asked him about the statement of the Russian embassy in Libya, regarding the warning of its citizens against traveling to Libya, noting that "the security forces arrested a Russian tourist in Libya after he was suspected of committing some security as well as immoral acts".

Regarding the political situation in Libya, Dbeibah said that "the members of the House of Representatives only want to remain in power, and when they saw that their interests were not in line with the constitution, they put the draft constitution in the drawer," adding: "We want to revive the constitution."

Speaking about the long-awaited parliamentary and presidential elections, Dbeibah said: "We want electoral laws to hold elections and we must work to reach fair electoral laws."

Haftar's forces have remained silent on successive assertions that Russia had flown cargo planes carrying air defense equipment, including radars for S-400 and S-300 interceptor systems, weapons, personnel and other military equipment from Syria to bases in eastern Libya.

Politics

Second group of Tunisians detained in Libya released



The head of the Tunisian Observatory for Human Rights, Mustafa Abdelkabar, has confirmed the release of a second group of Tunisians detained in Libya, who had been held for over two weeks due to customs violations related to exceeding the permitted transport of goods.

Abdelkabar added that 18 detainees have been released so far, with 12 others scheduled to appear before Libyan courts next Thursday.

He clarified that the offences involve customs-related infractions, which do not warrant imprisonment. Punishments included confiscation of goods, vehicle seizures, and fines of up to 4,000 Libyan dinars per person.

He called for accelerating border crossings procedures to reduce waiting times and called for mutual respect and streamlined processes between the two nations.

Politics

Bouznika meeting's statement reiterates support for 6+6 committee's election laws

Members of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, who held a meeting in Morocco's Bouznika, stressed that the end of the transitional phase must pass through free elections based on the laws drafted by the 6+6 joint committee of the two councils, welcoming cooperation with the United Nations Support Mission in Libya to resolve the crisis.

In the final statement on Thursday, the members indicated that the two councils were working to address the various paths, most notably the elections and the restructuring of the executive authority, stressing the continuation of communication between the presidencies of the two councils in order to achieve national consensus and unify the divided sovereign institutions. The members announced their agreement on a draft for the preliminary phase aimed at restructuring the executive authority and dealing with other major issues. The most important provisions of the draft

agreement included restructuring the executive authority in accordance with Article (4) of the Libyan Political Agreement, defining the powers of each of the two councils, forming a joint committee to review the selection mechanism proposed in Cairo and submit proposals for amendment, in addition to setting controls to ensure the government operates transparently. They also agreed to form a joint committee to set standards and mechanisms for the fair distribution of development budgets to localities, support the efficiency of local structures, and develop proposals to support transparency and combat corruption. The agreement also included the formation of a joint committee to communicate with the (5+5) Committee concerned with the security file and submit a plan to support its work, including restoring state control over borders and discussing the withdrawal of foreign forces. The terms of the agreement also included

the formation of a joint committee to set criteria for candidacy for sovereign positions and a selection mechanism that ensures the consensus stipulated in the political agreement. The initial agreement also included the formation of a joint committee to propose legislation and follow up on its implementation in the file of smuggled funds and money laundering, and to request the Central Bank of Libya to allocate funds to implement the general national census project and reorganize the national number.

The committees are scheduled to submit their final reports for approval by the two councils within a month from the date of assignment. According to the agreement, the next meeting of the two councils will be held in the city of Derna on January 19, to issue the final agreement for the preliminary stage and announce the start of implementing the results of the committees' work.



Politics

Morocco's FM chairs consultative meeting for Libyan HoR, HCS members in Bouznika

Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita opened a consultative meeting on Wednesday with a group of members of the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS) in the resort of Bouznika, northwest Morocco. He delivered a speech during the opening of the consultative meeting, which comes "within the framework of the Libyan-Libyan dialogue", stressing the urgent need for the "Skhirat spirit" to resolve the Libyan file, as well as the necessity of respecting the choices of the Libyan people, according to what was published by the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs on its Facebook page.

"Morocco maintains fixed positions that

do not change with the change of events or contexts regarding the Libyan file," he said, adding: "The Kingdom of Morocco supports the stability and unity of Libya, which are considered an extension of its stability and unity. It also affirms that the solution to the Libyan crisis must be within the framework of a Libyan-Libyan dialogue away from external influences and pressure."

He believed that the large number of international and regional conferences on Libya cannot replace dialogues between the Libyan parties, stressing that "Morocco accompanies the Libyans and provides them with a wider scope for dialogue among themselves to achieve progress in

the political path of their country." Bourita said that Bouznika's hosting of this consultative meeting is a sign of trust between the two countries and peoples, and also a sign of the comfort of Libyans to hold meetings in Morocco, given the approach taken by the Kingdom of Morocco toward the Libyan file from the beginning.

Most of the members of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State's meeting in Bouznika had previously met in Cairo and Tunis in the past months, as part of the two chambers' attempts to resolve the ongoing political deadlock since the failure to hold elections on December 29, 2021.



Economy

CBL asks Audit Bureau for agreement on activating mechanism of dollar transactions

The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) sent a letter to the Head of the Audit Bureau, Khalid Shakshak, requesting his approval to start contracting procedures with a specialized company to review dollar trade operations, after the Federal Reserve Bank of New York threatened to suspend transactions with the CBL. CBL confirmed in its letter dated December 16 that the Federal Reserve Bank will stop all dollar-related operations unless a review mechanism is implemented by a specialized and independent company that is responsible for monitoring dollar exchange operations in accordance with international standards related to combating money laundering and terrorist financing. This review includes data on suppliers and importers, most of which

are published monthly on the website of the CBL.

CBL explained that failure to reach an agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank will disrupt all dollar operations, causing significant losses and exposing the CBL to reputational risks among international financial institutions. It also indicated that negotiations with representatives from the US Treasury Department resulted in postponing the implementation of the procedures until Libyan approvals are completed.

CBL said it was seeking to ensure compliance with international requirements and increase transparency in financial transactions, hoping to gain the support of the Audit Bureau to proceed with contracting a specialized company to ensure

the continuity of the relationship with the Federal Reserve Bank.

CBL said that it had done everything in its power to dissuade the Federal Reserve Bank from taking this action, the last of which was in a meeting held in Tunis on December 13, in the presence of the Governor, his Deputy, and a number of members of the Board of Directors, in addition to a team from the Federal Reserve Bank and a representative from the US Treasury Department.

"At this meeting, it became clear that the US Treasury Department supports the position of the Federal Reserve Bank, and it was agreed to postpone the implementation of the procedures until the competent Libyan authorities approve the required review mechanism," CBL said.



Economy

Chinese companies eager to resume projects in Libya, says acting ambassador

The Acting Chinese Ambassador to Libya, Liu Jian, has reaffirmed China's commitment to strengthening trade and investment ties with Libya.

During a meeting with Economy and Trade Minister Mohamed Al-Hweij, Liu highlighted the readiness of Chinese companies to restart halted projects and engage in new ventures, particularly in infrastructure, energy, and construction sectors.

The ambassador pledged the embassy's support in facilitating busi-

ness procedures in coordination with Libyan and Chinese authorities.

Minister Al-Hweij emphasized the importance of the private sector in driving Libya's economic growth and encouraged Chinese companies to explore investment opportunities in Libya.

The meeting concluded with plans to organize a Libyan business forum in China and joint exhibitions in Tripoli and Beijing to foster stronger partnerships between the two countries' business communities.



Economy

Authorities discuss rising prices and measures to ensure affordable goods

The Administrative Control Authority Head, Abdullah Qaderboh, met with the Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohamed Al-Hweij, to discuss the reasons behind the rising prices of imported goods and essential local services.

The meeting, held in Tripoli, focused on activating the price balance fund, addressing existing financial commitments, ongoing legal cases related to the fund, and finding solutions to ensure the availability of essential goods for citizens.

Qaderboh emphasized the need for necessary measures to ensure goods are available at reasonable prices, address challenges affecting living standards, and support the national economy.

Economy

CBL suspends foreign currency reservation system from December 21 to January 1

The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) has announced that the foreign currency reservation system for individuals will be suspended until next January, as part of a usual annual procedure for closing its annual accounts.

The CBL revealed the implementation of most of the requests to purchase foreign exchange received during the period from December 1 until December 18.

The value exceeded \$3.5 billion, including about \$1.7 billion in documentary credits, about \$1.7 billion for personal items, and about \$100 million in bank transfers, according to CBL Facebook page.

The Bank confirmed that the US Federal Reserve Bank request does not have a significant impact on foreign exchange sales operations.



Economy

World Bank says Libyan economic loss in 10 years has reached \$600 billion

A report by the World Bank said that the losses of the Libyan economy over 10 years amounted to 600 billion dollars at constant value of 2015.

The World Bank added in its report that the economic and political conditions in the country had a significant impact on the state of instability in the country, noting that if it were not for the conflict, Libya would have achieved a local production of 74% during 2023 alone.

Regarding oil production, the World Bank's report expected it to recover to 1.2 million barrels per day next year, and 1.3 million in 2026, which will boost GDP growth to 9.6% in 2025, and 8.4% in 2026.

The report also expected non-oil GDP growth to reach about 9% during 2025-2026, in addition to recording public finance surpluses and external balances of 1.7 and 1.4% of GDP, due to lower spending and imports, despite the decline in oil revenues in 2024.

The World Bank's report included Libya among the middle-income countries with a per capita gross national income of \$7,570 in 2023, indicating that Libya can unleash high-value job opportunities and enhance its development indicators by prioritizing non-oil sectors and encouraging private sector-led growth.

Economy



Libyan Oil Minister participates in OAPEC in Kuwait

The Minister of Oil and Gas in the Government of National Unity, Khalifa Abdul Sadiq, participated in the 113th Ministerial Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), hosted by Kuwait.

The meeting, which was held on Sunday, discussed several issues, especially changing the name of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries to the new name "Arab Energy Organization", as well as changing its logo and visual identity.

The changes aim to enhance the organization's orientation toward energy in all its forms, including renewable energy, according to a statement by the Ministry of Oil on its Facebook page.

The meeting discussed the organization's proposed estimated budget for the year 2025 and a number of other financial items and rewards. It also touched on activating the decision of the Organization's Council of Ministers on the Green Middle East Initiative, and adopting the application of the concept of the circular carbon economy.

The attendees agreed to extend the work of the Arab Petroleum Training Institute affiliated with the organization, and for Kuwait to continue to chair the next session and the next ministerial meeting. The meeting also witnessed honoring the winners of the OAPEC Scientific Award granted to the owners of distinguished scientific messages related to the energy sector and its various fields, and encouraging the activity of scientific studies and research.

Health

Libya to host next Arab Health Ministers meeting

Deputy Prime Minister/ Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah, participated in the 61st session of the Council of Arab Health Ministers and its Executive Office, held in Baghdad, Iraq, over two days.

The meeting brought together ministers and senior officials from across the Arab world to discuss pressing health issues, including the contribution of Arab healthcare professionals abroad in strengthening health-

care systems in their home countries.

During the session, Abu Janah reaffirmed the commitment of all Arab nations to ensuring health security for their populations. He also announced the council's approval of Libya's proposal to host the 62nd session of the Council of Arab Health Ministers, with the final date to be determined by the council's technical secretariat.



Health



NCDC calls on citizens to vaccinate against seasonal influenza

Director of the Vaccinations Department at the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Salem Shenshah, has announced the continuation of the seasonal influenza vaccination campaign that began at the beginning of this month.

Shenshah said in a statement on Monday that the turnout for the campaign is still weak, but it is better than last year, according to his description.

He also called on the citizens targeted by the campaign, which will continue until the end of this month, to take the vaccination, noting that the number of vaccinated people has so far reached about 140,000 people throughout the country.

Health



Libya produces material used to diagnose bone tumors

The National Cancer Control Authority announced an important medical achievement by producing the "NAF" material used in positron emission tomography, to diagnose bone tumors with high accuracy that exceeds traditional nuclear imaging techniques. The Authority said the achievement was in cooperation with the University Hospital in Tripoli and Al-Sada Company.

The Authority explained that the introduction of the positron emission tomography technology for bones using the "NAF" material is a qualitative leap in the field of diagnosing bone diseases, as this technology provides superior diagnostic accuracy that helps doctors provide the best treatment options for patients. The Authority thanked Al-Sada Company, which played a "major role" in making this new technology available by providing operational materials and advanced equipment, as well as the necessary training for the medical staff at the University Hospital in Tripoli, stressing that this fruitful cooperation between the public and private sectors highlighted Libya's ability to adopt and apply global medical technologies.

Health

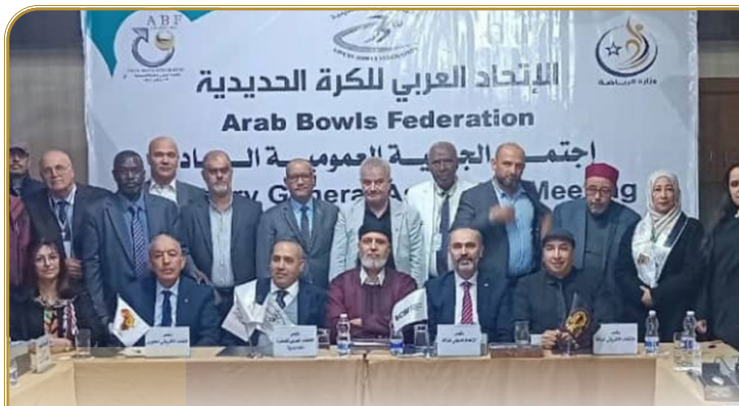
Egyptian medical team performs 17 heart catheterization procedures in Zliten

A visiting Egyptian medical team at Zliten Medical Center has performed 17 cardiac catheterization procedures to children and newborns.

The procedures, which were conducted in cooperation with the center's medical staff, witnessed the presence of a number of trainees, according to the Therapeutic Services Support and Development Agency Facebook page.

The agency confirmed that performing such procedures is part of the project to localize treatment at home, which aims to provide treatment services inside the country and reduce the need for treatment abroad.





Sports

Libyan Al-Zlitni elected president of Arab Petanque Federation

The Arab Petanque Federation has elected Libyan Abu Medyen Al-Zlitni as its new president during a General Assembly meeting held in Tripoli on Thursday.

Emad Abu Zreiba was chosen as First Vice President, while the board includes Moroccan members Najat Dawdi and Bachir Leqah, Algerians Jamal Kalil and Hassiba Hamel, as well as Mauritanian Mohamed Abideen, Sudanese Yasser Abu Bakr, and Djiboutian Qasim Abdullah.

The election marks a significant moment for Libya's role in regional sports leadership.

Education

Ministry of Education: Completion certificate exams are unified at all municipalities



The Minister of Education of the Government of National Unity, Musa Al-Magaryif, has ordered a decision to set date for basic education completion certificate exams for the academic year 2024-2025 in a unified manner with all municipal education monitoring offices.

According to the decision, the municipal education monitoring offices and the National Center for Examinations are responsible for supervising the exams and forming supervision and monitoring committees in coordination with the specialized authorities.

Al-Magaryif had issued a decision to adopt a supplementary system that allows students who failed three or fewer subjects in the secondary school certificate for the academic year 2023-2024 to take supplementary exams to improve their results.



NMC signs MoU with Italian Nova Agency

The National Media Corporation (NMC) of Libya has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Italian Nova News Agency, on the sidelines of the Tripoli Media Days.

According to a statement by the Minister of State for Communication and Political Affairs, Walid Al-Lafi, the MoU stipulated media training and the development of journalistic competencies.

It also included implementing joint projects in media and journalism, in addition to organizing joint seminars, conferences and workshops.

Sports

Ministry of Sports provides first division football clubs half million dinars



The Minister of Sports, Abdel Shafie Al-Juwaifi, has met with heads of the first division football clubs, to follow the latest developments in the start of the Premier League and the challenges facing a number of clubs.

Al-Juwaifi announced the provision of 500,000 dinars to each club, stressing the keenness of the government and the ministry to provide material and moral support, and to create all appropriate factors and conditions for the success of all sports competitions.

According to the Ministry of Sports, Al-Juwaifi confirmed during the meeting that the Ministry deals with all clubs equally, with the aim of achieving its goals of creating prominent talents to strengthen the ranks of our national teams in all international forums and competitions.

Opinions

Another committee to extend transitional stages

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



International powers are in no hurry to look into the Libyan crisis, impose a path that leads to ending the conflict, and drive all active forces into the political scene to resolve the race for leadership through elections. While waiting for a move to resolve the crisis through an international window, the acting UN envoy came out with a new initiative based on forming a committee of experts to look into the controversial issues of election laws, then put forward proposals to address them, after which it would look into governance issues, forming a new government its appropriate options, then a new dialogue will convene to discuss committee of experts' outcomes and adopt what it deems appropriate.

Without discussing details, controversy and disagreement that will arise regarding the committee, in terms of the affiliations of its members, and the extent of their agreement, it seems the path that Ms. Koury is taking will be long, and there are no guarantees that the results will ultimately be in the interest of the Libyan people.

All initiatives, dialogues and proposals are taking place between the poles of the de facto authorities, and what does not suit any party in power will inevitably be rejected, meaning that what is happening is simply recycling the crisis, and with it recycling this waste that has been tyrannical without any mandate or legitimacy.

As for the path which is in the people's interest, is clear, simple and easy, through clear options that UNSMIL can opt to; a referendum on the draft constitution, holding parliamentary elections, or at the very least a referendum of the Libyan people on the disputed articles of electoral laws, then proceeding with one of these options. However, one should be mindful of a reaction to thwart and torpedo any direction that could overthrow, or reduce authority and influence of those in power. UNSMIL must mobilize international forces to threaten with sanctions anyone who may try to obstruct the efforts to resolve the crisis.

In parallel with Koury's initiative, two delegations from the House of Representatives and the High Council of State traveled on a seasonal tourist trip to the Kingdom of Morocco to hold a meeting described as consultative to move the political process forward.

However, the objection of Mohamed Takala, head of the High Council of State, to the meeting prompted Morocco, the host country, to end it quickly and not grant Council member, Khaled Al-Mishri any protocol privileges, or to present him as head of the High Council of State after the clarification made in Takala's correspondence to the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of National Unity. Therefore, the final statement of the meeting came out with general phrases emphasizing holding elec-

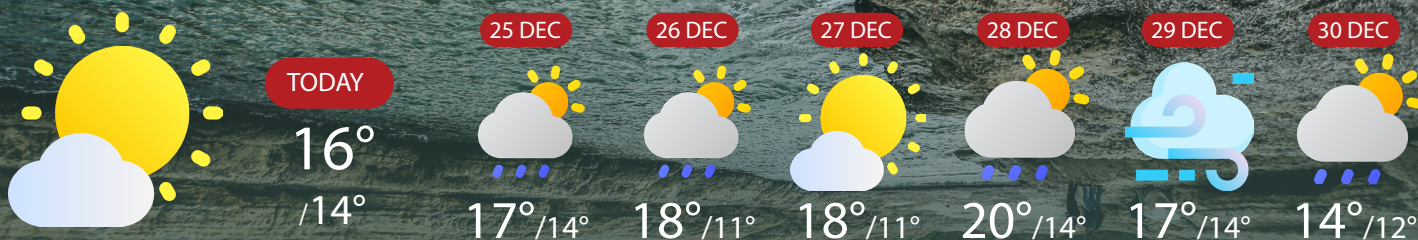
tions, ending the transitional phases, cooperating with the UN mission, and continuing communication to support consensus. It could have been written in the corner of any café in Tripoli or Benghazi and would not have required the trouble and expenses of traveling to Morocco.

Although, there is no light at the end of the international tunnel regarding the Libyan crisis, regional developments in Syria and Palestine, and Russia's military move towards Libya, after the success of the Syrian revolution in toppling their tyrannical ally Bashar al-Assad, may drive Western powers to move to contain the Russian expansion that threatens European countries. This necessarily requires unifying Libya behind a legitimate government that can work with full powers to confront the foreign military presence in all its forms and characteristics.

No government can gain full legitimacy except through elections, so Western powers may agree to develop an integrated strategy to limit the growing Russian influence, and at the heart of this strategy is to push local parties to resolve the conflict through elections. Perhaps the recent reports on crimes and violations, and the preparation of lists of those involved and militias in the East and West, is a step intended to warn political and military parties against any attempt to obstruct the final solutions to be proposed by the UN Support Mission in Libya.

Photo of the Week

Tripoli Weather Forecast



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