

Politics

Haftar's forces seize control of Ubari's Tendi military camp affiliated with Presidential Council

Khalifa Haftar's forces announced their control at dawn on Tuesday of the Tendi military camp, which is under the control of the commander of the Sabha military region, Ali Kanna, and affiliated with the Presidential Council in the city of Ubari, southwest of Libya.

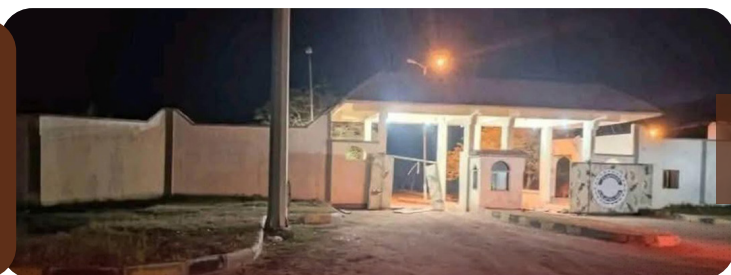
According to media sources loyal to Haftar, the camp was seized after a sudden raid, during which the headquarters was completely controlled and all the equipment in the camp was confiscated without any clashes between the two sides.

The sources said that the surprise attack on the Tendi camp was due to allegations that the forces did not commit to participating in the security agreement in the city.

Ali Kanna is considered one of the prominent officers who worked in the army during the era of Muammar Gaddafi, before he was appointed commander of the military zone in Sabha by a decision by the Presidential Council in 2019. He is considered the most important military figure in the southern region and enjoys support from various tribes, whether those loyal to the

former regime or from the Tuareg tribe to which Kanna belongs.

This attack comes a week after clashes in the city of Sirte between the 128th Brigade, led by Hassan Al-Zadma, and the 77th Battalion loyal to Saddam Haftar, led by Mohammed Al-Mazweghi. The clashes raised concerns among observers of Libyan affairs about the collapse of the ceasefire and the return of clashes to Libya, especially in light of the faltering political process and the disruption of dialogue among the main parties in the country.



Politics

Italy approves bill for agreement of prisoner extradition with Libya

The Italian Council of Ministers approved in its last session before the end of the year a draft law ratifying an agreement with Libya allowing the transfer of prisoners between the two countries.

The agreement, which was signed in Palermo on September 29, 2023, aims to facilitate the reintegration of convicts into their communities of origin by allowing them to serve the remainder of their sentences in their countries.

This step comes at the initiative of the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Antonio Tajani, and allows the transfer of citizens

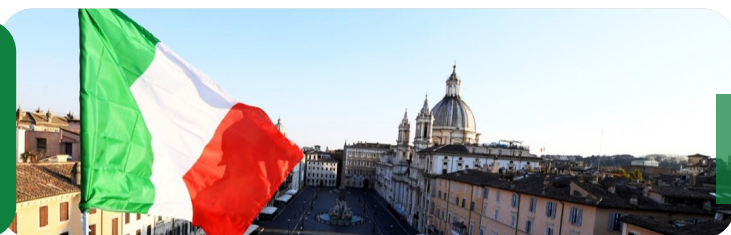
detained and finally convicted in either country to their country of origin to serve the remaining part of the sentence.

According to a statement issued by the Chigi Palace, the agreement includes specific conditions that must be met for the transfer process, including the sentence being final, and the remaining part of the sentence being at least one year, except in exceptional cases.

The agreement also stipulates that the act that led to the conviction must also be a crime under the law of the country to which the prisoner will be transferred,

in addition to the necessity of both countries' approval of the transfer process, and the full and informed consent of the prisoners.

During his recent visit to Rome, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, sought to open the file of five Libyan prisoners with the Italian Minister of Justice, Carlo Noredò, after 9 years of stagnation in the case, as they were sentenced to 30 years in prison in 2015 on charges related to human trafficking and illegal immigration.



Politics

Al-Aqouri and Berndt discuss Libyan developments

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, Youssef Al-Aqouri, has discussed with the Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Libya, Jeremy Berndt, the comments received regarding the work of the United Nations Mission in Libya and the latest international developments in the region, especially in Syria, the Sudan, and their impact on Libya.

Al-Aqouri stressed during the phone call with Berndt that the House of Representatives' position rejecting any foreign presence on Libyan territory, and the need to continue working to consolidate the ceasefire and prevent any security breaches. He pointed out the importance of having a permanent constitution in order to support the process of peace and stability in Libya.



Politics

Tripoli to host 3rd Algeria- Libya- Tunisia trilateral summit

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf has announced preparations for the third trilateral summit involving Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia, set to take place in Tripoli at the start of January 2025.

Speaking at a press conference reviewing Algeria's diplomatic achievements in 2024, Attaf highlighted ongoing coordination efforts with Libya and Tunisia to ensure the summit's success. He emphasized that the trilateral mechanism, proposed by Algeria,

aims to address shared challenges and has already resulted in tangible cooperation projects among the three nations.

The initiative was launched in February during the first summit in Algiers, held on the sidelines of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum. The second meeting, hosted by Tunisia in April, brought together Libyan Presidential Council leader Mohamed Menfi, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, and Tunisian President Kais Saied.

Key outcomes of the previous summits include a commitment to reject foreign interference in Libya, support for elections to stabilize the country, and agreements to expedite projects like electrical grid interconnection, free trade zones, and streamlined movement of goods and people. The upcoming Tripoli summit is expected to build on these efforts, fostering deeper regional cooperation and addressing pressing issues affecting the three nations.



Foreign Ministry outlines goals for 2025

Acting Foreign Minister, Al-Taher Al-Baour, held a strategic meeting with senior officials on Wednesday to discuss plans for enhancing the ministry's operations in the upcoming year.

The meeting, attended by directors of political and technical departments as well as office managers, focused on overcoming internal challenges and improving efficiency to provide better services.

Key priorities included streamlining consular procedures for Libyans abroad, improving communication with embassies and consulates, and ensuring effective support for Libyan communities overseas. The session also reviewed last year's diplomatic and administrative performance, setting a roadmap for 2025 to align with Libya's political and economic goals.



HNEC approves electoral constituencies for second phase of municipal elections

The Board of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) has approved the electoral constituencies for the second group of municipal council elections.

The second phase of the elections will be held in 63 municipalities, including 13 municipalities in the eastern region, nine municipalities in the southern region, in addition to 42 municipalities in the western region, according to HNEC Decision No. 2/2025.

On November 16, the first phase of the elections was conducted in 58 municipalities, where they witnessed a large turnout of 74% of the total number of those eligible to vote, according to HNEC data.



Libyan PM says government will pay for hajj this year

The Libyan Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, has announced that the Libyan state will cover the full costs of hajj for its citizens this year, which is estimated at more than 50,000 Libyan dinars per individual, while giving citizens who wish to bear this cost themselves the freedom to do so. Dbeibah criticized the performance of the committees accompanying the hajjis in previous years, stressing the need to select qualified people for the committees this year according to strict rules, warning against favoritism and mediation. The Hajj Authority announced the past two days the start of reviewing the data of those registered in the hajj system, in preparation for selecting 7,800 Libyans for this year.

Economy

Libyan olive oil bags three international prizes

The Libyan Export Development Center reported that Libya won three prizes in the Al-Ahram International Olive Oil Competition for 2025. The Center said on its Facebook page on Wednesday that the Al-Ahram competition included 193 samples of olive oil from 20 countries around the world. It explained that the companies registered in the exporters' registry received the gold and silver medals, and indicated that Al-Muzaraa Company, headquartered in the city of Al-Zawiya, received the gold medal for the TOOR brand, and Al-Sahel Al-Muttahid Company, headquartered in Maslata, received

the silver medal, while the third prize winner was not mentioned. The Center indicated that this achievement is added to the records of success and first ranks of the Libyan product in terms of quality and high competitiveness, stressing its continued support for the local product to reach global markets. Companies from seven European countries, six African countries, five Asian countries, in addition to two countries from South America: Brazil and Argentina, participated in this competition with Egyptian companies.



Economy

CBL to resume foreign exchange services in January

The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) has announced it will resume processing foreign exchange requests starting Sunday, January 5, 2025.

Foreign currency sales were paused on December 21 as part of the bank's annual procedures. The CBL confirmed

that from the start of December until December 18, it processed over \$3.5 billion worth of foreign exchange requests.

The bank assured the public that operations are running smoothly and that dealings with the US Federal Reserve have had no impact on its processes.



Economy

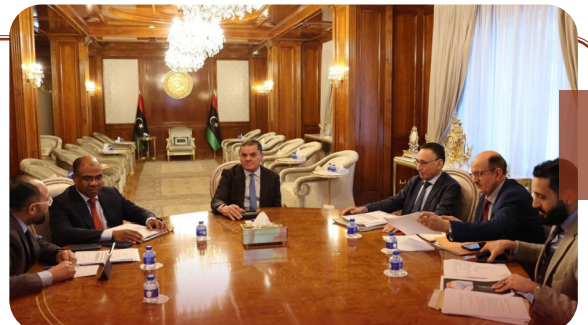
"Intilaqah" initiative to support small projects launched

The Ministry of Economy and Trade of the "Interim Government of National Unity" announced on Wednesday the launch of the "Intilaqah" initiative to support and finance small and micro projects, aiming to fund youth, craftsmen and entrepreneurs' projects, with a focus on innovation and knowledge economy.

The initiative is geared towards establishing a new system to support

emerging companies and ensure their financing by establishing a special guarantee fund for the targeted projects, according to a statement by the ministry on its Facebook page.

The first phase of the initiative targets 1,000 young entrepreneurs, craftsmen and innovators, and relies on strategic partnerships with business incubators in Libyan universities to ensure effective implementation and support.



Economy

Ethylene plant resumes operations after 20-day shutdown

The Ras Lanuf Oil and Gas Manufacturing Company has successfully restarted its ethylene production plant following a 20-day suspension.

The company revealed via its official Facebook account that production resumed after ethylene gas was delivered to the cold storage area. The restart is being conducted

progressively, adhering to approved operating procedures and stringent safety standards for personnel, equipment, and processes.

Earlier this month, the plant had to halt operations due to a technical issue with the "propylene" gas compressor, which was triggered by false vibration readings.



Economy

Shipment of 800 cows arrived for Ghout Al-Sultan project in Benghazi

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of the parallel government announced, on Sunday, the arrival of a shipment of 800 cows to the Benghazi seaport, coming from the port of Marseille in France.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry, Emaar Libya Holding Company imported this shipment for the

Ghout Al-Sultan Production Project, east of Benghazi.

The veterinary medical teams affiliated with the National Center for Animal Health have begun conducting the necessary examinations to ensure that the cows comply with the health conditions for breeding and production, according to the statement.



Economy

Libya joins African Export-Import Bank

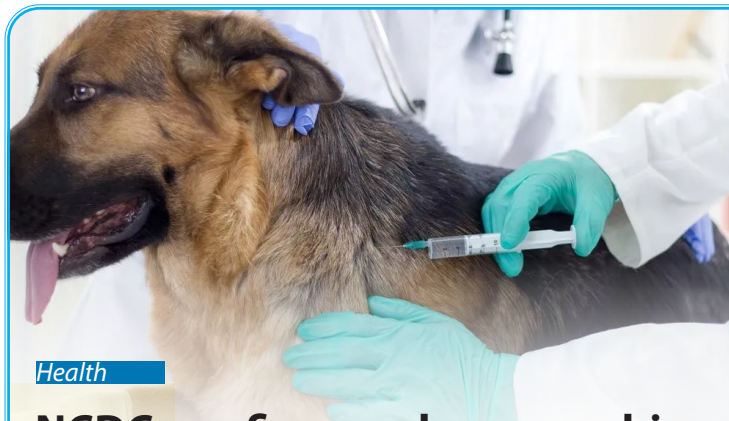
Libya has officially joined the African Export-Import Bank, becoming the 53rd country, in a move to enhance economic integration on the African continent.

Libya aims to implement ambitious development projects, most notably the development of a free zone in Misrata and the establish-

ment of a land route linking it to neighbouring countries, with the support of soft financing provided by the bank.

Through these projects, Libya also seeks to strengthen its position as a regional logistics hub and achieve sustainable development goals.





Health

NCDC confirm no human rabies cases amid livestock outbreaks

The Libyan National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has announced that no human cases of rabies have been reported in the country, despite isolated outbreaks among livestock.

In a statement, the NCDC reported that its Communicable Diseases Department conducted a field visit to the city of Al-Asabaa after reports surfaced of suspected rabies cases in livestock in December.

The investigation confirmed infections in two sheep, which had been bitten by a livestock dog. The affected animals were buried under expert supervision, and the remaining flock is under quarantine and observation, with no further cases identified.

The centre also highlighted a similar incident in November in the city of Al-Rujban, where cases were confined to a single flock. No additional infections have been recorded since. Authorities emphasized that the situation is under control, with measures in place to monitor livestock and prevent the spread of the disease, ensuring public health safety.



Health

First batch of US corneas arrives in Tripoli for transplants

The Eye Hospital in Tripoli has received the first shipment of corneas from the United States, enabling surgeries for 55 patients in the Libyan capital.

The hospital announced that preparations are underway to expand the corneal transplant program to Al-Bayda and Tobruk in subsequent phases.

With 1,250 patients currently on the waiting list, the initiative aims to address critical medical needs and improve eye surgery services across Libya.



Health

57 surgeries performed within two days at Ibn Sina Hospital in Sirte

The Ibn Sina Hospital in Sirte has performed 57 major surgical and therapeutic operations in various specialties within two days.

The operations included 17 operations in the specialty of urology, 4 general operations, 11 operations in the specialty of obstetrics and gynecology, a brain operation, and 4 orthopedic operations, in addition to the installation of 20 cardiac stents, according to the hospital media office.



Health

NCDC extends seasonal influenza vaccination campaign until next March

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has announced the extension of the seasonal influenza vaccination campaign until next March 31, due to the spread of seasonal influenza virus and respiratory syncytial virus.

In a statement, the NCDC called for the necessity of intensifying efforts to raise awareness among citizens and taking the necessary measures to raise community immunity to reach the targeted groups, which estimated at about 700,000 people.

The seasonal influenza vaccination campaign was launched on December 1, targeting those over 55 years of age and those suffering from chronic diseases aged 6 months and over.

Sports

CAF slaps Libya fans with two-match ban, \$50.000 fine



The Disciplinary Committee of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) decided on Sunday to punish the Libyan Football Federation by banning fans from attending two matches of the Libyan national team, with a fine of 50.000 dollars.

CAF said on its website that the penalty was due to the incidents that occurred during the match between the Libyan national team and Benin, which was held in Tripoli on November 18. CAF added that the Disciplinary Committee found that the Libyan Football Federation committed a mistake and violated Articles 82 and 151 of its disciplinary regulations due to the actions of its fans and the Libyan national team officials during and after the match.

The Libya v.s. Benin match in the last round of the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers ended in a goalless draw, while Rwanda defeated Nigeria 2-1, thus the Knights of the Mediterranean qualifying could not qualify for AFCON.



Local

GECOL sends convoy of electrical equipment to the eastern region

The General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) has sent an electrical equipment convoy to the distribution departments in the Eastern Region to deal with malfunctions resulting from weather fluctuations during recent days.

The company explained, in a post on its Facebook page, that it had launched a convoy loaded with materials and equipment for the distribution departments in the eastern region: Benghazi Plain, Ajdabiya, Tobruk, and Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar.



Travel

Afriqiyah Airways denies plane crash rumours

Afriqiyah Airways has firmly denied reports of a plane crash at Tripoli International Airport following speculation on social media.

Moez Ben Ismail, the airline's Director of International Relations, clarified that the aircraft in question was heavily damaged during the 2014 conflict and has been out of service since then.

He attributed the plane's movement at the airport to strong winds, noting that the aircraft is awaiting dismantling for spare parts.

The airline urged media outlets to verify facts before publishing and stated that all official updates would be issued solely through its verified Facebook page.



Crimes

One million narcotic tablets seized in Amsaad

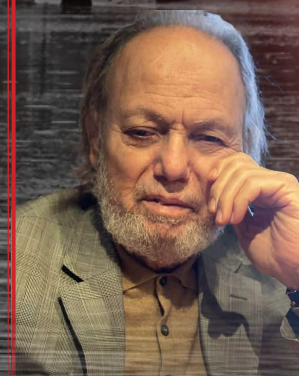
The Narcotics and Psychotropic Drugs Control Agency in Tobruk has seized a huge quantity of narcotic tablets, estimated at one million bearing the Taj "Crown" mark.

The agency explained in a statement that the Taj mark was linked to boxes of the drug Tramadol, adding that the seizure took place after receiving information about a drug store in the Amsaad area.

After a joint force raided the site, it turned out that it was a large warehouse containing more than twenty internal warehouses containing bags and ropes used by smugglers. The raid resulted in the arrest of three people, two Egyptians and a Libyan, between the ages of 22 and 40, and all legal measures were taken against the accused.

Opinions

While Libya is drowning in flood waters, two governments indulging in showy, piecemeal repairs



By Omar Swehli,
a political activist

With every winter season, the tragedy of cities drowning due to rain is renewed in Libya, as the blessing of rain turns into a curse due to the lack of infrastructure capable of managing and benefiting from rainwater. Since the beginning of December until now, roads have turned into muddy pools, buildings have collapsed, electricity has been cut off, and lives have been lost in a scene that reflects the fragility of both planning and management.

A collapsed infrastructure and successive governments know this very well, but instead of providing radical solutions, especially those related to infrastructure, we find them indulging in showy projects that do not serve the public. The Government of National Unity led by Abdul Hamid Dbeibah is promoting "The Return to Life" initiative, but the rain revealed that life has indeed "fled" with the floods.

As for Osama Hamad's gov-

ernment, it is not in a better position; it focuses on projects aimed at polishing the image of Haftar and his family without paying attention to the actual crises.

The vast majority of Libyan housing, up to 80%, lack proper sanitation systems and rely on black wells that pollute groundwater and threaten the environment. The country also lacks sewage treatment plants or a sustainable development vision, leaving the Libyan people to face annual floods, with no real solutions in sight.

State spending reflects mismanagement; more than 70% of the budget is consumed by salaries, while the rest of the resources are allocated to fuel and electricity subsidies, leaving very little to address infrastructure crises. In the absence of a serious political will to improve citizens' lives,

governments remain preoccupied with political disputes and propaganda spending, unconcerned by recurring tragedies.

With the onset of winter, a new disaster looms if urgent action is not taken. The solution requires good governance, fair redistribution of wealth, and sustainable urban planning to address sanitation crises and deal with weather fluctuations.

As for what happened in Derna, despite the speed with which reconstruction was carried out, it raises questions about the extent to which these projects adhere to international standards of security and safety. Time will tell whether Derna has benefited from its recent disaster, or whether it will join the ranks of other Libyan cities that are still unable to withstand the rain.

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



Photo of the Week

Tripoli Weather Forecast



TODAY
16°
/14°

07 JAN



17°/14°

08 JAN



18°/11°

09 JAN



18°/11°

10 JAN



20°/14°

11 JAN



17°/14°

12 JAN



14°/12°

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