



Politics

Italian newspaper: Procedural mistake caused release of Libyan security official after arrest in Italy

The Italian newspaper "La Stampa" reported on Wednesday that a procedural error was behind the release of Osama Najim, the head of the judicial police and director of the Tripoli Correctional and Rehabilitation Institution, known as "Al-Jadida Prison." According to the newspaper, the Court of Appeal in Rome did not approve the validity of the arrest due to the lack of prior communication with the Ministry of Justice before the arrest of the Libyan security official. Najim was arrested last Sunday in Turin under a warrant from the International Crimi-

nal Court on charges of committing crimes against humanity, including rape and murder, in addition to using detained migrants in a "form of slavery."

Najim arrived in Italy after entering the European Union via Germany, where he was on his way to attend a football match in Turin last Sunday, according to Libyan media. The Libyan judicial police condemned Najim's arrest, describing the event on Facebook as "shameful."

Hours after his release, Najim arrived Tuesday night on a passenger plane at Mitiga

Airport coming from the Italian city of Turin. Social media pages circulated a video clip said to be the moment Najim landed in Tripoli. The Ain Zara Reform and Rehabilitation Institution's Facebook page also confirmed the news of Najim's arrival in Tripoli. It is noteworthy that in 2021, Najim was appointed director of the Reform and Rehabilitation Institution in Tripoli, and in this position he supervised prisons, including Mitiga, Al-Jadida and Ain Zara prisons, which are officially under the control of the Judicial Police.

Politics

Libya recovers 15 billion euros after a Belgian court ruling



The Libyan Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, announced Tuesday that the Belgian judiciary had lifted the seizure imposed on the assets of the Libyan Investment Authority and Libyan Foreign Investment Company (LAFICO) at Euroclear Bank.

Dbeibah said that this complex case required careful follow-up, adding that the government had spent long hours in intensive meetings to discuss all its details and develop a clear strategy to protect it. He stressed that this achievement was not just a legal success, but rather an important step to enhance the stability of the country's economy, support the national currency, and confirm the preservation of Libyans' assets.

The Libyan Prime Minister remarked that his government would continue to defend Libya's capabilities and work to invest them for all citizens.

The spokesman for the Libyan Invest-

ment Authority, Louay Al-Griew, confirmed that a new victory had been recorded with the issuance of a ruling by the Belgian judiciary to lift the seizures on the assets of the Authority that had been under judicial seizure since 2017. He explained that this ruling means that there is no longer a seizure on any of the Authority's assets held in (Euroclear), noting that the ruling is the result of the hard and strategic work carried out by the Libyan Investment Authority team. In July 2023, the Belgian Court of Appeal issued a ruling confirming the freezing of an amount of 15 billion euros of the Libyan Investment Authority's funds deposited at Euroclear Bank in Brussels. The ruling came after Belgian Prince Laurent demanded compensation of 50 million euros due to the failure to implement a contract signed in 2008 with the Libyan Ministry of Agriculture, which was cancelled by the Libyan authorities.



Politics

Dbeibeh meets Saudi FM to discuss regional cooperation

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

The leaders discussed regional and international developments, as well as matters of mutual interest between Libya and Saudi Arabia.

The meeting also addressed the potential for strengthening bilateral ties and expanding cooperation across various sectors, emphasizing both countries' commitment to fostering closer relations.

Politics



Grand Mufti: Adopting constitution and holding elections will end transitional periods in Libya

The Grand Mufti of Libya, Sheikh Al-Sadiq Al-Gharyani, has confirmed that there is no way to Libya to end the transitional periods, eliminate financial and administrative corruption, and end the division in the country, except by holding elections and adopting the constitution. This came during a meeting between the Mufti and the UK Ambassador, Martin Longden, at the headquarters of Dar Al-Ifta in Tripoli, under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Government of National Unity.

The Libyan Fatwa House said that during the meeting, the Mufti called on the active countries of the Security Council to support this option so that Libyans can enjoy stability, considering that calling for reconciliation and talking about stability without effective solutions are all slogans that will not lead us to safety. Both sides talked about the importance role of religion, emphasizing that adherence to the Maliki school in Libya for a long time was a reason for the stability of the country, according to the statement of the Libyan Fatwa House.

Politics



ICC surprised by Italy's release of Njeem, asks for clarification

The International Criminal Court (ICC) expressed its surprise at the Italian authorities' release of the head of the Judicial Police, Osama Njeem, after his arrest at the ICC's request. ICC said in a statement on its official website that the Italian authorities released Njeem suddenly and transferred him to Libya without notifying it. The ICC demanded an urgent clarification from Italy regarding this procedure, considering that it raises questions about Rome's commitment to cooperate with the ICC. The ICC confirmed that it had issued an arrest warrant by a majority of its members against Njeem on January 18, accusing him of committing crimes against

humanity and war crimes. It explained that Njeem, who was responsible for the Mitiga prison affiliated with the Special Deterrence Force, faces charges of detaining thousands of people for long periods, and committing crimes against humanity and war crimes, including murder, torture, rape and sexual violence, according to the statement. The ICC said that it was still pursuing seven Libyans with outstanding arrest warrants, namely Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, Abdul Rahim Khalifa al-Hajjaji, Makhlof Arhuma Douma, Nasser Muhammad Daw, Mohammed Al-Salih Al-Salmi, Abdul Bari Ayyad Al-Shaqaqi, and Fathi Faraj Al-Zankal.



Politics

Dbeibah reviews boosting cooperation between Libya and British Petroleum

The Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, discussed with the Deputy Executive Director of Production and Operations at British Petroleum, Gordon Birrell, ways to enhance cooperation between Libya and the British company specialized in energy fields. Hokoometna media platform said that the meeting, which was held on Wednesday on the sidelines of Dabaiba's participation in the Davos Forum in Switzerland, dis-

cussed ways to enhance cooperation between Libya and British Petroleum in various fields, including energy, investment and economic development. The platform added on its Facebook page that the two sides stressed during the meeting the importance of developing bilateral relations and strengthening strategic partnerships in a way that contributes to supporting the Libyan economy and achieving development in the country.

Politics



Dbeibah praises Qatar's role in Palestinian issue

Prime Minister IAbdul Hamid Dbeibah has praised Qatar's role in supporting the Palestinian cause, during his meeting with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani in Davos. Dbeibah appreciated Doha's role, in cooperation with Cairo and Washington, in reaching a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

He also expressed Libya's position rejecting the continuation of Israeli attacks, stressing that these attacks violated international laws and human rights, stressing the need to intensify international efforts to deter the Israeli occupation, hold it accountable for its crimes, and ensure that the aggression against the Palestinian people is not repeated.



Politics

Joint security room established to control security in Western Mountain

The Minister of Interior, Imad Al-Trabelsi, has given instructions to establish a joint security room headed by the Director of the Law Enforcement Department of the General Administration of Security Operations, Abdul Hakim Al-Khaitouni, to enhance security in the Western

Mountain.

The room begun its duties in the Mizda region to control the security conditions in the cities and regions of the Western Mountain and its suburbs, and implement the orders of the Public Prosecution, in addition to combating smuggling.

Politics

Joint plan between HNEC and National Council of Women to strengthen women's presence in elections

The High National Elections Commission (HNEC) and the National Council of Women agreed on the need to continue cooperation to implement a joint action plan aimed at enhancing women's presence in the electoral process, ensuring equal opportunities in political life.

The agreement came at the conclusion of a meeting held on Thursday at the media center at the headquarters of the HNEC in Tripoli between the HNEC and the National Council of Women, with the participation of officials and representatives from both sides, in addition to a group of female political

activists and experts from civil society organizations.

The HNEC said that the meeting was devoted to discussing the role of women in the elections and ways to empower them and enhance their participation in the electoral process at all levels. During the meeting, many ideas and proposals were reviewed to develop training and awareness programs targeting women, especially in remote areas, with the aim of enhancing their participation in local and national elections.

The attendees also discussed the challenges facing women in the politi-

cal arena, and ways to address them through legal reforms and supportive measures that contribute to increasing women's representation in elected bodies.

The Head of the Disability Support Unit at the HNEC, Magda Al-Kateb, stressed the pivotal role played by women in building a democratic society, emphasizing the importance of their effective participation in the elections, whether as a candidate or a voter, pointing out the need to provide an appropriate environment that allows women with disabilities their full rights to political participation without obstacles.



Economy

Libya's NOC to stop oil-for-fuel trade next March



The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has announced that it will stop working with the oil-for-fuel system for fuel supplies starting from March next, based on a request from the Audit Bureau. The NOC called for the necessary budgets to be provided for fuel supply operations.

In a letter to the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of the Government of National Unity, the Acting Head of the NOC, Masoud Suleiman, said that if the fuel budget account is not funded, the NOC will not be held responsible for the return of traffic congestion or any disruptions at power stations or other vital facilities due to the loss of funds caused by delayed or failed payments. Suleiman also noted that there is still time to adopt a payment mechanism from the relevant authorities to be implemented starting from March 2025. He explained that he received verbal

approval from the Audit Bureau last Thursday to continue working with the oil exports compensation system to meet local market needs for the month of February only, until the Central Bank of Libya is ready to provide the fuel budgets.

The Audit Bureau had previously called for the cessation of the oil-for-fuel trade system for fuel supplies starting from 2025. However, the NOC pointed out in a letter to the Bureau, dated January 7, 2025, that it would be difficult to stop using the trade system at the beginning of the year, as the supplies for December had already been allocated according to this system. It also proposed continuing temporarily until the Central Bank could activate the payment mechanism through letters of credit. The NOC clarified that the delay in releasing budgets from the Central Bank of Libya and the Ministry of Finance was

the main reason for the use of the trade system, as it was unable to secure the necessary financial allocations for fuel supply on time. It confirmed that it had provided official clarifications about the consequences of this delay, but the relevant authorities had not taken the necessary measures to address it.

In his letter to the Government of National Unity, dated January 19, Masoud Suleiman stated that the NOC would stop, starting from March 1, 2025, payment in kind mechanism to its partners, Al-Waha Oil Company and Eni for gas supplies, and would cease crude oil trade with fuel in compliance with the Audit Bureau's directive.

The NOC had previously confirmed that the monthly estimated value of the country's fuel needs amounted to \$750 million, which included the cost of supplying natural gas to power stations.



Economy

Second line of polyethylene plant back into service

Ras Lanuf Oil and Gas Manufacturing Company has announced that the second line of the polyethylene plant is back into service, after a hiatus that lasted for nearly 12 years. The company indicated that this comes within the framework of strengthening the national economy and meeting the needs of the local market with a basic polyethylene product in many plastic industries.



Economy

AGOCO drills new well in Ghadames Basin

The Arabian Gulf Oil Company (AGOCO) announced on Tuesday the completion of drilling the D2-NC4 well in the NC4 concession area in the northern Ghadames Basin, with a daily production of 4,879 barrels of oil and 5.5 million cubic feet of natural gas.

AGOCO said that it recorded promising oil and gas readings during the implementation of work at the well, and explained that the results of the analysis of the recordings in the concession area showed the presence of multiple oil reservoirs.

Earlier this January, AGOCO announced the conclusion of the well's productive tests, which represents a qualitative addition to the company's efforts to increase local production.



Economy

Libya calls on Chinese companies to invest in industrial zones

The Minister of Industry and Minerals, Ahmed Abuhisa, has extended an invitation to Chinese companies to capitalize on the investment opportunities in the country's industrial zones.

Speaking during a meeting with Liu Jian, the Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Libya, Abuhisa emphasized Libya's need for international collaboration to support reconstruction efforts and enhance its industrial sector.

The meeting, held at the ministry's headquarters in Tripoli, explored avenues to strengthen bilateral ties in industrial and mining development. Discussions focused on attracting Chinese investments in industrial infrastructure and fostering technology transfer to boost productivity and economic growth.

Minister Abuhisa highlighted the longstanding ties between Libya and China, urging Chinese companies to engage in reconstruction projects and help modernize Libya's industrial zones. He noted the strategic importance of these zones in driving economic activity and creating an investor-friendly environment.

Liu Jian reaffirmed China's commitment to supporting Libya's industrial development and enhancing cooperation.

He further praised the potential of the Libyan market, describing it as a promising arena for future investments.



Economy

Libya Africa Investment Portfolio agrees with Mozambican authorities to resume rice project

The Libya Africa Investment Portfolio (LAIP) announced positive results in its talks with the Mozambican authorities regarding the Libyan-owned rice project, explaining in a statement that this step came after a series of intensive meetings held by its delegation with the relevant authorities in Mozambique.

The Chairman of LAIP's Board of Directors confirmed reaching an agreement with the Mozambican Investment and Export Promotion Agency regarding the allocation of an alternative area of land in the Gaza Province, which constitutes a pivotal and decisive step towards resuming the rice farming project.

LAIP added that a team of specialized engineers conducted a comprehensive inspection of the factory's equipment, noting that the inspection results showed that the current equipment is estimated at 80%. The delegation also agreed with the Director of the Mozambican Investment and Export Promotion Agency on the organizational and logistical arrangements necessary to resume the project.

The Director of the Africa and Middle East Department at the Mozambican Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed the ministry's full support and commitment to providing the required facilities to ensure the project's success.



Economy

Misrata eyes "Made in Pakistan" exhibition amid strengthening economic ties

The Misrata Chamber of Commerce is in talks with Pakistan's ambassador to Libya, Anjum Inaayat, to host a "Made in Pakistan" exhibition at the Misrata International Fairground.

The discussions, held on Sunday, also addressed ongoing challenges in banking transactions between the two countries, which have hindered trade relations.

Ambassador Inaayat expressed optimism about Libya's improving economic environment, particularly in Misrata, and called for renewed ties between the two nations.

He also encouraged greater collaboration, including the exchange of trade delegations and participation of Libyan companies in Pakistani trade fairs.

Education



PM Dbeibah celebrates graduation of 2,500 students at Tripoli University

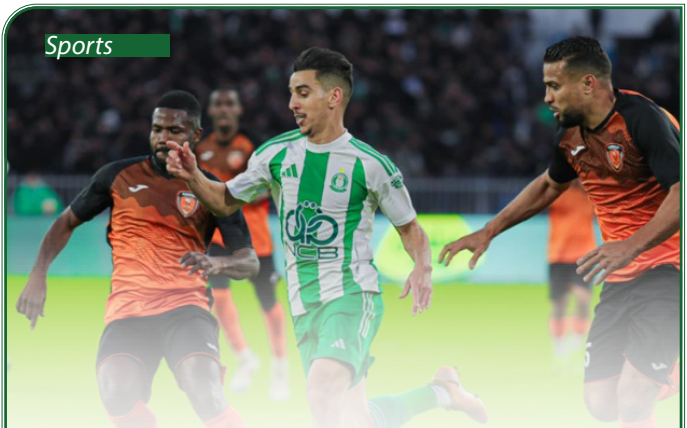
Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah joined a grand graduation ceremony at the University of Tripoli on Saturday, honoring the achievements of approximately 2,500 graduates from various faculties.

The event also saw the attendance of several senior officials, including Minister of Higher Education Omran Al-Qeeb, Minister of State for Communication and Political Affairs Walid Al-Lafi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs Adel Jumaa, University President Khaled Aoun, faculty deans, and members of the teaching staff.

In his address, Prime Minister Dbeibah congratulated the graduates and their families, praising the university's administration, student union, and teaching staff for fostering academic success. Dbeibah encouraged the graduates to actively contribute to Libya's development and stability, urging them to embrace roles in rebuilding the nation through innovation and hard work. He emphasized that Libya's future depends on the educated youth to lead progress across all sectors.

The ceremony marked the graduation of 160 master's degree holders and 100 doctoral students among the class of 2023.

Sports



Libyan Premier League: Al-Ahli Tripoli and Al-Akhdar maintain dominance as round 7 concludes

The seventh round of the Libyan Premier League wrapped up on Friday, showcasing thrilling action and decisive victories across all groups. As the first leg of the season nears its conclusion, the competition's frontrunners have begun to pull ahead.

In Group A, Al-Akhdar continued their dominant run with a resounding 4-1 victory over Khalij Sert, solidifying their place at the top of the table with a perfect 18 points. Wifaq Ajdabiya also secured a 2-1 win against Al-Ansar, while Al-Anwar and Al-Buroq played out a 1-1 draw. Meanwhile, the clash between Al-Nasr and Al-Tahaddi ended in a goalless stalemate, leaving Al-Nasr five points behind the group leaders.

Over in Group B, Al-Ahli Benghazi delivered an emphatic 4-0 victory against Al-Baranis to extend their lead at the top with 16 points. Al-Hilal, currently in second place with 12 points, edged past Al-Murooj with a narrow 1-0 win. Elsewhere, Al-Tawoun claimed a 1-0 victory over Al-Andalus, while Al-Sadaqa triumphed 2-1 against Al-Mahdiyah.

The competition in Group C saw Al-Olympi maintain their lead with a hard-fought 2-1 win against Al-Majd, taking their tally to 17 points with one game left in the first leg. Close on their heels, Al-Swehli also claimed a 2-1 victory over Shabab Al-Ghar, bringing their total to 16 points with two matches remaining. Al-Ittihad returned to winning ways with a dominant 4-0 result against Al-Nahda, and Abu Salim narrowly defeated Al-Bashaer 1-0 in a closely contested match. In Group D, Al-Ahli Tripoli maintained their perfect record with an impressive 3-0 victory over Al-Watan, topping the group with 18 points. Al-Madina continued their strong form by beating Al-Khoms 2-0, while Al-Ittihad Misrati secured an identical scoreline against Abi Al-Ashhar. In another tightly fought contest, Asaria edged past Al-Malaab Al-Liby 2-1.

As the league heads into the final two rounds of the first leg, clear leaders are emerging in each group. Al-Akhdar, Al-Ahli Benghazi, Al-Olympi, and Al-Ahli Tripoli have established themselves as dominant forces, setting the stage for an intense battle in the coming matches.

Education



Ministry of Education launches school vaccination campaign

The Ministry of Education of the Government of National Unity has launched a school vaccination campaign for the current academic year in cooperation with the National Center for Disease Control. The Ministry explained in a statement that the campaign aims to protect students from infectious diseases that can be prevented through vaccinations.

The campaign includes vaccinating first-grade, seventh-grade, and ninth-grade students with the regular vaccines, in addition to the girls' human papillomavirus "HPV" vaccine and the triple bacterial vaccine "Tdap", in addition to the seasonal influenza vaccines for all students from kindergarten to ninth grade.

Opinions

A fresh beginning for stability or a potential clash between major powers?



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

Disagreements in the UN Security Council over the identity of the new UN envoy to Libya are still ongoing. The position has been vacant since the previous envoy, Abdoulaye Bathily, submitted his resignation last April. UNSMIL's affairs are being managed by the acting Head of UNSMIL US diplomat Stephanie Koury.

Despite the UN Secretary-General's submission of several names, it seems that no agreement has been reached on any of them. The last session of the Council on Libya did not address this issue, and was devoted to the oil smuggling files, the partial lifting of the arms embargo, and allowing the Libyan Investment Authority to manage some of Libya's frozen assets, under conditions detailed in the resolution.

Before the UN Security Council session, an announcement was made in Libya about the resignation and in another version, the dismissal of Farhat Bengdara, Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), with frequent talk about sanctions that the UN Security Council could impose on Libyan state figures, involved in smuggling and selling of oil outside the legal framework, with direct or indirect assistance to this criminal activity.

The Security Council resolution states in paragraph 18 under the title 'Prevention of illicit exports of petroleum, including crude oil and refined petroleum products' that the UN Security Council; "Condemns attempts to illicitly export petroleum, including crude oil and refined petroleum products, from Libya, including by parallel institutions which are not acting under the au-

thority of the Government of Libya, and decides that measures specified in paragraphs 15, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 21 of resolution 1970 (2011), as modified by subsequent resolutions, shall also apply to individuals and entities determined by the Committee to have provided support for armed groups or criminal networks through illicit exploitation of crude oil or refined petroleum in Libya and illicit export of crude oil or refined petroleum from Libya;"

Is NOC chairman trying to save himself from any international sanctions that may be proposed by the Committee of Experts if it is proven that what is stated in the Council resolution applies to him?

In the second file, the Security Council allowed the supply of some non-lethal weapons for use in security and defensive purposes, provided that they comply with the criteria of the Committee of Experts and some other conditions, in a partial easing of the arms embargo decision, with the Council recognizing, according to what was stated in the resolution, that some member states violate this embargo and supply armed groups in Libya with weapons.

In the third file, the Security Council decided to allow the Libyan Investment Authority to manage some frozen assets, so that their value does not continue to be depleted, while the assets and interests remain frozen and are not allowed to be withdrawn or disposed of.

What are the variables that prompted some major countries to take this step, despite the lack of progress in the Libyan crisis, the continued state of division, and the failure of

initiatives to reach a settlement that would put the country on the brink of elections?

The rapid international and regional developments are the motivation behind this international move through the UN Security Council.

Confronting oil smuggling operations with strict decisions from the Security Council means drying up the sources of entities and individuals who seize part of the revenues and exploit them to strengthen their influence and obstruct any political initiative presented and supervised by the UN mission in Libya. Lifting the partial ban can be interpreted as international encouragement to unify security institutions to confront organized crime gangs across borders and combat irregular migration. It can also be interpreted as part of a Western project to confront Russia militarily through local forces, which will be armed after this partial lifting of the arms embargo.

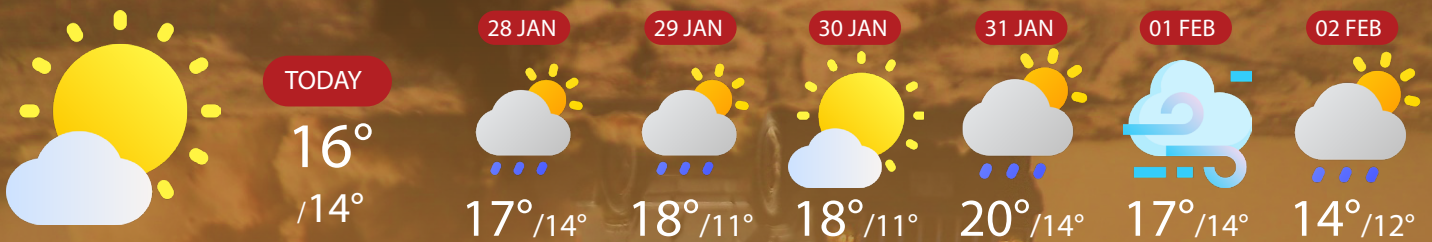
Focusing on economic reforms by opening the oil smuggling file and allowing the Investment Authority to manage some of the frozen Libyan assets will provide financial support for any military operation targeting the Russian presence in Libya. These sudden bold decisions, despite the political stalemate, can only be explained from the perspective of the rapid developments in the region and the expected shift in US policy with the arrival of President Trump.

Will these decisions be a new beginning towards stability, or are they a preparation for a potential clash between America and its allies on the one hand and Russia on the other?

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



+218 94 424 69 28 libyaobserver.ly lyobserver

info@libyaobserver.ly lyobserver

ar.libyaobserver.ly lyobserver.ar lyobserver.arabic

libyaobserver thelibyaobserver

Contact Information