

Politics

Italy's Libya envoy: GNU should prove ability to maintain partnership with Rome



Italy's special envoy to Libya, Pasquale Ferrara, said security is need for the return of Italian companies to work in Libya, saying the Government of National Unity (GNU) should prove its ability to ensure the safety of the companies' personnel ahead of any move.

Speaking at a hearing by the Italian House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee, Ferrara said security guarantees by the GNU are highly essential in bilateral relations between Rome and Tripoli, adding that the issue of reopening airspace between the two countries also needs security guarantees, not to mention that one of the preconditions to begin work on the highway is a security plan by Libya to be approved by the Italian companies and presented to the embassy for further approval, according to AKI news agency.

Ferrara said that after seeing the prevention of GNU meeting in Benghazi by militias, it is clear that the government control over the entire country isn't a solid fact, yet it shouldn't hinder Italian investment in bilateral relations with Libya for the future without getting our hopes up on the short-term expectations.

Politics

Abu Janah: Preventing Benghazi GNU meeting an opportunity for political process spoilers



The Deputy Prime Minister of the Libyan Government of National Unity (GNU), Ramadan Abu Janah, voiced concern over the prevention of the cabinet meeting in Benghazi, saying it could be an opportunity for Libyan political process spoilers.

Abu Janah told reporters he was sorry about the attempts of continuation of political division and extortion of state institutions, adding that it would be of nobody's interest to see Libya return to violence and fragmentation and that the GNU's stability drive would remain solid no matter the pressure as "it's the drive of the Libyan people who aspire for development, prosperity, sovereignty and national reconciliation".

He added that the GNU started to contact all actors in Libya to restore hope in the political process as per the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum's (LPDF) outcomes under the auspices of the UN, saying all actors vowed to respect and never hinder the LPDF roadmap and they must fulfill their promises and adding that the GNU promises to provide Libyans with the needed services for better living conditions and to stop the spoilers from taking advantage of the current momentum to achieve personal gains.

"All Libyans have the right to oppose authorities and political parties as per the rights of freedom of expression, but they must do so peacefully and without any violence or riot," Abu Janah said.

Politics

Pro-Haftar military convoy seen in southeast Tripoli



The Libyan Army said Monday it had depicted movements for a military convoy for Khalifa Haftar's forces near Shuweref area in southeast Tripoli.

The Libyan Army's Operation Volcano of Rage said on Twitter that military vehicles for Haftar's forces backed by Russian Wagner Group mercenaries were heading eastward to Shuweref area.

The media office of the operation said there were 62 military vehicles and three trucks laden with ammunition and two Pantsir-S systems on a German-made vehicle, adding that such moves are a violation of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission ceasefire agreement that has been in effect since last October.

According to sources, Haftar forces' convoy arrived Monday night at Brak Al-Shatti base in south Libya, where pro-Haftar Wagner Group mercenaries were in control and training Chadian rebel forces.



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Politics

Turkey: The thaw in Turkish-Egyptian relations could help end war in Libya



The Turkish Presidency Spokesman Ibrahim Kalin has said that Turkey talks with Egypt next week could forge renewed cooperation between the two estranged regional powers and help efforts to end the war in Libya.

In an interview with Reuters, Kalin confirmed that Intelligence chiefs and foreign ministers of both countries have been in contact, and a Turkish diplomatic mission will visit Egypt in early May.

"Given the realities on the ground, I think it's in the interests of both countries and the region to normalise relations with Egypt," Kalin said.

"Rapprochement with Egypt...will certainly help the security situation in Libya because we fully understand that Egypt has a long border with Libya that may sometimes pose a security threat for Egypt," he added. The Turkish official indicated that Turkey would discuss security in Libya with Egypt and other countries and support the UN-backed transitional government that took over the country.

With regard to the Turkish presence in Libya, Kalin noted that the Turkish army officers would remain in Libya, according to the agreement signed with the Libyan government, which paved the way for decisive Turkish intervention in support of the UN-backed government based in Tripoli.

Politics

Amnesty International: Haftar punishes critics in sham military trials



Amnesty International said in a report on Monday that eastern Libyan military courts have sentenced at least 22 people to death and jailed hundreds more since 2018 in "sham, torture-tainted" trials to exert control.

Amnesty International indicated that military courts had convicted hundreds of civilians in eastern Libya in secret and grossly unfair military trials, which were "aimed at punishing real or perceived opponents and critics" of the forces loyal to eastern warlord Khalifa Haftar. It added that the those convicted included journalists, peaceful protesters and individuals who criticized Haftar's militias on social media. Amnesty said former detainees they interviewed "detailed a catalogue of abuses", including being "abducted and detained for up to three years" before being taken to military trial.

Others said they had been "held incommunicado for up to 20 months" as well as reporting being "beaten, threatened and water-boarded", and "forced to sign 'confessions' to crimes they did not commit."

Amnesty International's MENA Office official Diana Eltahawy said military trials were used by the eastern forces as means of "exerting their power to punish those who oppose them and instill a climate of fear".

"Trials were sometimes held without lawyers or even the defendants, undermining any semblance of justice", Eltahawy added.

It was not clear if the 22 death sentences had been carried out, but Amnesty said Libyan rights groups had reported at least 31 executions between 2018 and 2020.

Amnesty International said the new Government of National Unity "must immediately put an end to the military trial of civilians, and order investigations into torture and other crimes under international law committed by armed groups."

Politics

Al-Sunni: Mercenaries must leave Libya



Libya's Ambassador to the United Nations, Taher al-Sunni, has said that mercenaries and foreign fighters must leave Libya, considering this an inevitable matter.

Al-Sunni added in a tweet that this must be done according to a mechanism agreed upon by the 5 + 5 Joint Military Committee.

"The departure of mercenaries with their weapons will recycle the conflict in Libya and destabilize the security of the neighbouring countries and the region, as is happening now -in reference to Chad-" al-Sunni explained.

He indicated that Libya is seeking to hold a session in the Security Council on this issue in coordination with the African Group.



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Meeting at Ministry of Finance to review HoR recommendations on budget bill

The Libyan Ministry of Finance held a meeting for the ministerial committee that was formed by the Government of National Unity and reviewed House of Representatives' recommendations on the 2021 budget bill.

The first meeting of the committee discussed Sunday the recommendations and gave remarks, according to a Ministry of Finance statement, which added that the ministers gave their opinions on the HoR recommendations ahead of further review in the coming days to devise the final draft of the budget bill to be sent to the HoR.

Last Tuesday, the HoR unanimously voted for returning the budget bill to the Government of National Unity for amendment as per the remarks and recommendations of the HoR's Planning, Finance and Budget Commission.



Libya's National Oil Corporation lifts force majeure on Huriqa port

The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) has lifted force majeure on Huriqa oil port and instructed operating firms to resume production and exports.

The decision came after a meeting for the Chairman of NOC, Mustafa Sanallah, and heads of Ras Lanuf, Arab Gulf Company and Sirte oil companies in Benghazi, where they also reviewed the challenges facing the operations of those firms.

They also agreed to issue a statement about the commitments of the oil companies ahead of payments in two months from Monday, prioritizing national firms.

The NOC said it will appoint a specialized highly credited company to assess the oil facilities to set up a plan to maintain the safety of state assets.



Waha installs new oil tanks in Sidra port

Waha Oil Company announced that it has started rebuilding the crude oil tanks in the Sidra oil terminal reservoir complex, under the supervision of the company's engineering department and with the support of the National Oil Corporation (NOC).

According to a statement by the company, the engineers have recently completed the initial construction on tanks No. (1) and (17), which were previously removed due to their destruction.

It explained that the work teams are expected to begin in a couple of days in the process of installing tank structures, roofs, and their accessories with modern specifications, in cooperation with a Canadian company and the implementing company EL-Swari Oil & Marine Services.

The company emphasized that the new tanks will enhance the storage capacity, and thus increase exports, which will support the country's national product.



Misrata Chamber of Commerce discusses upgrading trade exchanges with Pakistan

The Director General of the Misrata Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abu Bakr Shanab, held discussions with the Ambassador of the Republic of Pakistan to Libya, Rashad Javed, regarding the bolstering of joint trade cooperation between both countries.

The meeting also covered coordination for a Pakistani trade exhibition, which should be held after several months in Misrata, along with discussions of plans to speed up the reopening of the maritime lines between the Misrata free zone port and the port of Islamabad, in order to increase trade exchange.

The two sides also discussed the facilitation of visa procedures between Libyan and Pakistani businessmen and merchants.

Opinions

Understanding Ramadhan and its blessing beyond

By Mohammad Amar Ma'ruf, Charge d'affaires of
the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Tripoli - Libya



As one the Hadist Prophet Muhammad PBUH says, Fasting is a shield, so the one who fasts should avoid obscene speech and ignorant behavior. If someone abuses him or starts to fight with him, he should reply by saying: 'I am fasting. I am fasting'. (Saheeh Al-Bukhari, a companion of Prophet Mohammad).

Thanks to the Almighty God for His Merciful in presenting again to us Ramadhan Month. The month of Ramadhan may not be found in our temporary life which we don't know when people will pass away. During this month Islam believers be instructed to do fasting from the Morning to the Afternoon (Maghreb time) and do other ritual activities at night. Those who are fasting will have a more chance to grow their spiritual contact and build stronger relationships with the God Almighty Allah, the creator of Universe, by praying, reciting the Quran, making their actions intentional and selfless, and abstaining from gossiping, lying, and fighting.

The Ramadhan is a magnificent gift for all tauhid believers. On this month the Fasting Doers will observe ritual activities. If this ritual be conducted sincerely, it will have noble impact not only to human but also to its environment. One example is the Doer will be taught to share its empathy to the poor. Those who are living in poverty and always having unpleasant moment and live desperately in hunger or lack of basic needs should be paid attention during this month. The condition that may never be felt by the fortunate.

Furthermore, to express strong commitment in combating poverty, outside Ramadhan all moslem/moslemah are invited to contribute its best effort to eliminate the root cause of hunger by developing and sharing its best practices to assist the unfortunate to improve their quality of life.

Ramadhan today has extremely different. People face big challenge due to unprecedented problems being found. The most prevailing issues is outbreak of pandemic of Covid 19. Meanwhile it is worsening with the struck of heavy natural disasters or even other non-natural disasters in certain countries. These issues are complicated and have interchangeable impacts.

For the social workers this situation will be gold mining to have good rewards. The same orientation also for the fasting doers. They will see and manage the above unfortunate situation or moment faced by the unfortunate as golden opportunity. They will do as good as they can and they also share their capacities to minimize or overcome the burdens of the affected peoples and surroundings.

Many fasting doers will feel fortunate to race and invite in good purposes (Amar Ma'ruf) and avoid bad thing (nahi munkar). On this month all good activities get multiplied reward. As the nights of Ramadhan, there will be special night which is called Lailatul Qadr (doing the good things during time will have 1000 multiplying reward). Meanwhile the opposite attitude will also be given the multiple punishment if they do on purpose without legal reasons.

The magnificent of Ramadhan brings goodness beyond human calculation due to the reward will be given by the Creator of Universe directly and from all directions. This reward will also be felt and given to anyone who want to make this Ramadhan full of festive and easiness for all the doers. Even though the positive contribution is small, it will be worth it before the eye of Allah Almighty as good reward.

In health aspects, many health practitioners find proof that the fasting increase healthy body organ. The physical and mental of doers will rejuvenate. It is positive for human organ that may exhausted after being used continuously for 11 months. The fasting activities will make our body and mind healthier.

In term of social and economic, the stakeholders will get multiplied gains. They will receive reward in many kinds of return. Many economic and social activists will gain sustainable benefits not always in the form of material aspects but also in the form of social benefits, for examples permanent and markets for its products and productivity of its employers.

The value of having good deed in Ramadhan month creates balancing and equal opportunities for all to respect each other's and share their empathy toward their neighbor problems. This situation will also support and create more balancing and positive interaction between peoples and its environment. This will contribute clean oxygen for living things including human.

In the wide scope, the good impact of Fasting is in line with the solidarity efforts among nations. World acknowledges that many countries in the world still face problem in fulfilling the basic need for their peoples. This problem is doubled with the outbreak of pandemic of Covid 19 and other non-natural disasters. This situation will open new perspective of cooperation or may become more technical to provide more facilities on public utilities.

Every effort in curing this problem will have significant reward before the Almighty God with His Own Power and Will. Therefore, the Ramadhan is a momentum for all stakeholders to prepare and do the good things for all human kind and environment that may enhance or even facilitate the believer in conducting their ritual obligation. Its facilitation may vary depend on its capacities. More giving more good things will return. For that reason, Allah Almighty will appreciate those who thanks to others and Allah the Almighty will lead the way those who always hand in hand for benefit of people and environment.

Let us race to get those blessings. HAPPY RAMADHAN KAREEM 1442 H

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



Health

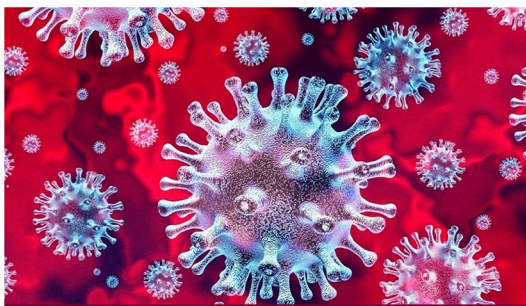
Health Minister conducts inspection visit to psychiatric hospital

The Health Minister, Ali Al-Zanati, made an inspection visit to the "Ali Al-Ruwe'i" Psychiatric Hospital to assess the ongoing development and construction work at the facility.

This visit comes after the expiration of the time limit given to the hospital's management to implement the stalled projects and improve its services.

"There is a relative improvement in the services provided in the hospital; However, it does not live up to the required level, Al-Zanati said, stressing the need to provide the best health services to psychiatric patients.

The Minister underscored that they will follow up on the projects implemented by some companies inside the hospital, and demanded a full report on the reason for the delay in the construction and establishment of some health facilities in Benghazi.



Health

Warning of unprecedented increase of Corona-virus issued in Al-Wahat region

The medical advisory committee set up to confront the Coronavirus pandemic in the Al-Wahat region has warned of an unprecedented surge of the virus in the region over the coming period.

The committee indicated that the situation seems to forecast what it called a 'genuine disaster', in the event of the citizens in the region continuing to disregard the advised precautionary measures, which are demanded for the protection of all citizens.

In a statement, the committee announced that 17 new cases of the Coronavirus were recorded in the Al-Wahat, seven of which were admitted to the local Al-Wahat Isolation Center at the Jalu General Hospital.



Health Ministry inspects health facilities in the west

An inspection committee from the Ministry of Health conducted a visit to health facilities in the western region, including Ghadames, Darj, and Sanawan.

According to a statement by the Health Ministry, the team toured Ghadames General Hospital, Ghadames Health Service Department, Darj regional hospital, and Sinaon Health Service Department.

The committee followed up on the work progress at these facilities and got an insight into the medical supplies and staff, in addition to their commitment to the implementation of the administrative and financial procedures.

It also noted that the facilities suffered critical shortages of medicine and hospital supplies, especially scorpion vaccines, besides the lack of medical components, confirming that a comprehensive report will be submitted to the relevant authorities for appropriate action.

Health

Al-Zanati: WHO must cooperate with Health Ministry for any activities in Libya



Minister of Health Ali Al-Zanati on Wednesday met with the World Health Organization representative in Libya, Elizabeth Hof, to discuss cooperation mechanisms and set the regulations for the mission's work in the country.

A statement by the Health Ministry said that Al-Zanati stressed the need for the WHO mission to coordinate with the Health Ministry before embarking on any activity.

The Health Minister expressed his appreciation for the WHO efforts in Libya, explaining that the controls have been established to regulate the cooperation mechanisms between the WHO and the ministry.

"The WHO must give the Health Ministry prior knowledge of everything related to medical supplies and the place of distribution," Al-Zanati said.

For her part, Hof reiterated her full support for the cancer control program in Libya and to intensify efforts to bring specialists to Libya to work on developing the program's strategies.

"Libya is a member of the World Health Organization, and it is among the first countries to pay the contribution amount," the WHO official said, confirming the organization's commitment to work under the framework of the Libyan Ministry of Health.



Tripoli derby ends 0-0 with mediocre performance

Al-Ahly Tripoli and Al-Ittihad football clubs drew 0-0 late on Monday at Tripoli stadium as part of the eighth round of the Libyan League.

After being delayed for over two weeks to fix the lighting at the Tripoli stadium for a night match, the derby game was held in the Libyan capital with a very modest performance from both teams, who appeared happy to take one point each at the final whistle.

The match didn't see many scoring chances as both teams were not performing well in a very anticipated game by the fans.

The last minute of the match saw Al-Ittihad player Jaafar Jabouda receive a red card, with the two teams leaving with 16 points each on the league table and thus both topping the second group.

Minister of Sports follows up development work of Rajab Okasha complex



The Minister of Sports in the National Unity Government, Abdul-Shafie Al-Joueifi, conducted an inspection tour on Monday, to the Rajab Okasha complex in Tripoli, to follow up on the implementation of the maintenance and development work for it.

"The maintenance will include technical improvements, adding changing rooms, toilets and all required facilities, to be a comprehensive and high-level complex according to the latest technologies", Al-Joueifi confirmed.

He also confirmed his constant follow-up for all sports facilities in all regions of Libya, stressing the importance of providing a suitable sports environment for all athletes in Libya, according to the Ministry official Facebook page.



Residents of some neighborhoods in Tripoli complain interruption of Man-Made river water

Residents of some neighborhoods in the municipalities of Abu Salim, Ain Zara and Al-Farnaj in the capital, Tripoli, have complained about the interruption in water supply service from the Man-Made River for several days.

"The residents attributed the outages due to the deficient pumping equipment, as those areas are a little high", the Libyan News Agency said.

They also appealed to the relevant authorities, especially the Hassawna Water System at the Man-Made River Authority (MMRA), to quickly intervene and address this issue.



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Sun 02	25°/18°		Cloudy	17%	NNE 20 km/h
Mon 03	26°/17°		Mostly Cloudy	10%	NNE 20 km/h
Tue 04	23°/16°		Partly Cloudy	15%	NNE 21 km/h
Wed 05	25°/17°		Partly Cloudy	3%	NE 22 km/h
Thu 06	25°/16°		Partly Cloudy	3%	ENE 25 km/h

Photo of the Week





Features

Ubari town

A Tuareg Berber-speaking oasis town and the capital of the Wadi Al-Hayaa District, in the Fezzan region of southwestern Libya. It is in the Idehan Ubari, a Libyan section of the Sahara Desert. It was the capital of the former baladiyah (district) called Awbari, in the south-west of the country.

The Ubari oasis settlement is the second center for the Kel Ajjer Tuareg people, after Ghat.

Ubari is located in one of the sunniest and driest areas in the world. It has a hot desert climate with short, very warm winters but long, extremely hot summers.

The beauty of its nature made it a destination for tourists, as it is characterized by desert tourism as it includes salt lakes, the most important of which is Lake Gaberoun.

It has a Civil Airport, which is newly built, but not international, and it plays a very important role in the fields of oil and private tourism. Neighbouring villages include Germa, and Garran.

Gaberoun

It is an oasis with a large lake in the Idehan Ubari desert region of the Libyan Sahara. It is very salty, swimming can be pleasant despite the salt water crustaceans. Mosquitoes are abundant, especially in the summer. October to May is considered the best time to visit as the climate is milder.

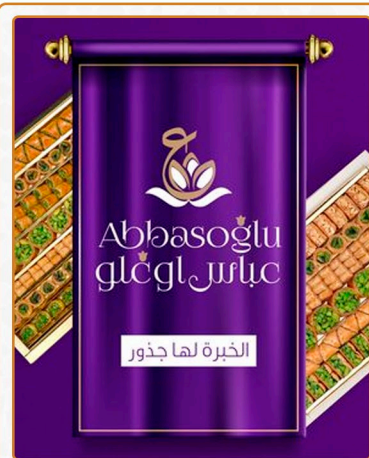
The oasis is accessible from the Sabha-Ubari road (150km west of Sabha and north in the sand dunes at the settlement of Qasr Larocu), by a 36 km 4WD ride through the dunes of the Ubari sand sea (also called Ramlat al Dauada).

History

A small tribe inhabited the oasis; the ruins of their settlement are scattered between the palms at the north-western shore of the lake. It is said that one of their sources of subsistence were the worm-like crustaceans they fished from the salty lake.

They were moved in the 1980s to a new location outside the sand dunes, in the Wadi Bashir, south of the erg, a settlement of concrete apartments built specifically for the resettlement of this tribe.

The old Bedouin settlement by the western shore of the lake has been abandoned, and now lies in ruins.



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