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Libyan HoR passes controversial "combating cyber crime" bill -



The spokesman for the Libyan House of Representatives (HoR) Abdullah Blehiq said on his Facebook page on Tuesday that the HoR members had unanimously voted to pass the bill of "combating cyber crime".

The HoR also passed on Monday the cyber transactions bill and modified the age of presidential candidacy to 35. It reviewed the combating cyber crime bill, which led to some controversy even before being published to the public in its final draft.

Social media activists circulated leaked photocopies of the bill, saying it takes Libya backward even to worse times than those of Gaddafi's reign, alikening it to the policy of North Korea's regime and accusing the HoR of policing the general freedoms of people.

The leaked bill shows various punishments for cyber crimes (the bill is titled electronic crimes: meaning things that happen online) with jail times ranging to five years and fines of huge sums of money for "speaking ill of normal people or even public figures (by texts, voice or video)."

Politics Jeune Afrique: Saif Al-Islam hires French advisor to lobby for his political return

Son of Later Muammar Ghaddafi Saif Al-Islam has reached out to the Algerian-French businessman and counselor, Al-Tayeb Ben Abdel Rahman, to lobby for his media appearance as he prepares to return to the political arena, writes the French magazine Jeune Afrique.

The magazine said that Abdul Rahman had been in contact with the Gaddafi family for years and had become Saif Al-Islam's spokesman in Europe and Africa.

Abdul Rahman has long been interested in the Libyan issue, says the Jeune Afrique, indicating that he facilitated the visit of Khalifa Haftar -who is facing war crime cases in US courts- to Brazzaville in September 2017.

The Algerian-French businessman was also engaged in organizing a meeting between Libya's Presidential Council Head Mohamed Menfi and the Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso last July.

Abdul Rahman founded the think tank "Geopolitical Club" in 2016 to establish and promote relations with other EU institutions, with the participation of many well-known parliamentarians, diplomats, and political figures, according to the same source.

Politics

French Foreign Minister invites PM to Paris Conference on Libya



The French Foreign Minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, has handed over an invitation to Libvan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah to attend Paris Conference on Libya on November 12, the French embassy on Libya said Monday on Twitter.

The embassy added that the Paris Conference is going to be "for and with Libya" as France supports the Government of National Unity's efforts to lead the country for stability and sovereignty as well as general elections on December 24.

The Presidential Council also said earlier that Le Drian had invited its Head, Mohammed Menfi, when they met at the Libya Stabilization Conference last Thursday.

Paris Conference is going to tackle the ongoing situation in Libya in the presence of stakeholders and the US Vice President, Kamala Harris, according to her spokesperson.

The conference, which was the idea of the French President Emmanuel Macron and Libyan government, will see attendance of the countries that attended Berlin conferences and all Libyan neighboring states, according to Le Drian.





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Embassies of France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States said on Monday they recognized the importance of election security and urged Libyan government institutions to invest in protecting the integrity of elections, calling on Libyan leaders to respect the elections process.

They also welcomed in a joint statement the announcement yesterday by the head of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) that the Endorsement List forms required for presidential and parliamentary candidates will be published by HNEC, an important development for those wishing to be candidates, as outlined in the HNEC implementation plan." The statement

The embassies reiterated their support to HNEC as it conducts its mandate in full independence and we urge all actors to heed its technical advice and respect its expertise; saying they condemn all actors who undermine its action by threat or obstruction.

"We recall that individuals or entities engaging in, or providing support for acts that threaten the peace, stability or security of Libya or that obstruct or undermine the successful completion of its political transition, may be designated by the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 24 of resolution 1970 (2011) for the travel ban and asset freeze measures." The statement adds.

The embassies said they are committed to cooperating with Libya on important shared challenges such as terrorism, migration, climate change and protection of the environment.

They applauded the patriotism and commitment of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC), which presented on its comprehensive Action Plan for the withdrawal of mercenaries, foreign fighters and foreign forces from Libyan territory at the October 21 Stabilization Conference.

HNEC's plan is to hold parliamentary and presidential elections simultaneously, Al-Sayeh says



The Chairman of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC), Imad Al-Sayeh, has revealed that the HNEC's plan calls for holding the presidential and parliamentary elections simultaneously.

In a press conference, Al-Sayeh added that the results of the presidential and parliamentary elections will be announced simultaneously, as the second round of the presidential elections will be parallel to the parliamentary elections.

"The registration of candidates for the parliamentary and presidential elections will open simultaneous in the first half of next November when preparations are completed", Al-Sayeh said.

He also indicated that the HNEC is still communicating with the House of Representatives (HoR) to amend some technical articles in the election laws, and that it does not consider it a political party, but rather as a legislative authority, stressing that HNEC is obligated to implement the laws sent to it by the HoR, according to him.

"The HNEC will take proactive steps with the aim of facilitating the holding of the elections on time, as it will present today the recommendation forms and conditions for candidacy for the presidential elections, while tomorrow it will present the list of registered voters", Al-Sayeh added.

He also confirmed that the elections will be held in accordance with the two laws issued by the HoR, noting that whoever questions these electoral laws must challenge them before the judiciary, which will itself resort to resolving disputes, as he put it.

conomy

Ministry of Labour reviews new controls for foreign labour



Foreign labour who have ended the term of their contract in Libya may not be able to renew their working arrangements until they leave the country for a period of two years, if the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation approves a new set of controls proposed by its technical team.

The ministry explained in a statement Monday that its technical team addressed in a meeting an array of issues, including prohibiting the recruitment of foreigners who entered the country on mission visas

They also stressed the need to prioritize contracts that target scarce specializations and professions -after obtaining the Minister of Labour's approval- besides unifying all forms of contracts for foreign workers.

Regarding the health sector, the ministry said it is reviewing the extension of the length of employment contracts for a year or two for specialists, and consultants in the medical field, besides oil experts and foreigners married to Libyan nationalists.

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Lelas Libya Perfumes

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The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah said two projects in solar energy with Italian Eni and French Total companies.

Dbeibah said in a seminar on public and private sectors' partnership in energy sector that the two projects will be launched by the end of the year and create work opportunities for Libyan young men and women.

He reiterated that the private sector should be supported in its work in energy, in addition to giving it the chance to take a positive part in the public sector's projects, saying renewable and alternative energy sector projects need the efforts if both sectors to use international and scientific research and expertise.

Dbeibah said Libyans should be prioritized in oil and energy sector to develop it for the best interest of the country, urging the Ministry of Oil and Gas, who attended the seminar along with a number of officials and energy experts, to increase oil production in the five coming years.



Libya takes part in Cairo's meeting to discuss Arab Free Trade Zone

Libya has participated in a recent meeting at the Arab League HQ in Cairo to discuss technical issues related to the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy and Trade for Free Zones Affairs Nuri Qatati represented Libya as he joined the ninth meeting of the Committee on Technical Restrictions on Trade.

The officials reviewed the items included in the technical attaché with respect to the trade restrictions within the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone.

The meeting was held upon the Economic and Social Council decision, with a view to keep pace with the trade exchange procedures of the free zones in the globe and the World Trade Organization standards.

The Arab League said that it aims to promote goods trade between Arab countries in a way that leads to preserving the interests of member states on the basis of mutual benefit and find an Arab framework to address issues related to technical restrictions on trade to enhance trade exchange between the Arab countries.

More than 150 Libyan companies to take part in economic event in Tunisia



More than 150 Libyan companies are gearing up for the Libyan economic show that would take place on the grounds of the Exhibition Palace in Tunis between 23 to 27 November.

The event entitled "Made in Libya" is organized by the Libyan Industry Union and sponsored by the Libyan Ministry of Industry and Minerals and its Tunisian counterpart.

Decision-makers from both sides will join the event to discuss the obstacles that prevent or limit exports between Libya and Tunisia, according to the Libyan Industry Union.

The union explained that the step aims to introduce the industry in Libya and enhance marketing opportunities for national products in foreign markets.

There will also be workshops to examine the obstacles facing Libyan manufacturers, with the aim of developing and discussing the recommendations issued in this regard.

With more than 150 Libyan companies participating in various fields, the event is considered the first economic activity to be held outside the country.

Italian Eni to launch massive oil project in Libya



The Italian oil giant Eni has extended the initial deadline to a deal with a service contractor to manage a massive oil project in partnership with the National Oil Corporation.

The project includes constructing two new fixed offshore platforms opposite the Mellitah complex west of Libya and modernizing another stand. In addition, the program will also develop a range of subsea pipelines besides an onshore gas treatment facility to benefit from the gas and condensate resources extracted from the offshore platforms.

The 85,000-ton platform for dealing with structures will produce along with the slightly lighter Ras Al-Bir platform around 760 million cubic feet of gas, 42,000 barrels of condensate, and 5,000 barrels of oil per day.

It is noteworthy that the project, which will cover all new facilities, will kick off in the first quarter of 2023 before entering production in 2026.

Opinions

The post-Haftar stage

Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



The horizon has become blocked in front of Khalifa Haftar, and his political future is dependent on the developments of the American position on the Libyan crisis and the entire region, and judging by previous experiences, his fate, as well as the fate of his dynasty and his partners, is almost becoming clearer.

The Libya Stability Law, which was approved by the US House of Representatives, and is awaiting the approval of the Senate, will be a sword shed on many of the leading figures in the scene, led by Haftar. And because his sons were at the center of his bloody project after he granted them military ranks and assigned them to the highest positions in his militia, their fate will not differ from the fate of those who preceded them in crime from the sons of murderous leaders, as Saddam Hussein and Gaddafi are not the last of them.

There is an American insistence on holding the Libyan elections on time, and in the face of this slowdown in taking the necessary steps leading to them, America and Western countries are activating their diplomatic arsenal in parallel with the threat of sanctions, which may be disrupted by the Russian veto and the supportive Chinese position if they are discussed in the Security Council. Therefore, a special law was introduced in the Libyan situation that gives American institutions at all levels the space required to move and confront the Russian incursion into Libya and the Sahel region, which threatens their interests and the interests of its allies, and confuses the calculations of its upcoming conflict with China.

A few weeks before the House of Representatives voted on the law, Haftar's agents concluded a contract with two lobbying group to promote Haftar in American political circles, and arrange meetings for him with officials in the White House, for the purpose of propaganda and showing American support for him in the Libyan presidential elections, but the contract was annulled after voting on the law, as lobbying group and public relations companies will not find an official who will accept to meet Haftar, who seems to have some chapters of the law completely tailored to him.

The trial before which Haftar is being tried in absentia now in Virginia, USA, in several cases, will be just a prelude to other cases that will be brought against him for committing war crimes against humanity during the years he ignited wars in Libya under the pretext of fighting terrorism, culminating in the attack on Tripoli in April 2019, before defeating his forces and mercenaries and their fleeing, dragging the tails of defeat after more than a year, leaving behind ruins, mines and mass graves.

His defense team did not present any pleadings to refute the charges against him, because he does not have any counter-arguments to stand up to the strength of the evidence presented by the victims' lawyers, contenting himself with trying to immunize him from prosecution with allegations that he bears presidential responsibilities, claiming that Libyan laws punish those who provide information containing secrets belonging to the Libyan state with the death penalty, and the court rejected this alleged immunity, and gave Haftar two weeks to appear before it and be questioned before the verdict is issued.

Some news refers to an offer made by some of the major powers to provide a safe exit for Haftar, stability in the Emirates, and to stop obstructing the path of transformation in Libya. I am certain that the offer is correct, or at least it was presented as an option with a number of other options that America is studying with its allies, to make the political settlement successful in Libya, but it is necessary first to stabilize the situation in his areas of influence and prevent the spread of chaos. And if this news is true or become the best options. Will Haftar accept and obediently go into safe exile, abandoning the dream that has been imagining for decades in ruling Libya in the manner of Gaddafi?

Given the extent of the crimes committed by his forces and their documentation in several international reports, and the availability of the conditions for filing cases against him in Libyan and international courts, it is likely that he will not accept the offer, which will not protect him from prosecution for the remainder of his life.

There is a precedent for this: The former Chilean tyrant Pinochet remained immune from the judiciary even after his departure from power, but as soon as he traveled outside Chile, the international judiciary began to prosecute him for crimes and violations during his rule in Chile. He was held under house arrest for a year and a half in London, and his illness or advanced age did not prevent him from being pursued, but his inability to appear in court because of his severe illness prompted the Spanish judiciary to stop prosecuting him, and Britain allowed him to return to Chile to complete his days in isolation in one of its remote villages.

It is known that Pinochet turned against the elected Chilean President Salvador Allende in the seventies of the last century with the support of American intelligence, as he was one of its prominent agents in Latin America to confront the communist expansion, then it abandoned him after his expiration, as it usually does with its clients when they expire.

It seems that Haftar's validity for American interests is nearing its end, and the issuance of the Libya Stability Law, and the termination of the contracts promoted by America to win the presidency of Libya in the upcoming elections, and the frequency of talk about a safe exit are only strong indications of the approaching phase of post-Haftar, which may be delayed if he chooses to escalate and not surrender to his inevitable fate. Does he still have some cards to continue playing and his popular credit has almost run out?

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



Director of the Sabha Prosecution Office injured by criminals

The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) announced the injury of the Director of the Sabha Public Prosecution, Diya Al-Haq Nasser, at the hands of a criminal group.

The SJC confirmed on its official Facebook page, that the Council is following with great concern, the conditions that Nasser was subjected to during his return from a work mission, at which he was following up on various cases with the security authorities.

The Council confirmed that it will prosecute the perpetrators of this shameful crime and bring them to justice, calling on the executive authority to provide the necessary protection for its members and the employees of judicial bodies.



Education

Al-Qeib, British ambassador talk over problems facing Libyan students in the UK

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Imran al-Qeib, discussed Wednesday with the British Ambassador to Libya, Caroline Hurndall the problems facing Libyan students in the UK.

Al-Qeib stressed the depth of relations between the two countries, stressing that the UK needs to do more to support stability in Libya.

The minister briefed Hurndall on the national project launched by his office regarding the home and overseas dispatching of students and explained how the UK could benefit from this program.

He also touched upon the residency issue that Libyan students face in the UK, calling on the British government to provide a radical solution for settling the matter, which -according to him- could only be resolved through Offices working from inside Libya.

For her part, the British ambassador affirmed her country's interest in the Libyan file and its support for stability besides the exit of all foreign forces from Libyan soil. She further stressed the importance of achieving scientific and research cooperation between the two countries.



IOM resumes humanitarian flights from Libya following months of suspension

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) confirmed that it had received permission from the Government of National Unity (GNU) to resume humanitarian flights, noting that it had deported the first batch of migrants to Gambia who were awaiting their return home through the Voluntary Humanitarian Return Program.

The organization explained that it has deported 127 migrants, seven female and 120 males, including five children from Misrata Airport to the Gambian capital, Banjul on the first flight since August 8, 2021, at which time the Ministry of Interior has suspended all humanitarian flights.

The head of the IOM mission in Libya, Federico Suda, said that in excess of 10,000 migrants in Libya had requested voluntary assistance for humanitarian return from the organization and had been waiting for several months to make the trip home to their relevant countries.



Helicopter carrying money crashed in Tarhuna city without causing human damage

A helicopter carrying cash for Jumhouria Bank in the city of Tarhuna was crashed during landing after losing its balance.

The media center of the bank confirmed that none of the crew members was injured, indicating that the liquidity, which is estimated at 50 million dinars was secured until it reached the branch of the bank.

The Tarhuna Municipal Council stated that the helicopter flipped upside down while landing in the main stadium of the Sports City resulted in some damage to the field, without causing any human damage.



Red Crescent recovers three bodies near desert town of Waddan

buried in a desert area near Waddan town southwest of Libva.

The remains were handed over to the competent authorities



Libya's Al-Ahli Tripoli through to next round of CAF Confederation Cup

Libya's Al-Ahli Tripoli passed through to the next round of the CAF Confederation Cup after their rival Tanzania's Biashara United failed to travel to Libya for the second leg clash.

Biashara United beat Al-Ahli Tripoli 2-0 in the first leg match at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, but they failed to play the second leg clash at Benina Stadium in Benghazi, giving a walkover meant Al-Ahli Tripoli progress 3-2 on aggregate.

The management of Biashara United said they had contacted the Confederation of African Football (CAF), requesting to postpone the match until next Tuesday after the team was unable to travel to Benghazi due to not obtaining overflight permits over Sudan and South Sudan, but their request was declined due to time constraint.

The draw for the next round of the CAF Confederation Cup will be conducted on Tuesday in Cairo.

Al Ittihad moves on to CAF Confederation Cup after hopes for Champions League dashed



Al Ittihad's hopes for qualifying for the group stage of the African Champions League were dashed on Sunday after losing to the Tunisian Esperance 1-0 in the second leg match, with the first leg ending with a goalless draw.

Despite the Esperance win, the Libyan defence kept their hosts frustrated, who struggled to create goal-scoring chances throughout the first half.

After the break, Esperance pressed hard for a goal until the try-scoring deadlock was finally broken by a corner kick which Nassim Ben Khalifa turned into a goal in the 64th minute.

In the 74th minute, the referee issued a red card for Al-Ittihad keeper Moaz Al-Laft after his violent intervention on Tunisian Hamdo Al-Huni, who left the field due to his injury.

The Tunisian Esperance tried to extend their lead with Al Ittihad's net left without a keeper, but all attempts ended in fail-

With this loss, Al-Ittihad will leave the African Champions League and move to the 32nd round of the African Confederation Cup, which will be drawn next Tuesday.



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weather

Tripoli Weather Forecast





Libya from war to reconstruction



Photo of the Week





It is a small Libyan town located in western Libya within the administrative division of Nalut District. It is 550 km from Tripoli to the southwest and east of the city of Ghadames, on the outskirts of Hamada Al-Hamra.

The town is known for its agriculture, grazing, natural springs, folklore and local traditional industries based on leather, palm and wool products, as well as a number of Quranic schools.

It has many streets, which are linked to public squares, the most important of which is Tiga Square, in which social and public events, and celebrations are held, and the Makassi Square or "Servant's Market".

The city is surrounded by a wall with 3 gates: from the west "Bab Sidi Badr", from the south "Bab Sidi Ibrahim" and from the south "Bab Al-Makassi".

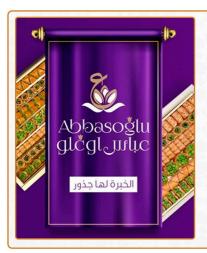
It has many tourist and archaeological attractions that include inscriptions, drawings and writings dating back to the BC period, in addition to ancient castles and palaces. It is surrounded by a group of old watchtowers, known locally as "Qasbat Diab", which were built by the Hilalites after their arrival in the area.

History

It was known for its history of struggle against the Italian occupation of Libya, among the battles in which the Mujahideen participated were the battles of Al-Qatar, Al-Bab, Al-Sawani and Kabau, in addition to its support for the Algerian liberation movement.

The annual Dirj festival

It is held in December and supervised by the General Authority for Tourism and Handicrafts, it includes holding many artistic and cultural activities, as well as traditional fashion shows from different regions of Libya and displaying and marketing local products. It was first started in 1985.



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