

Politics

Grand Mufti calls for unity, urges fighters to establish a civil state, build institutions and protect fair elections



The Grand Mufti of Libya, Sheikh Al-Sadiq Al-Gharyani delivered a message on Monday to the Libyan army forces to congratulate them on Eid al-Fitr and on the victories achieved in the fronts south of Tripoli.

The Mufti addressed the current events on the ground and said "this war has revealed the true people who remained loyal to the patriotic cause and those who continue to switch sides".

He told the fighters "There is nothing more precious in this world than human life so make sure you do not give your lives away for something less than God's pleasure and paradise".

The Mufti acknowledged the daunting challenges facing the establishment of a civilized state and sought to lift spirits of the people and the

forces standing up to tyranny and the comeback of the military rule.

"You have breathed new life into the February revolution at a time it was about to die," the Mufti said, urging the fighters to remain united and resolute and not pay any heed to the huge list of enemies or the money they are pumping in to serve their agenda,"

"The aggressive forces have exhausted all means to fight us. They devoted media and money to ruin our revolution and distorted, and it is our duty to prove that the February revolution came to correct injustice, not propagate it", he remarked.

Sheikh al-Sadiq described the fighters as "the guardians of the nation", urging them to stand up for what's right despite the difficult path and not to accept a situation of inferiority.

The Mufti concluded by again calling for unity and respect for rights saying, "The February revolution was meant to establish a civil state, build institutions, protect fair elections, eradicate all forms of corruption and eliminate spoilers who constitute a threat to these principles.

Politics

US AFRICOM: Moscow deployed warplanes to support Wagner mercenaries fighting for Haftar in Libya



US Africa Command (AFRICOM) revealed that Russia had recently deployed military fighter aircraft to Libya in order to support Russian state-sponsored private military contractors of Wagner Group operating on the ground in Libya within the forces of Khalifa Haftar, who has been leading an offensive against Tripoli since April 2019.

AFRICOM indicated in a statement that Russian military aircraft are likely to provide close air support and offensive fires for the Wagner Group mercenaries that are supporting Haftar's forces that are fighting against the internationally recognized Government of National Accord.

"The Russian fighter aircraft arrived in Libya, from an airbase in Russia, after transiting Syria where it is assessed they were repainted to camouflage their Russian origin." AFRICOM said.

It added that Russia is clearly trying to tip the scales in its favor in Libya. "Just like I saw them doing in Syria, they are expanding their military footprint in Africa using government-supported mercenary groups like Wagner," said the commander of AFRICOM, US Army General Stephen Townsend.

Gen. Townsend said for too long, Russia has denied the full extent of its involvement in the ongoing Libyan conflict. Well, there is no denying it now.

"We watched as Russia flew fourth generation jet fighters to Libya -- every step of the way. Neither the LNA nor private military companies can arm, operate and sustain these fighters without state support -- support they are getting from Russia." Gen. Townsend added.

AFRICOM added that Russia had employed state-sponsored Wagner in Libya to conceal its direct role and to afford Moscow plausible deniability of its malign actions.

AFRICOM also said that Moscow's military actions had prolonged the Libyan conflict and exacerbated casualties and human suffering on both sides.

"The world heard Mr. Haftar declare he was about to unleash a new air campaign. That will be Russian mercenary pilots flying Russian-supplied aircraft to bomb Libyans." Gen. Townsend said.

AFRICOM also indicated that Russia is not interested in what is best for the Libyan people but is working to achieve Moscow's own strategic goals instead.

Meanwhile, the commander of US Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, Gen. Jeff Harrigan, said if the Russians seized bases on Libya's coast, the next logical step is they deploy permanent long-range anti-access area denial (A2AD) capabilities, adding that if that day comes, Russia will create very real security concerns on Europe's southern flank.

"Russia's destabilizing actions in Libya will also exacerbate the regional instability that has driven the migration crisis affecting Europe." AFRICOM explained.

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Politics

Berlin investigating Haftar's possession of German military equipment



The German authorities announced on Wednesday that they are presently investigating how Haftar militias come to be in possession of German military equipment, despite the embargo on the importation of weapons to Libya.

The German magazine Stern stated reported that Haftar militias have been using Russian Pantsir air defense systems, which were mounted on to SX45 trucks, solely manufactured by the German company "MAN SE".

Stern added that according to the United Nations reports, the Emirati Army uses Panstir systems, having installed them on to German "MAN SE" trucks as part of its arsenal.

Politics

Libyan Justice Ministry documents 60 attacks on Tripoli in three months



The Human Rights Committee of the Libyan Justice Ministry at the Government of National Accord (GNA) has documented over 60 attacks on civilian residential neighborhoods in Tripoli from December 13 to March 31, causing 268 civilian casualties.

The committee added in its report, which was published on the Justice Ministry's Facebook page, that the numbers included incidents that amount to war crimes, such as targeting the Tripoli Military College by a pro-Haftar drone, which killed 26 cadets.

"We have registered repeated attacks on civilian infrastructure such as airports, schools, universities, hospitals and oil facilities, in addition to the suffering inflicted on displaced families who forcefully left their homes." The report says.

It also documented the closure of oil ports and the consequent financial losses, over four billion dollars, which it said could cause an economic disaster, in addition to the cutoff of water supplies and electricity to Tripoli and other cities, which amounts to a mass punishment that is prohibited by national and international laws.

It noted as well foreign Intervention in Libya by direct and indirect support to Haftar's militias in their war on the legitimate government and the capital, which violate all UN resolutions and international laws.

The committee recommended ways to halt such attacks and violations and to bring the perpetrators to national and international justice.

This third report by the committee was preceded by two similar reports documenting violations from the start of the war on Tripoli in April 2019 to December 12.

Politics

Interior Ministry reviews recruiting individuals who fought to defend Tripoli



The Libyan Interior Ministry has discussed in a meeting mechanisms to recruit individuals from backup forces who have been fighting on and around Tripoli frontlines.

The Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha reviewed in the meeting experiences from different countries during their civil wars and the recruiting of the armed elements in state institutions as part of a national reconciliation plan, according to the Interior Ministry's Facebook page.

Bashagha also said that the meeting aimed to put in place a program for backup forces in order to have them join state institutions after the end of the war, adding that Defense and Interior Ministries bear the biggest responsibility for the involvement of those forces in their employment programs, urging for providing the necessary financial support by relevant state authorities for this plan.

He indicated that there should be more cooperation between Interior and Defense Ministries in this matter as the committees of the two ministries have been studying this program for over a year, saying there is now security and military vacuum in most areas around Tripoli.

"It's time we built state security and defense institutions and this needs better economy and more financial assistance for security and military projects in the country."

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Economy

NOC says oil blockade cost Libya nearly 5 billion dollars

The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) said the country's accumulated losses due to the shutdown of oil production and exports since January 19 amounted to 4.9 billion dollars.

The NOC said this loss is impossible to compensate from the reserves adding that the current status is considered very harmful to the economic future of the country, as this amount could cover part of the state's expenses such as salaries, fuel subsidies, or the crisis of the Coronavirus pandemic or other crisis.

"we implore all the patriot sons of this country to come to reason, prioritize the interest of the homeland, and to re-enable the oil ports and pipelines and allow the National Oil Corporation to carry out its work for the benefit of all Libyans, in order to support the national economy and protect it from the consequences of bankruptcy and dependence on foreign banks." The NOC said.

NOC warned of repeating what happened more than three years ago as the blockade of the oil fields and ports caused huge losses of selling opportunities, so the Libyan economy suffered huge losses that exceeded "100 billion dollars", and caused great damage to the reputation of Libyan oil, in addition to the severe technical damage that followed this blockade.

Last January, pro-Haftar gunmen shut down oil ports and fields across the country, causing massive damage to the Libyan economy and obliging the NOC to declare force majeure on Libyan oil exports.

Economy

US commends Malta's seizure of Russia-printed counterfeit Libyan currency

The United States has hailed Malta's announcement on May 26 of its seizure of \$1.1 billion of counterfeit Libyan currency printed by Joint Stock Company Goznak – a Russian state-owned company.

A statement by the Spokesperson of the US State Department, Morgan Ortagus, said the money was regarded as counterfeit because it was ordered by an illegitimate parallel entity in eastern Libya, referring to pro-Haftar authorities in the eastern region.

The statement on Friday added that the Central Bank of Libya headquartered in Tripoli is Libya's only legitimate central bank, stressing that the influx of counterfeit, Russian-printed Libyan currency in recent years has exacerbated Libya's economic challenges.

The Spokesperson of the US State Department remarked that Washington remains committed to working with the United Nations and international partners to deter illicit activities that undermine Libya's sovereignty and stability, and are inconsistent with internationally-recognized sanctions regimes.

"This incident once again highlights the need for Russia to cease its malign and destabilizing actions in Libya." The US State Department Spokesperson said.

Economy

Turkey announces the start of oil exploration within the framework of its deal with Libya

The Turkish Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Fatih Donmez, announced that the Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) had submitted a request for oil exploration in Turkish waters, within the structure of the Turkish-Libyan marine deal.

Pointing out in a statement delivered in Istanbul, during the launching of the 'Feteh' exploration ship towards the Black sea, Donmez said that Turkey would take the first steps in the next three to four months to conduct geological surveys and oil exploration work.

He added that these surveys would be in the Mediterranean and the work would be based on data analysis, according to local media.

Economy

Armed militia prevents NOC teams from conducting repair work

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) said that an armed militia is preventing the maintenance of a pipeline of Sharara oil field, which raises the specter of a real environmental tragedy.

In a statement on Facebook, the NOC said "The armed militia headed by "Abd al-Karim al-Roni" prevented the maintenance teams from opening Hamada valve in "Alriyayna" area in order to pump chemicals through the transmission lines of Sharara field to protect them from corrosion.

It indicated that the illegal closure of oil installations has caused technical problems, resulting in the corrosion and breakdown of some supplying lines, which in turn, lead to the leakage of crude residues. "To fix this problem chemicals should be pumped once again through these pipelines," NOC explained.

The NOC has addressed the public prosecution and the concerned authorities to investigate the incident and arrest those responsible for such acts, insisting that the NOC is a purely economic body whose task is to manage the oil sector and support the national economy.

While the NOC did not clarify to whom the militia belongs, it called on the elders and dignitaries of Zintan city in the western mountain region located near Alriyayna area to prioritize the national interest over any other consideration and lift the social and legal cover on the perpetrators.

It urged them to cooperate with the Public Prosecution Office in order to bring those responsible for such acts to justice.

The halting of oil operation by a group of Haftar's loyalists has cost the state so far more than \$ 5 billion USD. This sum could have been used to confront the Coronavirus pandemic and pay the salaries of employees, or invested in developing schools and hospitals, NOC underlined.

Opinions

Union with Africa is now more essential than ever

By Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu

I wholeheartedly congratulate the Africa Day of all our African friends. The unprecedented conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic all over the world render the solidarity symbolized by Africa Day even more significant this year.

The progress achieved in recent years by Africa in many fields and our developing partnership with the Continent enable us to look into the future with hope, despite their existing severe challenges. Together with our public institutions, non-governmental organizations and private sector, we have given priority to develop our cooperation with the African continent.

We are working hard to develop our economic and commercial relations with Africa, to increase our development and humanitarian aid, as well as the number of higher education scholarships and Turkish Airlines flights. We aim to further strengthen our relations with Africa on the basis of a win-win understanding and mutual respect.

It is also possible to understand Turkey's determination to bring her relations with Africa at the highest level possible by looking at the figures. We increased the number of our Embassies in Africa to 42, which were only 12 in 2002. The number of African Embassies in Ankara, which was 10 at the beginning of 2008, has increased to 36 today. The number of mutual high-level visits between 2015 and 2019 alone exceeded 500. Our bilateral trade volume has soared sixfold in the last 18 years. Today, the Turkish Maarif Foundation operates 144 educational institutions and 17 student dormitories all across Africa. There are thousands of graduates from 54 African countries, who studied in Turkey in the framework of the Türkiye Scholarships program. The number of program coordination offices of the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) in Africa has reached 22.

Turkey's interest in Africa and Turkish people's feelings of friendship towards the African continent, with which Turkey has historical and human ties, is not new. However, these concrete developments are a result of the political stability achieved in Turkey starting from 2002 and the resulting continuity of our foreign policy.

With our country becoming a strategic partner of the African Union and with the first Africa-Turkey Partnership Summit 2008 held in Istanbul, Turkey and the African countries have clearly set forth their mutual will to step up their relationship to a more advanced stage.

Shortly after assuming the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs, I accompanied H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan during the second Africa-Turkey Partnership Summit held in Malabo in November 2014. I made many friends in the Continent.

When African Presidents founded the Organization of the African Union on 25 May 1963, they aimed to protect African affairs by acting in unity, to support the ongoing struggles for independence and to get rid of the colonial economic model based on importing manufactured goods by selling commodities to Northern countries. From the very beginning, Turkey has sided with Africa in its just cause.

Therefore, the historical Summit held in Addis Ababa also made an impact in Turkey. By examining the news published by the Turkish press and records of debates at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, it will be seen that importance was given to relations with African states that have just gained their independence. The endeavours of Africans for governing themselves was likened to Turkey's struggle during the foundation of our Republic forty years ago in 1923, and Apartheid was fiercely condemned.

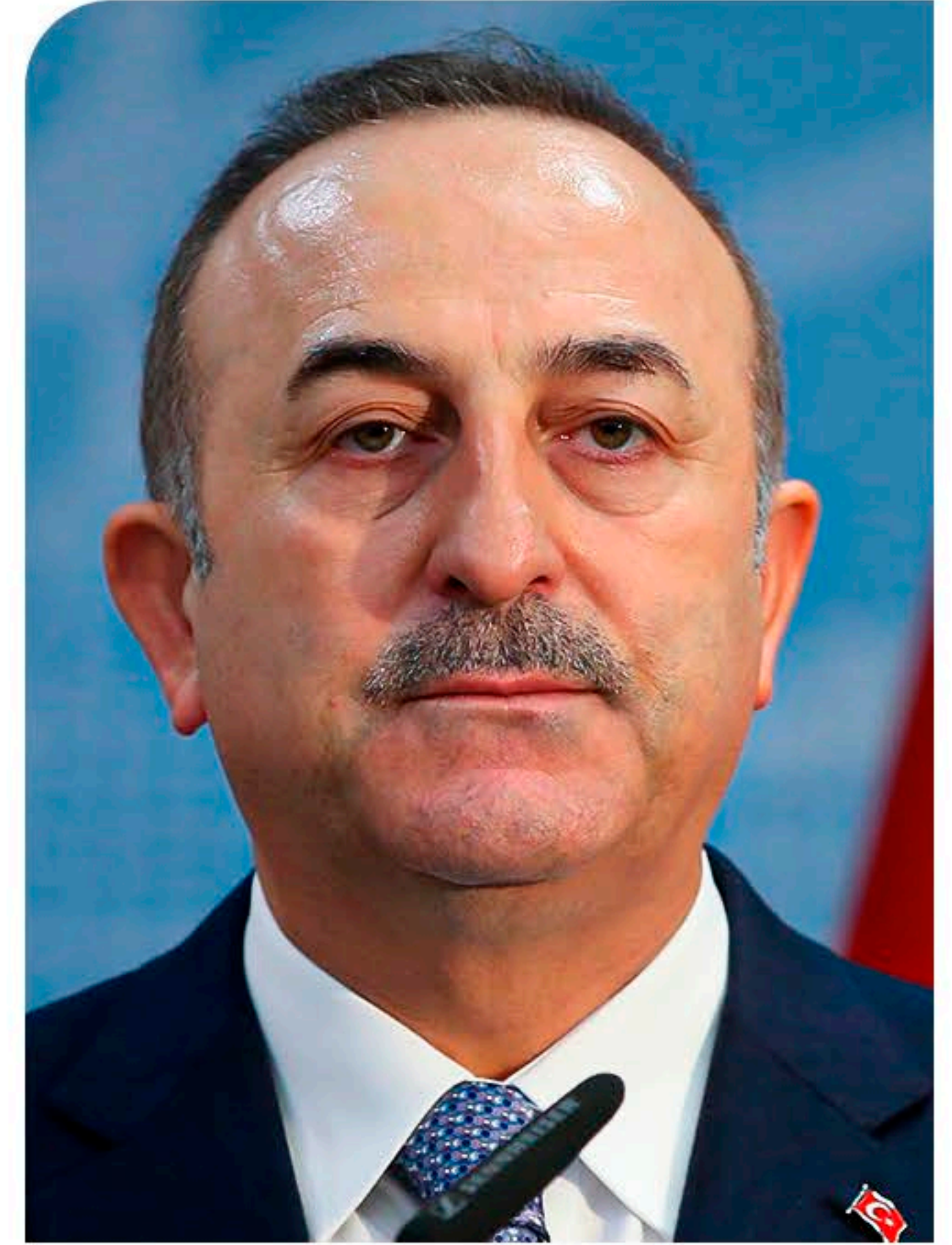
Today's Africa has made significant progress in achieving the level of integration that visionary leaders have dreamed of since the sixties. From the beginning of its partnership with Africa, Turkey has chosen the policy to provide an unconditional support for the goals that the Continent has set for itself. The Africa, with whom we are proud of being in a partnership, is the Africa with the spirit of 1963 and with the 2063 targets of the African Union. We will continue to look out for Africa's priorities within all organizations and entities which we are a member of, in particular the United Nations.

With this understanding, we wish to hold the Third Africa-Turkey Partnership Summit as soon as possible. In October 2020, we are also planning to hold the third Turkey-Africa Economy and Business Forum, which we held in Istanbul in 2016 and 2018 which achieved successful results.

COVID-19 caught the world off guard. African countries have taken the necessary measures in a timely manner thanks to their experience in combating epidemic diseases. The number of cases and deaths on the Continent is relatively low at the moment. We sincerely hope that this will continue, and that the disease will be eradicated from the Continent. Turkey is among the States which have overcome the first stage of the pandemic and can currently hold the number of new cases below her treatment capacity. Having been able to provide equipment assistance to some countries even in the first months of the outbreak, Turkey aims to increase her assistance capacity in the coming period. As the country that has extended a helping hand to the largest number of countries, after the United States and China, Turkey is trying to respond as soon as possible to such requests from our friendly African countries.

On the other hand, the outbreak has negative economic and social consequences all over the world.

The direct result of the slowdown of economic activities due to protective measures is the decline of production and revenues of each country without exception. A secondary result is the drop in commodity prices like minerals and oil, which are used in industrial production and transport. This decline is affecting countries that depend on the sale of such goods for export revenues. In this respect, it is affecting some African countries more than others.



Opinions

These are problems that require the international community to come together and seek solutions for collectively. The world after COVID-19 should be one that requires more international cooperation than before, not less. Turkey is ready to do what is incumbent on her in this regard alongside other countries.

Unfortunately, the picture that emerges at the international level in past weeks is a picture where competition –and not cooperation– comes to the fore, and where a perspective that regards the world as a zero-sum game prevails. Yet history has shown us all the harms of such brutal rivalries and cold wars.

In the spirit of 1963, the African continent will also overcome this challenge in unity. I sincerely believe that Africa will contribute not only to the welfare of its own people, but also to the world order of the coming years, and that Turkish-African partnership will be shown as an example in the new, post-pandemic world order in which solidarity will become more important.

That is why the spirit of 25 May 1963 is essential to all of us.

Once again, I wholeheartedly congratulate the Africa Day of all Africans.

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

US commends Malta's seizure of Russia-printed counterfeit Libyan currency

The United States announced the allocation of an additional 6.5 million dollars to assist Libya in responding to the Coronavirus pandemic. The US Embassy in Libya stated that this support would help many municipalities.

The object of the allocation of funds should help the various municipalities to form crisis response units, develop emergency crisis assistance and train response teams, whilst providing assistance for immigrants and refugees in Libya during the pandemic, it said.

The Embassy noted that the US has supported Libya to date with 12 million dollars within the framework of confronting the Coronavirus pandemic, providing essential aid since the outbreak began.



Health

Coronavirus crisis committee recommends ban on cross-city travel

The High Committee to Combat Coronavirus has recommended a ban on cross-city travel and other measures as part of instructions to all municipalities to work effectively to contain the spread of Coronavirus.

The recommendations were sent by the committee to the Head of Presidential Council after a meeting with the National Center for Disease Control.

The recommendations said there shouldn't be any travel among the cities of southern Libya in addition to isolating pandemic spread areas, as well as a cross-city travel ban for 10 days, with some exceptions.

The committee also agreed to quarantine the Libyans trapped overseas inside Libya upon arrival instead of in the countries where they are currently staying.

Libya registered 26 new COVID-19 cases, 14 for people who had contacted previous cases in Sabha and three totally new ones in the same city, in addition to eight cases among the returnees from Saudi Arabia who got isolated in a Tripoli quarantine center as the rest of the flight passengers were quarantined in Misrata until their Coronavirus test results were released.

Another case was registered for someone who returned from Turkey on May 8 who contacted with a person infected with COVID-19, thus bringing the total number of cases to 156, 99 of which are active, 52 recovered and 5 died.

Health

WHO sends medical supplies to prevent the spread of Coronavirus in Sabha



The World Health Organization (WHO) announced that it had sent, in coordination with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), personal protective equipment for use against the Coronavirus pandemic, along with disinfectants and other medical equipment to Sabha to assist in tackling the rapid spread of the virus.

The WHO office in Libya, explained on its official Facebook page, that the supplies should be sufficient to cover the needs of approximately 8,000 patients, expressing its gratitude to China and the British Department for International Development, for what it described as the generous support provided.

The present count from the COVID-19 pandemic in the country has risen to 168 cases, 52 of which have achieved recovery, with a fatality rate of five to date.

Health

NCDC orders the citizens of Sabha to isolate themselves in their city

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), called on all citizens of Sabha, not to leave the city until those in direct contact with individuals recently testing positive in a cluster of COVID-19 cases were traced and the epidemiological situation stabilized.

The NCDC also advised those in Sabha to follow the preventative instructions, which it provided, including, curfew, social distancing and rigorous adherence to personal hygiene to help stem the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Technology

Health Ministry approves "Speetar" app for telehealth relief



The Ministry of Health has officially approved the telehealth platform "Speetar" to provide free online health care.

The ministry said that the move comes within the framework of unifying and intensifying efforts among doctors and specialists in the public and private sectors to improve the resilience of the health system in confronting the Coronavirus outbreak.

The app allows citizens to obtain free medical consultations, initial examinations, and a follow-up of their health status amid the quarantine measures imposed by the authorities in response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The Ministry called on all doctors working in its health institutions to cooperate and register on the app in preparation for its launch.

Speetar platform started off October last year with the goal to connect patients with doctors in various disciplines inside and outside Libya.

Earlier this month, the founders of this project launched the "Speetar COVID-19" in cooperation with the National Center for Disease Control.

The app allows those who suspect having Covid-19 to communicate directly with doctors at the National Center for Disease Control at any time to ask for help and advice.

Education

UniRank ranks Tripoli University among top 200 Arab Universities



The University of Tripoli was ranked among the 200 top universities in the Arab world according to the global university ranking conducted by UniRank for 2020.

The uniRank ranking is considered one of the most important ratings as it classifies the best and most accredited universities based on the reputation of the institutions, its popularity, and the lessons, courses, and services it provides.

Tripoli's University came No.1 in Libya and in the 83rd place at the Arabic level, while Misurata was ranked third in Libya and 174 at the Arab level behind the International University of Medical Sciences, which came in the 106th place among the Arab universities.

As for the continent of Africa, the University of Tripoli was ranked 84th followed by the Libyan International University of Medical Sciences at the 107th place and Misurata University behind in the 176th place.

UniRank says its rating was based on valid, unbiased, and non-influenceable web metrics extracted from 4 different web intelligence sources.

Sports

Artificial grass installation makes Yefren Club ready for sports activities

The Projects Department of the General Authority for Youth and Sports announced the completion of maintenance and development work at the Yefren stadium, which included the installing of artificial grass at the football field of the club.

The work commenced last Wednesday where the field had to undergo the process of preparing the basics of the stadium before installing the turf.

This comes within the strategic plan launched by the authority to enhance the infrastructure of youth and sports institutions in all regions of Libya, said the General Authority for Youth and Sports.

Sports

Benghazi Swimming Sub-Federation prepares for open-water-swimming competition

Benghazi Swimming Sub-Federation is to hold a competition for open-water-swimming with the participation of Libyan swimmers Ezzeddin Kittat from "Al-Ahly Benghazi" and Hammad Al-Falah from "Al-Hilal", said the Benghazi Swimming Sub-Federation head, Khaled Al-Maqsabi.

The competitors will swim from Benghazi down to Qaminis region near the Gulf of Sidra, with a distance of 50 km.

Both swimmers were the first to succeed in swimming across the Gulf of "Bomba" in the far east of Libya, with a distance of 40 km, at a time of 11.14 hours, last October

Sports

Libyan football player launches campaign to help cancer patients

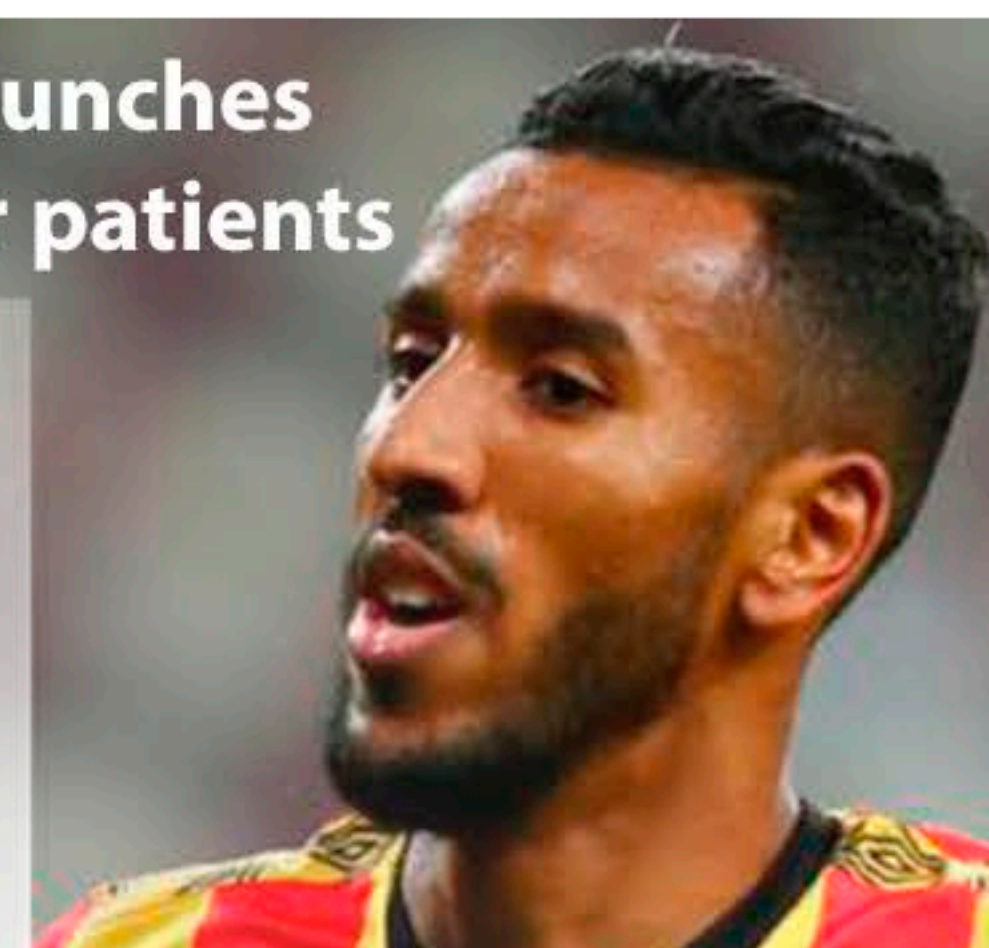
Libyan football player Hamdo Al-Huni launched the campaign "Together we fight cancer" to help ease the suffering of cancer patients.

Al-Huni said "I felt that I had another role to play in other fields other than the football field. Some of my fellow players also joined me in my campaign, our goal is to try and make a positive difference in the lives of those facing the disease.

"Perhaps many are not aware that most cancer treatment centers in Libya lack the capabilities and medications, some patients have to check more than one center and travel long distances to get their treatment," Al-Huni posted on Facebook.

The campaign includes several Libyan football players who believe that their role goes beyond the stadium to be next to cancer patients and their families and empower them to fight for their lives, Al-Huni added.

The Libyan midfielder played for the Libyan national football team as well as for Chaves, Santa Clara, and the Tunisian club Espérance Sportive de Tunis.



weather

The
Weather
Channel

Tripoli Weather Forecast








Fri 05	33°/18°	 Sunny/Wind	0%	WNW 37 km/h	▼
Sat 06	28°/20°	 Sunny	0%	NNW 17 km/h	▼
Sun 07	34°/27°	 Partly Cloudy	0%	E 21 km/h	▼
Mon 08	33°/21°	 Mostly Cloudy	0%	W 22 km/h	▼
Tue 09	27°/20°	 Partly Cloudy	10%	N 20 km/h	▼
Wed 10	28°/20°	 Partly Cloudy	10%	NE 21 km/h	▼
Thu 11	29°/22°	 Sunny	10%	ENE 24 km/h	▼

Photo of the Week



Features

Who is Mansour Al-Kikhia?



Mansour Al-Kikhia is a Libyan politician and diplomat, one of the most prominent opponents of the former dictator Muammar Gaddafi. He vanished under mysterious circumstances in 1993 until his body was found 19 years later in a refrigerator in a villa belonging to Libya's former military intelligence services in Tripoli.

Al-Kikhia was born in 1931 in Benghazi. As a child, he grew up and studied primarily in his hometown Benghazi before being sent to Egypt to attend high school. He went on to complete his university education and he graduated in 1950.

Al-Kikhia received a degree in international law from the Sorbonne University in Paris which put him on a path to becoming a human rights activist and ultimately meant facing the Gaddafi regime. In 1984 he founded the Libyan Human Rights Association from exile then two years later he established the Libyan National Alliance and was elected to the position of Secretary General. In the early 1970s, he stood for his principles and defended the rights of prisoners despite the risk of this work under a regime that arrests, intimidates, tortures and kills people, who just wanted to get their voices heard.

Al-Kikhia had long been involved in politics since the time of the monarchy, which made of him a leading politician and diplomat. In 1962 he joined the Libyan Embassy in France and after, in Algeria in 1963. He was a General Consul in Geneva (1963-1967) and a member of the Libyan Mission to the United Nations in 1968. After the coup of Muammar Gaddafi he went on occupying important official posts. He was appointed as Libyan foreign minister from 1972-1973; then he was appointed as the Permanent Representative of the United Nations in Libya between the years 1975-1980 before announcing his resignation and opposition to the former Gaddafi's regime in protest against the policies of summary executions practiced by the Libyan state at the time through the so-called revolutionary committees.

Al-Kikhia vanished under suspicious circumstances during his participation in the Board of Trustees of the Arab Organization for Human Rights meeting in Cairo on the 10th of December 1993.

His disappearance remained a mystery due to the lack of evidence; however, the Libyan Intelligence Services were accused of kidnapping Al-Kikhia in cooperation with the former Egyptian regime.

After years of mystery, the remains of Al-Kikhia were found in October 2012 inside a refrigerator of a villa belonging to the former military intelligence in Tripoli, owing to information provided by Abdullah al-Senussi, head of the Intelligence Service of the former regime following his arrest during the February revolution.

The CIA conducted a report that points to the involvement of the Egyptian agents in kidnapping Al-Kikhia before handing him over to the Libyan authorities who later executed him. This was confirmed by the former foreign minister of Gaddafi's regime Abd al-Rahman Shalgham in an interview with the London-based newspaper Al-Hayat, where he said that the Egyptian security kidnapped Al-Kikhia and then he was transferred to Tobruk where he was received by Abdullah al-Senussi. For nearly twenty years his whereabouts remained unknown until Gaddafi was overthrown, still, the circumstances of his death remain a mystery up to this day. Some have speculated that he died during the events at Abu Salim's prison; while some claim that he died in prison as a result of medical negligence.

The Libyan Foreign Ministry held a state funeral in Benghazi and memorial service in his honour on December 3rd, 2012.

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