

## Politics

### Libya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemns French president's insult to Islam



The Libyan Foreign Ministry expressed its vehement condemnation of statements made by the French President, Emmanuel Macron, which showed insult towards the revered Prophet Mohammed, PBUH, demanding an immediate unequivocal apology to the entire Islamic world.

The official Spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Al-Giblawi said in a statement that the Ministry staunchly condemns the reckless insults within the French President's statements regarding the righteous Prophet, saying his statements serve to fuel hatred merely for the sake of his own political gains.

Al-Giblawi reminded the French President that the European Court of Human Rights declared, back in 2018, that offending the honourable Prophet, does not fall under the term 'freedom of expression'.

He further believed that the extreme statements made by the Macron, offer no resemblance to the Islamic religion, adding that extremist groups do not represent the peaceful faith of Islam, calling on Macron to desist from his provocative claims.

Al-Giblawi demanded an apology to more than one and a half billion Muslims worldwide, including those of French nationality.

Al-Giblawi's statement came within hours after the High Council of State (HCS) called on the government to cancel the French 'Total-Marathon' deal and to cease dealing completely with French companies in response to the French insult wielded against Islam.

"We have heard the irresponsible statements of French President Emmanuel Macron who insisted on publishing caricatures that insult Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) claiming this is freedom of expression. It is an insult to over 1.5 billion Muslims by French President Macron and this is a proof of France's fake democracy and its reality that is: a colonial power." The statement reads.

The HCS also condemned the killing of the French teacher, saying the incident was against Islamic teachings and resulted from Macron's racist policies.

Macron's insistence on protecting the publishing of the caricature of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and Islamic principles sparked world-wide outrage.

## Politics

### Libya's rivals sign ceasefire agreement in Geneva



The two Libyan delegations to the 5+5 Joint Military Commission signed Friday a permanent ceasefire agreement following weeks of talks in Geneva, brokered by UN mission in Libya UNSMIL.

The Libyan rivals stressed the country's unity and sovereignty and agreed that state decisions will not be taken under foreign dictations.

According to the agreement, both sides will evacuate front-lines from fighters and order foreign mercenaries to leave the country within three months from the signing date.

They also agreed to form a joint military force under one unified command to deal with any violations of the ceasefire.

Major General Ahmed Abu Shamma, head of the delegation of the Government of National Accord said that the agreement aims at ending the bloodshed in Libya, and will be the reason for maintaining security and stability in the country.

## Politics

### Libya's High Council of State urges economic boycott on France over slurs to Islam



The Libyan High Council of State (HCS) has called for ceasing economic relations with French companies and canceling France's Total contract for operating Marathon's Waha oil field.

In a statement on Sunday, the HCS said the Presidential Council of the Government of National Accord should respond to the insults made by France against Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) by ending relations and work with French firms, urging the judicial authorities to deliver final verdicts on HCS's appeal against the "dubious" acquisition of Marathon concessions by French oil firm Total.

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Politics

## Libyan Army under GNA calls on UN to monitor withdrawal of "Haftar's mercenaries"



The spokesman for the Libyan Army under the Government of National Accord (GNA) Mohammed Gununu said they don't trust a peaceful solution that includes the criminal and the victim, referring to the ceasefire agreement between the GNA and Khalifa Haftar that was signed in Geneva on Friday.

Gununu urged on his Twitter account the UNSMIL to send UN monitoring teams to Sirte and Jufra as well as Brak Al-Shati to oversee the departure of thousands of foreign mercenaries, who are using Sirte and Jufra as their main hub.

"We don't trust Haftar militias' ability to force over 5000 mercenaries from Russian Wagner, Syria, Sudan and Chad out of Libya. In fact, Wagner mercenaries are now setting up military camps and fortifications in Sirte and Jufra." Gununu said.

He said the ceasefire agreement should include assurances of bringing to justice all people involved in the war on Tripoli, especially Haftar.

Gununu also explained that they want a UN investigation into the crimes of mass graves in Tarhouna, calling on all of the families of the victims to lodge cases with the judiciary to receive justice.

Politics

## Libya's Defense Ministry wants assurances that no coup will topple newly-signed ceasefire



The Defense Ministry of the Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) urged the UNSMIL to provide assurances that guarantee that no coup would be carried out against the newly-signed ceasefire in Geneva, citing several violations of ceasefires in the past, including when Khalifa Haftar waged his war on Tripoli in April 2019 while the Secretary General of the UN was present.

The Defense Ministry welcomed in a statement Friday the signing between the GNA and the representatives of Haftar's forces, hailing the efforts of the UNMSIL to achieve real peace in Libya as per Security Council resolutions and Berlin conclusions.

It also hailed the efforts of the dialogue's delegations and welcomed the lifting of force majeure by the National Oil Corporation after the departure of foreign fighters from oil facilities.

"The immediate withdrawal of foreign fighters from oil facilities and military sites is a good gesture for trust building ahead of the complete departure of all foreign fighters from Libya." The Defense Ministry said.

It said the Libyan judiciary will have the final say in the crimes committed in conflicts, adding that if the procedures are hindered, then the international law and courts shall step in so Libya can never return to war and conflicts, saying no foreign power is allowed to intervene in Libya unless asked to by a legitimate authority in the country.

Economy

## NOC declares end of oil closures after lifting force majeure on El-Feel oil field



The National Oil Corporation (NOC) lifted Monday the force majeure on El-Feel oil field, declaring that by doing that it ends all the closures of oilfields and ports in Libya.

The NOC confirmed in a statement on Facebook that Mellitah Company has been instructed to resume production in El Feel oil field permitting the gradual return of Mellitah crude to its normal level in the next few days.

For his part, the NOC's CEO, Mustafa Sanallah, said "The Libyans have understood that blockade had been negative on their lives and they strongly support production resumption on a firm footing".

Sanallah stressed the corporation is the only reliable source to announce the expected production quantities, in accordance with the arrangements applicable in the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) and OPEC +.

NOC expected production to reach 800 thousand barrels per day within two weeks and one million barrels per day during the next four weeks after declaring lifting force majeure on the ports of Ras Lanuf and Es Sider on Friday.

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Economy

## CBL Governor appoints new LFB Director



المصرف الليبي الخارجي  
Libyan Foreign Bank

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Sadiq Al-Kabir, appointed on Thursday Akram Khalifa as General Director of the Libyan Foreign Bank (LFB) and Khaled Al-Qonsul, as head of the temporary committee for managing the bank.

Al Kabir also re-formed the temporary management committee for the LFB, providing that it consists of a chairman and five members. Earlier, the Attorney General requested on 21st of September, to arrest the former director of the Libyan Foreign Bank, Mohamed Bin Yusef, after receiving a report against him from the CBL.

Economy

## Boumtari: Oil blockade losses amount to 130 billion USD



Minister of Finance Faraj Boumtari has said that oil blockades over the past years have caused the country \$ 130 billion in lost revenues.

Talking to Al-Jazeera, Boumtari added that the GNA does not have accurate data on military spending in the eastern region, nor the disbursement mechanism and classifications.

He pointed out to a proposal made by his ministry to establish a fund for reconstruction and reparation as a result of previous wars, referring to his attempts to create self-resources for this fund to cover its needs.

When asked about the Libyan-Turkish relations, he described the relationship between the two countries as unique noting, that most of the recently signed projects with the Turks are related to electricity projects.

"Turkish companies have proven their worth in Turkey and abroad, to implement the largest projects, so we have been trying over the past period to attract Turkish firms and benefit from their experiences in implementing projects for the state's electricity company as a priority," Boumtari said.

He indicated that their focus would be to complete the projects signed between the years (2007-2010), which he estimated to be around 160 billion Libyan dinars, with a Turkish share of about 20 billion dinars.

Economy

## Attorney General investigates corruption at Libyan embassies in Italy, Vatican



The Head of Libya's Audit Bureau in Tripoli Khalid Shakshak sent reports to the Attorney General about corruption cases at the Libyan embassies in Vatican city and Italy.

The financial violations office of the Audit Bureau filed cases of embezzlement at the two embassies, according to a statement by the Bureau on Wednesday.

The Audit Bureau said officials at the two embassies had taken state funds for their own use and for others, in addition to transferring money from the embassies' financial allocations to persons not working at the embassies. They also withdrew cash from the embassies' bank accounts.

The Audit Bureau asked the Presidential Council to request the retrieval of the funds from the Italian government as per the UN anti-corruption agreement that helps countries regain embezzled money.

Economy

## Ministry of Finance: 14.4 billion dinars spent on public sector salaries over an eight-month period



The Vice President of the Presidential Council (PC) Ahmed Maiteeq called for the resumption of the program for economic reforms along with the swift dealing with the Libyan dinar exchange rate, whether that be on foreign commercial exchange or for personal purposes.

In a statement on Sunday, Maiteeq clarified that the restart of the economic reform program would contribute to the recovery of the foreign exchange situation and the neutralization of the 'black market' and address the crisis of cash shortage in banks.

He congratulated the Libyan people as a whole, on the reopening of all oil fields, the final of which was the Al-Feel Field and the end of forced closures in all ports along with the restart of oil export shipments, which had been interrupted for a long period.



Opinions

# Latest Libyan negotiations between the High Council of State and Tobruk parliament

Al-Sanousi Al-Bsikri, a Libyan writer

Credit: This article was first published by Arabi21 on October 17, 2020



The current negotiating paths' issue remains ambiguous, not only to the street man, but even for some elite that following up the ongoing dialogues and those scheduled to take place soon. What makes the negotiation issue ambiguous is the multiplicity of meetings and contradictory statements about the outcome of the negotiation.

What is new since last Saturday and during this week in which we covered the statement of the meeting in Bouznika, Morocco, and what was reached regarding the criteria for nomination and choosing who will vacate the sovereign positions, is the announcement by the assembled members of the Tobruk House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State in Egypt of their agreement on the necessity to end the transitional phases.

The announcement contains some ambiguity regarding the negotiation paths, as the agreement to end the transitional phases means resorting to general elections on a constitutional basis, which was not agreed upon in the aforementioned meeting, but a sharp dispute occurred about it as the HoR delegation rejected the referendum on the draft constitution prepared by the elected body for the referendum, as well as the High Council's proposal of referendum on the constitution and to hold elections to make the amending of draft constitution is the first work of the new HoR.

On the other hand, the current dialogues especially the Geneva dialogue and the dialogue meeting that will be held in Tunisia next November, is established to a new transitional phase based on a constitutional amendment and the formation of a mini-Presidency Council along with a separated government. Which collides to say that it is agreed to end the transitional phase!

Ambiguity is a wrong and weak choice under the pretext of preventing interference in the path of negotiation, and it is not in line with the fact that those concerned with negotiation and agreements and its agendas are all Libyans, as they are the first beneficiary if the negotiation was constructive and productive or vice versa, so how can it be in line under pretext of fearing interference in the path of negotiation.

Ambiguity also constitutes a barrier to the interaction of many elites and activists, a positive interaction that achieves the standard of participation, which has become one of the most important guarantees

for the success of political agreements, and because ambiguity results in negative expectations and speculation, the attitude of many of those involved in the current negotiation has become conservative and even opposed, and this is a biggest failure that could lead to a repeat of the Skhirat dialogue and its results.

This leads me asking about the positive dealing with the statements and demands issued by political, social, societal and military groups regarding the current dialogues. And what is clearly apparent is the promises of the UN mission to expand the base of participation in the political dialogue, noting that the mission will determine who will participate with the HoR and the High Council of State's participation. Which is an obvious defect, it is supposed that the reservations and demands of the parties concerned with the negotiation, especially the High Council of State, to become independents adopting the minimum agenda.

From this point, the point of participation and expanding its base, I call for the convergence of views and attitudes between the actors within the Government of National Accord from all political, social, societal and military components, on the minimum agenda, which includes ending the militarization project and blocking the path to the coup plot and ensuring the stability in the country and all Libyans.

The failure of the components representing the Government of National Accord's front or those concerned with the civil state and the refusal of militarism to agree on the minimum agenda, means that the agreement between the West front and East front is impossible, and if an agreement is signed, it will definitely be at the expense of legitimate goals and objectives.

I am certain that the state of ambiguity, conflict and collision in attitudes, whether within each front or between the two main fronts concerned with negotiation, will pave the way for an external agenda that I expect that will not be positive and will not serve unity, political and economic stability, so do those concerned pay attention to these risks before the disaster strikes?

**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

## Eyes Hospital in Tripoli receives cutting-edge equipment for laser department



The Eyes Hospital in Tripoli has received cutting-edge equipment for the laser department provided by the Ministry of Health.

The Hospital Director, Dr. Rania Al-Khauja, disclosed that the department had received new laser devices for different tasks including, treating retinal detachment caused by some diseases such as diabetes, scanning implanted eye lenses, and treating glaucoma and coloboma.

One of the devices is also equipped with special features for treating "eye floaters", which are spots in the vision that look like black or gray specks, according to Dr. Al-Khauja.

Dr. Al-Khauja considered the new advanced equipment a distinctive addition that would enhance the services of the hospital and the efficiency of eye operations conducted by its medical team, "which has developed significantly and remarkably in recent years," according to her statement.

Health

## IOM conducts training on Covid-19 to health care providers at detention centres



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has provided training on infection prevention, control, and management of coronavirus cases to health care providers working in detention centres.

The training program targeted about 25 health care providers working in shelters in Tripoli, Zawiya, Zuwara, and Dhahir Al-Jubail.

It also conducted practical training for 15 members of the Rapid Response Team in Tripoli, in collaboration with the National Centre for Disease Control.

The training covered infection prevention and control, contact tracing, sampling, and data management, according to a statement by the IOM on Twitter.

The UN organization explained that the step comes within the framework to help mitigate the outbreak of infectious diseases inside shelters, as migrants in detention centres are more vulnerable to communicable diseases due to overcrowding and unsanitary conditions.

Health

## Ministry of Health approves protocol for treatment of Coronavirus patients



The Ministry of Health of the Government of National Accord (GNA), made a decision to adopt a protocol of obtaining plasma from recovered Coronavirus patients, then supplying it full-scale to blood banks with a view to combating the deadly virus, which is to be conducted using the most modern technologies.

This announcement came during a meeting held at the office of the Ministry of Health in Tripoli, which was formed to discuss the development of capacity of the blood banks, in light of the increasing demand for the recovered plasma.

The meeting concluded with the promise that it would work towards the provision of safe, virus-free antibody-bearing plasma, along with the provision of operational materials for the designated devices, which separate the therapeutic plasma for use on patients.

Health

## Italian Ambassador visits National Center for Disease Control



The Head of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Bader Al-Din Al-Najjar, has met with the Italian Ambassador, Giuseppe Buccino, who visited the center with his deputy, Walter de Martino.

The Ambassador reaffirmed the Italian government's support for the partnership programs with the National Center to combat the Coronavirus pandemic, especially in the southern region.

He also explained that the support includes distributing essential medicines, medical equipment and personal protection equipment, in addition to working on access to health protection services for immigrants, people with disabilities and special needs as well as providing psychological and social support programs.





Travel

## Buraq Air resumes flights between Tripoli, Benghazi

Buraq Air has announced the resumption of its domestic flights to Benghazi, starting next Sunday.

The company stated through its account on Facebook that flights between Mitiga Airport of Tripoli and Benina Airport in Benghazi will resume on Sunday by two flights per day, confirming that reservations would be open to travelers through the company's offices.

On October 16, Afriqiyah Airways operated a flight from Mitiga Airport to Benina Benghazi carrying a delegation from the airport and civil aviation authorities to mark the resumption of the company's domestic flights to Benghazi, which will start officially on 23 of this month with two flights per week.

As a result, the supreme committee for combating the coronavirus of the parallel east-based government gave the green light to airports in the east to resume domestic and international air traffic after more than a seven-month pause as part of measures to curb the spread of COVID-19.



Culture

## Khums' Equestrian and Folk Poetry Festival concluded

Khums city concluded on Sunday the Peace (Salam) Festival for Equestrian and Folk Poetry, at the Celine Club, which was sponsored by the General Authority for Culture.

"The festival, which kicked off its activities on Saturday, aims to preserve the cultural heritage represented in equestrian and folk poetry, which describes patriotism, peace and reconciliation", according the Cultural Authority.

The festival was attended by the Head of the General Authority for Culture, Hassan Onis, and the Director of the Authority's Office in the Municipality of Khums, as well as a large crowd of Libyan knights and fans of equestrian and folk poetry.



Tourism

## Tourism Authority demands investigation into the fire in oasis of Mafo

The General Authority for Tourism expressed shock and condemnation with respect to the fire that was set to the vicinity of oasis of Mafo in Ubari south west of Libya, causing significant damage to the natural landscape features of the area.

In a statement, the authority called the relevant authorities to open an investigation into the accident at once, to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice, noting that the area is considered one of the most important natural heritage sites in Libya.

The tourism authority has urged tourists who wish to visit the area to adhere to the guidelines for touring natural and cultural sites and to contribute to preserving the Libyan cultural and natural heritage.



Crimes

## Authorities in the east order investigation into rape cases after women open up on sexual abuse in Benghazi

The interior minister of the east-based parallel government, Ibrahim Boushnaf, has ordered an investigation into the alleged accusations regarding rape cases against some women in Benghazi, involving individuals and entities affiliated with the ministry.








On Friday, Boushnaf assigned the director of the so-called criminal investigation service, Salah Howaidi, to investigate the incidents, which sparked widespread controversy and anger in Benghazi, stating that everyone who is proven involved in these incidents will be summoned and referred to the public prosecution.

Several widows of Haftar's militias spoke out in a video with the attorney Hanan Al-Barasi, during which they confirmed they had been assaulted and raped by security personnel in Benghazi.

Earlier, several women have said that they were harassed and blackmailed by military officials of Haftar's forces while demanding the salaries and dues of their relatives who were killed while fighting with Haftar in his war on Tripoli.



## Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 30	24°/18°		AM Showers	30%	NNW 18 km/h
Sat 31	24°/16°		AM Showers	40%	NNW 15 km/h
Sun 01	23°/16°		AM Showers	40%	NNW 12 km/h
Mon 02	24°/16°		Mostly Sunny	10%	WNW 11 km/h
Tue 03	25°/16°		Mostly Sunny	10%	WNW 12 km/h
Wed 04	25°/16°		Partly Cloudy	10%	NW 13 km/h
Thu 05	24°/17°		Partly Cloudy	20%	N 15 km/h

## Photo of the Week: Gharyan





Features

# Tripoli Red Castle



for placing cannons according to the methods used in the sixteenth century AD. The Knights of Saint John added another tower to the castle in the northeastern corner, known as Santa Barbara Tower, and it was clear from the maps dating back to the seventeenth century. The Castle was surrounded by a water canal on all sides, and its entrance was at the southern wall.

## Under the rule of the Turks

The Turks seized the castle in 1551 AD, they made several additions to it, and the church 'Murad Agha' that was inside the castle was turned into a mosque, and the Turkish governors took the castle as a headquarters to them and their families. And when Ahmed Pasha Karamanli took control of the country in 1711 AD, he and his family took special care to the defensive fortresses. During the Karamanli era, the castle included a special building for the ruler of Tripoli with a spacious hall in which he received delegations and consuls of foreign countries. The castle also had a coinage house, the judiciary office, a government pharmacy, and some warehouses, prisons and mills.

## Under the rule of the Italians

Italy seized Tripoli in 1911, and the Castle became the Governor-General's residence, whereas some parts of it were also used as museums. During this period, many changes occurred to it, the most important of which was the removal of some of the external buildings that were adjacent to it, and the paving of the road that leads to the port of Tripoli.

In 1919 the castle became a museum for the first time in its history.

At first, they settled for an old building located next to the castle from the south, which was used during the second Ottoman era as a police station, and when the Italians landed in Tripoli they turned it into an ammunition store. Later on, the storehouse, which is 30 meters long and about ten meters wide, built on six columns, was modified to be the first museum in the history of Libya. In the early twenties of the twentieth century, all the castle's annexes, including the aforementioned store, were removed and all the castle was transformed into a museum inaugurated in 1930 by the Italian governor-general Balbo, who was soon dazzled by the castle and transferred his office to it, to take over the affairs of the country from a small part of it. He built the former classic museum, which is now replaced by the Assaraya Al-Hamrs Museum, and placed some old fountains in the castle squares dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries AD, which were brought from the old town houses.

## Under the rule of the British

After the British took control of the country during the Second World War, they sought through UNESCO to save the archaeological artifacts that were invaluable, and in 1948 the whole castle was turned into the Libyan Museum complex, including Museum of Prehistory, Museum of Ancient Libyan Tribes, and Museum of Libyan Heritage in Punic era, Greek era, Roman era, and Byzantine era, in addition to the Museum of Natural History, which displays animal and plant fossils, various rocks, a group of stuffed animals, and sections for wildlife, insects and birds. From 1952 AD it was prepared to be the headquarters of the Antiquities Administration and its museums.

## The Red Castle's Libraries

The Castle's libraries consist of three sections inside it, storing documents, books and periodicals in important historical stages, namely: the National Archives of Libya, Public Archeology Library, and Historical Archives Library.

When the Italians came in 1911 AD, they destroyed the documents of the Red Castle until the arrival of the Italian orientalist Auviere Gargiti, who stopped this massacre. Historian Professor Ali Al-Sadiq Hassanein refers to an Italian with a high military rank and a great deal of culture called Tomaso Salsa, who reorganized Management of historical documents and archives before his death in Rome on 9/21/1913 AD. In 1928, a decision was issued to establish the House of Documents, which is defined as publications, and other papers that have passed fifty years old, but this house remained a storehouse of documents only.

Also an archaeological library specialized in history and civilization in Italian language was established, concerned with Roman antiquities and their history in Tripoli, and another one in Shahat in 1914 CE, which was specialized in pictures and slides for excavations of Roman civilization, as part of the colonial plan that justified the Italians' historical right of the occupation. With the simultaneous transfer of the government library from the Castle to its new headquarters during the reign of the British administration, a library was formed from the output of the fascist library Dante Alighieri, located in the headquarters of the fascist Union of the presidency of the colony's army, and managed by Tabalini Ugo until the end of 1933 AD, it has a military character, whereas its collections contain 2510 volumes, in addition to the scientific and cultural publications, Italian and foreign magazines, which are read by the club members, and later included the library of the Church of Algerian Square and the Italian Archaeological Library Countess daughter of Volpi, whose palace was transformed into the Islamic Museum in the mid-seventies.

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