

## Politics

### Russia's embassy says "The Daily Telegraph" reports aim to damage relations with Libya

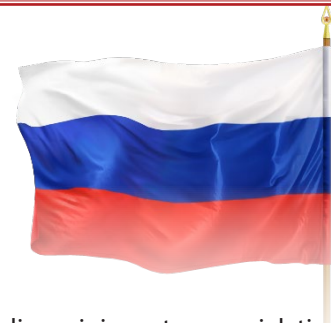
The Russian embassy in Libya denied reports published by the British newspaper "The Daily Telegraph" about Moscow's plan to direct illegal immigrants from Libya to Europe, describing the reports as "complete lies" and intelligence work.

The embassy added on its official Facebook page that this report was done by British intelligence to undermine Russian-Libyan relations and the efforts of the Libyan side to combat illegal immigration to Europe. The embassy also indicated that these reports are nothing but a British attempt to cover up its policies of flooding Europe with immigrants

and changing the demographic map of the European Union, according to the Russian embassy in Libya.

The Daily Telegraph published intelligence documents revealing Putin's plan to flood the West with immigrants through Libya, saying that the Russian plan aimed to create a "border police force of 15,000 members," which would include Wagner mercenaries who were based in Libya, to flood Europe with immigrants.

The newspaper added that this force would control the movements and routes of immigrants so that a specific region in Europe can be flooded with immigrants in order to influence



public opinion at a crucial time to destabilize Europe. It indicated that Wagner mercenaries in Libya began transporting a large number of immigrants along the eastern borders of Russia, and that some of them came from Africa in cooperation with their agents in Libya, or in the rest of the African countries.

The Daily Telegraph pointed out that Wagner and Russia's plans regarding immigrants were linked to its plans to establish military bases in several African countries, including Libya.

## Politics

### Al-Koni discusses irregular migration with UK officials

Musa Al-Koni, Vice President of the Libyan Presidential Council, met with British officials to discuss the issue of irregular migration and its impact on Libya and Europe.

The meeting was chaired on the British side by Michael Tomlinson Minors, Minister of State for Combating Illegal Immigration, and was attended by the British Ambassador to Tripoli, Martin Longden.

According to a PC statement, the meeting emphasized the need to secure Libya's southern borders by providing logistical capabilities, enabling the Bor-



der Guards to combat organized crime and irregular migration.

The parties also discussed conflicts in neighbouring countries and their impact on the fragile situation in Libya's southern regions.

Al-Koni underscored that Libya's political division presents a challenge to combating migration amid the lack of a unified strategy. He called for doubling efforts to support the stability of the Saharan-African region.

The PC member also emphasized the need to address the crises facing the region by supporting his initia-

tive "One Sahara," stressing the need to create spatial development in the source countries to reduce the desire of migrants to leave their homelands in search of work abroad.

For his part, the British minister affirmed that irregular migration remains a top priority for his government, which he said is working with relevant countries to reduce this phenomenon. He expressed the UK's desire to cooperate with Libya on this issue, highlighting that Libya is one of the countries affected by its consequences.

Politics

## Lieutenant, 5 officers from Haftar's forces drowned off Sirte coast

Tariq bin Ziyad Brigade, which is affiliated with Khalifa Haftar's forces, has mourned a number of its members who have died during military training without announcing their names or mentioning the circumstances of their death.

Meanwhile, local media reported sources from Sirte that six members of the Fifth Saiqa-Parachute Battalion, which is affiliated with Tariq bin Ziyad Brigade, drowned off the coast of Sirte city while participating in a military exercise.

Eyewitnesses confirmed that the military members drowned as a result of an error in the landing operation carried out by the Brigade as part of the military maneuver taking place off the coast, and they explained that "the landing was supposed to take place in the boats as planned, but due to a technical error, they descended into the sea with their parachutes, and thus drowned."

Activists and local social media circulated the names of the deceased as a lieutenant officer and five soldiers. The leadership of Haftar's forces previously announced that it would carry out what it said was "the largest ground military maneuver in the history of Libya," which is being conducted in the Sirte region with live ammunition.

Politics

## Menfi confirms to US envoy cooperation with UNSMIL to reach political settlement

The Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, reaffirmed the continuation of work in partnership with the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to reach a real political settlement based on appealing to the people directly and activating the role of regional and international organizations to contribute to enhancing dialogue and consensus.

These remarks came during Menfi's meeting on Wednesday with the Special Envoy of the US President, Richard Norland, and the Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Libya, Jeremy Brendt.

Menfi's media office said that the meeting focused on some political, economic and military files, and ways to end the political impasse and move forward toward elections.

Norland hailed Menfi's role and his persistent attempts to create bridges of communication with the actors and those concerned with the Libyan issue with the aim of reaching elections, looking forward to reviving the High Finance Committee to play a greater role in the coming period as a tool that guarantees the fair distribution of resources with disclosure, transparency and rationalization in spending.

Politics

## Sudan agrees to indirect negotiations led by Libya and Turkey to resolve conflict

Sudan's Foreign Minister Ali Al-Sadiq Ali confirmed on Tuesday that the Sudanese authorities agreed to hold indirect negotiations with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), mediated by Libya and Turkey.

Al-Sadiq said, in an interview with the Russian Sputnik news agency, on the sidelines of the diplomatic forum in Antalya, Turkey that they were still committed to the necessity of finding a peaceful solution through negotiations, but at the same time stressed that any solution must be based on the "Jeddah Platform," after which they could

move forward.

"We, based on our conviction of the necessity of holding negotiations which we agreed to immediately through the Libyan initiative, are expected to conduct indirect negotiations through the mediation of Libya and Turkey," He added.

The Sudanese Foreign Minister pointed out that "the agreement, which was reached in May 2023, through the "Jeddah Platform," included the withdrawal of the Rapid Support Forces from civilian homes and government institutions, and the evacuation of

the capital, Khartoum, from all armed elements. However, the Rapid Support Forces did not respect the terms of this agreement. Last week, the Libyan capital, Tripoli, hosted the President of the Sudanese Sovereignty Council, Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, and the Commander of the Rapid Support Forces, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo (Hemdti), at the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity Abdul Hamid Dbeibah to discuss the possibility of reaching an end to the war that has been ongoing for more than ten months.



Economy

## Central Bank Governor proposes to HoR devaluation of dinar to USD

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Al-Sidiq Al-Kabir called on the Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR), Aqila Saleh, for the necessity of approving a unified government, unifying spending, and issuing a decision to devalue the dinar exchange rate to US dollar (USD) to address the current crisis.

This call came in a letter, in which Al-Kabir suggested adjusting the exchange rate to between 5.95 dinars and 6.15 dinars per dollar, thus devaluing the dinar as the current rate stands at 4.80 dinars per a dollar.

"This is to collect an amount of 12 billion dinars to pay off the debt and for development projects," Al-Kabir said, expecting that the volume of demand for the dollar this year would be about \$36 billion, compared to oil revenues of \$24 billion, meaning that the deficit would be very large, according to the letter.

The Governor indicated that expenditures for 2023 alone amounted to 165 billion dinars, with unknown-sources parallel spending, which increased the demand for foreign currency exchange.

Earlier on Tuesday, data issued by the Central Bank of Libya reported that the country's revenues during last February amounted to 14 billion and 336 million dinars, while expenditures recorded 10 billion and 923 million dinars, achieving a surplus estimated at 3.4 billion dinars.

Oil sales revenues also amounted to 12 billion dinars, and oil royalties reached two billion dinars, while revenues from taxes, customs, and fuel sales did not exceed 52 million dinars, 65 million dinars, and 30 million dinars respectively, while the value of other revenues amounted to 219 million dinars. The salaries of public and government institutions accounted for the majority of expenses during the past month, recording 10.3 billion dinars, while subsidies reached 623 million. The Central Bank's data did not record any development, administrative, or emergency expenses or financial arrangements for the National Oil Corporation and the General Electricity Company.

Economy

## Libyan-Japanese talks in Tripoli to expand trade exchange

Director of the Middle East and Africa Department at the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Konagaya Hideaki, has discussed ways to expanding trade exchange and economic cooperation between Libya and Japan.

This came during his visit to the capital, Tripoli, during which he exchanged views with the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Libyan Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Mohammed Al-Raaed, about the enormous capabilities of the Libyan market, which opens the door to further cooperation between the two countries, according to the Foreign Ministry Facebook page.

The Japanese official met with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs, Mohammed Issa, to discuss the progress of Japanese-Libyan relations, where the two parties agreed on the importance of achieving cooperation between Libyan and Japanese businessmen.

Economy

## Central Bank Governor informs US envoy about measures to boost value of Libyan dinar

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, briefed the US Special Envoy to Libya, Richard Norland, on the most important measures that the bank will take to maintain the financial sustainability of the state and enhance the value of the Libyan dinar, without revealing what these measures are.

These remarks came during a meeting on Tuesday in Tripoli, in the presence of the chargé d'affaires of the US Embassy in Libya, Jeremy Brendt, according to the bank's statement on its Facebook page.

The meeting discussed the efforts made with the Parliament's Finance Committee and the rest of the state institutions to prepare a unified budget bill for 2024, and reviewed the efforts to unify the Central Bank, the reasons for the rise in the price of foreign currency in the parallel market, and the transparency and disclosure project adopted by the Central Bank of Libya. Norland and Al-Kabir agreed on the need for a "unified budget to bring transparency and accountability to public spending," Norland said, adding that the need for a unified budget helps the central bank protect the value of the dinar from further deterioration in the parallel market, referring to reports that "imported counterfeit banknotes are being used to buy dollars and euros," so he stressed the need for Libyans to know how to spend their country's wealth.

Economy

## Minister of economy: Libya seeks long-term partnership with Bangladesh

Minister of Economy and Trade Mohamed Al-Hweij expressed the ministry's readiness to provide all possible support to Bangladeshi enterprises and business owners interested in entering the Libyan market through partnerships with the private sector and the appointment of Libyan agents.

In a meeting with the Ambassador of Bangladesh, Abu Hasnat Bashar, Al-Hweij reiterated Libya's keenness to enhance cooperation with Bangladesh and establish a long-term partnership



in trade, investment, digital economy, and information technology.

The minister invited his Bangladeshi counterpart to visit Libya and lead an economic delegation to participate in the 50th Tripoli International Fair.

He emphasized the importance of organizing bilateral meetings to exchange experiences and expertise and establishing a joint business council to strengthen economic ties and cooperation in trade and investment.

On his part, the Bangladeshi ambas-

sador expressed his country's desire to develop bilateral relations and enhance economic and trade cooperation, shedding light on his country's experience in transitioning towards a knowledge-based economy and its role in supporting various sectors.

The ambassador extended an invitation to Al-Hweij from his Bangladeshi counterpart to visit Bangladesh to gain insights into his country's experience in the digital economy and small and medium-sized projects.

Economy



## Libya, Italy unify chambers of commerce to facilitate bilateral trade

The Libyan-Italian Chamber of Commerce in Tripoli and its counterpart in Rome signed an agreement to complete the unification of the two chambers.

The signing ceremony took place at the Italian Embassy in Tripoli, in the presence of the Italian Ambassador, Gianluca Alberini, and the President of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Mohamed Al-Raaed.

As per the agreement, the Libyan-Italian Chamber of Commerce will act as the legal representative of the Libyan side in the Rome-based chamber. The two chambers will operate under a single name and logo to boost trade exchange between the two countries.

According to the Italian news agency Nova, the first activity of the unified bilateral chamber will be to organize a central business forum in the coming weeks, in addition to the Tripoli International Fair scheduled from May 15 to 21.

Economy



## Ministry of Industry reviews investment with Kuwaiti companies

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, Mustafa Al-Samou, has discussed with Kuwaiti businessmen ways to initiate investment with Kuwaiti companies in the field of manufacturing industries.

This came in a meeting held in the city of Misrata, during which the two sides discussed investment projects, the most important of which is investment with the Libyan Iron and Steel Company.

This meeting comes within the plans of the Ministry of Industry to expand industrial partnerships between public and private Libyan companies and their Arab and international counterparts, according to the Ministry.



Education



## Minister of Education opens three schools in Misrata

The Minister of Education, Musa Al-Maqryif, has opened three educational institutions in the city of Misrata, after preparing them from the Administrative Centers and Development Authority.

Hakomitna platform indicated that each school contains eight classrooms with a capacity of around 250 students.

The Minister of Education also inaugurated the Social Solidarity Clinic for workers in the education sector and their families, which includes various medical specialties, a laboratory and a pharmacy.

Education



## Libyan, Malaysian officials discuss student procedures, scientific cooperation

The Head of the High Council of State (HCS), Mohamed Takala, convened on Saturday with the Malaysian Minister of Higher Education, Zamri Abdul Kadir Deh, to discuss facilitating procedures for Libyan students seeking to enrol in Malaysian universities.

The meeting, which took place on the sidelines of Takala's participation in the third Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Antalya, Turkey, also explored ways to enhance scientific cooperation between the two countries, a statement by the HCS said.

Several high-ranking officials were present at the meeting, including the Malaysian Ambassador to Turkey, Sazeli Kamal, the Minister's Advisor, Azlinda Azman, the First Assistant to the Minister of Higher Education, Noraldin Mat Daud, and the Vice-President of the Northern University of Malaysia, Mohamed Sakdan.

Sports



## CAF Confederation Cup: Abu Salim qualified to knockout stage, Al-Hilal eliminated

Abu Salim football team qualified for the quarterfinals of the CAF Confederation Cup in second place with nine points, behind leaders Zamalek with 13 points despite losing 0-3 to Angola's Sagrada Esperança team on Sunday in the final round of the second group of Group Stage.

Meanwhile, Libya's Al Hilal was eliminated from the Confederation Cup after losing against its host Modern Future of Egypt by 5-0 in the match that was held on Sunday in the final round of the first group matches of the Confederation Cup.

Sports



## Libyan boxer Saad Al-Falah wins WBA title

Libyan champion, Saad Al-Falah has been crowned the World Boxing Association (WBA) light heavyweight title in Africa, after defeating his Ivorian competitor, Adama Koné, in the fight that was held Friday evening, in the Suleiman Al-Darrat Hall in the city of Benghazi.

Libyan champion, Saad Al-Falah, showed full superiority over his Ivorian opponent from round one, as he showered Koné with a torrent of punches that forced his opponent to fall twice, prompting Adama Koné to announce his withdrawal at the 4th round due to his inability to complete the fight to the end.

Health



وزارة الصحة الليبية

## Health Ministry forms committee to provide treatment for cancer patients inside Libya

The Ministry of Health has confirmed the formation of a committee to identify Libyan cancer patients receiving treatment in Tunisia, with the aim of providing them with treatment services inside Libya.

In a statement Sunday, the ministry indicated that the National Institute for Cancer Treatment in the Municipality of Sabratha had received its allocation of medicines to treat cancer patients.

"The Institute received a shipment of medicines from the General Administration of the Medical Supply Authority, thanks to the efforts of the Supreme Security Committee tasked with following up on the health sector," the ministry stated.

The statement also noted that the committee, headed by Health Minister Ramadan Abu Janah, held meetings to follow up and address the obstacles facing the file of cancer patients.

The committee's meetings concluded with an agreement with the companies supplying cancer treatment drugs to provide the medications to patients in coordination with the Medical Supply Authority and to assign a committee to identify cancer patients receiving treatment in Tunisia.

Health



## Abu Janah discusses WB support for Libya's health sector

Minister of Health Ramadan Abu Janah met with experts from the World Bank (WB) to discuss the Bank's support for Libya's health sector.

The parties followed up on implementing the agreement signed between the Ministry and the Bank to support the health sector in human resources organizations, health economics and insurance, primary health care support, and digital health programs.

The meeting grouped the Minister of Finance, Khaled Al-Mabrouk, the Regional Director of the World Bank Group for the Middle East and North Africa, Jesko Hentschel, and the Resident Representative of the Bank in Libya, Henriette von Kaltenborn.

Representatives of the WB presented the areas and locations of the Bank's interventions, the potential for increasing them, and the areas of joint work that meet the needs of the Ministry of Health and its various facilities.

The attendees also discussed the results of the WB report on the rapid assessment of the damages and needs resulting from the floods triggered by storm "Daniel", which hit eastern Libya last year.

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Opinions

## Addressing Libya's Healthcare Workforce Deficit: A Comprehensive Strategy for Importing Healthcare Professionals

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Libya's healthcare sector, currently grappling with a pronounced workforce deficit, faces significant impacts on healthcare delivery. The shortage of healthcare professionals has led to a critical situation that demands immediate attention and innovative solutions. One potential solution to this predicament is inviting healthcare professionals from other countries where a surplus exists. This article explores the feasibility of importing healthcare professionals from four such countries - Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, and the Philippines - and the comprehensive strategy required for successful integration.

### Advantages of Importing Healthcare Workers

Importing healthcare professionals can redress the workforce shortage in Libya, leading to better healthcare access for Libyans. The advantages of this approach are manifold:

1. **Filling the Workforce Gap:** By tapping into countries with a surplus of trained healthcare workers, Libya can fill its workforce gap, thereby improving healthcare access for its citizens.
2. **Enhancing Quality of Care:** Foreign professionals bring a wealth of diverse skills and knowledge, thereby augmenting the quality of healthcare delivery in Libya.
3. **Cultural Competence:** The introduction of diverse skill sets can lead to cultural competence, enhancing patient experience through culturally sensitive care.

### Challenges in Importing Healthcare Workers

While importing healthcare professionals offers substantial advantages, it is not devoid of challenges:

1. **Language and Communication Barriers:** Potential barriers in communication due to language differences.
2. **Cultural Differences:** Navigating cultural nuances and expectations.
3. **Legal and Administrative Processes:** Intricate processes that require careful handling.
4. **Ethical Considerations:** Ensuring ethical recruitment and treatment of imported professionals.

### The Role of Recruitment Agencies in Workforce Import

Recruitment agencies such as Omnipresent, Gmedical, Judge group, and Medacs can play a pivotal role in importing healthcare professionals. Their roles encompass identifying suitable candidates, streamlining the hiring process, managing legal and administrative procedures, and offering support during the transition to Libya.

### The Strategic Approach to Successful Integration

The successful recruitment and integration of foreign healthcare professionals require a strategic approach, including:

1. **Defining Job Requirements:** Clear articulation of roles and expectations.
2. **Sourcing and Hiring:** Identifying and interviewing suitable candidates.
3. **Legal Compliance:** Ensuring alignment with Libyan labor laws and medical licensing requirements.
4. **Cultural and Language Competence:** Emphasizing cultural sensitivity and language training.

### Supporting Measures for Integration

1. **Cultural and Language Training:** Tailored programs focusing on Libyan cultural norms and language nuances.
2. **Housing and Living Arrangements:** Providing convenient housing, transportation, and access to everyday living needs.
3. **Employment Opportunities and Benefits:** Offering competitive salaries and benefits to attract and retain high-quality healthcare workers.

### Conclusion

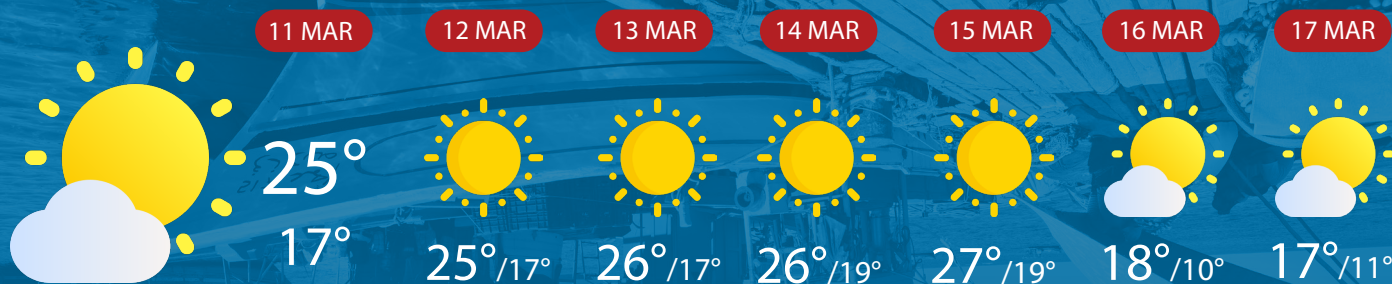
The import of healthcare professionals from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, and the Philippines is a viable strategy for addressing Libya's healthcare workforce shortage. While challenges are inherent in the process, a comprehensive approach involving stakeholders, robust training programs, and supportive living arrangements can ensure the successful integration of these professionals. This approach, in turn, can improve healthcare access and the quality of care for the Libyan population, contributing to the overall success and resilience of Libya's healthcare sector.

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



## Photo of the Week






## Tripoli Weather Forecast



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