

Politics

## Mechanism for selecting new Libyan executive authority approved by LPDF



The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) announced Tuesday that the Advisory Committee of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) had approved the proposal for the selection mechanism of the executive authority of the preparatory period leading to elections in December 2021.

UNSMIL said that following the agreement on a proposal for the selection mechanism of a unified executive authority, reached by the in Geneva on 16 January, it conducted a one-day voting process on Monday, when the LPDF members were asked to cast their vote on the proposal.

"72 LPDF members engaged in the voting process, with 51 voting in favor of the proposed mechanism, representing almost 73 percent of the votes cast, and 19 members voting against. Two members abstained and two others did not engage in the process," UNSMIL explained.

It added that with 73% of the votes cast in favor of the Advisory Committee's proposal, the proposal has therefore passed by exceeding the stipulated threshold of the voting process, set by the Advisory Committee at 63% of the cast votes.

UNSMIL commended the LPDF members who engaged in the voting process for their commitment to the UN-facilitated intra-Libyan dialogue, and for upholding their responsibilities before the Libyan people.

While the UN acting envoy to Libya, Stephanie Williams, said the approval coincided with the first anniversary of the Berlin International Conference on Libya, adding that with this vote, LPDF members took a significant step forward towards the implementation of the road-map adopted in Tunis in mid-November.

"Libyans have now a genuine opportunity to move past their differences and divisions, select a temporary government to reunify their institutions through the long-awaited democratic national elections, which will take place on 24 December 2021," Williams remarked.

UNSMIL said that after the mechanism was approved, it started finalizing the nomination procedure and forms as well as a timeline for the voting process, adding that they will be shared with the LPDF shortly, as a committee of the LPDF will be tasked to verify the submissions to ensure full transparency.

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## Al-Sarraj establishes "Stability Support Apparatus" in Libya's capital



The Head of the Presidential Council, Fayeza Al-Sarraj, established Monday a new security apparatus called "Stability Support Apparatus" to protect state institutions and headquarters as well as officials.

Al-Sarraj appointed Abdelghani Belgassim, known as "Ghiniwa Al-Kikli" as the Head of the new apparatus, and Ayoub Abu Ras, Hassan Abu Zariba, and Mousa Mahmoud as deputies.

The apparatus will also take part in security operations such as police raids, and apprehensions related to national security in coordination with the relevant authorities. In addition, it will take part in repelling attacks by outlaw gunmen and contain riots in cooperation with cities' security apparatuses.

Al-Sarraj's decision was seen as a new episode in the behind-the-scenes conflict with his Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha, who has hopes for becoming the next Prime Minister.

The decision on Monday was very significant as Ghiniwa Al-Kikli and his deputy Ayoub Abu Ras are leaders of very large armed groups in Tripoli, seen by Bashagha as militias that are not going to accept his future security vision, which includes dissolving their armed brigades.

Politics

## UN: Kubis will assume duties as UN envoy to Libya early February



The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, has appointed Slovakian Jan Kubis to be his special envoy to Libya, the UN Secretary-General spokesman said in a statement on Monday, noting that he will take up his duties by early February.

The Slovakian diplomat will also lead the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) instead of Stephanie Williams, who has held the task on an acting basis since 2020.

"The Secretary-General is grateful for the commitment and outstanding leadership of Acting Special Representative Stephanie Williams of the United States in moving the political process forward in Libya," the UN spokesman said.

The UN lauded the high professionalism of its new envoy for the conflict in Libya, indicating that the experience that he has gained in this sphere enables him to assume this new task.

Kubis "brings with him many years of experience in diplomacy, foreign security policy, and international economic relations, both internationally and in his own country," the statement says.

Kubis has held several UN posts, the latest of which was the UN special coordinator for Lebanon. He also served as UN special representative in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Europe and was Slovakia's top envoy from 2006 to 2009.

On a related issue, Guterres commended the advisory committee of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) for its "constructive discussions" during its meeting in Geneva.

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In a statement issued on behalf of Guterres, The UN head spokesman Stefan Dujarric praised the important role that the women participants and members of the committee from southern Libya played in reaching consensus on a proposed mechanism for selecting the executive authority, in accordance with the roadmap adopted in Tunisia last November.

The LPDF members called for constructive participation in voting on the selection mechanism and moving forward towards national elections on December 24, 2021.

Politics

### Libya's Grand Mufti casts ballot for local elections urged people to get out and vote



The Grand Mufti of Libya, Sheikh Al-Sadiq Al-Ghariyani, on Saturday cast his vote in the municipal council elections of Tajoura and urged residents to get out and vote and not to underestimate the importance of their voice.

Accompanied by his family, Sheikh Al-Ghariyani voted at a polling location in his hometown of Tajoura east of Tripoli and emphasized "it is important for people to exercise their electoral right and choose who they think is best for their city.

"Whoever refrains from participating in the elections and chooses to sit at his home has legal responsibility, Sheikh Al-Ghariyani stressed, considering such an act as a failure of the homeland.

Sheikh Al-Sadiq expressed his fear of a coup against these elections, as happened in the past, and replacing the elected persons with a military governor.

"The international community did not condemn the coup of the criminal Haftar and is now talking about power-sharing," Sheikh Al-Sadiq said, stressing that the actions of the international community indicate a lack of credibility and makes it hard for people to trust them.

The mufti accused the international community of supporting the coup while claiming it is seeking reconciliation. "It is selling weapons to the UAE to kill the people of Libya and Yemen," he added.

Politics

### Italy appoints special envoy to Libya



The Italian Foreign Ministry has announced appointing Pasquale Ferrara as a special envoy to Libya.

Italian news agency, Nova, said Thursday that Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio appointed Ferrara to be Rome's special envoy to Libya.

Nova news agency said the special envoy will be representing Italy in all initiatives related to the political process in Libya as part of Rome's support for peace and stability in the country.

Politics

### 32 Libyan NGOs blame UNHCR for the death of Somali refugee



32 Libyan civil societies have lambasted the "poor performance" of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) following the death of a Somali refugee in Tripoli.

The NGOs said in a joint statement that 19-year-old Shuaib Ibrahim had died because of the violations by human trafficking gangs in Bani Walid town and the neglect of UNHCR in Tripoli. The UN Refugee Agency in Libya reported on January 7 that Shuaib died shortly after leaving the hospital at the end of December. According to their report, "Shuaib was kidnapped and mistreated in the town of Bani Walid before being released and moved to Tripoli."

After his death, UNHCR claimed "we informed the Libyan authorities of the incident and we assisted in the transfer of his body."

But the Libyan NGOs refuted the UNHCR report, saying the UN Refugee Agency did not intervene and left the body of Shuaib in a random house for several hours until the intervention of the Somali embassy in Tripoli late at night.

"This is not the first time that asylum seekers registered with the UNHCR have died in random dwellings in Tripoli. The UNHCR was aware of their death but it left their bodies for long hours inside these dwellings without intervention." Read the statement.

Meanwhile, the Acting Chargé d'Affairs of the Somalia embassy in Libya, Ibrahim Mohammed, confirmed that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees neglected Shuaib in his life and after his death, despite the fact that he was a registered asylum seeker.

Speaking to local media, the Somali diplomat said that Shuaib came to Tripoli from Bani Walid in a deteriorating health condition. He was accommodated by the UNHCR in a house, but he received no medical care or follow-up.

"The health condition of Shuaib worsened until he died at night. Although the UNHCR was informed of his death, it did not take any procedures to transfer and bury his body," He said.

Mohammed confirmed that the forensic report showed that Shuaib has died due to acute hepatitis, and that the UNHCR failed to provide him with proper health care.

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**Economy**

### NOC Chairman discusses return of Italian firms to Libya



Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) Mustafa Sanalla met on Tuesday with the Italian Ambassador to Libya Giuseppe Buccino to discuss horizontal cooperation with Italian companies.

The meeting which took place at the NOC's HQ considered the potential contribution of Italian companies to implement maintenance programs and projects targeted in the NOC's 2021 plan.

The officials also discussed the obstacles to the return of the Italian oil and energy companies to work and invest in Libya.

The Italian ambassador congratulated the NOC's head and all workers in the oil sector on the resumption of oil production and the significant output levels achieved despite the under-funding experienced recently.

**Economy**

### New oil tanker joins Libyan naval fleet



The General National Maritime Transport Company has purchased a new crude oil tanker 'Ebn Hawke 2021', the first purchase in 10 years.

The company said in a statement that the construction of the tanker took place under the strict supervision of the British classification company, Lloyds, which has the highest degree of standards, safety and environmental care, and conforms the standards of all major oil companies.

It confirmed that the purchase of the tanker is a welcome addition to it and should significantly contribute to the improvement of the performance of the Libyan naval fleet.

**Economy**

### Turkish firms offer to work in litter recycling, infrastructure projects in Libya



The Turkish ambassador to Libya, Serhat Aksen, has expressed Turkish companies' offers to work in litter recycling and infrastructure projects in partnership with Libyan municipalities, in addition to consolidating the sister city agreements between Libyan and Turkish cities.

The remarks came in a meeting held by the Turkish ambassador Monday with the deputy minister of local governing at the Gov-

the Government of National Accord, Abdelbari Shinbaro, in the presence of mayors of Zintan, Souq Al-Jumua, Al-Zawiya, Misrata, Tarhouna, Abu Salim, and Al-Maya.

The meeting saw a presentation for the ministry of governing's plans to provide more authorities to the municipalities, showcasing some of the obstacles the ministry is facing and the development projects it wants to conduct in cooperation with Turkish firms.

**Economy**

### 2021 unified budget meeting held in Brega - eastern Libya



The Libyan financial committee tasked with devising the 2021 unified budget of the country held a meeting in eastern Libyan town of Brega in the presence of officials from the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) and east-based Interim Government.

The meeting was chaired by the GNA Foreign Minister Mohammed Sayala, who said the discussions aimed at building the state of reconciliation and law, adding that economic reform has a role in achieving political reform, which can be done via a unified expenditure policy that entails providing services to all Libyans across the country.

Sayala reiterated the need to keep oil production and exports operating with more support to the National Oil Corporation and its projects, adding that transparency in tackling state revenues is very important.

"We hail the progress made by the unified meeting of the board of directors of the Central Bank of Libya that led to fixing the dinar exchange rate against the US dollar. We hope this helps efforts to release Libya frozen state assets for the prosperity of all Libyans," Sayala said, hailing as well 5+5 commission efforts and agreement on ceasefire that saved Libya from more bloodshed and conflicts.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance of the GNA said the meeting reiterated the need to allocate a unified expenditure policy and a final budget draft in the coming days to be presented to the to-be-elected national unity government.

In addition to Sayala, the meeting was attended by GNA Minister of Finance, and Interim Government's Deputy Minister of Finance as well as the governor of parallel Central Bank of Libya.

**Economy**

### Winter Shopping Fair opens its doors in Misrata



The 'Misrata Winter Shopping Fair' was officially opened with 145 pavilions for exhibitors from all cities of Libya.

The exhibition continues, according to its organizers, for an entire week and provides all visitors with the services offered by industrial and service companies and outlets from the western, southern and eastern regions.

The management of the exhibition has confirmed that it will take all preventative measures in relation to the Coronavirus, in cooperation with the Misrata Branch of the Red Crescent Society.

Opinions

## The decline of Gulf role in Libyan crisis

By Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



The Gulf reconciliation is the most prominent event at the regional level this month, after a boycott and blockade of Qatar by the Saudi Arabia, Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt since June 2017, relations between Riyadh and Doha and then the rest of the quadripartite blockading countries have returned, and thus the crisis ended, or at least it is on its way to an end.

The crisis has hit the most important regional Arab grouping, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which after this reconciliation will regain its role in activating at least the minimum level of Gulf solidarity and unity of positions towards various regional and international developments.

The crisis has cast a shadow over the developments of the situation in the crises of the Arab region, most notably Libya, which is what concerns us in the first place, due to the alignment of the two parties to the crisis behind the two main camps in the Libyan crisis, Qatar supported the camp of the Government of National Accord (GNA) and its allies, while the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt supported Haftar's camp and the Tobruk Parliament. However, Bahrain has little influence, as it is under Saudi domination and does not have clear independent positions, and it did not follow the path of Kuwait and Oman by avoiding involvement in the crises of other countries.

About a month after announcing the blockade and the list of thirteen conditions, Haftar abruptly announced "the complete and undiminished liberation of Benghazi from terrorism". And his choice of timing was like giving back to his allies in the quadripartite blockading countries, confirming that the alleged liberation is the first fruit of the blockade of Qatar as a "supporter of terrorism" in the media discourse directed by the blockading countries and by Haftar's camp, which has not stopped accusing Doha. While the truth is the exact opposite, Qatar strongly supported the Skhirat Agreement and its ambassador to Libya played a major role in persuading the National Congress camp to accept the agreement, while the UAE did not stop its attempts to topple it by granting Haftar all forms of support to bring down the GNA and enable him to control Libya, which is a goal that was about to be achieved after it succeeded in dragging Riyadh with it and encouraging Haftar to attack Tripoli, before he suffered defeat after Turkey's intervention and its security and military support for the GNA.

Is all this in the past? What is the extent of the impact of the Gulf reconciliation on the conflict in Libya? This is what is important now, as most observers believe that reconciliation will have a positive effect in resolving the crisis, and this is true of course, but it will have a limited effect in view of the decline in the Gulf roles in the crisis after Russia and Turkey entered directly into an active presence on the ground, which required greater US and European interest and involvement. In the crisis that has become an elders' game, just like the Syrian crisis, this does not mean the end of the Gulf influence, but rather its retreat to its backward levels.

The UAE was and still is the most prominent ally of Haftar, and its continued shipment of weapons and military equipment means its reliance on the continuation of the armed conflict, and this has become impossible because the decision of war and peace is no longer in their hands nor in Haftar's hand, because with Russia and Turkey on both sides, they are closer to the alliance and understanding about their interests than hostility and fighting. It removes the specter of war, and guarantees the continuation of the truce. Also, the prominent shift in the Egyptian position of openness to the GNA confirms the Egyptian conviction that hope for Haftar's ability to achieve a military settlement has completely vanished, and security interests require discussing the available political options, and thus the UAE lost a neighboring country to Libya that facilitated the logistical methods for providing support to Haftar.

There is no doubt that the main factor in ending the Gulf crisis is Trump's loss in the elections, and preparing for the mandate of Democrat Biden requires the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia to take this step, to alleviate as much as possible the weight of the heavy files that the Biden administration will open when it begins to dismantle Trump's legacy, and if Trump's folly and recklessness and his tendency for the quadripartite alliance has contributed to complicating the Libyan crisis and other crises, it is certain that the Biden administration's approach will be different in dealing with the Russian and Turkish incursions into Libya, and his approach to the human rights file will be different from that of his predecessor. As there will be no adviser like Bolton urging Haftar to storm Tripoli quickly as long as he is determined to do so, and then the UAE will not be able to ignite another war, and its betting on one side without any leads of communication with the other parties will lose its political influence, which will accelerate the decline of its role in Libya.

**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

## Corona Advisory Committee warns of worsening epidemiological situation, demands stricter measures

The Scientific Advisory Committee to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic has warned of the worsening epidemiological situation in the country in the event that citizens do not adhere to all strict instructions.

The committee recommended in a statement on Thursday the tightening of all precautionary measures at borders and ports, given the surfacing of a new strain of the virus in neighbouring countries.

They said that the precautionary measures may even result in the stopping of travel abroad for the purpose of tourism for a limited period.

## Ministry of Health provides 10 hospitals with medicines and medical supplies



The Emergency Department of the Ministry of Health has provided a number of hospitals with shipments of medicines and medical supplies.

"The shipments included chronic disease medicines and intravenous solutions", the Ministry stated on its official Facebook page, adding that they were distributed to 10 hospitals at the western region, including, public, educational and village hospitals.

The step came within the framework of the efforts made by the Emergency Department and in implementation of the 2021 Rapid Response Plan developed by the Department at the Ministry regarding ensuring optimal operation of hospitals, according to the Ministry.

## Health workers call for urgent measures, say conditions in Health Ministry are catastrophic



Several employees from the Health Ministry along with the Union of Greater Tripoli Council have called on the Presidential Council to appoint a minister of health as soon as possible.

In a joint televised statement on Tuesday, the members underscored that the situation in the ministry is "catastrophic" due to the absence of a minister and the frequent orders of arrest issued by

by the Attorney General for several senior officials at the ministry, which impeded the ministry's work, according to the statement.

"The Attorney General's Office should coordinate with the ministry's supervisory authorities, and appoint a legal committee to follow up on the ministry's work," the statement read.

They urged the government to take urgent measures to allow the importation of medicines, in particular the drugs used for treating chronic diseases, tumors, and kidney disease.

In the same context, the head of the Nephrology Unit at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Majda Moussa, sounded the alarm about a crisis in kidney disease medicine and tools stock.

In statements to The Libya Observer, Dr. Majda said that summoning the director of the Medical Supply Department and director of Medical Affairs without prior coordination with the ministry caused a defect in the procedures and obstructed important transactions, foremost of which is the purchase orders, which include much-needed tools for the treatment of kidney patients.

"The Shat Dialysis Center has raised the alarm that it is running out of vital tools, as the stocks they have would only keep them going for a week," Dr. Majda said.

She called on the government and all influential figures in the state to take the case seriously to ensure these tools and medicines are provided as quickly as possible.

## Libya buys 2.8 million Covid-19 shots to arrive in May



The Head of the Libyan National Center for Disease Control, Badr Al-Deen Najjar, said Libya had finished all procedures to reserve and purchase 2.8 million vaccine shots, which will be enough for 1.4 million people.

Najjar said Tuesday that the vaccines will come from COVAX facility that is working under the supervision of the World Health Organization (WHO).

"The vaccines will arrive in Libya after four months from now. We have ruled out Pfizer and BioNtech vaccines because they need to be stored at minus 70 Celsius, which cannot happen in Libya," He said.

The Head of the National Center for Disease Control indicated that Libya hadn't registered any cases of the new variant of the Coronavirus, adding that the spread of the pandemic in the country is slowing down compared to Europe that is seeing a second wave of the virus.

He added that Libya has been witnessing a hike in cases lately, with a very slight increase in deaths and considerable increase in cases in quarantine centers.

Libya registered Tuesday 652 new cases of Covid-19, 33 deaths and 922 recoveries, bringing the active Coronavirus cases in the country to over 22,000.

Science

## Libyan doctor wins 2020 Scientist of the Year title in US IARC competition



Libyan doctor Khairiya Ohaida has been awarded the title "Scientist of the Year 2020" in the "Medical and Health Sciences/ Clinical Medicine/ Oncology" category from the US International Achievement Research Center (IARC) for her scientific research on breast cancer medicine.

Dr. Khairiya, a Ph.D. in Tumor biology breast cancer and a faculty member at The Sirte University, told The Libya Observer that her research has been ranked as one of the world's top 20 scientific papers in oncology.

Dr. Ohaida explained that her project was about discovering a primary breast cancer gene scientifically called galectin-7 in Ductal Carcinoma in-situ (DCIS) and its role in preventing cancer from spreading. On the basis of her findings, Dr. Ohaida proposed a multi-step hypothesis for the progression of DCIS to invasive breast cancer, which could be used in the clinic to predict how likely an individual's DCIS is to progress.

Her findings were considered a "very exciting and entirely novel finding" as it has the potential to stratify patients for a more tailored management of their disease, according to the (IARC).

"Research can make important contributions to scientists' efforts in controlling oncologic diseases and finding new treatments, Dr. Ohaida said.

She expressed her desire to continue her scientific work, but this would require the interest of the authorities, and in this context, she called on stakeholders to support her in developing her research.

"There is a need to establish research centers throughout Libya, and my hope is to see such a facility in my hometown, Dr. Ohaida added. It may be important to note that Dr. Khairiya Ohaida Ahmed is a medical graduate from the Department of Human Medicine of Sirte University. She obtained her master's and doctorate degrees from the Queen Mary University of London in 2015.

Dr. Ohaida had also received an award from the Breast Cancer Conference held in Belgium in 2012, as her project was ranked among the world's top 20 scientific papers on breast cancer.

Culture

## Libya's first Amazigh TV channel to be launched soon



The Libyan Media Corporation announced on Tuesday that it will launch the first Libyan Amazigh-speaking television channel during this year to consolidate the national identity and promote acquaintance and harmony between Libyans.

"The Amazigh-speaking channel comes as an affirmation of freedom of expression, which is one of the principles of the February Revolution", the Corporation added.

Libyan Amazigh people celebrated Wednesday, January 13, the Amazigh New Year 2971.

Travel

## Soon, Misrata opens marine terminal for passenger cruising



Misrata city is near to opening a new marine station in partnership between the public sector represented by the Iron and Steel Company, and the private sector represented by the "Kevalay" Tourism Services Company.

After years of suspension, travelers from Libya will be able to sail to their destination allowing them to save money and enjoy the scenery and landscapes of the blue sea.

According to informed sources, the first trips will leave Misrata towards Tunisia and Turkey, while other destinations would be added, respectively.

The opening ceremony is expected to take place in February. 17, next, in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the Libyan's revolution against former dictator Muammar Gaddafi, but the station made no official statement on the matter.

According to the sources, the first trip will host 400 passengers and 100 cars, in addition to 400 tons of cargo.

Besides passenger cruising, the station will also provide other services, including cargo shipping and cars.

Sports

## General Authority for Youth and Sports launches afforestation campaign under slogan 'Participate'



The head of the General Authority for Youth and Sports, Bashir Al-Qantari and a number of heads of sports federations and clubs, the General Movement for Scouts and Guides, and the Voluntary Work Committee participated on Saturday in the national campaign for afforestation at Anakazh Park, under the slogan 'Participate'.

Al-Qantari, in his speech stressed the need to pay attention to the forests, parks and gardens in the country by spreading cultural awareness to preserve the environment and vegetation.

"The aim of this initiative is to encourage all spectrums of society, especially civil society, to support all national initiatives that contribute to the revival of forests through continuous afforestation processes" Al-Qantari added.

It is worth noting that the afforestation campaign will continue in all the forests, gardens and parks in all regions.

weather

The Weather Channel

### Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 22	20°/12°	 Sunny	0%	SW 14 km/h
Sat 23	18°/10°	 Partly Cloudy	15%	W 27 km/h
Sun 24	20°/12°	 Sunny	5%	WSW 23 km/h
Mon 25	20°/12°	 Partly Cloudy	0%	WSW 17 km/h
Tue 26	19°/13°	 Mostly Sunny	5%	WNW 18 km/h
Wed 27	19°/13°	 Sunny	5%	WNW 18 km/h
Thu 28	20°/14°	 Sunny	10%	W 21 km/h

### Photo of the Week



Features

## Libyan Cuisine: Asida



Asida is considered one of the most popular desserts and traditional dishes in Libya.

It made of a cooked wheat flour lump of dough, with added butter and honey, or olive oil with date molasses (rub), it is usually eaten by hand, without the use of utensils. Often served during religious holidays such as Mawlid and Eid, it is also served during other traditional ceremonies, such as the birth of a new baby.

All you need is flour, butter or olive oil, salt, honey or date molasses and of course water.

On medium heat, add water, oil and salt, stir well, and bring to a boil. Add the flour, and stir constantly. Take the mixture off the stove, and keep stirring for 8 - 10 minutes, until the consistency is smooth. Put the mixture back on the stove again, then add cup of water, and stir constantly until the dough absorbs the water completely. In a large bowl, put cup of melted butter, add to the Asida while it is hot.

Start kneading the Asida until it becomes smooth. Shape the it into a large ball, then place it on a deep serving dish. Make a small hole in the middle of the Asida. Pour the butter on the bottom of the plate and over it, leaving the hole empty. Pour honey or date molasses into the hole, then serve it to your family and friends and enjoy it.

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