

## Politics

### Italian Democratic Party calls for changing Operation Irini to a rescue mission in the Mediterranean



The Secretary-General of the Italian Democratic Party, Enrico Letta, has said that the disembarkation of migrants is a huge problem that should be managed.

Letta considered that the European military Operation Irini off the Libyan coast, which related to stopping weapons, should be transformed to a mission that allows the rescue management at sea, according to a statement by the Italian agency Nova.

He also believed that Europe should do everything to ensure respect for humanitarian rules, saying that the Italian Prime Minister, Mario Draghi is the right person because he has great credibility at the European level.

## Politics

### Norland to serve as US Special Envoy for Libya in addition to Chief of Mission



The US State Department announced that its ambassador, Richard Norland, will also act as a special envoy to Libya in addition to his task as head of the diplomatic mission there.

State Department spokesman Ned Price said in a statement published by the ministry that Norland, through his role as a special envoy to the United States, will lead the US diplomatic efforts to enhance international support for a Libyan-led, inclusive, and negotiated political solution to the conflict facilitated through the UN.

"The addition of the Special Envoy role to Ambassador Norland's Chief of Mission responsibilities signifies the importance we attach to focused, high-level diplomatic outreach in support of the Libyan political process culminating in elections in December of this year," the Department spokesman said, indicating that Norland's new capacity would allow him to work closely with key partners to strengthen efforts to keep the political process on the right track and ensure the removal of foreign forces from Libya.

"Ambassador Norland also will work closely with interagency colleagues in Washington, civil society, and humanitarian partners to further the US role in actively supporting the Libyan people as they seek lasting peace, security, and prosperity in their country. The Special Envoy will also keep Congress closely informed of our efforts, the statement read.

The US State Department noted that Ambassador Norland is a long-standing diplomat in the diplomatic corps and has been ambassador three times, and he has held the position of head of the American diplomatic mission in Libya's foreign office in Tunisia since August 2019.

## Politics

### Bashagha: Appointing Norland as US special envoy in Libya is vital



The ex-Minister of Interior, Fathi Bashagha, said the appointment of US ambassador to Libya Richard Norland as a special envoy in the country reflects increased interest in Libya's crisis by Washington.

Bashagha welcomed on Twitter the new mandate of the US special envoy, saying this shows the real desire of the US to help Libyans remove foreign forces and mercenaries as well as support the political process until general elections are held next December.

He also looked forward to seeing all Libyan local actors working together to achieve a political solution via December general elections.

Norland was announced by the Department of State as the US special envoy to Libya in addition to his current job as ambassador in the country.

## Politics

### Merkel confirms her country support to GNU



German Chancellor, Angela Merkel has renewed her country's support for the Government of National Unity (GNU) to go ahead with preparing for the December elections.

This came during a video call with the Prime Minister, Abdul-Ha-



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Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah, during which she also affirmed her country's support for the peace process, the implementation of the ceasefire, and the withdrawal of all foreign forces.

The two sides also discussed the file of illegal immigration, regional issues, and economic developments.

**Politics**

## Al-Sunni discusses with UNGA President the situation in Libya



Libya's Ambassador to the UN, Taher Al-Sunni, on Monday discussed with Volkan Bozkir, President of the UN General Assembly for the 75th session, the situation in Libya.

Al-Sunni briefed Bozkir on the latest developments in Libyan affairs and the region and ways to enhance cooperation.

"The meeting discussed means to strengthen the international community's role in promoting the local and international consensus reached in the Libyan conflict, and to define the mechanisms for supporting the UN and its bodies for the success of the presidential and parliamentary elections specified in the Libyan Political Dialogue roadmap and the Security Council resolution," a statement by the Libyan mission to the UN said.

The two diplomats also reviewed the General Assembly president's agenda and priorities for the coming period, and how to coordinate joint efforts to manage and conduct the various General Assembly meetings in an effective and fruitful manner.

**Politics**

## Menfi confirms to Abbas Libya's support to the Palestinian people



The head of the Presidential Council, Muhammad Menfi, on Monday affirmed Libya's position towards the right of the Palestinian people in defending Jerusalem and its sanctities against Israeli attacks.

Menfi's remarks came during a phone call he made to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, in which he stressed that Libya stands by the Palestinian cause, and supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, according to a statement by the Palestinian Embassy in Libya.

The PC Head expressed strong condemnation of the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, reiterating that instructions were issued to the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the Palestinian position in international forums.

The two sides also discussed, during the call, the recent events in Jerusalem, including attacks by the occupation forces on the stationers and worshipers in the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the attempts of forcibly displacing residents of Sheikh Jarrah to make way for the new Jewish settlers.

**Politics**

## Libya's HoR, Unity Government review amended budget



The Libyan Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity (GNU), Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah, discussed with first deputy speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR) Fawzi Al-Nuwairi, and second deputy speaker, Ahmed Huma, the amended 2021 budget that was proposed by the GNU recently.

The meeting in Tripoli also discussed services to Libyans and the latest developments in Libya.

Meanwhile, the budget, planning and financial committee of the HoR reviewed the budget draft that was amended by the GNU with the ministerial committee that is tasked by the Prime Minister to follow up on the budget for 2021.



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The committee gave final remarks on the budget and the issues raised before by the HoR members, and the ministerial committee responded to the remarks, according to the media office of the HoR.



### Ministry of Oil reviews needs of southern Libya

The Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohamed Aoun, held discussions with the Second Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Ahmed Houmei, along with two further members of Parliament for the Southern region, Abd Al-Salam Al-Murabit and Al-Hadi Al-Saghir, regarding important files relating to the southern region of the country.

According to a statement by the Ministry of Oil, all attendees discussed various topics, being summarized as the settlement of the Zallaf Company in the city of Sabha, the acceleration of the establishment of a refinery in southern Libya, the training and employment of young graduates, particularly those specializing in the oil and gas industry.

Also discussed was the establishment of an oil institute in the south of Libya and the safe transportation of fuel and cooking gas to meet the needs of citizens in the south of the country.

### Economy Ministry considers reopening Benghazi International Fair



The Libyan Minister of Economy, Mohammed Al-Huweij, discussed the mechanism of reopening Benghazi International Fair and supporting domestic products.

The discussion was at a meeting with the Director of Benghazi International Fair and a number of relevant officials, who all reviewed challenges to the work of the General Authority of Fairs and Benghazi International Fair, as well as their role in encouraging domestic products and economic growth.

The Minister of Economy stressed the need to start maintenance work at the Benghazi International Fair to be ready to reopen and host events soon to boost national work and products.

### Sanallah in Algeria to discuss return of Sonatrach



The National Oil Corporation (NOC) Head, Mustafa Sanallah Tuesday, discussed with the Chairman and General Manager of the Algerian company Sonatrach Toufik Adle the possibility of Sonatrach's return to work in Libya through completing its contractual obligations and finalizing development plans for production.

The two sides agreed to form joint committees and sign memoranda of understanding to set up twinning programs between oil services companies in Algeria and their counterparts from the NOC.

Discussions included vocational training programs and the preparation of technical personnel in welding and inspection, while the two companies agreed to work together to implement these programs within the shortest possible time, according to a statement by the NOC.

### 50 Turkish construction companies take part in an exhibition in Tripoli



50 Turkish construction companies will take part in the Turkish Expo Construction Fair in Tripoli between May 29 and 31, with the aim to get the largest share of the projects in the reconstruction process.

The fair will be held by the Turkish ICF FAIRS & ORG company and is to be hosted by the Federation of Libyan Chambers of Industry and Commerce.

The exhibition will be visited by senior government officials along with businessmen and investors.



Opinions

## Good thought period ended

By Fathi Al-Fadli, a Libyan writer

It is time for Dbeibah's government to start work. The period of confusion ended. The period of explaining everything with good faith and lack of experience ended.

This period, which often confronts the new governments of the entire world, is over. Some confusion is acceptable during this period and to some extent.

The Presidential Council and the Prime Minister should sit together and draw a roadmap, define goals and strategies, agree on them, and adopt them as state policies.

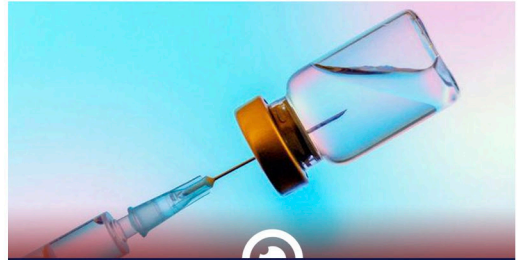
After that, the accountability, expulsion, or replacement of those who violate these policies begins, from an official, minister, civil director, or a security or military person.

Then, any minister, official, or member of the Presidential Council cannot practice anything that would violate these policies, so it is assumed that you are one team, and if you are not, then you are not a Government of National Unity.

After all... if the official violates the agreed public policies without deterrence, accountability, or expulsion, then it is the citizen's right, the right of the organizations, and the right of other powers, you name it as militias, groups, parties, associations, groups, or blocs, they have the right to act in whatever way it deems in the interest of the citizen and the nation.

The period of good thinking has ended, and Mr. Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah must lead, control and direct his team, meaning that the serious work begins.

**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

## More than five million doses of "Johnson & Johnson" vaccine arrive in Libya within days

The Minister of Health, Ali Al-Zanati, confirmed the arrival of more than five million doses of the American "Johnson & Johnson" vaccine in the coming days, in two or three batches.

Al-Zanati added in a press statement on Sunday that over 71,340 people have been vaccinated so far, more than 10% of those registered in the vaccination system.

On April 10, the Ministry of Health launched a vaccination campaign against Coronavirus throughout Libya.



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Health

## US ambassador: We are ready to support the Libyan health sector

The United States ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland, confirmed the support of the US and American companies for the health sector in Libya, including the provision of vaccines against the Coronavirus.

This comes merely a day after Norland met with the Libyan Minister of Health, Ali Al-Zanati, via video link, in which they discussed developments in the health and epidemiological situation in Libya.

Al-Zanati welcomed cooperation with the US in developing the health sector in the country, whilst stressing the importance of strengthening coordination between both countries, to benefit from American expertise in the medical field.

The two sides stressed the urgent need to strengthen all efforts to eliminate the Coronavirus in Libya, by providing and distributing anti-virus vaccines in the country.





Local

## HoR speaker, Labour Minister discuss ministry's plans to regulate labour market

The Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR), Aqilah Saleh has stressed the pivotal role the Ministry of Labour plays in regulating the Labour market and the file of foreign workers.

This came during his meeting with the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation in the National Unity Government, Ali Al-Abed Al-Rida in the city of Al-Qubbah.

The meeting touched on the Ministry's work plan and the programs that have been developed, which target several segments, the most important of which are graduates looking for work, in addition to several issues related to rehabilitation and training programs.



Education

## Ministry of Education, UK discuss strengthen cooperation in education field

The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Omran Al-Qeeb, discussed on Wednesday, with the Chargé d'Affairs of the United Kingdom's Embassy to Libya, Kate English and her accompanying delegation, ways to enhance aspects of joint cooperation between the two countries in the field of education.

During the meeting, which was held at the Ministry's HQ in Tripoli, Al-Qeeb emphasized the depth of relations between Libya and the United Kingdom, expressing his aspiration for more cooperation, especially in the educational and research fields.

For her part, English indicated her country's keenness to enhance the existing cooperation in higher education and scientific research in a way that serves the interests and aspirations of both countries.

The meeting also discussed the problems and difficulties that the Libyan students face in the British arena, especially the granting of visas, as well as the activation of cooperation agreements in the field of teaching English.

Travel

## Minister of Transport inspects Mitiga International Airport



The Minister of Transport, Mohammed Al-Shahoubi, accompanied by the Acting Airports Authority President and the Head of the Civil Aviation Authority, made an inspection visit on Wednesday to Mitiga International Airport.

The visit came to check the progress of the operational process and inspect the facilities and workflow of the ongoing projects.

Sports

## Al-Ahly defeats Al-Naser 3-1 in Benghazi Derby



Al-Ahly Benghazi has beaten Al-Naser 3-1 in the third round of the Libya League.

The derby match kicked off Friday night at the Benina Martyrs Stadium.

Chances of survival for Al-Naser looked bleak, with Al-Ahly leading from the first half thanks to defender Ali Youssef's strike in the 42nd.

The two other goals of Al-Ahly came in the second half when Mutasim Al-Taeb scored a second goal before Hamed Al-Thalaba drilled a penalty kick into Al-Naser's net to seal a 3-1 victory.

However, Al-Naser fought until the end and managed to score a shot in time added on at the end of the match, but it was way too late.

By this victory, Al-Ahly climbs to the 15th spot at the table after playing five games while Al-Naser finished with 22 points.



## GECOL, Al-Madar Al-Jadid discuss facilitating billing and debt collection process

The Assistant Director-General for Operations Affairs of the General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL), Al-Siddiq Al-Jadimi, held discussions on Wednesday, with the General Director of Al-Madar Al-Jadid Company, Muhammad Al-Hadi Hassan.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed ways of cooperation in order to reach a strategic partnership that serves the public interest.

They also discussed facilitating the billing process, debt collection and digital transformation, as well as the exchange of services between the two companies.



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## Tripoli Weather Forecast

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Sat 15	24°/15°		Mostly Sunny	3%	N 23 km/h
Sun 16	26°/18°		Sunny	3%	N 17 km/h
Mon 17	30°/22°		Mostly Sunny	0%	NNE 16 km/h
Tue 18	27°/18°		Sunny	0%	N 20 km/h
Wed 19	25°/17°		Mostly Sunny	1%	N 21 km/h
Thu 20	26°/18°		Mostly Sunny	1%	N 20 km/h

## Photo of the Week



Features

## Al-Marj, a City of Picturesque Nature

Al-Marj is one of the ancient Libyan cities. It has a wonderful countryside nature. It is located between the east of Benghazi, about 94 km, and the west of Al-Bayda, about 106 km.

The "New Al-Marj" was built in 1970 after the earthquake that struck the old city of Al-Marj and caused widespread destruction in 1963 and led to the death of 300 people.

### History

The old name of the city is Barqa (Cyrenaica), and most researchers believe that the Libo or Repo tribes used to live in the current area of Cyrenaica (Al-Marj).

The sons of this city were fighters and athletes who participated in the Hellenic Olympic Games, and they obtained prizes and cups, some of which were found in the ancient tombs, and they had their own currency, which was minted in (525) BC. It was found in the archeology excavations in the museums of Talamitha and Shahat.

In the Ptolemaic period in the year 510 BC, the city was subjected to a massacre that Herodotus spoke about in his writings. These wars continued until the Islamic conquest led by Amr bin Al-Aas in the era of Caliph Omar bin Al-Khattab, and the city turned into a scientific beacon and a base for the launch of the Islamic army to conquer the Arab Maghreb and Andalusia.

Al-Bakri described Al-Marj in the middle of the eleventh century and said about it that its soil is red, its buildings are red, and the clothes of its inhabitants are red. Al-Idrisi wrote about it in the mid-twelfth century that it was a prosperous city of great wealth, and James Hamilton, who visited it in 1852 AD, wrote about it, saying "there is a Turkish fortress surrounded by the ruins of the ancient city of Barqa".

### Archaeological sites

- \* The Roman reservoirs located north of the main road to El-Awailiya.
- \* Some Islamic columns and crowns from the Fatimid era.
- \* The Turkish market, which is now located in Touta Square.
- \* Several tombs were discovered between the old and the new Al-Marj.
- \* Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq Mosque is considered one of the most important landmarks of the new city of Al-Marj and is considered one of the largest mosques in Libya.



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