



Politics

5+5 JMC convenes in Geneva to plan strategy for foreign forces' withdrawal from Libya

The 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) convened Wednesday in Geneva to discuss the development of a comprehensive action plan for the withdrawal of mercenaries, foreign fighters, and foreign forces from Libya, according to a statement by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

UNSMIL, which facilitated the meeting in the presence of its Head Jan Kubis, said it was held in accordance with the Ceasefire Agreement of 23 October 2020, and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, adding that it is also part of UNSMIL efforts to advance the intra-Libyan security track, in parallel to international efforts as part of the Berlin Conference on Libya.

In his opening remarks, Kubis expressed his appreciation to both delegations and to international partners who are in support of this effort, saying their task is bigger than its military and security aspects; as it has a direct impact on the overall developments in the country, on regaining its sovereignty, stability, security, and unity.

Kubis said the mercenaries and foreign forces' file is a complex issue, as it is not only a concern for Libya, it is also a concern to regional countries and the international community.

"The UN, along with its international partners, stands ready to support you in this endeavor, to the maximum extent possible, including through the deployment of UN ceasefire monitors, who will work under your guidance and at your request to monitor and verify the withdrawal." He said.

Meanwhile, UNSMIL emphasized on the national ownership and leadership of the military and security, political and economic tracks as key to support the Libyans in regaining their sovereignty.

The UN Mission commended the patriotism and commitment of the 5+5 JMC members, encouraging them to seize this opportunity to produce the required action plan for the withdrawal of the mercenaries and foreign fighters and forces, which will also guide the international community's support to the Libyan efforts to unify the military as well as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR) efforts in Libya, with a stabilizing impact on the region.



Politics

HoR adjusts date of elections

The House of Representatives (HoR) has amended the date of the presidential and legislative elections, as they will not take place on the same day as previously planned, says the HoR's spokesman Abdullah Blehaq.

The presidential elections will take place on December 24, while the legislative elections will be conducted a month later in January, Blehaq told a press conference Tuesday.

He explained that in order to drive the country to a more stable stage, the parliament considered finalizing the presidential elections first and then moving to the parliamentary elections after thirty days.

Regarding political parties, Blehaq confirmed that the Parliamentary elections law does not prohibit the participation of political parties, but provided that the parties participate in the individual system and not by list.

The HoR approved the legislative elections law scheduled for the end of this year, less than a month after approving a controversial presidential election law without putting it to a vote, which sparked a wave of resentment among the political class.



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Politics

Muntasser asks for US investigation of a Libyan MoD memo described as a forgery

President of the Democracy and Human Rights Foundation, Emadeddin Muntasser, has asked US authorities to investigate a recent court filing by Khalifa Haftar's attorney, who described a memo from the Libyan Ministry of Defence as an official notice from the Libyan Government.

According to Haftar's attorney, the MoD memo states that Haftar is not to disclose military or state secrets, though the Libyan Defence Ministry described the memorandum as a forgery.

"It is counsel's understanding that this document was provided to counsel to assert the GNU's position on this issue, i.e. that military secrets should not be disclosed pursuant to the Penal Code. Thus, this serves as official notice from the Libyan Government that Mr. Hifter is not to disclose military or state secrets," Haftar's defence team said in its court filing.

Muntasser indicated that "he expects a court filing to take place very soon and that the court will have to address this matter of possible forgery."

If indeed the memorandum was forged by Haftar, as the GNU statement of denial seems to indicate, Haftar may have to face a criminal investigation and possible criminal charges.

These possible criminal implications of the filing may add pressure on the US Department of Justice, US Attorney General, and the FBI, according to Muntasser.

In October 2017, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) received a complaint and request for an investigation filed by Muntasser, alleging that Khalifa Haftar -as an American citizen- has violated domestic US laws criminalizing involvement in war crimes and torture.

Members of the US Congress have also asked the DOJ in May 2019 to commence such an investigation.

Recently, the US House passed legislation that requires the DOJ to look into crimes committed by US citizens in Libya and report back to Congress on such crimes.



Politics

Africa Intelligence: Haftar's sons appointed business agent for their companies in Virginia

The African Intelligence website has revealed that Haftar's two sons, Oqba and Al-Muntasir, have appointed a business agent named Muhammad Al-Rababa on most of their investment companies in the US state of Virginia, without waiting for the results of the lawsuits filed against their father before the American courts.

The French website indicated that there are real estate companies affiliated with Oqba Haftar, namely, "Eastern Brothers Group", which has become called "ABG Estate" and "APCO Investments", in addition to the companies "Kissimton Investment" and "Eastfield Holding",

and the suspended transport company "International Pelikan Line.

Africa Intelligence added that Haftar's two sons, a few months before the transfers, established two new companies, the "Global Venture Consulting" company for Oqba Haftar last April, for which Mohammed Al-Rababa also became the sole agent in August 2021, and the "Laptis Magna" company run by Al-Muntasir Haftar in May 2021.

The intelligence website explained that these two companies have no trace of the activity, adding that most of the companies are registered at the same address in Virginia, where Haftar is facing charges of war crimes and did not appear in court to testify and may face a hypothetical judgment in the coming weeks if he does not.

Africa Intelligence said that Oqba and Al-Muntasir are keen to stay away from the daily management of their American companies, explaining that the family's assets are already targeted by some plaintiffs for compensation, noting that the value of real estate in Virginia is eight million dollar, according to what was previously revealed by The Wall Street Journal.

Politics

HoR approves parliamentary election law unilaterally

Parliament spokesman Abdullah Blihiq said that the House of Representatives approved in its session Monday the law for regulating parliament elections.

Blihiq noted on his Twitter account, "The adoption of the parliament's election law and thus the House will have completed the necessary legislation to organize the presidential and parliamentary elections."

It is noteworthy that the HoR had previously approved a law regulating the presidential elections unilaterally, which was met with a broad rejection, especially by the High Council of State - the partner of the House of Representatives in approving these legislations in accordance with the political agreement.

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Economy

Russia's Tatneft resumes operations in various Libyan fields



The Adviser to the Director General of Corporate Affairs in the Russian company Tatneft, Vassily Mazgovy, announced the resumption of the Russian company's activity in some Libyan oil fields.

He added that his company has already resumed work in Libya, however, not in all regions so far, according to the Russian TASS agency. He continued, "We signed four production sharing agreements, although the force majeure continues, but we are beginning to work again in certain oil fields."

Economy

GNU set to increase payments for pensioners



Pension payments are set to rise to a minimum of 900 dinars after Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah approved a resolution in this regard Tuesday.

Dbeibah said that "caring for retirees is a moral and patriotic duty." He also indicated that the Cabinet approved the 1st of October to be a national day for retirees.

The PM issued the decision following a meeting with a group of retirees representing ministries and service institutions.

Also present at the meeting were the Retirees Syndicate, the Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, and the Minister of Social Affairs.



Dbeibah launches "Libya Build" exhibition in Tripoli

The Prime Minister (PM) of the Government of National Unity (GNU), Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, launched the "Libya Build" exhibition, for the year 2021, which took place at the Fairgrounds in Tripoli city.

This event took place on Monday, where he inspected the stand of the Libyan Iron and Steel Company, where he met with the Chairman of its Board of Directors, Mohamed Al-Faqih and the Undersecretary for Production Affairs at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, Mustafa Al-Sammo, according to the company's statement on its Facebook page.

It was noted that in excess of 200 local companies are expected to participate in the exhibition, including 127 companies specializing in the field of building and construction, along with a further 300 foreign companies.

The exhibition is set to continue until next Thursday and it is expected to host approximately 14,000 visitors by its conclusion date.



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

The Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) has sealed a deal with its Greek counterpart "Enterprise Greece" to enhance cooperation in renewable energy, investment, and training fields.

The memorandum of understanding was inked on Sunday by the LIA's head Ali Mahmoud and the Greek Secretary-General of International Economic Relations in the presence of officials and diplomats from both sides.

According to a statement by the LIA, the memorandum provides for opening new horizons for cooperation with international organizations and institutions with a view to encouraging international investors in entering the Libyan market and, in turn, enable Libyan investments in the European and international arena.

Under the MoU, the two sides will work to promote investment in the field of renewable energy, exchanging experience, and empowering and training Libyan cadres, the LIA explains.

Economy

Dbeibah takes part in ceremony to inaugurate new energy projects in the south



Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah took part Sunday in an event at the National Oil Corporation (NOC) HQ in Tripoli to inaugurate two new energy projects in the southern region.

The governmental Hakomitna account on Facebook said the projects that include an oil refinery and a cooking gas production plant would function from inside the Sharara oilfield.

Also present at the ceremony were the PM's Deputy Ramadan Abu Janah and an array of ministers and members of Parliament from the southern region.

Dbeibah signed during the ceremony two resolutions that authorize the NOC to conduct direct contracts and finance the concerning facilities, in addition to maintaining and developing the infrastructure of Al Waha Oil Company.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, the PM held an online meeting with directors of the NOC oil companies, including officials from the Sharara oil field, to follow up on the operations at the site.

Opinions

The fall of Agilah

By Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



What happened during the past week constituted a practical rehearsal for the milestones of the upcoming elections. The shell fired by the Speaker of House of Representatives (HoR) to withdraw confidence from the National Unity Government rebounded on him, revealing his low popularity while he was preparing to contest the elections. The broad popular movement, which rejected it, forced him to go out to justify it via satellite channels twice, which reflects the state of shock he suffered, due to a folly that was not calculated with accuracy that suits the accuracy and sensitivity of the stage a few meters away from the election exam. In his second appearance, he opened the door to retracting the decision to withdraw confidence from the government, trying to exonerate himself by placing the matter on the deputies. He indicated that consultations with the Highest Council of State (HCS) were continuing, after he had long denied the HCS's partnership in drafting some laws in accordance with the political agreement

Before his second appearance, Saleh waited for the scene of the demonstrations supporting him in Cyrenaica, hoping that thousands would gather, in order to confront the Government of National Unity in a new stadium that shook off the dust and returned to its effectiveness, but the meager few that came out in Benghazi, in parallel with the stops and statements in other cities in the east in support of the government, melted the ice Illusions revealed the truth in favor, He rushed to appear on a popular program giving a speech of retreat. As usual, he repeated the reasons for withdrawing confidence from the government by focusing on the contracts it concluded with abroad, in line with the reasons for people's support for the government, by reiterating his call to the government to continue supporting the youth, improving people's conditions, and providing them with all services. He rushed to appear on a popular program giving a speech of retreat. As usual, he repeated the reasons for withdrawing confidence from the government by focusing on the contracts it concluded with abroad, in line with the reasons for people's support for the government, by reiterating his call to the government to continue supporting the youth, improving people's conditions, and providing them with all services.

Saleh wants people to believe his concern for the Libyans' money, due to the debts that foreign contracts may cause to the Libyan state. Immediately, social media and media sites retrieved the talk of some representatives about the corruption and waste of money, and published the bills of his boss Saleh's extravagant expenses in luxury hotels. Outside the country, memories of his support for bloodshed returned, giving legitimacy and support to Haftar's war on the capital, spreading destruction, devastation and mass graves.

Saleh wants people to believe his concern for the Libyans' money, due to the debts that foreign contracts may cause to the Libyan state. Immediately, social media and media sites retrieved the talk of some MPs about the HoR corruption and waste of money, and published the bills of its speaker Saleh's extravagant expenses in luxury hotels outside the country, and the memories of his support for bloodshed returned, giving legitimacy and support to Haftar's war on the capital, spreading destruction, devastation and mass graves. Whoever claims to be keen on preserving money must first be keen to save blood, for it is first and more important than money and construction.

The Libyans describe the fortunate that the wind collects firewood for him, and this is what happened with the Prime Minister of the National Unity Government, Abdel Hamid Dbeibah, and the wind here is the stupidity of Saleh, who thought that he was playing politics with unparalleled skill, a veteran journalist who left the country for more than a quarter of a century, but remained captive to his regionalism, did not hesitate to describe Saleh as a shrewd fox. While the truth is neither cunning nor political capabilities, but rather an exploitation of the contradictions of international interests around Libya, and the desire of active countries to calm the conflict prompted them to overlook its transgressions and intransigence. Just as the referee of a football match avoids the offenses of an arrogant and reckless player with influence in a backward country in order to bring the match to safety.

The development of the fabricated crisis by the Speaker of Parliament and some political parties, and the appropriate climate for escalation by the Prime Minister, prompted the international parties to intervene by calling on the parties to calm down and not escalate, and the message from the ministerial conference held in New York, on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, was clear. There is no retreat from the December elections, and all parties must agree on the constitutional basis and election laws. For the first time with the new UN envoy Kubis, the UN mission issued a firm statement that downplays the importance of Saleh's parliament's decision, stressing that the government will continue its duties until the formation of a new government after the elections.

Exciting developments in a short time will prompt all parties to review their positions, and search for all possible options to remain on the scene, after the emergence of two variables that were not taken into account. The return of the movement to the street, the rise of the prime minister's star by his approach to the people, and his endeavor to meet their needs such as providing a grant to young people who are about to marry, implementing Parliament's decisions to increase salaries, and initiating maintenance work for some facilities and roads, as well as his distinguished personal qualities. His simplicity, and his uniqueness among all the passing personalities in the political scene, in addressing people in an informal language, sitting, talking and joking with them in cafes and other public spaces without pretension, and not showing the lavish manifestations of power. It had a profound impact on this change in the political scene.

Follow next page

The Libyans, like all Arab peoples, show loyalty to the king or ruler, and chant for his life and the perpetuation of his power, but deep down they hate him. Their muffled anger provokes manifestations of the domination that surrounds him. And their submission to him is only due to his power, his possession of the tools of oppression, and his ability to kill. While they voluntarily accept submission to the non-authoritarian ruler who avoids provoking them with extravagant appearances, is not superior to them, and lives on a level equal to their middle.

The apparent reason for killing Kulaib bin Rabia, the first king of the Arabs, was his killing of the she-camel of Al-Basous, so war broke out between Bakr and Taghlib for forty years. But the hidden reason is his exaggeration in vanity and arrogance and his contempt for others, a behavior that ignited feelings of hatred and resentment in the hearts of the contagious tribes, because it is an abhorrent approach that is unpalatable to the Arabs.

All polls and opinion processes indicate the overwhelming superiority of Dbeibah over all potential contenders in the presidential battle if presidential elections are held, and if his government's good performance and its bias towards the people by working to improve their living conditions and mitigating the effects of the crisis on them, are the most important reasons for people to come out in support of him against Agilah Saleh's decision and his party, and then the rise of his political star, the most important reason is his closeness to people, his humble behavior with them, his patience, and his simple and unpretentious speech, as he removed the stereotyped image of the ruler and the sultan, and active in the collective memory pictures of revered examples in history of the humble ruler who seeks to serve the people and not dominate them.

The last chapter in the parliament's dispute with the government changed many of the rules of the political game, and then the scene of last Friday will redraw the map of political alliances, as much as Dbeibah will be ecstatic with this amazing success in polarizing the street, Saleh and his staunch ally Haftar will suffer from the effects of the shock, and they will not have much time to maneuver and shuffle the cards over the international insistence on implementing the elections on time.

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

NCDC, Libyan Center for Biotechnology Research sign joint cooperation agreement

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Libyan Center for Biotechnology Research, in the presence of the Health Minister, Ali Al-Zanati, signed on Wednesday, at the Ministry of Health in Tripoli, a joint cooperation agreement.

The agreement included exchanging scientific expertise, organizing seminars, scientific conferences and



Health

GNU adopts agreement to localize spinal cord transplantation and microsurgery in Libya

The Government of National Unity (GNU) has approved an agreement signed by the Ministry of Health with the French health association, Ge Saint-Magrie, regarding a program for treating children's tumours, spinal cord transplantation and microsurgery within Libya itself.

The GNU's "Hakomitna" platform stated on Wednesday, that the Council of Ministers approved the agreement and authorized the Ministry of Health to contract with the company to initiate the program with a financial value estimated at approximately 13 million euros.

The GNU's decision also stipulated officially accrediting Janzour Hospital as the site for the onset of the future prestigious program.



Health

New shipment of AstraZeneca vaccine arrived in Tripoli

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) said on Thursday that a shipment of 240,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine arrived at Mitiga International Airport.

The shipments of vaccination will continue to arrive successively in order to vaccinate all citizens and residents in the country to reach a high level of societal immunity against the Coronavirus, according to the NCDC.



Migration

Libyan Red Crescent finds 17 bodies shoreside in western region

The Libyan Red Crescent said Wednesday it had found at least 17 bodies of immigrants who were en route to Europe on Al-Zawiya shores, adding that the bodies were handed over to the relevant authorities for burial.

The bodies, found Tuesday, are likely of immigrants who drowned while trying to make it to European shores, the Red Crescent said.

It also reported the IOM as saying that over 1100 immigrants had died or feared dead in shipwrecks off Libya since the start of 2021.

UN organizations and NGOs confirmed over the last days that they had lost contact with tens of immigrants after their dinghies and wooden boats capsized or just stopped in the Mediterranean as they tried to reach Europe.



GECOL announces the arrival of the fourth gas turbine to the West Tripoli power project

The General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) announced the arrival of the fourth gas turbine to the construction site of the West Tripoli Power Plant project, reaffirming that work continues on placing it in its base.

The fourth turbine, which arrived on Saturday through the port of Tripoli, was preceded by the first, second, and third turbines, which arrived last August, with a production capacity of 170 megawatts per turbine.

The West Tripoli Power Plant project is being implemented by the consortium of the German company Siemens and Turkey's Enka.

The GECOL is counting on the West Tripoli plant project to reduce the hours of load-shedding and raise the production capacity of power, as the plant's production is expected to reach 670 megawatts following the completion of the construction and operational works.

Migration

UNHCR: Two bodies recovered and a further 40 remain missing off the Libyan coast



The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), announced the recovery of the remains of two immigrants and the further loss of another 40 after the wooden and rubber boats they were travelling on sank off the Libyan coast.

The UNHCR confirmed on their Twitter account that 89 people were rescued, including eight women and three children, who were transferred on Saturday to the capital, Tripoli, by boat.

Two days ago, the UNHCR announced the rescue of 91 people, many of whom were from Ethiopia and Eritrea, having spent two days at sea on a rubber dinghy with little or no supplies, noting that among the survivors were 12 women and four children.

Travel

Resumption of flights to Cairo airport is a step towards alleviating suffering of Libyan travelers, Dbeibah says







The Prime Minister of the National Unity Government, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has considered the resumption of flights between Libyan airports and Cairo airport, after stopping for several years, as a first step in alleviating the suffering of Libyan travelers to Egypt.

Dbeibah said in a tweet that after eight years, Afriqiyah airways takes off for Cairo airport, in a step that facilitates the suffering of travel for Libyans, promising there is still a lot in this file, adding "we will not let you down".

weather

The Weather Channel

Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 08	28°/20°	 Mostly Sunny	22%	NW 20 km/h
Sat 09	27°/19°	 Partly Cloudy	24%	N 16 km/h
Sun 10	26°/19°	 Thunderstorms	66%	NW 17 km/h
Mon 11	26°/19°	 AM Thunderstorms	56%	NW 20 km/h
Tue 12	26°/20°	 AM Showers	43%	WNW 18 km/h
Wed 13	28°/20°	 Partly Cloudy	22%	WNW 20 km/h
Thu 14	26°/19°	 Partly Cloudy	24%	NNE 19 km/h

Cartoon: Aqaila Saleh's Tailor Shop to sew up the presidential election law

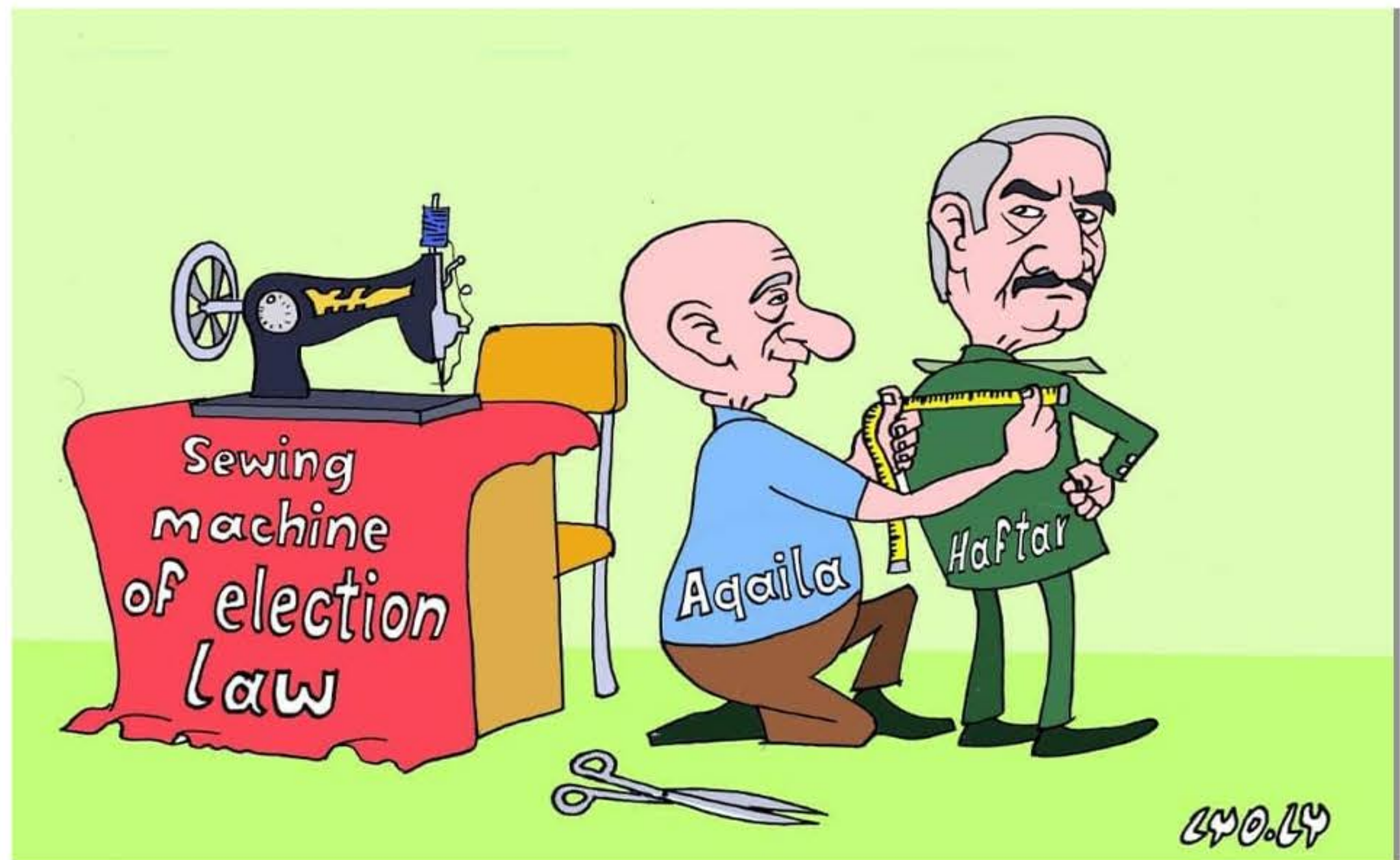


Photo of the Week





Features

The Al-Jaghbub Town

It is a desert town in the eastern Libyan Desert, about 286 km south of Tobruk. It is actually closer to the Egyptian town of Siwa than to any Libyan town. It was the administrative seat of the Al-Jaghbub Basic People's Congress. Supported by reservoirs of underground water and date production, the town is best known for its hard-won self-sufficiency. Idris of Libya was born in Al-Jaghbub on 12 March 1890. The Jaghbub oasis is located in a deep depression that extends below sea level. This depression, an area lower than the surrounding region, reaches to about -10 m. To the east the Siwa Oasis lies in a similar depression and even further east the large Qattara Depression also lies below sea level.

History

Al-Jagboub was founded around 1851 AD as a religious center, and it has a long history of spreading Islam, and many Libyan mujahideen learned in it, led by Ahmed Al-Sharif and Omar Al-Mukhtar. Since its establishment, it has been an important missionary center for the reform movement founded by Sheikh Muhammad bin Ali Al-Senussi (the grandfather of King Idris Al-Senussi, who was born there). It was the headquarters of the Senussi Movement and home of a long disappeared Islamic university and the former Senussi palace (which is now in rubble). Al-Jaghbub was a part of Egypt until December 1925, when it was ceded to Italy as part of a deal to fix the Egypt-Libya border. In February 1931, the Italian colonial administration led by Marshal Rodolfo Graziani decided to build a barbed-wire fence stretching from the Mediterranean port of Bardia to Al-Jaghbub 270 km away. Supervised by armoured patrols and the air force, the fence sought to cut off the rebels from their supply sources and contacts with the Senussi leadership in Egypt. The fence still runs along the Libyan-Egyptian border from near Tobruk, finishing at Al-Jaghbub where the Great Sand Sea begins.



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