

## Politics

### Haftar's lawyer says client ready for interrogation through closed-circuit



The Lawyer of Khalifa Haftar has informed the Virginia court of his client's readiness to undergo interrogation through a closed-circuit starting on November 9, 2021, the head of the Democracy and Human Rights Foundation, Emadeddin Muntasser confirms.

This communication came after multiple attempts to block the depositions, as Haftar's lawyer claimed that requiring him to answer questions would force him to violate Libyan law by disclosing state secrets.

The court had rejected all of Haftar's arguments and allowed the case to move forward.

At the request of Haftar's lawyer, the interrogation session would be closed and based on a previous court ruling allowing the confidentiality of the deliberations if Haftar's lawyers so requested.

Haftar's lawyers will stick to their client's claim regarding preserving state secrets, and that part of the plaintiffs' statements constitute political interference in the court's conduct and an attempt to exploit them for propaganda, Muntasser says.

The interrogation sessions of the plaintiffs would also continue, but this requires more time due to their large number, and in addition, some of them are present in Libya.

Muntasser expects a possible delay in the final arguments before the jury that the court decided to hold on January 18, 2022, and January 31, 2022, given the new developments in the case, including Haftar's agreement to appear before the court.

"With Haftar's professed acceptance of being questioned, there will be new possibilities and options for Haftar if he indeed has a chance to avoid any judgment in absentia that the court may issue," he added.

Muntasser urged all concerned and official authorities to be cautious when issuing statements or memos to prevent Haftar from appealing any ruling on the pretext of politicizing the case or using it as propaganda against him.

About two weeks ago, a U.S. judge set a two-week deadline for Khalifa Haftar, who holds U.S. citizenship, to answer questions in a lawsuit accusing him of war crimes.

Haftar is facing multiple federal lawsuits in Virginia accusing him of committing killings and torture in Libya.

## Politics

### Joint meeting in Algeria grouping foreign ministers of Libya, Algeria, and Tunisia



Minister of Foreign Affairs Najla Al-Manqoush held several meetings during her visit to Algeria Monday with her counterparts, Algerian Ramtane Lamamra, and the Tunisian, Othman Jerandi.

The joint talks session focused on the developments in Libya and the proposed Paris International Conference planned for November 12.

The officials reviewed the outcomes of the Libya Stability Conference, which was hosted by Tripoli, on October 21. They emphasized

how important this initiative was for bringing stability to Libya and stressed the need to coordinate positions towards various issues of common concern.

Al-Manqoush had arrived in Algeria on Monday morning on an official visit to participate in the celebrations of the 67th anniversary of the Algerian Revolution against the French colonization that embarked on November 01, 1954.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said on Facebook that the visit comes within the framework of continuous coordination and consultation between the two countries, especially with regard to the situation in Libya and the Paris International Conference.

## Politics

### Al-Lafi unveils initiative to address voting laws bottlenecks



Vice-President of the Presidential Council Abdullah Al-Lafi has reiterated the council's respect for the Political Dialogue Forum road map, including adhering to the electoral timetable, thus achieving the aspirations of Libyans to hand over the leadership of the country to an agreed-upon elected president through the ballot boxes.

Al-Lafi provided during a press conference Monday clarifications about the initiative he launched to address the political impasse as the clock to the December elections ticks down.

Given the uncertainty looming over the voting laws, Al-Lafi said his initiative aimed to secure the presidential and parliamentary elections and ensure their success.

The election laws and amendments issued by the legislative authority represented by the Tobruk-based Parliament were rejected by the



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advisory power exercised by the High Council of State (HCS). Al-Lafi says that passing the electoral laws without consensus is a violation of the integrity of procedures.

"The initiative does not obstruct the holding of the elections or the work of the High National Elections Commission, which announced its readiness to organize them in the best conditions, Al-Lafi said."

He called on all players to make these national elections successful and accept their results, insisting that the electoral process should not hinge on unilateral decisions.

**Politics**

## Libya's Mufti says with fair polls, but against election fraud



The Libyan Mufti, Sheikh Al-Saddiq Al-Gharyani, said he is with elections but against fraud ones, adding on Tanasuh TV that people cannot allow fraud in the electoral process.

The Libyan Mufti said reaching credible and fair elections can provide people with some of their rights, urging the High National Elections Commission to update civil registry records as "there are at least a million fake national identification numbers as per experts who work there."

The Mufti urged people to demonstrate in front of High National Elections Commission's headquarters and organize continuous strikes until it forms a neutral commission and updates civil registry records, deleting the (dead and illegal) IDs.

He also said that the elections commission must ensure fair elections in east and south regions and show how the process will be done whether by international forces or otherwise, reiterating that he was surprised to hear that the commission said it was possible to hold elections online via Zoom, which he found unfair to candidates.

The Libyan Mufti remarked that elections in Libya cannot be held based on the laws of the House of Representatives Speaker Aqila Saleh who sized up the presidential election law to fit Haftar.

"Parliamentary elections must go first together with constitutional referendum. High Council of State must base the referendum on the draft constitution of the Constitution Drafting Assembly and make it the constitutional basis for elections after electing the parliament, which will be followed by a presidency council." The Mufti added.

**Politics**

## Al-Mishri says some countries want instability to linger in Libya



The Head of the Libyan High Council of State Khalid Al-Mishri said Monday that there are some countries that don't want stability in Libya and are creating hindrances by issuing inapplicable laws or laws that can't bring about acceptable results.

He also said that he was sorry to see "a foreign minister of a country who attended Tripoli-hosted Libya Stabilization Conference visiting

the biggest spoiler of Libyan peace and stability", referring to the visit of Egyptian Foreign Minister to Benghazi and his meeting with Khalifa Haftar.

"The elections laws on the table now weren't issued by the House of Representatives alone, rather they were devised in Cairo, and Paris under the supervision of Abu Dhabi, in addition to the malign efforts of UNSMIL." Al-Mishri said, adding that Libya is a sovereign country and will remain so.

"UNSMIL is working in violation of Security Council resolutions, despite the envoy's efforts to commit to them. Some UNSMIL employees are working as informants for foreign intelligence and are trying to send a message that the High Council of State and House of Representatives won't reach consensus and thus UNSMIL should back the latter's legislations, which were written in foreign capitals." Al-Mishri added.

He also said that the High National Elections Commission is part of the scheme and its Head, Emad Al-Sayeh, is working hard to pass the laws of the House of Representatives and to reject constitutional referendum with the excuse that the High Council of State hasn't approved it. "We have seen the UNSMIL call for consensus on elections laws by the High Council of State (HCS) and House of Representatives (HoR) because the UNSMIL was in Cairo, which wants to pass laws without our agreement. Ministers of countries involved in Libya met and agreed on the need for consensus between the HoR and HCS, but French ambassador to Libya refused to name HCS and said it should be among all parties in Libya." Al-Mishri added.

**Economy**



## Al-Manqoush meets Libya Energy and Economic Summit organizers in Tripoli

A meeting was convened Sunday between Foreign Minister Najla Al-Manqoush and organizers of the Libya Energy and Economic

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Summit 2021 to discuss preparations for the event scheduled to take place later this month.

The meeting brought together Minister Al-Manqoush, in her capacity as Chair of the Preparatory Committee for the Libya Energy and Economic Summit 2021, Senior Director at the Energy Capital & Power -organizers of the conference- James Chester and local partner of the summit Ahmed Al-Ghazali, Deputy Director of the American-Libyan Chamber of Commerce.

The Libya Energy and Economic Summit supported by the Office of Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeiba will be held in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, on 22-23 November, says the Energy Capital & Power, noting that this would be the first major in-person energy summit to be held in Libya for a decade.

At the meeting, Al-Manqoush pledged to provide support to ensure the summit's success, emphasizing the importance of such an event as it follows and builds on the achievements of the Libya Stabilization Conference last month.

Energy Capital & Power said that Al-Manqoush and the organizers expressed their desire to welcome regional ministerial and commercial delegations from partner nations next November in Tripoli, considering the event "an important step along the pathway of establishing economic stability in Libya."

**Economy**

### Tunisia hosts Mediterranean Conference for rebuilding Libya



Tunisia is going to host from Monday to Wednesday a Mediterranean Conference on the role of the private sector in achieving sustainable development and assisting Libya in reconstruction efforts under the supervision of Libyan National Planning Council.

The member of the High Commission for Sustainable Development at the Libyan National Planning Council, Yaseen Abu Saryoul, said all Mediterranean states are invited to the conference which is organized by Libya in cooperation with Tunisia to make use of the countries' expertise.

Abu Saryoul said the conference is going to discuss sustainable development and its economic, social and environmental impacts, improving economic revenues, enhancing partnership between public and private sectors, legislative reforms in private sector, investment in digital and information systems and improving services to citizens.

Tunis Afrique Presse said Sunday that the participating countries should take advantage of the conference to help improve work on sustainable development, as since 2015, the rates have been low in Arab Maghreb states.



**Economy**

وزارة الاقتصاد والتجارة  
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TRADE

### Ministry of Economy announces two digital platforms to facilitate business regulations and encourage regional trade and investment

The Ministry of Economy and Trade has launched the digital platform Ejraat that offers local businesses accessible and transparent data on administrative procedures and regulations, with a view to develop and promote online services and new opportunities.

The ministry also announced the inclusion of Libya in the EuroMed Trade Helpdesk online portal that provides access to Mediterranean/EU trade-related information and supports trade and investment.

"The Ministry of Economy and Trade is pleased to announce the launch of these two platforms to contribute to the development of the business environment and services and create job opportunities that support the economy's revival and diversification, Minister of Economy and Trade Muhammad al-Hawij said.

He indicated that this comes within the ministry's plan that focuses on supporting the private sector and local industries, creating export opportunities, and attracting investors.

Under this new hub, businesses owners will have access to detailed information on different business procedures, besides estimated cost and time.

For instance, users can find a step-by-step guide to register a business, open a store, pay taxes and invest in Libya.

On the other hand, the Euromed Trade Helpdesk online portal gives Libyan SMEs and companies the information they need about markets, tariffs, and import requirements in Europe and the Mediterranean region.

"With the country's stabilization progressing, Libya will also be able to realize its enormous economic potential, and we expect the private sector to be one of the main drivers of Libya's economic development," said José Luis Sanchez Alegre, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Libya.

"Reinforced trade relations and a business climate that is conducive to investments will be essential elements in boosting Libya's economy, he added.

The EU representative emphasized the block's value of the opportunity to work with the Libyan government on the Ejraat and Euromed Trade Helpdesk platforms, noting that it would provide easy access for the business community, entrepreneurs, and investors to key information to advance, prosper and grow.

For his part, the chief executive officer at Expertise France, Jérémie Pellet, said, "This achievement underscores Expertise France's continued commitment to work with Libyan partners to support the economic recovery and provide an enhanced business environment, for all Libyans."

The EU4PSL-funded Ejraat project was developed in cooperation with the Libyan Ministry of Economy and Trade and the General Authority of Information and implemented by Expertise France in partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

EU4PSL has also supported the inclusion of Libya in the Euromed Trade Helpdesk in cooperation with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and Libyan partners, in addition to the Ministry of Economy and Trade and the General Union of Chambers of Commerce.

The two platforms were revealed at a press conference in Tripoli last Wednesday, with the participation of Libya's Minister of Economy and Trade, deputy head of the EU Delegation to Libya, general manager of the General Information Authority, and chief executive officer of Expertise France.

Opinions



## The Tarhuna Holocaust

By Abdularazag Al-Daresh, a Libyan journalist and writer

The Deputy head of the Presidential Council, Musa Al-Koni, did not open the Tarhuna file, but rather re-opened a deep wound that had not been mended.

Every time there was new news about the discovery of another mass grave, like paying loans in installments. Al-Koni put us in a photo of a retrospective, in which Libya is shown in a taxi, while a passenger asks: Have we arrived in Rwanda?

Nobody knows how many mass graves, nor how many victims? Because the truth is also buried in a mass grave, which is not the last.

The killers were not only in military uniforms, as many wore white rags, wiping knives with a handkerchief to ward off sedition.

As a result of this catastrophe, the victims died, suffocating our silence, our indifference, and even pretending to be in a deep sleep.

Thus we need the truth, and the whole truth, even if it is buried in Jupiter, and not the city of The Hague. Justice is not revenge, tolerance is not impunity, and humanitarian issues are not the Joker in playing political cards.

We must track down the perpetrators of the Tarhuna Holocaust so that Tarhuna does not chase us, as the worst death is to live with a crisis of conscience. Shall we take another flight back to Rwanda on the restorative justice boat, where there are no more serious and no victims?

The massacres and "Kill the Cockroaches" speech no longer have a place except as photographs in the Genocide Museum in the capital, Kigali.

**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 confirms registration of leishmaniasis cases in Brak Al-Shati

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has confirmed the registration of leishmaniasis cases in the Ashkadeh area in the Brak Al-Shati municipality.

According to the NCDC, the disease was caused by the sand flies and wild rodents in the area, pointing out that samples were already taken for analysis within the reference laboratory for diseases.

The center confirmed that it had sent medical teams to the area to assess the environmental situation, and to give the necessary treatment and technical recommendations to help the families, and to take precautionary and preventive measures to avoid the disease.



Health

### Libya's Doctors Syndicate goes on strike over pay

The General Syndicate of Libyan Doctors said in a statement on Thursday that it would begin an open strike, beginning next Sunday, 7 November.

This step came following consultations with the general medical, auxiliary and administrative unions, according to the statement.

It also indicated that the strike will continue until their demands are met to increase salaries of medical workers.





Travel

## Libya, Malta resume flights

The Maltese "Medavia" airlines has announced the resumption of flights between Malta International Airport and Mitiga International Airport, as of Monday, November 01.

Medavia airlines said that it will operate two weekly flights on Mondays and Thursdays through the air operator "Mel Air".

The Company is requiring the passengers departing from Mitiga airport, copies of the passports and visas, in addition to a Coronavirus vaccination certificate recognized by the European Medical Agency (EMA), 48 hours before the departure time.



Libya Coast Guard rescues 283 migrants and recovers 11 bodies

Migration

## UNHCR, AU and Rwanda agree to continue evacuation of refugees from Libya

The Government of Rwanda, the African Union (AU), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) signed on October 14 the First Addendum and extension to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated 10 September 2019 between Rwanda, the African Union, and the UNHCR establishing an Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) from Libya to Rwanda.

According to the AU, this addendum takes effect immediately and will ensure that the established ETM in Gashora, Rwanda continues until 31 December 2023, and increases its capacity from the initial 500 to 700 persons.

Under this agreement, the Government of Rwanda will continue to receive and provide protection to refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as others identified as particularly vulnerable and at-risk, who are currently being held in detention centres in Libya.

Sports

## LFF league competition postponed for lack of adequate stadiums



The Libyan Football Federation (LFF) has announced the postponement of the league competition for this season for an unspecified date.

This came in a statement issued by the LFF committee for organizing competitions on Saturday. The committee attributed this postponement to a shortage in the stadiums approved for hosting the league competitions, especially in Tripoli, which includes six competing clubs.

"The committee understands the rage of some clubs over this decision, especially those that were informed of the dates of the first round competitions scheduled to take place on Monday." The statement confirmed.

But it said that for reasons of public interest and the success of the tournament, it decided to postpone the games until the problem is solved based on the report of the Stadium Inspection Committee, which started its work a month ago under the chairmanship of the former international referee, Nasreddin Qurain.

The head of the competition's organizing committee, Abdel Mawla Al-Maghrabi, ensured that the games would not be delayed for long, maybe for just a week, noting that they are awaiting a technical report on the state of some stadiums in the western region, especially in Tripoli.



Migration

## IOM announces return of 140 Bengali immigrants home

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Libya returned 140 migrants of Bengali nationality to their home country from the city of Benghazi on Thursday, including nine individuals suffering from minor illness, in the first voluntary flight for humanitarian return from the city.

Prior to boarding the plane, the deported migrants were given medical examinations and Coronavirus testing, along with personal protective equipment.

The IOM indicated that in excess of 53,000 migrants have been returned from Libya since 2015, with the support of the European Union (EU) and the Italian Migration Fund, according to a report by the official website of the IOM, which noted that the operation has been completed without hindrance.

Art

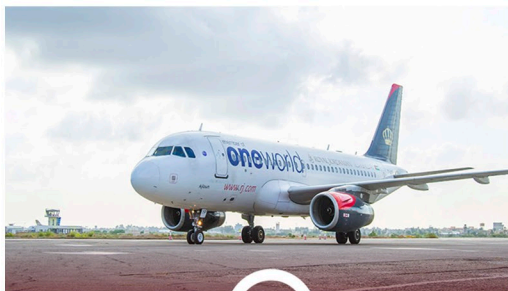
## 12 Libyan films screening at Carthage Film Festival this year

The 32nd edition of the Carthage Film Festival kicked off Saturday, with the participation of more than 45 Arab and African countries, including Libya.

Libya will introduce 12 films and documentaries produced by a group of young Libyans, including the documentary film "Dunga" by the director Muhannad Al-Amin.

The festival, which runs until November six, will screen around 750 films, with the view to demonstrate the cultural diversity among the region and enhance it through the cinema, according to the organizers.

Carthage Film Festival was founded in 1966 on the initiative of the late Tunisian director Taher Sharia. The festival was organized in Tunisia every two years, but since 2015, it has been taking place annually.



Travel

## Royal Jordanian Airlines considers resuming flights to Tripoli

An inspection team from Royal Jordanian Airlines arrived in Tripoli on Wednesday for talks with aviation officials on the possible resumption of flights to Mitiga Airport in Tripoli.

The team will hold talks with the director of Mitiga Airport and other aviation officials, and assess security measures at the airport prior to the resumption of flights.

Crimes

## 232 bodies recovered from 80 graves discovered in Tarhuna since its liberation

The spokesman for the General Authority for the Search and Identification of Missing Persons, Abdul Aziz Al-Jaafari has revealed that the number of graves discovered in Tarhuna so far has reached 80, including 43 mass graves and 37 individual graves.

Al-Jaafari added in a statement to Anadolu News Agency, "the graves were distributed among three areas in Tarhuna, including 55 mass graves in the Mashru' Al-Rabet area, 18 in the Mashru' Al-Zera'ei area, and 7 in the garbage landfill in the city".

He also stated that the number of individual graves reached 37, including 27 graves in the Mashru' Al-Rabet area, 8 in the Mashru' Al-Zera'ei area, and 2 in the garbage landfill site.

"The total number of bodies recovered so far has reached 232, 65 bodies of which were identified after conducting a DNA test", Al-Jaafari indicated.

The Libyan government announced last March that the registration number of missing persons reached 3,650 from different cities, 350 from Tarhuna.

The General Authority for the Search and Identification of Missing Persons since the liberation of the city of Tarhuna from Haftar's militias continues to discover mass and individual graves of civilians, including children and women, who were killed at the hands of Al-kaniyat militia, that related to Haftar.

The "Al-Kaniyat" militia is known as the "Ninth Brigade", and it is a militia founded by the "Al-Kani brothers", who are: Abdul Al-Khaleq, Mohammed, Muammar, Abdul Al-Rahim, Muhsen and Abdul Al-Azim.



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weather

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## Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 05	33°/22°		Mostly Cloudy	3%	S 18 km/h
Sat 06	31°/22°		Cloudy	5%	SE 16 km/
Sun 07	28°/19°		Partly Cloudy	17%	SE 19 km/
Mon 08	24°/18°		Partly Cloudy	22%	W 18 km/l
Tue 09	24°/17°		Partly Cloudy	24%	ESE 17 km
Wed 10	24°/17°		Partly Cloudy	24%	WSW 19 k
Thu 11	23°/17°		Partly Cloudy	21%	W 19 km/l

## Photo of the Week



Features

## Sousa, the city filled of nature



It is located in the District of Jabal Al-Akhdar in north-eastern Libya, about 30 km northeast of Bayda. It stands by the ruins of Apollonia, Cyrenaica and contains the Apollonia Museum.

The city has a wonderful climate and charming nature. To the east of it, about 15 km there is a cave dating back to prehistoric times, where two Neanderthal skulls were found.

There is an archaeological site that is still under research and excavation, containing Greek, Roman and Byzantine antiquities

### History

The Ancient City of Apollonia in Cyrenaica was founded in 630 BC by Greek colonists and became a significant commercial centre in the southern Mediterranean. It served as the harbour of Cyrene.

Apollonia became autonomous from Cyrene at latest by the time the area came within the power of Rome, when it was one of the five cities of the Libyan Pentapolis, growing in power until, in the 6th century A.D., it became the capital of the Roman province of Libya Superior or Libya Pentapolitana. The city became known as Sozusa, which explains the modern name of Marsa Sousa or Sousa, which grew up long after the cessation of urban life in the ancient city after the Arab invasion of AD 643.

Sousa was home to an exiled Muslim Greek community, also referred to as "Turco-Romnoi" (Turkish Greeks) from Crete and Mainland Greece, arriving in Ottoman Libya after the Greco-Turkish War of 1897. Another wave of Muslim Greeks arrived after the Population exchange between Greece and Turkey, marking the city's second founding after its abandonment following the Arab Conquest of the Maghreb.



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