

## Politics

### Tripoli Appeals Court reinstates Dbeibah as presidential candidate



The Tripoli Appeals Court rejected Wednesday all appeals against presidential candidate and current Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah's presidential bid, carrying out a final ruling to allow Dbeibah back on list of candidates for the December 24 vote.

On Tuesday, the court accepted the first appeal against Dbeibah but adjourned two other appeals for Wednesday. However, the court rejected all three appeals, one of which was filed by presidential candidate and ex-Minister of Interior Fathi Bashagha, in Wednesday's session.

The court also rejected appeal by Fathi Bashagha against presidential candidate and Head of Audit Bureau Khalid Shakshak. In addition, it ruled in favor of disqualified candidates Salama Al-Ghweil, Fathi Benshatwan and Nuri Abu Sahmain, putting them back in the presidential race.

On Tuesday, Al-Zawiya Court's Appeals Committee accepted an appeal against the presidential candidacy of Khalifa Haftar, saying the decision of Supreme Judicial Council to carry out appeals in the area where the subject of the motion registered (Haftar in Benghazi, for example) was "a decision not a law".

## Politics

### HNEC: 5 polling stations attacked, voter cards stolen



المفوضية الوطنية  
العليا للانتخابات  
High National Elections Commission

The Libyan High National Elections Commission (HNEC) said Thursday that five polling stations, four in AL-Aziziya municipality and one in Tripoli, were subjected to armed robbery of voter cards, which were stolen at gunpoint.

The HNEC said on its official website that 2312 voter cards were stolen and 69 others were damaged at polling centers in Al-Maya - Al-Aziziya. It added that its teams were working on recording the number of voter cards stole from Rajab Al-Naeb center in Tripoli, in addition to following closely the kidnapping of one staffers from the center.

Presidential elections are supposed to be held on December 24. So far, many candidates who had been either disqualified by the HNEC or appealed at courts, managed to counter-appeal and get back in the presidential race, including current Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah and Muammar Gaddafi's son Saif Al-Islam. As it stands, Haftar is still out of the race after Tuesday's rejection of candidacy by the appeals committee of Al-Zawiya court.



### Security Council: Conditions don't permit holding elections on time in Libya

The current president of the Security Council, and Niger's representative, Abdou Abbarry, said in a press conference that the conditions of free, credible, democratic, and consensual elections, an important link for the return of peace and stability in Libya, have not yet been met.

Abbarry emphasizing that he was speaking as his country's ambassador to the UN, not as head of the Security Council, saying that the conditions don't allow holding elections that can lead to stability in Libya.

"The situation is not mature enough to allow a type of elections that can lead to lasting stability and security in Libya. Foreign fighters are still in Libya, the dividing line of the conflict remains frozen, and there is no real reunification of the forces." He remarked.

He also said that of the more than 20,000 mercenaries and foreign soldiers identified by the UN in Libya, "there are between 11,000 and 12,000 Sudanese" and "a few thousand" from countries in the Sahel region.



### Interior Minister: Security situation no longer acceptable for holding elections

Minister of Interior Khaled Mazen has warned that the situation is no longer acceptable for the electoral process to proceed, as he referred to the failure of the Sabha Court to consider the appeals brought to it due to security threats, which puts the elections security plan at risk.

Minister Mazen's remarks came in a statement issued jointly with Minister of Justice Halima Abdul Rahman.

The statement confirmed that the Presidential Council assigned the ministries of Interior and Justice to investigate the circumstances surrounding the attack against Sabha court.



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"The attacks that occurred in the electoral processes are one of the long standings. Our cadres and institutions have long faced pressure and challenges."

The ministers said that they preferred to restrain and not take the matter to the media to avoid escalation in compliance with the government's speech, which is working relentlessly to lower tension for the success of the electoral process, as they put it.

Mazen referred to several breaches, including the seizure of electoral equipment in the city of Ajdabiya and the direct threats to several security officials who had attended a training course in Tripoli concerning the elections.

"We declare today that the continued obstruction of the security agenda and the expansion of violations and attacks will harm all efforts put into the electoral security plan, which will directly affect the progress of the electoral process and our commitment to hold it on time," minister Mazen said.

He stressed that such a path would lead to more insecurity and threaten the nation.

The statement of the ministries of Interior and Justice came against the background of the inability of the First Instance Appeals Committee in Sabha, since last Thursday, to consider the challenge submitted by Saif Gaddafi after an armed force affiliated with Khalifa Haftar stormed the court premises to halt the case.

**Politics**

## Zawiya court disqualifies Khalifa Haftar from presidential race



The Zawiya Appeals Court has disqualified warlord Khalifa Haftar from next month's presidential race after accepting several appeals filed against him.

In its ruling Tuesday, the court stated that it admits the appeal in this regard and considers the decision of the High Electoral Commission No. 80 of 2021 concerning the candidacy of Khalifa Belqasim Haftar as void.

Last week, the Libyan Supreme Judicial Council ruled that appeals against candidates can only be filed within the area of the person who is the subject of an appeal.

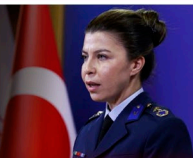
Zawiya's judge said the Supreme Judicial Council's decision does not repeal the laws in force, and therefore the court may adjudicate on the case.

The Supreme Judicial Council decision evoked wide criticism due to the fact that no one can file an appeal against Khalifa Haftar in Benghazi, and no judge dares to consider such a case, according to observers.

In a related context, the Tripoli Court of Appeal dropped an appeal against Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah and another against President of the Audit Bureau, Khaled Shakshak. It also deferred consideration of two other challenges to Wednesday's session.

**Politics**

## Turkey reiterates 'Our presence in Libya is legitimate'



Turkey will continue its military assistance to Libya under a bilateral

agreement at the invitation of the internationally recognized legitimate government, spokeswoman for the Turkish Defence Ministry Pinar Kara said.

She disclosed that Turkish forces trained 6,799 Libyan soldiers in Libya and Turkey, while 974 other soldiers are still in course.

Around 5,000 mines, explosive devices, and unexploded ordnance have been detected in Libya as a result of the cooperation between the two countries, the Turkish spokeswoman added, indicating that the Tripoli-based hospital administrated by Ankara has provided health services to about 20,000 Libyans.

Kara stressed that Turkey is not a foreign power interfering in Libya, as she cited her country's contribution in restoring the situation in Libya onto the political track.

The core problem lays in Haftar's camp, says Kara, insisting that they are the ones blocking resolutions to the country's conflict.

She expressed her country's desire to see a stable and unified Libya run by its people. "To achieve this, Turkey will continue to support the just cause of our Libyan brothers," Kara said.



## CBL head: Banking sector has a pivotal role to play in the economic track

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Sadek El-Kabeer, has reiterated the crucial role of Libya's banking sector to revive the economy and help implement the investment plan for the next stage.

El-Kabeer said the banks could play a vital role with their financial backing of small and medium enterprises, as he addressed an audience at the Libya International Investment Forum on Sunday.

In order to turn the wheel of the economy, the banking sector should activate lease finance, offer multiple investment opportuni-

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opportunities in various sectors, and partner with the government, the CBL head says.

Tripoli hosted Sunday the Libya International Investment Forum (the 19th Conference of Arab Business Owners and Investors) with domestic and foreign entrepreneurs and investors from 15 Arab countries taking part.

Among the chief guests were Deputy Prime Minister Ramadan Abu Jinnah, Assistant Secretary of the Arab League, and President of the Union of Arab Chambers.



### **In excess of 550 agreements signed between Libya and Tunisia during the “Made in Libya” exhibition**

The Executive Director of the Federation of Libyan Industry, Ali Nasir, confirmed the signing of more than 550 joint industrial agreements between Libya and Tunisia at the conclusion of the “Made in Libya” exhibition in Tunisia.

Nasir added that these agreements aim to open up prospects for exchange and cooperation between the joint commercial and industrial organizations between both countries working in conjunction with a view to entering African markets and taking advantage of the available opportunities and capabilities that exist therein.

He indicated that 13 joint recommendations were concurred upon, particularly the inclusion of the “Made in Libya” exhibition, throughout the periodic exhibitions programmed yearly in Tunisia, and the exchange of data and information, which includes experience and technical assistance in the field of industry and various related fields of relevance to all countries involved.

### **Tripoli hosts 19th conference for Arab investors**



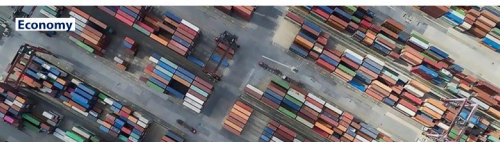
Libyan capital, Tripoli, is hosting the 19th conference for Arab investors on Sunday-Monday with the participation of 300 economic figures from public and private Arab institutions to talk about the latest economic developments, investment opportunities and the infrastructure reconstruction plan in Libya, not to mention the economic incentives to achieve sustainable growth leading to digital economy.

The conference hosting comes after discussions by Secretary General of Arab Chambers Union Khalid Hanfi and the Head of Economy and Business Group, Raouf Abu Zaki, in the visit to Tripoli

where they met with top Libyan officials, including from the central bank, foreign ministry and investment authority.

The Head of Libyan Chambers Union and organizing committee of the conference, Mohammed Al-Raied, said he was looking forward to seeing the conference achieve investment opportunities by Arabs in Libya, while Hanfi said the Libyan economy was promising for local, Arab and foreign investors and had lots of competitive characteristics. Abu Zaki indicated that Libya was moving forward to recovery.

The conference is organized by the Arab Chambers Union in co-operation with Libyan Chambers Union, Economy and Trade Ministry, General Authority for Privatization and Investment, and Economy and Business Group in addition to the Arab League.



### **Trade exchange between Libya and Turkey up by 43% in two years**

Trade exchange between Turkey and Libya has risen by 43% over the past two years, says the Turkish-Libyan Business Council Head Mortada Kronfil.

In a statement issued by the Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Council to mark the second anniversary of the MoU signed between Turkey and Libya regarding maritime jurisdiction areas, Kronfil said the two countries are making progress in several areas, thanks to the MoU.

This agreement is crucial in terms of national security, the economy, and other fields, Kronfil added, indicating that Libya is of most importance to his country as it is the first foreign market for Libyan contractors and the Turkish economy.

According to the statement, the volume of trade between Turkey and Libya amounted to \$2.3 billion, and that had it not been for the outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemic, the figures would have been higher, expecting the bilateral trade volume to increase to more than \$3 billion for the first time by the end of this year.



### **Labour Ministry signs MoU to regulate entry of Tunisian workers**

Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation Ali Al-Abed and the Director-General of International Cooperation in the Tunisian Ministry of Labour Mounir Al-Dakhli signed Thursday a memorandum of understanding to regulate the entry of Tunisian workers and residency procedures.

The MoU included enhancing connectivity between the two countries through the “Wafed” platform to facilitate the hiring of Tunisian talents to meet the needs of the Libyan labour market.

The Tunisian Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training said that the Libyan delegation determined its labour requirements in various economic sectors and specialization, emphasizing that the Tunisian side is ready to fulfill those needs.

Opinions

## The return of past ghosts from election gate

Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



The December election fever continue with the candidacy of Khalifa Haftar, with all his criminal record, and Saif Gaddafi, who is wanted by the local and international judiciary, for the presidency in Libya, and then came a third, with the candidacy of Aqila Saleh, the Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR), he is the one who granted Haftar ranks, titles, and legitimacy to commit his horrific crimes, before the people adopted the constitution and decided the type of state they preferred, and the system of its powers. Is it a presidential or parliamentary republic or will it be a monarchy? Will it adopt the federal system or will it remain centralized? Where do the powers of the president end and the powers of HoR and the government begin? There is no constitutional basis for the authority to be formed by elections. This confirms that the elections, especially the presidential elections, are no longer a purely Libyan affair, but rather an international goal that achieves the interests of several countries whose interests intersect and conflict with Libya.

Saif did not find any legal impediment to prevent him from running in the presidential elections, according to the law enacted by Aqila Saleh, with detailed conditions that fits him and Haftar, leaving the door open for their return to their previous positions in the event of failure, and excluding a strong candidate, their chances of winning diminish with his presence and he is the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah. Aqila deliberately did not include a term in the conditions of candidacy that prevents the wanted person from running for elections, because Haftar is wanted by the judiciary with an arrest warrant issued by the Public Prosecutor after his televised coup in February 2014. But things sometimes go in unexpected paths, and they were not planned or taken into account. Candidates will be presented to all Libyan legislation that are related to civil rights, not only to the terms of the Aqila presidential elections law, then the scope of the conditions expands and extends to the fields that Aqila and his group of MPs sought to avoid, until the competitors' chances are reduced or they are eliminated, and the presidency comes to be obedient to him or his staunch ally Haftar.

The election fever and the controversy over all its details will continue to escalate as we get closer to its date, there is no complete certainty that the path is actually moving towards its implementation, the circle of objections to its laws is widening, and the rejection of the candidacy of Haftar and Saif Gaddafi is a fixed position in the west of the country, to the point of threatening to close the polling stations, and there are no guarantees that the Ministry of Interior will be able to implement its plan to secure all polling stations, in Haftar's security regime remained in control of the east of the country. Hence, all possibilities, including postponement, are available despite the international insistence on implementing it, without ignoring the risks of this postponement, which some local and regional parties are seeking, for the current fragile stability.

Regardless of the expected political developments in the midst of this shift in power, and the expected and unexpected changes in the map of alliances between the enemies and friends of yesterday, the return of the ghosts of the past does not at all indicate a setback or retreat of the revolution, and that change is around the corner from its abort, and the return of the old regime with its rules, pillars, and alliances through the natural heir Saif Gaddafi or the hybrid Haftar. This moment is not different from the struggle that preceded it between the forces of revolution and change and the forces that oppose it, but rather it is the natural extension of it. This is the essence of the conflict, no matter how different the masks behind which the remnants of the former regime and Haftar hid their faces, to jump on power and resume rule with the tools and rules of dictatorship.

The most eloquent description of this moment in which the collapsed regime returns through the specter of Gaddafi, seeking to restore his power, is the saying of the Italian philosopher Gramsci. "Old is dying and new is born." Undoubtedly, the dying will be prolonged and childbirth will be difficult. But the death of the old is inevitably coming, and the new must be born after all this labor, pain and blood, the moment of change emerged a decade ago, and the struggle is continuing towards its affirmation and dedication, despite all the obstacles and conspiracy. After inhaling the air of freedom, peoples will not return to the stench of tyranny. The shining proof is that the Arab peoples in Syria, Tunisia and Sudan did not surrender, and the continuation of their struggle by all means until the remnants of the dark past regimes were forced to submit and surrender to the will of the people to see the future. The Libyan people will not be an exception. Rather, they may be the closest to achieving the desired change and implementing their will to liberate and establish the state for which generations have struggled for more than half a century.

**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

## We are capable of dealing with Omicron, NCDC head says



Director of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) Haider Al-Sayeh confirmed Monday that they do not have enough information about the new Corona variant Omicron, but he assured concerned people that they have the capabilities to confront it like the previous ones.

Al-Sayeh staged a press conference to address concerns over the risk of the spread of Omicron in the country as it continues to balloon around the world.

He confirmed that a set of measures have been put in place, including tightening restrictions on ports and borders, requesting people not to travel to countries where the variant was detected, and obliging travelers from the concerned countries to quarantine for ten days at their expense in a Libyan hotels, with a mandatory home quarantine for all Libyans returning from travel.

For his part, the head of the Anti-coronavirus Scientific Committee who was also present at the conference said the committee has prepared treatment protocol targeting Covid-19 patients and post-infection development, urging doctors to adopt it in public and private sectors.

For his part, Deputy Chairman of the committee Ibrahim Al-Daghis told reporters that they will soon provide the Pfizer vaccine, and it will be intended for pregnant women as a priority. As for the Chinese Sinovac vaccine, Al-Daghis confirmed that they received 150,000 shots from Turkey last May.

He indicated that they were expecting a second shipment of the vaccine that did not arrive, so they decided to use the Sinopharm vaccine as a second dose for those who took the Sinovac as a first dose, as they are two vaccines of one composition.

He added that they also approved a third booster dose, similar to many countries for those over 50 and for people with chronic diseases and immunodeficiency, six months after receiving the second dose.

Health

## Libya makes Corona-virus vaccination mandatory for public employees



The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah issued a decision Sunday making vaccination against Coronavirus mandatory for employees of public institutions and private companies as well.

The decision orders all Libyans to take the vaccine so that they can use public places, after showing their vaccination cards, urging all sectors and municipalities to devise plans for vaccination in coordination with Health Ministry.

The decision also ordered Health Ministry to provide the vaccine for all citizens, calling on the National Center for Disease Control to issue vaccination cards without delay.



## NCDC participates in World One Health Day event

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), has participated in the event of the World One Health Day, which was organized under the auspices of the National Center for Animal Health and the Ministry of Environment, under the slogan "One Health between Reality and Challenges".

A number of presentations were presented on the role of each sector in promoting community health, and how to develop policies and laws to work under a unified framework to address pandemics, the most important of which is combating common diseases of animal origin.

Health

## 234,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine released following intensive testing



The Director of Information at the Food and Drug Control Center, Mohamed Al-Zayat, stated that 234,000 doses of the American Pfizer vaccine have been released for distribution, having undergone all necessary testing and analysis.

For his part, the Director of the Vaccination Department at the National Center for Disease Control, (NCDC), Abdelbaset Asmio, said that the center has taken a set of stringent measures related to the new Coronavirus variant "Omicron."

He added that the demand for the vaccine is considered relatively reasonable, indicating that the Sputnik vaccine will be replaced by the Chinese "Sinopharm," following the delay in the arrival of the second shipment of the Russian vaccine to Libya.

Health

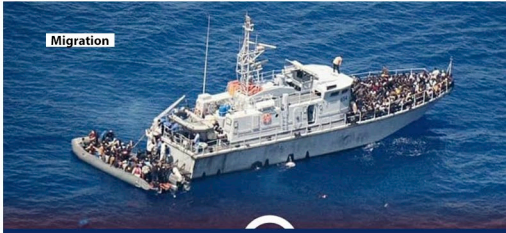
## Leishmaniasis cases exceeds 100 in Bani Walid city

Bani Walid

The Director of the Primary Health Care Office in the municipality of Bani Walid, Ayman Al-Hawadi, has confirmed that the number of cases of leishmaniasis in the city has increased during the last three months.

The total number of cases exceeded 100 distributed in a number of areas in the city, Al-Hawadi said to the Libyan News Agency.

He also indicated that a medical team from the National Center for Disease Control visited the city during the past two days to assess the environmental situation, and to give the necessary treatment and technical recommendations to help the people.



Migration

## Libyan Coast Guard rescues 112 migrants from drowning whilst attempting to reach Europe

The Libyan Coast Guard has rescued 112 migrants of various African and Arab nationalities, all of whom were attempting to reach European shores on a rubber dinghy.

The Coast Guard stated that its members moved swiftly to a rescue spot having received a distress call from the boat in question, adding that the migrants were disembarked at the Tripoli Naval Base and then all individuals were transferred to the Anti-Illegal Migration Agency for processing.

Last week, the Coast Guard rescued 65 Egyptian migrants from drowning, all of whom were on a rubber dinghy abandoned in the middle of the sea, trying to reach European soil.



Migration

## 32 Somali migrants return home from Libya

The International Organization for Migrants (IOM), announced that 32 Somali migrants had returned to their country of origin, during the month of November, through the Voluntary Humanitarian Return Program (VHRP).

The head of the IOM mission in Libya, Federico Soda, said that almost 6,000 Somali migrants are still in Libya, adding that many of them remain stranded there.

It has been reported that 10 returnees arrived in the Somali capital Mogadishu, with a further 22 in Hargeisa on November 18 and 23, respectively.



Sports

## Al-Ahly Tripoli loses in Mali, Al-Ittihad awaits CAF decision

Al-Ahly Tripoli lost Sunday in Bamako, Mali, the first-leg match of the round of 32 at the CAF Confederation Cup to Stade Mallien 0-1. The Malian team scored at the minute 45 and the game went on but Al-Ahly failed to even the score.

Meanwhile, Al-Ittihad, which also plays at the CAF Confederation Cup, went back to Tripoli after the match against Nigerian club Enyimba couldn't be played in Tunisia because the Nigerian team was held back at Casablanca Airport in Morocco for lack of full Coronavirus vaccination.

The Libyan Football Federation called on CAF to announce that Al-Ittihad was the winner and thus a qualified team to the next round or counting the team as winning 2-0 in the first-leg match as per the CAF regulations because the Nigerian team didn't show up. The Libyan team still awaits the decision.



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weather



### Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 03	18°/13°		PM Light Rain/Wind	80%	W 34 km/h
Sat 04	18°/10°		AM Showers	50%	NW 32 km/h
Sun 05	19°/11°		Sunny	3%	WSW 28 k
Mon 06	18°/11°		AM Showers/Wind	40%	W 34 km/h
Tue 07	18°/12°		Showers/Wind	61%	W 39 km/h
Wed 08	18°/12°		Showers	52%	W 30 km/h
Thu 09	19°/13°		Partly Cloudy	17%	WSW 27 k

### Photo of the Week



Features

## The Jalu Town



### The Jalu Town

It is an oasis town and considered the main center of the Al-Wahat region in eastern Libya. It is located at the confluence of longitude and latitude (21-29), it is characterized by the presence of dense palm forests linking the dunes and sand hills of the Libyan desert.

Its inhabitants were famous for trade and transporting goods from Cyrenaica and Tripoli to Chad, Egypt and Sudan, in addition to other African countries.

### History

It is an ancient oasis mentioned by Arab travelers and orientalists in many historical sources, saying that the people of the Jalu Oasis were the first to conduct commercial caravans across the longest desert path from the Libyan coast to central and eastern Africa around the middle of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

It also contributed to the resistance movement against the Italian occupation, as its sons had an epic with Omar Al-Mukhtar, who had a secret room in the Al-Labba area for planning, organizing and supplying, and they were sending convoys of the Mujahideen one by one with supplies and military equipment. Among the most important battles that the region witnessed (Ain Zaqout Battle, Qarat Al-Sidar Battle, and Qarat Aswid Battle).



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