

## Politics

### New round of fighting looms ahead as military official backing Bashagha threatens to use force

Libya's fragile ceasefire is at risk of falling apart after Commander of the Joint Operations Room Major General Osama Juwaili said on Wednesday he would resort to force if necessary.

Juwaili, who has been perceived to be sympathetic to the rival PM, Fathi Bashagha, has been sacked by PM Abdul Hamid Dbeibah of the UN-backed Government of National Unity (GNU) after the former attempted to install himself in Tripoli last May.

Talking to the Libya Al-Ahrrar Channel, the Commander of the Zintan brigade during the country's uprising in 2011 said armed groups are trying to prevent Bashagha's cabinet from carrying out its work from the capital, Tripoli, hinting that he would use force if other players chose to do so.

"Preventing the parliament-appointed government from entering Tripoli and taking over its duties undermines the principle of peaceful transfer of power," Juwaili says.

He underscored that Bashagha's government must be empowered to carry out its work while insisting that it is not about defending individuals but about the principle of a peaceful transfer of power.

Last May, Fathi Bashagha, who was appointed prime minister earlier this year by the east-based House of Representatives, launched a failed attempt to take over the office in Tripoli, which prompted changes in the GNU security leadership, including Director of Military Intelligence Osama Juwaili.

## Politics

### Avoiding more violence in Libya is necessary, DiCarlo tells Libyan PM

The United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, made a phone call with the Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah and discussed the situation in Tripoli and the need to avoid further violence, stressing the importance of early elections and of an independent National Oil Corporation (NOC).

DiCarlo also phoned the Libyan Foreign Minister, Najla Al-Mangoush, and expressed concern over the recent violence in Tripoli.

"We concurred that all parties needed to work to finalize the constitutional basis to hold elections as soon as possible, in accordance with the will of the Libyan people." She said on Twitter.

UN Security Council will convene a session on Libya on Thursday to discuss the situation and vote on extending mandate of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

## Politics

### Meeting for Libyan military and security leaders puts an end to tensions in Tripoli

Identical sources confirmed that a meeting was held Tuesday night by military and security leaders from Tripoli, Misrata, Al-Zawiya and Zintan was successful in reaching a preliminary agreement to demobilize forces from contact-line positions in west Tripoli and to avoid engaging in clashes, allowing security patrol personnel to position in the area.

The meeting in April 7 Camp in Al-Sawani in southwest Tripoli was attended by leaders from the two sides of tensions: Government of National Unity (GNU) and Fathi Bashagha's government, including Bashagha's supporter, the ex-commander of Burkan Al-Ghadab (Volcano of Rage) Operation Osama Juweili and GNU's supporters Abdelghani Al-Killi (Ghaniwa) and Abdelsalam Al-Zubi.

The sources said the meeting saw an agreement on reopening blocked roads and returning military vehicles to their positions ahead of holding a meeting for next week to follow up on the arrangements to avoid any war in Tripoli and western region at large.

The sources didn't touch upon the fate of Bashagha's government but the fact that the meeting resulted in disallowing clashes would deny Bashagha the chance to enter Tripoli, at least for now; observers say.

Tripoli has been seeing heavy mobilization of forces by military forces backing two rival political sides. The tensions could have escalated into a war but for the mediations that helped ease the situation leading to Tuesday meetings.

## Politics

### Libyan FM reiterates to US ambassador need to facilitate visa requirements

The Libyan Foreign Minister Najla Al-Mangoush reiterated in a meeting with US ambassador Richard Norland on Thursday the need to ease visa requirements for Libyans wishing to travel to the US, especially students.

Al-Mangoush renewed, according to her media office, the need for more cooperation between the two countries as Norland stressed his country's support for peace and stability efforts in Libya as well as the efforts to hold presidential and parliamentary elections as soon as possible.

The US embassy said Norland had time to discuss with Al-Mangoush practical issues in bilateral relationship, such as visa reciprocity, but especially the importance of maintaining security in light of recent clashes that sadly left 16 dead.

"The recent violence can still be overcome if Libyan leaders work together for the benefit of the country. Free and fair elections are the only means to establishing a national government with legitimacy. Libyans deserve better than the violence that occurred in Tripoli or Misrata in recent days. We strongly urge all leaders to avoid escalatory steps, and support agreement on holding presidential and parliamentary elections." Norland said.

Politics

## UNSC members renew call for political solution in Libya

A Security Council session on Monday to discuss the Libyan developments ended with no breakthrough in substance as member states renewed calls for ending violence and finding solutions to the political stalemate.

The UK representative Barbara Woodward expressed her country's concern over the recent clashes in Tripoli and Misrata, saying that such events, including the demonstrations that preceded them, stress the urgent need for a comprehensive political process under Libyan leadership.

The US delegate said that demobilizing militias and the expulsion of mercenaries is the most effective mechanism to

reduce violence, as he referred to the Russian Wagner Group, describing it as having "taken Libya as its base."

France also warned that the current situation in Libya entails many risks in light of the militias' influence.

The oil file was also a debate in Monday's session as the UK urged that state institutions such as the National Oil Corporation be shielded from political maneuvers.

Woodward expressed her country's resentment over the Government of National Unity's step to change the institution's board of directors, saying that the people's need to resume oil production should not come at

the cost of the integrity and sovereignty of the Corporation.

For its part, the US said that using oil revenues to support mercenaries and increase the military presence in the cities is a destabilizing factor, while Russia considered the Western countries' rush to resume oil production in Libya as evidence that the political settlement comes in second place after their commercial interests.

The members' agenda also focused on the electoral process, including the laws governing the elections and the government overseeing the process.

The US representative expressed his regret that the presidents of the House of Representatives

(HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS) failed to agree on the presidential election rules and urged all parties to put their interests aside and implement a plan to hold elections in line with the Geneva road map.

He also cautioned against the reverse efforts to unify Libya's central bank and expressed concern about the attempts of the east-based parallel CBL to print a new currency.

France, meanwhile, stressed the need for a unified government to safeguard an electoral process throughout Libya, while Russia's delegate described the failure of the two chambers, the HoR and the HCS, to reach a final agreement on the constitutional path as unfortunate.

Politics



## After meeting JMC West, Zenenga arrives in Benghazi to sit with Eastern counterpart

The Officer-in-Charge and Mission Coordinator of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Raisedon Zenenga, arrived in Benghazi Wednesday to meet representatives of the 5+5 Joint Military Committee of Khalifa Haftar's forces after meeting their counterparts in Tripoli.

A statement by the UNSMIL on Twitter said that Zenenga "met with the five Benghazi-based members of the Joint Military Commission and took stock of progress in the work of the 5+5 JMC."

The meeting focused on the current political stalemate and its impact on the security situation, including recent clashes in Tripoli and Misrata.

Zenenga urged the JMC to continue its efforts in implementing the ceasefire agreement and the reunification of military institutions, saying that it will positively impact other longstanding challenges in Libya.

On the other hand, the UN official highlighted the prevailing calm in most parts of Libya and recognized ongoing progress on the security track, including through the recent meeting of the Military Commanders of the Libyan Army and the 5+5 JMC in Tripoli.

The two sides also discussed ongoing collaboration between UNSMIL ceasefire monitors and their Libyan counterparts towards the operationalization of the Libyan Ceasefire Monitoring Mechanism.

Politics



## UK welcomes re-export of Libyan oil, affirms support for stability in Libya

The Director of the Middle East Department at the British Foreign Office, Stephen Hickey says the UK welcomes the resumption of Libyan oil exports considering it a step towards stability in Libya, according to a statement by the Government of National Unity media office on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah received the UK diplomat at his office on Wednesday, accompanied by the British Ambassador Caroline Hurdall and the military attaché at the embassy, Chris O'Flaherty.

Hickey expressed concern about the escalation of violence after a relatively stable period, reaffirming the UK's support for stability in Libya.

For his part, PM Dbeibah reiterated that the solution is to head directly to elections and pressure the concerned parties to issue the constitutional basis so that the government can play its role in this regard.

The PM praised the UK's "positive role" in the Libyan crisis and emphasized the need to strengthen relations between the two countries in various fields.

Economy



## Tripoli Chamber of Commerce signs MoU with its Indonesian counterpart

The Tripoli Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce, in a ceremony attended by a number of officials, businessmen and investors from the two countries.

The MoU comes within the framework of enhancing trade cooperation and exchanging experiences in a number of areas of common interest, the Ministry of Economy and Trade in the Government of National Unity said in a statement, on Tuesday.

Tripoli Chamber delegation arrived in Indonesia Sunday at the start of a visit from July 18 to 22 to explore business cooperation with a focus on the fields of trade and investment, reviewing the Indonesian experience in activating the economy and hydroponics, according to the Ministry.



Economy

## Oil Syndicate denounces Williams, Norland's statements on changing NOC board

The Libyan General Oil Syndicate denounced the statements of US ambassador Richard Norland and UN Advisor on Libya, Stephanie Williams, rendering their remarks on the National Oil Corporation's (NOC) change of board situation as flagrant intervention in the management of Libyan oil sector and the state's sovereignty.

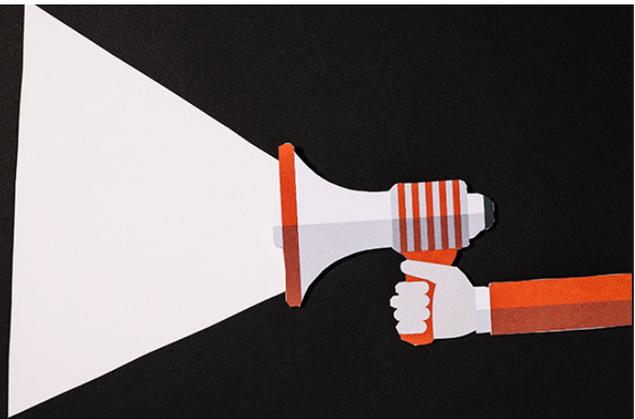
The Syndicate said in a statement that the NOC is a state-owned institution and thus foreign entities cannot intervene in its affairs; however, it welcomed cooperation with foreign partners based on mutual respect.

"The change of the board of directors of the NOC gave hope, optimism, and enthusiasm to workers in the fields, ports and companies affiliated with the NOC, which made them make

double efforts to resume production after lifting force majeure. The Syndicate also expressed its optimism and confidence in the new board of the NOC, which it said has competencies and capabilities after years of violations by the previous board that contributed to the decline in production and in the sector's performance level, saying that this administrative change that came with a sovereign decision of the Government of National Unity is "the only way" for reform, development and production increase as well as settling the legal status of the previous board.

The UN Advisor on Libya, Stephanie Williams, and US ambassador Richard Norland voiced concern over appointing unqualified persons to manage the NOC and its affiliated companies.

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Economy

## Libyan oil production up to 1.025 million bpd

Libya announced, on Tuesday, that its crude oil production increased to 1.025 million barrels per day, following a three-month decline, due to a wave of closures of oil fields and ports.

This came in two separate statements made by the new Chairman of the National Oil Corporation, Farhat Ben Qadara, and the Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohamed Aoun.

Ben Qadara and Aoun said that oil production in Libya exceeded one million barrels to top 1.025 million barrels per day, compared to an average of 870,000 bpd, a week ago.

Aoun expected "Oil production to rise to 1.2 million barrels within 10 days," at a time when the average daily production, earlier in the first quarter of 2022, was about 1.3 million bpd.

The Libyan NOC announced last Thursday the resumption of crude oil exports from a number of oil fields and ports, after three-month closure.



Economy



## US is closely following court proceedings regarding NOC, Norland says

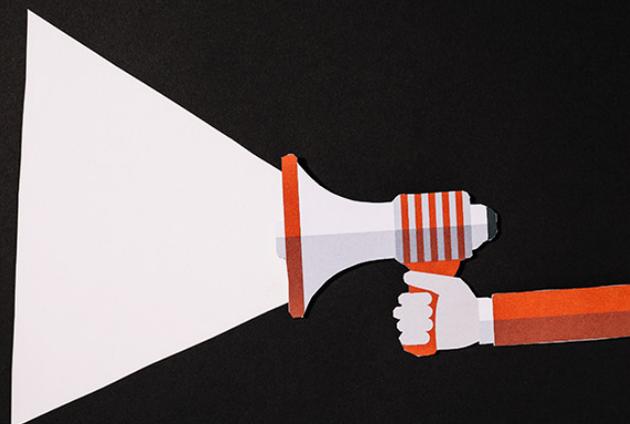
The US ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland, has affirmed his country's support for efforts to reopen Libyan oil and gas production, saying that it stands ready with international partners to support Libyan-led efforts to manage oil revenues in a transparent and accountable way so that all Libyans benefit from their nation's oil wealth.

The United States is closely following court proceedings regarding the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and encourages Libyan actors to allow judicial authorities to carry out their duties without interference, Norland tweeted.

He considered that NOC's independence, and apolitical status in recent years is a legacy that should be maintained to sustain Libya's reputation in the international oil sector, adding "We are paying particular attention to the status of NOC subsidiaries and any attempts to appoint unqualified representatives to the boards".

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Opinions

# Towards a third government

By **Abdullah Alkabir**, a Libyan political writer and commentator



In view of the impasse of the political track, following the aborted elections, and hardening of positions of the parties to the conflict, lack of initiatives on the part of UNSMIL and Advisor Stephanie Williams, and inability of the Presidential Council to play its role in taking decisive decisions to rescue the political track, it seems that the current available option to overcome the current situation, and to progress a step forward to elections track, is the formation of a third government, in which all rival parties participate in the consultation of its formation.

This does not mean, however, that they be part of the government, since in this case, it will necessarily turn into a quota government, which will not pave the way to conducting elections.

The third government must be a mini-government to the minimum extent possible, and be formed from personalities not affiliated with the parties to the conflict, or at least its president with two deputies representing all the regions. Perhaps this step, will break the current stalemate, and end the current conflict between the Government of National Unity and the parallel government, but this obviously will not be enough. The constitutional base and election laws remain the most important steps for the elections, and according to Williams' statements after the failure of the last Geneva round between the presidents of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, the remaining contentious issues could be overcome and an acceptable settlement can be reached.

The resumption of negotiations on the constitutional base, and the election laws, needs an additional effort from Advisor Williams, with strong pressure from the international parties supporting the elections, because this path is outside the calculations of Aguila Saleh, Speaker of the House of Representatives. This was apparent from his last correspondence with Williams, calling on her to implement Bouznika's outcomes regarding the sovereign positions. Through this approach, Aqila appears like a bankrupt merchant who returns to his old books, looking for forgotten debts, which he can reclaim in order to restore some of his lost authority, after his failure to overthrow the Dabaiba government, and empower the Bashagha government, as well as the strengthening by Dhabaiba and Haftar of their authority following the recent understandings, which resulted in changing the board of directors of the National Oil Corporation, and the arrival of Haftar's forces Chief of Staff, Al-Nadouri, to Tripoli.

The rapprochement between Dabaiba and Haftar was expected to continue by making a limited ministerial reshuffle, in which Haftar would obtain some ministries, in exchange for abandoning the Bashagha government altogether, and allowing Dabaiba and his government to move in his areas of influence and control.

However, the rejection and reserved reactions from the political and military parties supporting the Dabaiba government, prompted the latter to come out in televised remarks, denying the conclusion of any deal in his bid to continue in power and end the rival government.

The appearance of Dabaiba himself to explain his decision about assigning a figure close to Haftar to head the NOC, and to deny any deals or concessions to Haftar, with a sharp attack on his opponents, confirms his retreat and his inability to gamble with his allies, who revealed their willingness to abandon him, if the circulating news about granting Haftar what he wants in return for the continuation of his government, proved to be true.

Return of HoR designated prime minister to Misurata caused some disturbances between his supporters and those of Dabaiba. It almost edged into an armed confrontation. The conflict, however, was contained by the intervention of the city's notables, with a statement clarifying the lines that no party could cross, to spare the city the risk of sliding into an armed conflict. This however, does not mean the end of rivalry, as both sides to the conflict continue to work to achieve their goals. Therefore, it seems that there is no way out, except through a new forum under the auspices of the United Nations, and the agreement of the political parties, on a third government that will oversee holding of elections.

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

## Dbeibah approves national program to perform 300 open-heart surgeries

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah approved on Wednesday a national program for open-heart surgeries, with a goal of performing 300 open-heart surgeries inside Libya.

The Ministry of Health considered the project “a practical experiment to localizing treatment inside Libya,” indicating that doctors will perform surgeries in health centers in Benghazi, Misrata, Zliten, the Tripoli University Hospital, and the National Center for Cardiology,

At Wednesday’s meeting, Dbeibah stressed the need for a program to perform other operations, including artificial joints and cochlear implants, in addition to developing a corneal transplant program.

He also ordered the approval of the necessary financial allocations to implement four programs according to the plan submitted by the Ministry of Health.

The PM called on the Health Ministry to formalize citizens with these programs and to prepare an integrated plan for 2023.



Health

## Fifth coronavirus wave in Libya is at the doorstep

Coronavirus cases in Libya have increased significantly, and the current situation indicates the possibility of Libya entering the fifth wave of the pandemic, says an official at the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Ibrahim Al-Daghis. “The elderly and sick will be at risk from infection with the virus, as the number of people who received anti-Corona vaccines is still low,” Al-Daghis said.

The NCDC had announced that it registered a rise in Coronavirus cases since the beginning of July, while no fatalities had been recorded so far.

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Education

## Ministry of Education reviews plan to establish 500 new schools

The Minister of Education Musa Al-Maqrif has discussed a plan to establish 500 new schools and maintain 250 education institutions in various regions.

The minister, accompanied by the head of the National Committee for Education, Culture, and Science, paid a visit on Monday to the Department of Educational Facilities.

On the sidelines of the visit, the minister headed a meeting that grouped the heads of the educational facilities, the projects department, and the Director of the Planning Office.

The meeting focused on projects chalked out for 2021, including those in the eastern region. A visual presentation was presented illustrating the construction and maintenance work needed in this field.

The officials also reviewed the budget allocated in this regard for the 2022 projects in terms of maintenance or equipment.

On January 15, the Ministry of Education got the green light for a contract to establish 1,500 schools in over three years, at a rate of 500 schools annually, starting from 2022, with priority given to dilapidated schools and those built out of tin sheets.

The Ministry of Education will put forward a technical, financial, and temporal program for the implementation of the first phase for approval by the Council of Ministers.



Education

## More than 169,000 students take preparatory certificate exams in Libya

The Ministry of Education has stated that 169,140 male and female students in 121 Education Monitor Office applied on Monday morning to take the final exams for the completion of the basic preparatory education stage.

The Director General of the Center, Ahmed Masoud, stated that the students applying for the certificate of completion of the basic education stage this year are 87,879 males and 81,261 females, noting that 4,904 students applying as homeschooling registration, and 57 students registered in religious education will take their exams within 1,322 examination committees.



Culture

## Day at sea yields archaeological surprise for family in Zawara

A day at the sea for Fahmi Al-Hajaji and his family led to an archaeological surprise after he found an ancient clay jar in the sea bed off the shore of Zawara west of Tripoli.

The relic, which was surprisingly undamaged and in good shape, existed between the 16th and 18th.

According to archaeologists, this jar was used to export olive oil and is called (Dyrsal type amphora - pointed bottom).

Archaeologist Miftah al-Haddad explained that the jar dates back almost to the last quarter of the 1st century BC.

The Italian coast between Etruria and Campania is considered the original home of its production, but it was also produced in other areas of the Mediterranean coast, such as Spain and France, says al-Haddad, who indicated that it was used for transporting and trading wine and olive oil.

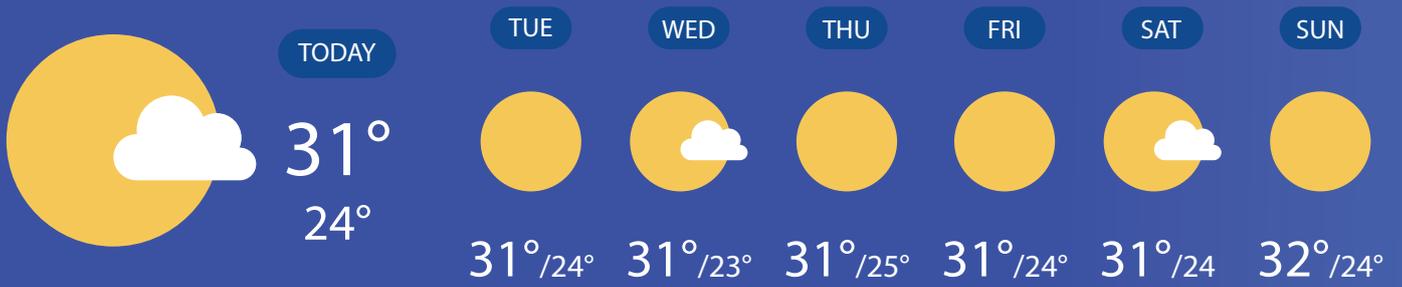
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Photo of the Week



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