



## Negative external interference continues to hinder political progress in Libya, Menfi says

The head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, has stated that “negative external interference did not give an opportunity to the unity of the Libyans and it continues to hinder political progress”.

In his speech at the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Menfi indicated that the Presidential Council supports the efforts that led to the resumption of oil and gas, stressing that the responsibilities make it imperative for the Presidential Council to work in an unbiased national track.

“The Presidential Council is committed to its role as the supreme authority in the country, which represents its unity locally and internationally, and the leadership of the Supreme Command of the Libyan Army”, he added.

Menfi also explained that the Presidential Council stands ready to support manage oil revenues in a transparent and accountable way so that all Libyans in all regions benefit from their nation’s oil

wealth, so that may provides a more stable and appropriate environment for the desired democratic transformation.

Regarding the Berlin Conference, he said that “its outcomes have been neglected in terms of transparency and justice in managing oil resources, controlling public spending, directing it to those who deserve it, and limiting the power of corruption.”

Menfi explained that “the Council is following with great care the rounds of dialogue between the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, which have not yet led to any agreement on the constitutional basis for holding presidential and parliamentary elections.

However, he stressed that the Presidential Council still affirms that these dialogues “should not continue without time limits”, and that he is fully prepared to intervene in order to get the political process out of its impasse whenever necessary.”

Politics

Politics

## Bashagha says his government will operate from Sirte and Benghazi

The Prime Minister-designate of the House of Representatives (HoR), Fathi Bashagha, announced that his government will exercise its duties from the cities of Sirte and Benghazi, after the failure of its attempt to work from Tripoli because “it did not want to shed blood or ignite division”.

Bashagha vowed in a speech upon his arrival at Benina Airport in Benghazi, coming from Turkey, which he visited days after the clashes in Tripoli between his loyalists and forces loyal to the Government of National Unity, that his government’s work is for the benefit of all Libyans, not a specific region.

During his meeting with government ministers, a number of representatives, mayors and a number of dignitaries in Benghazi, Bashagha admitted that his government had failed to enter Tripoli because it “does not want blood and did not fire a single shot, including in recent events.”

He explained that with the work of his government from the east, he will exert efforts to liberate the western region, and help them as well as support them in all sectors, until his government controls the entire Libyan soil without specifying the means by which this control will be achieved.

Bashagha said there are some Libyans who want to continue chaos and division in the country and see this in their interest, adding that there is a regional and international tendency that does not want Libyans to reach consensus or reconciliation, but rather to use Libya as a card to negotiate for other interests.

Politics

## Haftar tells Libyans to be ready for ‘an all-out battle against corruption’

Warlord Khalifa Haftar told Libyans to be ready for an all-out battle against corruption and political absurdity in a speech before a crowd in Ghat city south of Libya on Monday.

In his address, he called on the civilians to engage in this battle alongside the army and to “change the grim reality”.

Haftar, who was found liable for war crimes in an American court last July, said his forces “are ready to protect the people and the national and civil forces”.

He called on Libyans to set an example for the people of the world in freedom, civility, urbanization, growth, progress, reconciliation, and peacemaking.

The retired military commander, who is approaching his eighties, has for years been vying to become the leader of the country.

Since the so-called Dignity operation, he launched in 2014, Haftar had made non-stop coup attempts framed as a “war on terror” and fought to remove all civil authorities, including Libya’s first democratically elected parliament, the General National Congress.

He told the crowd that Libya had slipped into a dark tunnel at the hands of politicians and the parties competing for power.

“The battle of building the state cannot be won by speeches, lies, and hypocrisy, or by those who claim they are acting on behalf of the people, who should represent themselves,” Haftar added.



The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who was recently appointed by the House of Representatives (HoR) Abdullah Burazizah, was sworn in on Sunday before the Speaker of the HoR, Aqila Saleh, HoR spokesman Abdullah Blehiq.

The HoR announced that it had voted unanimously to choose Burazizah as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at its official session in Benghazi last Thursday. Burazizah had been elected by the General Assembly of the Supreme Court as Chief Justice in March 2021, but the HoR did not approve this choice until last week.

This appointment which is seen controversial in terms of its timing was preceded by a lot of tension between the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Mohammad Al-Hafi, and the Speaker of the HoR, thus leading to the latter taking a number of decisions that observers described as a way that deepened the crisis in Libya and led to the division of the judicial system in the country.

Meanwhile, Aqila Saleh issued a decision to transfer the Supreme Court to the city of Al-Bayda in the east of the country, considering any meeting at its headquarters in Tripoli illegal.



Albanian local news outlets have confirmed the imprisonment of Libyans, among other foreigners, over the smuggling of an amount of 2275 tons of diesel, which authorities seized in Durres.

The reports say that an Albanian court ruled imprisonment of the Libyan smugglers who brought diesel oil to Albania: The Libyans nationals were named as Zuhair Al-Kawafi, Emas Abushala, Mouayed Al-Taher, and Badr Teezini. In the police announcement, it was also said that the members of the ship's crew, included Syrian nationals.

Local media in Albania also reported that there were fewer liters on the ship than what was ordered, since the documents showed other figures, adding that the host company of the smuggled fuel was "Kastrati".

The smuggling operation was done by ten people, who in cooperation with one other brought diesel from Libya to Albania using a tanker ship. Meanwhile, the criminal proceedings have started for 6 other people and the captain of the ship is among those arrested.



Economy



## Libya's Transportation Ministry signs MoU with Turkish company to repair southern roads

The Libyan Ministry of Transportation said it had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between its Transportation Projects Implementation Agency and the Turkish company "Eriş" Contracting, to repair a number of roads in the southern region. The MoU was signed by the Director General of the Transportation Projects Implementation Authority, Sami Al-Abesh, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Turkish company, in a ceremony attended by Deputy Prime Minister Ramadan Abu Janah, Minister of Transportation Mohammed Al-Shahoubi, the Turkish ambassador to Libya and the commercial attaché of the Turkish embassy, in addition to a number of the Turkish company's engineers. The initial contract was signed for the repairing of the Sabha-Ubari road project, with a length of 270 km, and the project for the Umm Al-Aranib-Qatrun" road with a length of 151 km.

Economy

## Illicit money flows in Libya cause loss of an average of 12 billion dollars annually

The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), in partnership with the European Union, revealed in a study under the title "Illicit Financial Flows and Asset Recovery in the State of Libya", that the average annual loss in the country stands at \$1.2 billion and is represented by the immigrants' smuggling mafia, which the report says it generates approximately 236 million dollars.

"These activities generate annual revenues estimated at 450 million to 765 million dollars, of which 89 million to 236 million dollars are in Libya alone." The UNICRI's study has shown.

It also indicated that there's about \$30 million worth of arms smuggling with the Libyan armed groups engaged in smuggling and consisting mainly of small arms and light weapons, with the limited lack of effective control over the vast desert lands in Libya, which contributed to creating a haven for arms smuggling.

The report said the value of the Libyan arms trade in the period after the the death of Muammar Gaddafi was about 15 million to 30 million dollars annually.

"Oil smuggling accounts for 20% of the militia's income, and quantities estimated at between \$750 million and \$1 billion of Libyan oil are smuggled into Malta every year." The report says. It adds that transfers outside the control of the Central Bank of Libya by 10% are carried out through illegal means through money laundering operations. It also said that the issuance of false invoices for foreign trade transactions is recurrent, adding that this makes it difficult for the government to monitor money transfers by migrant workers.

The report remarked that peace in Libya will lead to significant economic gains, amounting to 162 billion dollars, according to the study by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) entitled "Peace in Libya: Benefits for Neighboring Countries and the World." The study stressed "the importance of a rise in economic growth rates, an increase in investments, and job creation within Libya."

Economy

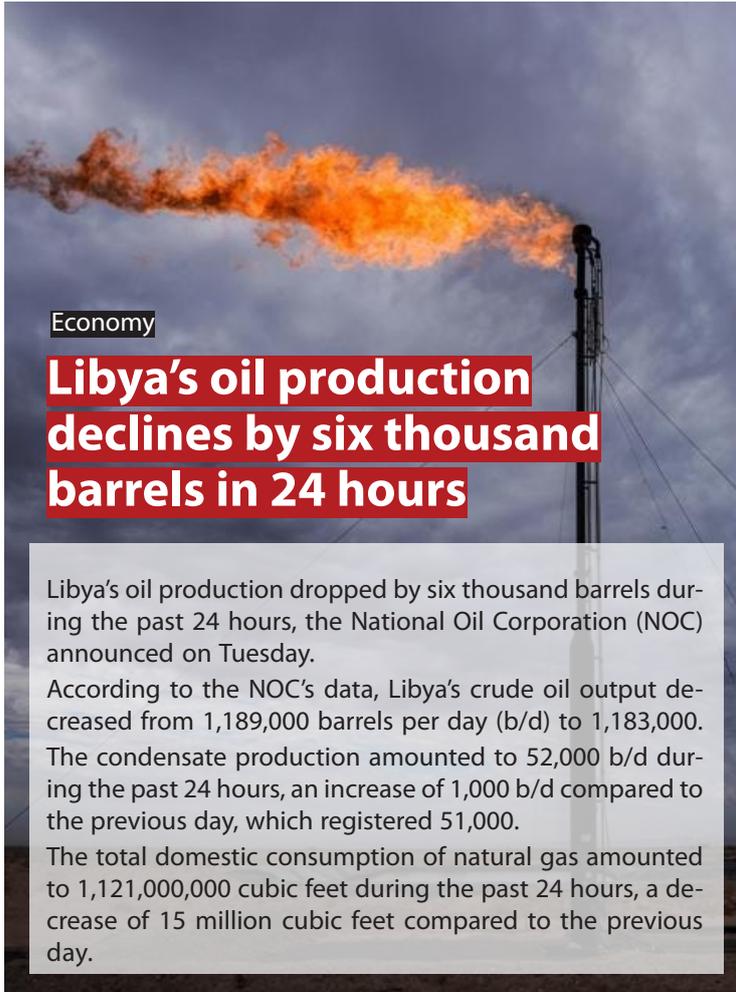
## Libya's Minister of Economy: GDP is linked to inflation

The Minister of Economy in the Government of National Unity (GNU), Mohammed Al-Huweij, said that the oil sector in Libya constitutes about 70% of the gross domestic product (GDP), and contributes to financing more than 90% of the total public revenues in the country.

Al-Huweij added in an interview with Al-Jazeera Mubasher TV Channel that the decline in GDP is related to crude production, saying that the decreased oil exports led to a drop in the country's GDP because the Libyan economy is a rentier one.

Al-Huweij also attributed the inflation in Libya to the alteration in the exchange rate of the dinar, pointing out that the Government of National Unity started new investments in the oil sector to develop wells. He also said that the government would begin a full partnership with specialized international companies.





Economy

## Libya's oil production declines by six thousand barrels in 24 hours

Libya's oil production dropped by six thousand barrels during the past 24 hours, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced on Tuesday.

According to the NOC's data, Libya's crude oil output decreased from 1,189,000 barrels per day (b/d) to 1,183,000. The condensate production amounted to 52,000 b/d during the past 24 hours, an increase of 1,000 b/d compared to the previous day, which registered 51,000.

The total domestic consumption of natural gas amounted to 1,121,000,000 cubic feet during the past 24 hours, a decrease of 15 million cubic feet compared to the previous day.



Economy

## Algerian Sonelgaz Group: Studies are continuing to export electricity to Libya

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced, on Monday, that crude oil production amounted to 1.163,000 bpd during the past 24 hours, that is down from last Saturday figures of 1.224,000 bpd and Friday's production 1.226.000 bpd.

The condensate production amounted to 48,000 barrels; NOC added in a statement. It attributed production decrease to technical problems related to electricity in the Masala and Sarir oil fields.

The statement, however, pointed out that specialized technical teams of the Arabian Gulf Oil Company are working to overcome these problems to return production to its former levels.



Economy

## Oil and Gas Minister: 40% of potential oil sites are in Turkey's demarcated area

The Libyan Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohamed Oun, revealed that 40% of the sites where oil is likely to be discovered are located in the area where the maritime border demarcation agreement between Libya and Turkey will be activated.

Oun said, in an interview with Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper, that there are efforts currently that are focused on developing work and making maximum use of the extraordinary budget granted by the Government of National Unity to the National Oil Corporation.

Oun explained that this budget is the highest in the history of the NOC and is estimated at more than 34 billion Libyan dinars, 16 billion dinars of which have been allocated to development and exploration plans as well as the establishment of capital projects that lead to increased production.

He talked about the Libyan oil production, saying that it currently is at 1.2 million barrels per day, in addition to the export of about 300 million cubic feet of natural gas

per day to Italy.

Oun said the return of foreign companies to work in the Libyan oil sector on the results of the researches and exploration tours that the Ministry of Oil requested from the NOC to conduct in the land and sea areas.

He ruled out that the oil sector would be affected during the coming period by any tensions related to the conflict between the Libyan parties, or their international allies who are involved in the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, in a way that may lead again to the suspension of production.

Oun said that all Libyan parties have been affected, and there is almost complete conviction of the necessity of neutralizing oil, and liberating it from any links to the current local and international conflicts.

The Turkish government and the previous Government of National Accord signed on November 27, 2019, an agreement to demarcate the maritime borders between Tur-

Opinions



# Comprehensive solutions are still farfetched!

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

The past few days have witnessed several political moves and events, some of which do aim to propel the political process towards elections, but others are mere attempts to mediate between the parties.

Despite the importance of such moves, they are still in their early stages, and they have not so far produced any result that warrant attention. However, they reveal that the existing gap, between the two active countries in the Libyan political scene, Turkey and Egypt, is still wide, and it is not likely that these moves and meetings will culminate in any decisive break throughs, and therefore elections are not on the horizon, and one cannot be quite certain that they will ever be held this year.

The first salient event was the withdrawal of Egypt's Foreign Minister, Sameh Shoukry, the moment Libyan GNU Foreign Minister, Najla Al-Manqoush, took over the presidency of the 158th Ordinary Session of the Arab League, which clearly indicates that no rapprochement has been struck between Egypt and Turkey, on ways of the political solution in Libya. It further confirms the pivotal role Egypt played in the formation of the Bashagha government. However, Egypt failed to market it at Arab and international levels, and that Turkey was the most prominent obstacle on Bashagha's government way to Tripoli.

The second event was the Berlin meeting, which brought together representatives from the USA, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Egypt and Turkey, and apparently ended with the development of an action

plan for the new UN envoy, conducive to holding Libyan elections as soon as possible, without revealing the details of what the American ambassador and envoy to Libya, Richard Norland dubbed as "the final path."

Most likely, this path will include as a first attempt, bringing the House of Representatives and the HCS, to agree on a constitutional basis and laws for elections. If it fails, they will resort, either to the Presidential Council, or activate the Political Dialogue Forum to reconvene, and set the constitutional basis and electoral laws.

After visiting Turkey and meeting with the most prominent political leaders there, Aqila Saleh headed to Qatar, in a remarkable openness to the two countries, to which he has long been hostile, accusing them of supporting terrorism in Libya, in a position typical of any subordinate who is engaged in regional or international conflicts.

Two days before receiving Aqila, Doha received the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, and this is an indication that Qatar is engaged in mediation efforts between the two, but without great hopes for success, because any rapprochement between Aqila and Dbeibah would practically mean firing a bullet of mercy at the Bashagha government, which is Aqila's last card, for his House is in a state of extreme weakness, unable to even meet with half of its members, as well as there are apparent signs of a new split led by a sizable bloc. The bloc confirmed its support for the statement issued by more

than sixty members of the High Council of State, demanding that parliamentary elections be held, according to a previous law issued by the General National Congress. Afterwards, they sent a letter to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, in opposition to the message sent earlier by Aqila Saleh, in which he blamed the League for accepting Najla al-Manqoush's participation in the meetings of foreign ministers of Arab countries. The letter of the bloc perhaps referred to Agila's policies and his continued monopoly of the HoR's decisions which could lead, once again, to divisions and prompt the holding of sessions in Tripoli, like the ones held after Haftar militia's attack on Tripoli.

These moves preceded the assuming by Abdoulaye Bathily, of his duties as the new UN envoy to Libya, after the approval of the UN Security Council, and indeed, reflect the continued international and regional interest in the Libyan crisis, after the one-day war in Tripoli.

However, such regional and international interest does not imply that international consensus on Libya is in the offing and that it would be conducive to comprehensive solution. Its only merit could be clearing the atmosphere for the new envoy, and achieving some rapprochement between the conflicting parties, to distance the specter of renewed fighting.

*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

## Routine vaccines' stock runs out across Libya

The Director of the Vaccination Department at the National Center for Disease Control, Abdelbasset Esmayo, confirmed that stocks of routine and school vaccines have run out in most regions.

Esmayo called Wednesday for the speedy opening of letters of credit for the supply of routine vaccines, and the necessary school vaccines in most regions.

He explained that the National Center for Disease Control has a good stock of the Chinese Sinopharm vaccine, adding that the center is awaiting the arrival of a Pfizer shipment and that the epidemiological situation has improved both locally and globally.

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Education



## Ministry of Education sets dates of study and exams

The Ministry of Education announced on Wednesday that the new school year 2022-2023 for all grades in basic and secondary education will start on October 16. The ministry indicated that final exams for the first semester and the exams for the first period for the basic and secondary education certificates will be held from January 15 to 26, then the mid-year vacation from January 29 to February 4, then the study will be suspended during the last week of the month of Ramadan and the Eid al-Fitr holiday, from April 16 to 23, after which it will resume again until May 11. The exams for the first round of the completion of the basic education certificate will be held from May 28 to June 8, and the exams for the first round of the certificate of completion of secondary education from June 11 to 22.

Education

## University of Tripoli changes applied college acceptance rates



The University of Tripoli has changed the acceptance rates within the applied colleges, after receiving complaints from applied and medical sciences students in this regard. According to the decision, the percentages required for placement within the College of Engineering have been modified to 60%, the College of Information Technology 55%, the College of Science 50%, and the College of Agriculture 50%, while the announcement of a package of procedures for students of medical sciences has been postponed.

Culture



## Libyan Embassy in Serbia celebrates Libyan-Serbian Cultural Day

The Libyan Embassy in Serbia organized an event to celebrate the Libyan-Serbian Cultural Day in the presence of Serbian po-

political and cultural figures and representatives of diplomatic missions in Serbia.

The Museum of African Arts in the Serbian capital Belgrade hosted the event, which featured a gallery and handcraft exhibition highlighting the multicultural heritage of Libya. Visitors also had an opportunity to taste some traditional food of Libyan cuisine and enjoy listening to folk art troupes from both countries.

Culture



## Minister of Culture discusses enhancing cooperation with Tunisia

Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, Mabrouka Toghi, has discussed with the Tunisian Ambassador, Al-Asaad Al-Ajili and his accompanying delegation, ways to develop cultural relations between the two countries.

The two sides reviewed, during a meeting held Thursday at the Ministry's office, aspects of cultural and technical cooperation between both countries through implementation programme of cultural cooperation between Libya and Tunisia, to be signed soon, which aims to activate partnership and exchange experiences in culture and arts.

They also discussed mechanisms for reopening cultural centers in Tripoli and Tunis and ensuring their cultural continuity through joint activities, to be the link in support of this joint cooperation.

Sports



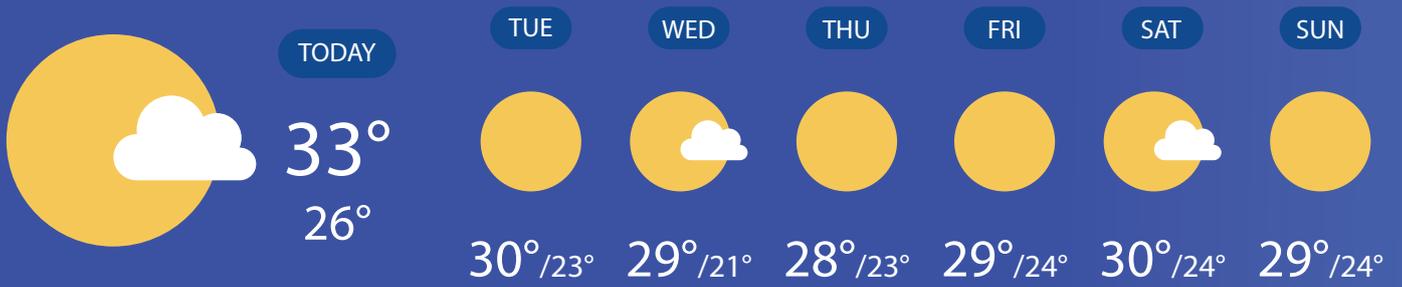
## Al-Ittihad leaves CAF Champions League

Libyan football league champion Al-Ittihad will not play in the second round of the African Champions League despite winning the match against the Burundian Flamboe de Center 2-1 at the Benina Martyrs Stadium in Benghazi on Sunday night. Al-Ittihad opened the score from the second minute of the match before the Burundians equalized the score, making it harder for the reds, who needed a two-goal lead to go through to the second round of the CAF champions league. After the break, Al-Ittihad pushed hard to create scoring chances, but a penalty kick was wasted by Moaz Issa before Yahya Al-Zalitni gave his team their second goal through another penalty kick. Al-Ittihad was determined to score more goals to get them through to the second round, but the Flambo's well-drilled defense made it a far-fetched task.

Photo of the Week



## Tripoli Weather Forecast



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