



"Any deal must be based on a return to what the Libyan frontlines were in 2015, Kalin explained, requiring Haftar's militia to pull back from Sirte and Jufra Airbase.

The Turkish official made clear that any deployment of Egyptian troops in Libya will hinder efforts to stop the fighting and will pose a risk for Cairo, saying "I think it will be a dangerous military adventure for Egypt."

Kalin said that other figures in the eastern region should play a role, as Haftar can't be a reliable partner due to his violations of previous ceasefire agreements.

"We do not consider him -Haftar- as a legitimate party, but there is another parliament in Tobruk, and there are other players in Benghazi, who will have to negotiate," he added.

Politics

Cavusoglu: IRINI is biased in favour of Haftar and against GNA



The Turkish Foreign Minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu, accused the European IRINI Operation of running the arms embargo on Libya with bias, saying it was working in favor of Haftar and in direct opposition to the legitimate Government of National Accord (GNA).

Cavusoglu asked, in a statement during a joint press conference with his Spanish counterpart, Arancha Gonzalez Laya, whether the IRINI Operation was, in fact, searching aircraft loaded with military equipment and weapons originating from Egypt, Syria, Russia, France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

He stressed that the only solution to the present Libyan crisis was through a political settlement.

Politics

Bernard Levy pays a controversial visit to Libya



French personality, Bernard Levy, arrived this week in Libya on a private jet on an unannounced visit, whose purpose was considered mysterious by many Libyans.

Libya Alahrar TV reported a source close to the Government of National Accord (GNA) as saying that they had no knowledge of the visit of Levy to Libya and said his presence "is totally rejected", adding that the GNA didn't give permission to his plane to land on Libyan soil in Misrata.

The source said the people behind this visit will be held accountable for this issue, which stirred lots of angry reactions from Libyan politicians, GNA officials and ordinary Libyans after news said Levy met with Volcano of Rage Operation commanders and other senior leaders in Misrata.

Levy then went to Al-Khums and later to Tarhouna to document mass graves committed by Haftar's forces and was scheduled to meet Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha in Tripoli before departing from Misrata Airport.

While going to Tarhouna, sources said Levy's convoy came under fire by forces loyal to the Joint Force, which said in a brief statement that it would prevent Levy from entering administrative borders of Tarhouna even by force.

In the meantime, Misrata mayor Mustafa Kerwad told Bawabat Al-Wasat that he had no prior knowledge of Levy's visit to the city or who invited him or who put his own name on the list of people to meet with Levy.

The Head of the High Council of State Khalid Al-Mishri also said, commenting on Levy's visit, that he had been surprised that Levy was allowed to enter Misrata amid France's support for warlord Haftar, saying those behind such a move should be held accountable after thorough investigation.

Politics

Turkey: Haftar's militias must withdraw from current positions for any ceasefire deal



The Turkish presidency has stressed that the forces of Khalifa Haftar must withdraw from the coastal city of Sirte and Jufra region in central Libya, and return to the status quo in 2015, as a condition for any permanent ceasefire agreement in Libya, according to Reuters.

"We've just reached an agreement with Russia to work on a credible and sustainable ceasefire in Libya," Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin told Reuters news agency at the Presidential Palace in Ankara.

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Politics

Pentagon investigates deep links between Haftar and Russian Wagner



A report by the Wall Street Journal has revealed that the Pentagon is conducting investigations regarding the deep ties between Haftar and the mercenaries from the Wagner Group, a Russian firm with ties to the Russian government.

The newspaper quoted US officials as saying that Washington has threatened to sanction Haftar because of his refusal to reopen oil exports, saying the decision had been taken under Russian influence.

"The warlord initially allowed the ports to be reopened, but he changed his mind when the Wagner Group fighters moved to Es Sidr," the report added.

"The State Department has threatened Haftar with sanctions because he was acting silly and showed no flexibility," one official told the Journal.

According to American property records, Haftar owns a farm with a value of \$ 185,000 and a residence of \$ 364,000 in Virginia, which makes him liable to the US penalties, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Politics

Lawsuits filed against individuals who called for Egypt's military intervention in Libya



The elders of coastal, mountain, central and Greater Tripoli areas have started filing lawsuits against Libyan tribes which called for Egyptian military intervention in Libya.

The elders denounced in a statement signed in Tarhouna the reception of decision makers and parliament in Egypt for a group of Libyans who claimed to represent Libyan tribes but in fact, they only represent themselves.

What Egypt did was a violation of international law and UN resolutions on Libya, which is still under Chapter 07 of UN Charter, they said, adding that they will devise a letter to be sent to the Foreign Ministry to ask the Security Council and International Criminal Court to file lawsuits against Egyptian Parliament for approving sending military troops to Libya, as well as against countries supporting Haftar.

The elders called for regaining people's rights after being violated by Al-Kani militias and asked the House of Representatives in Tripoli to replace all boycotting members with others representing their electoral areas.

So-called tribal elders loyal to Haftar met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and asked for military intervention of Egyptian Army in Libya to assist Haftar's forces against what they called Turkish occupation.



NOC head holds meetings in London with global oil firms

The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) Mustafá Sanalla arrived this week in London, on the head of an NOC high-level delegation to hold several technical meetings with Petrofac, Schlumberger and EniProgetti companies.

The meetings, described by the NOC as important, started on Friday and will continue until July 26.

According to the NOC, talks will be dedicated to discuss Waha Oil Company (WOC) projects and offshore works in the structures A and E in the Bahr Essalam project.

Economy

Ministry of Labor warns against employing foreign workers in occupations forbidden to non-Libyans



The Ministry of Labor and Rehabilitation has warned employers to abide by its rules with respect to specific professions prohibited by the ministry for non-Libyans.

try, Mohamed Brouta, the ministry has listed 22 professions that may not be practiced by non-Libyan workers, with a view to providing a decent work environment for Libyan job seekers.

"Extensive studies have been conducted to identify the nature of the professions that meet the needs of the local labor market, specifically indoors and restricted occupations, and to ensure that their closure will contribute to increasing job opportunities for Libyan youth without affecting employers in the local market," Brouta explains.

The prohibited occupations for non-Libyans included a large section of indoor professions, such as the education and administrative field, as well as revenue collectors, drivers of all categories, transportation supervisors, photographer technicians, professions related to sales activities, and public relations fields.

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Economy

Sanallah discusses with Schlumberger the establishment of a training center in Benghazi



The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mustafa Sanallah asked the Schlumberger Company to facilitate and complete the development of a training center in Benghazi, in accordance with previous MoUs.

This came during a meeting in London with Schlumberger officials during which they discussed the possibility of holding several workshops in Benghazi, focusing on training Libyans to allow them access to relevant modern technologies in its field of expertise.

Sanallah called on the company to cooperate and communicate with Benghazi-based Al -Jouf Oil Technology Company to establish partnership programs in certain businesses, and to provide training and qualifications for many of its technical workers.

Economy

Libya resumes one-way flights to Turkey



The Afriqiyah Airways and the Libyan Wings have resumed flights from Libya to Turkey.

The two companies clarified that only one-way tickets could be booked so far due to the continued ban on receiving commercial flights at local airports in accordance with the decision of the Presidential Council (PC).

According to the PC decision, travelers who will take these flights have no right to return on board returning flights operated to bring back those stranded abroad.



Economy

CBL head discusses economic issues with stakeholders

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Sadek El Kaber has discussed the current economic and financial situation in Libya with a number of academics and specialists in the financial and economic fields.

According to a statement by the CBL, the participants considered the future prospects of the economic and financial situation in the country and exchanged views on means to boost the economy.

The meeting emphasized the necessity of consolidating efforts of all state institutions to end the cessation of oil operations and restart production and exportation of oil as soon as possible, "as it is the sole source of income for the Libyan state," according to the statement.

They also agreed on embarking a national reform program to enhance the role of the private sector in order to achieve the objectives of the reform.

Cartoon



Opinions

How will Turkey respond to Egypt's intervention in Libya?

By Ismail Yasha, a journalist and writer

Credit: This article was translated by The Middle East Monitor from Arabi21 on July 23, 2020

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The Egyptian parliament agreed on Monday to authorise President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi to send the army on combat missions abroad to “defend Egyptian national security”. The move came as the date approaches for the military operation expected to be launched by the internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) to liberate the cities of Sirte and Al-Jafra from the forces loyal to renegade Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar and his mercenaries.

Analysts believe that this strengthens the possibility of a clash between Turkey and Egypt in Libya, prompting speculation about possible scenarios in the event that the Egyptian army does cross into its North African neighbour. How will Ankara respond to Egypt's intervention targeting Turkey's military presence in Libya and its GNA ally in Tripoli?

If the Egyptian army does enter Libyan territory to support Haftar's forces, the crisis would not be between Egypt and Turkey, but between Egypt and Libya. In other words, the confrontation will not be Arab-Turkish, but Arab-Arab. It will be between forces supporting revolutionaries and mercenaries accused of war crimes and grave violations against civilians, and legitimate forces of a government that represents the Libyan people and is recognised by the UN. Egyptian soldiers will not be facing Turkish soldiers, they will face Libyans, the heirs of the legendary freedom fighter Omar Al-Mukhtar.

Turkey does not want direct confrontation with Egypt, nor with any other Islamic country, regardless of the differences they may have. It believes that this type of confrontation depletes the two sides involved and serves the interests of other powers. Moreover, the Egyptian army is, after all, the army of the Egyptian people, although today it has become an instrument of the coup leaders who do not represent the will of the people. Tomorrow, though, the army may belong to a democratically elected government to serve the interests of Egypt and the Islamic nation. Nevertheless, Turkey will not hesitate to respond to any attack against its forces in Libya.

There are constants adopted by Ankara that cannot be abandoned, such as the need to preserve the territorial integrity of Libya and to challenge efforts to partition the country. It will certainly support the GNA militarily and technically by providing it with weapons, equipment, training and expert guidance within the framework of bilateral agreements and common interests. Its diplomats are also on hand to support the government in Tripoli.

No matter what Sisi and his aides may claim, any Egyptian intervention in Libya will be illegitimate and against the will and interests of the Libyan people. This is one of the reasons for the confusion in Cairo, which said that it was ready to arm and train the Libyan tribes, and then retracted this threat after the criticism of the international community and Libya's neighbours. The possible “Somali-isation” of the country in a bloody civil war will not only threaten those neighbouring states, including Egypt, but will also pose a major threat to the security of Europe.

Nobody in Turkey is waiting for it to be dragged into an uncertain military adventure, because it is led by a democratically elected civilian president who has long experience in government, unlike Egypt, which is ruled by a coup-leading general who lacks the lowest level of political, diplomatic and economic skills and experience, and is surrounded by a group of fools, sycophants and reckless princes. Sisi is leading his country from failure to failure. Furthermore, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reads international and regional balances carefully and uses them successfully in favour of Turkey. He would undoubtedly have no difficulty in turning the tables on Sisi if the Egyptian army crosses into Libya.

Sisi may still take the plunge, though, in the hope of confronting Turkey's support for the GNA, but he could be surprised by his regime being besieged by European, Arab and even African countries. Cairo is probably monitoring Turkish diplomacy, such as the tripartite meeting a few days ago that brought together Defence Minister Hulusi Akar with Qatar's Minister of Defence Khalid Al-Attiyah and Libyan Minister of the Interior Fathi Bashagha; and the latter's meeting in Ankara with Akar and the Maltese Interior Minister Byron Camilleri. Moreover, Mulatu Teshome Wirtu, the special envoy of the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, has visited Ankara and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has toured Africa.

A simple comparison between the number of ships, aircraft and tanks that Egypt and Turkey each have in order to predict the likely outcome of a confrontation is likely to be misleading. Armies depend on political and diplomatic manoeuvres to direct them appropriately and effectively. When all of these factors are considered, then the balance is clearly in Turkey's favour.

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

Municipalities take strict measures as Coronavirus spread widens in Libya

The municipality of Misrata has urged residents to stick to obligatory mask-wearing measures outdoors, and to give celebratory words of weddings and condolences of funerals only on the phone, as well as to abide by social distancing rules to limit the spread of Coronavirus.

"No shops, organizations or any kind of local or international entities are allowed to deal with customers in Misrata without wearing masks. All security and control personnel will be monitoring the implementation of these precautions against Coronavirus. Anyone violating these rules will be subject to fines and other measures within the municipality." It said.

In Gharyan, the same measures were announced by the emergency committee to fight Coronavirus, which said the pandemic situation was going from bad to worse due to the carelessness of the people, adding that it had warned many times that people needed to be careful so the virus wouldn't spread to elders.

"There are no advanced ventilators in Gharyan quarantine center and the Coronavirus PCR devices haven't been working for a while. We asked for backup from the GNA." The committee said.

The Libyan National Center for Disease Control announced the highest COVID-19 cases' number in southwest areas since last May 26, as it registered 52 cases on Monday, adding that 167 samples were tested Sunday. Now, the region has 979 positive cases.

Among the recipients of the PC's award were specialists in neurosurgery, orthopedics, urology, lithotripsy, general surgery, open-heart surgeries, and others.

It may be important to note that the Presidential Council had adopted in December 2018 a comprehensive program for enhancing domestic healthcare through partnership agreements with friendly countries, as well as organizing visit of specialized medical teams from abroad.

The PC also coordinated with national medical institutions and specialized international medical centers to provide hospitals with the most modern medical equipment and training programs, and to regulate relationship between public and private sectors.

Health

University Hospital of Tripoli opens new internal medicine department



The University Hospital of Tripoli announced the establishment of a new department for internal medicine, with a capacity of 28 beds.

The department will be headed by Dr. Fidan Ayad Hamza, a public health specialist, who occupied several key posts within the hospital, including serving as general supervisor and an alternate specialist in the ambulance departments for the last 14 years.

The new department has been set to deal with several cases including elderly people suffering from brain thromboses, unknown anemia, dehydration, and other diseases.

It will also provide rehabilitation services and there are plans to include clinical pharmacy in its daily program, according to the hospital.

The department has coordinated with the therapeutic feeding office, the social service office, and the physiotherapy department to set a daily work program aimed at boosting immunity, as part of the precautionary measures to tackle the Covid-19.

Among the actions to be taken to support immune enhancement is to develop a therapeutic feeding program and mental health and physical therapy programs, in addition to raising awareness and educate families of patients on how to deal with several cases at home, including stroke management, according to the hospital's statement.

Health

PC honors Libyan doctors for their success



A number of consultants and doctors working at the University Hospital of Tripoli and the Al-Khadhra Hospital in Tripoli received honor awards from the Presidential Council in appreciation of their hard work and successes, in carrying out hundreds of complex operations within the public health sector.

The awards were presented during a ceremony by the PC head, Fayez Al-Sarraj, according to the Health Ministry on Facebook.

Culture

Zintan hosts cultural seminar on "Al-Sharif" area



The Writers and Novelists Club in the city of Zintan has hosted a seminar to discuss the book "Al-Sharif in the Eyes of Poets, its History and Future", for its author, Abdel Wahab Al-Ajdal, which was published recently by the club.

The seminar which was organized in cooperation with the General Authority for Culture highlighted the historical development of the Al-Sharif district and the role of culture in preserving the heritage of this region.

They also noted the importance of including the Al-Sharif district in the list of the historical cities in Libya as well as the Libyan cultural heritage.

During the seminar, the Director of the General Authority for Culture Zintan branch, pledged to deliver the recommendations and outcomes of the seminar to the head of the General Authority for Culture, emphasizing that such activities would enrich the society, and enhance the cultural heritage of the country.

It may be interesting to note that the region of Al-Sharif in Zintan is dedicated to holding gatherings and meetings for discussing important issues, and from this place, milestone decisions have been made, including the city's declaration of its support to the 17th of February revolution in 2011, against the dictatorial regime of Muammar Al-Gaddafi. It is also a place for happy events such as horse parading, festivals, and folk celebrations.

Life

Libyan national wins olive oil prize in Italy



Libyan national Jalal Al-Maloushi, owner of "Al-Mishkah" Company for Olive Oil, has won the silver prize of the international olive oil contest the "Extra Virgin Olive Oil Winners" (EVO), which was held in the Italian city of Palmi, on Thursday.

The contest received round 437 samples produced in various countries from all over the world, where they were submitted to tasting and judging by world-class judges, according to EVO.

Al-Maloushi won the silver medal of Athena 2020 International Olive Oil Competition, held in the Greek island of Lesbos last June.

Society

HoR held workshop to discuss the economic and social situation after Covid-19



The Tripoli-based House of Representatives (HoR) held a workshop entitled "Coronavirus - A New Economic and Social Reality". The HoR explained on Facebook that this activity comes within the framework of the parliament's endeavors to draw up and supervise the country's economic policies after the Covid-19.

The economic and social conditions after Covid-19, its effects, and social dimensions were the focus of discussion in the workshop that took place at the HQ of the HoR in Rixos.

The session was opened by member of the HoR and head of the Planning, Finance and Budget Committee, Abdel Moneim Balkour, with the participation of several HoR members and experts in the financial, economic, planning, and sociology fields.

The experts meeting discussed what can be done to mitigate the impact of the crisis and presented several working papers in this regard.

They also submitted perceptions, statistics and recommendations for the House of Representatives, expressing their hope that decision makers will take the appropriate decisions, and set the right policies that would save the national economy and limit the negative impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic on the economic and social life.

Sport

Libya receives invitation to participate in FIFA-backed pan-Arab tournament 2021 in Qatar



Libya has received an invitation from FIFA President Gianni Infantino to participate in the FIFA backed pan-Arab tournament to be hosted by Qatar in late 2021.

The tournament will be a preparatory event before the 2022 World Cup and will take place at the same stadiums developed for the 2022 World Cup, according to Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC); the local organizing wing of Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Infantino described in a statement released by FIFA yesterday, the event to be special and unique, indicating that it will have a significant impact on competitive football matches at the highest levels in the region.

"The event will gather 22 teams from two continents that share the same cultures, values and passion, in addition to their great attachment to football," said FIFA president Infantino.

The tournament will take place in December 1-18, 2021 during the same timeslot as the FIFA World Cup 2022.

"FIFA, together with the host country Qatar, wishes to take advantage of this opportunity to showcase the best of Arab football, while ensuring the highest standards with regard to organizing events and hospitality," explains Infantino.

weather

The Weather Channel

Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 31	34°/23°	 Sunny	0%	ENE 21 km/h
Sat 01	35°/23°	 Sunny	0%	NE 18 km/h
Sun 02	35°/24°	 Sunny	0%	NNE 16 km/h
Mon 03	36°/26°	 Sunny	0%	N 16 km/h
Tue 04	37°/27°	 Sunny	0%	NE 17 km/h
Wed 05	33°/25°	 Sunny	0%	N 19 km/h
Thu 06	32°/24°	 Sunny	0%	NNE 20 km/h

Photo of the Week: A livestock market, Tripoli



Features



Gurgi Mosque

Gurgi Mosque is one of the oldest mosques in Tripoli. It is situated in the heart of the "Medina", the Old City of Tripoli as part of a complex of historic buildings.

The mosque is one of the most popular tourist attractions to visit in the Libyan capital, as the area as a whole is located nearby is the Roman Arch of Marcus Aurelius.

The mosque takes its name from Mustafa Gurgi, a naval captain in the Ottoman era, who gave the orders to build the mosque in 1834 during the rule of Yusuf Pasha Al-Qara Manali. The beautiful architecture and the details that adorn the mosque show how much the people of Tripoli value the Islamic architecture and places of worship.

The historic monument combines European and Islamic geometrics, in a manner that fuses diverse architectural styles from different civilizations into one expression of art and beauty. Its walls and columns are enhanced with natural marble and its floors are clad with multi-coloured tiles, creating a haven that is truly inspirational and captivating.

Another important feature of the mosque's architecture is the minaret. It is approximately 25 m high, with two balconies adorned with natural green marble. Particular attention should also be paid to the arched entrances of the mosque etched with floral patterns, as well as the praying hall with its tall marble columns, creating valuable artistic outcomes.

The construction of the Gurgi Mosque comes under 15 decorated domes. Visitors can enjoy exploring the calligraphy on the walls, etched with verses from the Quran in Andalusian lettering, as well as a range of decorations of geometric shapes, plants, and flowers. Like other classic ottoman-built mosques, there is also a tomb in the courtyard of the mosque for the founder, as well as other facilities.

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