

Politics

## Libya, Turkey and Qatar ink deal to boost capabilities of Libyan military institution



The Libyan Deputy Defense Minister Salah Al-Namroush has agreed with the Turkish and Qatari Defense Minister; Hulusi Akar and Khaled Al Attiyah respectively, to sign tripartite deal for military co-operation to boost capabilities of the Libyan military institution.

Al-Namroush told reporters in Tripoli on Monday, after meeting with the Defense Ministers who were on formal visit to the Libyan capital that Qatar will send to Libya military advisers to train Libyan cadres, in addition to hosting some cadres in military colleges in Turkey and Qatar.

"The Libyan Government of National Accord, Qatar and Turkey have agreed that the political solution is the only way out of crisis in the country and stressed support for this track to regain stability in Libya." Al-Namroush added.

Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said Ankara's support for the legitimate GNA in Libya will continue as per the recommendations of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has exerted efforts to help consolidate a ceasefire in the country that guarantees stability and unity of Libyan territory.

Akar said after talks with his Qatari counterpart that they will provide all kinds of support for the legitimate government in Libya so that the Libyan people can regain security and stability.

Politics

## Libya's Interior Minister meets with Maltese counterpart, Turkish Defense Minister



In a joint press conference with the Libyan Foreign Minister Mohamed Sayala in Tripoli, the German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas called for ceasefire and disarmament in Libya, proposing that Sirte becomes a demilitarized zone.

He also said that his talks with the Head of the Presidential Council Fayeze Al-Sarraj centered on the need to reopen oil ports and fields to help rebuild Libya as per political solutions, calling on all parties to make compromises as per Berlin conference conclusions and urging for a fair distribution of oil wealth. He also said Germany was ready to help in mine clearance operations.

Meanwhile, Sayala reiterated that Libya needs no new initiatives as the previous ones had been all useless, expressing GNA's rejection to the European Union's Operation IRINI and saying it aims to hinder GNA's efforts to repel Khalifa Haftar's aggression, ignoring the continuous flow of weapons and mercenaries to the "other party".

He also remarked that a new UN envoy to Libya should be appointed because the acting envoy Stephanie Williams wishes to leave her position next October.

"We need to agree on a constitutional basis for elections that ensure democracy and fair use of oil resources." Sayala added in his presser with German counterpart, Maas.

Sayala also indicated that the GNA is open for political negotiations with all Libyans in order to build a democratic and civilian state, reiterating the need for avoiding the oil sector and facilities any violence and conflicts and that it should be under the sole control and oversight of the National Oil Corporation.

Politics

## Euro-Mediterranean Monitor: Wagner planted mines in Sirte just like ISIS



Euro-Med Monitor  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor has warned that repeated explosions from mines planted in and around two of the most populous cities in Libya, Tripoli and Sirte, pose a serious risk for residents.

Euro-Med Monitor highlighted the influence of the Russian mercenary group known as Wagner and the allied forces under the command of Khalifa Haftar, saying Wagner group planted a significant number of landmines in nearby Sirte and the roads leading into and out from the south and west.

"Even after active fighting has died down, the mines cause ongoing injuries and deaths among unsuspecting residents." The monitor said, describing the actions of the mercenaries of Russian Wagner Group.

It said the planting of mines by Wagner resembled ISIS mine planting in 2016 in Sirte, adding that Wagner had planted various kinds of mines - anti-tank mines, classic ones and other types. They were designed to cause damage and harm people in the most heinous way possible, sometimes leading to death.

The latest reports of August say 162 people have fallen casualties to the mine explosions in southern Tripoli: 55 deaths. The numbers contained civilians as well as mine clearance workers.

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Politics

## Kalin: Germany's call for demilitarizing Sirte and Jufra could be acceptable



The Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said Germany's call for a demilitarized solution in Sirte and Jufra could be accepted by Ankara as a preliminary approach, saying the only solution lies in unity in the international community's stance on Libya.

"Turkey along with Qatar and some other countries are present in Libya in an effort to support a political solution in the war-weary country. Turkey was concerned that military elements had been building up in the Libyan cities of Sirte and Jufra for a year and this posed a threat to the country's peace and territorial integrity." Kalin told Al Jazeera on Monday.

Kalin said the Ankara administration did not seek any military solutions anywhere in Libya and did not want to come face to face with any foreign country, underlining that Egypt was a neighbor of Libya and could adopt a constructive role to resolve the conflict.

"However, the presence of mercenaries from Russia's Wagner Group and other mercenaries the United Arab Emirates (UAE) brought from countries such as Sudan, Niger and Chad were a source of concern for Turkey." He said.

Kalin further noted that ridding Sirte and Jufra of weapons and mercenaries could be a good idea to stop clashes and this could be a window of opportunity for a political solution in the country, adding this process had to be conducted in a fair and transparent manner.

"Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin recently held a long phone conversation in which they tackled developments in Libya and Syria," Kalin said, adding that the two countries could help one another in Libya as is the case with Syria.

Kalin remarked that Russia supported warlord Khalifa Haftar despite Moscow denying such claims, noting that the Russian administration sought to act as a mediator between the conflicting sides in Libya.

"Turkey believes a political solution could be achieved in Libya and Ankara would be glad to see any country including Egypt, Qatar, Germany, Russia and Italy contribute political dialogue in this regard." He indicated.

Politics

## Human Rights Solidarity urges Libya's GNA to explain stance on Mitiga prison abuse



The Libyan Human Rights Solidarity organization has called on the Government of National Accord (GNA) to explain its stance on the horrendous abuses and violations at the Tripoli-based Mitiga prison.

The organization said in a statement that militias under GNA's command are still being paid salaries and given privileges despite human rights abuses in prisons under their control, urging GNA to stop evading its responsibility, especially through Interior and Justice Ministries, to end abuse.

"Torture is being used against prisoners in Mitiga in a systematic way and some testimonies have spoken about deaths among inmates due to torture, malnutrition or bad medical care." The statement reads.

It refers to reports of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' office that spoke of rape of women as there are no female guards in Mitiga prison.

"Mitiga prison should be open to inspection by Interior, Justice and Health Ministries as well as medical teams accompanied by Red Crescent teams and UNSMIL's Human Rights officials to check on prisoners and send those most vulnerable to hospital. All women should be sent to a female-only jail with female guards, while juveniles should be sent to a rehabilitation center that suits their ages and crimes. Male adults should be sent to prisons under the command of judicial police." The human rights body added.

It added that cases should be revised; especially those of women with their children, saying anyone who cannot be proved to be guilty with substantial evidence should be released immediately with the right to compensation.

Economy

## Libya, Turkey ink trade and economy MoU



The Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to boost trade and economic ties, the Turkish trade minister said Thursday.

The deal will lay the groundwork for resolving ongoing issues between Turkish firms and Libyan employers, setting new investments and undertaking new projects, Ruhsar Pekcan said at a meeting with the Libyan Planning Minister Al-Taher Al-Juhaimi, in Turkey's capital Ankara.

Pekcan recalled that some contracting projects undertaken by Turkish companies in Libya have been interrupted recently, saying there were uncertainties regarding the completion of these projects and Turkish companies had remaining receivables in these projects.

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Pointing to the brotherly ties between the two countries, Pekcan said this is also reflected in their bilateral economic and trade ties.

"Turkish companies set to begin new projects to meet Libya's needs will support the country's stability and development process besides helping raise the general welfare." She stressed.

Pekcan underlined that this project will be a new opportunity to show the whole world Turkish-Libyan cooperation, knowing that Turkish projects in Libya are worth 28.6 billion dollars.

Meanwhile, Al-Taher Al-Juhaimi, Libya's planning minister, also stressed the importance of the deal for clearing up pending issues between Turkey and Libya.

Praising Turkish contractors' works in Libya, Al-Juhaimi said Turkish firms are behind 20% of the investment projects in the country.

"We may call this the lion's share," he stressed, adding that after Libya ends its domestic crises, the country will focus on new development plans.

"We trust Turkish companies and are willing to partner with them under this development plan." He indicated.

**Economy**

## CBL: 847 million dinars spent on combating the Coronavirus pandemic



The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) stated that the total funds Ok'd by the Ministry of Finance to challenge the Coronavirus pandemic amounted to 847 million dinars, of which 562 million were allocated to the Ministry of Health.

The CBL added, in a report on state revenues and spending issued on Tuesday, that 49 million dinars were allocated for municipalities and local councils.

95 million dinars was allocated for Military Medicine, and 35 million for the Ambulance and Emergency Services, whilst 65 million were for the Medical Supply Services and 41 million for Libyan embassies and consulates abroad.

**Economy**

## LIA to request the UN to release frozen funds for investment



The head of the Libyan Investment Authority, Ali Mahmoud, has revealed that the LIA will forward a request to the United Nations to allow the investment of its frozen funds, after losing more than \$4 billion USD, in potential returns in about ten years.

Talking to Reuters, Mahmoud called for avoiding negative interest rate fees, which have cost the institution about \$ 23 million USD since 2011, according to his statements.

The LIA head has explained that they are an independent sovereign wealth fund owned by all Libyans, stressing that the LIA has remained distanced from the ongoing political dispute in the country.

**Economy**

## NOC says losses of oil blockade has reached over \$8.36 billion



The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) said Saturday financial losses of the oil blockade had reached over 8.36 billion dollars from January up until August 15, 2020.

The NOC said the oil blockade had contributed to power outages in Libya, in addition to financial losses. It said the oil ports should be reopened to resume oil production and exports.

The NOC said earlier this week that the closure of oil ports in the Gulf of Sirte is the main reason for the power outages in eastern Libya.

"By closing the ports in the Gulf of Sirte, the condensate reservoirs at the export ports will be filled within days, so production of gas associated with the condensate, which feeds Zueitina power stations and north of Benghazi, will cease." It added.

Eastern Libya has been hit by a wave of increased hours of power outages in the last few weeks amid the increased summer heat in Libya.

**Economy**

## Al-Kabir, Bashagha sign anti-corruption and money laundering agreement



The Libyan Interior Minister of the Government of National Accord (GNA) Fathi Bashagha and the Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, have signed an agreement to cooperate in efforts to curb operations of corruption, money laundering and terrorism.

The Interior Ministry said the agreement aims to complete the agreed upon measures that target drying up terrorism funding sources, and fighting money laundering as well as corruption in Libya, as per the last Wednesday meeting for the national committee.

It also added that this agreement is a commitment by the Libyan state to carry out cooperated measures among state institutions to undermine money laundering and corruption and to fight sources of terrorism financing.

The CBL contracted an international auditing firm to review and audit all its accounts to pave the way for unifying state institutions as per the Presidential Council and UNSMIL's agreement.

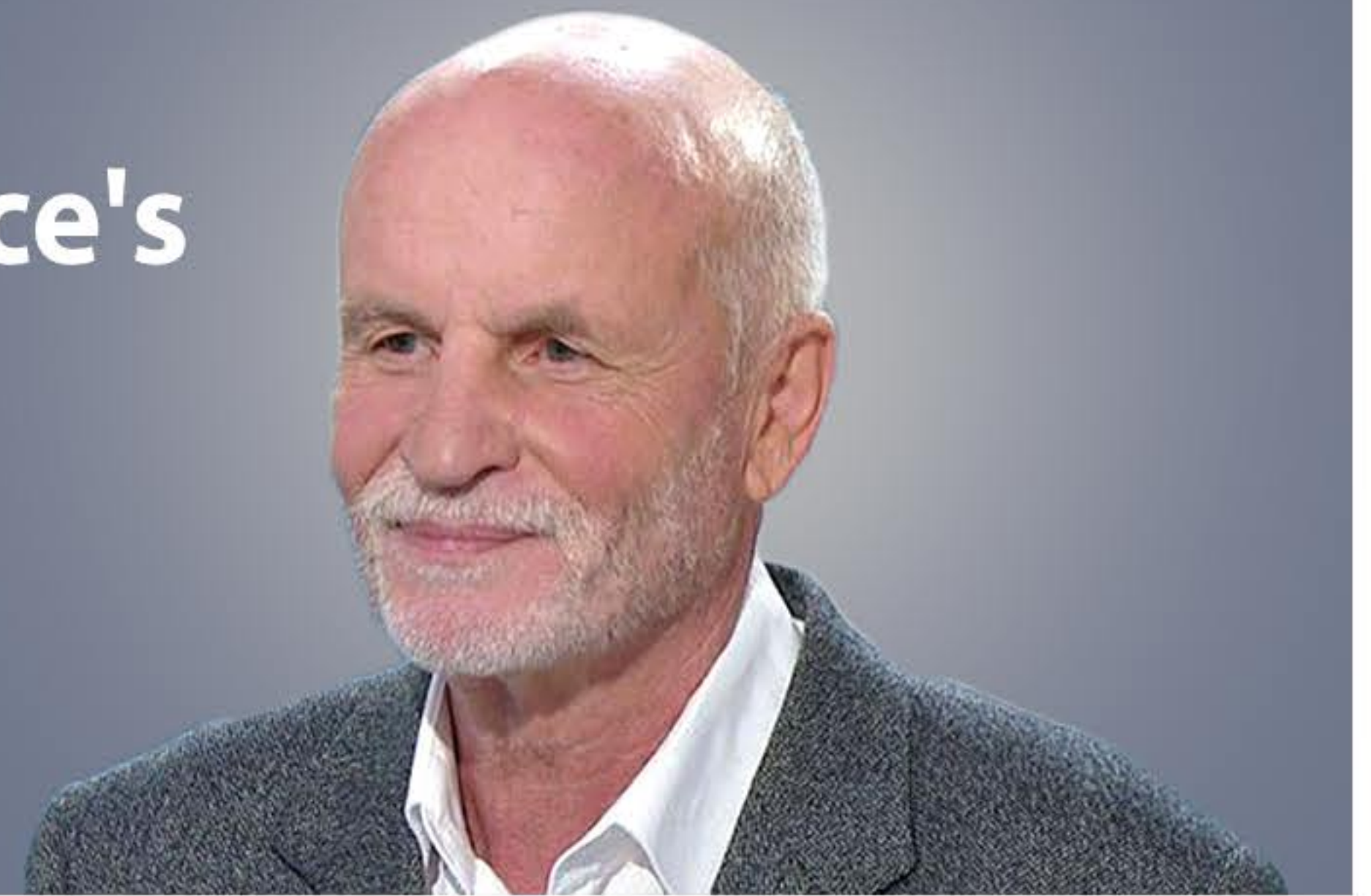
The Interior Ministry said it was willing to do the same as the CBL to audit all of its accounts and contracts.

Opinions

# Behind scenes, scope of France's defeat in Libya

By Francois Burgat, a researcher at the Institute for Research and Study on the Arab and Muslim World

*Credit: This article was first published by Anadolu Agency on August 04, 2020*



A crucial page in regional and global diplomacy is being written in Libya. Without of course prejudging what will happen next, and the reactions to come from the losers of the moment. The setbacks inflicted on warlord Khalifa Haftar affect all the Arab and Western sponsors of the Arab counter-revolution.

But even more, these setbacks mark an inexorable decline in western diplomacy in general. That of President Emmanuel Macron's France in particular, who explicitly supported the putschist general, militarily a little and even more diplomatically, by receiving him in Paris as an alter ego of legal government.

This decline will undoubtedly be a milestone in the 21st century's history. A black page for French diplomacy. It is important to stress that Haftar's military debacle will probably not be considered as such by the main stakeholders -- the Libyans -- who are its primary recipients. And this is where the rub of the Paris strategy hurts in this case.

This turning point is first of all the expression of a historical dynamic as banal as it is structural: That of the re-emergence of the so-called "secondary" actors such as the colonial page (and its corollary the collapse of the Ottoman Empire) had a time reduced to the rank of spectators, even direct or indirect victims of the expansionist colonial ambitions then imperial of Europe and the US. Reiterating what happened in Syria, Turkey and Russia agree on the Libyan question to find common ground for their differences, the important point is that it hits the pawn of European diplomats who are completely excluded.

Against this development, France can not do much. It still has two options: put up with it and clearly choose sides; or try to blindly counter it. France chose the second, and pays the price. France's "Libyan defeat" not only reflects the irresistible advance in the history of decolonization, it also expresses the failure of a strategy that was by no means the only possible one.

By involving in the fall of late ruler Muammar Gaddafi, it was for reasons imbued with the scents of oil finance more than those of the promotion of democracy, Paris had all the same been associated a few years ago with the popular victory which ousted the authoritarian from Libya. For this reason, in whole sections of the population, the image of France, admittedly blurred in the region, was far from being only negative.

By suddenly adopting the counter-revolutionary agenda of the Emiratis and the Saudis, Macron, however, chose to squander this capital. Nothing forced him to. Nothing, except first of all the attraction of a patronage relationship with these rich oil monarchies. Nothing, then, except the renewed attraction to the shortcuts -- so prized by his electorate -- of the "struggle against political Islam". These shortcuts are particularly dangerous, not just for Libyans.

When Abu Dhabi, which funds the French far right of the National Rally and, like Macron, comes to terms with his ideas, cultivates ignorance and rides on the fears of Europeans, it is at the risk of cultivating the worst xenophobic drifts. The Emirati princes, however, have undertaken to distill, through interposed mercenaries influencers, an Islamophobia that they intend to convert to discredit their main opponents. It is also their way of attacking their regional rivals, Turkey and Qatar in the lead, accused of not sufficiently suppressing their "Islamist" opponents.

Thus France chose Haftar's side, not only for the restoration of the worst model of authoritarianism but also for its ideological corollary, the old "eradicating" software of the "struggle against political Islam". And too bad if it was necessary -- as a way out of the crisis -- to bring Libya back through the hut of this dictatorship that was at the origin.

Was it also necessary, for Macron, to make this incredible display of bad faith, by pointing out in others the faults that he practiced much more heavily than them? Why, when the French president accuses Turkey of military interference, does he forget to mention the unlimited funding granted by Abu Dhabi to recruit and arm the sectarian militias which constitute the main body of Haftar? Why does he omit to mention the presence on Libyan ground of Sudanese mercenaries recruited through an Israeli intermediary? Or that of Chadian and Syrian fighters imported by mercenaries ... Russian? Why does he omit to mention the repeated incursions of the Egyptian and Emirati air forces? And, last but not least, why does he hide the direct interference of France itself, through the attested presence of the DGSE [Directorate-General for External Security] and special forces alongside the putschist marshal?

What remains is a fundamental question: can we send back the legalist camp and its aggressors? In the Libyan crisis, an authoritarian counter-revolution modeled on the sinister model of Abdelfattah al-Sisi clashes with a government which -- whatever its weaknesses and contradictions, that no one denies -- has remained to this day a multilateral dynamic resulting from the revolutionary movement which put an end to the Jamahiryan dictatorship.

[Follow next page](#)

Behind the scenes of the assault on Tripoli, one thing seems to be obvious, which permeates the entire sequence: flouting UN multilateralism does not weigh the same whether one is the heir to the colonial powers or one of the "southern" nations! And how then to dare -- as Macron does -- reproach Washington for showing unilateralism with regard to Tehran?

The almost systematic French opposition to Turkey dates from the coming to power of [the incumbent ruling] Justice and Development (AK) Party and of a management team which, while respecting the Atlantic military alliance, stopped making the various diplomatic concessions to Europeans to which their predecessors had accustomed them.

France and Europe have since multiplied bad manners against Turkey. First, there were the repeated rebuffs on EU membership, dramatized by [former President Nicolas] Sarkozy, but which were initiated by his predecessors and which were never contradicted by his successors. Added to this was the complacent hypocrisy of Paris towards the authors of the failed July 2016 coup [in Turkey] and, more generally, a hostility "in principle", aligned with that of Tel Aviv, to the regard to the party which brought [incumbent Turkish President] Recep Tayyip Erdogan to power.

France thus systematically denounces to Ankara violations of the rights of opponents that passed over in silence before the AK Party came to power and that it forgets just as much when, otherwise more serious, they are the act of its allies in Cairo.

Then came, to fight Daesh/[ISIS], the assumed choice of the West to arm the Syrian wing of this Kurdish separatist PKK that Turkey has always fought with some reason. After the maritime incident of June 10 this year, the French version of which was dramatically disowned by a majority of NATO members, there is sufficient evidence of the continuing dishonesty that Paris shows towards Turkey.

The bad faith that flowed from the entire French ruling class after the episode of Saint Sophia's return to the 5th century of her Muslim trajectory only confirms it. On the Libyan ground, on July 25, the distressing episode of the "mediation" attempted by "the revolutionary" Bernard-Henri Levy, of which no member of the Government of National Accord has forgotten that he unreservedly supported Macron in favor of Haftar's counterrevolution unsurprisingly deceived no one.

Where is this leading France's regional diplomacy? More effective, as perhaps those who implement it think? Or rather to a programmed dead end, the terms of which, using the lexicon of confrontation, are becoming more precise day after day?

*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

## Libyan child with rare disease arrives in Rome for treatment



A Libyan child suffering from a rare disease arrived in Italy to receive treatment, said a statement by the Libyan Embassy in Rome. The 14-year-old child, Abu Bakr Al-Waer is suffering from a brain and nerve atrophy that led to the deterioration of his health condition, according to a statement by the Health Ministry, indicating that he was flown to Rome via the Ambulance Service.

The Health Ministry emphasized it had admitted the child to one of the best Italian hospitals specialized in treating his condition, noting that it gave instruction to facilitate all necessary measures to ensure he receives the proper treatment.

The Ministry said on its official Facebook page that the new shipment of medical supplies aims to enhance the country's supply, in order to provide all the necessary requirements to combat the epidemic on an ongoing basis, without interruption.

It went on to explain that the new shipment, which is the sixth in less than a week, consists of 100,000 Coronavirus DNA extraction kits.

Health

## Najjar: Coronavirus pandemic is sweeping through Tripoli, Misrata and the south



The Head of the Libyan National Center for Disease Control Badr Al-Deen Najjar said the pandemic situation in Libya is escalating especially in Tripoli and Misrata as well as the southern region.

He said Coronavirus has swept through most Tripoli areas including Abu Salim, Hay Al-Andalus, and Souq Al-Jumua, adding to Tanasuh TV channel, that Misrata cases are remarkably increasing as are the numbers of cases in need for intensive medical care.

He also said the arrival of PCR test devices had helped run tests in samples that were awaiting results over the last couple of days, alluding also to the issue of power outages that are slowing down their laboratory work.

Najjar said they hadn't yet reached the number of tests needed amid the spread of Coronavirus, saying they should do 10,000 tests a day while they are actually doing 1000 to 1500 tests in eight laboratories.

He said Covid-19 cases reached over 5000 and deaths over 100. He called for more strict intensive medical care and social awareness as well as teams working on early detection of Covid-19 patients to help isolate them to limit the spread, adding that total curfews aren't useful as people aren't abiding by the rules and the security apparatuses aren't cooperating as they lack the needed preparedness.

Health

## Shipment of Coronavirus analysis kits arrives at Misrata from Belgium



The Ministry of Health of the Government of National Accord (GNA), announced the arrival of a Belgian cargo plane at Misrata International Airport, carrying a shipment of Coronavirus testing kits.

On Sunday, Libya recorded 309 new cases - 109 new ones and 200 who contacted previous cases - bringing the cases to 5541, while deaths reached 120 after recording 9 new ones. Recoveries amounted to 710 after 19 new ones recovered Sunday.

## Life

## Scouts Movement takes part in virtual celebration to mark World Youth Day



The Libyan Scouts and Guides Movement participated in the virtual online celebration held by the Arab Scout Organization via Zoom meeting app, to mark the World Youth Day.

The event took place in a constructive and interactive atmosphere, with wide participation of delegations, including, Arab youth and sports ministers, ambassadors of several countries, and representatives of regional and international institutions and organizations.

On the occasion, a cooperation agreement was signed between the the Arab Scout Organization and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), according to the Libyan Scouts and Guides Movement on Facebook.

The event also featured a visual presentation on the role of young people in enhancing the quality of life at all levels, in which several youth shared their success stories and hopes.



## UNICEF holds contest for best social enterprises in Benghazi

Around 16 young people aged between 18-24 from five municipalities in Benghazi have participated in the "Baladiyati" project, aimed at providing young men and women with the knowledge and skills necessary to start social entrepreneurship projects in their communities.

On its Facebook page, on Monday, UNICEF explained that the jury selected 12 projects on social enterprises, pitched by six young men and six young women, noting that the winners will benefit from financial and technical support to start their projects.

Baladiaty - in English, "My municipality" - is the short name conceived for the programme "Recovery, Stability and Socio-economic Development in Libya", funded by the European Union and implemented by the Italian Cooperation (AICS), UNDP and UNICEF.

## Crimes

## Patient at Al-Jalaa Hospital in Benghazi shot dead by gunmen



A patient, undergoing treatment at the Al-Jalaa Hospital in Benghazi, was shot and killed on Friday when armed men stormed the Intensive Care Room, where the man was receiving emergency treatment.

The attack was later linked to a 'revenge killing' for the son of the gunmen's relative, in a complete absence of any security personnel at the hospital.

A source at the hospital said that such incidents and attacks by armed men are frequent, confirming the total lack of security in the hospital, which adds to the endangerment of the lives of not only patients, but workers and visitors also.

## Crimes

## Body of disappeared pro-Haftar military official found in Benghazi



The body of a retired air force Brigadier General, under Khalifa Haftar's command, named Abdelmonem Al-Dibani and aged 60, has been found on Gawarsha road in Benghazi, according to his relatives, who said the body was stabbed "32 times".

Al-Dibani worked in Al-Khadim airbase of Haftar's forces, which is run by the UAE. His family lost contact with him Saturday night. No reason for his disappearance or killing was given.

Benghazi has been seeing many murders and kidnaps, especially of those who reject Haftar's grip on the city or his war on Tripoli. Such kidnaps reached civilians, politicians, military officials and lawmakers as well as Interim Government officials in the east.

Two men who worked as police officers in the past appeared lately on social media criticizing the low-level lives they were leading in Benghazi and the fact that they hadn't received any rewards for their participation in Haftar's wars. They were afterwards kidnapped from their houses and their whereabouts are still unknown.

weather

The Weather Channel

### Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 21	35°/23°	 Sunny	10%	E 28 km/h
Sat 22	34°/23°	 Sunny	0%	ENE 19 km/h
Sun 23	34°/25°	 Sunny	0%	NNE 17 km/h
Mon 24	32°/24°	 Sunny	10%	NNW 20 km/h
Tue 25	32°/24°	 Sunny	0%	N 18 km/h
Wed 26	33°/24°	 Sunny	10%	NE 17 km/h
Thu 27	33°/25°	 Sunny	0%	ENE 19 km/h

### Photo of the Week: The archaeological site of Villa Selene



Features



# Libyan Cuisine: Sfinz

Who can resist a piece of Sfinz dripping with honey before going into the everyday boring routine!

Sfinze is a traditional fried pastry widely adored by Libyans especially in Ramadan at breaking fast time and as breakfast for special occasions.

Pastry is an integral part of Libyan cuisine; it is the recipe that makes of food a filling meal.

The dough for the Sfinz is pretty classic and straightforward; all you need is flour and a pinch of sugar, yeast, salt and of course water.

Mix all dry ingredients together. Pour in the right quantity of water to get medium smooth dough. Knead and leave until it doubled in size. Turn out and knead again. Form into small balls and place on a greased surface and leave to rest for another ten minutes. Flatten the small balls with your hands on a well-greased surface and don't forget to oil your hands to prevent the dough from sticking. Form a thin layer of pastry and fry into a deep hot oil.

Enjoy immediately with honey or if you dare to challenge yourself; try to fill it with an egg by cracking an egg on the pastry while frying in the pan and cover the egg with another small layer of pastry.

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