

## Politics

### Libya, Spain discuss political solution to the conflict and economic cooperation



The Head of the Libyan Presidential Council of the Government of National Accord (GNA) Fayez Al-Sarraj met with the Spanish Foreign Minister Arancha González Laya in Tripoli and discussed cooperation in economic development and service sectors.

The Spanish Foreign Minister reiterated her country's support for the GNA and its announcement of ceasefire on August 21 plus the demilitarization of Sirte and Jufra as well as oil crescent region in addition to resuming oil production and exports and holding elections next March.

She also said the situation in Libya needs a strict stance by the international community so that the conflict can end in the country, inviting Al-Sarraj once again to visit Madrid.

In the meantime, the Spanish Foreign Minister met with the Head of High Council of State Khalid Al-Mishri and GNA Foreign Minister Mohammed Sayala.

Minister Laya and Libyan officials discussed latest developments on the military and political levels as well as Tripoli war repercussions.

The officials went over the initiatives aiming at ending the conflict and political stalemate in Libya as well as the role of Spain in pushing forward the political process.

The Spanish Foreign Minister arrived Monday in Tripoli on a formal visit as a second stop of a journey she aimed to take across North African countries. She visited Tunisia first on Saturday.

After meeting GNA officials, the Spanish Foreign Minister aims to meet with the Speaker of the House of Representatives in Tobruk Aqila Saleh.

## Politics

### Al-Mishri: Talks in Morocco are a prelude to real dialogue



President of the High Council of State, Khaled Al-Mishri has reiterated that the current consultations going on with the Tobruk-based

parliament are informal and aim to lay the ground for a dialogue very soon, with the efforts of Geneva.

"The discussions in Morocco are consultations and not a dialogue in the strict sense of the term," Al-Mishri stated in a press statement after his meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister, Arancha González Laya.

The HCS head revealed that meetings have been going on for a while between the HCS and the Tobruk-based Parliament in Tunisia.

He indicated that the two sides have reached understandings during past meetings in Tunisia regarding the amendment of the Presidency Council to consist of a president and two deputies, as well as the dismissal of the prime minister and mechanisms for selecting the seven sovereign positions, noting that the next round of talks will start from these points agreed upon.

Al-Mishri pointed out that Haftar's militias have breached the recently announced ceasefire several times and are still receiving daily support. "Haftar is trying to prove himself after he was sidelined from the political scene. Even international parties no longer look at him," Al-Mishri said, stressing that their forces are on guard to repel any violation or attack.

Al-Mishri insisted that the HCS have entered into negotiations for the sake of preserving Libyan lives and property and not to make concessions, accusing some of trying to confuse the Libyan people by claiming that what is going on behind the closed doors in Morocco is merely deals to divide posts and power.

"We believe that the nightmare is coming to an end and now we are seeking ways to restart dialogue instead of resuming fighting," Al-Mishri said, underscoring that Haftar has been removed from the political landscape for good and only enjoys support from the UAE and the Russian Wagner Group.

## Politics

### Al-Sarraj and Erdogan discuss boosting security cooperation in Istanbul



The Libyan Presidential Council's Head Fayez Al-Sarraj and the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have discussed economic and security cooperation between Libya and Turkey, including the return of Turkish companies to resume suspended projects in Libya.

During their meeting in Istanbul, Erdogan underscored that Turkey and Libya will continue to be in solidarity, discussing developments in Libya, bilateral relations and regional issues.

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Al-Sarraj hailed Turkey's role in support of the Government of National Accord to help Libyans achieve democracy and build a civilian state via elections based on a constitutional basis.

The Turkish president stressed the peace and tranquility to be achieved in Libya will benefit the whole region, especially neighboring countries and Europe, adding that the international community should also assume a "principled stance" in this regard.

**Politics**

## Turkey's Foreign Minister: There's proposal to surrender Sirte, Jufra to GNA



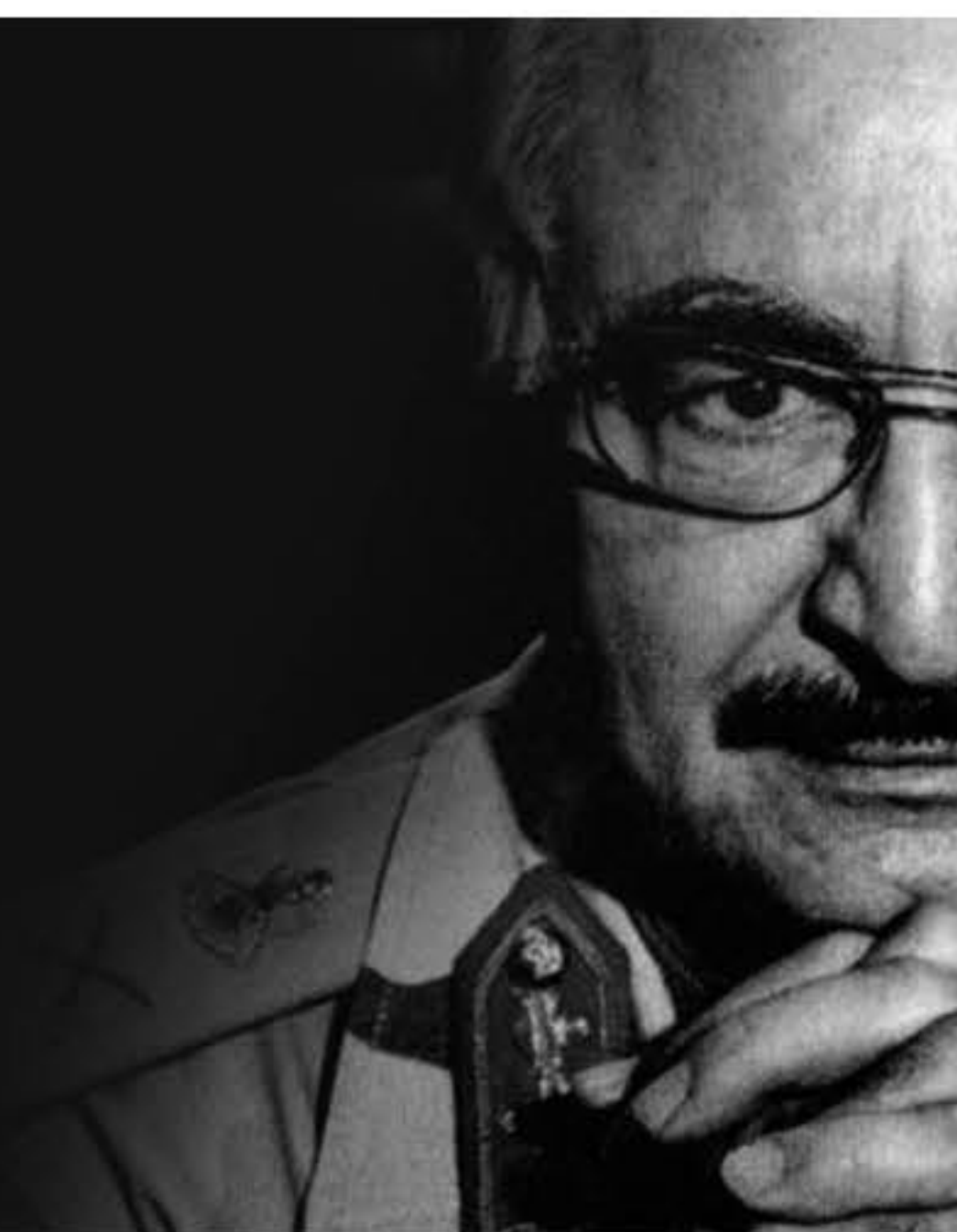
Turkish Foreign Minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu said that his country had clashed the French hope for Haftar to capture the Libyan capital by providing military support to the Government of National Accord (GNA).

"French President Emmanuel Macron had become hysterical over developments in the Libyan and Syrian conflicts and a dispute over maritime boundaries in the Eastern Mediterranean," Cavusoglu told reporters in Ankara.

In this context, Turkish Vice President Fuad Oktay also criticized Macron's policy, saying "He is damaging his country by trying to prove himself by supporting Khalifa Haftar."

**Politics**

## Two Libyan families file a criminal action against Khalifa Haftar in America



Two Libyan citizens filed a criminal case before the United States Federal Courts in Virginia, holding Khalifa Haftar responsible for the killing of a number of their family members, which includes a three-year old female child.

The lawsuit accuses Haftar, in his position as commander of the 'alleged' Libyan National Army, as being personally responsible for acts of torture and war crimes, which were perpetrated against the people of the Ganfouda district by his militias.

In addition, the charges include the deliberate starvation and illegal blockades, also part of the basis of the civil complaint, which was filed against Khalifa Haftar as an American citizen, considering that the American Judiciary holds jurisdiction over Haftar, due to his criminal behavior and the fact that he holds American citizenship.

**Economy**

## Libya, Turkey ink economy, technology cooperation protocol



Libya's Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) and Turkey have signed an economy, technology cooperation protocol.

Turkish Industry and Technology Minister Mustafa Varank and Libyan Central Bank Governor Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir and the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) Chairman Ali Mahmoud signed in a meeting in Istanbul the protocol as Varank said that both countries face many threats in economic, political and military fields.

"We are fighting beside Libya against some of these common threats. It is possible to place our efforts on a more solid basis by further increasing cooperation in every field," Varank said.

"So far a higher level of cooperation has been achieved in political and military cooperation but now it is time to boost economic cooperation as well," Varank added, saying they have a goal to move forward with concrete projects in economy, technology, and entrepreneurship.

Both countries will undertake joint projects in the fields of investments, entrepreneurship and technology development, as per the new protocol.

"We will contribute to the development of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Libya. We will improve the technological capacity and depth of financial services. We will also work together on the usage of new technologies in the financial system, conduct research and development in the regulation of financial technologies, and establish technology workshops for young people," Varank said.

He also emphasized that the two countries are set to take steps toward cooperation in establishing venture capital funds in the coming days or "investing in funds in our country, especially to support technology-oriented initiatives."

Meanwhile, Al-Kabir said the Central Bank of Libya closely follows Turkey's banking system, which is compatible with the banking systems of developed countries.

"The Central Bank of Libya, along with the existing banking system in the country needs a capacity increase. This is both in the technical field and in the field of human resources," He added.

Al-Kabir indicated that the Central Bank of Libya welcomes the establishment of technology centers and would like to say that Libya also needs training centers for human resources in the financial field.

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## GECOL discusses with Turkish firms stalled projects

The Board of Directors of the General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) has held several meetings with representatives from foreign executing companies to discuss completing stalled projects related to solving the fluctuation of electric power production in Libya.

The GECOL Media Department said on Facebook that its board of directors held talks with the Turkish company ENKA, the implementing contractors for the Ubari power plant project.

The meeting dealt with setting up a mechanism to complete the works of the Ubari gas power station project and to commence with the two gas stations west of Tripoli and Misurata, which will be implemented by the German Siemens and ENKA.

For its part, the ENKA Company emphasized that these projects will enhance the production capacity of Libya's public grid, noting it had taken all necessary measures with the GECOL to ensure the work would be achieved in due course.

The Libyan Presidential Council of the Government of National Accord (GNA) has allocated 2 billion dinars for the expenditures of municipalities to cover development and other projects across the country.

The Presidential Council said the 2 billion would be split as 30% would go to the second chapter of municipal laws and 70% would go to the third, while the Ministry of Local Governing and General Authority of High Council for Local Administration would manage the expenditures.

The media office of the Head of the Presidential Council Fayez Al-Sarraj said this step is in the direction of activating local governance to enable municipalities to provide better services to people.

The Presidential Council has also adopted the chapter of local revenue that would organize collecting local tariffs and fees.

### Economy

## Libya and Turkey's central banks sign MoU for financial cooperation



The Libyan and Turkish central banks signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), laying out the terms for continued cooperation in economic and financial sectors.

The Turkish Central Bank said in a statement that with the MoU, the two central banks aim to foster economic relations and strengthen financial cooperation between the two countries. "The banks will carry out activities to foster bilateral economic relations and strengthen financial cooperation and joint work in central banking services between the two countries." The statement reads.

In last November, The Libyan Government of National Accord and Turkey signed two MoUs for cooperation in maritime boundaries and security as well as defense fields.

### Economy

## Minister of Labour: Ready to launch youth employment program



Minister of Labor and Rehabilitation, Al-Mahdi Al-Amin has said his ministry is set to launch the youth employment and training program, in line with the Presidential Council's decision issued in this regard.

"Those registered as job seekers within the ministry's systems for this year until the 30th of July amount to 128,679," the minister said in a statement published on the ministry's Facebook page, noting that these figures include unemployed people from various regions of the country.

The data released by the ministry showed that job seekers hit 72,649 men, as against 5,6030 females. The ministry also indicated that the western region ranked the highest when it comes to those looking for jobs, with 71,303 job seekers, after it comes the central region with 35,151, then the southern region with 9,895,000, while the eastern region registered 7,330,000 job seekers.

Besides, the ministry's data showed that the number of university graduates seeking jobs is also relatively high with 5,0643.

The Minister of Labor and Rehabilitation called on the ministry's offices across the country to connect directly with the Ministry's Information and Documentation Center.


He also asked the Ministry of Finance for its cooperation in terms of stalled contracts for workers in the public sector during the years from "2015 to 2019", while at the same time urging job seekers in various cities to quickly register in this system from the labor offices in their regions.



Opinions

# How new street protests can help diplomacy in Libya succeed

By **Tarek Megerisi**, Policy Fellow at ECFR

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Rival camps in Libya will likely sabotage political processes that could undermine them. The international community can head this off by harnessing protesters' justified anger.

Only in Libya could the heads of the two rival political camps announce a ceasefire and the start of a new political process – and it still not be the biggest news of the week. For no sooner had the imminent threat of renewed warfare receded and another peace process shakily emerged, than the Libyan people came out onto the streets. The protesters condemned the country's elite en masse and demanded a government that could successfully govern this tired, broken, and looted state.

It may be disheartening for the American, German, and United Nations diplomats, who laboured hard in difficult circumstances to secure this new peace, to see this popular tidal wave seemingly wash away hard-fought gains. But it is actually a blessing in disguise.

The new ceasefire has removed the sense of impending conflict and could open up space for a revived political process. The political leaders of east and west Libya have effectively signed up to a UN plan for a demilitarised zone (DMZ) around the contested city of Sirte. They made this clear in coordinated announcements on 21 August this year that echoed the UN plan's main points. Their pledges include expelling mercenaries, setting up a joint policing mechanism, and, of course, demilitarising the area in question. Perhaps more important was the fact that key third states active in Libya appear to be buying into the process. Turkey sends arms, and directly operates in support of, forces aligned to the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA); it has indicated its support for the process in principle. So too has Egypt, which had recently threatened to invade Libya if the GNA launched a military campaign to take Sirte. Getting two of the largest external influencers on Libya on board is a genuine success.

If the international community can keep them both there then this can help prevent spoilers dragging Libya back to a state of war. Foremost among those will be General Haftar, the weakened head of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces based in the country's east; he has been relegated from the darling of the previous political process to the problem-child of this one. He knows that any trend towards peace and political progress is also a trend towards his retirement. He will therefore do all he can to provoke a new war.

Another key external player, the United Arab Emirates, is likely to support Haftar in his endeavours to undermine the new process. The UAE's primary interest in Libya is to see Turkey pushed out of the country, whereas this entente will do nothing to prevent Turkey's continuing commercial, political, and military entrenchment in western Libya. Direct pressure on Haftar and the Emirates to not spoil proceedings will be crucial, and this should include threats of sanctions against Haftar's economic activities. Key to this will be the ability to exploit an upcoming tranche of European Union sanctions and to publicise evidence of Emirati arms embargo violations collected by the EU's Operation IRINI. This will allow European diplomats to more credibly posture to the UAE that Europe will take punitive action if it continues to spoil European diplomacy.

The two political camps' statements also contained expected differences, notably on the next political steps and how to solve the question of the oil embargo, arguably Libya's most pressing problem right now. The embargo enforced by Haftar since mid-January (as a means to gain leverage before the Berlin Conference) has left Libya without revenue and crippled its power grid – problems worsened by the now escalating covid-19 crisis. But these differences should by now be considered de rigueur for Libya's processes; they are the opening beats of a well traversed and choreographed dance between politicians who publicly claim to be rivals but privately conspire to remain in their incredibly lucrative positions of power.

The energy of the current popular protests thus gives the UN the opportunity to try to neutralise the disruptive and stalling potential of these actors. It should work to go over their heads and directly engage social and political leaders from key parts of the country, including from usually excluded groups such as tribes or communities that supported the former regime. The UN already has access to these networks from its earlier efforts to host a national conference, and by organising a smaller convening of this kind the UN could activate the more moderate centre of Libya. Its aim should be to outline the next political steps, in particular how to transition from the current institutions towards a new, smaller, unity government and to establish what mandate it should have. Engaging such groups will ensure the protests do not drift, constructively channel the street's grievances, and mean that the UN does not have to rely on Libya's politicians to devise and agree upon the political transition plan.

Although the oil embargo was enacted by Haftar for narrow personal political advancement, he leveraged a very real grievance to justify it: the lack of benefit local communities see from oil sales. As such, even after the tremendous strain caused by the embargo, meaningful local pressure on Haftar to remove the embargo will not materialise unless these constituencies perceive it to be blocking the activation

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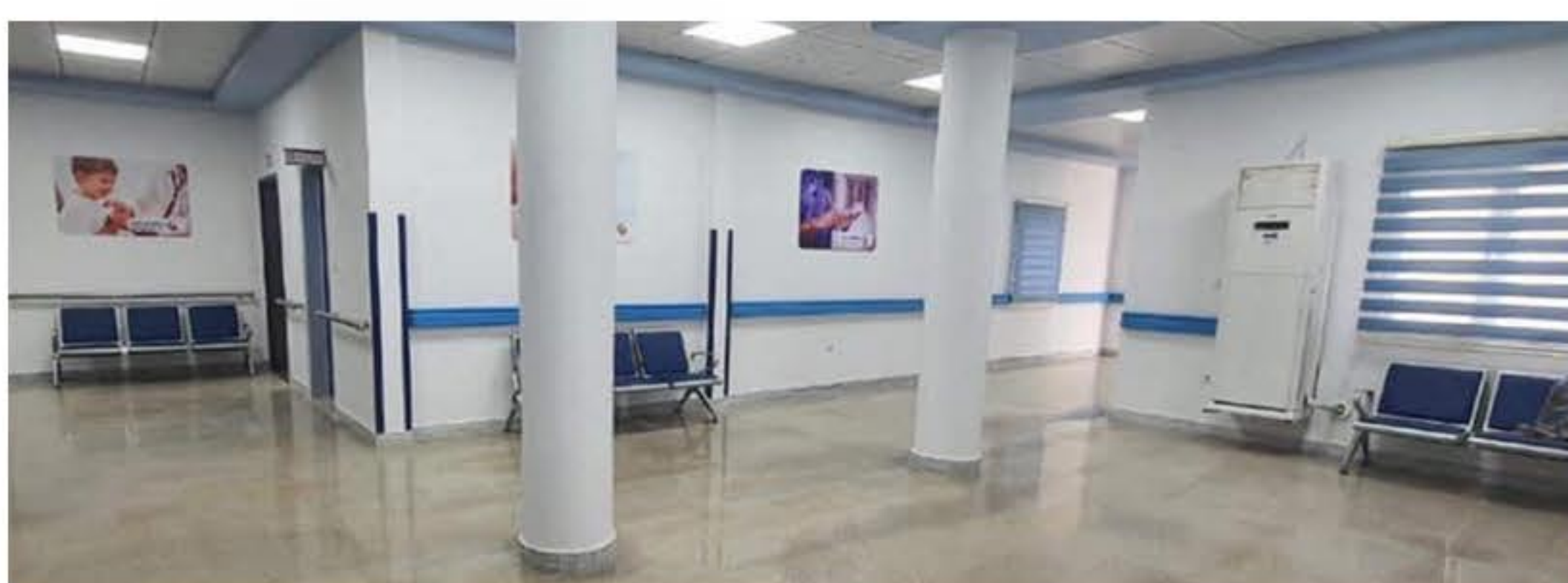
of a deal that would give them increased benefits. The UN could help bring about such a scenario by proposing a guaranteed proportion of oil revenues to go to Libya's oil, water, and power infrastructures. Such a move would allow eastern Libyan politicians to save face, showcase a win for their constituencies, and help generate popular local pressure to lift the embargo. Alongside this, the diplomatic pressure on both Haftar and the UAE, which is blamed for foiling the last attempt to lift the embargo, to not spoil the overall process should extend to a demand for its lifting.

Securing buy-in for the DMZ plan from political, military, and foreign stakeholders is a significant diplomatic accomplishment. The emergence of the new protest movement represents, not an obstacle to this plan, but a real opportunity to drive it forward. Gone is the apparent popular apathy in Libya that long let political elites off the hook on the question of progress. The informal US, German, and UN coalition that orchestrated the ceasefire possesses geopolitical gravity, expertise, and resources. Drawing on the power of the street, it can press its way towards a more permanent cessation of hostilities, political unification, and a lifting of the oil embargo.

**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

### Ministry of Health aims at opening three hospitals in Janzour



The Ministry of Health announced its intention to open three hospitals in Janzour district of Tripoli, including the Janzour General Hospital, which is intended to provide a capacity of 200 beds, containing 100 patient accommodation rooms and ten separate treatment departments, along with a Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Also within the plans is a further hospital 'Janzour Rural Hospital', to consist of five floors, with a bed capacity of approximately 70 beds, along with an additional hospital in the Sayyad area expected to be a two-story building, designated specifically as a maternity hospital.

#### Health

### Bader Al-Din Al-Najjar: Isolation centers in Tripoli under extreme pressure



The Head of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) Bader Al-Din Al-Najjar, confirmed that the isolation centers in Tripoli are presently suffering from extreme pressure, due to an excess of cases infected with the Coronavirus within them.

Al-Najjar said that the country is presently at the start of the 'pinna-cle' of the pandemic and the cost would be a large loss of lives, if everyone failed to take an extremely serious stand, as he put it.

He told a press conference on Sunday, that he believed that working toward educating citizens on the pandemic, would be the most effective solution to solving the existing crisis, adding that the relevant laboratories must be given the necessary support and equipment to diagnose those infected with the virus, in order to remedy the present threatening epidemiological situation.



#### Health

### Libyan doctors returning from aid mission in Italy start an awareness program from Gharyan

The team of Libyan doctors who have returned from Italy after completing their mission in assisting the Italian authorities to contain the Coronavirus pandemic has launched an awareness program starting from the city of Gharyan, to implement the Italian experience in Libya.

The National Center for Disease Control said on Saturday, this comes as part of the national community awareness campaign launched by the center in several cities.

The program includes a comprehensive training program for medical and auxiliary medical personnel, as well as health care providers working in isolation centers and intensive care units.

On Thursday, the National Center for Disease Control held a press conference to welcome and honor the doctors upon their return from Italy after three months of work in one of the most worst-hit countries worldwide, regarding the novel coronavirus.

Libya sent last April 30 doctors to Italy as part of an initiative by the Government of National Accord (GNA) to help Italian health authorities in their battle against Covid-19.

The Italian Foreign Minister Di Maio commended the support of the GNA and the Libyan people for their full solidarity with Rome.

#### Health

### UNICEF sterilizes 39 schools in the Nafusa Mountain areas

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced the completion of the sterilization of 39 Libyan schools in a move to protect both students and educational staff from infection by the Coronavirus.

The organization said on its official Facebook page, that it has finally completed the first phase of the sterilization project in the schools of the municipalities of Al-Qalaa, Dhahir Al-Jabl, Al-Raheibat, Al-Mashashia and Al-Shaqiqa.

The second phase of Japan-funded project is aimed at targeting 163 further schools in the west of the country, to be achieved in partnership with the Ministry of Education and in cooperation with the Opal Sterilization and Disinfection Company, according to UNICEF.



**Education**

## Education Ministry reviews minimizing example questions prepared for GCSE students



The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Adel Jumaa is studying the possibility of reducing the "example questions" published by the Education Ministry, as guidance to help students preparing for the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) exams to review their lessons.

This came during his meeting with the heads of the technical committees in charge of the school return program.

The meeting was devoted to assessing the situation, after one week back in schools for students of the (GCSE) level.

The attendees exchanged views and shared experiences of teachers, pupils, and parents, with respect to applying the precautionary measures, such as wearing masks, washing hands, and keeping students in social bubbles, to note what works and what needs to be amended.

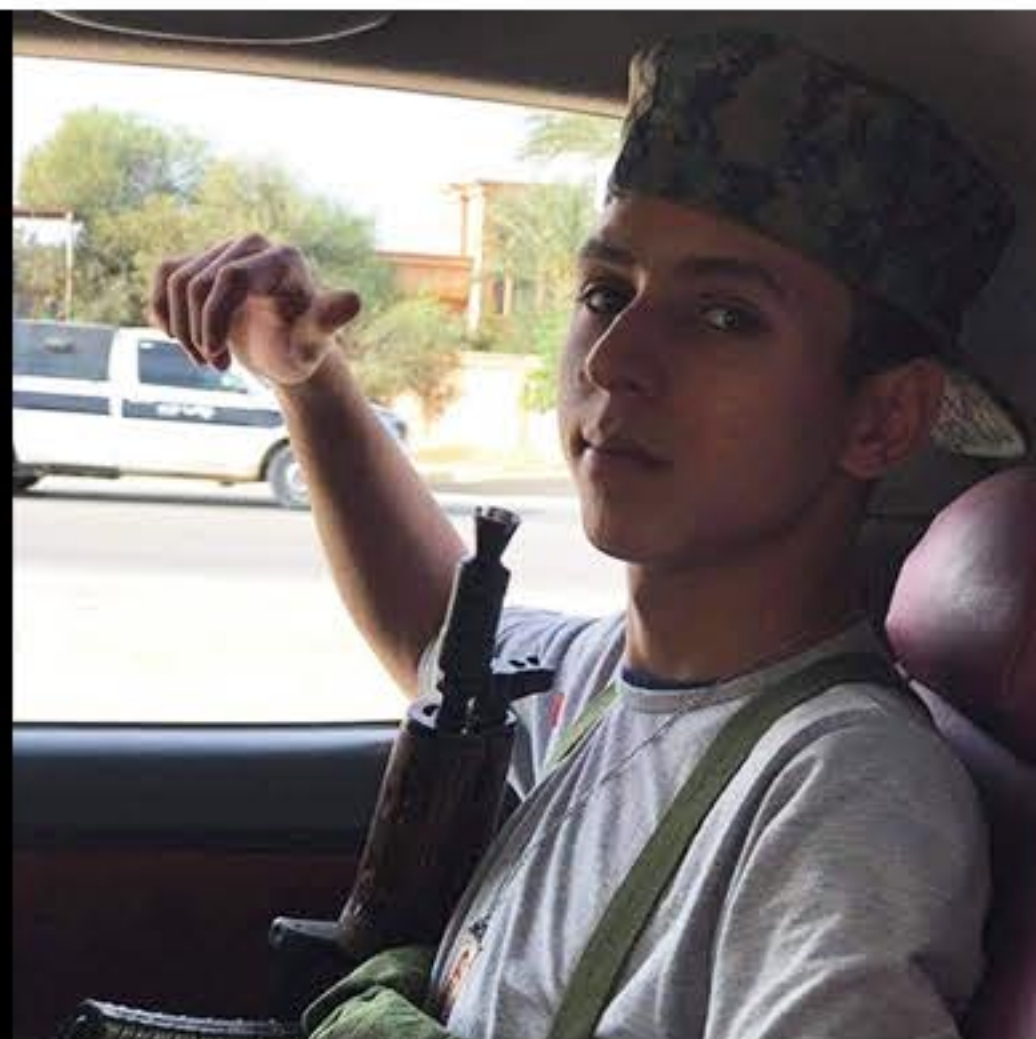
The undersecretary gave orders to the Response and Prevention Committee to continue following up on the epidemiological situation that may occur in any city, in cooperation with the relevant health authorities.

It is noteworthy that the Education Ministry has published around 300 questions for each subject on its website for GCSE students to study from, but students argue it's too much.

Another issue raised by parents is that not all families have access to online services not to mention the long hours of power cuts, forcing some parents to pay to get these questions printed from book stores.

**Crimes**

## Militia boy in Benghazi kills girl in broad daylight



A young woman has been shot and killed by a member of an armed militia group in Benghazi, identified to be 23-year-old Raouf al-Darsi, local sources have confirmed.

The shooting took place in a public street in the Fuwaihat area, south of the city.

According to the sources, the 21-year-old woman was having a love affair with the militia member and seems to have decided to end up the relationship.

Al-Darsi who was reportedly an alcohol and drug addict is affiliated with the Naji Al-Zabati militia, one of Haftar's arms in Benghazi.

The city of Benghazi and the eastern region, is experiencing a state of security chaos since its fall in Haftar's hands, including murders, kidnappings, torture, and abuse, from which even children and women were not spared.

**Crimes**

## Five new bodies found in mass graves in Tarhuna



Search teams of the Public Authority for Search and Identification of Missing Persons found five new bodies in the Meshrue Al-Rabt area in Tarhuna.

The Director of the Information Office of the Authority, Abdulaziz Al-Jaafari, announced that two of the bodies were mutilated, bringing the number of human remains found since the liberation of Tarhuna to more than 220 bodies.

Some days ago, the Director of the Authority's Media Office reported that a new mass grave had been discovered in that area, pointing out, at that particular time, that the search had revealed one body, however, he announced that the Authority would continue to search for further remains, which were subsequently discovered at the same site.

**Crimes**

## Relatives of female patient with Coronavirus destroy areas of Benghazi Medical Center



Family members accompanying a female patient severely ill with the Coronavirus, went on a rampage against staff and property at the Benghazi Medical Center, having mistakenly assumed their mother to have passed away.

The center said that the woman was infected with the virus and transferred to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) due to the seriousness of her condition, however, those accompanying her, thinking she had died, began to smash parts of the hospital, causing panic and terror amongst other patients and medical staff, only to discover that their loved-one was in fact still alive, according to a statement issued by the center on its official Facebook page

**Community**

## Protesters block roadways in Tobruk due to sewage overflow swamping

Protesters openly expressed their dissatisfaction of sewage swamps flooding the city of Tobruk and the consequential spreading of several diseases linked to open sewage, by blocking many roads in the city center.

The protesters openly criticized the Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR) in Tobruk, Aqeela Saleh, along with the Head of the High Council of State (HCS) Khalid Al-Mishri, the head of the Presidential Council (PC) Fayez Al-Sarraj and Khalifa Haftar.








The protesters said that they will continue their protests to uproot all current officials due to their total failure to meet citizens' demands.



weather



## Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 11	33°/24°		Sunny	10%	E 22 km/h
Sat 12	33°/24°		Sunny	10%	ENE 19 km/h
Sun 13	31°/23°		Sunny	10%	NE 18 km/h
Mon 14	30°/23°		Sunny	20%	NE 18 km/h
Tue 15	30°/23°		Sunny	20%	NE 18 km/h
Wed 16	31°/24°		Sunny	10%	ENE 17 km/h
Thu 17	32°/24°		Sunny	10%	ENE 16 km/h

## Photo of the Week: Horse Racing, Tripoli





Features

# The Darghut Mosque



With the expansion of the Ottoman Empire on the Libyan territory in the 16th century, the new rulers gave great interest and priority to mosque construction.

The Darghut Mosque in Tripoli is another example of the Ottoman style mosques that represent an important feature of the city's cultural identity.

The mosque, which still stands proudly in the heart of the Old City of Tripoli the (Medina), was built around 1560, by the Ottoman governor, Draghut Reis; one of the greatest figures in Turkish naval history who recaptured the city of Tripoli in 1551, from the Knights of Saint John, commonly known as the Knights Hospitaller.

Commander Draghut was then appointed as governor of Tripoli by the Ottoman administration, which was the Islamic Caliphate at the time, and it was an Ottoman custom for the rulers to build their own mosque after gaining victory in a holy war.

His reign was marked by important achievements, notably, in architecture and construction, and among them was his mosque, which he built in the area near "Bab al-Bahr" in central Tripoli.

The mosque was built in a T-shape design, exhibiting an architectural appearance similar to the mosques found in Anatolia. It features a prayer hall divided into three sections with a total area of 438 meters, besides minarets, domes, and arches as classic Muslim worship houses.

The main prayer hall centers a rectangle courtyard containing five corridors with twelve columns holding up twenty round-shaped domes. The domes are decorated with calligraphy, etched with verses from the Quran and adorned with plants and flowers, in addition to a small dome topping the minbar (pulpit).

The other two prayer halls consist of three corridors skyed by 12 domes resting on Roman-style columns.

Like classic Ottoman-built mosques, the building contains other facilities, such as the mausoleums of its founder, Draghut Reis who martyred in a battle against the Hospitallers in the Great Siege of Malta in 1565, in addition to a fountain and a minaret which was remodeled by Iskander Pasha in 1602.

The current construction of the mosque contains some differences from the original building, as it was damaged during World War II, and had to undergo some reconstruction works.

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