

Politics

## Erdogan calls for confronting "the putschist Haftar"

The Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called on the international community to back up legitimacy in Libya against the "putschist Khalifa Haftar".

Erdogan's remarks came in a televised statement on Monday as he explained that fighting Coronavirus outbreak as well as regional security, especially in Libya and



Syria were the main issues discussed by his government in a Monday virtual meeting.

"Turkey is going to continue to spoil conspiracies in the Mediterranean by the rule of law and by defending its interests." He added.

Erdogan also said that the upset of some countries about the Libyan-Turkish MoU in maritime boundaries in the Mediterranean remained obvious despite the fact that Turkey had completed the legal work of the MoU by informing the UN about all of its details.

He indicated that on the ground, the latest gains of Government of National Accord's forces show the real face of the putschist Haftar, urging again the international community to support the legitimate government against him.

"The commander was gathering Chadian mercenaries to recruit them for fighting for Haftar's forces after transferring them to Jufra." Commander of security and protection force of Sirte-Jufra liberation room, Abdelhamid Abu Zayan, who added that preliminary investigations showed that the recruiter was offering 3000 dinars a week for mercenaries to fight for Haftar's forces.

Politics

## Democracy and Human Rights Foundation contracts US law firm to sue Haftar



The President of the Democracy and Human Rights Foundation, Emadeddin Muntasser, has revealed that his foundation has contracted a US law firm in order to sue Khalifa Haftar for airstrikes on the Military College in Tripoli in January 2020.

Muntasser said on his Facebook page that McCue and Partners LLP has been retained to evaluate all the legal options available to prosecute and hold responsible Haftar for this crime.

"In order to protect democracy, freedom, and human rights, those who violate international law must be brought to justice." He added.

Muntasser added that Haftar stands accused of numerous war crimes and must be held accountable, adding that his US-based Foundation has been pursuing Haftar and other human rights violators for six years and have filed complaints with the ICC, EU, and the US government.

"Our pioneering work has laid the foundation for many of the civil cases now pending in the US and in Europe against Haftar and his sponsors." Muntasser added.

Meanwhile, Managing Partner of McCue and Partners LLP, Matthew Jury, said the law firm is renowned for its protection of victims of international crimes and other human rights violations and has pioneered groundbreaking legal actions against rogue regimes, their financiers, and sponsors.

Muntasser also said his Foundation is in direct contact with families of the victims and calls for anyone with information or evidence to incriminate the perpetrators to contact the foundation in order to do the families of the victims some justice.

Politics

## Chadian rebel party accuses Haftar of assassinating its leader

The Chadian opposition Republican Party has accused "criminal forces of Khalifa Haftar" of ordering a hit on their leader Gorbali Nakour and his bodyguard.

The party said that the assassination was carried out on April 18 by Haftar's forces, adding that an investigation had been opened to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The leader of the party was a close friend to Haftar as many of the party's fighters had taken part in the war in Libya since the beginning of Haftar's military operations in Benghazi in May 2014, knowing that they are still participating in Haftar's offensive on Tripoli.

Haftar has been using thousands of African mercenaries, mainly from Chad and Sudan, to fight alongside his forces.

Meanwhile, Libyan Army forces killed scores of mercenaries in airstrikes on and clashes against Haftar's forces, in addition to capturing many of them, including commanders tasked with recruiting mercenaries; the last of whom was a Chadian leader in western Sirte.



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Politics

## Algerian diplomat withdraws candidacy for the post of UN envoy to Libya



The former Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra has ruled himself out from the list of the UN Secretary General for replacing Ghassan Salame as new Libya envoy and Head of UNSMIL.

In a statement to the Algerian press, Lamamra said he had been invited on March 07 by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to take the post, adding that he had given his agreement in principle.

"However, the consultations carried out by Guterres since then do not seem likely to result in the unanimity of the Security Council," Lamamra announced, saying such a unanimity would be very essential for the success of the reconciliation and peace process in Libya.

He said he would therefore be calling the Secretary General to withdraw his candidacy for this post.

Diplomatic sources reported earlier that Guterres had already begun searching for a new envoy, due to the US refusal to back Lamamra.

The UN previous envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salame, quit in early March following the repeated failure of efforts to restore peace and put to effect a ceasefire, although he said his resignation was for health reasons.



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## EU official holds Haftar fully responsible for the crisis in Libya



The Head of the European (EU) mission for the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union, Andrea Cozzolino, has held Khalifa Haftar fully responsible for the ongoing aggression in Libya due to his continuing attack on the capital, Tripoli.

Cozzolino said, in a press statement, that "the responsibility for what is happening in Libya lies largely with Haftar, who tried to attack Tripoli", adding that the EU views the actions of Turkey in a very good light.

He added that the Turkish government in cooperation with the Government of National Accord had advanced the peace process in Libya, stressing the need for, "Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt to advise Haftar to pursue dialogue, to end the crisis in Libya".

Politics

## AU: EU IRINI must cover all Libyan borders



The African Union (AU) Commissioner for Peace and Security Smaïl Chergui has emphasized that the EU's operation IRINI implemented to enforce the arms embargo on Libya must be transparent and includes all borders of Libya.

"It is of the utmost importance to deal with all those involved in violating the arms embargo on Libya and continue to interfere in its internal affairs," Chergui stressed.

He added that the United Nations and those who participated in the Berlin conference should compel the warring parties to end hostilities, in order to address the health crisis caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

## OCHA documents 23 attacks on health facilities in one year



The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Libya has documented 23 attacks on health facilities in Libya in one year, nine of these attacks occurred in the last four months. The new figures were published via the OCHA Twitter account, without mentioning the party responsible for these offensives.

The OCHA referred in its statement to the targeting of two hospitals; one in Ain Zara district and the other located in Trek al Shok area, all of which in Tripoli.

It further indicated that attacks on health facilities since April 2019 have killed 80 people and injured 61 others.

## Russia urges EU to obtain UN endorsement for naval mission IRINI off Libya's coast

Russia has called on the European Union to obtain an approval from the UN Security Council for the naval mission, IRINI, to monitor the implementation of Libya's arms embargo in the Mediterranean.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, speaking Tuesday via video link to members of the Gorchakov Club for public diplomacy, said the EU's unwillingness to brief the UN on the details of the operation raises questions.

Praising the idea of monitoring compliance as noble, Lavrov added that Russia had told its European friends that the EU must come to the UN Security Council and say: "the UN Security Council announced the arms embargo, we – the European Union – want to make another special operation to monitor compliance with the embargo, so we ask the Security Council to support our approach."

He added that the fact that the EU is trying to avoid submitting its ideas to the UN Security Council raises questions about the reasons for this position.

The EU launched IRINI this month to monitor the implementation of the arms embargo in Libya, which was criticized by Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) authorities that said the mission "is against the GNA as it doesn't include monitor land or air activities, which make up the majority of Haftar's foreign military support."



**Economy**

## Economy Minister calls for exemption of factories from Covid-19 lock-down



The Ministry of Economy and Industry has called on the government to exempt factories and production units, from the lock-down enforced on the background of the Covid-19 epidemic, and to allow them to carry out their operations in accordance with their functioning system.

The Economy Minister, Ali Al-Issawi, wrote a letter in this regard, to the ministers of interior and health, who head the anti-coronavirus supreme committee.

Al-Issawi stressed that locking down factories and production units will negatively affect the stocks of local-made goods and will drive the prices up in the local market as the month of Ramadan approaches.

**Economy**

## Oil and gas losses exceed \$ 4 billion USD, NOC says



The forced decline in oil and gas production has caused the loss of more than \$ 4.1 billion USD since January 17th, with current oil production in Libya down at 80,510 barrels per day, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) has said.

"The closure of oil facilities has led to the suspension of the Zawia refinery, which forced the NOC to increase its hydrocarbon imports to meet the basic needs of the people," the company stated.

It indicated that most of the oil and gas tanks have been damaged due to the halting of oil operations and are considered now out of service.

**Economy**

## GNA tentatively agrees on subsidies cuts and reviews accompanying measures



The Government of National Accord (GNA) initially agreed on Monday, to cut subsidies on fuel, but at the same time to activate other benefits, such as the family allowance, the wife and children grant, pension adjustment and support, allowances for job seekers, and financial benefits for families of martyrs.

This came in a meeting chaired by the head of the Presidential Council, Fayez Al-Sarraj, in the presence of his deputies and ministers.

The government officials had an extensive discussion on the issue and ways of mitigating its effects on citizens.

**Economy**

## 17,000 workers lost their jobs due to stalled businesses after 2011, authorities declare

The Ministry of Labour has said that data of employees affected by distressed businesses, which had pulled out of Libya since 2011 had been transferred to the Financial Settlement Fund of the Ministry of Finance.

According to a statement published by the ministry on Facebook on Monday, the number of those affected amounts to 17,000 workers.

It indicated that 14,000 of them were active in national companies, while 3,000 worked for foreign companies that withdrew from the local market, due to security conditions following the uprising of 2011.

It may be important to note that the number of job seekers in Libya last year amounted to 118,000, according to previous data from the Labour Ministry.



**Economy**

## Tripoli Center Municipality calls for financial aid to help businesses withstand Covid-19



The Municipality of Tripoli Center has submitted a proposal to the Presidential Council (PC) to allocate 500 dinars per month, as a minimum, for small business owners, to help stave off the economic effects of coronavirus.

It explained that this intends to help business owners hurt by the coronavirus epidemic to overcome the difficult circumstances resulting from the curfew.

According to the municipality, around 3,000 businesses have been forced to close their doors because of the epidemic outbreak, according to the licenses registered within the municipality.

It indicated that this aid project will require around half a million Libyan dinars per month.

**Economy**

## Economy Ministry condemns Haftar's attack against largest trade area in Libya



The Ministry of Economy and Industry has condemned the bombing of the largest commercial foodstuff complex in Libya, in Karimiya district, despite there are no military sites in this area.

In a statement, the Ministry demanded that the case be referred to domestic and international courts to make sure that such acts do not go unpunished, calling on the United Nations to take a firm and clear stance on this attack.

Haftar's militias bombed Karimiya district last week, resulting in several fires in a number of commodity stores in the area.

Opinions

## Libya's economic future can be bright

By Robert Quartly-Janeiro FRGS, Director – EMEA, Export Action Global

As fighting continues south of Tripoli and the political endgame remains unknown, it can be easy to forget that Libya's economic future is a bright one.

Not being naive there are of course challenges: too many people have died and the country's position on the international stage has experienced sharp inclines and falls over the past decade. However, both domestically and within the international community, greater recognition is needed in order to see Libya not as a nation in crisis but one on an important transition.

For the wider MENA region and European Union alike, a prosperous Libya is not just desirable and obtainable in the medium term - even if that isn't the prevailing view - it is vitally important for regional security and prosperity that Libya emerges as a wealthy, sustainable, and important regional actor.

Whilst economic performance in recent years has been declined at best and outright negative at worst; an economy that has seen its GDP fall from USD \$81.8Bn early in the decade to \$43Bn in 2018, mean unemployment of 18%, falling foreign direct investment (sub 2% of GDP in a shrinking economy), and challenging inflation - not helped by money being printed outside the country and shipped in - to name just a few indicators. Yet dive deeper and the fundamentals are much better.

As Richard Nield, Middle East consultant and economist explains "One thing often forgotten is how offshore production, operated by ENI, has remained constant in the face of fighting and political changes, and that prior at its peak the country was producing 1.6m barrels per day - so the production potential remains large." To that end, Libya is losing tens of millions every day, the same revenue needed to rebuild it.

Moreover, in the pursuit of economic revival, building a diversified economy built on improved infrastructure, trade, and domestic spending is the path to travel, such as utilising Libya's geographic position as a gateway to Africa and Southern Europe for trade; making the most of trade zone like Misrata, and incredible port capacity in Marsa al Brega and elsewhere - competing internationally on price and reliability to do so.

To support it, building ambitious railway infrastructure that extends not just internally from Tripoli to Benghazi - and the stops in-between - but outwards to Tunisia, Egypt, and the south is important for freight and repositioning underdeveloped and underutilised tourism potential. With Rome's lasting architectural legacy waiting to be visited past plans for 'tourist cities' suitable for 1m visitors - 10x present numbers - needs to be dusted off.

Airports need full functionality again, modernised, and then new routes opened - allowing the UN to control them in would ensure stability and trust, and worth the controversy of doing so. Entirely new healthcare infrastructure implemented nationwide with R&DT facilities to back it up. In a thirst for a bright economic future the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System must be supported with water desalination and investment across the country - groundwater won't last forever.

Elsewhere, further renewable energy investment needs prioritising to ensure energy generation for the future as well as to encourage green technology firms to come to Libya, either invited or procured, to kick-start an emerging technology sector. A more prevalent digital economy is a must as internet penetration can only increase.

Encouraging oil majors to return will help finance economic change, and there is nothing to say that with the right investment at home and abroad across alternatives, liquid, and fixed assets that the Libyan Investment Authority (LIS) - buoyed by growth at home - cannot be as important as Norway's wealth fund Norges in ensuring wealth is shared across the population for schools, education, and in peoples' pockets in "helicopter money" - real spending leading to domestic demand.

Before the fear of paying for all this occurs, just think: Libya has one of the lowest debt to GDP ratios in the world, Africa's largest oil reserves, a relatively young population, tremendous natural resources, and a determination to achieve more than the status quo. If it didn't then what has been the point of this national transition?

Institutionally, organisations like the LIS are structurally important for the future as Nield further comments "If the 2011 uprising was the beginning of rehabilitation for Libya, then the institutions it needs to prosper, such as the National Oil Corporation or the National Bank of Libya, have remained intact." As a 2006 IMF paper Levers for Growth favourably explains, countries like South Korea and Singapore had very weak institutions on their path to economic success - Libya is way ahead of those respective starting points.

Via a mix of investment, increasing trade, encouraging & protecting FDI, building great firms at home, greater goods-services from abroad and putting wealth in Libyan's hands will all push economic reform. In time, stability will return, tourists too, and economic performance will drive greater opportunity.

Libya's economic future can be bright, and the transition to that end requires time, self-belief, enthusiasm, vision, and planning.

**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

### National Center for Disease Control receives modern appliances to detect Covid-19



The Ministry of Health said that it had delivered three modern devices to the National Center for Disease Control, to be used in PCR examination for detecting the Covid-19.

The center received a shipment of laboratory supplies, which consisted of fifty thousand pieces of kit used for taking Nasal Swab and one hundred thousand pieces of other sample tools, including, BIO SPEEDY COVID-19 Qpcr Detection Kit and BIO SPEEDY Viral Nucleic acid Isolation Kit (BS-NA-109-100), as said by the Health Ministry.

Health

### UN dispatches medical aid to Libya in support of confronting Covid-19



The United Nations has sent medical aid to Libya to support the government in its efforts in tackling the Coronavirus in the country.

The UN emphasized via its official page on Facebook that there has been great coordination between Libyan authorities, the African Union (AU), and the UN in delivering the critical Covid19 medical supplies and protective equipment to the country.

It explained that the UN solidarity flights are part of a series of flights across 95 countries to support local authorities against the Coronavirus pandemic.

Health

### Libya receives medical aid from Turkey



Deputy Minister of Health, Muhammad Haitham confirmed that ten municipalities in the south had received medical equipment to open specialized laboratories, in order to conduct analyzes for suspected coronavirus cases.

The ministry posted on its official Facebook page pictures of the ceremony held in this regard, attended by several mayors of related municipalities.

Haitham said that the new supplies will raise the readiness of hospitals located in the south, as part of efforts to combat the spread of Covid-19.

Health

### UNICEF: Ongoing fighting hinders efforts against Covid-19



UNICEF has warned that it would be impossible to fight Covid-19 while fighting is still going on, especially in Tripoli.

In a statement issued by its Executive Director, the organization said that despite a month on from the Secretary General's appeal, violent conflict continues to be waged in parts of Libya.

It underscored that a ceasefire could mean the difference between life and death for children living through these waking nightmares.

"A ceasefire would open space for vulnerable populations to access essential services like healthcare services that are key to stopping a pandemic," UNICEF stated.

Health

### Scientific committee calls for facilitating measures to tackle Covid-19

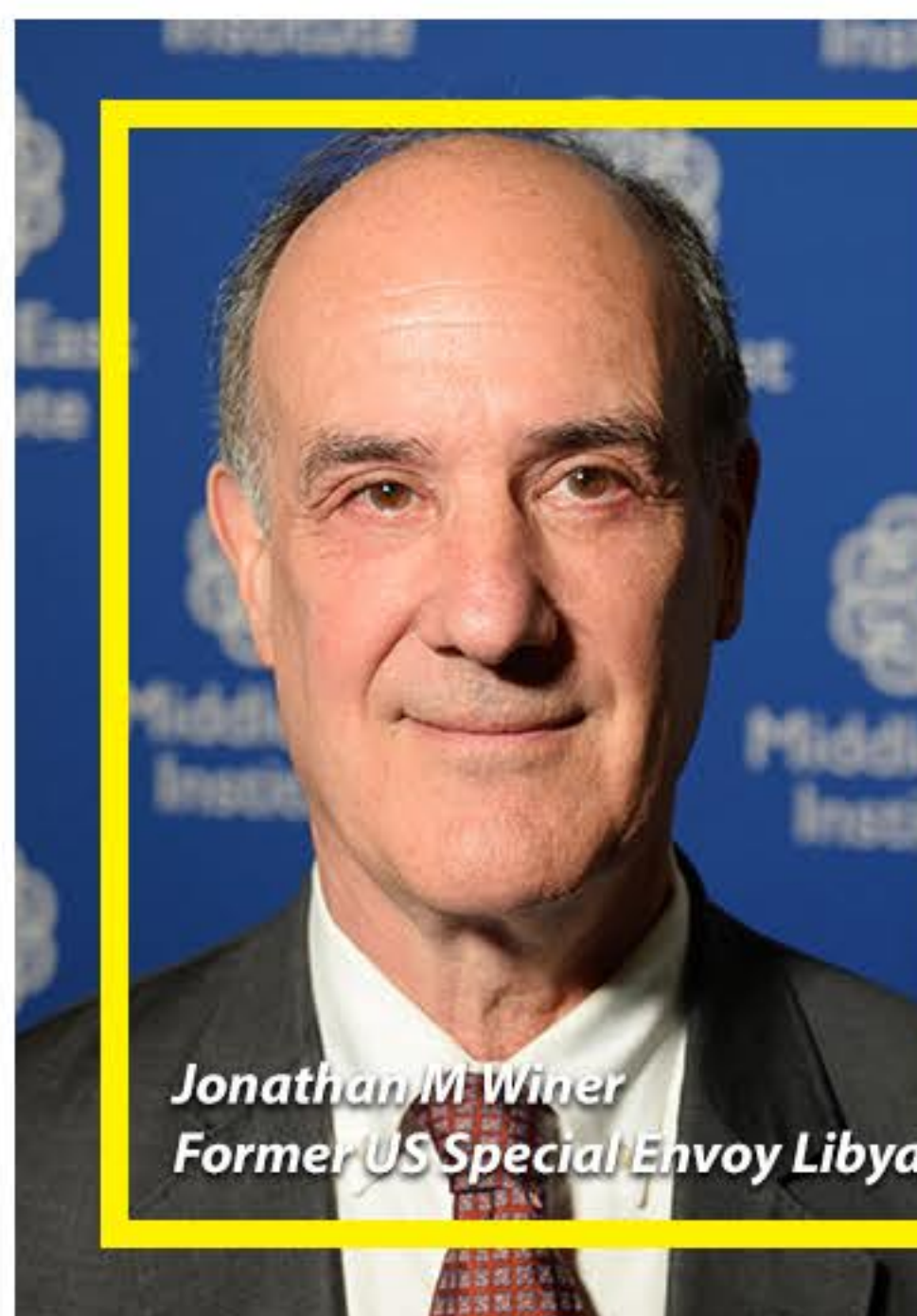


The scientific advisory committee for combating the Coronavirus pandemic has called on the High Council of State to urgently help facilitate some necessary procedures that would help tackle the Covi-19 outbreak.

The committee called for facilitating the importing of medical supplies and equipment and granting permission for payment of salaries to new doctors, noting that more than 16,000 new doctors are providing medical services on a daily basis, without remuneration.

During its meeting with the HCS, the scientific committee said it is in the process of issuing a protocol on how to deal with late-stage patients, noting that a sub-committee specialized in this field will be formed very soon.

quote



The bombing must be terrifying. Wish we could stop it now. Haftar believes attacking Libyan civilians has no consequences for him and will break the will of those resisting. I think he will lose these gambles. But for world to know what's taking place, keep reporting the truth.

Health

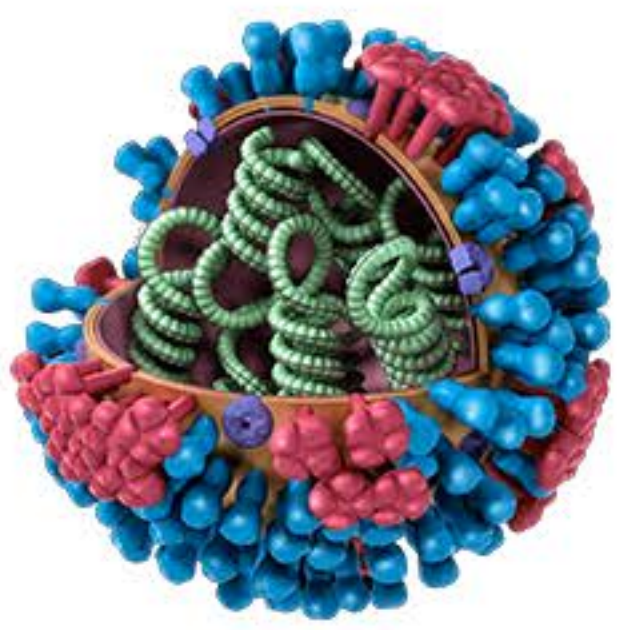
### Health Ministry: Pandemic situation not so bad nor safe



Libya's Health Minister, Ahmed bin Omar has said that the situation in the country "is not so bad, but not very comforting," when speaking on Covid-19 developments.

At a joint press conference with the supreme anti coronavirus committee and the scientific committee, Bin Omar urged citizens to adhere to the precautionary measures, so as to slow down the spread of the virus in the country.

The Libyan authorities announced on Wednesday a total lockdown for ten days, with more restrictive measures put in place.



## Q&A on coronaviruses (COVID-19)

### How can my family and I prepare for COVID-19?

Create a household plan of action to help protect your health and the health of those you care about in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 in your community:

- Talk with the people who need to be included in your plan, and discuss what to do if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs in your community.
- Plan ways to care for those who might be at greater risk for serious complications, particularly older adults and those with severe chronic medical conditions like heart, lung or kidney disease.
- Make sure they have access to several weeks of medications and supplies in case you need to stay home for prolonged periods of time.
- Get to know your neighbors and find out if your neighborhood has a website or social media page to stay connected.
- Create a list of local organizations that you and your household can contact in the event you need access to information, healthcare services, support, and resources.
- Create an emergency contact list of family, friends, neighbors, carpool drivers, health care providers, teachers, employers, the local public health department, and other community resources.

### What steps can my family take to reduce our risk of getting COVID-19?

Practice everyday preventive actions to help reduce your risk of getting sick and remind everyone in your home to do the same. These actions are especially important for older adults and people who have severe chronic medical conditions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles).

Launder items, including washable plush toys, as appropriate and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry from an ill person can be washed with other people's items.

### How can I prepare for COVID-19 at work?

Plan for potential changes at your workplace. Talk to your employer about their emergency operations plan, including sick-leave policies and telework options.

Am I at risk if I go to a funeral or visitation service for someone who died of COVID-19?

There is currently no known risk associated with being in the same room at a funeral or visitation service with the body of someone who died of COVID-19.

### What cleaning products should I use to protect against COVID-19?

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks. If surfaces are dirty, clean them using detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection. To disinfect, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work.

### Should I make my own hand sanitizer if I can't find it in the stores?

CDC recommends handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or, using alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when soap and water are not available. These actions are part of everyday preventive actions individuals can take to slow the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

### What temperature kills the virus that causes COVID-19?

Generally coronaviruses survive for shorter periods at higher temperatures and higher humidity than in cooler or dryer environments. However, we don't have direct data for this virus, nor do we have direct data for a temperature-based cutoff for inactivation at this point. The necessary temperature would also be based on the materials of the surface, the environment, etc.

weather

**TRIPOLI WEATHER FORECAST**



DAY		DESCRIPTION	HIGH / LOW	PRECIP	WIND	HUMIDITY
FRI APR 24		AM Showers	14°/4°	60%	ENE 19 km/h	77%
SAT APR 25		Partly Cloudy	17°/4°	10%	NE 18 km/h	59%
SUN APR 26		Partly Cloudy	17°/7°	20%	SE 14 km/h	54%
MON APR 27		Partly Cloudy	20°/12°	20%	S 28 km/h	58%
TUE APR 28		Scattered Thunderstorms	20°/9°	50%	WSW 26 km/h	74%
WED APR 29		Showers/Wind	15°/6°	40%	NNW 39 km/h	70%
THU APR 30		Partly Cloudy	19°/8°	10%	NW 25 km/h	62%

**Photo of the Week**



Features

# The majestic Gaberoun desert lake



The Gaberoun Lake is an inspiring natural art formed deep in the Libyan Desert, which managed to survive the Great Sahara's harsh conditions and sand effects throughout the age.

The lake stands as a precious blue diamond amid the golden dunes, with palm trees on one side and on the ruins of the old village on the other.

Its unique features made it one of the rarest lakes in the world; the gaseous water and the high salt content that levels to nearly five times more saline to seawater enables swimmers to float easily, without any effort, even when throwing in tons of iron, the metal remains floating on the surface.

It is also deemed for some as a destination for medical treatment, but amazingly beside the lake you can dig up by hand, some cool fresh water, which explains the growing palm trees on its side. All that and more, makes of it a top tourist attraction in Libya.

The lake is about 7.5 meters deep, oddly cooler on the surface than it is in a metre and half below, where it becomes significantly hotter as water depth increases.

The visit to Gaberoun oasis is one of the greatest things one could plan for. It is best enjoyed in October. you can start off from Tkrkiba village, which is the nearest residential point of the lake, or you can take off from Ubari town, all starting points include equipped cars and professional drivers who will ride you through a sea of sand, ups, and downs on the dunes that may reach the height of ten meters and more, and then after a thirty to forty kilometre drive you will find yourself over a high sand dune with the gorgeous view of the lake.

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