

Politics

## Haftar faces new US court proceedings for Tripoli military college killings

Africa Intelligence website said the Libyan American Alliance, chaired by Esam Omeish, is gearing up to deal another legal blow against Khalifa Haftar and has appointed as legal counsel for the plaintiffs lawyer Miya Griggs, who is close to the group. The French website added that the plaintiffs are suing Haftar in the US state of Virginia and are seeking millions of dollars over a January 2020 attack on a military academy in Tripoli.

It said that alongside Ashraf Wajih Nubani, Griggs is representing three relatives of people who died on 4 January 2020 in a bombing raid on the military academy in Tripoli, when the capital was under siege by Haftar's forces.

"The plaintiffs – Othman Bin Amara, Anas Al-Tayra and Miftah Al-Haris – are seeking \$10m in compensatory damages and \$10m in punitive damages for extrajudicial killings and torture. The case will be heard in the States by Judge Rossie David Alston Jr. whom then president Donald Trump appointed in in June 2019." Africa Intelligence added.

It also indicated that the new proceedings, which were launched on 15 September, came two months after Haftar was ordered to pay damages to relatives of victims in three other cases in which he was accused of war crimes. All proceedings were adjudicated in Virginia, where Haftar – who has US citizenship – owns homes and businesses.

Politics

## Militia member close to ICC-sought Al-Werfalli shot dead

A militia member loyal to rogue military commander Khalifa Haftar has been shot dead in an attack in central Benghazi.

Residents in the Al-Birka area of Benghazi woke up to a new round of clashes in their neighbourhood on Tuesday after two militia factions -both loyal to Haftar- exchanged fire with various weaponry.

The deceased, identified as Ahmed al-Arabi and nicknamed Hamadika, was known for his close ties with Mahmoud Al-Werfalli, a senior military figure who was allied with Haftar.

Before his killing in March last year, Al-Werfalli was on the International Criminal Court and Interpol list for committing war crimes and carrying out summary executions.

According to local sources, the clashes erupted in central Benghazi after a force of the Saiqa militia led by Saif Asnedel stormed the headquarters of the 20/20 group of the militia Tariq bin Ziyad.

There was no immediate statement on other casualties.

Politics

## Mine blast kills two, injures a third in Mizda

A landmine explosion near Mizda town in Mount Nafousa on Wednesday claimed two lives and left another in wounds, the Ambulance and Emergency Services confirms.

One of the deceased died at the site, while the other succumbed to his wounds later at Mizdah General Hospital.

There was no immediate statement from the emergency service about the condition of the wounded person.

Last month, a landmine took the life of a civilian and the limbs of another in the Ain Zara neighbourhood south of Tripoli. A separate explosion in the same neighbourhood left two children injured, also in October.

Three years after Khalifa Haftar's offensive on the capital, landmines planted by Haftar's militias and Russian mercenaries before their ouster from southern Tripoli remain a threat to the residents of these areas.

A report by Human Rights Watch last April confirmed the death of at least 130 people, mostly civilians, due to landmines and unexploded ordnance left over from heavy fighting in 2020.

Politics

## Al-Haddad discusses with military leaders developing the military institution

The Chief of the General Staff of the Libyan Army, Mohammed Al-Haddad, has held a meeting with the specific chiefs of staff, a number of commanders of the military regions, heads of bodies and directors of military departments.

The meeting, which was held at the Tripoli Naval Base, on Tuesday, discussed the problems and difficulties facing the wounded in military operations and the challenges facing the implementation of the plan to rebuild and develop the military institution.

The participants reviewed the efforts of the units that participated in the implementation of the military maneuver "Hurricane 1", urging the need to work for the military institution to be at the level that qualifies it to protect the homeland and the people, and to defend the state's civility.

They also stressed the need to preserve the military institution, its property and rights, stop the attacks on the headquarters of military units, and follow up on the fulfillment and guarantee of the rights of the institution and its members.



Politics

## Haftar mulls another war, says he is close to taking a decisive decision

In a new threat, the rogue military commander, Khalifa Haftar, says that he is "close to taking a decisive decision to determine the path towards restoring the state."

In a speech delivered during a visit to the Al-Jufra region, Haftar, who is approaching his eighties, said he is ready to wage another war "to liberate the country" if peaceful efforts to expel foreign forces fail.

"We will move in line with the will of the Libyan people after all previous tracks brought us to a dead end and disappointing results."

He urged the Libyan people to uphold the right to self-determination and not to pin their hopes on foreign agendas, hinting that specific parties want to prolong the crisis with "flimsy pretexts and suspicious initiatives."

Ironically, Haftar, who -according to UN reports- sought help from Chadian, Sudanese, Syrian, and Russian mercenaries to take over the western region in April 2019, is demanding the removal of all foreign forces from Libyan territory, warning that if peaceful efforts fail, he will lead a decisive battle to liberate the country.

As he put it, the current landscape in Libya has changed and calls for a radical change are growing louder.

"The Libyan people, who waited so long and sacrificed so much, will not allow those who put their interests above the nation's to reap the dividends."

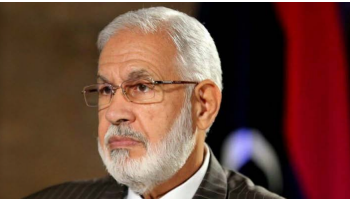
Haftar said he welcomes all UN resolutions that support the Libyan people in their adherence to the principle of national sovereignty and in the path they choose to build their state and address their issues.

He welcomed the UN envoy and lauded his call that any initiative to resolve the Libyan crisis must emanate from the Libyan people themselves, as they are the primary stakeholders in this scene.

Haftar vowed to facilitate the UN envoy's tasks 'if he proves himself independent, impartial, and free of external pressure.'

Politics

## Former FM Siyala taken into custody



The Public Prosecutor has ordered former foreign minister Mohamed Siyala to be taken into custody pending investigations in a case involving the improper exercise of public service during his term of office that led to the squandering of over 4.5 million US dollars. Siyala served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Libya in the internationally-backed Government of National Accord from 2016 to 2021.

The 79-year-old needs to refute allegations that some government officials of Libya's mission in Turkey committed illegal acts upon his orders.

According to the prosecutor, a sum of 1,520,385 US dollars destined for a specific program was channeled for another purpose, which caused considerable financial harm to the mission's financial system.

The office also detected irregularities worth \$2,850,000 that an executive body used upon a process authorized by Siyala.

The statement says that some unauthorized individuals have received from this work, material benefits unpermitted by the law.

Siyala was arrested last Thursday upon his arrival at the Mitiga International Airport from The Hague, as he was among a delegation dispatched by the Presidential Council, a source from the Public Prosecutor's office told the media.

The source noted that Siyala was released at the time with a guarantee of appearance before the Public Prosecution on Sunday.

Politics

## Head of Presidential Council: Transitional periods have prolonged Libya's crisis



The Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, said in his speech at the Arab League summit in Algeria that the continuation of the transitional periods does not reflect the aspirations of the Libyan people to build their state, nor does it serve their desire for permanent stability.

Menfi stressed that transitional periods prolong and aggravate crises, saying that they stand as a barrier the right to vote for all Libyans, reiterating the need to direct any dialogue toward the implementation of the road map emanating from the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum. He reaffirmed the necessity for strengthening political legitimacy through parliamentary and presidential elections as per a clear constitutional basis.

He called for keeping away from acts that increase divisions in Libya in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council, and in line with the resolutions of the Arab League, urging the House of Representatives and the High Council of State to agree on establishing a constitutional basis for free and fair elections to be held as soon as possible.

Menfi called for adopting a unified Arab position toward the situation in Libya, especially regarding the departure of all foreign mercenaries and forces from Libya, stopping negative and unconstructive interventions, and supporting the democratic path and the peaceful circulation of power.

He outlined the Presidential Council's role in leading national reconciliation efforts in preparation for a peaceful and democratic transition of the legislative and executive authorities through parliamentary and presidential elections. He also hailed the regional efforts lining up with the work of the Presidential Council in order to launch the national reconciliation project, which he said "represents the most important basis for supporting all tracks to reach the desired stability and peace in Libya."

Menfi urged Arab League member states to support the Presidential Council by exercising its role in building bridges of confidence among Libyans, along with the role played by the United Nations, the African Union, and regional and international organizations.

The Head of Presidential Council underscored the need to address economic issues, which are highly important components of the crisis in Libya, given the non-diversified rentier nature of the Libyan economy. He said public funds must be kept away from the political conflict, urging for ensuring fair and rationalized spending.



## Tunisian companies express desire to resume their work in Libya

The Ambassador of Tunisia to Libya, Al-Assaad Al-Ajili, has stated that some Tunisian companies, which have stalled projects in Libya, wish to return and resume their work, including the state-owned Sumtra company.

This came during his meeting with the Minister of Housing and Construction in the Government of National Unity, Abu Bakr Al-Ghawi, at the ministry's office on Tuesday, according to the ministry's statement on its Facebook page.

The Tunisian ambassador requested a joint meeting between the Tunisian Ministry of Equipment and Housing, the Ministry of Housing and the Housing and Utilities Projects Implementation Agency to discuss the possibility of returning these companies and resuming work on the contracted projects.

Economy



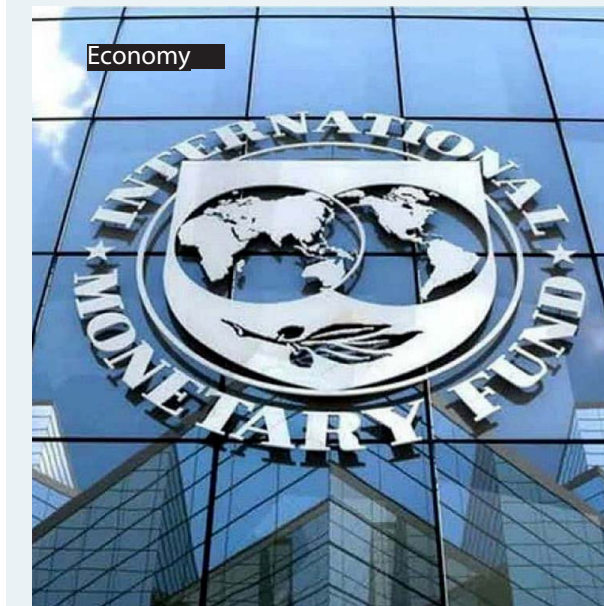
## Bin Qadara says studying gas pipeline project with Greece, another pipeline with Egypt

The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat bin Qadara, said that the NOC is studying the idea of a gas pipeline project to connect with Greece and another pipeline to Damietta in Egypt, in addition to the current pipeline between Libya and Italy.

Speaking to CNBC Arabic on the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) in Abu Dhabi, bin Qadara added that Libya's current production amounts to 3 trillion cubic feet of gas, and most of it is consumed locally, adding that Libya's natural gas reserves are estimated at about 80 trillion cubic feet.

Bin Qadara said that Libya is about to sign with the Italian company Eni to invest between 6 and 8 billion dollars for research and exploration in fields in the Mediterranean and western Libya, and indicated that the country's oil production will reach the level of 3 million barrels within two or three years. He explained that Libya will spend this year about 4 billion dollars on investments and between 12 and 15 billion dollars next year with foreign partners, without ruling out Libya's joining the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Organization (EMGO), which includes Egypt, Greece, Greek Cyprus, Jordan, Italy, Palestine, and Israel.

Economy



## Libya to record fastest growing economy in Middle East in 2023, IMF expects

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has expected that Libya will record the fastest economic growth in 2023, at 17.9%, while the oil economy will grow by about 22%.

The Fund stated in a report that the rise in crude oil prices and the strong growth of non-oil GDP are offsetting the impact of rising food prices due to the Russian-Ukrainian war.

Due to the production cuts decided by the OPEC + group, and with the decline in oil prices, the growth of the economies of the oil countries will decline by 3.5%, the report added.

It also indicated that inflation in the Middle East and North Africa regions for 2023 will range between 12.1% and 11.2%, compared to 2022, in which it ranged between 11% and 8.6%.

Economy



Economy

## Al-Kabir participates in Annual Conference of Mediterranean Central Banks

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, has participated in the seventh Annual Conference of Mediterranean Central Banks, which was held at the regional headquarters of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Istanbul, according to the CBL media office.

In a speech during the conference, Al Kabir spoke about the role of banks in light of the existing global challenges, and the importance of coordination between monetary and fiscal policy to curb inflation. He also pointed out the need for central banks to operate with more flexible and independent monetary policies, while ensuring full coordination between economic policies.



Economy

## Libya agrees with Italy's Eni, UK's BP to produce gas in the Mediterranean

The Chairman of the Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) Farhat bin Qadara said he had agreed with Italian oil company Eni and United Kingdom's company British Petroleum (BP) to start drilling and production of natural gas in the Mediterranean, a field that is similar to Dahr field in Egypt but with larger reserves.

Bengdara told Sky News Arabia on the sidelines of Abu Dhabi International Petroleum's Exhibition that Eni will invest 8 billion dollars to develop the natural gas field in west Libya, saying the field reserves will be announced after starting production operations, which will soon have a set date. He reiterated that confirmed Libyan gas reserves are more than 80 trillion square feet.

Bin Qadara expected that Libya would achieve oil revenues ranging between 35 and 37 billion dollars by the end of this year, the highest since 2013, and stressed that the country needs investments of 4 billion dollars annually to maintain the volume of oil production.

He reiterated that the NOC is working on a plan to increase production to 2 million barrels in a period of three to five years, adding that this is an opportunity to maintain and modernize the infrastructure, whether the gas or oil pipelines, or tanks, in addition to developing the infrastructure of the fields.



Economy

THE ABU DHABI CEO ROUNDTABLE 2022

## Investing in renewable energy sector is one of NOC priorities, Bin Qadara says

The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat bin Qadara, has stressed that investing in the renewable energies sector is one of the corporation's priorities, in addition to stability in supporting the oil and gas sector, especially in light of the current crisis in global markets.

This came in his speech at the Abu Dhabi World Future Energy Summit, which was also attended by major energy institutions and oil and gas companies, hosted by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

Bin Qadara said that the strategy of the board of directors of the NOC supports leading a practical and realistic transformation in the field of energy, pointing out that the NOC will work with its international partners to implement these visions and turn them into a reality, as he put it.



Opinions

# What is the impact of the London meeting on the Libyan crisis?

By **Senussi Bsaikri**, a Libyan writer, researcher, and political analyst



Last Friday, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Italy, in addition to Turkey and Egypt, met in London to discuss the situation in Libya and probe options for driving the faltering political path forward. According to statements of some of those present at the meeting, the gathering concluded by supporting UNSMIL efforts and the new UN envoy, Abdoulaye Bathily in his efforts to resolve the dispute.

In fact, attention had been directed to the capital, Berlin, and there was talk about the launch of Berlin 3, after conclusions of Berlin 1 and Berlin 2 became part of literature on managing the Libyan crisis and to lead to the demand agreed by everyone, which is to hold elections as soon as possible.

The London meeting came as a surprise, and it reflects the increasing UK interest in the Libyan crisis, as London became active in the Libyan file, especially after the evolved map of regional and international actors during the war on Tripoli in 2019, when influence of the European parties relatively receded, and the vacuum left behind was filled by Russia and Turkey, which in addition to their political influence, they have a military presence on the Libyan soil.

The repercussions of the war on Tripoli at the regional and international levels prompted Washington to pay more attention to the Libyan issue, as the Russian military presence became worrisome to the United States, followed by Britain, whose ambassador became prominent among foreign ambassadors, in addition to supporting the United States in the conflict with Russia in the Security Council and the debate over the identity of the UN Special Envoy.

London has shifted from having a limited presence in the Libyan crisis, since the

political division in 2014 and the deterioration of the security situation dramatically, to an active role that goes beyond the political position or diplomatic move, to planning a military action on the ground aimed at removing foreign forces from the country with a clear focus on rejecting the Russian presence.

The British Defense Secretary had visited the capital, Tripoli, twice, and some sources spoke of proposals for a military action by Libyan forces from the Libyan west to remove the Wagner forces from the center and south of the country, during the time of the Government of National Accord, a proposal which was said to have not received a Libyan response.

The venue of the meeting underscores the present and future roles of the United Kingdom in managing the Libyan crisis, and reinforces the assumption based on a possible Western tendency aimed at neutralizing the Russian influence in Libya and preventing its transformation into a strategic presence that supports a Russian scheme to penetrate into Africa and maximize its interests there.

Recently, there were reports of a new British proposal based on the formation of an internationally backed Libyan force to neutralize the areas of oil fields and ports in the center and south of the country from the conflict. It is evident that the Wagner forces are positioned on those areas, and constitute the striking force, and based on some informed sources, London sought to win Washington's support to its proposals, especially since there is a Turkish inclination to participate. It seems that American politicians' view was that a process as such requires unifying the Libyan position through elections that will result in a government that enjoys full legitimacy.

The other development revealed by the

London meeting is the exclusion of the regional parties that were present in previous international meetings, especially the UAE, and limiting the regional presence to Turkey and Egypt, is meaningful based on their weight and influence viz-a-viz the crisis, through their influence on the areas of conflict, west and east, and the need to bring them closer together as one of the most important ways to contain the conflict.

The routine aspect of the meeting is the need of the new UN envoy for regional and international support, and such meetings were repeated after the appointment of the previous envoys.

However, the agreement to expedite the elections and address the constitutional basis for them may be understood as dissatisfaction of the Western parties with Morocco meeting, which included the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the High Council of State, that prioritized the settlement of the file of sovereign positions, over the file of consensus on the constitutional basis for the elections.

I reiterate that the meeting's venue underscores the present and future roles of the United Kingdom in managing the Libyan crisis, and reinforces the assumption based on a possible Western tendency aimed at neutralizing the Russian influence in Libya and preventing its transformation into a strategic presence that supports a Russian scheme to penetrate into Africa and maximize its interests there.

Credit: This opinion was first published in Arabi21

*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

## Health Ministry considers developing a system for vital medicines

Deputy Prime Minister/ Minister of Health Ramadan Abu Jinnah has met delegates from local companies manufacturing medicines and medical supplies to discuss their role in providing government-run health facilities with their needs.

The representatives said they are looking forward to gaining the ministry's support so they can fulfill the public hospitals' requirements.

A statement by the Health Ministry said that Abu Jinnah affirmed his support for the local pharmaceutical industries to reduce the burden on the state instead of importing basic medical supplies and products.

Last Thursday, the Ministry of Health discussed with the Philippine Chargé d'Affairs in Libya, Huan Enriquez Diang, the possibility of contracting new medical staff from the Philippines as part of the ministry's plan to upgrade the services of the public health sector in Libya.



## Medical Supply receives vaccination shipment for children

The Medical Supply Service has said it received a new shipment of routine vaccinations for children.

The cargo includes the pentavalent, hexavalent, rota, and pulmonary vaccines for babies ranging from two months up to one year.

The chairman of the examination and receipt committee and the secretary of the cold ring store received the shipment and will coordinate with the department of stores and distribution to fill the deficiency of vaccinations that have recorded shortage during the past weeks, the medical supply said.

It noted that the shipment would reach the health service departments after receiving approval from the Food and Drug Control Centre.



Health

## Govt to set up special body to enhance care system for oncology patients

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has ordered the establishment of a body independent from the Health Ministry to follow up on the oncology centres and help organize and secure the needed drugs.

Dbeibah held an expanded meeting to discuss the matter with Health Minister Ramadan Abu Janah, the directors of oncology centres, the head of the Medical Supply Authority, and the director of the National Center for Decision Support.

"The PM issued instructions to the National Decision Support Center to discuss the issue and submit a final proposal in this regard," the office said.

For his part, Health Minister Abu Janah praised the decision and said it would help regulate the work and care system in this area.

Oncology patients in Libya are suffering from a lack of medicines and modern equipment in the centres, while health officials at these centres say one of the top challenges they face is the lack of staff, including consultants and specialists.

In Libya, 28,991 cancer cases were diagnosed in 2021, according to the Health Ministry's statistics. Six to eight thousand were children.

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Sports

## Libyan teams at CAF Confederation Cup: A win and two losses

Libya's Al-Ahly Tripoli beat South African team Marumo Gallants 1-0 at Beni-na Martyrs stadium in Benghazi on Wednesday at the preliminary group of the CAF Confederation Cup. The two teams will play the second leg match in South Africa on November 09.

The second Libyan team at the tournament, Al-Akhdar lost its first leg match to Nigerian Plateau Utd 1-4. The first half ended 3-0 for the Nigerians, but the Libyan team pulled one back at the 85th minute, only for the Nigerian team to score the fourth in the extra time. They will play the second leg on November 09.

Al-Nasser, the third Libyan representative, lost to Nigerian team Rivers Utd 0-5 at Adokiye Amiesimaka Stadium. Al-Nasser will need a 6-0 win in the second leg match on November 09 to go through.

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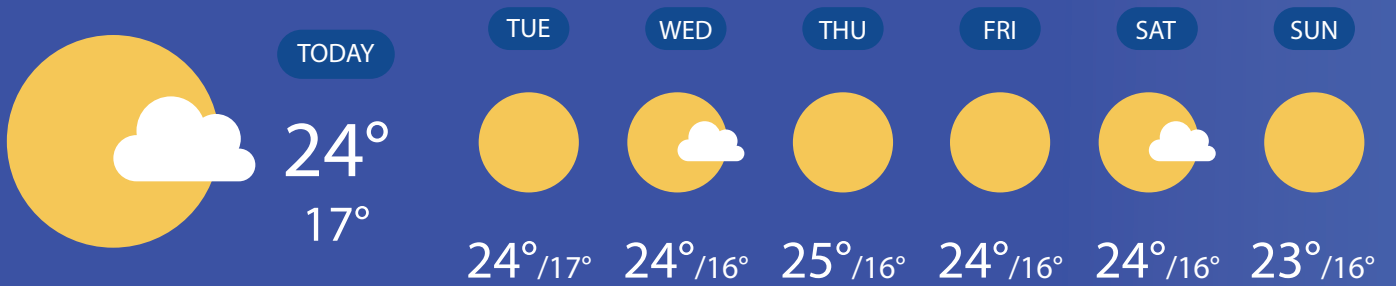
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Photo of the Week



### Tripoli Weather Forecast



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