

Politics

## UN envoy proposes to Libya's HoR and HCS support for 6+6 joint committee



The UN envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, has sent an official proposal to the Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR) and the Head of the High Council of State (HCS), presenting the UN Support Mission in Libya's (UNSMIL) readiness to provide the necessary support to the 6+6 Joint Electoral Committee.

UNSMIL confirmed that the proposal aimed to accelerate the work of the 6+6 joint committee to support the Libyan-Libyan efforts aimed at holding comprehensive, free and fair elections in Libya in 2023.

UNSMIL also indicated that this support can be of a technical and logistical nature and through the provision of experts, according to what the members of the 6+6 committee of the HCS and HoR require as well as based on a joint written request from the committee.

The 6+6 committee held its first meeting on April 5 at the headquarters of the HCS in Tripoli and discussed its strategy and work mechanisms, as well as determined the foundations and starting points for its work.

Politics

## Dbeibah says this stage in Libya requires holding onto peaceful circulation of power



The Libyan Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, has reaffirmed the government's continued commitment to serving the and creating the appropriate conditions to end the transitional stages through fair and impartial elections, saying that the current stage requires that everyone continues their adherence to the option of peace and the peaceful transfer of power.

In his speech at the fourth cabinet meeting for the year 2023 held in the city of Misrata, in the presence of the Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, Dbeibah said that there was a need to establish a stable situation in which the opportunities for construction and development that enhance the chances of success of the elections are strengthened and the results are accepted by all parties.

The Prime Minister expressed his aspiration that the United Nations Support Mission in Libya's sponsorship of the (5+5) joint military commission track would lead to maintaining stability in Libya and preventing a return to war again, stressing the government's support for all efforts in this regard and calling on the legislative authority to come to grips with the fact that Libyans have become more aware to confront the extension projects.

He said that all paths that lead to a peaceful end to the transitional stages are paths that are identical to the government's program and policies, hailing the efforts of the General Electricity Company of Libya in implementing the government's plan with the aim of stabilizing the public electricity network and alleviating the frequent power outages that Libya had previously suffered from.

Dbeibah also announced a government plan to completely eliminate the fuel crisis in Libya, stressing direct work to deal with the fuel problem that occurs in some periods by developing the infrastructure of refineries and reservoirs damaged during past wars. He added that his government is seeking to implement an integrated tripartite plan to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of local refineries, by developing several refineries, including Al-Zawiya, Tobruk and Ras Lanuf, in addition to the supply of floating tanks to build strategic stocks "As long as the state of stability continues, there will be a promising opportunity to develop the oil and gas sector to meet the needs of the local market and support the financing of the public treasury through exports." He added.

Politics

## Egyptian Foreign Minister: We seek to restore Libya's unity through internal consensus



Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry has confirmed his country support to restore Libya's unity, stability and full sovereignty through intra-Libyan consensus, saying that the situation in Libya is stressful.

Shoukry added, in a joint press conference with his Greek counterpart, Nikos Dendias, after their talks in Athens on Tuesday, that Egypt has achieved successive accomplishments through its communication with all Libyan parties.

The Egyptian minister expressed his hope that Egypt's efforts would eventually lead to free and fair elections that would bring a government that expresses the will of the Libyan people.



## Norland welcomes security meeting in Benghazi

The US Ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland, welcomed the meetings of military and security leaders in Benghazi during a phone call with the UN Envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily on Saturday.

Norland said both he and Bathily commended the leaders who met together in Benghazi "to reaffirm their commitment to Libya's sovereignty and political stability through elections and the departure of foreign fighters, forces, and mercenaries."

The US official also thanked Bathily for his efforts to promote national consensus towards

elections in Libya.

On Saturday, the Joint Military Committee (JMC) 5 + 5 and the military and security leaders confirmed in Benghazi's meeting their readiness to provide all forms of support to secure the elections.

In a statement published on the UN mission's website, the participants further urged support for the JMC efforts to remove mercenaries and foreign fighters from Libya.

The group agreed to meet after Ramadan in the southern key city of Sebha to complete the talks they started in Tunisia.



Politics

## Unifying Libyan military tops agenda in Turkish-Russian meeting

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said his country is cooperating with Russia and other states concerned with the Libyan crisis to unite the country's military and security forces.

His comments came during a meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Ankara on Friday, where they reaffirmed their agreement on the importance of holding democratic and transparent elections in Libya.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Lavrov said that Russia and Turkey share a common approach to promoting peace in Libya.

"There have been several attempts by the European Union to reform the country and regional states, but the work is not advancing at the desired pace," Russia's top diplomat said.

Speaking to the TV channel Russia Today, Lavrov said that Moscow and Turkey are working together to achieve one goal, mainly uniting the Libyan forces and building a state on such a basis.

In previous statements, the Russian FM said that Libya is incapable of restoring its statehood, which creates "many problems" in Africa and the Sahara region.



Politics

## I hope Libya's leaders are inspired by Belfast Agreement between Britain and Ireland, British ambassador says

The British ambassador to Libya, Caroline Hurndall, has called on Libyan leaders to draw inspiration from the experience of the Belfast Agreement between Britain and Ireland "25 years since the Belfast Good Friday Agreement, reflecting on the courage and compromise shown by the leaders and people of Northern Ireland in order to achieve peace. I hope Libya's leaders are inspired by this example - I know I am", Hurndall tweeted.



Politics

## HNEC head briefs British ambassador on preparations for elections

Head of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC), Emad Al-Sayeh, received on Tuesday a delegation from the UK Embassy in Libya headed by Ambassador Caroline Hurndall.

A statement by the HNEC said the meeting discussed developments on the electoral path and the commission's preparations in this regard.

They also reviewed ways to support proposals and endeavors that ensure their success by international standards.

Ambassador Hurndall affirmed her country's support for the HNEC's efforts to achieve free and credible elections that reflect the will of the Libyan voter, appreciating the commission's efforts to implement this national entitlement.



Economy

## Ministry of Economy discusses economic diversification strategy

The Minister of Economy, Mohammed Al-Huwaij, has stressed the importance of strengthen cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and setting a joint work vision in coordination with the Libyan Federation of Industry and Chambers of Commerce to develop the trade, industry, investment and agricultural sector to achieve diversification and economic integration.

This came during his meeting with officials in the ministry, to discuss the ministry's efforts in following up the performance of the private sector and organizing commercial activities, in addition to developing electronic services with the aim of facilitating procedures and all transactions for the public.



Economy

## Oil and Gas Ministry speaks about Al-Dahra filed development project

The Ministry of Oil and Gas said that it had objected to the file of developing Al-Dahra field, given that the decision of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) directly assigned "Esnad" company after negotiations with Al-Waha Company, adding that, through the correspondence between the NOC and Al-Waha Company, it was not mentioned that "Esnad" company is a Libyan company, and that there was an Emirati company with the same name, especially since the negotiations took place in the UAE.

The ministry said that all local and international companies should have been invited, and the project should not be limited to one company, considering that the direct assignment distances the sector from the principle of transparency and disclosure, adding that it is keen on working in accordance with correct procedures, and on the basis and standards of transparency, governance and good management.

The ministry indicated that it had contacted the NOC and asked it to start exploration, development and maintenance of the fields, but it has not received a response yet, added that it is necessary to focus on technical work, follow transparency, and avoid enthusiastic rhetoric and questioning anyone who has a different opinion and is supported by the law, regulations, and legislation.

The NOC has denied contracting with an Emirati company to develop Al-Dahra field, explaining that it had contracted the local "Esnad" company.



## Minister of Industry stresses the need to improve quality of Libyan production

The Minister of Industry and Minerals in the Government of National Unity, Ahmed Abu Hessa, has stressed the need to work to localize investments, develop industrial and agricultural activities, and raise the quality of the local product.

This came during his meeting with the Director General of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, in Zliten, Awad Al-Sharif, during which they discussed the difficulties facing the chamber in performing its duties.



Economy

## Bin Qadara visits Arabian Gulf Oil Company in Benghazi

The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat bin Qadara, has discussed with the Arabian Gulf Oil Company the difficulties and obstacles facing the company, including settling debts owed by it.

Bin Qadara visited the headquarters of the Arabian Gulf Oil Company in Benghazi and he was received by the Chairman of the Management Committee, Mohammed bin Shatwan, and the members of the Management Committee.



Economy

## Mellitah Company reopens a well in "Bahr Es Salam" field

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has announced the success of Mellitah Oil and Gas Company in reoperating the gas well No. CW04 located on the Sabratha offshore platform, the "Bahr Es Salam" field, after it stopped production since January 2021 due to technical problems.

The well has been put on production, with a total production capacity of about 37 million cubic feet per day of gas, and the production of condensate at about 1,000 barrels per day, the NOC added.

It also confirmed that reoperating the well is part of the company's efforts to increase production and make maximum use of available resources.



## Libyan-French cooperation on economic development

The Minister of Planning of the Government of National Unity, Mohamed Al-Zaidani, has discussed with the French ambassador to Libya, Mostafa Mihrajaj, bilateral cooperation, especially in the field of economic development, as well as return of French companies to contribute to the implementation of development projects in Libya.

Cooperation in the field of renewable energies, water and oil was also discussed, by tapping into French expertise and successful experiences to help achieve Libya's development goals, according to the ministry's Facebook page.

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Interview



## US strategy and its support for stability in Libya

By Fathi Salem Abuzakhar, a Libyan writer

Libya today is not in isolation from developments elsewhere globally. The US with British, and European support on the one hand, and Russia, with Chinese support, on the other, on the land of Ukraine.

The tripartite competition; the United States, Russia, and China, in addition to some European countries, over sites and resources on African soil, plays an important role in shaping a new international community with new rules, after Indicators for the decline of the unipolar power, led by the USA for decades, began to emerge.

This is due to internal erosion to which the US internal system is exposed after the former President, Mr. Donald Trump, was indicted and to go on trial, a precedent not witnessed before in the US history. The relaxation of the US fist is in compliance with the cosmic law governing world empires: beginning small and weak, then youth and strength, and ending with erosion, aging, and collapse. The US had contributed to the resurrection of a united Libya by not supporting the Bevin Sforza project, it rather supported Libya's transformation from a federal system to a single unified state.

America's conflict with Russia, its rivalry with China, and resistance to decline will affect Libya, as America still has the keys to its continuity, with the presence of the Chinese and Russian threat. Although the USA is the third largest oil producer, it is the most powerful country on earth economically. Politics so often has its contributions in shaping the economy, the economy today shapes many policies of the countries of the world, and this is what exactly the US is doing today, employing its economy, and using the dollar as a tool politically rather than financially, including waging wars, making policies and imposing status ques that serve its interests, so much so that it drives China and Russia to free themselves from the grip of the dollar.

Today's reality and formulation of the new international position: The reality of the Ukrainian war today serves America as well as China. With Europe's support to the war in Ukraine, Europe is risking to loss due to the fact the war is waged on its soil. Russia, the largest country in the world in terms of area, and the second largest crude oil producer, is converging with China, which has the largest population in the world and the second most powerful country economically, though they are competitors, especially over expansion in Africa, but they are united in the Ukrainian war against America. It is not possible to separate world unfolding events from what is happening today on the US and the world. What is happening in terms of riots and demonstrations in France and Israel. All these developments work for new formulation of international interests. Among the most important disturbing facts to all of them is the rise of Turkey and its new renaissance, development, and Islamic modernist project! And the anticipation of the elections on May 14, 2023, which is worrisome to the West in general, although yesterday's America - the Republicans used Turkey to create an equilibrium in Libya after Russian threats (Wagner) on the borders of the capital Tripoli, during the war of 2019. The US of today - the Democrats are making use of the geography of the Libyan south, which it granted in its ten-year plan its share of stability and development, to shut the door on Russia's intervention from the south after the expulsion of France, so the latter turned to China to open

a window for it in Africa. Indeed, the recent visit of Mr. Macron was immediately followed by a military maneuver off the coast of Taiwan. France lost its positions in African countries and may change the location of its relationship to the depth of Africa through China. With US attempts today to employ the African Union, the writer believes that stability of the south and the expulsion of Wagner from east and south requires improving relations with Turkey, which with its drones, equipment, and training of Libyan fighters, according to the military agreement, contributed to the removal of the Wagner aggression from the capital and drove them to Sirte to the east and to Brak and Al-Jufra to the south.

However, the US mentality of monopolizing power could throw it into crisis with Turkey, especially after its ambassador Mr. Jeffry Flake, dared to visit elections' rival of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Mr. Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu.

Certainly, the position of Wagner today is not the same in strength and number as before the Ukrainian war. Definitely, the need in the Ukrainian arena reinforces US strategies and plans, in Libya, and this is confirmed by its statements regarding getting rid of Wagner and all foreign forces, including the Turkish forces at al-Watiya base.

Democrats of today and Republicans of yesterday?

While emphasizing that US policies generally do not change with the change of governments, it is clear today that US policies or rather directions are drawn by the US administration. When the Republicans were recently in power during the government of Donald Trump, the Russian rapprochement was confirmed by Russian support to Trump in the elections and the agreement with the pro-Russian officer Khalifa Haftar during the offensive on Tripoli on April 4, 2019.

Today, we find as far as the Ukrainian war is concerned Russia having the help of China, its rival the US having the help of Europe. The war in reality, the Democrats with their secular ideology reinforce the stance of Confucianist China, whereas the Protestant Republicans reapproach with the Christian Orthodox Russia. Obviously, this analysis means that US policies in Africa yesterday were to play Russia and Wagner as a protective shield for the policy of the Republicans against Chinese expansion, but today the American policy will be contrary and in the opposite direction so that the Russians and Wagner play as a protective shield for China against American expansion! However, this will not change the significant role that the Russians have begun to play in Libya, so the American call for the development and stability of the south will endure.

Is Libya an arena of conflict or is it a gathering for the good?

Libya's geopolitical position connects it to southern Europe, with NATO's military bases, its industrial might that needs energy and African industrial raw material. Africa after it has been courted by allies from France, to Britain and America which built their military bases to secure their presence. Today Russia intervenes militarily through Wagner, and some military coups, to have access to gold mines and energy resources in Central Africa, Mali, Burkina Faso, and others, and to expel France from some of its bases, without commitments and agreements apart from military agreements. It further consolidated its relations with Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda, and

Congo Brazzaville.

Meanwhile, China sets foot with its development weight on vast areas of Africa, in addition to investing in Chinese language and culture, so much so that China began to purchase vast areas of land to cultivate and provide food for its people. Although, there are those who believe that China's investments in Africa led to soaring African debts through the money spent on development projects.

It is clear, according to America's strategy today in Libya and Africa to besiege Wagner bases in Africa, through stability of Libya, the development of the south, and to counter the Chinese expansion from reaching the warm waters of the Mediterranean. It has no route to the north except through Libya, and it has the western line that extends from Morocco southward to Togo, Benin, and Mozambique from Farther east. This is well illustrated by the US strategy that says: "This plan supports an integrated, trans-regional approach to the US government's prevention efforts across the Sahel, Morocco, and coastal West Africa by promoting a more stable, peaceful, and prosperous Libya."

Certainly, the US needs stability and security that makes peace in the capital, Tripoli, and Turkey is holed up in Al-Watiya base, on the allied country in the northern Mediterranean, and the Russians share such presence, so that it can achieve its interests in the region. The question, however is whether US indifference to its relationship with Turkey, which will be a key supporter in expelling Wagner, either peacefully or militarily, serves US policies in Africa?

The writer does not know whether America will subdue in the future to accepting the participation of the Russians or will it go to war, and Libya is one of the countries that it is working to change its governments. This may depend on the following:

- The conviction of the rival Libyan parties, in conflict due to external interference, to give priority to Libya's interest and to push for the state's apology to the Libyan people as a first step towards reconciliation. Furthermore, to observe peaceful political competition, and to make use of US plan and vision of cooperation with the "African Union on national reconciliation" which is biased towards the September "Jamahiriya" movement, as a result of the money Gaddafi had spent to buy many of the heads of state forming the African Union
- Politicians in Libya must pursue neutrality with the countries of the world, and be keen to create beneficial economic partnerships with all the conflicting parties in Libya: The US, Russia, Turkey, China, Brit-

ain and the European Union countries, and push towards stability that America is inaugurating, with the United Nations "regarding demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration," and without failing to cooperate at all levels with neighbouring countries

- Civil society should enhance its awareness of the rapid change in international relations, for example Saudi Arabia with Iran, France and China, and the political attractions taking place in Libya, and work to advance peaceful activities and trends that serve Libya.
- Turkey can play an important role in helping Libya and the US to expel the Wagner peacefully, in exchange for economic interests in Libya, so that the US will complete its plan to besiege them from the western coast and with the support of Mozambique from the east.
- With the presence of the US Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, perhaps Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, especially after his success in the elections, will be able to exert pressure on the US to accept Turkey as a helping player in stabilizing Libya and expelling the Russians.

Conclusion:

Certainly, the matter will remain as it is until May 14, 2023, and the election results are declared in Turkey. Mr. Erdogan's victory will surely enable him to play an important role in the stability of Libya, due to his communication and interests with the conflicting parties. But the US administration's preoccupation with the 2024 elections may affect the course of the US strategy in Libya and Africa, though the Turkish elections will have a clear impact even on the US strategy.

The important question remains how the national political players will take advantage of the coming period to uphold Libya's interest and to override their personal interests and continue to communicate with each other. Also, what role the weak civil society can play, of which the US has involved 35 organizations that "provided valuable and practical observations on the areas of sub-national partnership amid the ongoing transformation in Libya." from a directive to persuade the state to apologize as a first and essential step for Libyan reconciliation.

The important factor for the stability of Libya remains Libya's politicians grasp of the US vision with its integrated approach to the three governmental sectors (3 D) Diplomatic, Development, and Defense.

*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

## Authorities seize 12 types of counterfeit medicine in the local market

Authorities have identified and seized 12 medicines that do not conform to health specifications in the Libyan drug market, the head of the Food and Drug Control Centre media department, Mohammed Al-Zayat, has confirmed.

Al-Zayat told the Arabi news website that counterfeit medicine is being sold in the domestic market on a large scale.

Another concern is that many medical supplies are flowing into the country out of legal supply chains.

The publisher quoted a Libyan pharmacist as saying that many medicines entering the country are not listed in the Health Ministry's register or the private-sector suppliers. "They are useless, but the control campaigns are continuing," the pharmacist said.



Sports

### Al-Ittihad knocked out of ACCC tournament despite win against AS FAR

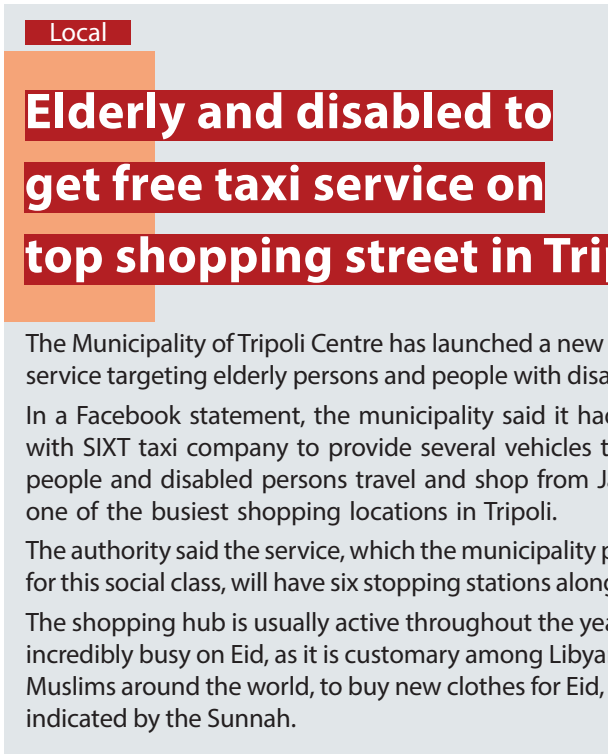
Libyan football club Al-Ittihad is knocked out of the Arab Club Champions Cup (ACCC) despite winning 3-1 against Morocco's AS FAR on Wednesday at Benina Stadium in Benghazi, where Abdelghafour Hiri scored a hat-trick for the Libyans side, and Mustafa Sahad scored the only goal for the Moroccans. The 3-1 score wasn't enough for the Libyan side to qualify for the next round as the Moroccans won the first leg match 4-1 and moved through on aggregate. On last Tuesday, Al-Ahly Tripoli drew Egypt's El Gaish 1-1 at Benina Stadium in Benghazi and qualified to the second group stage round of the ACCC after winning 3-2 on aggregate.



Education

### Education Ministry, WFP talk ways to localize school feeding programs in Libya

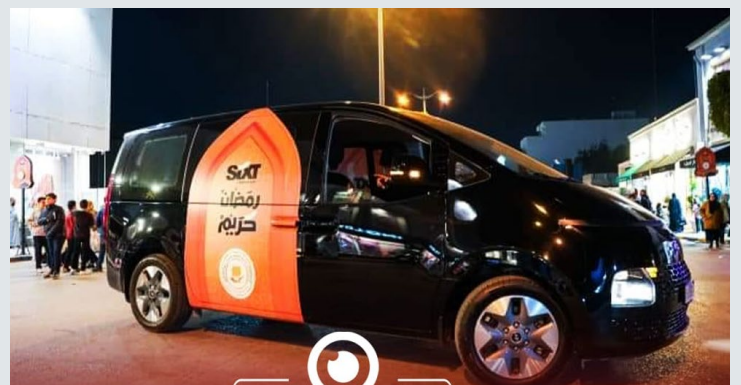
Minister Musa Al-Maqrif of Education held talks on Tuesday with the Country Director of the World Food Program (WFP), Maysaa Al-Ghribawy, which focused on localizing school feeding programs in Libya. A statement by the ministry said the two sides discussed cooperation between Libya's Education Ministry and the World Food Organization to localize the school feeding program under a memorandum of understanding signed between the two sides. They also agreed to increase the number of education facilities benefiting from the project by including schools in the southern region, starting from the next academic year. For his part, Al-Maqrif affirmed the ministry's endeavor to establish a tangible project for school feeding. Healthy meals allow children to focus in class and grow, the minister said, suggesting that dates be a main ingredient in the school meal. Al-Maqrif noted that the ministry had previously submitted a proposal to establish three factories for school meals in the oases and Tmanhent districts, as these areas are well-known for palm cultivation and date production. On her part, Al-Ghribawy congratulated Libya's Education Ministry on joining the School Feeding Alliance, which according to the WFP official, "aims to ensure that every child has the opportunity to eat a healthy and nutritious meal in educational institutions by 2030." This could be done by improving the quality of nationally owned school meal programs and strengthening school meal systems globally," the WFP representative said.



Local

### Elderly and disabled to get free taxi service on top shopping street in Tripoli

The Municipality of Tripoli Centre has launched a new transporting service targeting elderly persons and people with disabilities. In a Facebook statement, the municipality said it had contracted with SIXT taxi company to provide several vehicles to help older people and disabled persons travel and shop from Jaraba Street, one of the busiest shopping locations in Tripoli. The authority said the service, which the municipality provided free for this social class, will have six stopping stations along the street. The shopping hub is usually active throughout the year, but it gets incredibly busy on Eid, as it is customary among Libyans, like many Muslims around the world, to buy new clothes for Eid, which is also indicated by the Sunnah.



The location, famously known for its luxury shops, is a destination for those looking for designer labels producing clothes, shoes, and accessories. To ease the traffic congestion during the Eid season, the Tripoli Security Directorate closed the street to traffic from Maghrib (sunset) until Fajr prayer, at dawn, throughout Ramadan, except for the SIXT taxi serving the elderly and disabled, directing other consumers to stroll through the street on foot.

### Tripoli Weather Forecast



TODAY

20°  
12°

TUE



22°/15°

WED



26°/20°

THU



27°/19°

FRI



26°/15°

SAT



25°/12°

SUN



23°/11°

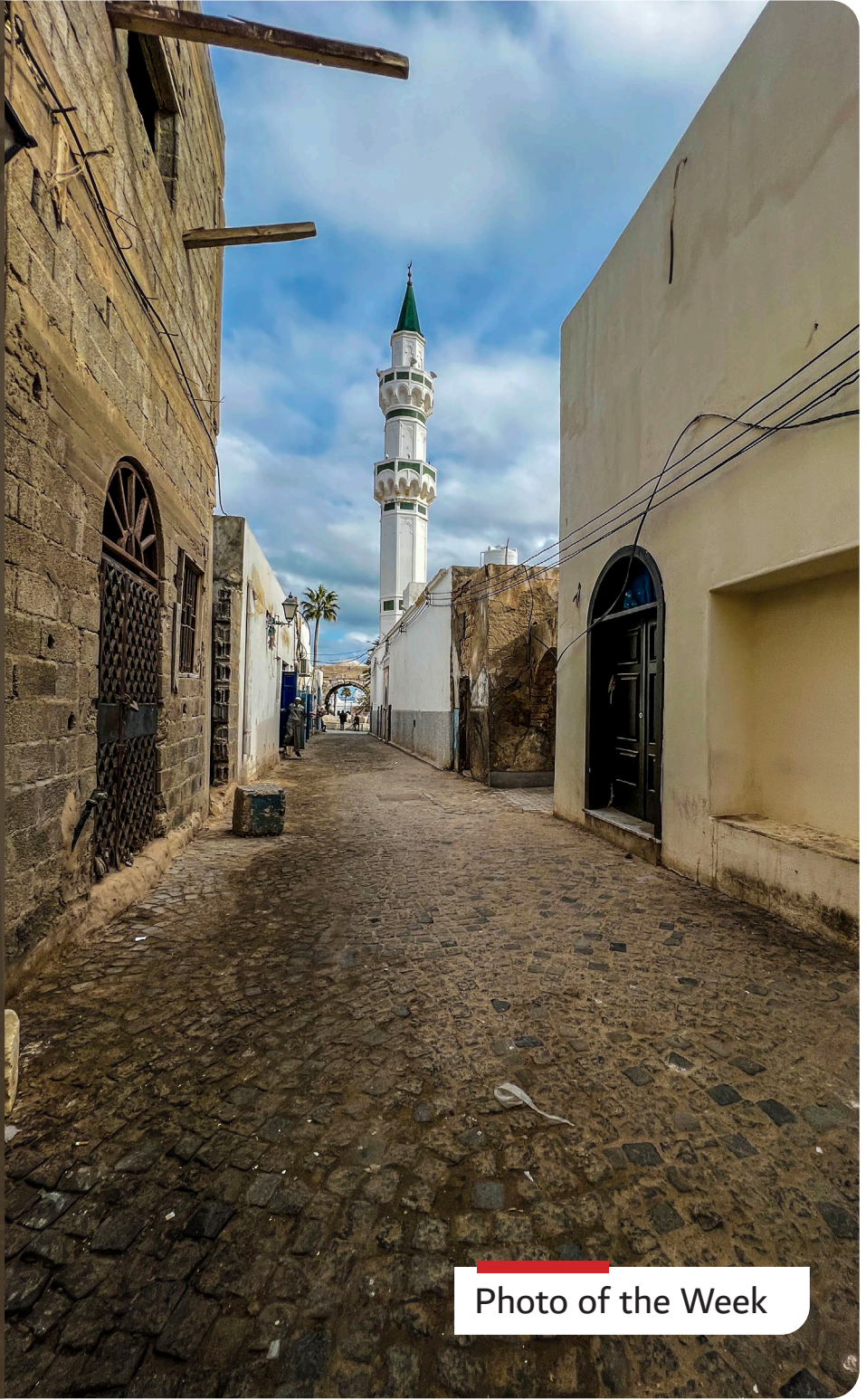


Photo of the Week

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