

Politics

## Protests against the "Madkhalis" and demands for action to curb their influence



Hundreds of protesters gathered in front of the Government of National Unity's HQ in Tripoli on Tuesday to demand the prime minister dismiss the head of the General Authority for Endowments and Islamic Affairs, Mohammad al-Abani.

Al-Abani follows the Madkhali group, a religious, ideological movement that originated in Saudi Arabia.

Since the collapse of Gadafi's rule, the Madkhalis, seen by many as a stooge for the Saudi government, have aligned themselves with every Saudian-backed government or warlord in Libya.

Under the law, the religious endowment authority oversees the needs of mosques and appoints Imams, preachers, and Quran teachers.

Hanan Abdullah, a teacher who joined the protest on Tuesday, told The Libya Observer that she came to denounce the practices of Mo-

ammed al-Abani, "who is using his control over mosques to promote an extremist ideology."

"We denounce his continued assaults against the Fatwa House, the Grand Mufti, and his colleagues who represent the Malikia school followed throughout the country and the Maghreb region as a whole."

The authority is also facing a slew of corruption allegations as it oversees the collection and distribution of Zaka -an obligatory annual amount that a Muslim gives in charity- and manages the religious endowment revenues.

The protesters demanded an investigation into reports of the Audit Bureau in 2021 that documented a suspicious transaction between al-Abani's office and a clothing company at a value of 700,000 dinars with no evidence confirming the reception of goods.

Politics



## Joint Committee 6+6 holds meeting in Tripoli

The Joint Committee for the Preparation of Electoral Laws (6 + 6), representing the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS), held a meeting on Tuesday at the headquarters of the HoR in the capital, Tripoli.

The meeting witnessed an exchange of views on the electoral laws, agreeing on the mechanism of the committee's work, according to the HoR spokesman Abdullah Bliheq.

The HoR Speaker, Aqila Saleh, called on the joint committee to work harder to accomplish its tasks as soon as possible, according to the HoR media office on Sunday.

Politics



## Al-Haddad receives US military delegation in Tripoli

Lieutenant General Muhammad al-Haddad, Chief of the Libyan army forces, received at his office on Tuesday a delegation from the US Department of Defence (Pentagon).

In the meeting attended by the US Defence Attaché to Libya, Colonel Mark Emblum, Al-Haddad emphasized the deep ties between the two countries and praised the role played by the AFRICOM forces.

The two sides stressed the depth of relations between the army forces of both countries and discussed means to enhance them, according to the Presidency of Libya's General Staff.

Politics



## Menfi calls for speedy implementation of urbanization plan in Libya

The Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, called for the speedy implementation of the plan to address the urbanization situation in Libya, having a look in a meeting on Tuesday with the Head of the Urbanization Planning Authority, Abdul Hakim Al-Sultani, at the short plan to address the urbanization situation in all Libyan regions.

Menfi urged the speedy implementation of the plan in all cities, especially Tripoli, Benghazi, and Sabha, due to its importance in development and stability plans and in preserving public property from encroachment.



Politics

## **Dbeibah: Turkey is the best example of a successful state**

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah said on Saturday that Turkey is the most prominent example of a successful state model.

Dbeibah's remarks came during his speech at the Technofest Festival for Aviation and Space Technology at Ataturk Airport in Istanbul, with the participation of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Referring to President Erdogan's role in building modern Turkey, Dbeibah said: "Turkey is the most prominent example of a successful state model today, and we see a Turkish model that serves its people, nation and homeland."

Dbeibah congratulated Turkey on its rise to the group of countries that use nuclear energy, after supplying the Akkuyu nuclear power plant in Mersin with the first shipment of nuclear fuel, pointing out that the station covers 10% of Turkey's electric energy needs.

He stressed that Turkey, under its leadership and government,

is showing a firm stance towards all challenges and obstacles through its great capabilities, indicating that Turkey quickly healed the wounds caused by the earthquake of February 6, under the leadership of President Erdogan and the solid position of the Turkish people.

Dbeibah stressed that the large number of participants in the Technofest Festival reflects Turkey's progress in the field of space science, aviation and technology, extending thanks to Turkey and Baykar, the leading company in the Turkish drone industries, for their contribution to strengthening the air defense systems in Libya.

The activities of the seventh edition of the Technofest Festival, which is the largest of its kind in the world, kicked off Thursday on the grounds of Ataturk Airport under the supervision of the "Turkish Technology Team Endowment" and in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Technology.



Politics

## **General Staff, Al-Zawiya representatives form committee for law and order in the city**

Local sources from Al-Zawiya said the Chief of General Staff Mohammed al-Haddad held a meeting with a number of protests' leaders and city elders after the unrest that had swept through the city over the last few days.

The sources said that the meeting saw an agreement to form a committee of 15 members, including five from the protesting party, three elders, and seven army commanders, to discuss the demands of the people of Al-Zawiya.

No official statement was issued by the General Staff regarding this meeting, which was held at the Libyan Center for Medical Research in Al-Zawiya.

Al-Haddad visited Al-Zawiya hours after the West Coast Military Region announced the

withdrawal of the 52nd Infantry Brigade from the city, knowing that they were deployed following protests that began on Wednesday evening.

Footage circulating on social media showed Al-Haddad speaking in a gathering of people in Al-Zawiya, saying: "The Chief of Staff does not evade responsibility," indicating that the army personnel are capable of protecting and defending citizens, and: "We will sit down with the youth and propose satisfactory solutions."

Al-Zawiya saw protests on Thursday by civilians following the circulation of video clips that activists said were of "young men being tortured by African mercenaries inside the headquarters of a militia in the city."

A number of young people blocked the

coastal road at a traffic point in Al-Zawiya, and a number of angry protesters closed the valves of the pipelines of Al-Zawiya refinery. They also gathered in front of the Security Directorate, demanding the dismissal of the security director, expelling armed vehicles from the place, and closed the municipal council as well as the court in the city. Several people in Al-Zawiya youth declared "civil disobedience", and called for "holding accountable the municipal council and its members, holding new municipal elections, dismissing the security director of Al-Zawiya and bringing him to justice, ending the phenomenon of armed and armored vehicles, and moving military headquarters outside the city."





Economy

## NOC to conduct comprehensive maintenance at Bahr Al-Salam, Wafa fields and Mellitah complex

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) said on Sunday it would conduct a comprehensive maintenance of the Mellitah industrial complex and the Bahr Al-Salam and Wafa fields.

The Mellitah Oil and Gas Company indicated, in a statement, that the Head of the NOC, Farhat Bengdara, has given the green light to start the process of completely halting operations at the complex and the two fields to start maintenance. The Chairman of the Management Committee of the NOC and the accompanying delegation visited the Mellitah complex and the Sabratha platform.

The Mellitah complex is located about 22 kilometers east of the city of Zuwara, and it consists of two plants, the first for processing oil and condensate produced from the Al-Wafa field, and the second for processing gas and condensate produced from the Sabratha platform.

Bahr Al-Salam field is located about 120 km northwest of Tripoli and contains more than 260 billion cubic meters of gas. While the Wafa field produces about 40,000 barrels per day of crude and condensate, as well as 400 million cubic feet of natural gas.



Economy

## Libyan top banker and oil chief discuss ways to increase oil and gas production

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir has reviewed with the Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) Farhat Bengdara the necessary support for the NOC efforts that aim to increase and stabilize oil and gas production.

The meeting, which was held at Al-Kabir's office, discussed the NOC's operational and development plan, which aims to raise production to 2 million barrels per day (pbd), knowing that according to the latest statistics issued by the NOC, crude production reached 1.214 million bpd, while condensate production reached 18.000 bpd in the past two days.

Al-Kabir also held a meeting on Wednesday with the Minister of Finance Khalid Al-Mabrouk. The meeting, which took place in the presence of a number of directors of the relevant departments of the CBL, touched upon three files, including strengthening joint cooperation between the ministry and the CBL, following up on public spending, and coordinating with international and regional institutions.

The meeting of Al-Kabir and Al-Mabrouk came a day after one with the Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, and the Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, which was held on Tuesday to discuss a number of files, including the comprehensive national mechanism for setting spending priorities for 2023, and the development chapter for 2022.



Economy

## NOC resumes pumping gas from Brega to Khums after 12-year hiatus

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has announced the resumption of gas pumping from the Brega region to the city of Khums, at a rate of about 100 million cubic feet per day after stopping for more than 12 years.

The Chairman of the NOC, Farhat bin Qadara, thanked the specialized teams at the Sirte Oil and Gas Production and Processing Company, and the NOC's Senior Consumers Committee for their efforts in achieving a continuous flow of fuel to generate electricity.



Economy



## Turkey's exports to Libya in Q1 stand at \$758 million

Turkey's exports to Libya exceeded \$758 million in the first quarter of this year, according to the Turkish Exporters Council.

The chemical products topped the export volume by \$105.2 million, per the Turkish Exporters Council figures.

On Wednesday, the Turkish and Libyan Businessmen Association said that textiles and ready-made clothing came next with 103.4 million, then grains, legumes, and oilseed products with 102.7 million.

The head of the association, Mortada Koronfil, said that Turkey managed to maintain this rate of exports to Libya despite "the devastating impact of the earthquake in the country."

He stressed the importance of developing ties between the two countries, especially on entry visas and air cargo.

Economy



## LIA discloses plans for domestic investment projects

The Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) presented its plan concerning the implementation of several projects inside the country during a meeting attended by the prime minister and the governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) on Wednesday.

Chairman of the LIA, Ali Mahmoud, briefed the members of the LIA Board of Trustees on the corporation's plan for implementing investment projects, including a major project planned for the renewable energy sector that according to him would generate high yields.

According to the government Hakomitna platform, the meeting was also joined by senior officials from the Audit Bureau, including the Director of the Sovereign Sector Oversight Department, Reda Qarqab, and the Director of the Service Sector Oversight Department, Abdelbaset Jaboua.

The CBL Governer/ member of the LIA Board of Trustees, Saddek Elkaber, said that completing stalled projects executed by foreign companies is a priority as many of them have been suspended for more than a decade, noting the importance of evaluating the assets and investment feasibility before proceeding with these projects.

For his part, Dbeibah called for prioritizing internal investment, especially in vital projects, and coordinating with state institutions to ensure the legality of procedures, urging the LIA to involve international offices as houses of expertise.

Dabaiba also underscored the importance for the LIA to continue its disclosure, transparency, and governance strategy under the supervision of the Board of Trustees.

Economy

## Zallaf Libya Company: The production plan for Erawan field is close to 100,000 bpd



Zallaf Libya Oil and Gas Company has announced that the production of the Erawan oil field exceeded 92,000 barrels per day (bpd), praising the efforts of all those who contributed to the success of its plan, which aimed to produce 100 bpd.

On March 29, the Company resumed pumping crude oil within the alternative plan for early production from the Erawan oil field at a rate of 3,000 bpd, in implementation of the National Oil Corporation's policy to raise production rates to two million barrels per day.

Opinions

# Khartoum battles; repercussions and lessons

By Yousef Kaplan, writer on Libyan affairs



The Sudanese capital is witnessing fierce fighting that erupted on April 15, after the Rapid Support Forces of Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as “Hemedti”, attacked the headquarters and important sites of the Sudanese army, led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

The clashes come several months after the signing of the Framework Agreement between the military and civilian actors in the scene. The agreement included several provisions, the most prominent of which was the integration of the Rapid Support Forces into the regular army, sparking a dispute in military circles that led to the current fighting.

The outbreak of the dispute did not come as a surprise, as the past few months witnessed security tension that prompted the two sides to mobilize their forces in Khartoum, and the clashes were preceded by important diplomatic moves by parties involved in the scene, as UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed - Hemedti’s biggest supporter - made a surprise visit to Cairo, two days before the outbreak of clashes to discuss developments in Sudan.

External interventions; international and regional rivalries play a fundamental role in the dynamics of the Sudanese scene, as the competing Gulf countries support various parties. While Riyadh supports the army led by Burhan, Abu Dhabi supports the Rapid Support Forces led by Hemedti, and Egypt also plays a key role in supporting the army generals for several reasons, most notably Hemedti’s relationship with Ethiopia and Cairo’s preference for dealing with the Sudanese military establishment.

Hemedti’s relationship with Moscow comes on top of the driving causes of the conflict in the current scene. In light of the United States’ efforts to curtail Moscow’s influence and pursue the Wagner Group, Hemedti’s cooperation with it in Sudan and abroad has become a challenge to American political interests in the region. Intelligence sources have revealed that the file of Hemedti’s cooperation with a group Wagner has been on the table of the CIA chief, William Burns, since February, and this comes in the con-

text of the growing American interest in the Russian presence on the continent, especially in Sudan and Libya, as they constitute important launching bases and crossing points for the Wagner Group.

## Libya in the eye of the storm

Recent developments in Sudan will have direct repercussions on Libya, due to the Wagner file amid the current events, as the Russian group will seek to invest its strong presence in Libya and Central Africa to strengthen its ally’s position in Sudan, in addition to the presence of Abu Dhabi, which previously acted as a link between Haftar, Hemedti and the rest of Sudanese rebel movements that have common commercial and political interests with Hemedti and Wagner in Sudan.

Libya acts as a transit area and an important logistical supply point for Wagner operations in Africa, as bases and airports in the east and south of the country are used as transit stations to send military supplies and fighters, smuggling of gold, and other operations.

The Wall Street Journal report that revealed the arrival of military supplies to the Rapid support forces through military aircraft coming from Libya, and the satellite images broadcast by CNN showing Wagner’s use of Libyan air bases to transport weapons, confirm speculations about the use of both Abu Dhabi and Moscow of Haftar and Libyan soil in the Sudanese conflict.

Moscow and Abu Dhabi’s efforts in support of their Sudanese ally on the one hand, and Washington’s efforts to form a joint Libyan security force from the conflicting military parties to secure the oil fields and the southern borders located within the sphere of control of the Wagner Group on the other, puts Libya in the eye of the storm.

## Underlying defects

Attempts to advance the framework agreement to bring together the military actors in the Sudanese scene, which resulted in the outbreak of the current conflict, bring to mind the international efforts to unify

the conflicting military parties in Libya, as the UN mission, under American auspices, is working to formulate an understanding between the conflicting military forces to merge them into a single military institution.

The experience of the framework agreement reveals the defects in this type of understanding. The experiences of merging the quarreling parties in troubled countries, which Western diplomatic missions preach, often lead to complete failure. The experience of the framework agreement in Sudan was preceded by other agreements such as the Juba Peace Agreement 2020 and Naivasha Agreement 2005, and this is due to several reasons, the most important of which is: the structural defects and complexities of these agreements, as they transcend the underlying causes of division and the actual crisis in search of quick superficial understandings that serve external and internal parties at the expense of the national interest, and therefore, complicating and prolonging the crisis.

In the Libyan case, what is known as efforts to unify the military establishment, which is supervised by the UN mission under American guidance, aims to create a temporary security and political circumstance that enhances Washington’s chances of undermining the Russian presence in the country and the region, and bringing about relative stability that addresses Europe’s major problems, such as illegal immigration and energy supplies, cards that Moscow seeks to control in order to employ it in its conflict with Europe and the United States.

Finally, experiences of political dialogues and integration of armed groups in states that lack sovereignty and suffer from the failure of the state machine and corruption of the social contract do not result in real reforms and accommodations that serve the public interest. Indeed, political negotiation processes deviate to parallel paths that serve individual and foreign interests alone.

*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



## Libya, Tunisia sign agreement to exchange physicians

The Libyan Medical Syndicate and the Council of Medical Practitioners in Tunisia have agreed to sign an agreement of cooperation in the field of physician exchanges and expertise.

The Tunisian side said the decision came to organize the recruitment of Tunisian doctors to Libya, which is taking place outside the legal framework.

Libya's Medical Syndicate had expressed dissatisfaction with the Tunisian doctors coming to Libya through informal channels to practice medical work.

The two sides inked the agreement in the Moroccan capital of Rabat last March in the presence of medical syndicates of the Maghreb region.

As stated in the agreement, the relevant bodies from both sides will establish a system to regulate joint action in a way that preserves the rights of patients and doctors alike.

Last Friday, the Tunisian Council of Medical Practitioners gave notice that from now on, obtaining permission from the Libyan Medical Syndicate is mandatory for Tunisian doctors wishing to practice medicine in Libya.

Health



## Health authorities launch awareness campaign on Vaccines in Sabha

Health authorities in Sabha, a key city in the south, have launched a campaign to raise awareness of the importance of vaccines.

The Primary Health Care Office in Sabha oversaw the campaign in cooperation with the National Centre for Disease Control and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Under the slogan "Vaccination is Protection," the campaign seeks to raise community awareness on vaccinations, especially immunization against measles, polio, and coronavirus, the health care office in Sabha explained.

The campaign, which targeted eight municipalities in the south and east of the country, featured several activities conducted by medical staff and local influencers.

Health



## Sabratha Hospital warns of spread of diseases due to accumulation of corpses of immigrants

The Sabratha Teaching Hospital has warned of the increasing number of corpses of illegal immigrants in the hospital morgue for a period up to six months or more, which may lead to the spread of infectious diseases among hospital workers and patients alike if they are not handled properly.

The hospital administration called on competent authorities to take urgent measures to deal with the bodies of illegal immigration in a safe and appropriate manner, according to the hospital media office.

Health

## UNICEF delivers medical equipment to Abu Salim polyclinic



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has announced the delivery of a cold chain and personal protective equipment to the Abu Salim polyclinic to boost childhood vaccinations in Libya during the World Immunization Week.

The UNICEF, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the National Center for Disease Control, it is distributing cold chains and protective equipment to 71 vaccination sites across Libya.

UNICEF committed to provide all the necessary support aiming at finding a sustainable solution to ensure reliable and predictable supply of vaccines and subsequently prevent the stock outs, according to its Facebook page.

It also indicated that this initiative is funded by the United States of America and Germany, which have contributed to strengthening the healthcare system and providing children with access to life-saving vaccines.

Education



وزارة التربية والتعليم  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

## Ministry of Education sets date for basic, secondary education certificate exams

The Minister of Education, Mussa Al-Maqrif, has confirmed that the first round exams for the basic and secondary school certificate will take place on May 28 and June 11, as 29,2002 students will apply for them throughout Libya.

In a statement, Al-Maqrif called on teachers to complete the school curriculum according to the prepared plan, reminding them of their responsibilities in caring for students' academic achievement.

He also added that he had instructed the National Center for Examinations and the Department of Inspection and Educational Guidance that exam questions should be within the school curriculum in a clear formulation.

Tech



## Libya seeks to own a satellite for remote sensing

The Director General of the Libyan Center for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (LCRSSS), Akram Al-Kasih, has confirmed the Libyan state intention to localize the technology and acquire a remote sensing satellite to make satellite images and data available to users within Libyan institutions and students at universities and institutes. This came during his participation in 2023 NewSpace Africa Conference which was held in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire on 25-28 April 2023

Al-Kasih also participated in the meeting of the directors of space institutions and agencies in African countries, to develop a work plan to implement space programs under the African Space Agency, which has been hosted by the Egyptian Space Agency since last January and is based in Cairo.

Migration



## 484 illegal migrants intercepted and returned to Libya, IOM says

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Monday, that 484 migrants, including women and children, were intercepted and returned to Libya in the period of 23 - 29 April 2023.

"So far in 2023, 4,819 illegal migrants were intercepted and returned to Libya", the IOM said, adding that 505 migrants have died and 319 others have gone missing off the Libyan coast on the central Mediterranean route.

In its statement, the organization stated that in 2022, 24,684 migrants were intercepted and returned to Libya, and 525 migrants died and 848 others went missing off on the central Mediterranean route.

Culture



## Libyan Publishers Union participates in the Tunis Book Fair

The Libyan Publishers Union is participating in the 37th Tunis International Book Fair, which started on Friday and will continue until May 7, under the theme 'Fly by Books' Wings'. The Libyan pavilion is located in Sector No. 2006, in the Kram Exhibition Center in the capital, Tunis, represented by eight publishing houses: Dar Al-Walid, Dar Al-Rawad, Al-Risala Bookshop from Tripoli, Dar Al-Shaab, Dar Libya Al-Mustaqbal from Misrata, Dar Al-Fadhil, Dar Al-Jaber from Benghazi, and Dar Shumoa Al-Thaqafa from Al-Zawiya.

Sports



## Al-Ahly Tripoli wins Libya Cup after beating Al-Akhdar

Al-Ahly Tripoli won 3-0 against Al-Akhdar on Tuesday at Rades stadium in Tunisia to win the Libya Cup for the seventh time. The goals came after Al-Akhdar's Suhaib bin Sulaiman was sent off at the minute 66.

Al-Ahly Tripoli qualified for the cup final after defeating Al-Madina 2-0 in the semi-finals at Al-Zawiya Stadium, while the Al-Akhdar qualified after defeating Al-Ahly Benghazi on penalties (5-4), after they drew 1-1 at Tobruk Stadium.

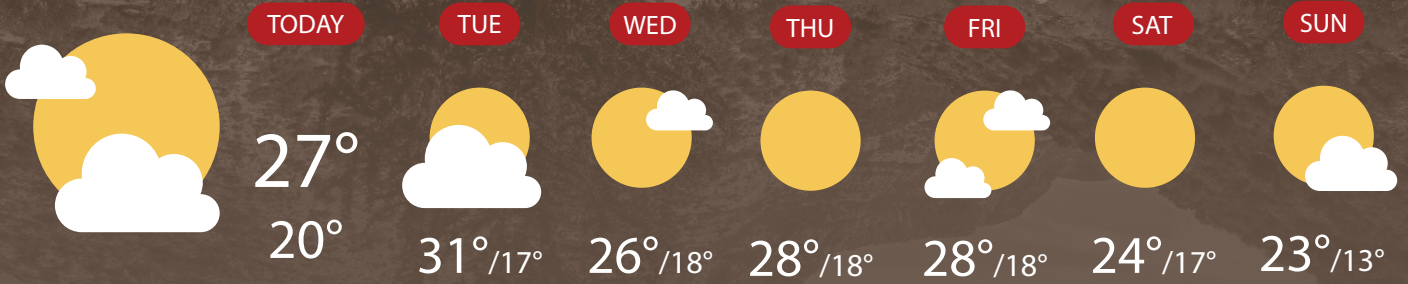
Al-Ahly Tripoli had previously won the Libya Cup six times, while the Al-Akhdar had never won the cup, and it was hoping to win the title for the first time in its history.



Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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