

Politics

## Libya's HoR publishes controversial election laws in Official Gazette



The House of Representatives (HoR) has announced publishing the electoral laws approved by the 6+6 committee in the Official Gazette, despite the High Council of State's objection to them and the reservations of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). According to the Official Gazette, the electoral laws include the law for electing the National Assembly with its two chambers, the House of Representatives and the Senate, saying the election is by direct, secret, free ballot.

The next government will be headed by a president directly elected by the people, provided that legislative and presidential elections will be held within 240 days from the date of issuance of the electoral laws.

The presidential elections are held in two rounds, and the first and second winners qualify for the second round, regardless of the percentage they would have obtained. The Senate elections are held with the first round of the presidential elections, while the House of Representatives elections are held with the second round of the presidential elections.

The law stipulates that the results of the Senate elections will be announced when the results of the presidential and House of Representatives elections are announced, and that if the presidential elections are not held, the National Assembly elections will be cancelled. 297 members of the House of Representatives are elected by secret general ballot, with 152 members being elected by closed lists, and 145 individual seats. The law stipulates that the Senate would consist of 90 members, on the basis of individual nomination, with a one-winner, one-vote system.

The law also says that the candidates for the second round of the presidential elections must submit a written certified declaration stating that they don't hold a foreign citizenship, or submit a document from the embassy of the country whose citizenship they hold proving that they had lodged a request to renounce it.

In the event that the court issues a judicial ruling against one of the two candidates for the second round, based on an appeal to the judiciary, the third winner in the third round will replace him or her. The presidential candidate, whether civilian or military individual, is considered to have resigned from his or her position, and in the event that they don't win the elections, they return to their previous positions.

Politics



## Ammunition warehouse explodes in Zliten, no casualties reported

A powerful explosion rocked the city of Zliten after a warehouse filled with ammunition exploded on Wednesday.

The Ambulance and Emergency Service said its teams rushed to the scene and began evacuating the area adjacent to the explosion that occurred late on Wednesday.

Luckily, the authorities reported no death casualties but said two people suffered suffocation as a result of the smoke.

According to the Interior Ministry, several homes were damaged by the explosion before the fire was contained.

The authorities dispatched a specialized team to deal with remnants of the explosion in cooperation with the Zliten Criminal Investigation Department and security services, the ministry added.

There was no clarification of what caused the blaze, but the ministry said that investigations are underway and urged residents to report any fragments or explosive remnants.

Politics



## Libya condemns in strongest terms Israeli massacre in Gaza's Jabalia

Libya has condemned in the strongest terms the massacre committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the dense populated Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

In a statement Tuesday, the country's Foreign Ministry described the air-strike, which claimed the lives of more than 400 martyrs, as a heinous crime and a continuation of the Zionist genocide policy against the Palestinian people.

It accused Israel of violating the humanitarian values upon which the United Nations was founded.

"This barbaric aggression defies the provisions of international humanitarian law and all laws that protect civilians," the ministry said, highlighting the crimes are being committed under the glare of the international system and with its complicity.

"Supporting the killing, displacement, and starvation of Palestinians that have been ongoing for weeks indicates the inability of the UN Security Council to stop them [ Israeli forces]."

The statement warned that the continuation of the Israeli "crimes against humanity" will lead to dire consequences that may spin out of control.

It called for a unified Arab and Islamic position to face the "deliberate injustice and intentional disregard" for the decade-long suffering of Palestinians and to prevent further horrific massacres against civilians in the Gaza Strip and all Palestinian territories.

Politics

## Mufti of Libya calls for halting oil sales to countries supporting Israel



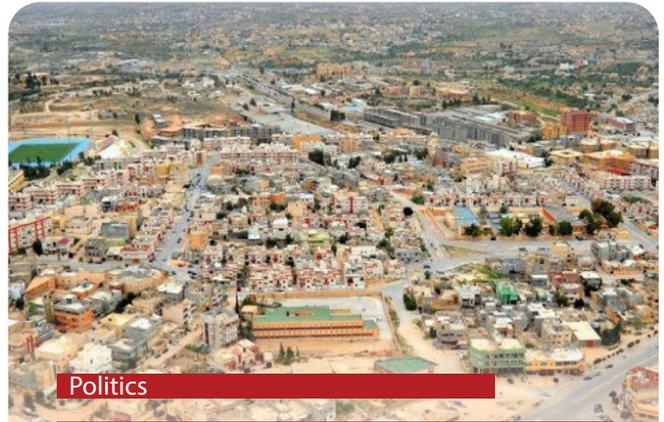
The Mufti of Libya, Sheikh Al-Sadiq Al-Gharyani, has called on Libyans to do more in supporting the people in occupied Palestine, urging Libyans on Tanasuh TV channel not to hesitate about helping their fellow Muslims.

"Libyans must remove all European military missions from the country and cut off oil and gas sales to Western countries that are loyal to Israel." The Mufti indicated.

He added that European presidents are siding with the Zionists for fear that they will be defeated, stressing that "they are indeed defeated."

The Mufti stressed that the Israel's demise is imminent, saying that "this is their end. I have no doubt about that. We must support our brothers, not abandon them."

He urged Libyans "to use their weapons in a way that pleases Allah," explaining that Europeans who support Israel are not affected by verbal statements, saying that what affects those people is action like "cutting off oil and gas to them and boycotting their goods."



Politics

## Gharyan clashes left 8 people dead, 27 injured

The Director of Gharyan Hospital, Khalid Zuweit, confirmed that the death toll of the armed clashes in Gharyan city had reached eight dead people and 27 others injured, indicating that the situation in the city was very stable, and that there was a full security deployment from members of the joint operations room.

Zuweit added that the Hospital's management was in direct contact with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health of the Government of National Unity, and the Ministry's Emergency Committee, to forward reports on the health situation and any other needs that could arise if armed clashes renewed.

On Sunday evening, hours after the clashes had broken, Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, in his capacity as Minister of Defense, ordered the formation of a joint room from several security and military apparatuses to deter "aggressor groups in Gharyan", saying the joint room was for defending the western and southwestern regions and it included seven brigades, eight battalions, and 12 security and military agencies.

"The room is headed by Abdul Salam Al-Zoubi (who could be appointed as Deputy Defense Minister soon), with the assistance of an officer from Brigade 444 and from Public Security and a representative from each assigned unit. The tasks of the room are to defeat the armed groups carrying armed clashes in Gharyan, deal with them with force if necessary, and secure the city and its surroundings." Dbeibah said.

The room later announced seizing control of the entire city of Gharyan after Adel Daab's force had withdrawn from the city.

Footage on social media showed the joint room forces moving toward Mizda (80 km south of Gharyan) and taking control of a camp that was used by Major General Osama Juweili's forces from time to time.

It's not clear yet whether the joint room's operations ended or they will continue in the southwest of the country, where the room's forces might clash with Khalifa Haftar's forces that have controlled the region for years.

Politics

## UN extends mandate of mission in Libya



The Security Council on Monday adopted a resolution to extend the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya for another year.

Resolution 2702, which won the unanimous support of the 15-member council, urged Libyan political institutions and key parties to resolve the outstanding political issues on the road to elections as soon as possible.

In this context, it called on stakeholders to engage with the UN Special Representative in negotiations to deliver free, fair, transparent, and inclusive elections that would lead to a unified Libyan Government.

The 15-member organ also urged all parties to refrain from violence and other actions that could escalate tensions and undermine the political process.

Expressing concern about the humanitarian impact of the September flooding that hit eastern Libya, the council called on the Libyan authorities and relevant stakeholders to allow and facilitate full, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access to those in need, as it underscored the need for a coordinated national platform, supported by UNSMIL, to release funds for long-term reconstruction efforts.



Economy

## Al-Huweij calls for opening sea, air routes for trade between Tripoli and Tangier

The Minister of Economy and Trade Mohammed Al-Huweij called for the opening of air and sea lines between Tripoli and Tangier to facilitate the movement of intra-trade, discussing during his meeting with the Mayor of Tangier, Mounir Limouri, on Wednesday on the sidelines of the Moroccan-Libyan Business Forum ways to enhance bilateral economic relations and communication among businesspeople and investors in both countries, as well as create a true partnership to exchange experiences in various fields of joint interests.

Al-Huweij hailed Morocco's role in seeking to achieve stability in Libya, noting the need to encourage investors to cooperate in establishing projects in the two countries, which would create job opportunities for young people.

The Moroccan and Libyan sides signed a group of partnership and cooperation agreements on the sidelines of the activities of the Libyan-Moroccan Business Forum in its first edition, on Wednesday in the city of Tangier, while the total value of bilateral trade exchanges between the two countries recorded more than 178 million dollars in 2022.

Al-Huweij praised the strength of the political relations that bring the two countries together, and the role played by Morocco in supporting the political process to stabilize Libya to establish a unified, consensual political authority. He urged the economic actors in the two countries to make efforts to open effective direct communication channels to discuss and enhance economic and trade cooperation, and to invest in the field of modern technology and artificial intelligence.



Economy

## NOC operates thermal cracking plant after a 12-year hiatus

The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced the resumption of operations of the (naphtha) thermal cracking plant at the Ras Lanuf Industrial Complex, hailing in a statement the success of the ethylene gas reaching the complex's tanks, and adding that the operation of the cracking plant came after a hiatus that lasted for more than 12 years.

The NOC said that this operation represents the actual beginning of the production of ethylene gas in accordance with standards, and then its gradual transfer to tanks.

According to the NOC's media office, its chairman, Farhat Bengdara, asked for the beginning of preparing the polyethylene factory for operations in the coming period.

Last May, the NOC announced the introduction of "naphtha" into the furnaces and the operations of the "R10-1" thermal cracking gas compressor system in preparation for production and monitoring the progress of operations.



Economy

## Libya's Iron & Steel reports record HBI production

Libya's Hot Briquetted Iron (HBI) production hit an all-time high in October, according to data published by the Iron & Steel company, with production reaching 70,000 tons.

In the preceding year, the company produced 476,200 tons of HBI, which was 95.2% of its production target, showing a 62.5% increase from the previous year.

It may be worth noting that the company entered into agreements with a number of foreign companies earlier this year to export 72,000 tons of rebar.



Economy



## Algeria's Sonatrach announces return to Libya

The Algerian oil company Sonatrach announced on Monday its upcoming return to Libya after halting its activities for years due to the deteriorating security situation.

According to a statement by the company, its CEO, Rachid Hachihi, made a phone call to the Chairman of the Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat Bengdara, to discuss Sonatrach's resumption of its oil activities in Libya.

The phone call took place after the official notification provided by Sonatrach regarding its lifting of the state of force majeure in response to the invitation of the NOC addressed to international companies operating in the field of oil and gas.

The company's statement added that the two sides agreed to hold a meeting on November 7, 2023 in Tripoli, with the aim of officializing the process of resuming the contractual obligations of the Sonatrach complex in the field of exploration in blocks (065) and (96/95) in the Ghadames Basin, as well as discussing ways to enhance the partnership.

Sonatrach suspended its activity in Libya for the first time in 2011, and returned to work in 2012, before stopping again in 2015 due to the deterioration of the security situation in the country. In 2022, Sonatrach and the NOC signed a memorandum of understanding allowing the Algerian company to resume its activity in Libya after a hiatus that lasted for years.

A statement by Sonatrach at the time said that the memorandum "aimed to resume Sonatrach's activity in Libya, complete its contractual obligations, begin developing the discovered fields, and enhance ways of cooperation in the areas of completing oil and gas projects, as well as services and training."



Economy

## LAIP receives offer to operate petroleum product factories

The ministries of industry and oil and gas are in talks with the Libya Africa Investment Portfolio (LAIP) on the latter's potential contribution to the development and operation of several petroleum product factories.

The initiative was presented by a relevant committee at a meeting between the two parties on Monday as part of the government's strategy to localize the oil industry.

Through a visual presentation, the committee highlighted its efforts and introduced plans for operating industrial and oil projects, in which the LAIP would be part of.

On his part, the LAIP Chairman, Mustafa Abu Nass, expressed the institution's readiness to cooperate with and support the committee in this endeavor.

Monday's session was part of a series of meetings held by the portfolio to implement its strategy for prioritizing investment in the national economy while also preserving investments in the African continent, as stated by the LAIP.

Economy



## LIAP seeks cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture

The Chairman of the Libya Africa Investment Portfolio (LIAP), Mustafa Abu Nas, on Monday met with the Deputy Prime Minister/ Acting Minister of Agriculture, Ali Al-Qatrani, to discuss avenues of cooperation between the sides.

As part of its efforts to prioritize national and African investments, the LIAP said it has initiated a series of meetings to realize this goal with a focus on the agriculture sector.

According to the LIAP, the parties arrived at a mutual decision to form a joint committee tasked with developing cooperation mechanisms and identifying potential projects that the ministry can invest in from the portfolio.



Opinions

## Fall of masks of falsification and deception

By **Abdullah Alkabar**,  
*a Libyan political writer and commentator*

Major Western newspapers and media channels wrote off all the past decades of conflict, between the Zionist military occupation force and the Palestinian popular resistance seeking to get rid of the occupier and regain their freedom. Indeed, western media is ignoring all the occupier's violations, crimes, and violations of international law. There is no mention of killing civilians, arresting them, demolishing their homes, destroying their agricultural crops, or confiscating their lands, and the desecration of their mosques.

In the narrative of this media, the history of the conflict began on the day the Palestinian resistance carried out its attack on October 7th and Hamas is the aggressor. With all impudence, the Western media jumped directly to a natural conclusion and a legitimate reaction in all laws, customs, and laws to all the violations committed by the occupation gangs on a daily basis against the Palestinian people, as if the resistance movements were motivated by criminal tendencies, with no goal other than killing and intimidation, and justified the occupation gangs for all their crimes and violations.

This media, despite its different platforms and orientations, all adopted the narratives of the occupation entity, including false and fabricated stories, and its newscasters began interviewing their guests with a specific and repeated question, as if one party had formulated it, and ordered all broadcasters, on all major channels, to launch their interviews with it, especially if it was known that the guest has inclinations and sympathy with the cause of the Palestinian people. Do you condemn the attack carried out by Hamas on the morning of Saturday, October 7? While describing the attack as terroristic, brutal, bloody, etc.

If the guest tries to place the event in question in its historical context, and concludes that it is an inevitable result of the occupation's practices over 75 years, his/her interlocutor will immediately interrupt him. Leave history now and stay with the brutal attack. Do you condemn it or not?

The strict and biased guidance through all major Western media platforms, and through their most famous symbols and programs, against a people defending themselves, their land, and their sanctities, in favour of the occupying entity, did not succeed in concealing the truth, as it failed to cover up the horrific crimes and massacres carried out by the occupying fighter jet and its missiles in Gaza. Indeed, such media was forced to return to relative moderation in order to salvage some of its credibility, which is at stake after such bias and falsification of facts were exposed, by promoting the narrative of

the occupying entity, without scrutiny and verification from independent sources in adherence to professionalism, and without considering the opposing party's narrative too, as objectivity requires.

There may be more than one reason for this failure, as opinion polls have shown that young age groups rely on obtaining information from social media, follow activist blogs and channels on various websites, and have little interest in newspapers and satellite channels.

This means that traditional media are no longer monopolizes the media space, which pushed it, against its will, to correct itself and return, even if only slightly, to the professional path, with the increasing power and influence of immigrants and progressive movements in Western societies, which are aware of the reality and nature of this conflict, and it has become certain that the traditional media has lost much of its credibility, and then, from its impact, and from the results of this round of conflict, it will raise controversy in all circles of public opinion, about the nature of the conflict and its consequences, and the just cause of the Palestinian people will win many supporters, and this will force all media outlets to adopt a more just, moderate, and balanced discourse. The masks of falsity and deception have fallen, and the ugly face of bias has appeared blatantly this time, after it was able in the past decades to direct public opinion towards the narrative presented by the occupying entity and the forces supporting it in all political and media circles.

Despite its tremendous technological progress, and despite its almost absolute dominance over the industry and formulation of media discourse, the Western media lacked the wisdom that would have guided it, during its coverage of the 2022 World Cup, to realize the transformations taking place due to the spread of alternative media through social media. The narrative that it presented sought to promote that Qatar had no right to host the World Cup, doubting its capabilities, and its expectations of an unsuccessful tournament, which were refuted by activists and fans from different countries, who transmitted in audio and video all the beautiful events, the wonderful festive atmosphere in the stadiums and outside them, and Qatar's preparations to provide all amenities to the World Cup guests.

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

## Tunisian medical team visits Sabha Medical Center



Sabha Medical Center has received a Tunisian medical team with different specialties to support the medical teams working at the center, exchange experiences, and provide health care services to citizens in the southern region.

The Government of National Unity said in a brief statement that the Tunisian team's visit comes within the framework of localizing treatment within the framework of the treatment localization program launched in March 2022, to improve

medical services provided by the public health sector.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Medical Center Affairs, Tawfiq Al-Darsi, said that the implementation of the localization of treatment program at home will take place by hosting foreign and Arab doctors to perform advanced surgeries in various specialties within specialized medical centers.



Health

## WHO, Italian Embassy ink agreement to combat diseases in Libya

The World Health Organization (WHO), in partnership with Libya's Health Ministry, has signed a cooperation protocol with the Italian Embassy in Tripoli.

According to the WHO, the agreement, which was inked on Monday by the Italian ambassador and the WHO official, aims to control zoonotic diseases.

The project is to be implemented in partnership with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and the Higher Institute of Health in Italy.

Within the framework of the One Health concept, the agreement would enhance health security in Libya, help in early detection, and prevent and control arthropod (insect) viruses, the WHO explained.



Health

## PM Dbeibah reopens Tripoli's Children Hospital

The Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, has opened the Children's Hospital in Tripoli after completing its reconstruction and equipping its facilities.

During the opening of the hospital, Dbeibah stressed the need to continue equipping health facilities, in support of the health sector, which was neglected for many years in all its aspects.

Hospital Director Ahmed Al-Busafi explained that the current capacity of the hospital reaches 230 beds instead of the capacity of the previous rented building, which was 20 beds.

The hospital includes integrated laboratories for children equipped with endoscopes for the respiratory and digestive systems, in addition to an integrated radiology department.



Sports

## Libyan Premier League will see fans in stadiums after years of absence

Football fans have been permitted to attend the Premier League matches, the Libyan Football Federation (LFF) has declared.

The decision is awaiting the completion of some measures related to security and other regularity matters, the LFF explained, criticizing specific clubs that allowed the return of spectators before obtaining consent from the relevant authorities.

The federation cautioned clubs that they will be held accountable for their fans' behaviour if the latter resort to violence at sports events.

Supporters were excluded in 2011 for risks that crowds could spin out of control given the easy access to weapons that followed the armed revolution the country saw in February of that year.

Plans to allow fans to return to the stadiums ran into several challenges, chief among them were the lockdown restrictions imposed to curb the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.



Education

## Ministry of Education discusses shortage of teachers in Derna

The Ministry of Education stated that it is working to limit the teacher shortage in Derna, due to the death of hundreds of teachers in the flood tragedy.

This came in a meeting that included Minister Musa Al-Mgaryif, the head of the Educational Inspection and Guidance Service, the directors of the educational curricula and educational research centers, and others.

The meeting reviewed an evaluation of the resumption of studies in Derna at the beginning of this week and the transfer of students from damaged to unaffected schools close to their residences.



Education

## Ministry of Education announces resumption of studies in Derna

The Ministry of Education announced the resumption of studies on Sunday in 85 educational institutions in the municipality of Derna.

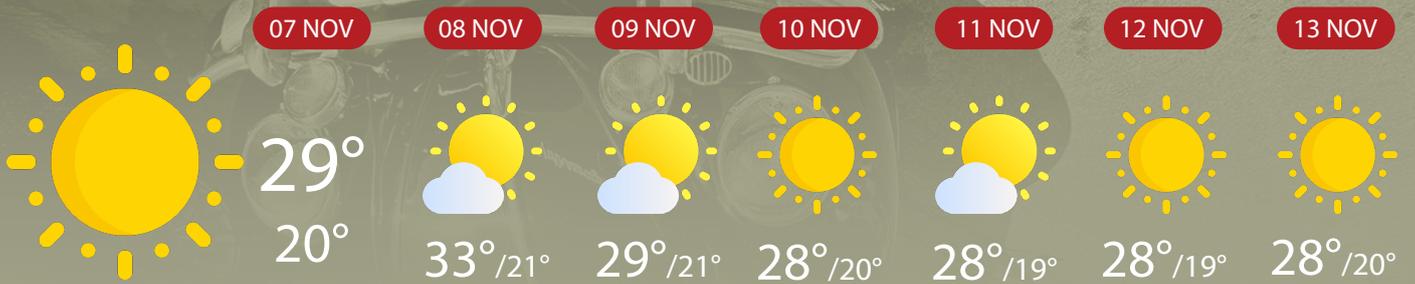
The head of the Education Monitoring Office in Derna, Abdul Hamid Al-Tayeb, explained that studies had resumed in educational institutions that were not exposed to damage.

Al-Tayeb reported that 18 schools were damaged as a result of the floods and torrents that swept through the municipality, of which 10 were severely damaged, confirming the availability of textbooks in the ministry warehouses.



Photo of the Week

### Tripoli Weather Forecast



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