

Politics

## HoR publishes 13th constitutional amendment in the official gazette without consultation with HCS



مجلس النواب الليبي  
LIBYAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House of Representatives (HoR) published the 13th constitutional declaration amendment in the fourth issue of the official gazette on Thursday and it included 34 articles, according to the spokesman for HoR Abdullah Blehiq.

The HoR approved the 13th constitutional amendment in a session held on February 07. This amendment defines the new system of government and the tasks of the elected president and prime minister, as well as the powers and tasks of the legislative authority, which the amendment divided into two chambers: the HoR and the National Assembly.

The HoR referred the 13th constitutional

amendment to the High Council of State (HCS) for opinion and consultation, despite the statement of HoR Speaker Aqila Saleh that issuing legislation is one of the tasks of the HoR alone and that the role of the HCS does not go beyond giving non-binding opinions.

The HCS failed over the last few days to convene a session to deliberate the 13th constitutional amendment and refer an opinion to the HoR. It also put off its session that was supposed to see a vote on the amendment to next Sunday.

Some HCS members said that protesters entered the hall and prevented the session from taking place, while others said that a

number of members received threats on their phones against approving the constitutional amendment.

A number of HCS members issued a few days ago a statement expressing their rejection of what they described as attempts by the Head Khalid Al-Mishri to pass the amendment without consideration and voting on by the members. They stressed that some members refused to pass the amendment, regarding the committees that will work using the amendment to issue electoral laws will be formed by the presidency of the two chambers without referring to the members, and therefore what Saleh and Al-Mishri want will be approved.

Politics

## GNU frees Gaddafi's internal security chief

Libyan authorities have released Gaddafi's internal security chief, Abdullah Mansour, after nine years of imprisonment.

The release of one of Gaddafi's inner circles was announced officially by the Presidential Council and Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity (GNU) Abdul Hamid Dbeibah on Sunday. "February came only to achieve justice and lift oppression," Dbeibah said as he thanked the relevant authorities for responding to the calls for Mansour's re-

lease.

The former security official has been charged with killing and suppressing demonstrators during the 2011 uprising, as well as besieging cities and villages that opposed the former regime and practicing torture against prisoners of conscience.

Local media said he was released from prison for health reasons.

Images circulating online showed Mansour boarding a plane at Mitiga Airport in the presence of senior figures from

Dbeibah's government.

In 2011, the 67-year-old fled to Niger as rebels took control of Tripoli.

From his place of exile, Mansour worked to mobilize pro-Gaddafi forces in the south, forcing the host country to hand him over to the new authorities in Tripoli for violating the asylum rules as stated by the Nigerien government.

Besides his security tasks, Mansour served as secretary and advisor to Gaddafi and headed the state-run radio broadcasting and television.

Politics

## White House extends emergency measures in Libya one more year

In a letter on Friday to the Speakers of the US House of Representatives and the Senate, the White House stressed the need for extending national emergency measures on Libya which were declared by the US under Executive Order 13566, pointing out that the situation in the country still poses an extraordinary threat to Washington's national security and foreign policy.

"The situation in Libya continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, and measures are needed to protect against the diversion of assets or other abuses by members of Qadhafi's family, their associates, and other persons hindering Libyan national reconciliation." The White House said in the letters.

"There was a serious risk that Libyan state assets would be misappropriated by Qadhafi, members of his government, members of his family, or his close associates if those assets were not protected. The foregoing circumstances, the prolonged attacks, and the

increased numbers of Libyans seeking refuge in other countries from the attacks caused a deterioration in the security of Libya and posed a serious risk to its stability." The letters add.

The letters said on April 19, 2016, the President signed Executive Order 13726, which expanded the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13566.

"The President found that the ongoing violence in Libya, including attacks by armed groups against Libyan state facilities, foreign missions in Libya, and critical infrastructure, as well as human rights abuses, violations of the arms embargo imposed by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1970 (2011), and misappropriation of Libya's natural resources threaten the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, democratic transition, and territorial integrity of Libya, and thereby constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States." It added.

Politics

## Niger's President unveils talks to release 3 Libyan figures from prison

The President of Niger, Mohamed Bazoum, revealed efforts by his Congolese counterpart, Denis Sassou Nguesso, to release three other key figures in Libya from prison, praising - as he spoke to reporters at the end of a two-day visit to the Congolese capital, Brazzaville - the release of the head of the internal security agency of Gaddafi's regime and saying that the results were achieved only three days ago in Libya.

Bazoum revealed the presence of three other main personalities whose names he did not mention, but President Sassou Nguesso was working to persuade Libyan authorities to release them. He added that this is a big step that will be taken in the context of national reconciliation, reiterating that the solution to the Libyan crisis can only come from Africa.

Bazoum praised the will of the Congolese President, who leads the African Union's High-level Commission on Libya to resolve the crisis, especially after the appointment of an envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, who enjoys good relations with Denis Sassou Nguesso. He said he was confident that "the upcoming reconciliation conference among Libyans will achieve satisfactory results, and as a border country with Libya, Niger is determined to support the African Union in this process," calling on African countries to make their contribution to improve the situation in Libya.

Politics

## Rights group: Releasing Abdullah Mansour is yet another case of impunity

Human Rights Solidarity said the release of the former Head of the Internal Security Agency, Abdullah Mansour, is a reinforcement of the policy of impunity, adding in a statement that Mansour was the Head of the Internal Security Agency in Tripoli in the last months of Muammar Gaddafi's rule, knowing that the International Criminal Court convicted this agency of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in the indictment against Al-Tuhamy Khalid, the Head of the Internal Security Agency.

The human rights group said that Mansour is a main suspect in the mass murder of more than 1,200 detainees in the central prison in Abu Salim neighborhood, which took place on June 29, 1996 and is known as the Abu Salim prison massacre that the Libyan law and the decision of the Supreme Court stipulated as a crime against humanity, according to testimonies of dozens of soldiers and officers.

It also confirmed that the release of a defendant, who participated in a crime against humanity, before the end of the trial, is a flagrant violation of the law and the independence of the judiciary, and an evidence of the unwillingness of the concerned authorities in Libya to achieve justice and end impunity.



Politics

## Dbeibah, Elkaber, and Shakshak discuss implementation of development budget

The Audit Bureau hosted a meeting Wednesday, grouping its Head, Khaled Shakshak, Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, the Governor of the Central Bank, Saddek Elkaber, and other government officials to discuss procedures for implementing the 2022 development budget.

The group stressed the necessity of embarking on the implementation of the government's strategic projects and addressing the obstacles delaying their launch.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Adel Jumaa, Director of the Oversight Department of the Sovereign Sector in the Diwan, Reda Qarqab, and Advisor to the Governor, Mustafa Al-Manea also joined Wednesday's meeting, according to the government's statement on Facebook.

The session also reviewed projects for the year 2023, which focus on water and sanitation projects and activating plans in the area of local development.

The group commissioned the Audit Bureau to review all the targeted contractual procedures during the current year to ensure their implementation according to sound legal bases and stressed the need for all state institutions to adhere to the disclosure and transparency plan.



Economy

## Tunisia discusses participation of its companies in Tripoli International

The Director of the Tripoli International Fair, Islam Jaafar, received a Tunisian delegation headed by the Export Promotion Centre Chief, Murad Bin Hussein. Jaafar briefed the delegation on the ongoing preparations for the 49th edition of the Tripoli International Fair and discussed the Tunisian participation this year.

The Tunisian side stressed the need to facilitate procedures allowing a maximum number of Tunisian companies to participate.

During their tour of the exhibition area, the Tunisian delegation inspected the pavilion designated for Tunisia and discussed the required arrangements. On the sidelines of the visit, the two sides reviewed the possibility of twinning between the two countries and providing the appropriate climate considering it a key factor in sustaining momentum in cooperation.



Economy

## Tripoli to host Libyan-German economic forum on March 07

Tripoli will host the second Libyan-German Economic Forum, with the participation of a large delegation of businesspersons representing German companies.

The Secretary-General of the Arab-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abdulaziz Al-Mekhlafi, offered the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Mohammed Al-Raeid, cooperation in organizing the forum, according to a letter published by the Ministry of Economy and Trade on Thursday.

Al-Mekhlafi proposed devoting March 08 to bilateral meetings, visiting some Libyan agencies and institutions, adding that the Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah could supervise the event with the participation of the relevant Libyan ministries, institutions and businesspersons.

He also expressed his desire to coordinate and consult with the General Union in order to prepare for the forum to boost relations between Libya and Germany, in a way that strengthens economic cooperation and serves businesspersons on both sides.



Economy

## Al-Hawij discusses with Tunisian ambassador cooperation in the field of training

The Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Hawij, has discussed with the Tunisian Ambassador to Libya, Asaad Al-Ajili, ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries in the field of training, developing human cadres, and holding joint exhibitions. This came during their meeting at the ministry's headquarters on Sunday, during which Al-Hawij stressed the importance of exporting to African markets, according to the ministry's statement on its Facebook page.

Both sides reviewed the work of the joint committee between the Libyan and Tunisian export centers, in addition to the problems and difficulties facing the development of the two countries' exports to global markets.

Economy

## Al-Huwaij calls for action for preserving strategic stock of grain

The Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Huwaij, has stressed the importance of preserving the strategic stock of grain, encouraging its cultivation locally, and increasing the dependence on the local product while purchasing it directly from farmers at encouraging prices.

Al-Huwaij made his comments at a meeting with the Assistant Advisory Committee of the Libyan Grain Bureau, on Wednesday, in the presence of the Chairman and members of the Committee, the Director General of Administrative and Financial Affairs, and the Deputy Director General of the Insurance Supervisory Authority.

The minister urged more efforts to preserve the grain strategic stocks, considering it a matter of national security, as he stressed that encouraging and supporting farmers is at the heart of the work of the Libyan Grain Board.

It may be worth noting that the Libyan Bureau of Grains was formed last year by the Prime Minister before the Minister of Economy and Trade formed the affiliate committee.

Economy



## Libyan Investment Authority wins lawsuit against former officials of FM Capital

LIA's media advisor, Louay Al-Qareyo, said in a press statement that the Southwark Crown Court in London sentenced the former manager of the company and other parties to 11 years in prison for defrauding the assets of the Libya Africa Investment Portfolio, in addition to sentencing one of the parties to a suspended 15-month prison sentence, and paying a compensation of \$ 25 million to LIA. Al-Qareyo added that the ruling comes as a culmination of the civil ruling issued on July 11, 2018 by England's Commercial Court in favour of the Libya Africa Portfolio, which is affiliated with the Libyan Investment Authority and which owns the Libyan Capital Company in Britain.

The civil judgment stated at the time that "the former director was responsible for breach of financial duties, bribery and unfair mediation in relation to all transactions under consideration in the lawsuits, as the court decided that the amount of compensation ranged between 20 and 25 million dollars."

The background of this case goes back to 2014, after the Libyan Investment Authority issued instructions to file a lawsuit against the defendants, and the Libyan company "FM Capital" and the Libya Africa Portfolio filed a lawsuit against the former manager of the company and several other parties before England's Commercial Court due to financial losses and damages resulting from the violation of legal duties.

Economy

## Ministry of Oil: \$1.68 billion seized by NOC without legal bases, transferred to public treasury



Ministry of Oil and Gas of the Government of National Unity announced on Tuesday that it supplied more than 1.682,911 billion dollars (about 8.415 billion Libyan dinars) to the public treasury account on Monday, in form of royalties and taxes for the period from March 2018 to November 2019.

The ministry explained in a statement that these royalties and taxes were kept in the account of the National Oil Corporation throughout this period without legal basis, and they were transferred to public treasury accounts, after addressing NOC Chairman twice, on January 1 and on February 1.

In its statement, the ministry further stated that another amount of 10.900 billion Libyan dinars had been transferred to the public treasury account, 'which was kept with foreign companies for more than 16 months, and without legal basis.

It noted that it is not known yet whether Libya benefited from the interest of these sums, despite requests to NOC to clarify the matter.

The ministry clarified that these operations have been taken in fulfillment of the ministry's legal obligation and its diligence to take care of the Libyan people's interests by preserving their resources, and upholding the principle of transparency requested by the Government of National Unity.



# On the anniversary of February revolution

By Abdullah Alkabir,  
a Libyan political writer and commentator

The anniversary of 17th February revolution is commemorated these days, and as usual every year, the debate about the revolution and its consequences comes to the fore. The same questions are asked, is it a revolution or a conspiracy? The answer will be along affiliation lines, whether a proponent or opponent of the revolution. Obviously, without ignoring the levels of awareness, and the degree of cultural and intellectual maturity of those who wish to dissect the revolution, in order to find adequate answers to all posed questions.

Sometimes it makes sense to answer a question with a counter-question, or even several questions such as; where is the conspiracy in people demanding their rights, dignity and freedom? where is the conspiracy in rising up against corruption, tyranny and dictatorship? where is the conspiracy in people asking for democracy to choose who run their affairs? Aren't silence, acceptance of oppression, humiliation, persecution, and squandering the country's resources for the sake of illusions of glory and leadership, the real conspiracy?

The first wave of Arab Spring revolutions began in 2011 and then its second wave after about a decade, and yet still an interacting event, warning of more waves and uprisings, because most of the goals that prompted the people to take to the streets have not been achieved. As long as the reasons that drive people to revolution remain, no one will be safe from implosion and start of new waves, and no one can predict when they will erupt, because the revolution is an exceptional event in the history of peoples, necessitated by a combination of several factors and circumstances.

The Arab revolutions at the beginning of the current century were the noblest and most beautiful moment in contemporary Arab history, in which young people emerged and declared their just and legitimate demands in a spontaneous, peaceful and civilized manner, without ideological or partisan leaders. No one denies the spontaneity of the first days of all Arab revolutions, but the response of regimes of injustice and tyranny, which are good at nothing but repression and killing, confronted the youth of the revolution with bullets, and despite the youth's observance of peace, the regimes insisted on violence. However, it was not excessive in Tunisia and Egypt as it was the case in Libya, since the Gaddafi regime rushed to burn the country with its military arsenal, prompting the revolutionaries to take up arms to defend themselves. So, the fronts flared up, and the conflict intensified, eventually leading to international intervention through UN Security Council resolutions.

Matters did not settle for the revolution after the overthrow of the head of the regime, so transnational Islamic political

projects emerged, and the counter-revolutionary forces rallied their ranks, backed by regional and international forces, whose interest is not in the rise of the people to take control over their destiny and chart their own course.

Indeed, those forces were set to besiege the revolution and plunge the country into chaos, and the aspiring agents returned to seize the legacy of Gaddafi, in order to establish a new dictatorship with the same rules and mechanisms, and thus the struggle between the revolution and its enemies continued.

The collapsed regime and the forces resisting the change bear responsibility for all this chaos and instability. The revolution overthrew the dictatorial regime, but it did not get the opportunity to build a new system conducive to achieving the goals of the revolution. Rather, it continued to struggle with the forces that fought against it, in a country that became politically desertified due to the systematic subversion practiced by the previous regime. There are no parties, civil society organizations, or a political practice that develops national consciousness and unites it around a unified identity, and there are no constitutional institutions that can be resorted to when the country is exposed to serious threats, not to mention the discord left behind among the various components of the country.

The revolution anniversary is commemorated, yet the situation in all aspects of life did not witness clear progress. Nevertheless, the people flocked in thousands to the squares of the country to commemorate and celebrate the anniversary, without compulsion or threat to cut the salary or the consumer goods through the co-operatives, as the previous regime used to do, when it celebrates its anniversaries of seizing power.

Now, the jubilant and free people celebrate the anniversary because they feel, it is the most prominent event in the contemporary history of Libya, and that they participated in it to different degrees, and they pin great hopes on it, to achieve the historical transformation by restoring the homeland, and establishing a state of justice, freedom and democracy.

The revolution shattered the fence of fear, unleashed change, and wide-opened the door to the future, despite all frustration, retreat and deterioration of the situation, it will make its way no matter how great the obstacles are, until all goals are realized.

*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

**Ministry of Health takes part in the High African Ministerial Forum in Addis Ababa**

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Saad El-Din Abdel-Wakeel, has participated in the high-level African Ministerial Forum, which was held on the sidelines of the 42nd ordinary session of the Executive Council of the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, with the participation of health ministers in the African Union countries.

Abdel-Wakeel held several meetings with Arab and African health ministers, to discuss health cooperation to serve the health sector in Libya and African countries.

Education



**Minister of Education takes part in International Conference to Support Education in Emergencies**

Minister of Education of the Government of National Unity, Mussa Al-Magaryif, has participated in the activities of the High-Level Financing Conference for the "Education Cannot Wait" Fund.

The conference took place in the Swiss city of Geneva over the past Wednesday and Thursday, according to a statement by the ministry on its Facebook account on Friday.

Experiences of various countries in the field of educating children, people with disabilities and girls in emergency and crisis situations, especially in critical places were presented at

the conference. The participants also emphasized the importance of providing safe structure for educational institutions, enhancing teachers competencies, besides climate impact on the educational process.

The conference was held under the auspices of Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Niger and South Sudan. However, Al-Magaryif participated at the invitation of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in Libya.

Sports



## Al-Akhdar draws USM Alger at CAF Confederation Cup

Libya's Al-Akhdar drew Algeria's USM Alger (1-1) at Beni-na Martyrs Stadium in Benghazi on Sunday as part of the second round of first group matches of the CAF Confederation Cup.

Al-Akhdar scored first from the spot at the minute 67 and then the Algerian team leveled the score at the minute 77. Now Al-Akhdar has one point from two matches - it lost the first match 1-4 to South African team Gallants, while USM Alger has four.

On February 26, Al-Akhdar is going to play Congolese FC Saint-Éloi Lupopo away and a loss should not be on its agenda if it wants to compete for a qualification to the next round.

Tech



## Preparations underway for Libya Telecommunications Exhibition

Preparations are underway in the Sports City in the capital, Tripoli, for the launch of the Libya Exhibition for the Export of Communications and Information Technology Services.

The exhibition is organized by the Export Development Centre in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Government of National Unity.

The exhibition, to kick off on Monday and continue for four days, will be attended by a large number of companies providing communications and information technology services in various Libyan cities, in addition to international participation from Tunisia, Jordan and China.

The exhibition aims to foster cooperation and exchange of experiences between local and international companies, in addition to providing partnership opportunities among them through the economic forum that will be held on the side-lines of the exhibition. A number of Arab and international specialists and experts are expected to participate through actual attendance or teleconferences.



Education

## New six university amphitheatres opened at Tripoli University

The Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, accompanied by the Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Al-Siddiq Al-Kabeer, and the Head of the Audit Bureau, Khaled Shakshak, have participated in the opening ceremony of a new, fully-equipped complex of six amphitheatres at the University of Tripoli, which accommodate more than 3,000 students.

The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Omran Al-Qayeb, said that the "Return to life" initiative has become a tangible reality witnessed by all sectors, including higher education, according to the Hakometna platform.

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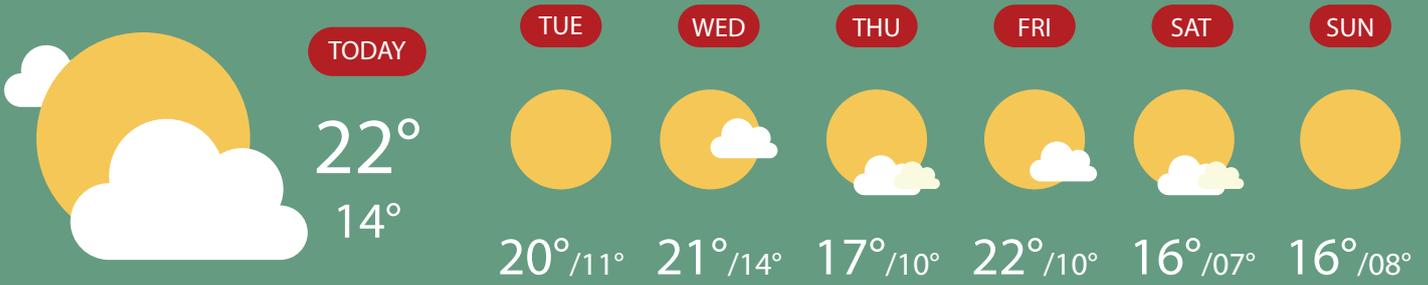
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