

## Politics

### HCS rejects "NC7" field agreement and laws from HoR

The High Council of State (HCS) held a session on Tuesday to deliberate on the "NC7 Field" in Al-Hamada Al-Hamra, where the National Oil Corporation intends to sign an investment agreement. The Council voted to reject the deal and endorsed the promotion of local investment.

Chaired by the President of the Council, Mohamed Takala, the Council decided to reject any legislation issued by the House of Representatives that contradicts the political agreement and discussed "violations" committed by the HoR in enacting laws that require consensus.

Among other primary topics discussed were sovereign positions and the findings of the relevant committee, as the Council agreed to initiate communication with the HoR to finalize procedures for key positions.

Furthermore, the session delved into the current political landscape and the proposal put forth by the United Nations mission, including developments in the 'Quintet' dialogue comprising the HoR, HCS, Prime Minister Dbeibah, PC President Menfi, and Khalifa Haftar.

## Politics

### Grand Mufti: Cutting off roads is contrary to Islamic law



Libya's Grand Mufti, Sheikh Sadiq Al-Ghariani, has expressed concern over blocking roads, considering such acts as highway robbery.

In a statement on Al-Tanasuh TV on Wednesday, he said that "closing roads for any reason is illegitimate and should be eliminated from our practices if we genuinely desire the betterment and development of our country."

The Mufti explained that such behaviour is contrary to Islamic law and represents disgraceful conduct indicative of regression, chaos, and a lack of intent in establishing a state and supporting the law.

He criticized the actions of some residents of Tajoura, who blocked the eastern entrances to Tripoli in protest against the Internal Security's arrest of university professor Bashir Al-Areibi after the latter criticized the government and suggested a renewal of strikes in Libyan universities.

Regardless of their reasons, such actions are displeasing to God and people, the Mufti added. He said it was the duty of the security directorate to forcibly open the roads and not allow disorderly and chaotic behaviour to prevail.

## Politics

### Attorney General: Criminal case on Derna disaster reserved for ruling on January 11



The Libyan Attorney General Al-Siddiq Al-Sour said on Wednesday that the Derna court decided to reserve Derna floods case and ruling for January 11, after the Public Prosecution had filed a criminal case against 16 officials responsible for the floods in the city, including the Head of the Derna City Reconstruction Fund and a member of the financial committee in charge of implementing the reconstruction plan.

In a press conference, Al-Sour discussed the collapse of the Derna dams as an issue of public opinion, saying it could have been avoided, explaining that a Swiss consulting office had recommended modifications and maintenance to the two dams since 2003.

"The former head of the Water Resources Authority, his successor, the director of the dams administration, his predecessor, and the head of the dam maintenance department in the eastern region did not provide anything to defend their responsibility for mismanaging the administrative and financial tasks assigned to them and for their mistakes to prevent the occurrence of the flood disaster", Al-Sour said, stressing that a number of those accused in the Derna disaster are abroad.

"They will be tried in absentia and arrest warrants have been issued against them. The prosecution has begun requesting the issuance of a Red Notice from Interpol, which will be transmitted this week." He added.

Al-Sour addressed the intelligence service regarding providing them with a code of investigations and evidence regarding the meeting of Foreign Minister Najla Al-Mangoush and her Israeli counterpart, and a code of investigation procedures by the government in this regard to decide on taking any measures in this file.

Regarding the issue of the National Oil Corporation contract with a foreign consortium to develop the Hamada oil field, Al-Sour said that they asked the National Oil Corporation to stop the contract regarding the NC7 Hamada field due to harm to the Libyan interest, adding "We are working seriously on it and the investigation procedures are still continuing."

For their endeavor to digitize criminal and judicial work, Al-Sour confirmed that the Public Prosecution has completed the digitization of 1,251,656 criminal cases and 912,000 evidentiary collection records through the digital transformation system for the last three years.

He pointed out the importance of the digital transformation project at the Public Prosecution in accessing information, facilitating justice procedures, enhancing the concept of transparency, improving administrative performance, and achieving sustainable development goals. He also explained that the Public Prosecution was also able to include criminal cases over the past 35 years in the digital transformation system.

Politics

## Libyan Foreign Ministry denounces blasts in Iran's Kerman



The Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned the "terrorist attack" that occurred in Kerman Province, southern Iran, and resulted in several casualties.

Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of National Unity extended its deep condolences and wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded to Iran, stressing its solidarity with the Iranian people in this painful tragedy, and reaffirming the unwavering position of the State of Libya in

favor for renunciation of violence and rejection of terrorism in all of its forms.

More than 100 people were killed and dozens were injured in two bombings on Wednesday near the cemetery of the city of Kerman, southern Iran. According to what Iranian official media reported: the blasts were during the commemoration of the killing of the official of foreign operations in the Revolutionary Guard, Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in 2020.



Politics

## UN preparations for JMC 5+5 meeting

The United Nations Support Mission to Libya (UNSMIL) has sent an invitation to the members of the Joint Military Commission (JMC) 5+5, to discuss activating what was signed at the Geneva meeting in October 2020 regarding the removal of mercenaries and foreign fighters from Libya, according to local media sources.

The sources indicated that the UNSMIL realizes the importance of activating the Libyan military track during the coming period, in conjunction with the preparatory meetings planned to be organized during the first half of this year, to reach agreement on the election laws necessary to organize the electoral process.

In turn, the Chairman of the JMC 5+5 for the Western Region confirmed the failure of the plan for the exit of mercenaries and foreign forces from Libya, considering that the political impasse was caused by each party's adherence to the parties associated with it.



Politics

## Arab-European Center for Human Rights urges Libyan AG to implement judicial rulings

The Arab-European Center for Human Rights and International Law welcomed what was announced in the report of Attorney General Al-Siddiq Al-Sour on Wednesday in Tripoli. The center, which is based in Oslo, Norway, hailed the expected step and the investigation regarding the mass graves in Tarhouna as well as the Derna disaster, in which thousands were killed. The center praised the decision to bring all those responsible for this disaster to justice.

It also called on the Attorney General to exert more efforts to promote and protect the values of human rights and the rule of the state of law and institutions, in addition to accelerating the release of convicts whose sentences expired and expediting the procedures for those awaiting trial.

"We see in this report a positive development toward achieving justice, and we appeal to the Attorney General to urge the Government of National Unity to commit to implementing judicial rulings without delay, as it was noted that some rulings were not implemented, which constitutes a denial of justice." The center added.



Economy

## Oil Ministry says shutdown of oil fields harms Libyan economy

The Ministry of Oil and Gas of the Government of National Unity (GNU) called on all parties to keep oil and gas production and export operations away from any private issues or disputes, warning of the possibility of losing importers of Libyan oil irretrievably, as a result of the fear of instability in supplies.

The Ministry reaffirmed its support for demanding rights and redressing injustice, calling on all relevant parties in this regard to be wise and to ensure the continuation of oil production, improving its marketing, and avoiding its use as a pressure card. It explained that the consequences and repercussions of those previous closures were very serious for Libya.

The Oil Ministry pointed out the possibil-

ity of returning to the declaration of force majeure and other possible measures, which would force the partners to look for an alternative other than Libya due to the country's inability to fulfill contracts and agreements. It indicated that the risk of closure of the Libyan oil market "is great," and that the countries participating with Libya in production in exchange for quotas will be affected by this closure.

A number of protesters in the southern region announced the closure of Sharara oilfield, holding the National Oil Corporation and the government responsible for the negative effects that would result from this shutdown until the rights of Fezzan region were answered.

Economy

## Al-Hawij follows up on the reactivation of Stock Market

The Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Hawij, paid a visit to the Stock Market on Tuesday, during which he met with the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Bashir Ashour.

Both sides followed up on the work of departments and offices and the progress of electronic trading operations in the Stock Market, calling to begin offering shares and some sukuk, such as Islamic sukuk, according to the ministry.

He stressed the importance of reactivating the Libyan Stock Market and its role in economic growth, attracting local and foreign investments, and revitalizing the small and medium enterprises sector.



Economy

## Dbeibah urges for reviewing deal for developing oil and gas explorations

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah stressed the necessity of reviewing the agreement to develop oil and gas explorations, and taking note of all the observations, saying that "all supervisory and executive authorities and relevant experts are a first party representing the Libyan state to preserve its rights."

Dbeibah's remarks came in his speech during the ninth regular meeting of the Supreme Council for Energy and Water Affairs, which was held at the headquarters of the Audit Bureau in Tripoli, on Wednesday, in the presence of members of the Council.

At the meeting, the National Oil Corporation responded to the Bureau's observations regarding the Hamada field development

agreement, as Dbeibah stressed the need to increase oil and gas production through new exploration and to support foreign and local investment in accordance with laws that preserve the rights of the Libyan state. Dbeibah explained that the meeting was devoted to the National Oil Corporation's team to respond to the observations received from the Audit Bureau, and the memorandum submitted by Libyan experts in the oil and gas sector regarding the points that need clarification and response, stressing that all parties have a national responsibility to invest in the field of oil and gas in accordance with Legal and technical guidelines. The National Oil Corporation team presented the history of the area to be developed

in the Hamada field, the stages of development of negotiations, and the offers submitted by a consortium of companies: Eni of Italy, ADNOC of the UAE, Total of France, and the Turkish Energy Corporation, to develop the oil field, which was met with local opposition.

The agreement to develop the Hamada field, which the National Unity Government intends to sign in late January 2024, has sparked widespread controversy within Libya and local opposition, especially by a number of national experts, the House of Representatives, the High Council of State, the Public Prosecution, and the Audit Bureau.

على أرض معرض طرابلس الدولي  
28 إلى 31 يناير 2024

Libyafood<sup>5th</sup>

Economy

## 39 Egyptian companies take part in fifth edition of Libya Food Exhibition

39 Egyptian companies will participate in the activities of the fifth edition of the Libya Food International Exhibition, which will be held in Tripoli from 28 to 30 January.

The Head of the International Exhibitions Company organizing the Libya Food Exhibition, Haitham Garwash, confirmed in a conference held to announce the details of the exhibition in the presence of representatives of Egyptian companies, that Egypt had a strong food and agricultural sector. "We are confident that this exhibition will give Egyptian companies new opportunities to strengthen their presence in Libyan markets" He added. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce in Libya, Mohammed Al-Raeid, stressed the importance of strengthening trade and economic relations between Egypt and Libya at all levels during the current period, and he explained that Libyan companies prefer to deal with Egyptian institutions and companies, which are welcomed by all levels of the Libyan market.

The head of Expo Group, the organizer of the Egyptian participation, Ashraf Abdel Rahim, said that Egypt's participation in a large number of companies at the Libya Food International Exhibition in Tripoli reflects their strong commitment to strengthening joint trade relations and economic cooperation.

He added that the products of Egyptian companies are very well received in the Libyan market, explaining that the number of companies in last year's exhibition was 24 companies. He said "there are other companies on the waiting list to join the 39 participating ones. We are working to provide spaces for them in the exhibition."

He also expected that the Egyptian companies would attract thousands of visitors and those interested in the field of food and packaging, as the number of visitors to the exhibition last year reached 14,000.

Economy

## CBL governor calls for single budget allocation, citing spending caution after nine-year hiatus

Media outlets cited an anonymous source that the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Governor insists on disbursing funds only for a single budget approved by the Parliament.

The bank urged the consideration of consumer spending rationalization and cautioned against the risks associated with expanding public expenditure.

The Governor reportedly communicated this stance to PM Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, emphasizing the need to end the ongoing duplicity in spending practices.

Economy

## Oil Minister: Libya recovered \$2.4 billion from state financial dues in oil sector

The Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Oun, said that Libya recovered about \$2.4 billion from state dues in the oil sector and royalties from foreign companies seized by the former chairman of the National Oil Corporation, Mustafa Sanalla.

In his interview with "Energy" magazine, Oun added that Libya aimed to stop burning associated gas by 2025, and is preparing to enter the field of hydrogen after studying the possibility of transporting and exporting it to Europe as well as using it. Regarding the increase in demand for liquefied gas, Oun indicated that there is a memorandum of understanding, translated into agreements, with Italy regarding the establishment of a liquefied gas plant in Libya, and nothing has happened about it so far. Oun attributed the reason for the cessation of discussions about it to the failure of the Ex-Chairman of the National Oil Corporation, Mustafa Sanalla, to proceed with these agreements, and his interference in political issues and loyalties, in addition to "taking refuge in foreign countries, and ignoring the completion of projects and agreements."

Oun stressed that the companies claimed that there was not sufficient security in Libya, but the naval operations continued and were very far from any military activity, especially inside the country, blaming the British oil company "BP" for not investing in the sea and following up on its work from a base in Tunisia or Malta.

Oun denied that the Ministry had signed any agreement with the South Korean company (STX) to establish a pipeline to export oil through the Egyptian port of Garjoub, pointing out that the Egyptian Ministry of Oil was not aware of the agreement and that it was an individual decision by the Ministry of Transport without referring to the Ministry of Oil.

He also revealed that the Egyptian Minister of Oil protested against the procedure, given that the ministry is authorized to sign these agreements after discussing with the oil institutions from the Libyan side, indicating that some Egyptian companies continue to work, including "Petrojet."

Speaking about the move toward the renewable energies project, Oun announced the signing of an agreement to generate electricity in a plant with a capacity of 500 megawatts, and two others with a capacity of 500 megawatts, with the follow-up of the Renewable Energy Agency of the Government of National Unity.





Health



## Visiting doctor performs 20 surgeries at Bani Walid Hospital

Visiting doctor from Canada, Hussein Khalaf, has performed 20 complex surgeries in the specialty of urology, with the help of a team of urology specialists at Bani Walid General Hospital.

The Ministry of Health indicated that the arrival of the visiting doctor comes in support of Bani Walid General Hospital to implement the Ministry of Health's plan to harness all necessary capabilities to provide appropriate treatment within Libyan territory, and to exchange experiences between visiting doctors and Libyan doctors.

Health

## NCDC sends shipment of vaccinations to 30 municipalities in eastern region



The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has confirmed that shipments of school and routine vaccinations will be sent to the eastern region to cover the needs of 30 municipalities.

A few days ago, the NCDC sent shipments of similar vaccinations to the mountainous regions, to be distributed to 14 municipalities.

Health



## NCDC dispatches vaccinations to Sirte

The health authorities in Sirte received on Saturday a shipment of routine and mandatory vaccinations provided by the Vaccination Administration at the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC).

The shipment includes vaccines such as Pentavalent, Hexavalent, Combined, Pneumococcal, Rotavirus, BCG, Hepatitis, Tri-, Quadrivalent, Human Papillomavirus, Meningococcal, and Yellow Fever vaccines.

According to the Director of the Primary Health Care Office, Mohamed Idris, the vaccines will be distributed to all health centres in the city and surrounding areas based on their weekly and monthly needs.

He also noted that the Health Services Administration is preparing to launch School Health Days for vaccinations in all educational institutions following the school holiday.

Health



## 1.233 heart surgeries, catheterization operations performed by treatment localization program

The Ministry of Health announced that 1.233 heart, catheterization and open-heart surgeries were performed for children in various medical centers within the framework of the program to localize medical services inside Libya, in cooperation with the private sector.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health-designate Ramadan Abu Janah held a meeting with officials in the ministry to follow up on the implementation of contracts for performing these operations, which cost 14.112.505 dinars, with an average price of 11.500 dinars per operation, all of which were successful under the supervision of the centers' administrations.

Abu Janah pointed to the increasing challenges facing medical centers, with regard to managing costs in light of the commitment to improving the standards of medical services, and the increasing cases of chronic diseases such as heart disease, which have witnessed an increase in the recent period.

The Minister urged for coordinating continuously in order to speed up financial procedures, so that medical centers can complete the implementation of surgical operations for patients awaiting scheduled operations on waiting lists.

Education

## Libyan Ministry of Higher Education approves 6,000 students for overseas scholarships



The Central Committee for Scholarships Abroad announced that the number of beneficiaries of scholarships to study abroad reached approximately 6,000 students, adding that the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research gave permission to initiate the procedures for the documentary session of financial authorization for the students to study abroad.

The committee added that it formed

26 subcommittees in universities to set controls and standards, noting the exclusion of a group of students: those over the legal age and those who received transfer decisions at home, replacement decisions, and scholarships abroad.

The lists of students were distributed among faculty members and university teaching assistants: 3,000 students, and technical education: 1,150 students, in

addition to 650 others who are top students at universities and 400 students from medical specialties.

The approved lists also included 649 students from the Authority for the Families of Martyrs, Amputees and the Wounded, and 100 others from the Integration and Development Project, according to the latest statistics approved by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Sports



## Libya's basketball team soars to Arab Championship semi-finals with victory over Kuwait

Libya's national basketball team has made it to the semi-finals of the 25th edition of the Arab Basketball Championship in Cairo after taking over Kuwait with a final score of 89 to 76.

The team will now face the Tunisians, who also secured their place by defeating Somalia.

The other semi-final match will feature Egypt against the United Arab Emirates, with Egypt advancing after a victory over Mauritania and the UAE securing their spot by defeating Algeria.

Libya's team demonstrated their prowess by topping their group with a flawless record, winning all three matches against Mauritania, Algeria, and Somalia.

Education



## Tripoli University signs agreement with LabTech

Tripoli University has signed a cooperation agreement with Libya's LabTech company as part of the memorandum of understanding concluded with the Ministry of Environment on December 13 last year.

President of Tripoli University, Khalid Aoun, and the Managing Director of Libya's LabTech, Mohamed Fadil, signed the contract in a ceremony on Monday.

Under the agreement, the university will benefit from utilizing laboratories and facilities to conduct essential tests for the Ministry of Environment, while the company will assist the university in operating and maintaining laboratories and equipment.

LabTech Libya will also be responsible for activating the laboratories of the Ministry of Environment and conducting necessary analyses, especially on imported items.





Opinions

## Patriotic elites must act quickly

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

The dominant political and military class does not plan to make the desired change that the people are waiting for, and it is imposed by the necessity to save the country from a frightening reality and a darker future, as if all parties of this class are satisfied with the power and influence, they have achieved through the political equation, and are satisfied with it, and do not aspire for anymore. Certainly, they do not feel the danger threatening the country and its people, or they are aware of it but do not pay it the deserved attention, because what concerns them is their personal salvation by securing wealth outside the country that will enable them to live comfortably anywhere in the world.

This descent into the unknown cannot be halted without renewing legitimacy through elections, and because these elections, if they take place, will overthrow the parties of this class and strip them of the power and influence they have wielded, and may push some of them to face justice, they are doing everything they can to abort it, and extend the transitional period indefinitely.

Even the UN initiative, and behind it the American pressures, did not succeed in bringing the main parties in power to the negotiating table through their representatives. Although, the UN envoy did not raise the white flag, and is still trying to bring the views of the invitees closer together, hoping for a response at the end and the start of the dialogue. However, the regional and international context is not prepared for reaching a comprehensive political settlement, resulting in a comprehensive path towards a unified executive authority, and a clear path with certain dates towards elections. The conflict between the major powers is at its most extreme stage, only short of direct, declared confrontations. Initiatives launched by UN missions in countries with internal conflict require a minimum level - at the very least- of regional international consensus.

At the internal level, the High Council of State is

discussing opening the path to sovereign positions with the House of Representatives, while blocs within the House of Representatives are moving to overthrow Agila Saleh, Speaker of the HoR, driven by the military party controlling the east of the country. As long as these are the trends of the legislative authority with its both wings, there is no doubt that they are completely reassured to remain in their positions, and that their departure through elections will not be achieved in the foreseeable future.

Therefore, there is no reliance on the political and military parties that benefit from the crisis, and whose interests intersect with external powers, and the mission will remain unable to propose any solution under such turbulent climates. What is the way out of this long tunnel of transition?

The only way, in my opinion, is for the people to rise up and activate all available tools, which are not few, such as the popular movement and through demonstrations of a national nature, but not regional or factional, sit-ins and statements demanding the speedy holding of parliamentary elections, as well as pressing UNSMIL to assume its responsibilities, in the face of the political class's continued procrastination.

By transcending the obstructionists who have no vested interest in change, by holding a referendum on the draft constitution, or the constitutional rule in question, it is the responsibility of the national elites to adopt these options that can contribute to getting the country out of the crisis, by presenting appropriate plans to mobilize the street, and then heading to address the UN mission, backed by the hoped-for popular movement, which will be the decisive factor in any desired change.

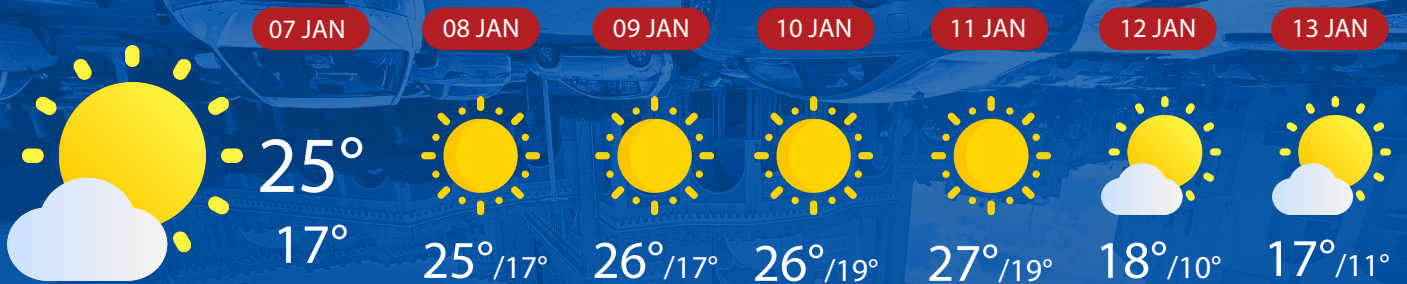
Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Libya Observer



Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



+218 94 424 69 28 libyaobserver.ly lyobserver

info@libyaobserver.ly lyobserver

ar.libyaobserver.ly lyobserver.ar lyobserver.arabic

libyaobserver thelibyaobserver

Contact  
Information