

## Politics

### Libyan AG: HoR has issued some legislation without extensive legal study



The Libyan Attorney General Al-Siddiq Al-Sour said that many of the laws recently issued by the House of Representatives (HoR) were issued without study or research, such as the anti-terrorism and cybercrime laws and the law fighting witchcraft and sorcery.

Al-Sour's remarks came in his speech on Tuesday during the International Scientific Conference on the Criminal Justice System, where he said that his office had noticed that there were crisis laws issued by the HoR to meet urgent needs or to satisfy public opinion or part of it.

"These laws are issued and in most cases they have flaws or shortcomings... either harsh penalties, a violation of freedoms, or an expansion of police powers. These laws were based on the concept of protecting public order and neglected the

necessity of protecting values and interests." He explained.

He said the penal code, as a regulator of social behavior, must be derived from the values and interests rooted in the living conscience of society. He also called for the use of innovative scientific research in order to develop the penal and criminal procedure laws that revolve around criminal legislation.

"Criminal justice research must focus on the concepts of legitimacy, accountability, and effectiveness to verify the extent to which systems, interventions, and punishments have intended or unintended effects, and the idea of the conference is to pave the way for researchers who aspire to contribute to the quality of criminal justice based on the quality of research." Al-Sour indicated.

It is noteworthy that the HoR has issued a package of laws that observers describe as absurd, the most important of which are the two laws that the Attorney General has cited as a guide in his speech: the law on combating terrorism and cybercrime and the law on limiting witchcraft and sorcery.

The first law was criticized by local and international human rights organizations and was met with a disapproving campaign.

They also described the law on witchcraft and sorcery as broad and unspecified, and that it was taken to satisfy certain classes of people who had called for the enactment of such laws, knowing that some people in Libya described it as a reactionary law that took the country backward to the Middle Ages.

## Politics

### Interior Minister says perpetrators of Abu Salim murder will be punished



The Minister of Interior Emad Al-Trabelsi confirmed that anyone proven to be involved in the Abu Salim murder will be held accountable, without exception, regardless of their capacity, in reference to the killing of 10 people in Abu Salim last Saturday.

Al-Trabelsi said during a press conference on Wednesday that "the law is above all" and also explained that he issued instructions to the Tripoli Security Directorate to follow up on the case under his direct supervision. He indicated that the case is now under investigation by the Criminal Investigation Office of the Tripoli Security Directorate, as the entire crime scene was examined, fingerprints were gathered, and weapons were seized. Last Sunday, the Tripoli Security Directorate announced that the Public Prosecution had launched its investigations into the Abu Salim murder, explaining that the incident claimed the lives of ten people. The Director of Tripoli Security, Khalil Wahiba, said in a press briefing that "a report was received at the Abu Salim Police Station regarding the killing of ten people, some of whom belong to the Stabilization Support Service, inside a house near the Abu Shaala Mosque at the hands of an unidentified armed group." Wahiba added that the Public Prosecution was informed of the incident, which in turn began the investigation along with the Criminal Investigation Office. They moved to the crime scene in order to take record of fingerprints, search the house, and conduct a physical examination of the bodies.

The bodies had suffered several bullets while the prosecution ordered that they be presented to forensics to determine the time of the murder, the mechanism of its occurrence, the weapons used, and the ammunition to be seized and presented to the weapons expert, according to Wahiba.

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya called for an independent, rapid and comprehensive investigation into the incident, and urged "work to prevent any actions that may lead to escalation and further violence."

Politics

## UN mission calls for independent, thorough probe into Abu Salim murder



The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) condemned late on Sunday the violent incident in Abu Salim area, as 10 people were reported killed in Tripoli, adding that it continued to monitor the situation.

UNSMIL said on X platform that the killing incident highlighted concerns repeatedly raised by the UN envoy to Libya Abdoulaye Bathily about the serious risks posed by rivalries between security actors that continued to threaten the fragile security in Tripoli.

UNSMIL urged relevant Libyan authorities to ensure an independent, prompt and thorough investigation into the incident and prevent any actions that could lead to escalation and further violence.

The Tripoli Security Directorate announced that the Public Prosecution had launched investigations into the murder

in Abu Salim, explaining that the incident claimed the lives of 10 people. Tripoli Security Director Khalil Wahiba said in a press briefing that "a report was received at the Abu Salim Police Station at 1:30 a.m. by the control room regarding the killing of 10 people, some of whom were affiliated with the Stabilization Support Apparatus, inside a house near the Abu Shaala Mosque. He said the report said they were killed by an unknown armed group."

He added that the Public Prosecution was informed about the incident, which in turn began an investigation, along with the Criminal Investigation Office, as they moved to the crime scene in order to gather fingerprints, search the house, and conduct a visual examination of the bodies. The bodies had suffered several bullets while the prosecution ordered that they

be presented to forensics to determine the time of the murder, the mechanism of its occurrence, the weapons used, and the ammunition to be seized and presented to the weapons expert, according to Wahiba. Identical sources from the Abu Salim area in Tripoli said that 11 people, including brothers, were killed on Saturday night, in what appeared to be a targeted killing operation, while the victims were present in a vacation house in the Al-Hadba Project area of the Abu Salim municipality.

Some sources described what happened as a "massacre," while they did not determine the reason for committing this crime, as it was not possible to obtain official information. Libyan social media circulated conflicting information about the incident since Sunday morning.

Politics



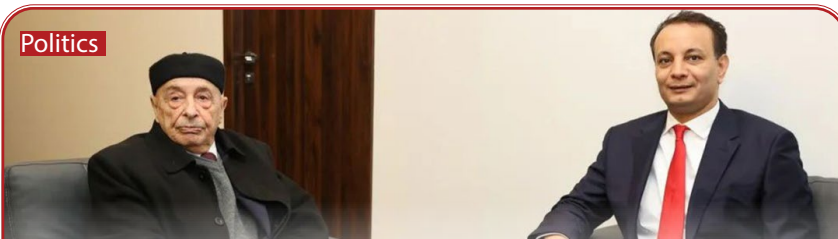
## National Accord Bloc urges HoR to expel US ambassador from Libya

The National Accord Bloc of the High Council of State has condemned the veto used by the United States (US) against the Algerian draft resolution for a ceasefire in Gaza, denouncing in the strongest terms the "monstrous involvement" of the US in the genocide in Gaza. The Bloc said the US veto was a moral failure and a violation of human rights and values, adding that it was also a full support for more massacres of Palestinian children, women and men.

The Bloc called on official and unofficial institutions and all political parties in Libya to denounce the US veto and take a stance against the US support for "the Zionist entity".

It also urged the House of Representatives to fulfill its moral obligations and act upon its previous decisions for practical measures like expelling the US ambassador to Libya and provide Palestinians with all possible assistance.

Politics



## Haftar's son sworn in by HoR as Head of Libya Reconstruction Fund

Khalifa Haftar's son Belgassim was sworn in by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, as "Director General of the Development and Reconstruction Fund" that was recently established by the HoR.

On February 7, in a session chaired by First Deputy Speaker of the HoR, Fawzi Al-Nuwairi, the HoR approved a proposal to establish a Libyan Development and Reconstruction Fund, whose mission would be to implement plans and programs for the reconstruction and development of Libyan cities in all regions.

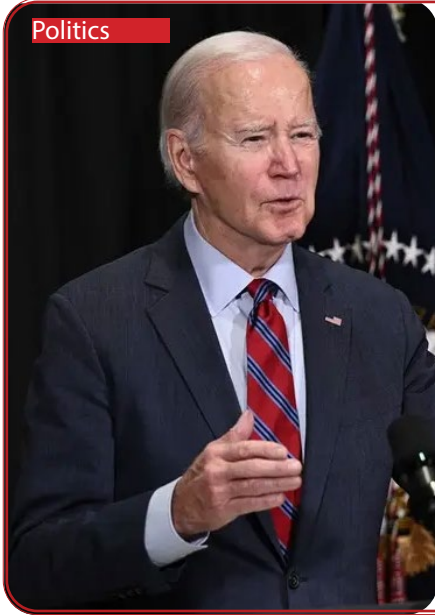
This step came amid accusations against Haftar and his sons of financial and administrative corruption and plundering of public funds and allocations from eastern Libya.

United Nations' experts also confirmed that Haftar and his sons carried out deliberate demolition operations in Benghazi, including historical neighborhoods, protected heritage sites, and many residential buildings, which actually caused irreparable damage to the urban architecture and heritage of the city.

Haftar's war on Tripoli caused the destruction of hundreds of homes and the displacement of thousands of civilians, while it partially and in other cases completely damaged civilian residential areas, including schools, universities, ports, airports, and field hospitals, in addition to the facilities of the National Oil Corporation.



Politics



## USA continues national emergency over Libya beyond 2025

The US President Joe Biden has signed an executive order extending the US national emergency over Libya for another year, beyond February 25, 2025, and to refer the extension notice to the US Congress.

According to the White House, Biden stated in his letter to Congress that lifting the applicable sanctions threatens military escalation in Libya, and that the situation there still poses a major threat to the US national security and foreign policy.

Biden added in his letter that those whom he described as rejecting dialogue and obstructed the democratic transition were still interested in exploiting resources of the Libyan people

to advance their narrow interests and perpetuate the conflict in the country.

Biden explained that many of these divisions relate to access to resources, adding that there will remain a serious risk that if Libyan state assets are not protected, they will be embezzled by parties determined to undermine the ongoing UN peace process, as he put it.

Biden also pointed out that diverting these resources could prolong and deepen the current instability in Libya, which would benefit ISIS and other "terrorist groups" that pose a serious threat to the national security of the United States and the security of regional partners, according to US President.

Politics



## HoR Speaker warns authorities against providing GNU public funds

The Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR) Aqila Saleh addressed on Tuesday state authorities with a letter warning them against providing the Government of National Unity (GNU) with any public funds, citing "administrative control reports from previous fiscal years proving that the GNU was squandering public funds."

Saleh's letter threatened legal liability for the state authorities that go against the HoR's orders, referring to Law (No.2) of 1979 and its amendments regarding financial and economic crimes.

The letter named the Attorney General, Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Head of Audit Bureau, Head of the National Anti-Corruption Authority, Chairman of the National Oil Corporation, Chairman of the Libyan Investment Authority, Head of the Libyan Post Telecommunications and Information Technology Company, Head of Social and Economic Development Fund, and the Head of Libya Africa Investment Portfolio.

This letter came days after Prime Minister Dbeibah said in Tripoli during the celebrations of the February 17 revolution that the HoR was the reason why public salaries for last January had been delayed as it didn't approve 2024 budget.

Politics

## Tripoli Court of Appeal annuls MoU in hydrocarbons cooperation with Turkey



The Tripoli Court of Appeal ruled on Monday to annul the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by the Government of National Unity with Turkey regarding cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons, which was signed in 2022.

Lawyer Thuraya Al-Twaibi said that the court ruled in favor of her and her colleagues who appealed the MoU, thanking her fellow lawyers, the judge, and the lawyer who appeared on behalf of the plaintiffs after they were exposed to circumstances that prevented them from being present during the sessions, according to a post on her Facebook page.

On January 10, 2023, the Third Circuit (Ad-

ministrative Judicial Circuit) of the Tripoli Court of Appeal ruled to halt the implementation of memorandums of understanding between the GNU and Turkey in the field of hydrocarbon energy.

On October 3, 2022, the GNU signed the memorandum of understanding, during a visit conducted by a high-level delegation from Ankara that included the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defense, Energy and Trade, the National Security Advisor, the Head of the Presidential Communications Department, and the Chief of the General Staff. The GNU's signing of the MoU for cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons sparked reactions opposing this step from the Speaker

of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, the parallel government, and a number of members of the House of Representatives, the High Council of State, and the Political Dialogue Forum.

They justified their position by the lack of jurisdiction of the Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah to sign any agreements that entail long-term obligations on the Libyan state, according to what is stipulated in the priorities of the executive authority in the roadmap for the preliminary phase of the comprehensive solution approved by the Political Dialogue Forum during the Tunisian meetings in November 2020 under the auspices of United Nations.

Economy

## Dbeibah chairs ministerial meeting to follow up availability of foodstuff and prices regulations during Ramadan



Head of Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, has stressed the necessity of following up on processing of documentary credits, to ensure availability and access of goods and merchandise to citizens during the holy month of Ramadan.

He urged support for Libyan manufacturers and giving them priority in providing goods at reasonable prices.

This came during a meeting held on Wednesday at the Prime Minister's Office in Tripoli, with the High Economic and Security Committee, in the presence of Ministers of Economy and Trade, Mohamed al-Hawaij, Transportation Mohamed al-Shahoubi, State for Cabinet Affairs Adel Jumaa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy, Suhail Bushiha, and members of the High Security Economic Committee. The government media office said that the meeting was devoted to following up on

the availability of basic commodities and the mechanism for controlling their prices during the holy month of Ramadan, during which the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy presented an update on the status of the documentary credits opened during the final fourth of last year and the first quarter of this year in the field of foodstuffs and meat.

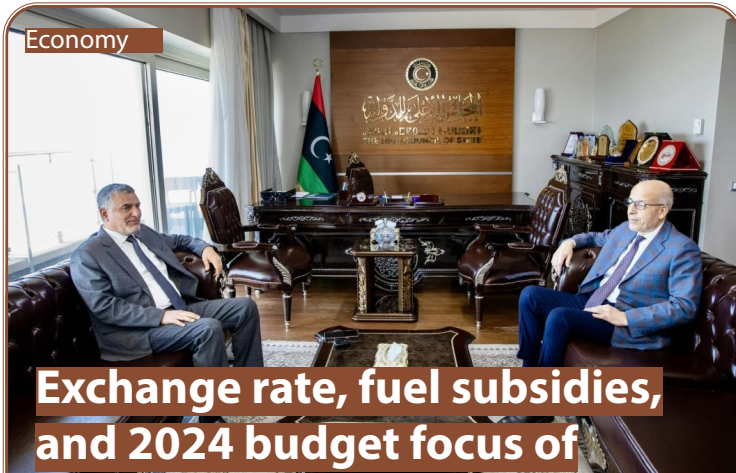
The Economic Security Committee also presented its plan to monitor the local market during Holy Ramadan, with the aim of preventing monopoly and speculation, and communicating with major merchants, to ensure the availability of goods and confirm their prices, to reassure and comfort the public during the holy month. Bushiha pointed out that the open documentary credits contributed to price stability, confirming the availability of appropriate quantities of the Libyan family's needs during the month of Ramadan.

Dbeibah stressed the necessity of uniting efforts of all relevant government institutions during the month of Ramadan, to provide goods and merchandise, and to stand against brokers and speculators after communicating with the main distribution sources.

He also underlined the importance of supporting Libyan manufacturers, and give them priority in all procedures, on the condition that they contribute to providing goods at appropriate prices.

Dbeibah also stressed the importance of continuous communication with the Central Bank of Libya and the Customs Authority, to follow up on the documentary credits and their progress in order to ensure the arrival of goods and merchandise before the holy month of Ramadan, according to the Government's media office.

Economy



## Exchange rate, fuel subsidies, and 2024 budget focus of Al-Kabir-Takala talks

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, and the Head of the High Council of State, Mohamed Takala, have discussed the exchange rate, fuel subsidies, and 2024 budget.

This came during their meeting at the headquarters of the High Council of State (HCS), according to a statement published by the HCS media office.

The statement explained that the meeting discussed the reasons behind spiked exchange rate in the parallel market and how to address it, besides the state's 2024 public budget, as well as the reasons for the increase in fuel subsidies and its impact on Libyan economy.

Economy



## Governor discusses with US embassy officials CBL unification efforts

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, discussed with the Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Libya, Jeremy Brendt, the latest developments in unifying the Central Bank and strengthening efforts to raise the level of disclosure and transparency.

This discussion came during a meeting held on Friday in Tunisia in the presence of Deputy Governor Marea Al-Barassi and Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) John Cardenas.

The two sides discussed development in the economic and financial conditions, and the results of the technical support program provided by the USAID to increase the competencies and capabilities of the Central Bank and its employees, in addition to the program's prospects for the coming year.



Economy

## CBL forms committee to monitor foreign currency demand



The governor of the Central Bank of Libya has decided to establish a committee to examine the demand for foreign currency following a memorandum from his deputy, Marai Al-Barassi.

The committee, headed by the Director of Banking and Currency Supervision, along with five other members, will oversee the demand for foreign currency from documentary credits, personal purposes cards, and public entity requests, comparing it with the available revenues to achieve a

balance in the year-end payment balance. Additionally, the committee is responsible for approving banks' requests concerning foreign currency in line with the controls set out in the Central Bank's publications. The decision follows the CBL's announcement last January, revealing that foreign currency usage reached \$35.3 billion in 2023, while revenues were 25.4 billion dinars, resulting in a deficit of \$9.9 billion. In early February, the Bank announced the reopening of the foreign currency sale sys-

tem for commercial and personal purposes following a prolonged suspension that caused a relative collapse in the value of the Libyan dinar against hard currencies. Although the foreign currency sale system has been operating for nearly a month since its reopening, the exchange rate of foreign currencies in the parallel market has not decreased but continues to rise, reaching approximately 7.25 dinars per dollar on Wednesday morning.

Economy



## Egyptian delegation discusses enhancing export opportunities to Libya

A delegation of Egyptian businessmen, led by the Executive Director of the Engineering Industries Export Council, Mai Helmy, visited Libya to discuss commercial cooperation and integration between the two countries.

The delegation included representatives of 15 companies specialising in home appliances, tableware and kitchen utensils, electrical devices, auto parts, agricultural machinery, and electrical industries.

The meetings saw the participation of the President of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture, Mohamed al-Raied, the Deputy Minister of Economy and Trade for Economic Affairs, Saad al-Hanish, the Acting Egyptian Embassy Chargé d'Affaires, Mustafa Tamer, the President of the Tripoli Chamber of Commerce, Anwar Busetta, and numerous heads of Libyan companies and institutions.

A statement by the Egyptian Engineering Industries Export Council said the one-week visit was the first of its kind in over ten years and came under the direct sponsorship of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture in Libya.

The Egyptian Export Council Executive Director described the meeting as positive, stressing that the Libyan market is one of the most critical targets for the engineering industry sector due to its size and capacity to absorb Egyptian products.

Talks concluded with an agreement to export more Egyptian engineering products to the Libyan market in the upcoming period, indicating that the visit marks the beginning of broader cooperation.

Economy



## Egypt wants to implement oil projects in Libya

The Egyptian Minister of Petroleum Tarek El-Molla confirmed the readiness of his country's specialized companies to begin work and cooperate to implement oil projects in Libya, during a meeting with the Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat Bengdara, on the sidelines of participation in the Egypt International Energy Conference and Exhibition "EGYPES2024", which kick-started on Tuesday in the Egyptian capital, Cairo.

Bengdara and El-Molla discussed opportunities for Egyptian oil sector companies to contribute to the implementation of oil projects inside Libya in light of their intention to intensify activities and projects in the coming period, according to a statement by the NOC on Facebook.

El-Molla confirmed the readiness of specialized training centers in the oil sector to train Libyans in light of the Libyan side's request for cooperation in this regard, while Bengdara stressed that there were many opportunities and areas for cooperation with Egypt in implementing oil projects inside Libya, especially with the distinguished previous contributions of Egyptian oil companies in implementing projects. Bengdara also expressed the desire of the Libyan side to discuss opportunities to use the services of Egyptian companies in the field of drilling oil wells. A statement by the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum indicated that the meeting saw an agreement to hold a meeting for the Libyan side with the Egyptian petroleum sector companies specialized in implementing projects, which include "Enppi", "Petrojet", "San Misr" and "Petromaint" to review the opportunities available for Egyptian companies to implement projects in Libya.

Education

## Education minister commits to educational reform, teacher skill development

Minister of Education Musa Al-Maqrif pledged to work on reforming educational programs and updating curricula in Libya, developing teachers, and enhancing their teaching and digital education skills.

The Minister's remarks came during his address before the National Committee for Education, Culture, and Science at the Maghreb Regional Forum on Digital Transformation in Education in Tunisia.

The event convened under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Tunisian Ministry of Education.

The Minister of Education unveiled several reforms initiated by the ministry to

promote safe and healthy schools, learning for sustainable development, digital transformation, and education financing.

He briefed the gathering on the ministry's programs, such as launching the school feeding project in cooperation with the World Food Programme and issuing regulations to benefit students with special needs, including integration, facilitation, and an appropriate study and examination system.

Additionally, the Minister emphasized efforts to activate e-learning programs while creating a sustainable digital transformation.

He reaffirmed the ministry's commitment

to reforming educational programs, developing curricula focusing on environmental concepts and climate change, life skills, 21st-century skills, entrepreneurship, education, and the green economy to achieve the fourth Sustainable Development Goal by 2030.

In conclusion, Al-Maqrif emphasized the ministry's commitment to investing in the continuous professional development of teachers through the approval of training programs in modern teaching methods, active learning strategies, digital education skills, and the issuance of regulatory regulations that define employment conditions.



Sports



## Libya qualifies for group stage in AfroBasket

Libyan national basketball team has qualified for the group stage of the African Championship qualifiers, as part of the second leg of the first round of the AfroBasket 2025 qualifiers in the Tunisian city of Monastir.

This came at the expense of the Moroccan team, as the two teams in Tunisia tied in the first leg with a score of (75-75) and the Libyan team won in the return match (71-63).

Thus, the Libyan national team returns to the African Elimination group stage after an absence of 4 years, ensuring a place in the second group along with Cape Verde, Nigeria and Uganda.

To qualify for the African Championship finals, the team must be in the top three places in the group, while the matches will be played in two rounds.

The group stage will be played starting, Wednesday, February 21, and will extend until February 2025, to select the finalists for the AfroBasket finals scheduled for the same year.

Sports



## Libya to host North African under-23 wheelchair basketball qualifier

The International and African Wheelchair Basketball Federations (IWBF) have awarded Libya the right to host the North African qualifying tournament for under-23 wheelchair basketball.

The tournament, set to kick off in 2024, qualifies for the 2025 World Cup and marks the first of its kind in the region for the under-23 category.

Six African countries are participating in the tournament alongside Libya, including Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia, Egypt, and Sudan.

The African continent is divided into five zones, with the International and African Federations overseeing all tournaments conducted on the continent and providing technical support for the components of wheelchair basketball.



بطولة شمال أفريقيا التأهيلية لكأس العالم  
كرة السلة على الكراسي المتحركة للأعمار ما تحت 23 سنة  
طرابلس - ليبيا





Opinions

## The revolution is worth celebrating

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

Whenever its anniversary approaches, enemies of February Revolution do not cease criticizing it, describing it as a conspiracy, and holding it responsible for the state of decline and disintegration prevailing now, calling on the people to abandon it and not to mark its anniversary.

As soon as the month of February approaches, remnants of the former regime, along with those who were disappointed with the fulfillment of all the slogans raised by the public in streets and squares during the revolution, and post-revolution period, claiming that the outcome was not up to their aspirations and dreams. Indeed, they level their criticism against the revolution, expressing their remorse for participating, supporting, and championing its cause.

The revolution, like any human action, is not above criticism. Rather, criticism and pointing directly to mistakes, shortcomings, and weaknesses is a necessity that must be done with all force. However, it is possible to distinguish between two types of criticism, one of which is important. The one that seeks to straighten the course of the revolution, and calls for reform, and understands the nature of the transitional stages, after every historical transformation, and is aware of the international and regional contexts influencing the course of the revolution.

Moreover, the pre-revolution period should not also be overlooked, with all its systematic sabotage that occurred in all aspects of life, such as suspending the constitution, abolishing political life, imposing a hybrid ideology that has no connection to the historical development of society, separating power from the people and the preoccupation with chasing the illusions of leadership and heroism.

One should also understand the ease with which the country could fall into a new authoritarianism, due to the absence or weakness of institutions and the lack of a dem-

ocratic culture, and one should not miss the historic and chronic state of division between east and west of the country.

Criticism with this background in hindsight and vision is important and can provide initiatives that explore the path towards devising solutions to the crisis of power and the intense competition over it between the powerful parties.

As for the other type of criticism, it is not actually criticism as much as it is a demolition of any achievement made by the revolution, belittling all sacrifices, and denying people's right to voice legitimate demands through peaceful movement.

This type of criticism stems from clear hostility to change and blatant hatred for the revolution, and one of its stated goals is to discourage people from commemorating the revolution, by focusing on mistakes and negatives aspects, for which the revolution does not bear responsibility. They were rather historical accumulations whose roots must be sought in policies of systematic political and economic sabotage. The social and cultural aspects practiced by the authoritarian regime decades before the onset of February Revolution.

All this hostility to the revolution did not resonate with the people, as signs of celebration emerged and the flags of independence were hoisted in the squares, streets of the country. Even small villages in the free cities held their own celebrations. With all sincerity and spontaneity, and without any coercion or enticement, people came out to celebrate the anniversary of the revolution, and their message was loud and clear to all enemies of the revolution; We will celebrate despite all genuine or fabricated crises. The revolution deserves to be celebrated, and no one will steal our joy of this great historical event.

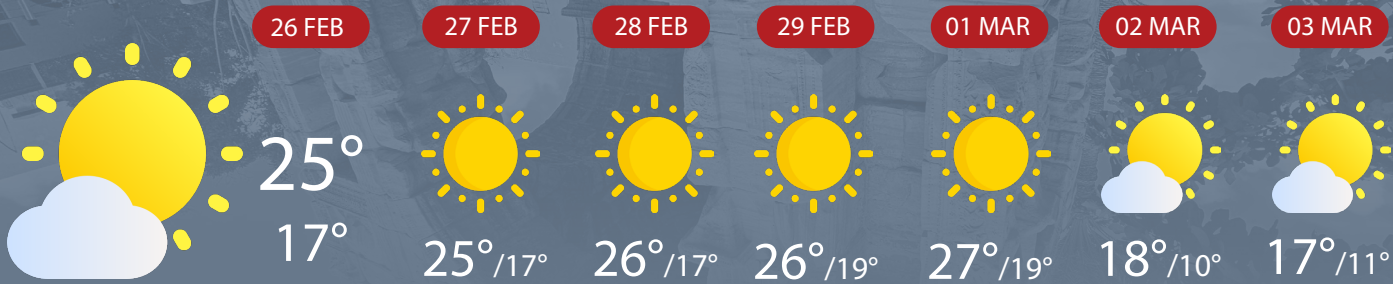
*Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Libya Observer*





Photo of the Week

Tripoli Weather Forecast



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