

## Libya's national unity government asks Russia to clarify reasons behind recent travel warning



The Government of National Unity has requested an urgent clarification from Moscow regarding the reasons for the travel warning to Libya issued by the Russian embassy in Tripoli earlier on Thursday, noting the arrest of a Russian citizen in Libya.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that it had followed with great interest the statement issued by the Russian authorities, which warned its citizens against traveling to Libya, calling on its Russian counterpart to provide an urgent clarification regarding the reasons for this warning within the framework of what bilateral relations require in terms of mutual respect and transparency.

The Libyan Foreign Ministry confirmed that the measures taken against a Russian citizen were carried out in accordance with Libyan laws and legislation, in full coordination with the Office of the Attorney General, and under the supervision of the Deterrence Agency for Combating Terrorism and Organized Crime.

It added that initial investigations indicated that the individual was involved in activities that "harm public order and aim to corrupt

Libyan youth, in addition to having connections with foreign armed groups operating in Africa," stressing that these measures come within the framework of preserving national security, rejecting any attempt to harm the image of stability and security achieved by the Government of National Unity with tireless efforts in the past period. The Foreign Ministry renewed its commitment to the rule of law and the protection of citizens and guests of Libya, stressing its keenness to enhance constructive cooperation with all friendly countries, stressing also that diplomatic dialogue was the basis for resolving any pending issues in a manner that would serve common interests and respect the sovereignty and laws of states. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' statement came after the Russian Embassy in Libya warned its citizens against visiting Libya, especially the western part, whether for personal purposes or for tourism, stressing the continuation of recommendations issued since 2011 regarding the ban on travel to Libya, without referring to the arrest of a Russian citizen in Libya.

### Politics

## Africa Intelligence: Haftar was shocked by sudden fall of Assad regime



The French intelligence website Africa Intelligence revealed the repercussions of the fall of the Assad regime in Syria on the close relations between the Haftar and Assad families, and the negative consequences of this on the interests of Khalifa Haftar, who was shocked after the sudden fall of the Syrian regime.

The relationship between the Haftar and Assad families was based on a close alliance that relied heavily on their mutual friendship with Russia, and this alliance reached its peak with a secret visit by Maher Al-Assad, the brother of former Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, to Saddam Khalifa Haftar in September 2022.

The two parties also cooperated in training Haftar forces' pilots in Syria, which was confirmed by the death of a Libyan pilot during training in December 2022.

Hours after the fall of the regime in Damascus, a plane belonging to the "Cham Wings" company arrived in Benghazi carrying Syrian officers, and Maher Al-Assad may have been among the passengers.

The alliance between Assad and Haftar was running parallel to cooperation with Rus-

sia, which used Syria and Libya as platforms for the transit of military equipment to the African Sahel region. The fall of Assad may prompt Moscow to review its strategy in the region, after Russian ships used to pass through the port of Tartus and stop in the port of Tobruk, where they unloaded their military equipment and were picked up by the African Corps forces and transported by land to neighboring countries.

After the resumption of military operations against the Syrian regime, the training program for Haftar's Libyan pilots in Syria was disrupted, and Haftar's forces lost two L-39 Albatros military training aircraft after the Syrian opposition seized Al-Nayrab airbase on December 2.

In addition, "Cham Wings" company, linked to the Assad family, continued to operate regular flights between Damascus and Benghazi until last October, despite being placed on the European Union sanctions list, as the company is accused of transporting mercenaries, drug trafficking, and smuggling immigrants between Syria and eastern Libya.

Politics

## Tarhuna Victims Association calls on Egyptian authorities to hand over wanted persons



رابطة ضحايا ترهونة

The Association of Tarhuna Victims has called on the Egyptian authorities to hand over wanted persons residing on its territory who committed criminal crimes against humanity in the city of Tarhuna.

This came in a statement published by the association on its Facebook page in conjunction with the presence of the Attorney General of the Egyptian Public Prosecutor's Office in Tripoli to attend the 2nd International Scientific Anti-Corruption Conference.

The statement explained that extradition of defendants and sentenced persons in such crimes is one of the requirements for paving the way for the fight against corruption.



Politics

## IRINI releases activity report for November 2024

The European naval operation IRINI, which monitors the arms embargo on Libya, has released its activity report for November 2024.

IRINI explained that it investigated 580 merchant vessels via radio calls out of 16.760, and carried out 12 visits on ships with Masters' consent out of 688.

The Operation also monitored 50 suspect flights out of 1.654 and continued to monitor 25 airports and landing strips and 16 ports and oil terminals.

Politics



## Libya calls for emergency Arab League meeting on Israeli aggression against Syria

Libya has requested an emergency meeting of Arab League representatives to address recent Israeli aggression against Syria.

According to a statement by Libya's delegation to the Arab League, the meeting is expected to convene in the coming days to discuss urgent responses to Israeli incursions into Syrian territory.

Israeli military reports claim operations have advanced approximately 25 kilometers southwest of Damascus.

Since the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime, Israel has conducted numerous airstrikes, citing the need to destroy strategic Syrian weapons deemed a threat.



Politics

## Attorney general meets UN officials on combating corruption

Attorney General Al-Siddiq Al-Sour met with the Head of the Conference Support Section for Corruption and Economic Crime at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Director of the UNODC Libya Program Office.

The meeting followed the opening of the Second International Conference of the Criminal Research and Training Centre, affiliated with the Attorney General's Office, under the theme: "Combating the Scourge of Corruption: Prevention Measures and Priorities for Confrontation – Towards Effective Policy Planning."

Discussions focused on enhancing justice quality and exploring avenues for technical cooperation with the centre to combat corruption more effectively.



Politics

## Haftar proposes to Congolese President new initiative for Libyan reconciliation



Khalifa Haftar proposed to the President of the Republic of Congo and Chairman of the African High-Level Committee on Libya, Denis Sassou Nguesso, "a new initiative aimed at ensuring the success of comprehensive national reconciliation," stressing "the need for everyone to agree in order to build a stable and secure future for the country."

Haftar and Nguesso held a consultative meeting on Tuesday in the city of Benghazi in the presence of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, and the head of the parallel govern-

ment, Osama Hamad, to discuss ways to enhance national reconciliation efforts in Libya, and the importance of pushing this project forward to achieve stability and consensus among all Libyan parties. Haftar's media office said on its Facebook page that the Nguesso commended the initiative put forward by Haftar, stressing that it "represents an important step toward achieving comprehensive national reconciliation, and that it is considered one of the main foundations that can be built upon to unite Libyans and achieve stability in the country."

Nguesso arrived in Benghazi on Tuesday, as part of his official tour of Libya, which he began in Tripoli on Monday, when he met with the Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, the member of the Council, Abdullah Al-Lafi, and the Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah. The Libyan News Agency said that Nguesso's visit to Benghazi came within the framework of strengthening bilateral relations between Libya and Congo, discussing ways of joint cooperation in various fields, including politics and economy.

Politics

## Koury calls for immediate, unconditional release of arbitrary prisoners in Libya



The Acting Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Stephanie Koury, called on Tuesday for the immediate and unconditional release of all those arbitrarily detained in Libya, calling for transparent and independent investigations into such cases.

Koury said in a statement on the occasion of International Human Rights Day: "Human rights must remain central to the political process and democratic transition in Libya." She considered expanding civic space and

freedom of expression, association and assembly to be essential to the political process, including holding credible elections, and also urged that political opponents, journalists, activists, human rights defenders, academics, women and marginalized groups be given space to engage in free and open dialogue without fear of reprisal. She renewed her commitment to working with all parties to advance human rights and the rule of law for the Libyan people, stressing the mission's engagement with

the Libyan authorities, civil society and the international community to promote judicial reform, protect civil liberties and align national laws with international standards. She added that while progress had been made, there was still more work to be done. Koury also said that through her recent meetings, she sought to launch a new initiative to revive the stalled political process in Libya, in light of the inability of the political parties to agree on the necessary steps to move forward in the political process.

Economy

## Egypt's exports to Libya exceed \$1 billion

Egypt's exports to Libya surpassed \$1 billion during the first eight months of 2024, according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics.

Figures showed a 17% increase compared to the same period in 2023, with exports totaling \$1.255 billion, up from \$1.051 billion the previous year.

Key growth sectors included stone and cement, which rose by 66% to \$91.169 million, and machinery and electrical appliances, which saw a 124% increase to \$50.545 million.



Economy

## IMF calls for agreement on unified 2025 budget in Libya



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that the recovery in oil production in Libya contributed to adjusting the country's GDP growth forecasts for next year. IMF expected in a report following the conclusion of its delegation's visit to Libya that the country would record an increase in GDP growth during 2025, noting that it remains largely unchanged in the medium term, given that GDP growth and the external balance are expected to decline in 2024. IMF added that these forecasts may be subject to a number of negative risks, including lower than expected oil prices and renewed political tensions, which would limit the available fiscal space, calling on the Libyan authorities to agree on spending priorities through an approved unified budget for 2025, as it would help avoid pro-cyclical spending and improve the man-

agement of Libya's resources. IMF reaffirmed its support for the efforts of the Central Bank of Libya to facilitate access to foreign exchange and alleviate the shortage of local currency by injecting liquidity into the banking system and expanding electronic payment services. It welcomed the continued progress in strengthening banking sector governance in the context of combating money laundering and terrorist financing, improving data collection, and encouraging innovation in the field of financial technology. IMF expressed its commitment to provide the necessary capacity development in these and other areas as needed to develop capacities in the areas of tax policy, budget preparation, revenue management, consumer price indices, reserve management, and monetary policy.

Economy

## CBL considering removal of tax on dollar purchase



The member of the House of Representatives (HoR), Abu Salah Shalabi, says that the HoR has approved the cancellation of the tax imposed on the dollar purchase transactions by a decision from the Speaker by the end of this year, unless the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) has another opinion. Shalabi added in a statement to Libya Al-Ahrar TV Channel that approving taxes and amending the exchange rate by increasing or decreasing it is the power of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank. He also indicated that the decision to impose a fee on foreign currency was issued

at the request of the former Governor of the Central Bank due to the lack of a Board of Directors at the time.

The Central Bank had circulated to commercial banks to implement the decision of the Speaker of the House of Representatives to reduce the foreign currency tax to 15%, calling for facilitating the procedures for opening letters of credit for all purposes and for all goods and services. HoR Speaker approved on November 20 a new reduction in the fee imposed on the selling price of banks for foreign currencies to 15% for all purposes, instead of

20%. The reduction was the second and done in October after a reduction estimated at 27% that the HoR imposed last March.

The decision stipulated in its first article the necessity of taking into account the granted exceptions and the possibility of reduction according to the circumstances of the state's revenues, and its second article stipulated the use of revenues generated from the tax fee to cover the expenses of development projects if necessary or to be added to the resources allocated to the bank.

Economy

## NOC, Algeria's Sonatrach discuss resumption of exploration and drilling operations

The Exploration Department of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and the Algerian Sonatrach company discussed the company's exploration activity during the current year in the Ghadames Basin (blocks: 95 and 96), and the work proposed to be implemented next year 2025.

During a technical meeting held at the NOC HQ in Tripoli, the two sides reviewed the ongoing preparations to resume drilling operations in the A1-96/2 exploratory well, which has been suspended since 2014, and is expected to begin during the coming period.

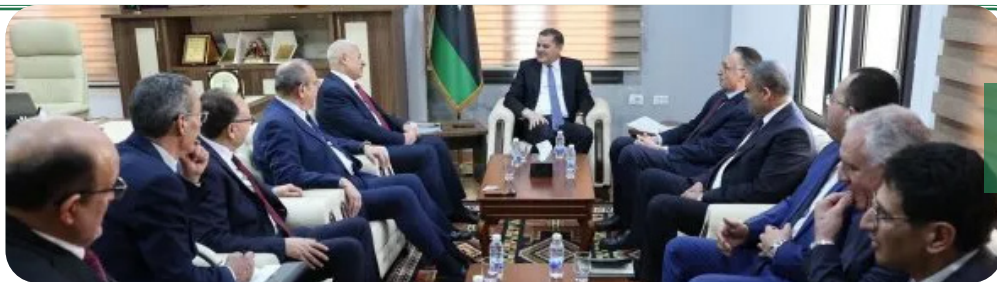
They also reviewed the results of seismic surveys and the evaluation of the deposits discovered in the two blocks 95 and 96.





Economy

## Dbeibah stresses need for convening Joint Libyan-Tunisian Economic Committee



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Economy

## Audit Bureau calls on CBL to stop interfering in commercial banks' operations



The Audit Bureau called on the Central Bank of Libya to immediately stop any procedures to change the boards of directors and executive managements of state-owned commercial banks. The Deputy of the Audit Bureau called in a letter to the Governor of the Central Bank, Issa Naji, to adhere to the correct law and governance systems and to separate the role of the Central Bank of Libya as a supervisor and an owner, stressing the need to form neutral general assemblies; which do not have any interests with commercial banks; and that they consist of professional persons who exercise accountability powers according to annual reports and objective performance indicators that contribute to raising banking performance.

The Audit Bureau pointed out that the Central Bank uses broad powers that do not serve the state's economic goals and disrupt the work of the banking sector. It explained that the approach

of change carried out by the Central Bank in the boards of directors of commercial banks owned by banks and their executive managements is random and unplanned; saying that it violates the legal procedures that outlined the steps for change according to the provisions of the law. The Audit Bureau also indicated that the Central Bank interferes in the work of the Board of Directors and encroaches on its powers with regard to changing the general managers of banks, and imposes general managers in an unorganized manner.

The Audit Bureau also pointed out the Central Bank's move to change the boards of directors before the end of the legal term of the boards of directors, and through general assembly meetings that are not called for clearly, saying that their dates are not clear as well, and their objectives are not outlined, while they are not linked to the approval of annual reports.

Economy

## Libya and Tunisia commit to strengthening economic ties



The Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohamed Al-Hweij, and Tunisian Minister of Trade and Export Development, Samir Ebeid, chaired a meeting of the Libyan-Tunisian Joint Economic Committee in Tripoli to address trade challenges and boost economic cooperation.

The meeting focused on resolving obstacles to bilateral trade, enhancing logistics and border infrastructure, and overcoming

difficulties faced by businesses and investors in both countries. Discussions also highlighted the need to unify technical standards and conformity certificates to support food and pharmaceutical security. Both sides committed to creating a joint action plan to establish stronger partnerships between Libyan and Tunisian businesses and industries.



Education

## Saturday holiday cancelled in some schools

The Ministry of Education of the Government of National Unity has decided to revoke the Saturday holiday for some educational institutions to cover the delay in the curriculum.

According to the Ministry's decision directed to municipal education monitoring offices, the decision was due to the incomplete maintenance work in some schools which led to the delay in the school starting.

In a separate decision, the Ministry directed that the school activity week scheduled for the month of December be postponed to the third week of the holy month of Ramadan, taking advantage of this week to complete the scheduled curriculum before the mid-year holiday in January 2025.



Education

## Libya assumes presidency of Ministerial Committee for Higher Education and Scientific Research of Mediterranean Countries

Libya has assumed presidency of the Ministerial Committee for Higher Education and Scientific Research of the (5+5) Mediterranean countries Group.

This came during the participation of Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Imran Al-Qaib in the ministerial meeting hosted by the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, which was also attended by ministers and delegations of member states and heads and representatives of scientific and university organizations of the European Union.

For his part, Minister Al-Qaib expressed his delight at the success of the activities of the ministerial meeting, which culminated in the Lisbon Declaration and his country assuming the presidency of the next session, which extends to two years, as the next ministerial conference for this space will be held in 2026 in the Libyan capital, Tripoli.

Sports

## Libyan football league kicks off with Al-Nasr vs Al-Wifaq

Title defender Al-Nasr team will open the 50th edition of the Libyan Premier League from Ajdabiya Stadium playing newly promoted Al-Wifaq team.

The Competitions Organizing Committee of the Libyan Football Federation announced the program of the opening round of competitions with four matches.

In addition to the Ajdabiya Stadium match, Abu Salim will play Al-Olymbi, Al-Tahadi will play Khaleej Sirte, and the promoted Shabab Al-Ghar will play Al-Tersana.

On Thursday, Al-Ittihad will play Al-Majd, and Al-Akhdar will play Al-Ansar. Friday will witness four matches, especially Al-Ahly Benghazi against Al-Taawoun, and Al-Ahly Tripoli against Al-Malab Al-Leebi on Saturday.

The Competitions Committee of the Libyan Football Federation divided the participating teams into 4 groups: the first group included Al-Nasr, Al-Akhdar, Al-Tahadi, Al-Anwar, Al-Suqour, Al-Barouq, Khaleej Sirte, Wifaq Ajdabiya and Al-Ansar, while the second group included Al-Ahly Benghazi, Al-Hilal, Al-Taawoun, Al-Sadaka, Al-Marouj, Al-Barans, Al-Andalus and Al-Mahdia Sabha. The third group included Al-Ittihad, Al-Suwaihl, Al-Olymbi, Abu Salim, Al-Bishr, Al-Majd, Al-Tersana, Shabab Al-Ghar, and Al-Nahda Sabha. The fourth group included Al-Ahly Tripoli, Al-Madina, Al-Ittihad Misrata, Al-Malaab Al-Leebi, Al-Khums, Asaria, Al-Watan, Abi Al-Ashhar, and Al-Dahra.

Sports

## Libyan Football Federation demands clubs to pay their debts



The Libyan Football Federation has called on clubs to pay their debts before the start of the new Premier League season.

The official in charge of the union's affairs, Abdul Nasser Al-Suwaie, called on clubs indebted to the union to pay their dues to the financial office, provided that this is done by certified check or in cash only.

He warned that the club that does not pay its debts will be subject to an injunction.

Sources said that the league schedule is ready and that it will start next week and end in mid-July 2025.



Opinions

# Another idol falls

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



The season of tyrants falling is to continue for decades, and the free people will rejoice at each fall, wondering: Who is next? The earthquake that struck the Arab region in 2011 is still in its highest momentum, despite what ostensibly appears to have ended in failure.

Yes, a segment of people still has an overwhelming longing for the era of humiliation and slavery, so you see them in confusion and bewilderment. They are restless until they establish a new idol, to which they surrender their necks and shower him with praise, and offer their children into its wars, yet some of them are thrown into its prisons.

However, they are in decline, as the forces countering the revolutions, or what is known in the literature as counter-revolutions, have exhausted all their resources and all their strength to crush the revolutions and bring the peoples back to the pens of oppression, silence and tyranny. They have harnessed all their financial, political, media, and diplomatic capabilities, in order for the countries of the revolutions to be drowned in internal conflicts and wars, and the tyrants to return to power.

Indeed, external forces intervened to fuel conflict between parties competing for power, until life in the countries of the Arab Spring became an unbearable hell.

In this climate, dreams of change would recede, and despair spreads among the oppressed peoples, to the point of turning away from the rev-

olution and considering it a foreign conspiracy.

The guardians of reaction and tyranny in Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, and Egypt breathed a sigh of relief, thinking that the fever of the revolution had passed and that tyranny was recovering.

They rehabilitated the tyrant of the Levant and embraced him in their fallen summits. Then, they resumed their conspiracy against the Palestinian resistance, by providing support and assistance to the enemy who usurped the land, the holy sites, and history. They do not possess any legitimacy that grants them the privilege of power, and thus submission to the policies of the enemy and subservience to America is what guarantees them their thrones.

However, the great Syrian people surprised them as they indeed, surprised the whole world, and their valiant forces rose up, proud and confident, to destroy the throne of the tyrant who had immersed himself in blood, forcing him to flee secretly under the cover of darkness, for the press to publish the next day that he had become a refugee in Moscow. A miserable, humiliating end witnessed by the entire world, and the remains of a bleak life surrounded by fear of justice.

Every reader of human history in general, and revolutions and change in particular, realizes since the spark of change erupted in Tunisia at the end of 2010, and its cascade throughout the Arab geography and its surround-

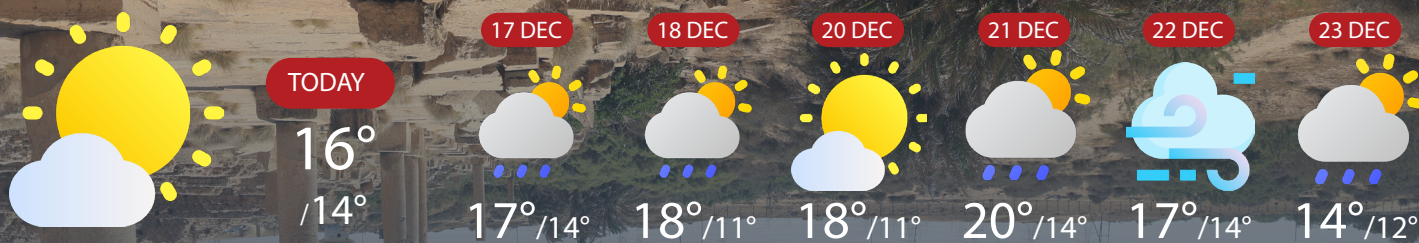
ings, and that a new era is being born in these years, but final stability will not be achieved before several decades, perhaps up to five, as comprehensive change will not occur before the disappearance of generations that were brought up in the era of tyranny and know nothing else. There must be new generations that have practiced freedom, understood its value, and cannot accept slavery to an individual who rules himself and his family according to his mood and whims.

It took more than a century to bring about change in Latin American countries, a time of extreme cruelty and tyranny, with all kinds of torture, oppression, killing and sabotage at all levels, but the struggle did not stop, and the fighters did not refrain from yearning for liberation and breaking the shackles, and when the time came to pick the heads of the tyrants, the chain was turned on them all, and after several decades the people settled on democratic systems, and the independence of national decision-making became a reality practiced by elected rulers. Congratulations to the patient Syrian people, and to all free people who did not despair and remained faithful to their covenant and the covenant of their comrades who preceded them to martyrdom. So, the struggle and fight will continue until the last tyrants in the Arab countries are overthrown, and their lineage is cut off by cleansing the environment of germs that help them appear and grow.



## Photo of the Week

## Tripoli Weather Forecast



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