

Politics

Haftar meets with French President Macron in Paris



The media office of Khalifa Haftar announced that he had met with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace on Wednesday evening, while the French presidency did not issue any official statement on the details of the visit.

According to the media office, Haftar held an extensive meeting with Macron in which they discussed "developments in the political process in Libya."

The statement added that the two sides exchanged views on "the importance of supporting the efforts of the United Nations mission," reviewed regional developments, and discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the two

countries to serve common interests.

This is Haftar's first visit to Paris after years of stagnant relations between the two sides, after France had provided military and political support to Haftar over the past years, before his forces were defeated in his attack on Tripoli between 2019 and 2020.

Last week, Haftar paid a three-day visit to Belarus, where he met with President Alexander Lukashenko and discussed ways of cooperation between the two sides. The Belarusian president pledged to help Haftar in all possible ways, stressing that "everything that will be agreed upon will be implemented on time."

Politics

Deputy Speaker of HoR calls for urgent parliamentary elections



The First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Fawzi Al-Nuwairi, called for urgent parliamentary elections, considering them the only solution to restore legitimacy, unify state institutions, and end the institutional division that the country is experiencing.

In a statement published on the official website, Al-Nuwairi stressed that parliamentary elections represent a necessity to consolidate independent national decision-making and block continued foreign interventions that deepen the Libyan crisis.

Al-Nuwairi pointed out that the success of the recent municipal council elections proved the ability of national institutions to organize fair elections despite the challenges, expressing his regret for the presence of parties seeking to disrupt elections in order to preserve their interests.

Al-Nuwairi criticized the performance of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, considering that it "has become a tool to prolong the crisis by reproducing the same bodies and strengthening the division," which requires a national move away from any foreign guardianship.

Al-Nuwairi held all officials accountable for their national and historical responsibilities, calling on the High National Elections Commission to immediately initiate the necessary procedures to ensure that the elections are held without procrastination. The Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives also called on the Libyan people to adhere to their right to choose their representatives and reject any attempts to obstruct elections or impose a political reality that does not express their will, stressing that "Libya is above all, and the national will is the solution."

Politics

Egypt releases Libyan activist Al-Hawari after two weeks in detention



Libyan human rights activist Nasser Al-Hawari has been released after spending 16 days in detention in Egypt, the Libyan Crimes Watch Organization has confirmed.

Al-Hawari was arrested on 11 February near his home in Alexandria by plainclothes security officers in unmarked vehicles, according to the organization. He was then taken to an undisclosed location, with his family unable to contact him throughout his detention.

Rights groups had called on Egyptian authorities to disclose his whereabouts and ensure his fundamental rights, including access to communication with his family. They also urged his immediate and unconditional release, arguing that his detention lacked legal grounds and violated international human rights standards. Al-Hawari had previously been detained in Tripoli in January 2023 by Libya's Criminal Investigation Department before leaving the country.

Politics

GNU establishes emergency room to follow up on series of fires in Al-Asabaa town



The Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity and Acting Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah, announced on Wednesday the formation of an emergency room to follow up on the situation in Al-Asabaa town, which witnessed mysterious fires in the past few days.

Abu Janah also directed the medical supply, ambulance, emergency and field medicine departments as well as the Libyan Red Crescent to secure urgent medical needs for the town, according to a statement by the Ministry of Health on its Facebook page.

Abu Janah met with the Al-Asabaa Municipal Council during his visit to the town Wednesday, to follow up on the repercussions of house fires and to identify the needs of the residents, and he

listened to a briefing on the difficulties facing the town, especially with regard to health services and medical supplies. The meeting discussed mechanisms for cooperation between the ministry and local authorities to ensure a rapid and effective response that meets the needs of the residents, as Abu Janah confirmed that the ministry is committed to providing the necessary support.

No official medical authorities have announced so far any human losses as a result of these incidents, while the mayor of Al-Asabaa, Emad Al-Maktouf, said that the causes of the fires were still unknown.

Meanwhile, the Acting Minister of Interior Emad Al-Trabelsi issued his instructions to the Criminal Investigation Department to open an urgent and ex-

tensive investigation, in coordination with the competent authorities, to uncover the circumstances of the fires in Al-Asabaa.

The Ministry of Interior announced in a statement that it had sent specialized teams, the National Safety Authority, and security services to the site of the fires to contribute to the extinguishing operations, and to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety of citizens and protect their property.

The Ministry called on citizens to cooperate with the firefighting teams and adhere to the safety instructions issued by the competent authorities, and urged anyone who has information that may help in the investigations to go to the nearest police station to make a report.

Politics

5+5 Joint Military Commission warns against increasing proliferation of hate speech in Libya



The 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) has warned against actions that escalate hate speech, condemning in a statement on Tuesday actions that lead to the fragmentation of the social fabric and threaten national security by inciting discord between cities and regions across the country.

The JMC called for prioritizing national interests and reasoning, urging, in particular, all officials, security agencies, and political leadership to urgently hold accountable those responsible for these incidents, as well as anyone attempting to deepen divisions and undermine Libyan unity.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) organized a discussion seminar with the participation of the 5+5 JMC, and addressed the dangers of hate speech and its impact on the stability of the ceasefire agreement.

UNSMIL said that the seminar looked into the widespread phenomenon of hate speech, disinformation, and incitement through traditional media and social media platforms in Libya. It explained that the discussions focused on the harmful impact of such speech on the stability of the ceasefire agreement and Libya's social fabric in gener-

al. Additionally, the talks explored ways to combat these issues to curb their spread, based on Article 5 of the ceasefire agreement signed in October 2020. UNSMIL stressed the urgent need to put an end to all forms of inciting discourse in the media and on social media and to confront deliberate attempts to deepen divisions among Libyans, which threaten national unity, calling on elders, and local authorities to intensify efforts to reduce tensions in public discourse and address the root causes of the current escalation.

Politics



US Air Force conducts aerial operations in Libya to boost military integration

The United States Air Force is carrying out aerial operations in Libya aimed at strengthening military integration between the east and west, enhancing air defence capabilities, and improving air traffic monitoring, according to the US Embassy in Libya. In a statement, the embassy described the initiative as a significant step towards unifying Libya's military institutions. It reaffirmed Washington's commitment to Libya's stability and unity, emphasizing that US-Libya defence cooperation would contribute to stronger security for both nations.

Politics



FM discusses political developments with EU ambassadors

Acting Foreign Minister of the Government of National Unity (GNU), Taher Al-Baour, met with several European Union ambassadors accredited to Libya to discuss the latest political developments. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting addressed the concerns and interests of EU countries regarding developments in Libya, the human rights situation, and illegal migration. For his part, Al-Baour reaffirmed the GNU commitment to supporting efforts to enhance security and stability, as well as its pursuit of ensuring respect for human rights in accordance with international conventions and applicable laws. He also emphasized that these efforts aim to strengthen cooperation with international partners across various fields.

Politics

Al-Koni calls for decentralized governance to boost stability

Presidential Council member, Moussa Al-Koni, has called for a governance system based on the country's three historical regions, each with independent legislative councils, to help achieve nationwide stability. Speaking during a meeting on Sunday with UK Ambassador Martin Longden, Al-Koni also advocated for a governorate-based executive authority. He argued that granting local administrations control over their budgets and development projects would improve public services

and ease pressure on the capital, allowing the central government to focus on national sovereignty. The talks also covered Libya's broader political situation, including UN-led efforts to resolve the ongoing deadlock and push for a comprehensive political settlement. Meanwhile, Ambassador Longden reaffirmed Britain's continued engagement in Libya, stressing the importance of dialogue among political factions to overcome disputes and pave the way for national elections.



Economy

Minister of Economy, Italy's ambassador discuss bilateral cooperation



The Minister of Economy and Trade of the Government of National Unity, Mohammed Al-Huweij, discussed during his meeting with the Italian Ambassador Gianluca Alberini at the Ministry's headquarters, aspects of economic cooperation, the course of trade exchange and investment partnership in the private sector in both countries. The Minister stressed during the meeting the importance of preparing a unified vision between the two countries that includes economic and security cooperation in a way that achieves stability and implements the economic diversification plan that aims to raise the domestic product of non-oil exports by 60% so that the oil sector represents 40% of the gross domestic product. The Minister pointed out that the strength of the economy represents

the actual sovereignty of the modern state, adding that the Government of National Unity looks forward to supporting trade movement and facilitating visa procedures for Libyan business owners and citizens in a way that contributes to enhancing investment activity in the private sector in the fields of energy, transportation, agriculture and marine wealth.

The Italian Ambassador confirmed that his country's government places Libya's stability within its work strategy in light of the great convergence between the governments in the two countries, noting that Italy supports the efforts of the United Nations to play its role in achieving stability, provided that it remains in the hands of the Libyans themselves. The Ambassador explained that there are efforts to resume work on the coast-

al road project "Emssaed - Ras Ajdair". He explained that the Italian embassy is working to cooperate with the Libyan government in many sectors, including education and providing scholarships for female students. He said 2024 witnessed a significant increase in travel visas for Libyan citizens, adding that the commercial office at the embassy is in contact with the Libyan-Italian Chamber of Commerce to solve the problems and difficulties facing business owners dealing in Libya and Italy, with the aim of facilitating movement and supporting trade exchange, and working to organize and conclude a real investment partnership between the private sector in areas of common interest under the supervision of the Ministries of Economy and Trade in the two countries.

Economy

Jumhouria Bank offers free POS devices to boost business sector

The Jumhouria Bank has announced an initiative to provide free point-of-sale (POS) devices to business owners, aiming to support the commercial sector and enhance digital payment solutions.

Mohamed Saeed, the bank's media director, stated that the move is part of ongoing efforts to facilitate digital transactions, improving customer experiences with greater security and efficiency. The initiative aligns with the broader push for digital transformation in banking services.

Business owners interested in the offer are encouraged to visit their nearest bank branch for further details.

Economy

Mellitah Oil and Gas Company resumes production at gas well CC18 in Bahr Essalam Field

Mellitah Oil and Gas Company has restarted production at gas well CC18 in the Bahr Essalam field, with a production capacity of 34 million cubic feet of gas and 515 barrels of condensates per day, according to the National Oil Corporation (NOC).

The NOC added that this step comes within its plans and strategies aimed at boosting production and achieving target output levels.

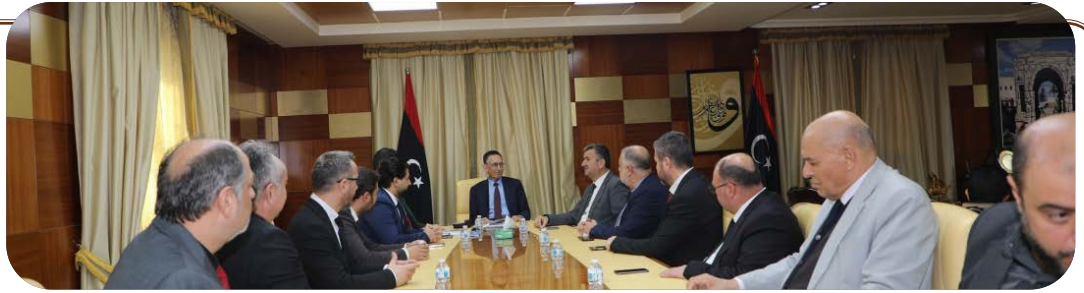
In January, Mellitah Oil and Gas Company also resumed production at well B3-23 in the Bouri field, with an output of 506 barrels of oil per day.

Economy

Turkish investors eye business opportunities in Libya

A delegation of Turkish industrialists and business leaders has expressed strong interest in investing in Libya, according to the Libya's Ministry of Economy and Trade.

During a meeting with Minister Mohamed Al-Huwaij, the delegation, led by Hakan Birkan and Yenişehir Mayor Erkan Özel, discussed opportunities for direct investments and partnerships with Libyan businesses.



The Libyan government has pledged to facilitate foreign investment, with Al-Huwaij urging Turkish companies to register with the ministry and establish branches or local partnerships. The minister also invited Yenişehir Municipality to explore twinning agreements with Libyan cities and encouraged further dialogue between Turkish and Libyan business leaders to expand economic ties.



Economy

Turkish economic delegation reviews in Tripoli bolstering exports to Libya

The Libyan General Authority for Exhibitions and Conferences held a meeting with a Turkish economic delegation and discussed ways to enhance Turkish exports to Libya.

The meeting was attended by the Head of the Libyan Authority, Essam Al-Aoul, with the Turkish delegation headed by the mayor of Yenişehir and representa-

tives of the Anatolian Industrialists and Businessmen Association.

The meeting reviewed the possibilities of cooperation in the sectors of agriculture, contracting, construction, and infrastructure, and the role of exhibitions in linking Libyan companies with their international counterparts to open new horizons in foreign markets.

Al-Aoul called on the Turkish delegation to participate in the international exhibitions and conferences organized by the Authority, considering that they provide opportunities for establishing trade partnerships, introducing Libyan products, and enhancing their presence in regional and international markets.

Economy

CBL Governor urges swift approval of anti-money laundering and terrorism financing law

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Naji Issa, in his capacity as Chairman of the National Committee for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, urged the legislative authority to approve the draft law on combating money laundering and terrorism financing, which has been submitted to it by the committee.

On Monday, the committee held



its first meeting for 2025 at the CBL headquarters in Tripoli, to discuss Libya's readiness for the mutual evaluation process by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and emphasized the importance of the country's commitment to international standards and requirements for combating money laundering and terrorism financing.

The meeting saw the approval of an

update to the national strategy for combating money laundering and terrorism financing and discussed the necessary implementation steps to ensure its effective execution. This is aimed at securing the country's compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing standards and avoiding the consequences of being classified as a non-compliant state

Sports



Benghazi Stadium reopens after major renovations

Benghazi's international stadium has reopened after years of closure with the attendance of global football legends. The Confederation of African Football (CAF) officially approved the venue just a day before its inauguration, allowing it to host international matches once again, according to local media.

The reconstruction effort, overseen by authorities linked to Khalifa Haftar, has expanded the stadium's capacity to 40,000 spectators—an increase of 12,000 seats.

The facility now includes nine main entrances, 24 emergency exits, a parking area for 1,500 vehicles, and various essential amenities.

Sports



Libya secures thrilling win over Cape Verde to qualify for AfroBasket 2025

Libya's national basketball team clinched a dramatic 82-80 victory over Cape Verde on Sunday, February 23, in a nail-biting encounter that remained fiercely contested until the final buzzer.

With this hard-fought win, the Mediterranean Knights have officially booked their place in the 2025 FIBA AfroBasket finals in Angola, finishing at the top of Group B. The qualification marks a historic moment for Libya, making their fifth appearance in the tournament and their first in 16 years.

Libya joins a strong lineup of teams in the finals, including Egypt, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Tunisia, South Sudan, Madagascar, Mali, Guinea, Rwanda, Uganda, Nigeria, and Cape Verde.

The 16-team tournament is set to take place from August 12 to 24 in Angola, where Africa's top basketball nations will compete for continental glory.

Health



Libya, EU discuss healthcare cooperation amid ongoing reforms

Acting Health Minister/ Deputy Prime Minister, Ramadan Abu Janah, has met with the European Union's Ambassador to Libya, Nicola Orlando, to discuss strengthening cooperation in the country's healthcare sector.

During the talks, held at the Ministry of Health headquarters in Tripoli, Abu Janah welcomed the EU delegation, commending the ongoing partnership in supporting Libya's medical infrastructure.

The discussions covered migrant health, public health initiatives, and efforts to enhance primary healthcare services. Both sides also explored ways to improve coordination between the EU mission and Libya's health authorities, particularly in cross-border disease surveillance and epidemic prevention.

Education



Higher Education Ministry says UNESCO wants to reopen its office in Tripoli

The UNESCO Regional Director for North Africa, Eric Falt, expressed on Monday the organization's desire to open a UNESCO office in Libya, pointing out the importance of permanent and direct communication in order to overcome all difficulties to complete stalled and future projects, according to a statement by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

This came during the meeting of the UN official with Minister Omran Al-Qaib in his office at the Ministry's headquarters in the capital, Tripoli, where the latter reviewed with the UNESCO official a number of observations on the stalled projects related to higher education and scientific research and ways to activate them, especially those related to digital transformation.

They also reviewed a number of projects related to supplying laboratories to universities and projects related to scientific research centers affiliated with the Libyan Authority for Scientific Research and a number of future projects.

Opinions

Malicious calls to abandon celebrations of the February Revolution



By Abdullah Alkabar
a Libyan political writer and commentator

As the anniversary of the February Revolution approaches, repeated calls discouraging people from celebrating it emerge, citing the current reality created by the revolution. They argue that the country enjoyed security and safety in the past, referencing the “ten loaves of bread for a quarter of a dinar” during the former regime. However, such calls were largely ignored as most cities were adorned with independence flags and portraits of martyrs. People of all ages took to the streets to celebrate, dismissing the discouraging calls mostly made by groups not in favor of the revolution that disrupted their peace and contentment or because they were not honored to support and participate in it, or are remnants of the former regime’s supporters.

There is no doubt that the current situation, nearly a decade and a half later, is unacceptable. Many of the rosy slogans and dreams envisioned during and after the revolution have not been realized. The country is plagued by conflict and division, foreign armed intervention, encroachments by militias, and unstable economic and financial conditions. Nevertheless, people cling to hope, believing that this reality is temporary and will eventually change. The revolution’s mission must be guided towards peace and calm. This is a fundamental reason for celebrating the revolution’s anniversary, to honor the martyrs and to not let the great sacrifices made to end tyranny, injustice, and chaos go in vain.

The call for people not to celebrate the anniversary is part of a phased

approach that begins by downplaying its importance and encouraging people to reject it. Not commemorating the revolution is the first step to erasing it from people’s memories. At the same time, there are efforts to make people yearn for the past through misleading information, erasing the facts of injustice, corruption, and disdain for the people, and highlighting what groups hostile to the revolution consider to be achievements. They frequently reference the “ten loaves of bread for a quarter of a dinar” as an example. In a future article, we will explore the reasons behind Gaddafi’s subsidies for bread and basic food items, and the positive and negative aspects of such subsidies. As for security and safety, they rely on people forgetting the live executions during Ramadan and the fear instilled by the regime and its repressive apparatus. They also neglect the development of the country’s infrastructure, transportation network projects, and the growth of small and medium-sized industries, which are necessary for increasing agricultural and fishing production, among other things that document the systematic sabotage of all aspects of life.

After erasing February from memory, remnants of the former regime’s gangs and groups that benefited from it reappear to reinforce their absurd narratives about the wonderful Jamahiriya system and its supposed achievements, claiming they were only disrupted by foreign conspiracies.

There is no point in trying to

convince these groups with overwhelming facts and conclusive evidence of the former regime’s repeated betrayals against the homeland and its people, its clear failure to build genuine state institutions, its squandering of Libyans’ dignity, and the marketing of illusions by replacing real action with fancy words. The destruction is comprehensive, but the banners bear the phrase “the Great,” and decisions are made by a single person surrounded by a narrow circle, while false media markets lies about people ruling themselves through popular congresses and committees.

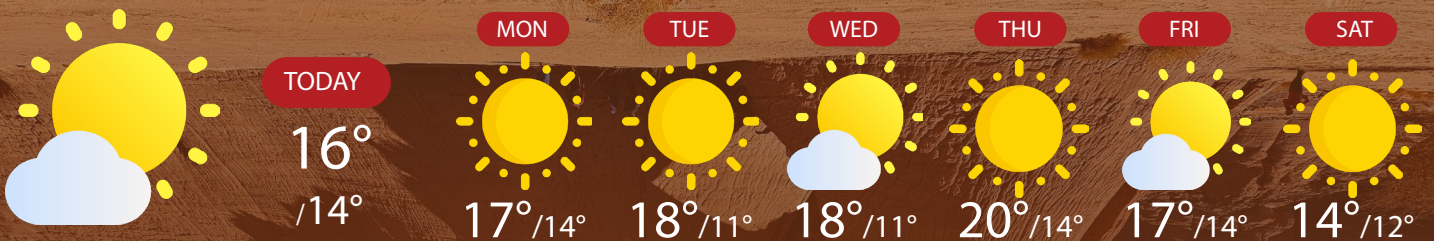
Without denying it, February has its mistakes, and this is the nature of revolutions which sometimes involve excessive violence during the process of change. The former regime bears the largest share of responsibility for all the consequences and repercussions during the revolution and beyond. The bitter harvest of these years is the result of the seeds of violence, hatred, and sedition, and the culture of flattery and hypocrisy accumulated during decades of tyranny. American political researcher Liz Anderson says: “Getting rid of the effects of tyranny may require a time comparable to the time of tyranny.”

We will celebrate February despite all the distortion it has suffered, despite all the suffering, obstacles, and traps set for it, because it is an honor and pride that it overthrew a deified tyrant who, in his last years, turned into a global joke with his amusing speeches.

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