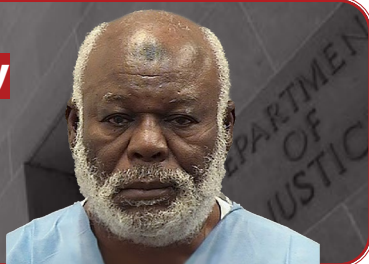


Politics

Abu Agila Masud's family says lawyer believes he can be acquitted



The family of Abu Agila Masud Al-Mariami, the Libyan citizen suspected in the Lockerbie case, said that the defense team tackling the case file reviewed its details and expressed satisfaction at the possibility of Masud's being found not guilty of the charges against him. The family said in a press statement that the court postponed the ruling in the case until mid-2025, citing the short time to follow up on the case in detail, listen to witnesses, and inform the team of all the documents, announcing the final formation of the team to defend the case, awaiting the cashing out of its fees from the HoR-designated government to communicate with the court.

The Federal Court announced May 12, 2025, as the date for the trial of Abu Agila, who faces three charges, including his participation in manufacturing the bomb that was on board the Pan

Am plane that crashed in Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988.

Regarding Abu Agila's health condition, the family indicated that the defense team will submit a request to the court to consider the possibility of transferring him to house arrest outside the prisons, as he suffers from chronic diseases.

Meanwhile, the American lawyer Coby Flauser of Brown Goldstein visited Abu Agila in prison and listened to his health conditions and his treatment inside the prison.

The family stated that the team will also submit a request, immediately after starting its work, for them to attend the trial session, similar to what the families of the plane victims requested, pointing out that the US Congress had passed a law allowing attendance at the sessions before the federal court rejected their request.

Politics

Libyan Mufti calls for expelling UN Support Mission



The Libyan Mufti, Sheikh Al-Sadiq Al-Gharyani, called on Libyans to get rid of negativity, saying that it was what let the February revolution go astray, adding in answering a question on his weekly program on Tanasuh TV on Wednesday that Libyans should expel the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) that has been "staying in the country for eight years without making any progress."

The Libyan Mufti added that when people revolted to support truth during the revolution in 2011, the country was a significant state, and it was not controlled by a UN envoy or a security council, explaining that when the people returned to their homes, "the criminals

and foreign agent politicians began to control their fate, and handed the country over to their enemy."

The Mufti indicated that "the UN envoy Abdoulaye Bathily presents "a play every month at the Security Council, and tells the same story and the same news. One time he says that Haftar said such and such, and another time Aqila Saleh said that, then he would go for another month and return with the same words." Mufti Al-Gharyani also urged Libyans to go to public squares in thousands to stop corruption and bring about change, as happened during the February 2011 revolution, saying, "If you do that for one month, you will see what will happen."

Politics



US Embassy calls on Libyan parties to accept Bathily's initiative and make necessary concessions

The US Embassy in Libya urged, Sunday, the Libyans to accept the invitation of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Abdoulaye Bathily, to participate in the talks motivated by good intentions, calling for making necessary concessions, even if difficult, to reach consensus and make progress in the political process.

This came in a congratulatory message on the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of Libya's independence, in which the US embassy said: "We extend our best wishes to the Libyan people. Libya has emerged from decades of dictatorship, carrying signs of a bright future that is still possible." The letter expressed the United States' regret over the two-year postponement of the elections that were scheduled for December 24, 2021, adding: "We share the Libyan people's frustration that the main Libyan actors have not yet found a way to meet popular demands and reach a settlement that enables free and fair elections and offer the entire people the right to choose their leaders."

The United States noted that the Libyan people suffered greatly as a result of the devastating floods that struck eastern Libya, adding: "The solidarity shown was a clear reminder that the Libyan people remain united."

It went on say; "We believe that the time has come for these actors to put aside their differences and come together for the benefit of the country," renewing the call on Libyan leaders to be united in purpose and to fulfill their responsibilities towards the Libyan people in order to achieve stability, security and long-term prosperity.

The UN envoy had previously called on the five main parties in Libya to engage in a preparatory dialogue for a five-party summit, namely: Speaker of the House of Representatives, Agila Saleh, Head of the High Council of State, Mohamed Takala, Khalifa Haftar, Head of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, and Head of the Presidential Council, Mohamed Menfi.

Politics

UNSMIL calls on Libyan parties to name their representatives to dialogue called for by Bathily



The United Nations Support Mission in Libya has called on the Libyan parties to nominate their representatives to the preparatory meeting called for by Head of UNSMIL, Abdoulaye Bathily, without delay, and to agree on a clear electoral path and timetable for the elections, and to reach a consensus on forming a new unified government that will lead the country towards elections.

The mission added, in a statement on the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of Libya's independence, that there is now a constitutional and legal framework for elections that the High National Elections Commission considers technically implementable, noting that delaying action now will deepen the division and expose Libya to various risks that threaten people's lives and undermine regional stability.

UNSMIL explained that laws alone cannot lead to successful elections, as they can only be held when the various Libyan parties are truly committed to creating the necessary conditions for their successful implementation.

It further stated that the political parties, civil society, women, youth, notables and sheikhs, in addition to the military and security authorities, must mobilize their efforts and urge the leaders of the main institutions to carry out their duty towards their homeland.

The mission stressed that it is necessary for the international community to unite its ranks in word and deed and urge the concerned Libyan parties to choose the path of peace, unity and democracy, calling on the active regional parties to push the parties towards positive participation and support them conducive to national consensual solutions.

Politics

PM Dbeibah reaffirms Libya's firm position rejecting Israeli aggression against Gaza

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, has reaffirmed Libya's firm position in support of the Palestinian cause and rejecting the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip.

This came during his meeting on Monday in his office in Tripoli with the Palestinian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information, Nabil Abu Rudeina.

The meeting discussed developments in the political situation in Palestine, the mechanism for providing humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, in addition to ways to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, according to Hakomitna Platform Facebook page.

Politics

Arab Parliament calls on Libyans to resort to reconciliation

The Speaker of the Arab Parliament, Adel Al-Asoomi, called on the Libyan parties to uphold the country's best interest and realize the aspirations of Libyans for security, peace, stability and development.

During his meeting with Libya's Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Abdulmuttalib Thabet, Al-Asoomi reaffirmed their position in support of Libya's unity, and territorial integrity, in addition to rejection of external interference in its internal affairs.

Al-Asoomi stressed that "the Libyan consensus on holding presidential and parliamentary elections will play a decisive role in achieving security, stability and development in the country." He hailed the role played by Arab countries and their tireless efforts to resolve the Libyan crisis through political solutions.

Al-Thabet said that the Arab Parliament plays an important role in supporting Libya's stability at all Arab, regional and international levels.

Last August, Al-Asoomi stressed the necessity of moving forward towards achieving the parliamentary and presidential elections in Libya. He stressed the Arab Parliament's support for Libya to overcome this period and move towards a more stable one.

Economy



Al-Huweij reviews with Zuwaremayor implementation of Free Zone in Ras Ajdair

The Libyan Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Huweij, discussed with the Mayor of Zuwara Municipality, Haji Abu Ajaja, the commercial and economic activity in the municipality, discussing during a meeting between them in Tripoli, ways to enhance cooperation in organizing and following up on commercial activities in the municipality of Zuwara, and reviewed the Ras Ajdair Free Zone project and the project implementation mechanism in coordination with all relevant authorities.

The mayor presented the activity of the municipality's technical departments and offices in determining the economic identity of the region and registering the available natural resources.

Al-Huweij stressed the development of infrastructure at the commercial port and Zuwara airport, which will contribute to encouraging business owners and local and foreign companies to establish investment projects in various sectors for better development.

He also called for organizing a business owners' forum in Zuwara in coordination with the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture and the Business Owners Council, with the aim of presenting promising investment opportunities in the region as well as taking advantage of the marine resources to localize a number of industries with the participation of local and foreign investors.

Economy



Mellitah Oil & Gas brings oil well back into production, with 3,500 bpd

Mellitah Oil & Gas has successfully re-drilled and completed the 4th well at the El Feel field, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced on Tuesday.

According to the NOC, the well reached a production capacity of around 3,500 barrels per day. Farhat Bengdara, the Chairman of the NOC, commended the national efforts contributing to this achievement.

The Corporation said the reactivation of the well is part of its strategy to improve and increase crude oil production as it aspires to boost Libya's oil production to 2 million barrels per day. Currently, Libya produces about 1.5 million barrels of oil per day.

Politics



Oil Minister: Foreign companies took advantage of Libyan political situation to increase shares

The Libyan Minister of Oil and Gas Mohamed Oun said that international companies operating in the oil sector took advantage of the political situation in the country and the government division to change contracts to achieve the greatest benefit from Libyan wealth.

Oun added in an interview with Attaqa energy news website that companies such as "Total Energy of France" and "ConocoPhillips of the US" applied to amend the terms of the agreements with the Libyan state, on the basis that they would develop oil discoveries, but that did not happen.

He explained that ConocoPhillips had agreed to this development since 2006, and so far it has not been developed, while

Total obtained a large oil share in 2019, and pledged at that time to develop the discoveries managed by the Libyan Waha Company, but this did not happen either. Oun described these practices as companies exploiting the political situation in the country, and taking advantage of the weakness of the Libyan state at the present time to achieve the greatest possible benefits. He confirmed that he objected to the terms of contracts with these companies because the Libyan institutions had succeeded, since 2007 and 2008, in developing a vision and foundations for the issue of contracts and had completed distinguished contracts since that date, while Italian and European companies were part

of them, but the issue was different after 2011.

Oun indicated that the companies had increased in the last period in their share of oil, and did not fulfill their pledges to develop the sites discovered since the 1970s, that is, more than 30 years ago. He pointed out that it was supposed to develop these sites or return them to the National Oil Corporation, but this did not happen.

He also explained that he objected to raising the value of the share granted to the Italian company Eni in the Hamada field because it is not losing economically as it claims. He added that the country needs at least five years of work to reach the production of two million barrels per day.

Economy



Libya proposes new trade border crossing with Egypt

Libya has proposed designating a commercial crossing on the border with Egypt to facilitate the flow of goods and enhance bilateral trade, separate from the Salum land crossing used by individuals.

A delegation from Libya's General Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture, led by Mohamed Al-Raeed, discussed the initiative during a meeting with the Egyptian Chambers of Commerce Head Ahmed El-Wakeel in Cairo on Monday.

The Libyan side addressed several issues, including obstacles hindering the flow of goods between the two

countries, easing border congestion, opportunities for Egyptian companies in Libya's reconstruction field, and ways to overcome the challenges associated with such projects.

During the meeting, the Libyan side invited Egyptian businesspeople to visit Libya and explore investment opportunities.

The meeting saw the participation of the Libyan Consul in Alexandria, the President of the Benghazi Chamber of Commerce, the President of the Giza Chamber of Commerce, the diplomatic attaché at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, and several Libyan business people.

Economy



Libyan Stock Market reopens trading after nine-year hiatus

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah attended Monday the reopening of trading in the buying and selling of shares for entities listed in the Libyan Stock Market after a nine-year hiatus. The reopening ceremony was at the headquarters of the Libyan Stock Market, as Dbeibah rang the bell in the Tripoli and Benghazi halls.

The Libyan Prime Minister expressed his desire for all Libyans to participate in the Libyan Stock Market, wishing it would not only be limited to institutions, but also to individuals and "large sectors."

"This is a rebirth for the Stock Market sector, which enjoys a high position in the economy... The stock market was established in 2006, and it went through very difficult stages, multiple circumstances, and serious obstacles

that led to the cessation of trading for many years," Dbeibah said.

He considered that this is an appropriate time for the return of activity and trading in light of a stable security situation, stressing that the challenges facing the Stock Market are very great.

"However, we are determined to overcome the obstacles and enhance stability and development in this good country, and we will work to achieve prosperity for all the people of Libya." He explained, adding that he was certain that the government will do what it can to support this important institution to enable it to perform its vital mission, especially with regard to infrastructure, headquarters, technical support, and the development of its cadres.

Economy

Oil Minister says Algeria's Sonatrach is the only Arab firm operating in Libyan oil and gas sector



The Libyan Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Oun, revealed Libya's intention to increase oil and gas production in the long term, pointing to the extent of the challenges and needs that hinder the development of this vital sector for the national economy.

The energy platform made an interview with the minister on the sidelines of the 12th Arab energy conference organized by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries in the Qatari capital, Doha, tackling a number of important issues related to the oil and gas sector in Libya.

Oun expressed Libya's desire to increase oil production to about two million barrels per day, noting that Libya needs 3 to 5 years to achieve this goal, stressing that success in this requires effective project management characterized by efficiency, experience, and transparency.

He touched on the technical challenges facing the materialization of this plan, noting the necessity of providing appropriate competencies and experience in the field of engineering to complete projects quickly and transparently, and pointed out that the Algerian company Sonatrach is the only company that has entered the oil and gas sector in Libya.

Oun announced plans for an exploratory activity during the year 2024 that will provide opportunities for Arab and foreign companies to invest in the exploration and production sector in Libya.

Regarding the talks with Saudi Aramco, he explained that no official talks had been initiated, but a letter was sent to the Saudi Minister of Energy to express Libya's desire to visit the Kingdom and discuss possible cooperation in the oil and gas sector, stressing that public bidding in Libya will be open for Arab and foreign companies in 2024.

According to what the minister said in the interview, the Ministry of Oil has inherent powers in accordance with the laws related to the oil sector, such as the Oil Law of 1955, stressing that any change, abandonment or modification of the agreements requires the approval of the Ministry of Oil and Gas.

Health

Disease Control Center expects increase in Coronavirus infections due to new variant



The National Center for Disease Control expected an increase in cases of Coronavirus during the coming period, attributing this to the spread of the new JN.1 variant, and then an increase in hospitalizations, especially for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, those with chronic diseases, and those with low immunity.

The center's expectations came in a statement Tuesday indicating that there had been a significant increase in respiratory disease infections since the beginning of last October, as cases ranged from simple to serious, with a number of deaths being registered.

The statement indicated that the center's teams took samples from people with symptoms of respiratory diseases from some hospitals and health centers and analyzed them in the laboratory, finding that the results of most of the samples were for the influenza A virus and included serious cases of acute pneumonia, in addition to that a large percentage of respiratory infections cases were due to a bacterial

infection, and noted that there were few cases of infection with the Coronavirus, and that most cases of infection in children were the result of syncytial virus infection. The National Center for Disease Control advised taking all precautionary measures to prevent infection, including ensuring influenza vaccinations, using masks in crowded and closed places as well as poorly ventilated places, maintaining a safe distance inside those places, ensuring good ventilation, and maintaining respiratory etiquette when coughing and sneezing, cleaning hands regularly and staying safe at home when feeling symptoms of infection.

The new Corona variant is spreading rapidly and may cause respiratory diseases ranging from simple to pneumonia in some cases, and its appearance coincides with the spread of seasonal viruses such as influenza, respiratory syncytial virus, and pneumonia, which is common in childhood, according to the World Health Organization.

Health



Ministry of Health grants permission to local companies to urgently supply medicines to oncology patients

The Ministry of Health has reviewed the file of patients applying for treatment abroad, especially oncology patients who are not currently receiving treatment.

This came during the participation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah, and the head of the Internal Security Service, in the meetings of the Supreme Security Technical Central Committee to follow up on public and private health facilities, and to grant permission to local companies to urgently supply medicines to oncology patients.

Health



Sabha Medical Center complains of lack of medicines

Sabha Medical Center has appealed to the government health authorities to solve the problem of shortage of medicines and medical analysis supplies urgently and immediately.

The center spokeswoman, Halima Al-Mahri said that maintenance work for the center is ongoing at a steady pace, including the maintenance of the first tower, which has been stalled since 2006, and the completion rate of its maintenance has reached 70%, noting that the maintenance and completion of the first tower represents a third of the capacity of the center, which includes three towers.

Al-Mahri expected that all maintenance work would be completed during the first three months of next year, and that the center would be fully ready by the middle of 2024. "The Government of National Unity pledged to disburse all financial dues related to maintenance work carried by the companies, in addition to its pledge to provide the necessary medical supplies", she said.

Sports

Libya football team's coach: We aim to qualify for AFCON and World Cup



The Libyan national football team coach, Milutin Sredojević (Micho), said that his goal is to take the team to the finals of the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) and the World Cup, adding in a press conference organized by the Media Committee of the Libyan Football Federation on Wednesday that qualifying is a legitimate goal, which comes through continuous work and follow-up, and said that "Libyan talents are capable, and only need attention."

Micho explained that he planned to rejuvenate the ranks of the Libyan team by relying on youth under 25 years old at that stage through his choices by evaluating all the players himself and that he followed the Libyan Premier League well.

"There are many distinguished and skilled players, and the door is open to everyone. The assessment will be through me personally because I follow all the players and develop visions for each player through my presence in the national team, in preparation for choosing the best according to my personal point of view and analyzing the performance of each athlete according to the program prepared with the crew accompanying me at work through friendly matches and the player's performance in training," Micho explained.

Micho indicated that he wouldn't talk about

the past, but rather about the future, saying that the idea of football is a helpful factor for the Libyan people to be united with the national team, stressing that he respects all players, and in previous matches he used experienced striker Ahmed Karawa and Faisal Al-Badri, and he has no objection to adding any distinguished player.

The Serbian coach indicated that he had set "a calendar of friendly and official matches, and the team would play friendly matches in next January with the Indonesian national team in the camp in the Turkish city of Antalya, as well as in Egypt and back to Libya," saying that there will be other friendly matches.

Micho stressed that "he will not waste any international break without playing friendly matches in order to be well prepared for the matches against Mauritius and Cape Verde in the World Cup qualifiers."

Since Micho took over as coach of the Knights of the Mediterranean last October, the Libyan team has played four friendly matches, winning the first against Sudan (2-1), drawing (0-0) in the second with Somalia, as well as against Niger (1-1), and beating Liberia (3-2). The team also played two official matches, winning the first against Estwatini (1-0) and drawing in the second with Cameroon (1-1).

Sports

Judicial Police set deadline for LFF handover



The Judicial Police have given the Libyan Football Federation (LFF), led by Abdulhakim Al-Shalmani, a deadline until next Thursday to vacate the federation's headquarters.

The action follows a Libyan judicial ruling regarding a complaint against the current administration of the football federation. The court declared the federation's elections, held two and a half years ago in March 2021 in Tobruk, null and void.

Shalmani refuses to comply with the judgment, arguing that it conflicts with the regulations of the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), which prohibits governmental and judicial interference in the operations of sports federations.

The Libyan sports community is now preoccupied with ongoing talks about forming a steering committee to run the LFF for six months until new elections. Shalmani's competitors, Anwar Al-Tashani and Ibrahim Shakeh filed a legal complaint that led to the judicial ruling. They alleged their exclusion from the elections and claimed there was manipulation in the voting process.

Education



Over a million students sit exams across Libya

The final exams for the first semester and the first period exam for general certificates for the current academic year in the Education Supervision Department began Monday in Libya, except for the municipality of Derna. The Ministry of Education said on its Facebook page that the number of students who would take the exams reached 1.039.230 students: 769,293 students for sixth grade, 190,498 students for seventh grade; 189,410 students for eighth grade, 177,957 students for first secondary year; and 116,772 students will appear for the final exams for the first semester of the primary and secondary education levels, and for the secondary school, 94,656 students will sit the exam.

While 269,937 students will take the first period exams for the primary and secondary education completion certificates, 170,535 of whom will sit the primary education completion certificate exams, and 99,402 students will take the secondary education completion certificate exams.

The Ministry referred to the decision of the Minister of Education No. 2232 regarding the study plan for the years of transfer and general certificates in the primary and secondary education levels, to monitor education in the municipality of Derna, taking into account the floods that the city went through last September, which affected its educational institutions and students.



Opinions

What is the alternative if Bathily's initiative fails?

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

The UN Special Envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily's initiative clashes with the conditions set by Agila Saleh, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, Head of the Government of National Unity; and Khalifa Haftar, Commander of the Operation Dignity militia. The first does not want to negotiate election laws, and only wants to discuss the issue of forming a new government, and the second refuses to discuss the formation of a new government. He believes that the dialogue should not go beyond reaching a consensus formula on electoral laws, so that they become implementable. The third stipulates the inclusion of the parallel government or the exclusion of the two governments.

Movements of the US Special Envoy to Libya, Ambassador Richard Norland, and his meeting with the parties invited to the dialogue aim to pressure the removal of these conditions and bring everyone to the Bathily's table.

The US influence to ensure the success of the initiative, cannot be overlooked. The Success here is not intended to remove all obstacles in the way of the elections, but rather to break the political stalemate by launching dialogue at the level of representatives of the five invited parties, and then the subsequent steps will come at the appropriate time.

The positions of the three figures are understandable. Aqila seeks to extend the transitional period and take away more power, by dominating the executive authority, while Dbeibah seeks to continue as head of government, and he has a strong argument supported by broad popular sectors, which is not to allow the transitional period to be extended and the change be achieved through elections, so, that all entities that have been in power for years will disappear. As for Haftar, he wants to engage in negotiations with his parallel government or exclude the two governments, to weaken Dbeibah's position, as there is no one versus Haftar at Bathily's table except Dbeibah, for the House of Representa-

tives is the counterpart of the High Council of State, and the head of the Presidential Council will identify with the positions of Aqila and Haftar, after joining the Cairo meeting with Haftar and Aqila, and signing a statement welcoming the initiative, and calling for responding to Aqila and Haftar's reservations.

Menfi's participation in the Cairo meeting divided the Presidential Council and ended the fragile state of consensus among its members, with representatives Abdullah Al-Lafi and Musa Al-Koni taking a position in opposition to Menfi's biased tendencies by participating in the Cairo dialogue.

Bathily presents his initiative after a protracted political stalemate, accompanied by military tensions of armed groups with different whims and interests, and at a time of severe international turmoil between the major powers, with the continuing war in Ukraine and the barbaric aggression carried out by the occupation entity in Palestine against the people in the Gaza Strip, which doubles the possibility of failure of the initiative, or at the very least falter, due to the failure of the parties called upon to exchange concessions that would drive the political process forward.

Here, the prominent question may be posed. What is the alternative?

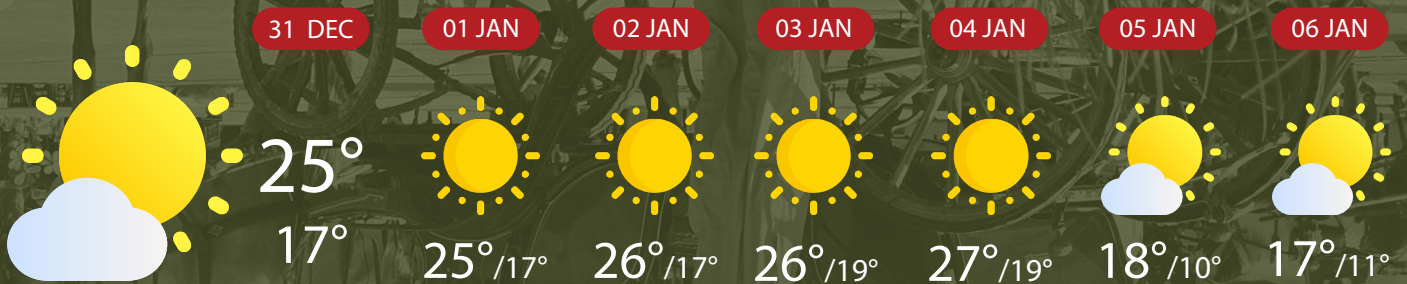
The country's fate cannot remain in the hands of entities and personalities who want to remain in power, without realizing the country's need to unify its institutions without delay, and pull it out of the state of collapse that is being perpetuated by the increasing external interference and indeed intervention.

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](https://www.facebook.com/lyobserver)

info@libyaobserver.ly [lyobserver](https://twitter.com/lyobserver)

ar.libyaobserver.ly [lyobserver.ar](https://twitter.com/lyobserver.ar) [lyobserver.arabic](https://www.facebook.com/lyobserver.arabic)

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