

Politics

## Dbeibah: Libyan executive authority was selected with transparency



The Prime Minister-elect in Libya, Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah, said the selection of the new executive authority by the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) was with transparency and integrity, denouncing the "media attempts to hinder the formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU)."

Dbeibah's statement came after the report of the panel of experts cited by the AFP saying bribes were paid to at least three LPDF participants at the Tunisia-held talks back in November 2020 to vote for Dbeibah as a PM.

Dbeibah said getting the first phase of the roadmap done has become very close as the House of Representatives prepares to grant the GNU confidence.

"Political and institutional divisions are about to end and so are the poor services and terrible economic conditions in the country. We are committed to the roadmap and are sure that the Libyan people are well aware of the challenges that are facing the process of unifying the country's institutions as well as national reconciliation." He added.

Dbeibah also reiterated that the reports were an endeavor of altering facts by the media, adding that Libyans had previously fallen for it many times, leading to the current fragmentation, conflicts and wars.

Politics

## Sayala receives credentials of UN Humanitarian Coordinator



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of National Accord, Mohamed Sayala, has received a copy of the credentials of the Humanitarian Coordinator of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Georgette Gagnon.

The Information Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that Gagnon presented her plan of action to Sayala during their meeting in Tripoli on Monday.

Both sides discussed the new humanitarian conditions resulting from the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, along with methods of delivering humanitarian aid to those most in need, but also how to support the Government of National Accord in confronting the pandemic with the aid of the international community.

Politics

## North Tripoli Prosecution Office: Bashagha was not a target



Chief Prosecutor of Northern Tripoli, Omar Fakini on Monday confirmed that the Interior Minister's convoy that was traveling down the highway west of Tripoli on the 21st of February did not come under attack.

"It was not an assassination attempt," Fakini said. He ordered the imprisonment of one of Bashagha's guards and two of the Stabilization Support Apparatus members who were involved in the accident along with their fellow Radwan al-Hanqari's who died at the scene.

Bashagha told Reuters that the incident was a "well-planned" assassination attempt, though the other armed force refuted these allegations, stressing that his guards had opened fire on one of its vehicles as it passed his convoy.



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**Politics**

## Tobruk HoR deputy speaker urges MPs to join session for government confidence vote



The First Deputy Speaker of the Tobruk-based House of Representatives (HoR) Fawzi Al-Nuwairi has urged the MPs to respond to the HoR speaker's call regarding giving confidence to the government, ending the state of division and putting the nation's interest above all.

In a statement, Al-Nuwairi emphasized the need for everyone to cooperate at the current stage, including the street and government, to create the appropriate conditions for holding the presidential and parliamentary elections on December 24th.

He stressed the adherence of the Tobruk-based parliament to the outcomes of the Geneva talks, reiterating support for the new authority "for the positive strides" it had taken so far.

"We praise the positive steps of the new Presidential Council and the Prime Minister, starting from the internal visits and facing the challenges to form the government, to bringing the country together under the National Unity Government," Al-Nuwairi said.

He indicated that the acceptance of the new authority depends on the extent to which it provides security and stability and its handling of the problems affecting the daily life of the people.

"The success of the new government hinges on the international community's commitment to providing support for the government and helping it to limit foreign interference and outset foreign military and mercenary forces from Libya," Al-Nuwairi added.

**Politics**

## UNSMIL encourages holding granting confidence session to new government on scheduled place and time



The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) issued on Tuesday a clarification regarding the media reports circulating about "allegations of bribery" during the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) meeting in Tunisia last November, citing the report of the UN Panel of Experts (PoE).

In a statement, the UNSMIL confirmed that the (PoE) is an independent and completely separate entity that submits its reports to the Security Council Sanctions Committee, stressing that it does not receive the Committee's reports, including the last one, therefore cannot comment on it.

It also demanded that any inquiries in this regard be directed to the UN Sanctions Committee.

UNSMIL strongly encouraged in its statement the House of Representatives (HoR) to meet as scheduled in the city of Sirte on March 8, to discuss the vote on granting confidence in the government formation that will be proposed by the Prime Minister-designate Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah.

It also said that its call for a parliament session to give confidence to the government came after consultations with its international partners and in line with the growing public demand for the urgent need to form a unified government to meet the most urgent needs and facilitate the holding of national elections in December 2021, encouraging the Prime Minister-designate to present the cabinet formation quickly.

In the meantime, Agence France-Presse quoted extracts from the PoE report, which confirmed that the votes of at least three participants in the forum were purchased.

Earlier, 25 MPs had proposed to the Presidency Council to address the United Nations and request a copy of the report of the PoE, before the session of discussion of granting confidence to the proposed government, and postponing the date of the session until the truth of the matter becomes clear.

**Economy**

## January oil sales hit record levels, NOC confirms



Libya has hit record levels in oil and gas sales during the last months, surpassing 1.4 billion dollars, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) confirmed Friday.

"The revenues have been deposited into the NOC's account at the Libyan Foreign Bank, in line with the temporary arrangements currently in place," the company said.

The NOC Chairman Mustafa Sanalla said that this achievement was the result of the NOC's companies and employees' efforts over the past months who worked hard to increase production rates despite the lack of budgets for maintenance and operation.

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**Economy**

### GNMTC enhances fleet with two oil tankers



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GNMTC

The General National Maritime Transport Company (GNMTC) has enhanced its fleet with two developed oil tankers, the company confirmed on Friday.

"The new oil tankers "Fezzan" and "Anwar Benghazi" will start operations Friday to transport crude oil and its derivatives," the GNMTC said, underlining that it had managed to support its fleet with three newly manufactured ships within less than two months, including the oil tanker "Ibn Hawqal."

The shipping company emphasized that its vessels meet the highest quality standards and requirements of major oil companies and all the international conditions for the maritime navigation market.

**Economy**

### Tunisian delegation arrives in Libya to discuss economic cooperation



A delegation from the Tunisian economic sector headed by Sfax Commerce Chamber arrived in Tripoli on a work visit to Libya to discuss economic cooperation with Libyan officials.

A meeting was held Sunday at Tripoli Commerce Chamber headquarters and the two sides discussed joint economic cooperation.

The visit of the Tunisian delegation will take three days as they will meet officials and carry out field visits to several factories and commercial facilities in Tripoli.

**Economy**

### NOC wins Ras Lanuf Refinery case against LERCO



The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has won the case against the Libyan-Emirati Oil Refining Corporation (LERCO) with respect to the Ras Lanuf Refinery dispute.

The legal dispute concerns the arbitral award that was issued in this regard, on January 4, 2018, in an ICC arbitration between LERCO and NOC.

The Paris Court of Appeal ruled that LERCO is to pay the NOC over \$ 115 million, plus benefits, according to a statement by the NOC on Sunday.

The statement clarified that the full amount, including the benefits accrued until February 28, 2021, owed by LERCO to the NOC, exceeds 132 million US dollars.

The court also upheld the arbitral tribunal's decision confirming LERCO's ongoing contractual take-or-pay obligation and ordered LERCO to pay 100,000 euros in costs of the Paris court proceeding.

**Economy**

### Tripartite MoU for development in areas surrounding oil fields



Libyan Labor and Rehabilitation Ministry said it had signed a MoU with the National Oil Corporation and National Program for Small and Medium Projects to develop areas surrounding oil fields.

The Ministry said the signing was done in the presence of the Minister Al-Mahdi Al-Amin, NOC Chairman Mustafa Sanallah, and deputy minister of economy Rajab Khalil at the NOC headquarters in Tripoli.

The Ministry said the MoU will carry out a development project in areas around oil fields and ports by enabling youths within training programs.

"This MoU is part of many initiatives the Ministry carried out lately in south Libya. This cooperation among state institutions is very important, especially in areas where development projects are essentially needed for the cities and for employing the youths," Al-Amin said.

Opinions

## Starting steps for new authority

By Abdullah Al-Kabir, a Libyan writer



The positions differed from the visit of the new Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammad Yunous Menfi to Benghazi and his meeting with Haftar between welcoming, refusing and understanding. These are the expected positions of the presence of the main person in the Libyan crisis next to the new president. Some of the outrageous reactions were affected by the loss of the Aqilah / Bashagha list in the Geneva dialogue, and this is of course strange! Isn't Aqilah the first partner of Haftar, and he bears with him responsibility for all the crimes and violations committed by his gangs? He would have rushed to meet Haftar if he had won the presidency of the Presidency Council in a more festively.

Wasn't Aqilah Saleh the one who granted political cover and military promotions to Haftar and blessed his attack on Tripoli? So why protest then?

The Geneva track avoids delving into the fate of Haftar, because raising the issue will undermine the dialogue before it begins, and his supporters in the forum will reject any initiative to remove him. Hence, Haftar is a party to the conflict and is a color in the Libyan political spectrum, according to the mission's vision and the statements of Stephanie Williams.

Menfi's meeting with Haftar is a foregone conclusion, as no one can work in the East without the consent and acceptance of Haftar, even if he is the native of the region and the son of one of its tribes. Perhaps the shock came from the speed with which the meeting took place and before the new authority officially assumed its duties.

The events of the visit and the meeting revealed the suffering Haftar is enduring to maintain his influence and reduce the cracks in the edifice of power that he has established in the east. Preventing the media from covering the arrival of Menfi and publishing a single picture for Menfi and Haftar, and postponing the publication of pictures of the Menfi's reception at the airport and pictures of his other meeting for more than six hours, are clear signs of the visit being used to propagandize Haftar and suggesting that he has overcome the shock and his influence was not affected by defeat. This will send reassurance to his supporters and frustration among his opponents. The spread of news and images from different sources means diversity and threatens the return of media activity outside the control of Haftar's devices, and it is also difficult with the crowding of cameras to control the images and the formulations of the news spread across agencies and various media platforms, and in the crowd of images, the focus may be lost on the only image that is required to spread before any other image, to devote the previous photo of Haftar, and the restoration of the cracks that affected his image and prestige. Also, his appearance with Menfi and the declaration of welcoming and supporting the new authority is a message to the international powers through which he declares his acceptance and submission to the international will and responds to the paths of the United Nations, in order to avoid his classification among the spoilers, especially with the magnification of the file of his militia's crimes and the international interest in the mass graves discovered in Tarhuna after the breakdown of his campaign and his defeat.

The Menfi's visit to Benghazi and other eastern cities, and his dialogue with the political and social forces, is a natural start and a good introduction to launching towards the West and the South, in order to gain support for the new authority, and Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah took the same step by meeting with the political and social forces in Misrata for consultation and listening, before presenting his vision and program of his government. He also needs the support of the powers of his city and its union behind his government. It would have been better if the meeting took place in a public hall and not in his home, so that opinions would be freed from the restrictions of hospitality etiquette. After securing support from the main bases of both Menfi and Dbeibah, they begin their journey to other cities, which should not ignore any party. Menfi must communicate with the displaced from Benghazi and Derna, and Dbeibah must visit the cities of the East and the South.

The challenges that the new authority will face are many, and the time granted until the date set for the elections is not sufficient to fulfill all promises, yet many are optimistic about it because it is free of controversial personalities and is rejected by the majority of the people, and then there are no preconceived positions on any party of the authority figures, and this will open doors for communication and collaborate with everyone.

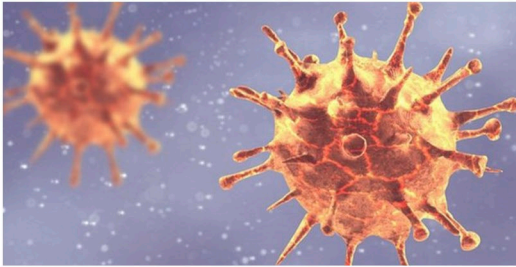
The prevailing climate and the general mood of the people is moving towards renouncing wars and conflicts, exhaustion and fatigue have afflicted almost everyone, and the political class, especially the House of Representatives, must stop procrastinating and harassment, and respond to the current transformations so that the new authority can alleviate the suffering of people by improving services, providing the necessities of life, addressing the Coronavirus pandemic and preparing the country for elections.

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



Health

### Libya reports first UK Covid-19 variant



The first case of the coronavirus variant identified in the UK has been detected in Libya, The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) confirmed Wednesday.

The center said that 23 cases of the UK variant have been discovered in specimens collected from 88 people who tested positive for coronavirus.

The NCDC raised concern that the epidemiological situation is painful and worrying warning residents that the new virus is highly transmissible. "It is likely to fuel a surge of cases especially in light of lack of commitment to precautionary measures in the community," the centre said

It further reiterated the need to continue tracking and studying the variant and to provide the support to do so, calling on the authorities to take all necessary measures to protect public health.

Libya reported 571 new coronavirus cases on Thursday bringing the statewide total to 131833 including 10886 active cases. The death toll amounted to 2156 after five people lost their lives to the Covid-19 Wednesday.

Libya has contracted with the World Health Organization (WHO) to purchase 2.8 million doses. 500 thousand shots will be supplied by "Johnson & Johnson".

According to a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee to confront the Covid-19 Ali al-Muqaddami the vaccine would be available by the end of Mars.

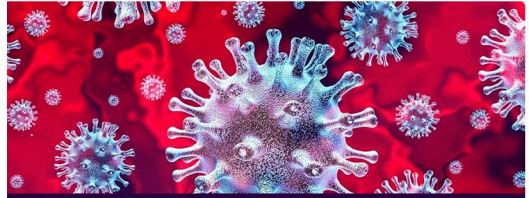


Health

### WICS, NCDC discuss prospects of cooperation

The Chairman of the Steering Committee of the World Islamic Call Society (WICS), Saleh Salim Al-Fakhri discussed with the Director General of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Badr Al-Din Al-Najjar, prospects for joint cooperation between the two sides.

They also discussed arrangements for signing a cooperation agreement under which the NCDC would organize awareness programs for the WICS employees and students to combat the Coronavirus pandemic and various other diseases, given the center's experience in this field.



Health

### Libyan Doctors Union calls for probe into Covid-19 vaccine delay

The General Union of Libyan Doctors has called on the Attorney General to open an investigation into the reason for the delay in the arrival of the Coronavirus vaccine in Libya.

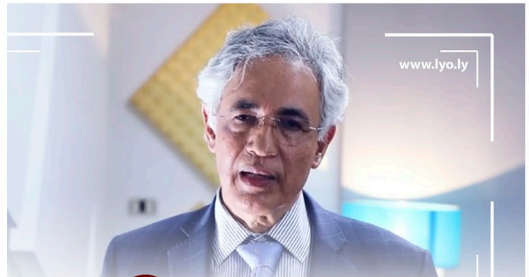
It also called on the Attorney General to identify those behind the delay and bring them to trial.

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) confirmed Wednesday that 23 cases of the coronavirus variant have been discovered in specimens collected from 88 people who tested positive for coronavirus.

It is noteworthy that Libya has contracted to purchase 2.8 million doses of the Coronavirus vaccine with a value of 42 million Libyan dinars.

Health

### Al-Bakoush: 12 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine to arrive within the next few weeks



The Head of the Scientific Advisory Committee for Combating Coronavirus, Khalifa Al-Bakoush has confirmed that the first batch of the Covid-19 vaccine will arrive within the next few weeks.

In a joint press conference with the Director of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Al-Bakoush said that a total of 12 million doses of coronavirus vaccine will be delivered to Libya by the end of March. "We have contracted four companies to import the vaccines," he added.

He explained that the late delivery of the vaccine was caused by the closure imposed by the European Union, reassuring Libyans that the vaccine sign-up process is set to go live in the next few days.

The vaccinations will be carried out by the NCDC in cooperation with the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Ministry of Health, according to Al-Bakoush.

For his part, the NCDC head, Badr Al-Din Al-Najjar confirmed that a plan had been put in place to organize the registration and distribution process, while the immunization campaign will start as soon as the vaccine doses arrive

Sports

## CAF lifts ban on Libyan stadiums



Sources close to Libyan Football Federation confirmed that the Confederation of African Football (CAF) had lifted the ban imposed on Libyan stadiums after the visit of the CAF delegation in the last weeks in which it inspected the preparedness of the stadiums and security conditions, especially in Tripoli and Benghazi.

The sources said the Libyan national football team will play Tunisia in CAF Cup of Nations' qualifiers at Benina stadium in Benghazi in March.

"CAF delegation had requests such as repairing stadiums to international standards". The sources added.

The Chairman of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, Abdul Hakim Al-Shalmani, will hold a press conference to give details about lifting the ban.

CAF has been imposing the ban on Libyan stadiums for over seven years, costing the Libyan state a lot of money in transportation and accommodation as the national team has played over 70 away games, let alone disallowing Libyan football fans from attending home matches.

Education

## Elected PC head Menfi inspects Tripoli University



The Chairman-elect of the Presidential Council (PC), Mohammad Menfi held discussions on Thursday, with the PC member, Mossa Al-Koni, in the presence of the President of the University, Nabil Al-Nattah, a number of employees, faculty members, and the President of the University's Student Union.

The meeting came after an inspection visit to the University of Tripoli, according to the Tripoli University's official Facebook page.

During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues, the most important of which is unifying all Libyan state institutions and striving for a true and comprehensive national reconciliation.

They also discussed the university law and the financial situation, including the mechanism for resolving stalled salaries, entitlements of staff and faculty members.

Education

## Ministry of Education approves exam results of foreign education schools



The National Examinations Center has approved the exam results of foreign education schools, after obtaining approval from the Education Minister, Mohammed Amari Zayed.

This came during a meeting with members of the examination supervisory committee on Thursday, the centre explained.

The exams committee presented a proposal on the design of the school certificate for primary and advanced education stages, in accordance with the criteria and conditions for awarding certificates.

The officials also discussed the mechanism for calculating the test scores for students wishing to move to foreign education schools.

On another level, the Director-General of the National Examination Center clarified that the exams for the current academic year will be held during May and June

Tourism

## General Tourism Authority marks National Heritage Day



The General Authority for Tourism on Saturday organized a celebration to mark the National Heritage Day, under the slogan "Mastering a handiwork is better than inheriting a fortune".

The ceremony, which was held at the authority's theater, was attended by the President of the General Authority for Tourism, Khaider Malik, besides officials and experts from the field of education, culture, science, arts, and crafts.

The celebration cast spotlight on the challenges facing the traditional industry and crafts in Libya, and in this context, a cooperation agreement was signed between the General Authority for Tourism and the School of Arts and Crafts to support this creative field.

The ceremony concluded with honoring several craftsmen, writers, and experts in the field of traditional crafts, besides others who played a role in supporting and developing the tourism sector.

It is noteworthy that the National Heritage Day, which falls on the 27th of February of each year, was approved by the Arab League to enhance the understanding of the Arab nations of their cultural heritage and as a tool to safeguard the mother tongue language through literature, folklore, arts and music.



weather

The Weather Channel

### Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 05	24°/13°		Mostly Sunny	15%	SE 23 km/h
Sat 06	20°/12°		Sunny	10%	NW 15 km/h
Sun 07	21°/14°		Mostly Sunny	12%	E 21 km/h
Mon 08	21°/14°		Partly Cloudy	24%	E 20 km/h
Tue 09	20°/13°		AM Showers	47%	N 20 km/h
Wed 10	20°/13°		AM Showers	40%	NW 19 km/h
Thu 11	21°/14°		Sunny	22%	WNW 21 km/h

### Photo of the Week





Bazine, a traditional and delicious Libyan food, the recipe of which varies from region to region.

In my 42 years of relationship with both Libya and Libyans, I've been introduced to many methods for both the sauce and the actual Bazine dough. My very dearest departed friend and sister in Islam, Mabrooka, Al Warfalli, thank you for your support and all of your kind gestures and great recipes.

So Bazine:

Before anything, hard boil one egg per person expected to eat the meal (hard boil = cooking until center is hard) cool in cold water and peel, leave until the end.

There are basically two types of Bazine, one made with cracked skinned broad beans, the second with meat and potatoes, well generally anyway. The sauces are cooked similarly, as most Libyan sauces begin with fried onion, followed by tomato puree, which is usually cooked well in the oil and onion until its smell changes slightly, add a teaspoon of ground coriander, cumin, black pepper and salt. This is where the taste changes from region to region, some people put in a quarter teaspoon of fenugreek seeds or even less, some are horrified at the very thought.

If cooking with broad beans, boil them for at least 30 minutes then add to the tomato puree and now spiced onion mixture, add water, at least three to four cups, leave to simmer for at least an hour, checking for water level.

If using meat and potatoes, the meat is placed at the time of the broad beans, typically the meat is large pieces of lamb, however, at times of wedding celebrations, it is often replaced with large chunks of camel meat, potatoes cut in half on the long side are added approximately 20 mins. before completion of meat cooking, along with fresh green or red, hot chillies. The sauce should not be too watery, so keep an eye on the water level. Now for the Bazine 'ball', as some may call it. Again, two varying methods of cooking it, however both require a pot of boiling water and an amount of barley flour, this is judged by the amount of people expected to attend the meal.

**Method one:** This takes experience or guidance from someone who is expert in it if its being done for the first time, but no harm in trying, I advise a novice to stick with the second method. One must have a large wooden paddle called a 'mughrif' ready, this cannot be replaced

by a wooden spoon as the mixture is very tough. Sift the barley flour and if it is of good quality there should be some sheaf in the sieve, take a handful and put it back into the sieved flour for body and rustic effect. Pour handfuls of flour into the boiling water and allow to sink until required amount is added, this is usually done by 'eye' measurement, placing the mughrif in the center standing, allow to cook slowly for at least 30 minutes on low heat uncovered.

Remove from the cooker and place on the floor wedged in a corner or against a wall and whilst sitting on the floor, place both feet at the pot with a cloth with protection placed around the Bazine pot. Then the work begins, take hold of the mughrif and begin to pull the dough from the center to the edge until any and all lumps are removed and the dough is not sticky or too dry.

Pull the Bazine dough into a large (I mean 'large') by European standards, like a not too deep mixing bowl. Then the Libyan expertise comes into play. Have at hand a small pot or bowl of cold water to dip your hand into. Knead the dough, although its still so hot, dip your hands into the cold water when it becomes unbearable, (and it will), and when you are satisfied that there are no lumps left, begin a rolling motion all around the outer side of the bowl until a volcano shape is achieved.

**Second method,** and the one I prefer for sure, although I've cooked with both, is simply, again boil the water, a relatively large one, mix your flour with water until it comes together and is neither too soft or too hard, this method excludes the possibility of lumps in the final dough. Then simply measure the amount of dough by taking a large handful, placing it in the top part of the palm and flattening it into a pitta bread shape approximately a half inch thick, this is practical as usually the Warfelli women measure one piece per person, with a couple extra for good measure for those with a good appetite. The patties as we'll call them are placed statically, overlapping in a fan shape and left to cook for anything from 30 to 45 minutes until cooked. Strain out the water, retaining approximately two cups full, some of this water may be added to the sauce to increase the overall amount, as the water will slightly thicken the sauce.

Follow the directions for stirring with mughrif as above, kneading well and shaping as aforementioned.

In both versions when the barley flour dough is placed in the serving dish, an indentation is made in the top of the ball onto which the chillies will be placed in a criss-cross fashion when serving meat and potato sauce, a boiled egg is placed at intervals around the bowl, pieces of meat also then the sauce is drizzled down the dough and all around the Bazine, when using the broad bean version, same just pour sauce, now thickened by the beans all over and around the dough in the serving dish.

Perhaps the best attribute to serving Bazine, is that no other side-dish is offered with it, other than some halved lemons and crunchy fresh hot chillies for the daring.

Now, enjoy as this is one of the most nutritious and healthy meals you will ever experience.

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