

# Two natural disasters, Blair's global vision and Britain's love of cheese

**Two separate natural disasters in north Africa have dominated the news this month.** But while Moroccan emergency responses to an earthquake that killed around 3,000 people seemed quick and efficient, it appeared in sharp contrast to the chaos at the deluged Libyan port of Derna, where many thousands more lost their lives after a double dam burst in the wake of Storm Daniel.

As huge logistical and administrative challenges prevented assistance from reaching Derna, Kaamil Ahmed hears the testimonies of several local Libyan journalists who witnessed scenes they are still struggling to process. Patrick Wintour explains why the disaster can be seen as a culmination of the climate crisis descending upon a failed state, while Rupert Neate and Peter Beaumont discuss the differing responses to the two disasters.

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**From Europe, Jon Henley previews three upcoming elections** that could have profound consequences for the region's politics. Indeed, as the Guardian launches a new Europe-focused website this week, editor-in-chief Katharine Viner outlines why we are expanding our reporting on the continent. And from the UK, there's a fascinating read into the rise of the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change.

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**The British may not be revered for the quality of our cheese, but we do love eating it.** From rubbery cheddar slices to French reblochon, the restaurant critic and Guardian podcaster Grace Dent explains why, in these socially divided times, it's the one foodstuff that unites us.

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An aerial view of the devastated port of Derna. A dual dam burst caused by a heavy storm unleashed a torrent of water that swept away a quarter of the town and killed at least 11,000 people, with many thousands more still to be accounted for. The tragedy has been described as Libya's 9/11.

*Photograph: Ayman Al-Sahili/Reuters*



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