

## Politics

### **Dbiebah says no more transitional periods, parallel governments in Libya**



The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has vowed that there will be no other transitional periods, parallel governments, or fake budgets, adding that there will be one target - elections - saying that his government is working on achieving them.

Dbeibah said at a cabinet meeting in Ghadames city on Thursday that the international community knew that the force majeure that thwarted elections in the past was the unenforceable laws, calling for devising enforceable laws which would not be made to empower a specific party.

"I say to all those seeking power, give the right to the Libyan people, open the ballot boxes, and then each of you will know their political weight by the people's votes," Dbeibah said, adding that Libya was currently going through a different stage of stability with the slogan "The Restoration of Life," stressing that stability was the only way for successful elections.

"We say that our people have begun to enjoy a little of the wealth of their country because competition has become in construction instead of wars. The taste of stability will not be neglected by Libyans no matter how the dominant political class conspire for destabilization," Dbeibah said, referring to his government's achievements; especially electricity, which he said was in better shape but still not enough. "We are continuing to work with confidence to ensure the stability of the power network and to keep pace with and accommodate the expansion of electricity consumption," Dbeibah said, announcing the start of implementing projects in water supplies after his government dealt with the urgent need for water in several regions in the past two years.

Dbeibah referred to the drilling of 160 wells lately, stressing the start of tackling the sewage file through a modern network in cities; beginning in Sabha and then Ajdabiya and Tripoli.

## Politics

### **US State Department: Corruption remains deeply rooted in Libya**

The United States Department of State has released Investment Climate Statements, including a report on Libya, in which it notes corruption as one of the key factors driving foreign investments away.

The report released on Wednesday said that "Libya has a very unclear and non-transparent regulatory system, and the roles and duties of its government institutions are not well defined."

It went on to say that the country ranked very low in international Transparency lists, including in the "Ease of Doing Business" Index by the World Bank and Transparency International, which ranked Libya 171 out of 180 countries.

Bureaucratic delays and the lack of clear mechanisms of accountability and transparency remain a challenge; Its legal and policy frameworks are also a concern, the report notes.

"The process of granting licenses and permits is often subject to long and unexplained delays, and the decisions are usually based on subjective and non-transparent criteria. This has created a situation where corruption and exploitation are widespread."

It further noted the authority's failure to take action to promote transparency, including by mandating companies to report on their environmental, social, and governance practices.

"Libya scores zero out of five (with five being the best) in the Global Indicators of Regulatory Governance by the World Bank." As for the financial sector, the report notes the low volume of trading in Libya's stock market.

"Capital markets in Libya are underdeveloped, and the absence of a venture capital industry limits opportunities for SMEs with growth potential and innovative start-ups to access risk financing for their ventures."

## Politics

### **Amnesty International urges Libyan authorities to take action regarding abducted military prosecutor**



Amnesty International called on the Libyan authorities to immediately reveal the fate and whereabouts of deputy military prosecutor Farouq Ben Saeed, who had been forcibly disappeared since 26 June, amid fears that he was held for politically-motivated reasons by Al-Radaa (Deterrence) Apparatus for Fighting Terrorism and Organized Crime.

Amnesty International said that Ben Saeed's family lodged complaints with the police and prosecution authorities but received no information about his fate and whereabouts.

"There are credible reports that he is being held by the Deterrence Apparatus for Fighting Terrorism and Organized Crime, a state-backed militia notorious for committing gross human rights violations, including torture and other ill-treatment, raising fears for his safety and wellbeing," Amnesty International's report says.

Libyan Crime Watch has earlier said that three gunmen affiliated with Al-Radaa kidnapped Ben Saeed using civilian vehicles on June 26. It said that the 51-year-old man was kidnapped from the Bifi district of Tripoli while he was with his children, adding that he was lodged in Mitiga prison, and calling on the Government of National Unity and the Presidential Council to work on his immediate release and to hold the kidnappers to account.

Politics

## Security Council session in August to discuss situation in Libya



The Security Council will hold in August its bimonthly briefing on the situation in Libya and Special Representative and Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Abdoulaye Bathily will brief the Council on recent political, security, and humanitarian developments in the country and the Secretary-General's latest report on UNSMIL, Security Council Report website has reported, adding that the chair of the 1970 Libya Sanctions Committee, Ambassador Kimihiro Ishikane of Japan will also brief on the committee's activities.

"At the August briefing, Council members are likely to reiterate their expectation that all parties display the political will to meet their stated commitments through

concrete action, noting that both the UN and the legislatures had set June as the deadline to finalise electoral legislation to hold elections by the end of the year." The website said.

Members may also reiterate support for Bathily's intensified efforts to facilitate agreement on a final settlement. They will remain united on the need for a Libyan-led inclusive process to lead to elections foreseen as restoring political, security, and economic stability.

The website indicated that at the June briefing, most Council members acknowledged the 6+6 committee's draft electoral legislation as a positive step and welcomed Bathily's mediation efforts to resolve the

law's outstanding issues.

"Broader geopolitical tensions still influence Council dynamics in respect of Libya, however. In his June statement, the Russian representative criticised the alleged double agenda of Western members, whom he accused of seeking to provide resources for their own economic needs at the expense of Libya's hydrocarbon resources rather than supporting a long-term solution to the country's problems. Russia also abstained from the vote adopting resolution 2684, claiming that the authorisation for maritime inspections—carried out by the EU—has not led to "practical results in terms of stabilisation on the ground." The website further added.

Politics

## CDA says draft constitution only way out of crisis



The draft constitution is the only way out of the dark tunnel, the Constitution Drafting Assembly (CDA) said in a statement to mark the 6th anniversary of the adoption of the draft constitution on Wednesday. The CDA renewed its strong condemnation of efforts to obstruct the referendum process, which it said enables Libyans to express their opinion in the constitutional document.

"The draft approved by the Commission on July 27, 2017, is the first constitutional document in the history of Libya to be approved by an elected national body with free will, according to clearly defined requirements in the Interim Constitutional Declaration, and without tutelage or interference from any foreign party," the CDA said.

The group accused the United Nations

Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the international community of obstructing the referendum process on the draft constitution, which it deemed the road to establishing a true democracy in Libya.

They said the referendum was a long-standing demand for the international community, led by the United Nations, as well as many Libyan actors who insisted that the political process must be based on the freely expressed will of the people.

"When the constitutional roadmap reached the endpoint, which is the referendum on a project approved by the elected constituent assembly, things appeared as they are."

The search for a solution for the Libyan people and supporting its implementation, which only goes through the ballot boxes and referendums, was not among

the objectives of the UN mission, the statement explained.

It said the UN mission had been attempting to steer the successive transitional stages to destinations other than stability, unity, and peaceful transfer of power.

The CDA stressed that the draft constitution that it prepared six years ago was approved by an unprecedented reinforced majority.

Obstructing the referendum and preventing the Libyans from approving a constitution for their country was due to dangerous, illegal, and unprecedented paths drawn from previous experiences that were introduced to the constitutional map and hindered access to the desired goal, the bloc added.





Economy

## Turkish products exhibition to be held in Benghazi, Tripoli by end of 2023

The Libyan Ministry of Economy and Trade said that an exhibition of Turkish products would be held in Tripoli and Benghazi at the end of this year, adding that it aimed at building bridges between the companies of the two countries.

The announcement came after a meeting between the Libyan Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Huweij and the Chairman of the Libyan-Turkish Business Council, Murtaza Karanfil, in Tripoli on Tuesday. "We have approved the organization of an exhibition of Turkish products in the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi at the end of 2023, with the participation of business owners and major Turkish companies." The Ministry said.

Al-Huweij approved organizing six exhibitions for Turkish industrial companies to be held in 2024 in the cities of the western, eastern and southern regions.

Benghazi hosted last June a similar exhibition that was classified as the first Turkish economic event in eastern Libya since 2011. At that time, 38 Turkish companies and 65 Turkish businesspersons participated in the exhibition over a period of four days.

Economy

## NOC announces success of drilling operations in exploratory well in Murzuq Basin

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced on Tuesday, the success of drilling operations in an exploratory well belonging to the Sirte Company, for the production and processing of oil and gas in the Murzuq Basin.

The encouraging results were achieved after the completion of the drilling of the exploratory well "J3-NC101" at a depth of 7833 feet, while the achieved flow rate reached 560 barrels of oil per day from the Maimonides layer.

In a statement, the NOC expected an increase in the production rate after replacing the low rate pump with another pump with a large flow rate.



Economy

## Italy's Eni lifts exploration force majeure on three Libyan gas sites

Italian energy company, Eni, formalized Thursday with its Libyan counterpart National Oil Corporation (NOC) the revocation of force majeure status on exploration areas A and B (onshore), and C (offshore), where Eni was the operator with a 42.5% stake, along with BP, 42.5%, and the Libyan Investment Authority with 15%.

"Force Majeure, declared in 2014, was revoked following the completion by Eni of a Security Risk Assessment to assess the security conditions in the areas where the exploration program will be carried out; this study yielded positive results." Eni said.

Following the revocation of force majeure, Eni as operator of the blocks will be able to resume the contract activities in exploration basins, some of which are located close to Al-Wafa's gas facilities. With an 80% share of national production (1.6 Bscf/d in 2022), Eni is the country's leading gas producer and domestic market supplier.

Eni has been operating in Libya since 1959 and currently has a large portfolio of assets under exploration, production and development. Production activities are operated through the joint venture company Mellitah Oil and Gas BV (Eni 50%, NOC 50%). Equity production was 165,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day in 2022.

Libya's NOC said earlier on Thursday it had received official notes from Eni and BP, saying they would lift the force majeure and resume their exploration activities in three areas of the country. The NOC also said it had received an official note from Algeria's state oil and gas producer Sonatrach saying it would lift its force majeure and resume its exploration activities as well.

This step came after the NOC asked for lifting force majeure in December 2022 by international companies operating in the field of oil and gas and which had oil and gas exploration, sharing and production agreements signed with Libya.

Economy

## Economy Ministry launches biggest center in Africa for aircraft maintenance, air freight

The Libyan Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Huwaij, approved in a meeting on Wednesday the investment and commercial register of the joint Libyan-Spanish company for aircraft maintenance and air freight services - in implementation of the Minister of Economy's decision No. 266 of 2023 regarding the implementation of the "ADFCO" station project for aircraft maintenance and air cargo at Misurata International Airport by the joint Libyan-Spanish company, in which the share of Afriqiyah Airways reached 51%, and that of the Spanish Air Business Group SL reached 49%.

According to the Ministry of Economy, Afriqiyah Airways will do the periodic main-

tenance of aircraft at a value of 150 million euros annually, noting that the implementation of the maintenance station project contributes to reducing costs by 50% in addition to the revenues that the company obtains from aircraft maintenance from other private companies.

"This maintenance station will be the largest center in North Africa, and it will also provide great job opportunities for no less than 2,000 positions, as well as training and qualification programs for national cadres in cooperation with leading international companies in the field," The Ministry said.

The Ministry pointed out that Afriqiyah Airways started traveling to multiple destinations and operating direct flights from

Mitiga Airport to Italy, Germany, Spain and from there to the United Kingdom.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Economy confirmed that the implementation of investment projects for air transport services contributed to the development of commercial traffic and of the national economy, calling on the Libyan-Spanish joint company to start implementing aircraft maintenance stations and contribute to raising the level of air freight services at Libyan airports, in addition to coordinating with the competent institutions to open horizons of cooperation with international companies for air freight services to support the movement of business owners and the transport of goods.



Economy



## CBL follows up Libyan Foreign Bank strategies for developing its performance

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Al-Siddiq Al-Kabeer, has held a meeting with the Chairman and members of the Management Committee and the General Manager of the Libyan Foreign Bank, in the presence of the Director of the Banking and Cash Control Department and the Contributions Unit of the CBL.

The meeting followed up the work of the Libyan Foreign Bank, as the Management Committee provided a briefing on its strategies to develop the bank's performance.

This meeting comes within the framework of following up and improving the bank's performance, and developing the necessary measures to enhance confidence in the Libyan banking system.

Economy

## Ministry of Economy prepares for holding Women Empowerment Exhibition



The Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Huwaij, has discussed with the Minister of State for Women's Affairs, Houria Al-Tarmal, the necessary arrangements for holding an exhibition under the slogan "The Impact of Women's Economic Empowerment in Supporting Spatial Development."

Both sides discussed the mechanism of the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs organizing the exhibition with the participation of local and international institutions concerned with achieving its goals and the aspirations of the Government of National Unity in supporting and empowering women in the economy and trade sector.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, a forum entitled "Women's Leadership in Small and Medium Enterprises in the Mediterranean Basin", will be held, presenting the pioneering experiences of a number of Libyan women and from neighboring countries.





Opinions

## The Impact of Bitcoin Mining on Libya's Power Grid

By Mohamed Abaid,  
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Bitcoin, as a form of cryptocurrency, operates on a decentralized network and is not controlled by any government or financial institution. It relies on a process called mining, which involves solving complex mathematical problems using high-powered computers. The mining process is highly energy-intensive, consuming a significant amount of electricity.

### Global Energy Consumption of Bitcoin Mining

As of May 2021, Bitcoin mining was estimated to consume 142.59 terawatt-hours (TWh) annually, equivalent to 0.57% of global electricity production. To put this into perspective, mining a single Bitcoin can consume as much electricity as a typical U.S. household uses in a year.

### Bitcoin Mining in Libya

Despite being officially illegal, Bitcoin mining has surged in Libya, partly due to the country's low electricity costs. In 2021, Libyans mined approximately 0.6% of all Bitcoins globally, which was the highest in the Arab world and Africa. This level of mining consumed about 2% of Libya's total electricity output, or approximately 0.855 TWh annually.

### Impact on Libya's Power Grid

Bitcoin mining significantly strained Libya's electricity grid. Before 2022, Libya faced severe electricity shortages, with blackouts lasting up to 18 hours during peak times. The government attributed these shortages partly to the energy-intensive nature of Bitcoin mining.

### Ingenious Methods of Concealment

Some Bitcoin miners in Libya have been using inventive methods to hide their operations. One such method involves using materials like cement to conceal the heat signatures produced by the mining equipment. This makes it challenging for authorities to detect these operations based on electricity consumption and heat emissions.

### Recent Improvements and Future Challenges

As of 2023, Libya's electricity sector has seen significant im-

provements under the leadership of Mohamed Elmeshai, the Chairman of the General Electricity Company of Libya. Power outages have become non-existent in Libya in 2023 due to various overhauls of power stations.

However, the continued presence of illegal Bitcoin mining poses a threat to these improvements. Here are some updated recommendations to combat this issue:

**Enhanced Monitoring and Detection:** Develop sophisticated methods for detecting abnormal electricity consumption patterns and heat signatures, even when concealed. This can include the use of advanced thermal imaging and AI-based systems for pattern recognition.

**Public Awareness and Whistleblowing:** Continue to raise public awareness about the detrimental effects of illegal mining on the national power grid and encourage the public to report suspected operations.

**International Collaboration:** Cooperate with international partners and agencies to share intelligence and best practices on detecting and preventing illicit cryptocurrency activities.

**Renewable Energy and Legal Frameworks:** For those who are engaged or interested in Bitcoin mining, setting up legal frameworks that encourage the use of renewable energy sources can alleviate pressure on the national grid.

**Strict Enforcement and Penalties:** Implement stricter penalties and ensure rigorous enforcement of laws against illegal Bitcoin mining.

### Conclusion

Illegal Bitcoin mining continues to pose a challenge to Libya's power grid. The ingenious methods used by miners to conceal their operations necessitate advanced detection mechanisms. By focusing on enhanced monitoring, public awareness, international collaboration, renewable energy sources, and strict law enforcement, Libya can safeguard the reliability and sustainability of its power grid against the pressure exerted by Bitcoin mining. This will require a collective effort from the government, law enforcement agencies, the electricity sector, and the general public.

**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

## First batch of Bangladesh medical recruits arrives in Libya



Libya on Friday welcomed the first batch of Bangladesh medical recruits to cover the deficit in the various disciplines in hospitals and health centres in the southern region.

Deputy Prime Minister/ Minister of Health Ramadan Abu Jinnah issued decision No. (705) for the year 2022, giving the green light to bring in 2,000 medical and paramedical personnel from Bangladesh to meet the needs of hospitals nationwide.

Around 21 recruiters arrived onboard Friday's flight, while other batches will follow successively within the coming days, Minister Abu Jinnah said.

The last batch of the first phase will arrive by the end of August, bringing the number to 531 Bangladesh medical and paramedical workforce, which the contract covers.

The head of the committee for distributing foreign medical staff, Abdel-Aty Mohamed Abdel-Salam, said the deal with the Bangladesh health authority extends to one year, subject to renewal, stressing that procedures were carried out per the applicable laws and regulations of the Libyan state.

Health

## NCDC issues safety guidelines to avoid hepatitis infection

The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has urged citizens to take precautionary measures to avoid hepatitis infection in a publication on Saturday to mark International Hepatitis Day.

In an advisory, the NCDC provided information to help people understand the different types of viral hepatitis, their signs and symptoms, and tips to stay safe.

Some precautionary measures noted by the Centre included the following: Taking the hepatitis B vaccine, washing hands regularly, avoiding sharing personal items such as toothbrushes and razors, and avoiding blood transfusions from an unreliable source.

It also urged citizens to avoid risky behaviors, such as drug injection, while advising them to wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly before eating and avoid eating raw seafood.



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Sports



## Al-Ahly Tripoli out of Arab Club Champions Cup after loss to Qatar's Al-Sadd

Al-Ahly Tripoli is out of Arab Club Champions Cup from the first round after losing to Qatar's Al-Sadd 0-1 on Wednesday in its third match of Group B, which saw Saudi Al-Hilal beat Wydad AC from Morocco 2-1. Both Al-Sadd (7 points) and Al-Hilal (4 points) qualified to the group of eight.

Al-Ahly left the tournament with two points from the first two draws with Al-Hilal and Wydad AC.

Al-Ahly Tripoli played very careful football against Al-Sadd which also was careful as it wanted to secure a ticket to the knockout stage.

The two teams remained tied until the minute 89 of the match when Al-Sadd's Otavio scored the late winner to fire the team into the round of eight and send Al-Ahly Tripoli back home.

Education



## Libyan GNU vows to equip 200 schools before end of 2023

The Libyan Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, discussed with the Director General of the Agency for the Development of Administrative Centers, Ibrahim Takita, the file of equipping temporary schools, and the project that aimed to build 500 new schools.

Takita said, the media office of the Government of National Unity (GNU), that the Agency had completed 145 schools which would be ready to use before the start of the next academic year, and 49 schools will that could be readied in next December.

He explained that they had completed all the legal and technical procedures for the project to build 500 model schools and they would start receiving students from near-collapsing schools.

Meanwhile, Dbeibah stressed the need to pay attention to educational principles, shut down collapsing schools across Libya, and create an appropriate educational environment.

During the inauguration of the Misrata education monitoring building last November, Dbeibah announced the government's project to build 1500 schools in different cities within 3 years.

Tech



### Local Organizer



## Libya participates in IoTAI Challenge for first time

The Minister of Industry and Minerals, Ahmed Abu Hessa, has participated, via Zoom platform, in the opening of the 5th Arab Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things (IoTAI) Challenge. During his speech, Abu Hessa said that Libya will be a major supporter of such programs and initiatives that aim to support and train youth in the field of science and technology.

The minister confirmed his government support for technology to keep pace with the rapid developments in the world of technology and informatics, and to involve youth in these programs, through intellectual participation and creativity in all fields.

Migration



## 87 immigrants from Gambia returned home

Spokeswoman for the Gambian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that, during the past few days, West African countries have returned 87 Gambian immigrants from Libya within the framework of the voluntary return program.

Gambia returned 40 citizens from Tunisia who were stuck in the south of the Sahara on the border with Libya, in tragic conditions, Gambian government spokeswoman told Agence France-Presse, confirming the return of another group of the immigrants who were stranded in Libya.

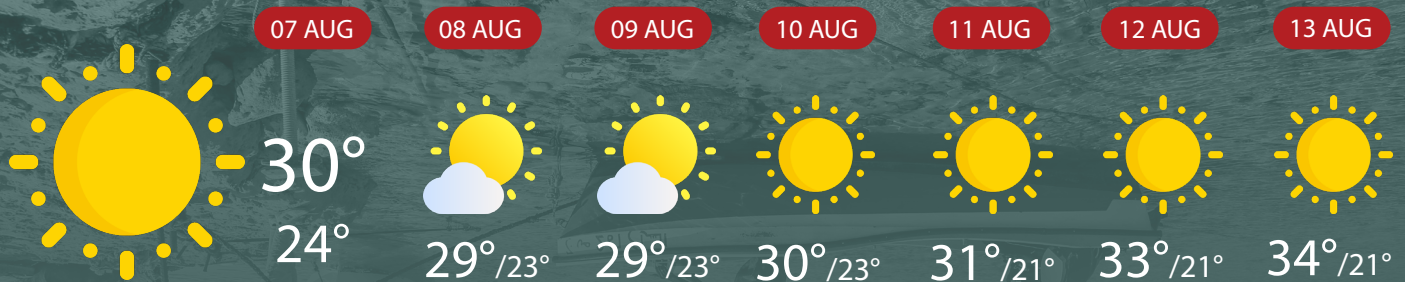
The non-governmental organization Human Rights Watch reported that Tunisia removed about 1,200 Africans to remote and isolated areas near Libya in the east and Algeria in the west.



Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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