



Politics

## Libyan government denies leasing port of Khoms to Turkey, warns protesters of legal consequences

The spokesman of the Government of National Unity, Mohamed Hamouda, has denied allegations that the sea port of Al-Khums would be given to a foreign country for military purposes.

speaking from inside the port, Hamouda revealed that there are rumors implying that the Libyan state abandoned the port or that it will be used as a military base for a foreign country, which is baseless.

Hamouda called on the citizens to follow the news through official sources, and not to believe such news that leads to confusion of public opinion and destabilization, stressing that what appears in the media does not reflect the truth.

He warned the protesters against the alleged port leasing that any encroachment on public utilities will lead to legal accountability, calling for restraint.

Hamouda confirmed that there is a plan to develop the port in order to increase trade exchange with other countries and development of the city of Al-Khums in particular and Libya in general.

Earlier on Wednesday, an X platform page called "Sanayi ve Savunma" said Turkey had leased Al-Khums port for 99 years and a Turkish delegation headed by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan would sign the deal in Tripoli, without specifying the time of the signing.



## Dbeibah tours conflict-affected areas south of Tripoli

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah inspected neighbourhoods in the Ain Zara district, which saw, last night, intensive fighting between two powerful military factions. The detention of a military commander by a rival armed group on Monday sparked a fight that continued until Tuesday.

Mahmoud Hamza, the commander of the 444 Brigade, was stopped and seized by the RADA Force at Tripoli's main Mitiga Airport.

The PM's media office said Dbeibah visited the affected areas to get a first-hand understanding of the situation in the affected areas.

During his visit, the Prime Minister assessed the damage to public and private property and instructed the Ministry of Local Government to take immediate action to compensate residents for any losses or property damage.

Politics

## Guterres: Political process in Libya is at risk, parties should make concessions to hold elections



The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, confirmed in a report published on Wednesday on the situation in Libya that the political process reached a critical stage, and it had become imperative for all parties to demonstrate their declared commitment to holding elections by making the necessary concessions to reach an implementable electoral framework.

Guterres stressed the need for regional and other organizations such as the African and European Unions, the League of Arab States, as well as the member states of the Security Council to continue to provide the necessary support for the UN efforts to facilitate discus-

sions and ensure a sustainable path leading to peace and stability.

"I took note of the efforts made by the 6+6 joint committee between the House of Representatives and the High Council of State to develop draft laws that facilitate the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections as soon as possible," Guterres said, noting that there are still major issues in the draft laws, which necessitated reaching a political consensus among stakeholders.

The UN envoy, Abdoulaye Bathily, will intensify negotiations to mobilize the main stakeholders in order to reach an inclusive political agreement for all that leads to successful

elections.

In terms of security, Guterres said that despite the security operations carried out by the Government of National Unity in Al-Zawiya and other major cities on the western coast to address human trafficking activities and stop armed clashes in Tripoli, the security situation is still fragile.

On the situation in Sudan, the Secretary-General indicated that the war was a cause of concern that could have humanitarian and security repercussions for neighboring countries, including Libya, stressing the need to make all efforts to limit the ongoing fighting due to its destabilizing effect in the region.

Politics

## 444 Brigade's commander released after reaching ceasefire deal

The commander of the 444 Brigade, Mahmoud Hamza, was officially released on Wednesday night after he was briefly detained by the Special Deterrence Force (SDF).

Al-Tekbali camp, the headquarters of the 444 Brigade, saw celebrations last night on the occasion of the release of Hamza, in addition to other celebrations in Souq Al-Jumua area.

Footage published by the media office of the 444 Brigade showed the arrival of the brigade's members and some citizens to Al-Tekbali camp to welcome Hamza.

Before Hamza was officially released, the Stability Support Apparatus received Hamza from the SDF, as a neutral party to end the escalation that Tripoli witnessed in over 24 hours following the announcement of his arrest.

The SDF spokesman, Ahmed Salem, said in a statement that the commander of the 444 Brigade had been handed over as a detainee to the commander of the Stability Support Apparatus, Abdul Ghani Al-Kikli, to be interrogated.

Social, military and political parties held intensive meetings last night inside Mitiga Air Base, which resulted in the release of Hamza and a ceasefire.

Politics

## Borell: Recent clashes in Tripoli underscore pressing need for elections

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, has voiced the bloc's concern regarding the violent clashes that have erupted in the capital, Tripoli, over the past two days.

In a statement Wednesday, the EU official urged all parties involved to refrain from any further hostilities and engage in constructive dialogue aimed at restoring peace and stability.

He also emphasized the importance of all parties fulfilling their obligations under international humanitarian law and ensuring the safety and protection of civilians caught up in the conflict.

The EU foreign policy chief said the people of Libya have suffered for far too long and deserve nothing less than a peaceful and stable future.

"Libyans are tired of being caught in the crossfire, and they deserve to have their aspirations for peace finally heard and fulfilled."

He went on to stress that the recent events serve as a stark reminder of the precarious security situation in Libya and the pressing need for free and fair elections to be held in order to achieve a lasting and comprehensive political solution.

Politics

## Dbeibah: World, foremost USA and Russia, will only offer Libya statements of condemnation

The Head of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, has warned; "We will not allow fighting to break out again, and we will take hard decisions against security and military who tamper with the lives of civilians."

During his meeting with notables and elders of the Suk al-Juma, Dbeibah called on all parties to devote efforts and rely on themselves in creating a positive spirit within the capital, stressing that the world would not take the country seriously.

He said that he had received from foreign parties messages of support and others "maliciously rejoice" indirectly, stressing that the world, foremost the United States and Russia, would not offer Libya anything but statements of condemnation.

Referring to the international community's lack of interest in what is happening in Libya, Dbeibah said: "We must learn a lesson from what is happening in Sudan. We do not want such a scenario to happen again in Libya."

In the context of his talk about global affairs, Dbeibah voiced his categorical rejection of any external interference in the country, stressing that Libya will not interfere in any external conflict, including border countries such as Sudan.

Dbeibah added that the Government of National Unity has only provided humanitarian support to Sudan after the conflict broke out there, however, he revealed that a Libyan party, provided military support to one of the warring parties in northern Sudan.





Economy

## Minister of Economy follows up on preparations to hold Libyan-Italian business forum

The Libyan Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Huweij, held a meeting on Wednesday to follow up on the progress of preparations for the Libyan-Italian business forum, which will be hosted in the Libyan capital, Tripoli.

The meeting, which was attended by a number of ministry officials and members of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, discussed executive procedures for the results of the recent visit of the Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah to Italy, where he signed an agreement to resume direct flights between the two countries.

Al-Huweij reviewed the recommendations of the meeting of the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Adel Jumaa, with the Italian ambassador to Libya, Gianluca Alberini, and the outcome of bilateral meetings with the Head of the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce and the Chairman of the Tripoli Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.

The meeting attendees called for coordinating with the Economic Office of the Embassy of the Italy, to determine the participating parties and the date of the forum, and to invite institutions concerned with the trade and investment sectors, as well as Italian universities, in order to strengthen bilateral relations and offer investment opportunities as well as co-operation in the fields of education and training to serve the interests of the two countries.



Economy

## Libya's oil revenues hit \$5 billion in 2Q 2023

Libya's net revenues from crude oil, gas, and petrochemical oil sales surpassed \$5 billion in the second quarter of 2023, a National Oil Corporation bulletin said on Sunday.

The NOC noted that net revenues for April, May, and June totaled 5,460,000, with crude oil sales accounting for over \$4,681,566.

Moreover, oil products generated \$196,50,278 in revenue during the same period, followed by gas and condensate at \$121,905,795 and petrochemical at \$1,931,11.

The total revenues for the second quarter of this year were distributed as follows: \$1,686,000,000 in April, \$1,661,000,000 in May, and \$1,653,000,000 in June.

In May, the National Oil Corporation disclosed that crude oil revenues in the Corporation's accounts at the Libyan Foreign Bank amounted to \$1.57 billion during the month.



Economy

## NOC to issue tenders to invest in undeveloped fields

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has decided to issue tenders for investment in discovered fields to the Libyan private sector, in order to increase oil production in undeveloped fields.

In a statement, the NOC said that the offers offered for investment will be referred for approval, after technical evaluation, stressing observance of transparency and equal opportunities.



Economy

## Libya is fifth biggest gas exporter via pipelines to Europe

The latest data on energy supply to Europe has revealed that Libyan gas exports to Europe through pipelines came in fifth place among the largest five exporters.

A map of gas flows through pipelines to European Union countries until August 13, which did not include liquefied natural gas shipments, showed that each of the gas exports coming from Norway, Algeria, Russia and Azerbaijan preceded Libya, according to data posted on X by the gas industries expert at the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), Wael Abdelmouti.

Libya recorded a gas pumping rate to the European Union countries through pipelines of about 5.3 million cubic meters per day, while the total gas exports flowing from the five countries to the European Union amounted to 453 million cubic meters per day as of August 13.

Meanwhile, the Libyan government was seeking to increase energy exports to Europe by opening the doors for investment to the private sector and by intensifying partnerships with foreign companies.

The Italian company Saipem has won a new contract worth one billion dollars to develop Al-Bouri natural gas field, which is located in the Mediterranean. The Italian company signed the contract last week with Mellitah Oil and Gas Company to develop the field project.



Economy

## Tunisian PM calls for boosting economic cooperation with Libya

The Tunisian Prime Minister Ahmed Hachani called for doubling efforts to strengthen economic partnership and develop trade exchanges with Libya, discussing during a meeting with a Libyan delegation headed by the Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Huweij, the importance of strengthening consultations between senior officials in Tunisia and Libya and expediting the meeting of the economic committees in preparation for holding the Joint Higher Committee in the coming period.

The Tunisian PM also reiterated the importance of the role of the private sector in developing joint economic relations, calling on the Tunisian and Libyan chambers of commerce to intensify efforts to further strengthen economic partnership and develop trade exchanges.

Meanwhile, Al-Huweij stressed the importance of supporting economic, investment and trade cooperation in order to activate the memoranda of understanding signed between the two countries, pointing to the Libyan side's readiness to convene the Joint Higher Committee in Tripoli.



Economy

## Brega Oil Marketing Company denies fuel crisis in Tripoli

Brega Oil Marketing Company has denied the existence of a fuel crisis in the capital, Tripoli, or a stoppage in fuel supplies to the petrol stations.

The company's spokesman, Ahmed Al-Masallati, said in press statements that supply orders from the Tripoli oil depot for the benefit of all distribution companies continues according to schedule.

Al-Masallati indicated that the interruption of supplies from the port of Tripoli to some stations in the capital, Tripoli, was due to the arrangements for celebrating the anniversary of the founding of the Libyan army, and that supply continued from the Tripoli oil depot to respond to all orders for distributing companies.



Opinions

## **Bolstering Libya's Economy: Halting the Gold Drain**

**By Mohamed Abaid**

Libya has been grappling with a significant drain on its national wealth due to the illicit trade of gold. The smuggling of this precious resource, amounting to an estimated 50 to 55 tons worth around \$3 billion in recent years, undermines the economic stability and growth of the nation.

Countering this concerning trend necessitates a holistic approach that not only curbs the smuggling of gold but also sets the stage for economic recovery. This involves enhancing border security, improving regulatory oversight, tackling corruption, fostering international cooperation, empowering local communities, and strengthening the judicial system.

### **Enhancing Border Security**

Libya's borders have become porous due to the turmoil and instability that followed the 2011 NATO-led intervention, making the task of smuggling gold and other contraband easier. Therefore, a key facet of stemming the gold smuggling operation involves tightening border security. The employment of advanced surveillance technology and an increased presence of border patrol personnel can help in the detection and prevention of smuggling attempts.

### **Improving Regulatory Oversight**

The illicit gold trade often thrives in environments where there is a lack of stringent regulatory oversight. It's vital that Libya bolsters its regulatory frameworks to maintain strict oversight of the gold trade. This can be achieved through the implementation of robust licensing requirements for miners, traders, and exporters of gold, along with regular audits to discourage and detect any illegal activities.

### **Tackling Corruption and Money Laundering**

The illicit gold trade is intimately connected to corruption and money laundering. These intertwined criminal activities facilitate smuggling operations and need to be tackled to effectively curb the illicit gold trade. This can be achieved by strengthening anti-corruption laws, enhancing operational

oversight of institutions, and improving inter-agency collaboration. The UNODC has already been working with Libyan authorities to address these issues, and their efforts can be further enhanced.

### **Fostering International Cooperation**

Gold smuggling is a transnational crime that requires international cooperation for effective mitigation. Libya can collaborate with other countries, particularly those where smuggled gold is known to end up, to trace and recover the stolen gold. International treaties and agreements can be instrumental in facilitating this cooperation.

### **Empowering Local Communities**

Local communities, often unwitting participants in smuggling operations, play a crucial role in this illicit trade. By educating these communities about the detrimental impacts of smuggling on the national economy and offering alternative economic opportunities, it's possible to make substantial strides in curbing the illicit trade.

### **Conclusion**

By curbing gold smuggling, Libya stands to significantly bolster its economy. The recovered gold can replenish Libya's gold reserves, providing a much-needed boost to its financial standing. The revenue generated from a regulated gold trade can be used to fund development projects, stimulating economic growth and stability. Additionally, addressing corruption and money laundering can improve the overall business environment, attracting investment and further driving economic growth. Therefore, the battle against gold smuggling is not just about stopping illicit trade; it's about seizing a golden opportunity for Libya's economic resurgence.

**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



## Libyan Health Ministry warns of contaminated cold drug

The Libyan Ministry of Health has warned of a "contaminated" cold medicine called "Naturcold", saying that the drug can lead to serious injuries, including abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, inability to urinate, headache, mental state change, acute kidney injury, and death.

The Health Ministry called on the pharmacy administration, directors of hospitals and specialized centers, the medical supply center, the drug control department, and the private sector to take the necessary measures not to use this drug, and to communicate with the administration in the interest of patient safety, in addition to enhancing pharmacovigilance, stressing that the producing company is not registered with the Health Ministry. It also indicated that a warning was received from the Department of Fake and Counterfeit Medicines at the World Health Organization regarding a drug used to relieve symptoms associated with colds, influenza and allergic rhinitis. According to reports, the drug contained unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol: contaminated substance.

Health



## Officials at Al-Jala'a Hospital Benghazi brief PM on difficulties

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah held a meeting on Sunday to address the conditions at the Al-Jala'a Hospital in Benghazi.

The meeting grouped the hospital's Director Muhammad Al-Abdali, Undersecretary of Health for Technical Affairs Samir Koko, the director of the Financial Affairs Department, the chairman of the hospital's bidding Committee, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, and the director of the Medical Supply Organization.

According to the Hakomitna platform, Al-Abdali gave a presentation highlighting the maintenance and development work being done at the Al-Jala'a Hospital, as well as the shortcomings affecting the quality of services provided.

Dbeibah instructed the Administrative Centers Development Agency to complete necessary maintenance and equipment work and for the Medical Supply Agency to provide the hospital with the necessary medical supplies to operate adequately. Al-Jala'a Hospital, like other hospitals in Libya, is struggling to secure essential supplies. Recently, the hospital has had to rely on charitable agencies to meet its needs.

## Fetus extracted in surgery from one-day-old infant at Benghazi hospital

The Children Hospital for Medicine and Surgery in Benghazi said that a rare surgery was performed for a one-day-old child as he was diagnosed with a large mass in the stomach that turned out to be a fetus.

The Hospital's media office said after conducting the necessary examinations of ultrasound and CT scans, doctors found that the mass had multiple structures, and it consisted of "bones, fat and tissues" in the abdominal cavity.

The Hospital added that the diagnosis was called "a fetus within a fetus," and that it was a very rare condition that occurred once in 500,000 births in the world. It added that the mass was completely removed by Libyan doctors and that the infant was in a good health condition.

Health





Education



وزارة التربية والتعليم  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION تحت إشراف

مهرجان العودة إلى المدارس  
Back To School festival



معرض ليبيا الثاني للوسائل التعليمية  
LIBYA'S SECOND EXHIBITION OF EDUCATIONAL AIDS

2AT الشريك التقني الراعي التقني AUEC

## Libya International Exhibition of Teaching Aids kicks off

The Second Libya International Exhibition of Educational Aids kicked off in Tripoli on Sunday and will last for three days, with the participation of 35 institutions.

Before the opening of the exhibition, the Minister of Education, Mussa Al-Maqrif, listened to a briefing on the general program of the exhibition, during a meeting he had with the general manager of the organizing company, Bashir Kazouz. The minister called for granting discounts to institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Education to encourage them to participate.

Culture



## Dbeibah opens activities of Tripoli Summer Festival

Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdel Hamid Dbeibah inaugurated Thursday evening, the activities of the 2023 Summer Festival 'Medina Nights', in Tripoli.

Dbeibah toured the vicinity of the Red Saraya and the alleys of the old city, all the way to Marcus Arch, where Dbeibah inaugurated the historic landmark in its new look.

"The interest and development that historical monuments are witnessing today are a source of pride in belonging to this country," Dbeibah said. He called on all citizens from different regions of the country to participate in the activities of the city nights in the capital, Tripoli.

The Summer Festival 2023 includes a number of recreational and cultural activities, theater and cinema performances, circuses, sailing boats, chess competitions, and many other events.

القابضة  
للاتصالات  
LPTIC

Tech

## Internet service lost in some south Libyan cities due to vandalism

The Libyan Post Telecommunications and Information Technology Company (LPTITC) announced that Internet services in the municipality of Bent Bayyah in southern Libya was lost due to deliberate vandalism of the cable of the Libya Phone Company (Hatif Libya).

LPTITC confirmed in a statement on Saturday that it was not possible to repair the faults immediately due to a deliberate obstruction by the party causing the sabotage. It later authorized the maintenance teams to start working on establishing entirely new cable supplies for a distance of approximately 2 km in place of the old ones that have become impossible to use.

LPTITC apologized to the users for the interruption of the Internet service, noting that preserving the state's capabilities and services is a joint responsibility that state institutions share with the citizens as well as the authorities concerned with maintaining security.

It also stressed that the repetition of these practices "means that it is impossible to repair the faults until the hindrances stop, thus citizens will suffer from the consequences of lost Internet connections for an unknown period."

Culture



## Libya seeks to boost cultural cooperation with ALESCO

Minister Mabrouka Toghi of Culture and Knowledge Development met on Friday with Mohamed Ould Amar, Director General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (ALESCO), to discuss how to strengthen cooperation between Libya and the organization.

The meeting, held in Tunis, focused on the ALESCO Action Plan 2023-2026, particularly in the areas of heritage, traditional industries, and employee training.

Through a joint effort, the ministry said they aim to ensure the success of the Benghazi Arab Capital of Culture 2025 and draw upon the organization's expertise in overseeing such events.

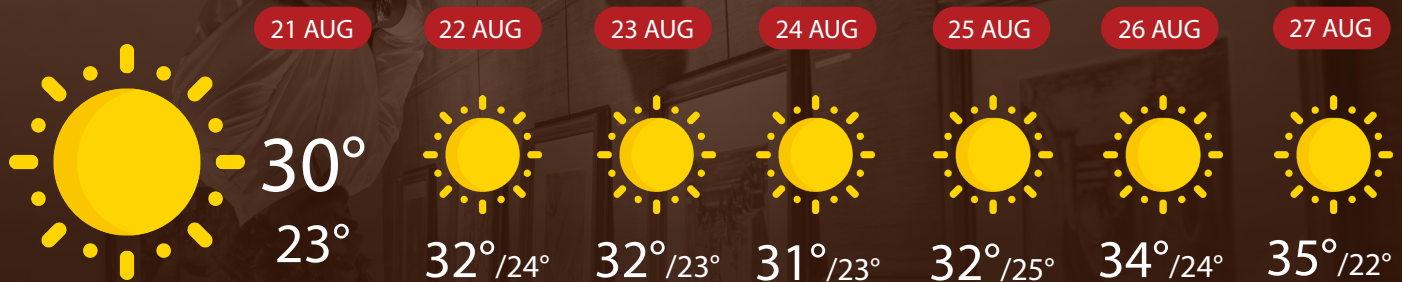
Despite the recent instability in Libya, the state has remained committed to participating in most joint Arab events, as noted by Musa Al-Maqrif, Minister of Education/ Chairman of the Libyan National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science, during his attendance at a relevant conference in Nouakchott, Mauritania last February.





Photo of the Week

## Tripoli Weather Forecast



+218 94 424 69 28 [libyaobserver.ly](http://libyaobserver.ly) [lyobserver](https://www.facebook.com/lyobserver)

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

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

[libyaobserver](https://www.instagram.com/libyaobserver) [thelibaobserver](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCthelibaobserver)

## Contact Information