



## Al-Zawiya declares civil disobedience after public protests

Dozens of young people in the city of Al-Zawiya have declared civil disobedience against the backdrop of video clips circulating of “youth being tortured by African mercenaries at the headquarters of a militia.”

The youth gathered before the Security Directorate headquarters in the city at dawn, Thursday, where one of them delivered a statement of their demands.

The statement called for suspending the municipal council and its members, hold them accountable, conduct new municipal elections, suspending director of Al-Zawiya security and bringing him to justice, end phenomenon of armed vehicles completely from the city, and relocate military premises outside the down town.

The youth demanded the abolition of what

they called the “illegal legitimacy” issued by the Ministries of Interior and Defense, the suspension and re-formation of the current Joint Security Force, arrest of African mercenaries affiliated with gangs and security services, and to raid illegal immigration dens.

The demands also included “seizing all criminals involved in killings and those involved in crimes, raiding fuel smuggling dens, preventing its sale on the coastal road and in the city, closing unlicensed petrol stations permanently, holding accountable petrol station owners who sell their orders to smugglers, and operationalize the anti-narcotics agency and raid drug dens.

On Wednesday night, protesters set tires on fire and gathered in Martyrs’ Square in

Al-Zawiya, to protest against the torture incident.

The demonstrators also closed the eastern entrance to Al-Zawiya, leading to the capital Tripoli, in protest against “deterioration of the city’s security situation.” They also closed Al-Zawiya Refinery valves, as well as headquarters of the Security Directorate.

This morning, protesters closed the headquarters of the Municipal Council with sand, and there were reports of the closure of the court’s headquarters, in addition to blocking by a number of residents of the coastal road passing through the city of Al-Zawiya.

The Union of Students of Al-Zawiya University also announced suspension of studies in all colleges in the city due to the sit-ins taking place.



## Dbeibah calls for greater women’s engagement in public affairs and announces Libyan Women Award

The Head of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, has called on Libyan women for more active engagement in public domain, run for elections, and express their opinions independently. He also announced the designation of an award for Libyan women. During his participation in a forum to commemorate the National Day of Libyan Women in the city of Misurata on Wednesday, Dbeibah said, he noticed that women are shunning away from the political sphere.

“It is necessary to engage in all forms, express an opinion on public issues and run for municipal and parliamentary elections, and even for presidential elections” he added.

He called on women to be independent in their opinion, because they have lived the reality and suffered, and they should not allow anyone to confiscate their political decision, according to his speech, reported by ‘Our Government Platform’ on Facebook.

He pointed out that his government had designated a national day for women, and that he had established a prestigious annual award, that is ‘Libyan Women’s Award’, noting that it would be awarded annually to distinguished women in all fields.

He talked about the government’s work in support of women, whether through measures that included all Libyans in general, such as the Unified Salary Scale, raising the minimum wage, or through special measures such as increasing security pensions for female contractors, starting social insurance, and disbursing wife and children’s allowances.

Dbeibah also called on women to go to the private sector, saying that it is the winning sector, saying: “Today there are many businesswomen who have ventured into business and market.” Urging them to ‘Go to the private sector and abandon the public one.’



United Nations Support Mission in Libya  
بعثة الأمم المتحدة للدعم في ليبيا

Politics

## UNSMIL: Ready to provide logistical support to 6 + 6 committee

The United Nations Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has affirmed its readiness to provide technical and logistical support to the (6 + 6) Joint Committee formed by the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS) to prepare the electoral laws.

"As part of his comprehensive approach to elections in Libya, Bathily -the UNSMIL' head- is engaging political party leaders, traditional leaders and notables, and women and youth group leaders from all regions of Libya in addition to the country's top political and military leaders," the mission wrote on Twitter Wednesday.

The UNSMIL retweeted Bathily's remarks before the UN Security Council earlier this month, in which he urged the HoR and HCS to expedite the work of the 6+6 committee and publish a timebound work program for elections to take place this year.

Politics



## Sudanese authority calls on Libya to condemn "rogue" RSF

The Sudanese government has called on Libya to condemn the "rogue" Rapid Support Forces, which is battling the Sudanese Armed Forces, considering the latter a legitimate official institution responsible for the stability and maintenance of peace and security in the country.

A statement by the Sudanese Embassy in Libya Tuesday said the ongoing events in Sudan are the result of the RSF's rebellion against the Sudanese national army.

RSF units attacked several diplomatic missions and international and regional organizations, violating the pertinent international laws and norms, the embassy stated.

It called on the Libyan authorities to condemn the "rogue" party and the continued fighting in the country, which it said is endangering the lives of civilians, including women and children.

"The ongoing developments in Sudan is an internal matter, and the Sudanese government can contain the matter without external interference."

On Monday, the Libyan Embassy in Khartoum announced the evacuation of 105 Libyan nationals by ship from a port city in Sudan to Jeddah in preparation for flying them back home.

Politics

## Libya, US discuss situation in Sudan

Foreign Minister Najla Al-Manqoush, had a phone conversation Wednesday with the US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Barbara Leaf, which focused on strengthening coordination between the two countries regarding the situation in Sudan.

"I had a phone call with US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf, during which we discussed raising the level of coordination between our two countries to deal with the repercussions of the unfortunate situation in Sudan on Libya," FM Al-Manqoush tweeted.

The two sides also discussed their government's willingness to cooperate in the security and political fields to support efforts for calm and peace, according to Al-Mangoush.





Politics

## Irish government intends to send naval ship to Libya as part of Operation Irimi

The Irish Times website has revealed the Irish government's plans to send an Irish Naval patrol vessel to Libya as part of Operation Irimi, to help enforce the United Nations arms embargo on Libya.

"Irish Minister of Defense, Tánaiste Micheál Martin, told the Dáil he is seeking approval to deploy a single Naval Service patrol vessel to Operation Irimi for a period of 46 days during June and July this year", the Irish Times said.

He added that the ship will be positioned in the area of operations for 34 days and the remaining days will be spent travelling to and from the mission area, indicating that it will be the first operational overseas deployment of an Irish Naval ship since 2018, and only the third such mission in Naval Service history.



Politics

## Libyan embassy in Sudan communicates with Libyans stranded in Khartoum

The Libyan embassy in Sudan has stated that it had succeeded in communicating with two Libyan citizens, Hassan Buhya from the city of Ajdabiya and Saad Al-Ferjani from the city of Benghazi, who were stranded in the capital, Khartoum.

The Libyan ambassador to Sudan, Fawzi Boumrez, confirmed in a statement on the embassy Facebook page that the two citizens are in good health, but they were not able to join the two evacuation convoys in the past two days.

The Afriqiyah Airways plane arrived at Mitiga airport in the capital, Tripoli, in the early hours of Wednesday morning, coming from the Saudi city of Jeddah, carrying on board 105 members of the Libyan community who were evacuated from Sudan.

Politics

## More than thousand Turks cast their ballots in Turkish elections from inside Libya

1,132 Turkish nationals in Libya started casting their ballots on Thursday in the Turkish presidential and parliamentary elections.

Turkey opened the ballot boxes in 14 countries, including Libya, in which the Turks elect their representatives for the first time, while the Turks from inside Turkey will be able to vote on May 14.

Four candidates officially running in Turkey's 2023 elections, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, opposition bloc Nation Alliance's candidate Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, Homeland Party leader Muharrem İnce and far-right ATA Alliance's candidate Sinan Oğan.



Opinions

## What are chances of success of Election Law Committee 6+6?

By Abdullah Alkibir,  
a Libyan political writer and commentator

The 6 + 6 Committee has held its first meeting in Tripoli, thereby declaring response of heads of the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS) to the international moves, which has for long been urging them to quickly lay the constitutional basis for the elections, threatening to resort to "alternative" options in the event of continued procrastination and lack of achievement.

It is certain that this threat, conveyed by Western ambassadors to the heads of the two chambers, before the UN envoy Abdoulaye Bathily announced it in his briefing to the UN Security Council, is the most important factor, behind the response of the heads of HoR and HCS. Besides, the willingness of the United Nations and Western countries to accept what would be produced by the two chambers, conducive to elections. Even though with flawed legal procedures, as the UN envoy neither cared about the constitutional violations in terms of procedures pursued in issuing the 13th Amendment, and the appeals submitted to the Constitutional Chamber based on such violations, nor did he care or comment on the statements he received on refusal to pass this amendment at the HCS.

The international indifference to the objectors means that there is an international tendency to push the two chambers to complete the constitutional path, and at a later stage, the concerns of the objectors can be addressed through the steering committee to be formed by Bathily.

On the anniversary of the aggression of Haftar and his gangs on Tripoli, the UN envoy appeared at breaking the fast table of Haftar, accompanied by Aqila Saleh, and several pictures with high degree of intimacy for this meeting were circulating.

Victims of the aggression viewed such an appearance a provocation from the UN envoy, who should have respected this anniversary, by issuing a statement recalling the tragedies caused by the aggression, declaring UN solidarity with the victims, and not to show up with the criminal who was behind the aggression.

We are not certain, whether Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily paid attention to 'April 4' date, and what it represents in Libyans' memory, or is he sticking with a strict schedule governing his meetings and travels, without much regard to the symbolic aspect of dates.

The aggression on April 4, undermined the United Nations

and its prestige, because it took place while the UN Secretary-General was in Tripoli to provide support for the Ghadames Peace Forum.

Bathily is now fully aware of the political map, and the most influential forces of the Libyan political scene. Indeed, he is moving guided by such map, giving more value and weight to the leaders of the East rather than the West, because the former have almost absolute power with no significant opposition, and therefore there is no room for him to maneuver. Elections do not constitute a concern for those leaders, so either to be held with guarantees that they will retain power on their hands, or they will not take place, and this requires from him to seek the approval of those leaders if he wants success of his project.

The political landscape in the West is different, as many political forces unite in support of elections, and oppose any attempt to abort them, and they possess the tools of pressure, to limit the inclination of the head of HCS and the bloc supporting him, to make concessions to the Speaker of Parliament, in order to continue on the scene, by tailoring electoral laws that open the door for running for presidential and parliamentary elections without much conditions. Time is running slowly for those eager to hold the elections, but it is accelerating for authoritarian elites who are compelled to prepare for them, and be prepared to resort to them, so that they can be held before the end of this year. Despite the international pressure, and the possibility that some parties will intervene to influence them, it is not expected that the 6 + 6 committee will reach an election law acceptable to all parties, especially with the Speaker of the HoR abandoning his pledges to the head of the HCS during their joint statement, not to implement the law establishing a constitutional court, and publish it on the Official Gazette of the House of Representatives.

It seems, a solution sponsored by the United Nations is imperative, with only limited degree of powers to the HoR and the HCS, or to the committees emanating from them.

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

## NCDC urges people to complete their Covid-19 vaccine shots

The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has urged locals and foreigners residing in Libya to complete their Covid-19 vaccination series on the occasion of World Immunization Week.

In a Facebook statement, the NCDC said it wants to raise awareness and encourage everyone to get vaccinated to protect not only themselves but also their communities from the virus.

With the occasion falling on the last week of April, there is no better time to highlight the importance of immunization and raise awareness of the need to receive the anti-coronavirus vaccine as a means of protection against the virus and to contribute to achieving community immunity, the Centre added.

World Immunization Week is a global annual campaign driven by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness about vaccines and the right to be protected against deadly infectious diseases.



Health

## About 400 children injured as a result of using toy guns during Eid holiday

The Eye Hospital in Tripoli reported on Monday that it had received about 400 cases of eye injuries due to the use of plastic ball bullets on Eid Al-Fitr.

The hospital stated that the injured are mostly children, and that 45 of them have been admitted as inpatients for treatment.

In the same context, Emhemed Al-Maqrif Hospital in Ajdabiya announced Sunday that the hospital's eye clinic received 42 children with varying degrees of injuries as a result of using toy guns.



Health

## Multidisciplinary medical team arrives at Traghan General Hospital

The Emergency Medicine and Support Center, Southern Region Branch, has received a team of 17 doctors in various medical fields to start work at Traghan General Hospital, as part of a series of successive visits by a group of doctors from different parts of the country.

This comes within the framework of the treatment localization program, which was launched under the instructions of the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity to facilitate the provision of treatment to citizens in the country.



Sports

## Libya's Football Premier League postponed for second time

The Competitions Committee of the Libyan Football Federation has decided to postpone the resumption of matches of the 5th round of the second leg of the Premier League until 5th of May.

The Committee had previously announced that the dates for the stage matches will start on Wednesday, April 26, with Al-Nasr and its guest Al-Akhdar to play on the grounds of Benina Martyrs Stadium in Benghazi.

The Premier League halted its games during the holy month of Ramadan, due to lack of light in some stadiums, and some clubs declined to play during the holy month of fasting.

Before the start of the new round, Al-Ahly Benghazi leads the first group of the league with 24 points, followed by Al-Nasr with 22 points, one point ahead of Al-Akhdar, which finished third with 21 points.

Al-Hilal is in 4th place with 19 points, Al-Soukour 5th with 18 points, Al-Sadaqa 6th with 17 points, Darnes 7th with 16 points, whereas AL-Ta'awon came in 8th place with 13 points, Al-Tahaddy 9th with 11 points, and finally Al-Jabal with one point.

In the 2nd group, Al-Ittihad still leads the group at 27 points, followed by Al-Ahli of Tripoli with 23 points, Abu Salem with 22 points, Olympic Azzaweya in 4th place with 18 points, and Asswehly with 17 points. As-sarya is in 6th place with 14 points, Al-Madina with 8 points is in 7th place, Al-Mahala with 6 points in the 8th place, while Al-Khums and AL-Ittihad of Misurata trailing behind with 5 points each.



Sports

## Al-Jaid horse racing championship wraps up in Misrata

The 3rd edition of the Al-Jaid horse racing championship wrapped up on Sunday at the Misrata Martyrs racetrack. More than 170 horses competed in 12 different stages, including participants from Italy, France, Morocco, and Tunisia, in addition to the host country, Libya.

Libya gained multiple prizes in various stages, including third place in the Mediterranean Union challenge, after Morocco and Italy, which snatched first place.

As for the Grand National Stakes challenge, worth 250,000 di-

nars, the award went to the locally bred horse "Dover."

The crowning ceremony featured the presence of senior government officials, including Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, besides the President of the Libyan Authority for Horse Racing and the chief of Al-Jaid Company for Food Industries.

The event was also marked by the broad participation of foreign senior officials of horse racing clubs, including representatives from Italy, France, Morocco, Russia, Britain, Ireland, Tunisia, and Malta.



Crimes

## Security services seize over 50 kg of cocaine found on beach in Misrata

Security services in Misrata have seized over 50 kilograms of cocaine during a routine patrol on the coast. The Joint Operations Force said its security patrol was on a routine mission on Wednesday roaming the valleys and coastal areas used by smuggling rings when they spotted suspicious parcels dumped on the coast some 70 kilometers east of Misrata.

The officers discovered white powder tightly wrapped in plastic materials soon after, the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Prosecution Office confirmed that the substance was pure cocaine powder, the Joint Operation Force said.

According to the statement, the load was the largest haul of cocaine seized in the country to date.

A security source from the Joint Operations Force told a local news outlet that a gang whose members are on the run are likely to have fled the scene leaving the drugs behind when the police arrived.

Tech

## Two Libyan robotic teams recognized by “Judges Choice Award” in USA

Two Libyan high school robotic teams received the Judges Choice Award in recognition of their outstanding performance at the World Robotics Championship in Houston, USA, held on 19-23 April.

The Libyan delegation included two teams from Tripoli, (Al-Mukhtar) and (Lybotics Scout), besides (Lybotics Super) from Benghazi, all aged between 12-18, the general coordinator for Lybotics Mohammed Zaid told The Libya Observer Thursday.

The mentor of the Lybotics Super team, which won the award along with the Mukhtar team, said his team has been working hard since January, and the students were up to the challenge of building their robots.

The group competed with the top 160 robotics teams from all over the world. “That means they are among the top teams, which accounts for only about 2% worldwide,” Ziad noted.

In the competition, engineering students are challenged to build movement mechanisms, which focus on directions and speed.

“The robots have specific tasks to accomplish in the competition, including moving, lifting cones, and placing them in tubes of different heights,” Ziad explains He confirmed that the teams faced several difficulties, including an unfortunate incident when they lost the main robot during air freight, which eliminated them from qualifying for the next stage.

Life

## Three Libyan Olive oil firms win big at Japanese international competition

Three Libyan olive oil companies have been named as one of the top olive oil producers worldwide after winning prestigious awards in the 11th edition of the JAPAN Olive Oil Prize Competition (JOOP).

The Italian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ICCJ), which organized the contest in cooperation with the JOOP Organizing Committee, announced the winners for 2023 this month.

The Libyan companies, all from the mountain city of Gharyan, competed with over 530 firms from 23 olive-producing countries.

Al-Mishkat -an award winner in international contests in Greece and Italy- won gold, while Al-Bustan and Al-Aryaf took

silver in the contest held in Tokyo on 3-6 April.

The head of the Media and Public Relations Office at the Libyan Export Development Centre, Mohamed Al-belili told The Libya Observer Wednesday that obtaining advanced ranks in international competitions consolidates the role of Libya as an important competitor and provides a strong incentive to promote Libyan goods in global markets.

“As an export development centre, we are happy with the prizes awarded to the national companies registered in the exporter’s list,” Al-belili said, confirming that such companies will receive priority in international participation due to the high quality of their products and their

increased chances in breaking into the global market.

“We extend our congratulations to these companies and wish them continued success. God willing, with such successes, we can overcome all obstacles in delivering our products to the world.”

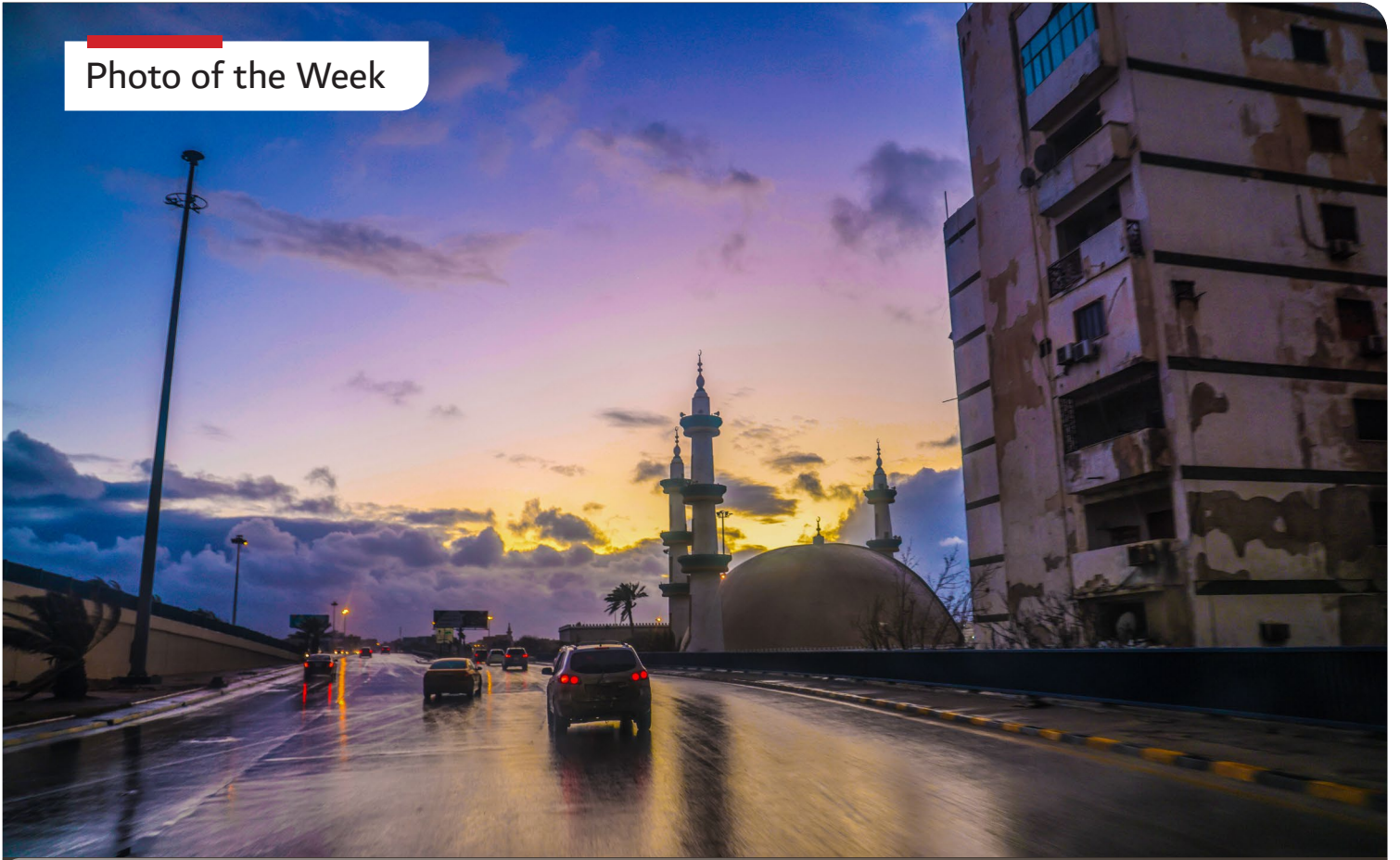
Established in 2013 the JOOP award was dedicated to promoting quality olive oils of all origins and recognizing the best oils from around the globe.

The contest is ranked in the top places of the Worl Ranking of Extra Virgin Olive Oils (EVOOWR).

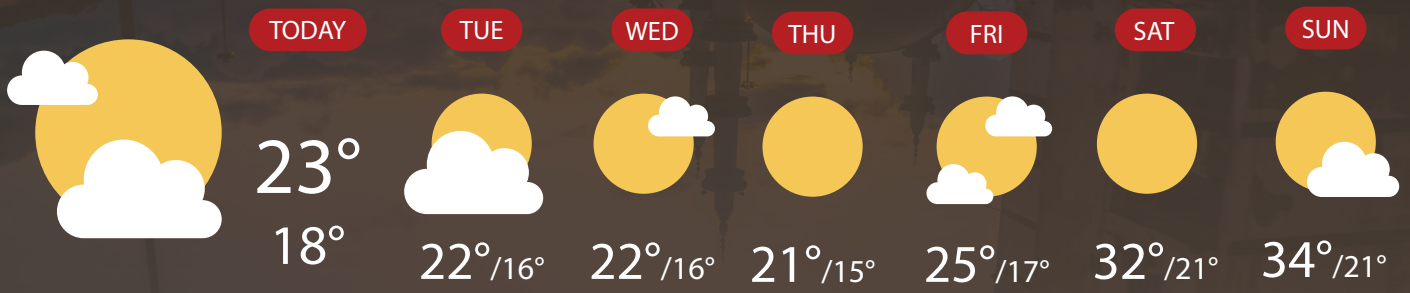




Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



- +218 94 424 69 28
- libyaobserver.ly
- lyobserver
- info@libyaobserver.ly
- lyobserver
- ar.libyaobserver.ly
- lyobserver.ar
- lyobserver.arabic
- libyaobserver
- thelibyaobserver

**Contact Information**