

Politics

Colombian media confirm arrival of Colombian mercenaries to Sudan

An investigative report published by the Colombian newspaper "La Silla Vacía" confirmed the presence of nearly 300 former Colombian soldiers participating in the war in Sudan, some of whom arrived via Libya. The report explained that these soldiers, some of whom were described as "being kidnapped," were recruited through a Colombian security company under the disguise of contracts to protect oil infrastructure in the United Arab Emirates.

The report indicated that the journey of these soldiers began in the UAE, then they were flown to the city of Benghazi, where they stayed in facilities said to belong to the Libyan authorities, before being trans-

ported to Sudan across the desert. According to the report, the soldiers' testimonies indicated that they were deceived and forced to fight with the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan.

The report said that some Colombian soldiers were ambushed on the Libyan-Sudanese border, which led to the death of three of them and the injury of others. It also cited testimonies confirming the presence of at least 40 soldiers who wished to return to Colombia, but feared revenge. It pointed out the involvement of the Colombian company "A4SI" in the recruitment of these soldiers, with reference to the role of retired Colonel Alvaro Quijano, who is residing in

Dubai, in managing this process.

The joint force of armed fighting movements in Sudanese army published footage on social media showing identification and personal papers of Colombians whom the spokesman for the joint force said had been killed in the border triangle area with Chad and Libya, as part of a force that was trying to deliver supplies to the Rapid Support Forces in North Darfur State. The documents presented by the joint force showed that the Colombian mercenaries came from the United Arab Emirates, with a supply of weapons and ammunition for the Rapid Support Forces.

Politics

5+5 Joint Military Commission reviews in Turkey Libya's security and stability

Turkey hosted a 5+5 Joint Military Committee (JMC) meeting on Thursday to discuss "additional steps" that could be taken for peace, stability and security in Libya, and to exchange ideas for developing joint activities between eastern and western Libya. The Turkish Ministry of Defense said in a statement that it had invited the JMC to meet in Ankara as part of its goal of "a unified Libya with all its institutions working together," stressing its determination to

continue its support and cooperation with all segments of Libya on the basis of a unified understanding.

The ministry stressed "the historical friendship between Turkey and Libya, which ensures national unity, and the importance of contributing to building a Libya that lives in peace and stability," and expressed its appreciation for the "satisfactory work" carried out by the JMC within the framework of confidence-building measures and contributing to Libya's stability.

The Turkish Ministry of Defense confirmed its continuation of providing all kinds of support and contributing to the development of joint activities, stressing that Ankara's ultimate goal is a unified Libya with all its institutions working side by side. The

Turkish statement indicated that the members of the JMC confirmed their satisfaction with Ankara meeting.

It is noteworthy that Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said in statements he made during his meeting with representatives of newspapers and media outlets at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the capital Ankara last Sunday that "Turkey continues to strengthen its relations with various parties in Libya."

Fidan stressed that Turkey attaches great importance to providing "an environment that contributes to achieving Libyan national unity based on the facts on the ground, and is working to implement this step by step within the framework of a specific strategy."

Politics

Dbeibah publishes public decision to sack Oun from Oil Minister position



The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah circulated the decision to dismiss Mohammed Oun from his position as Minister of Oil and Gas to the Energy Council, the Ministry of Oil, and the National Oil Corporation. In response to the circular, Oun addressed a message that he said was to the Libyan people, in which he said, "Dbeibah's decision to dismiss him from his position is invalid." Oun confirmed that the decision was issued on June 6, 2024, but was not circulated until November 21. He also indicated that the Tripoli Court of Appeal issued two executive rulings to invalidate the assignment of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil to manage the ministry's duties. Oun accused the Prime Minister of "contempt for judicial rulings" and described the decision to dismiss him as "personal revenge,

and abuse of power." He also denied that he had engaged in any financial or administrative corruption practices.

The Administrative Control Authority issued last March a decision to suspend Oun from work as a precaution due to investigations, after which Dbeibah issued a decision to assign Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil and Gas Khalifa Abdul Sadiq to manage the ministry's duties.

In May, the Control Authority lifted the precautionary suspension of Oun, and the Ministry of Oil and Gas announced Oun's return to assume the duties as Minister of Oil.

However, Dbeibah addressed the Secretary General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that Khalifa Abdul Sadiq would continue his work as Minister of Oil and Gas.

Politics

G7
CANADA
FRANCE
GERMANY
ITALY
JAPAN
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES

Al-Lafi welcomes G7 support for political reunification

Presidential Council Deputy Abdullah Al-Lafi has praised the Group of Seven (G7) for what he described as promising indications supporting the reunification of Libya's political institutions.

The remarks follow the recent consensus among Libyan parties to appoint new leadership for the Central Bank of Libya (CBL).

In a post on the "X" platform, Al-Lafi underscored the importance of a solution driven by "pure national will," calling it a strategic necessity for Libya's interests.

The G7 foreign ministers—representing Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States—released a statement reaffirming their commitment to Libya's sovereignty and independence. The group also expressed support for the United Nations' efforts, led by Stephanie Koury, to facilitate inclusive dialogue aimed at stabilizing the country.

The G7 described the agreement on new CBL leadership as a critical step toward advancing a comprehensive political settlement, potentially paving the way for free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections.

The ministers also commended the work of Libya's High National Elections Commission (HNEC) and the successful first round of municipal elections held on November 16, describing the vote as an essential step toward democratic empowerment.

Politics



UNSMIL organized workshop for 5+5 JMC members to enhance implementation of ceasefire

UNSMIL said on Tuesday that Representatives from the Joint Military Commission 5+5 and its subcommittees concluded in Tunis a two-day workshop facilitated by UNSMIL.

It said the workshop aimed to enhance the coordination mechanism for the ceasefire agreement. It added that they had reviewed the progress made and challenges facing the full implementation of the agreement.

"They also discussed the joint action plan for the departure of mercenaries, foreign fighters, and foreign forces from Libya, as well as the ongoing demining efforts and addressing remnants of war. All participants reaffirmed their absolute commitment to the ceasefire agreement in support of the security and stability of Libya and its people," UNSMIL said.

Politics



Koury calls for unified budget and addressing key issues to stabilize Libya

Stephanie Koury, Acting Head of the United Nations Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), has called for unifying Libya's national budget, describing it as a vital step toward strengthening institutions and achieving stability. Her remarks came during a visit to Sebha, where she expressed UNSMIL's readiness to support this process, while emphasizing that its success hinges on Libyan political will.

Koury also urged the swift scheduling of presidential and parliamentary elections, underlining the importance of creating conducive conditions for their success. She highlighted unresolved issues since 2011—such as state structure, national identity, and resource distribution mechanisms—that need to be addressed to ensure sustainable stability. Her visit to Sebha follows a recent trip by US Special Envoy Richard Norland and his delegation to the city.

Politics



Haftar meets Russian deputy defence minister in Benghazi

Khalifa Haftar met with Russia's Deputy Defence Minister Yunus-Bek Yevkurov on Tuesday at his headquarters in the Rajma area of Benghazi.

The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation in combating terrorism and extremism, as well as joint efforts to enhance security and stability in the region, according to Haftar's media office.

Yevkurov was welcomed upon his arrival in Benghazi by Khaled Khalifa Haftar, Chief of Staff of Security Units, Fawzi Al-Mansouri, Director of Military Intelligence, and several senior military officials from Haftar's forces.

Politics

Libya participates in CSP-29 in The Hague



Mokhtar Omar, Senior Adviser to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Secretary General, has announced the agreement to hold a meeting of the high-level working group to combat terrorism, which includes twenty-one countries, in the city of Benghazi.

Omar referred to the possibility of hosting the third Sahel Call Summit in Libya, which was launched by the IPU in coop-

eration with international organizations to combat terrorism in the Sahel region. This came during his meeting with members of the House of Representatives' Defense and National Security Committee, on Monday.

The meeting, which was held at the headquarters of the House of Representatives, discussed a number of issues of concern to national security and strate-

gies for combating terrorism.

Member of the Defense and National Security Committee in the House of Representatives, Tariq Al-Jaroushi, said that the IPU senior advisor expressed his keenness to transfer our experience and success in combating terrorism to the rest of the countries of the world, to benefit from it.

Politics

Libya participates in CSP-29 in The Hague

Libya is participating in the 29th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CSP-29) in The Hague, which began on Monday and will continue for five days.

The Libyan delegation is headed by the Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Adel Omar.

The meeting will discuss the implementation of the chemical weapons ban, the adoption of the report of the Director General of the Organization's Technical Secretariat, in addition to following up on the decisions and recommendations issued by previous sessions.



Economy

Turkey offers Libya to benefit from their experience in hydrocarbon exploration

The Turkish Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Alparslan Bayraktar, has offered to the Minister of Oil and Gas of the Government of National Unity, Khalifa Abdul Sadiq, to benefit from Turkey's experience in the field of hydrocarbon exploration. Bayraktar said that, during his meeting with Abdul Sadiq on the sidelines of the Istanbul Energy Forum, he discussed the possibilities of joint work in oil and natural gas fields, according to the official Turkish Anatolia Agency.

"During the meeting, we evaluated the possibilities of working together in the fields of oil and natural gas," the Turkish Minister added, indicating the possibility of benefiting from his country's experience in the field of hydrocarbon exploration through concrete cooperation that would bring mutual benefit to the two countries, as he put it.



Economy

Prime Minister directs government agencies to submit inventory of financial assets

The Prime Minister Abdul Hamed Dbeibah has directed his government agencies to submit the annual registered inventory of fixed assets for the year 2024.

In his decision, Dbeibah called on to refer a copy of the inventory to the Ministry of Finance and the Audit Bureau no later than next January 31.

He also ordered the preparation of revenue and expendi-

ture reports for the fiscal year 2024, and referring them to the Ministry of Finance, the competent authority, in accordance with the text of the decision, which called for the Inspection and Follow-up Department in the Cabinet Office to follow up on government agencies' compliance with what was stated in the decision and to prepare a report in this regard.



Economy

NOC teams up with US firm for production database integration

National Oil Corporation (NOC) is collaborating with US-based Sensia to implement the "Offset" database system for its oil fields, particularly those utilizing submersible pumps.

In a presentation to NOC's production management team, Sensia highlighted the system's ability to analyze malfunctions and operational issues, aiming to prevent disruptions and enhance field efficiency.

The database is designed to minimize production losses caused by pump failures and shutdowns, according to a statement from NOC.



Economy

Libyan Foreign Bank and Italy's SIMEST strengthen ties to boost investments

The Libyan Foreign Bank held high-level talks in Rome with the senior management of SIMEST, the Italian firm dedicated to fostering international growth for Italian businesses.

The meeting, chaired by Mohamed Al-Dharrat, head of the Libyan Foreign Bank, focused on advancing the partnership established through an agreement signed during October's Italian-Libyan Business Forum in Tripoli.

The accord is designed to lay the groundwork for bolstering trade relations between the two nations, according to a report by Italy's Nova news agency.

Key objectives of the agreement include fostering bilateral investment growth, enhancing competitiveness through technology transfer, and broadening SIMEST's operational scope to include Libya.



Economy

Al-Waha oil company registers highest production in 11 years

Al -Waha Oil Company has registered its highest oil production in more than 11 years, according to what the National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced on Wednesday.

The daily production of the company reached 350.549 barrels of crude out of 1.380.470 barrels produced during the past 24 hours, according to a statement issued by the NOC, which added that the production of gas in Libya reached 198.190 barrels, considering these numbers as evidence of an upward increase in production. The NOC said it wanted to prepare an operation plan to increase production that would extend from three to five years, at a time when it hoped to raise production to 2 million barrels per day before the end of next year. It said that the chairman of its board of directors, Farhat Bengdara, was directed to prepare the plan, during a meeting of the board and the directors of departments.

It stressed the importance of setting a clear roadmap to achieve long -term goals, and reviewing the strategy of the companies affiliated with the NOC, to be compatible with the operational plans, while Bengdara called for guaranteeing the compatibility of the basic corporate strategies with their directions, and enhancing their integration with operational plans.



Economy

NOC announces resumption of 'production of two wells in Abu Attifel field

Mellitah Oil and Gas Company has completed the maintenance of the "A62 & A80A" oil wells in the Abu Attifel field, according to the National Oil Corporation (NOC).

The NOC explained that the company tested the two wells, and the results were about 4,200 barrels of oil per day, according to a statement on its Facebook page.

Official figures issued by the NOC reported that crude and condensate production rose to 1,372,000 barrels per day, while gas production reached 199,776 barrels per day.



Economy

Libyan oil production increased to 1.37 million barrels per day

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has reported that crude oil and condensate production rose to 1,372,000 barrels per day, while gas production reached 199,776 barrels per day.

According to a statement issued by the NOC, crude oil and condensate production indicators alone recorded an increase of 4,775 barrels, while gas production increased by 776 barrels.

The NOC says that it seeks to reach two million barrels per day by the year 2025 if the necessary budget is available to operate throughout this period without any delay beyond the control of the NOC and its subsidiaries.



Migration

Bangladeshi immigrants deported to their home

The Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency of Tripoli Branch announced on Wednesday, the deportation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, without specifying their number, after the completion of deportation procedures. Pictures posted by the agency on its Facebook page showed dozens of Bangladeshi immigrants waiting to be deported.



Migration

Boat carrying 25 immigrants sinks off Tripoli coast

A boat carrying Syrian immigrants sank off the coast of the capital Tripoli early Thursday, while a fisherman was able to rescue three of them. Rescue groups said there were 25 Syrian immigrants on board the boat, and shared footage on social media that showed a fisherman rescuing three immigrants, two of whom appeared to be extremely exhausted, while the third said that they were from the Syrian province of Daraa, thanking the fisherman for sav-

ing them from death. Rescue groups indicated that many of the immigrants were missing, including women and children, noting that fishermen succeeded in rescuing three. Syrian Houran Free Gathering website explained that the boat set off from the coast of the Libyan capital Tripoli on Wednesday night, and after two hours, water began to leak into it, and the boat driver jumped into the sea shortly before it sank, leaving the immigrants to their

fate. Sources indicated that the boat was about seven meters long, made of fiberglass and had two engines, adding that the immigrants left without communication devices such as a satellite phone and a compass. Migrant Rescue Watch website said that the Libyan Coast Guard, in cooperation with fishermen, was able to rescue ten and recover the bodies of two of these immigrants.

Sports

Seasonal flu vaccination campaign launched by NCDC

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has officially launched its seasonal influenza vaccination campaign on Sunday.

The initiative, which runs until the end of the month, is part of a broader effort to bolster community immunity and protect public health.

According to the centre, the campaign aims to prevent infections among

healthcare workers, ensuring the safety of medical service recipients, especially those at high risk of complications. Officials have stressed that vaccination remains the most effective way to prevent the spread of influenza.

The campaign specifically targets vulnerable groups, including senior citizens aged 55 and above, children aged 6 months to 18 years, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic illnesses

such as diabetes and heart conditions. Healthcare workers are also a priority group to ensure the safety of the sector as a whole.

In addition to providing vaccines, the campaign places a strong emphasis on raising public awareness about the importance of prevention and aims to ensure the widest possible reach for vaccinations among citizens.



Opinions

Libya a New Instrument in Moscow's European Strategy?

By Cyril Widdershoven, A Senior Researcher at Hill Tower Resource Advisors



North Africa's main oil producer, Libya, is again making headlines, mainly in light of OPEC's ongoing market struggles. At the same time, Europeans are looking at the OPEC member as a potential source for their energy-hungry industries. After Europe's energy crisis, mainly caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Southern Mediterranean is back on the books of politicians and investors. However, amid the ongoing civil war, which has split the country into two main warring factions, international powers have their own strategies in place. While Western powers, led by the US and EU, are backing the still fledgling official government of Libya, Russia and several mainstream Arab powers remain aligned with eastern Libyan warlord General Haftar. While Libya is still producing well below its former historic levels, moves are being made to increase output substantially in the coming years. Moscow, at present, is setting up a major new strategy in which not only the Haftar-Moscow links are being strengthened but also the option of putting Europe's energy supply at risk.

Some experts have indicated that the current Russia-Haftar discussions have only one main target: to hold Europe to ransom. While most of General Haftar's military or political decisions are assessed as his own, it now seems that Moscow is partly leading the discussion, enforcing a possible Russian hold on North Africa's oil and gas future. In recent weeks, Haftar's closure of Libya's El Sharara oil field, with a capacity of 300,000 bpd, has mainly hit supplies

to European clients, as 80% of the production flows to Europe. El Sharara's leading operators include Norwegian energy giant Equinor, Austria's OMV, France's TotalEnergies, and Spanish operator Repsol.

International media failed to recognize the link between the shutdown and a decision by Italian officials in Naples not to allow Haftar's son, Saddam, to enter the country. This move followed Spain's arrest warrant for Saddam Haftar, who is also a leading figure in the Libyan National Army (LNA). Spain accuses Saddam Haftar of trying to acquire lethal drones. Haftar closed down El Sharara to pressure Madrid. Moscow's assessment of the situation is clear. A potential conflict between Libya's LNA-backed powers and European oil and gas operators presents an opening for Russian interests. Gazprom, or possibly a newly merged Russian entity combining Gazprom Neft, Rosneft, and Lukoil, could step in. While this might seem unlikely to Western observers, power dynamics on the ground in eastern Libya favor Moscow. Russia's creeping influence is already evident in Sub-Saharan Africa, such as in Mali and elsewhere. With around 3,000 mercenaries in Libya, Moscow views the country as a potential hub for further expansion into Africa. Strengthening ties with Haftar benefits both the Libyan warlord—who is losing support from Abu Dhabi and Egypt—and Putin's struggling regime. Establishing a stronghold in Libya aligns with former Soviet cooperation agreements and advances Moscow's

goal of targeting Europe's energy supply. Libya, holding the 9th largest oil reserves in the world, could supply vast volumes of oil and gas to Europe if a peace plan and power-sharing agreement between Haftar in Benghazi (east Libya) and Western-backed PM Abdul al-Dbeibeh in Tripoli (west Libya) could be reached. If not, Moscow may attempt to push out Western oil and gas operators and replace them with its own.

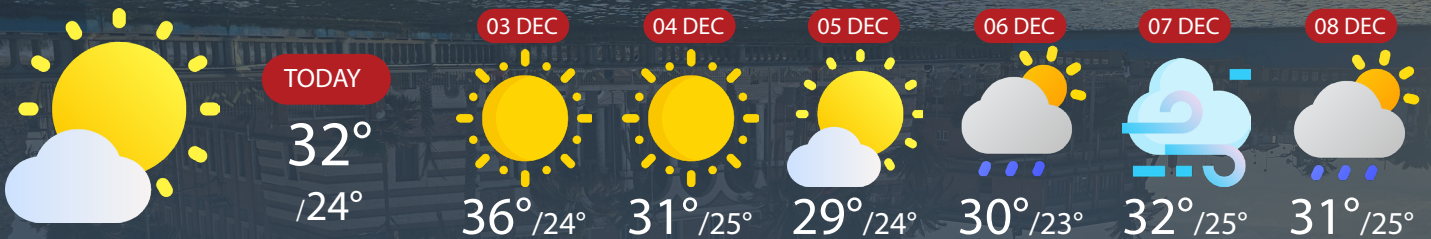
If successful, Moscow could not only weaponize Libya's energy resources but also gain access to valuable minerals and metals in the country and Sub-Saharan Africa. Libya has shown growing interest in joining BRICS, presenting an economic and political alternative to Western alliances. Libyan officials confirmed this interest during the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum (November 9–10) in Sochi, Russia, though no official invitation has been extended yet.

Last month, investigative platform Eekad reported that Moscow has stepped up its military presence in Libya. Russian forces have established several air bridges to the Brak Al Shati base since March, and increased activities have been reported at four other strategic military bases: Al-Jufra, Al-Gardabiya, Al-Khadim, and the port of Tobruk. Moscow appears intent on using eastern Libya's oil and gas regions as a gateway into Africa.

As reported by NOC, Libya's crude oil production currently stands at 1.36 million bpd, with aspirations to reach 2 million bpd by the end of 2025.

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