

Tripoli, Libya, March 21 (Infosplusgabon) - Continued shelling of Tripoli and its outskirts in violation of a truce, as Libya prepares to fight the coronavi

The Libyan media also covered the continuing slump in oil production with resultant losses in revenue following the closure of ports and oil fields since 18 January as the people face economic difficulties.

Al-Wassat newspaper painted a desperate picture of living conditions of the inhabitants of the outskirts of Tripoli which has been targeted by shellfire and missiles since 4 April when the rival government in the east led by Marshal Khaftar attacked the capital to oust the Government of National Accord (GNA).

The weekly newspaper, which appears in Cairo, Egypt, said although no case of infection of the coronavirus has been recorded to date, the country is in a state of alert and precautionary measures have been laid out to prevent its spread.

This is in light of confirmed cases and deaths in neighbouring Tunisia and Egypt.

It said the global spread of the virus has forced many countries to close their borders, suspend flights, cancel many events and prevent rallies, including collective prayers.

The newspaper reported that against the background fears of the coronavirus while fighting is going on, the European Union and embassies of seven countries - Algeria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States - in addition to a Tunisian foreign ministry, have called on the belligerents to announce an immediate halt in the fighting for humanitarian reasons.

The UN mission added its voice to the call of these countries, urging all parties in Libya to take this "courageous step" by joining forces to deal with this epidemic.

Al-Wassat also said that there were fears of unilateral price increases notably in food and disinfectants.

Addressing the issue of the losses in revenue over the closure of oil installations, Afrigatenews reported a press release from the Libyan National Petroleum Company (NOC) which quoted the losses at US\$3.36 billion dollars after crude oil production fell to 91.221 barrels a day.

The NOC called on those responsible for the closure to "immediately lift the blockade and save the lives of workers in the oil sector and the citizens who are suffering the most".

Afrigatenews, Arabic language electronic newspaper reported that the NOC is still able to supply sufficient quantities of fuel to Libyans, including the eastern regions, where it sends tens of thousands tons of fuel every week.

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