

Politics

Al-Koni reiterates to Chad's president importance of peacefully retrieving Niger's legitimacy



The Deputy Head of the Presidential Council, Mossa Al-Koni, stressed the need to preserve the safety and security of Niger and its people, and to restore its constitutional legitimacy without pushing the situation there into an armed conflict that could lead to a human tragedy. This came in a phone call on Tuesday evening with the President of Chad, Mahamat Idriss Déby, about the developments taking place in Niger, the Presidential Council said on Facebook on Wednesday, as Déby welcomed the visions that Al-Koni reviewed with the Special Envoy of the President of Nigeria during their meeting in Tripoli last week. He expressed his readiness to take practical steps in Niger based on the assumption of mediation efforts by Niger's neighbors that are not members of the Economic Community of West African States "ECOWAS" (Libya, Chad and Algeria), appreciating Libya's commitment to the issues of the region and Africa, and its willingness to make efforts based on the collaboration of neighboring states in order to reach a solution to the crisis in Niger.

The two sides agreed to continue communication and take urgent steps to activate mediation by Niger's neighboring states outside ECOWAS immediately. ECOWAS members, in the meantime, had been mobilizing their forces for a possible military intervention in Niger to restore constitutional legitimacy despite the reservations of the neighboring countries: Libya, Algeria and Chad.

Politics

Foreign Minister of Libya's parallel government resigns, says PM is incompetent



The Foreign Minister of the government designated by the House of Representatives (HoR), Hafed Gaddur, has resigned, citing the incompetence of the Prime Minister, Osama Hammad.

Gaddur said in a resignation letter sent to the Speaker of the HoR, Aqila Saleh, that there was a heavily-funded agenda of certain foreign countries that had been hindering the formation of a unified Libyan government by continuing to give weapons and money to destabilize Libya.

Gaddur said division and fragmentation had led to the weakening of the national project in Libya, and opened the door for foreign interventions, adding that the current HoR-designated PM Hammad adopted a moody approach of nepotism and favoritism.

"Hammad issued orders without getting the necessary mandate for them, referring to a number of decisions he made and agreements he signed with foreign parties without consulting with the Foreign Ministry, which previously remarked that such agreements had been negative to the state of Libya," Gaddur said.

He indicated that he would continue to support any national project for real reconciliation and coexistence across Libya, in addition to supporting leading the country to free and fair elections whose results could be accepted by all parties.

Politics

The Philippines downgrades alert level for Filipinos in Libya



The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) of the Philippines said on Wednesday that Filipino workers in Libya "have the option to stay or volunteer to be repatriated if they fear for their lives, as the security situation in Libya remains fragile, indicating that "there are around 2,300 Filipinos working in Libya and most of them are already veterans of conflict and would rather stay."

The DFA has made changes on its two advisories for Filipinos living in Tripoli and outside Tripoli. Since 2019, Filipino workers living within the 100-kilometer radius of Tripoli were ordered to evacuate Libya (Alert Level 4). For those living outside Tripoli, Filipinos were just told to remain on alert and prepare for calls for possible evacuation (Alert Level 2). It also placed the entire country under single Crisis Alert Level 3, which is voluntary

repatriation.

"The decision was made on the observation that, while the political and security conditions in Libya remain fragile, there have been significant improvements in the country since 2019," the DFA said in a statement. Also, the OFWs perceive the country as "safe and secure." The DFA said, according to Business Mirror website.

It has reported that this perception of safety is grounded on the fact that most of the overseas Filipino workers remaining in Libya are veterans of conflict, "having survived the civil wars of 2011 and 2014-2020, and the fight with the Daesh that accompanied the civil wars, and have thus adapted to the instability in the country."

"The main concern of some workers were the pending labor issues they had with their

employer. The Philippine Embassy in Tripoli reported that the pending labor issues have decreased from 411 in 2022 to 305 as of June 2023. The Embassy resolved these labor cases by going to job sites and holding dialogues among OFWs, their employers and Libyan authorities." The website said.

It has added that there is no Migrant Workers Office (MWO) in Tripoli, and the Philippine consul general has been monitoring and responding to appeals of assistance from OFWs in Lebanon.

"In the absence of a resident Migrant Workers Office (MWO) in Tripoli, the DFA, will continue to monitor the situation and be responsible for responding to appeals for assistance of Filipinos working and residing in Libya." It said.

Politics



Nigerian delegation seeking peaceful ending for coup in Niger to visit Libya, Algeria

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Nigeria, currently heading the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), will send envoys to Libya and Algeria to discuss the crisis in Niger, the Nigerian Presidency said in a statement.

According to the statement, a delegation headed by Ambassador Babagana Kingibe will discuss with the Libyan and Algerian authorities how to end the military coup peacefully in Niamey.

The country's elected president, Mohamed Bazoum, was detained last Friday by his presidential guards, who later declared that they had seized power.

Tinubu underscored the need for a solid interaction among all relevant parties in order to achieve a final and peaceful settlement of the situation in Niger.

ECOWAS demanded on July 30 that Bazoum be immediately released and restored to office, warning to take action if the bloc's demands were not met within a week.

Politics



Mohammed Takkala elected new Head of Libya's High Council of State

Members of the High Council of State (HCS) in Libya elected on Sunday Mohammed Takkala as the new Head to succeed Khalid Al-Mishri, who held the position for five consecutive terms.

HCS members Al-Mishri, Takkala, Nayima Al-Hami and Naji Mukhtar were the candidates for the presidency of the HCS, a position for which internal elections are held among the members every year according to the bylaws. Al-Mishri got the highest votes in the first round with 49, while Takala got 39, Mukhtar got 36, and Al-Hami got 4.

According to the bylaws for the elections of the Head of the HCS, a second round was held as none of the candidates obtained 66 votes or more, and thus, Al-Mishri and Takkala went to a second round, where Takkala won with 67 votes and Al-Mishri lost by receiving 62 votes.

129 HCS members out of the total number of 145 attended the session. As for the position of First Deputy Head, Masoud Abid won the position against Al-Mishri's Deputy Head Naji Mukhtar.

Politics

Dbeibah: Money will never be spent on wars again



Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah said from now on guns would be pointed only at enemies, during a speech to mark the 83rd anniversary of the Libyan Army's foundation in Martyrs' Square, Tripoli, on Wednesday. He went on to say that the nation's money would be spent on development, building the army, youth, etc.

The PM told the people that the time of war is over and Libyans would never raise their weapons in the face of each other.

Dbeibah, who also holds the position of Minister of Defence, indicated that his government's main battle is construction and stability, underscoring that the military institution is the nucleus of this stability and will not become implementers of foreign agendas or narrow group interests.

He said that time has proved that the will of the people is above politicians, above all parties that aligned with the outside, and those vying for power even over the blood of the Libyans ... and above the international will.

In his speech that was broadcasted through national TV, the PM quoted the words of former Prime Minister Abdul Hamid al-Bakush, in which he called on all citizens to be one army, whatever their backgrounds and ages, "from the city to the tribe to the beautiful villages, countryside, and oases... and to be united."

On Wednesday Martyrs Square saw military parades to mark the anniversary in the presence of senior state officials, including the head and members of the Presidential Council, the head of the General Intelligence, the Chief of the Libyan Army, and commanders of various military regions.



Economy

Oil and Gas Minister reviews initiatives for upcoming Libya Energy and Economy Summit

The Libyan Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Oun, held a meeting with the organizers of the Libya Energy and Economy Summit, with the aim of informing them of upcoming initiatives in the energy sector.

Oun stressed that about a third of Libyan sites, whether on land or in the sea, have not yet been explored for the extraction of hydrocarbons, in addition to the diversification of the country's natural resource base for future production.

They also discussed recent efforts to increase investment in the Libyan market, which is expected to lead to lift force majeure on some international operators.

The Ministry of Oil and Gas is scheduled to invite official delegations from Europe, Africa and the Middle East to participate in the event, which will be held in Tripoli on November 8 and 9, 2023.

"The invitation aims to attract wide participation from a lot of countries and international organizations, including OPEC, with the aim of enhancing cooperation and exchanging experiences in the energy sector." The Ministry said.

The Libya Energy and Economy Summit will focus on innovation, ambition and diversified opportunities in the energy sector in Libya. The theme of the event will be "Partnerships for Energy and Economic Opportunities", with a focus on Libya's important role as a regional energy supplier.



Economy

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

The Director General of the Libyan Export Development Centre, Mohamed El-Deeb, discussed with the Senior Advisor at the Turkish Commercial Attaché to Libya, Youssef Yildiz, on Sunday cooperation to facilitate exports of Libyan products to Turkey.

El-Deeb also raised the issues facing Libyan business owners with Turkish customs when participating in international exhibitions.

The Commercial Attaché at the Libyan Consulate General in Istanbul, Omar Derhoub, who attended the meeting along with an array of officials from the Libyan Economy Ministry, referred to the directives of Minister Muhammad Al-Hawij of the Economy and Trade concerning organizing working sessions and bilateral meetings between business owners and Libyan and Turkish companies.

The minister's decision allows the two sides to exchange experiences and create a genuine partnership that guarantees economic diversity in sources of income, Libya's Economy Ministry said.

According to the ministry, the group agreed to submit a proposal to Al-Hawij to form a joint working team representing the Export Development Centre, the Libyan Standards and Criteria Centre, the commercial attachés in the two countries, the Foreign Trade Department of the ministry, and the relevant authorities to facilitate the entry of Libyan products into Turkey.



Economy

Libyan assets recovery body reviews returning funds from Canada

The Director General of the Office of Recovering Libyan State Assets and Their Management, Mohammed Al-Mansali, has discussed with the Canadian ambassador to Libya, Isabelle Savard, on Wednesday the Libyan assets in Canada and the strategy for recovering and managing them for the benefit of the Libyan people.

The Office said in a statement that the meeting was held in Tunisia and it was the second in recent weeks, as Al-Mansali expressed his gratitude to the ambassador and the Canadian authorities for their cooperation and continuous support for the Office's efforts.

The former Libyan ambassador to Canada, Fathi Al-Baja, told the Canadian newspaper "The Globe and Mail" that Muammar Gaddafi had hid billions of dollars in Canadian banks. He revealed that after his expulsion from his post in Ottawa, he kept confidential documents containing details of the financial accounts and monetary wealth that Gaddafi hid.

Economy

Congo eyes Libyan oil and fuel imports



The Congolese ambassador to Libya said his country was looking for oil and fuel providers, asking the Minister of Oil and Gas Mohammed Oun about the possibility of Libya becoming that provider upon joint regulations and conditions.

According to the media office of the Oil and Gas Ministry in Tripoli, the Congolese ambassador has confirmed that his country is conducting preliminary studies showing the presence of oil and gas in the country and that, in part, they are extracted in small quantities by international companies that do not bring partial benefit to the country, while the largest part is not extracted and needs to be developed

by parties technically capable like Libya, which has long experience in this field.

The ambassador added that his country sought to supply Libyan crude oil to operate some small oil refineries to participate in their development, and in the exploitation of natural resources such as diamonds, copper, cobalt, gold, tin and coltan, which were usually used in the manufacture of modern electronic devices.

Oun, meanwhile, expressed Libya's full readiness to cooperate in this regard, provided that Congo submitted an explanatory document indicating what was required and the quantities of oil and gas it targeted, as well as explaining how to participate

in benefiting from other natural resources through the relevant ministries in Libya.

Oun said that Libya was always in all international forums of oil organizations seeking to stand with African countries and demanding that they be given an opportunity to invest in their oil, gas and other enormous natural resources so that they would turn into comprehensive development and then they could demand renewable energy controls that the world had been trying to impose even on African countries that were not considered to have a significant impact on climate-damaging emissions.



Menfi chairs third meeting for Libyan High Financial Committee

The High Financial Committee held its third regular meeting in Benghazi and was chaired by the Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, as well as all of the Committee's members, including Ministers from the Government of National Unity.

According to the press briefing of the committee, its members and its chairman agreed to set and unify standards for the disclosure of revenue and public expenditure data in all Libyan state institutions, and to ensure comprehensive and unified disclosure.

It indicated that it had reviewed the revenue and expenditure data, according to the reports of the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Libya, in addition

to discussing the work of the technical committees in charge of following up on the budget and related technical observations, in addition to issuing the necessary recommendations in this regard.

The Committee indicated that Benghazi's hosting of the meeting was consistent with its direction to hold its meetings in all Libyan cities to emphasize the national dimension of its work. It also pointed out that the Libyans' welcoming of the establishment of the Committee and the implementation of its tasks was a positive indication of their desire to resume development projects, and to reject a return to war and division.

The Presidential Council issued on July 06 a decision to form the High Financial

Committee to determine aspects of public spending and follow up on financial arrangements.

The Committee held its first meeting on July 20, in Sirte and it was chaired by Mohammed Menfi and his deputy, Farhat Bengdara. They discussed mechanisms for implementing the decision to regulate public spending, enhance transparency and fair distribution of the country's wealth revenues, especially oil revenues.

The second meeting took place in Tripoli on July, 26, in which it reviewed the results of the Committee's work for the purpose of limiting the problems and presenting solutions to the first, second, third and fourth chapters on public spending.



Opinions

The Government versus the House of Representatives and the High Council of State

By Abdullah Alkabir,
a Libyan political writer and commentator



Removing the conflicting political entities through elections, foremost the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS), has become a pressing matter to make the change, and advance to a new stage that paves the way for addressing all outstanding issues, which will not receive any interest from these entities, that are consumed by the project of remaining in their positions, and have only one goal; extend this stage indefinitely, seek more power, and seize the maximum amount of financial resources possible, to finance their survival and conflict. These facts have become known to the majority of the people, the international parties supporting the elections, as well as to UNSMIL.

After the recent stances, and statements of UNSMIL, European countries, and the USA, the room for maneuver for the HoR and the HCS began to narrow gradually. UNSMIL rejected the roadmap proposed by the two houses as deceptive bait, claiming that the electoral laws had been completed, and there was nothing left but to form a government that would supervise the implementation of elections.

In fact, the truth is that these laws are still subject to controversy and rejection, and the joint committee that produced them did not care about UNSMIL's observations, nor the UN envoy's calls for further consultation with all actors, so that they become applicable, in addition to some observations made by members of the House of Representatives, pending the approval of the HCS.

As for the roadmap to form a new government, and postpone elections for eight months, it only took one session in both chambers to accept and approve it, for the Speaker of the House of Representatives to announce the conditions for candidacy for head of such government.

The Government of National Unity realizes that it is exclusively targeted to be overthrown, so that portfolios such as ministries, boards and agencies of the new government, to be formed by the HoR and the HCS, be shared with their close political and military parties. However, its position is still strong in the face of the House of Representatives and the state, despite all the reservations, and all corruption accusations, and with strong alliances internally and externally, and the refusal of active international parties to extend the transitional stag-

es it would be hard for the HoR and HCS to oust the GNU and implement their agreed roadmap.

Recent developments put the UN mission in an open confrontation with the HoR. The UN envoy gave up the diplomatic language, in his speech before the Forum of Elders of Fezzan, and clearly said, "The new Libya can only be built through an electoral process, through which members of parliament and the head of state are elected. When a new government is elected, stability will prevail in the country, and whoever wants transitional arrangements and other transitional governments wants to share the cake, and history will remember that."

However, Bathily retracted a little from this intensity, after two days of statements and counter-statements, from members of the House of Representatives, and indeed, he met with Aqila Saleh and Khaled Al-Mishri, and he made statements to Al-Jazeera channel praising the laws presented by the joint committee, and considered them a step forward, considering the existence of two governments an issue that requires a solution, but he reaffirmed the need for the participation of all political parties to reach a comprehensive agreement.

Bathily has not yet found the required support from the international parties to bypass the two chambers, and this bypassing seems impossible without such support, and therefore he cannot launch any initiative that excludes them from participation, but they (HoR and HCS) do not want any participation from other parties, because it would end their hegemony over the political process, and their acceptance of this participation in the Tunis-Geneva forum, was imposed by different international circumstances, with strong support from the USA for the former acting envoy, Stephanie Williams.

In view of this conflicting positions, the confrontation is poised for escalation between the UN envoy and the House of Representatives, the search for a path leading to elections will be prolonged, with attempts by some parties to soften UNSMIL's position over the change of government.

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



Ministry of Local Government, Red Cross seek ways to boost cooperation in health sector

The Ministry of Local Government has discussed with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) aspects of cooperation and support in primary health care work during a meeting between officials from both parties in Tripoli.

The Red Cross delegation was headed by the adviser of the ICRC head of mission in Libya, John Strick. On the other hand, the director of the International Cooperation and Organizations Affairs Office, Shadia Oreibi, was representing the Ministry of Local Government.

The two sides discussed ways to support the health sector throughout the municipalities, particularly in areas of primary health care, as well as developing health infrastructure and transferring specializations.

The ICRC official also briefed the Libyan side on the committee's efforts in providing humanitarian assistance to needy groups.

Health



Minister of Health gives hospitals deadline to implement health requirements

The Acting Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah, issued a circular giving the directors of hospitals, medical centers, and private clinics, four months to implement the requirements that must be met for the work of treatment institutions, in accordance with what was determined by the General Health Law No. (106) of 1973.

Abu Janah called to abide by the regularization of health institutions, in accordance with the aforementioned law, stressing that they will be subject to follow-up by the competent authorities in the country.

Libya child dies at hospital in Cairo bringing death toll of similar cases to nine

Tasnim Hussein, a Libyan child who underwent a bone marrow transplant at the Nile Valley Hospital in Cairo, died on Friday, bringing the number of Libyans who lost their lives at the same facility to nine victims within four months, including a woman and seven other children.

The loss of Tasnim comes three days after the death of Barnia Al-Haddad, who suffered medical complications following a bone marrow transplant at the Nile Valley Hospital.

Families of the deceased talked about the poor services their children received at the Egyptian hospital; others took further action and filed complaints to the Public Prosecutor, accusing those responsible of negligence, and ill-treatment, as they demanded the Libyan government develop alternative solutions.

Mahmoud Abu Dabous, head of the National Organ Donation Support Organization, said that the patients and their families are suffering dire conditions in the hospital.

Abu Dbous urged the government to localize organ transplants inside Libya in light of the ill-treatment of Libyan patients abroad.

On the other hand, the head of medical affairs at the Libyan Health Office in Egypt, Mohamed Fawzi, said that the cases that died had a 50% success rate, indicating that the families of the deceased had signed a consent form before undergoing the surgery.

Health



Sports



Preparations for the Arab Muay Thai Youth Championship, which Libya will host from 21 to 27 August, are in full swing. The Ministry of Sports said around 200 athletes representing 15 Arab countries would participate in this year's tournament, including the UAE, Syria, Morocco, Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, Bahrain, Egypt, Yemen, Lebanon, Kuwait, Mauritania, Algeria, and Tunisia, in addition to Libya, the host country. The ministry explained that the event comes in support of hosting Arab and African championships in various games and within the framework of its constant keenness to sponsor all sports activities that bring together Arab youth.

Crimes



Authorities crackdown on drug ring, officials at Misrata Port involved

The Public Prosecution Office has taken steps to crack down on a drug trafficking ring in a move that included filing charges against nearly 50 defendants, among them officials at the Port of Misrata.

The move to arrest the ring followed investigations into a drug trafficking operation in Zliten that was bound to Zawiya and from there to the cities of Al-Ajailat and Zintan west of the country, the Public Prosecution said on Thursday.

The police tracked the shipment and arrested the alleged operator, who was found with three million "Pregabalin" narcotic pills.

The perpetrators were using official documents falsely stating the approval of the competent authority to import the narcotic pills through sea ports to avoid the monitored smuggling routes.

The law enforcement agencies recovered a trove of evidence that they used to arrest 17 defendants before subsequently arresting 30 other suspects, allegedly involved in organizing illegal trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances, including employees in the Misrata Sea Port.

Life



"Libyan Amazon man" dies in tragic car accident in his hometown

Libya's Hussein Omar Nasr, well known as the "Libyan Amazon man" who lived several years alone in the Amazon rainforest, has died in a tragic traffic accident in his hometown south of Libya. Social media users mourned Hussein, whose story began in 1995 when he left Libya for Germany to work as a mechanic on a farm before settling in Brazil in 2012.

During his stay in Brazil, Hussein was reportedly beaten by a Brazilian police officer -an incident that prompted him to abandon urban areas and take shelter in the outskirts of a forest adjacent to the city of Manaus in the northern region of Brazil.

His new place of residence was situated in the middle of the Amazon jungle, an isolated area only accessible by boat or plane.

For about seven years, Hussein lived 'a jungle life' depending on river waters, forest fruits, and the meat he hunts to survive.

In the wake of the 2019 mass fires that engulfed large parts of Amazonia, the Brazilian police found Hussein and initially thought he was a fugitive from justice.

Once Hussein was questioned and identified, the Brazilian authorities contacted the Libyan Embassy in Brasilia, which brought him back home after his family lost hope of seeing him again.

Life



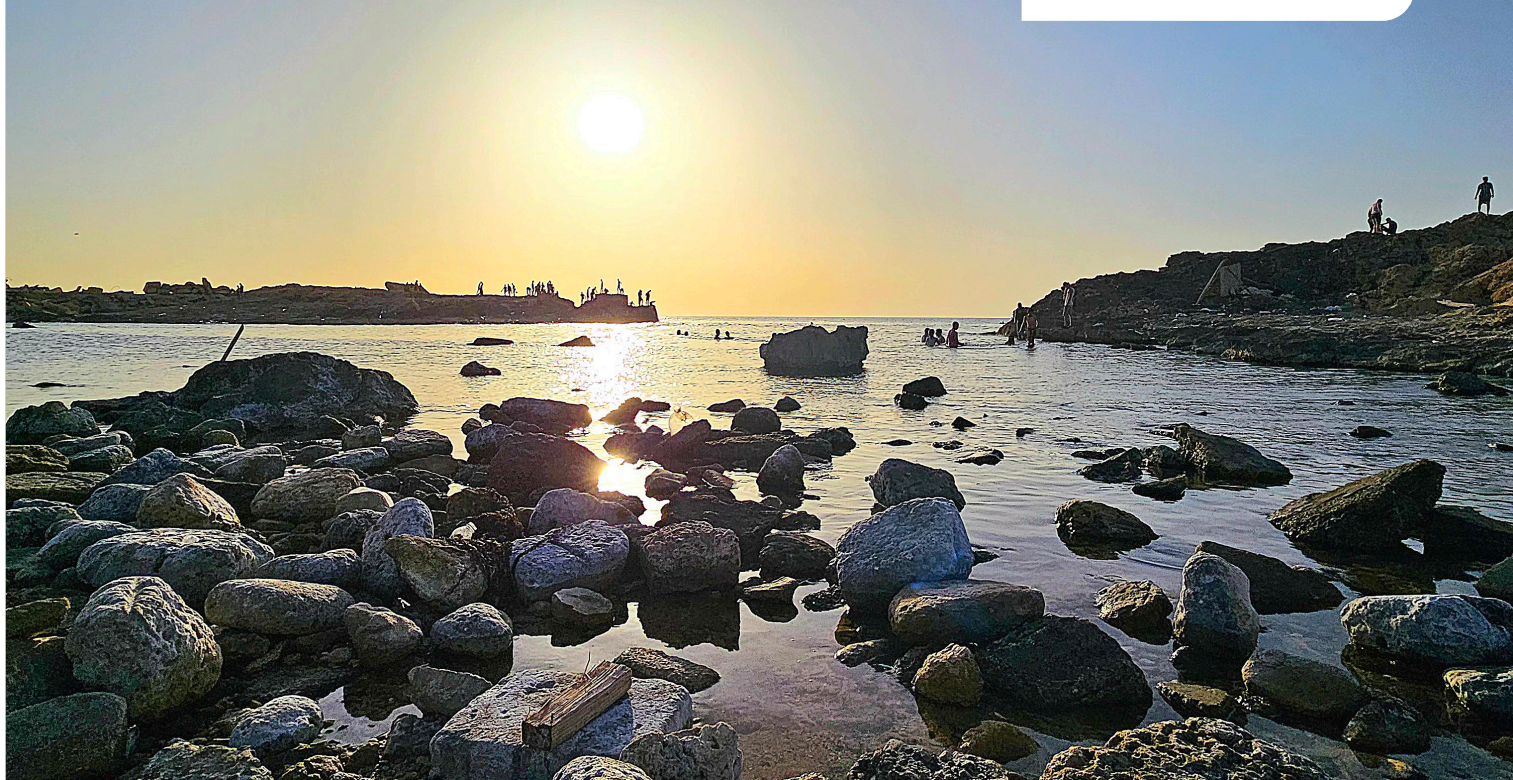
Tragic car accident kills eight, two others in critical condition

Eight people have been killed while two others are battling for their lives in hospital after several vehicles collided on the road linking Al-Shwerf and Brak Al-Shati in the country's south.

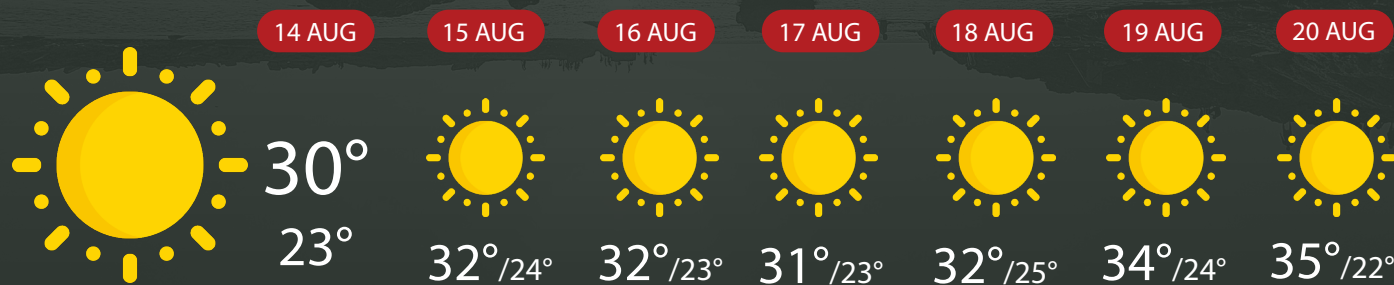
Brak General Hospital said the two cases receiving treatment in its departments are in very critical condition.

The Traffic Affairs and Licensing Department said such accidents typically occur when motorists attempt to change lanes on the road and sideswipe another vehicle, noting that generally, these incidents end up with fatal consequences.



Photo of the Week






Tripoli Weather Forecast



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