



Politics

## Abu Saleem massacre, largest mass-killing operation in Libyan prison

The Abu Saleem prison massacre, which occurred on June 29, 1996, is considered one of the biggest violations of Muammar Al-Gaddafi regime in Libya and the largest mass killing operation, as it claimed the lives of about 1269 detainees, most of them prisoners of conscience.

On June 29, 1996, special forces raided Abu Salim prison, located on the outskirts of the capital, Tripoli, and fired at the prisoners, claiming their rebellion in the prison, which is the most fortified and guarded prison in Libya. Then, those forces buried the bodies in the prison courtyard and in mass graves scattered around Tripoli, and tried to conceal the crime by not telling the families of their fate.

For years, the families of the victims and human rights organizations

had been calling for revealing the fate of the prisoners after any form of contact with them was lost, for the regime had been inviting the families of the dead from different regions of Libya to come to visit their sons, just to cancel the visits after their arrival and let the families wait for them in front of the prison for long hours with false pretexts.

The regime of Muammar Al-Gaddafi remained silent about the crime, denying its occurrence and preventing any talk about it, until 2009, when it began informing the families of the death of their sons.

During 2009 - 2010, the families of the victims and the missing escalated their protests and vigils demanding information about the fate of all detainees, and to reveal the cause of death through autopsies, and to launch an investigation to identify those responsible.

The case of defending the people in the Abu Saleem prison massacre was assumed by a Libyan lawyer called Fathi Terbel, who lost one of his brothers, a cousin and brother-in-law in the massacre. In statement Terbel said; 'The detainees rebelled to press for better conditions, fair trial and the right to be visited by their families.' 'This brutal and repressive regime carried out the massacre in two or three hours and tried to obliterate the crime.' Terbel added.

However, the Libyan authorities arrested him on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 on the eve of the start of the Libyan protests on February 17, which broke out to overthrow the Libyan regime. The arrest of Terbel was the flame that ignited the revolution. Indeed, Abu Saleem prison was considered one of the main causes that triggered the Libyan revolution mid-February 2011.

Politics

## US embassy warns against using violence for political gains in Libya

The US embassy in Libya has urged for continued calm in Libya and warned against any effort to achieve political gains by risking violence.

The US embassy added that on political front, it urges the House of Representatives and High Council of State to close the gap on the few remaining differences over a constitutional basis for elections.

These remarks came after the failure of the Geneva meetings between the Head of the High Council of State and the Speaker of House of Representatives to result in consensus on constitutional basis for elections.

The US embassy added that it is imperative to build on progress toward transparent management and oversight of oil revenues in Libya and to restore full oil production immediately to address hardships faced by the Libyan people.

It congratulated the UN Advisor Stephanie Williams on the progress achieved in the Geneva talks and on the extension of her UN role.



Politics

## UN announces failure of Libya constitutional basis meetings in Geneva

UNSMIL has announced that the Geneva talks between the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Head of High Council of State in Geneva on 28-29 June 2022 have not brought up agreement, adding in a statement that despite the progress in this week's negotiations between the heads of the respective chambers, disagreement persists on the eligibility requirements for the candidates in the first presidential elections.

The statement said Aqila Saleh and Khalid Al-Mishri had reviewed the outstanding provisions of the 2017 Libyan Draft Constitution, taking into account the agreement reached during the Cairo talks earlier this month.

«They reached unprecedented consensus on a number of long-standing issues, including: the designation of the headquarters and distribution of seats for the two chambers of the legislative authority; division of responsibilities among the president, prime minister, cabinet and local government; the specific form of decentralization, including the delineation of the number of governorates and their powers; a revenue allocation mechanism for the different levels of govern-

ment; and increased representation for cultural components.» The statement said.

It added that while the progress secured during three rounds of consultations in Cairo and this round in Geneva is significant, it remains insufficient as a basis to move forward towards comprehensive national elections, which is a genuine desire of the Libyan people.

The UN Advisor Stephanie Williams urged the two chambers to overcome the pending disagreement as soon as possible and called on all actors and parties in Libya not to take any precipitous action, emphasizing that calm and stability must be maintained.

Politics

## Libya takes part in SC Open Debate on council's working method



The permanent delegation of Libya to the United Nations participated in the open debate called for by the Republic of Albania on Tuesday, in its capacity as the President of the Security Council for the current month, on the "Working methods of the Security Council".

Libya's delegate to the United Nations, Ambassador Taher Al-Sunni, addressed in his speech the need to improve the Security Council's working methods, especially for member states under Chapter 7.

He indicated that affected states should be consulted and able to provide inputs officially on draft resolutions, presidential statements, the sanction committee, and the panel of expert reports. "Members states under sanctions should be notified officially when exemption requests are submitted to SC by other members," Al-Sunni said.

He also demanded that stakeholders with the UN missions should be first consulted by the Security General on the Special Representatives of the SG nominations, once consensus is reached before the SC is informed.

Politics

## Norland says his overnight visit to Tripoli «has a particularly historic significance»



US Ambassador/Envoy to Libya, Richard Norland, said on Wednesday that he had fruitful meetings during his visit to Tripoli.

Norland conducted an overnight visit to Tripoli to support Libya's transition toward elections, reconciliation, and sound financial management, according to a statement by the US embassy in Libya.



Politics

## Pro-Haftar Sudanese rebels agree to withdraw from Libya and return home

The British "Middle East Eye" website has revealed that Seven Sudanese rebel groups, including former Janjaweed forces, agreed to withdraw their forces from Libya at a meeting earlier this month.

The British website pointed out that a meeting was held in Niger from June 10 to 12, at the invitation of a French organization, was attended by representatives from the United Nations, the United States, the European Union, Norway, Turkey and Egypt.

The meeting discussed practical ways to disarm the rebel groups and how they might be reintegrated into the national army, the British website said, adding that the forces that are regarded internationally as mercenaries are made up of around 30,000 men fighting alongside the warlord Khalifa Haftar, based in the east of the country.

The website confirmed that June's meeting was the second to discuss Sudanese armed groups in Libya as part of a broader push by regional and international powers to withdraw all mercenaries, indicating that another meeting was held in February and attended by the rebels and representatives from the governments of Sudan, Chad, Niger, and Libya.

It also indicated that the meeting also included discussions about how to tackle terrorism in the region, illegal migration from Africa to Europe, and smuggling of weapons and drugs, alongside how international powers would pay to remove foreign forces from Libya and return them to their countries.

He told reports that his stay in Tripoli has a particularly historic significance, as it is the first time in several years that an American ambassador has spent the night in Tripoli, considering it a step forward toward reopening a US embassy in Libya.

The US ambassador addressed several files at the press briefing, including developments in the electoral process.

"In a perfect world, you would have a unified government that can leave the country to elections very quickly," Norland said, confirming that the US is working with its allies and partners to manage this process and end the division in the country.

He considered the presence of the Russian mercenary Wagner group in Libya a destabilizing factor, indicating that the US is working with the Libyans to end their presence as soon as possible.

Speaking on the oil crisis, Norland stressed the need to end the oil closure immediately. "It is very clear to us that the current oil shut down needs to end immediately, and the process of managing Libyan oil revenues and getting those revenues to the benefit of the Libya people is more important than ever."

Economy

## Libya participates in OPEC ministerial meeting ahead of group's supply conference

**O**PEC Council of Ministers, including Libya's Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohamed Aoun, have met in an online meeting to review oil-production policies.

Wednesday's talks were joined by the Director-General of the General Department of Technical Affairs at the Oil Ministry and the Governor of Libya at OPEC, Mustafa Bin Issa.

The group debated the organization's manifesto of guiding principles known as its Long-Term Strategy, the financing issue, the member states' contributions, and the recommendations presented by the governors.

They also reviewed administrative affairs and approved a set of decisions related to the OPEC's meetings and the appointment of an external auditor to evaluate the organization's performance.

A meeting on Thursday, which includes the wider 23-nation OPEC+ alliance, is expected to ratify a supply increase for August that will complete the return of production halted at the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Economy

## Ministry of Finance warns new force majeure will affect public expenditures

The Ministry of Finance has cautioned against declaring a state of force majeure in the Gulf of Sirte, indicating that it would affect public expenditures.

The NOC disclosed Monday that it is considering declaring a state of force majeure unless production and shipping at the oil fields and ports in the Gulf of Sirte are resumed.

The Finance Ministry said the matter is a concern at the state level because it concerns a primary source for financing the general treasury. The NOC's statement mentioned that the Finance Ministry failed to transfer the allocated budget for hydrocarbons during the first half of this year, insisting that this negatively affected the export rates and the inability to meet the fuel demands.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Finance said it was bewildered by «the inaccuracy» of the NOC's data, noting that official documents showed that the allocations approved under Chapter Four, which refer to the fuel subsidy clause for January, February, March, and April for the 2022 fiscal year had been transferred to the Central Bank of Libya.

The ministry urged the NOC to report with «accuracy and professionalism,» confirming that the fuel subsidy allocations for May and June are in process.

It reiterated its continued support for the NOC to achieve the highest standards of production in the oil sector.

According to the Finance Ministry, an exceptional budget estimated at 34 billion dinars had been approved for the Corporation, considering that it manages the most important sources and is attached to the livelihood of the Libyans.

Economy

## Central Bank publishes details of documentary credits for Jun

The Central Bank of Libya announced on Monday, details of opening documentary credits from 9 to 22 June, to more than 459 companies, including companies specialized in importing foodstuff, and others importing electronics, petrochemicals, auto parts, home furniture, livestock, meat, medicine and medical preparations.

On June 1, the Central Bank announced the details of opening documentary credits from April 28 to May 25, for more than 502 companies.

On May 25, the Central Bank announced expenditure and revenues from the first of January to the end of April, showing the allocation of 3 billion and 537 million dollars for documentary credits.

Economy

## US Ambassador: Efforts are underway to establish a mechanism to manage oil revenues



The US Ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland, said on Tuesday that efforts are underway with international support to establish a Libyan-led mechanism to provide transparency regarding how oil revenues are spent, stressing the need to resume oil production and give this mechanism a chance to work.

This came during his meeting with the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Oil Corporation, Mustafa Sanallah, where they discussed critical importance of restoring Libyan oil production immediately to Libya and the global economy.

Norland indicated that «as temperatures soar, electricity blackouts grow, prices rises and oil infrastructure corrodes, there is no excuse for those claiming that the oil shutdown is in the interests of Libya's people», the US Embassy tweeted.

An advertisement featuring a hand holding a megaphone. The text reads: 'YOUR ADVERTISING HERE' in large, bold, red letters. Below the megaphone, there is contact information: 'ad@libyaobserver.ly' and '+218 94 42 46928'. The background is dark with a white megaphone and a hand holding it.



Opinions

# Features of the next stage

By **Abdullah Alkabir**, a Libyan political writer and commentator

**R**egardless of the premature interpretations by some of the parties of the European-American statement, according to their whims and desires, the language of the statement on the issue of the expiration of the Tunis-Geneva Agreement was very clear, and was specified in three clauses on the political level, and one on the economic aspect.

Determinants of the next stage as stated in the statement:

The term of the Tunis-Geneva political agreement expired on June 22, but provided that the elections were held, with emphasis of the call for their speedy holding as soon as possible, and then the agreement will remain governing the stage until the elections are completed. The statement reaffirms an earlier UN official statement rejecting the use of the deadline of the agreement for political manipulation; forming of a unified government capable of governing and carrying out elections in all parts of the country, and this government is achieved through dialogue and compromise. Rejection of any measures that could lead to violence and increase division, such as the establishment of parallel institutions, the seizure of power by force, or the refusal to hand it over to a new executive authority, which was formed by a legitimate and transparent process.

In the details, the expiration date of the political agreement was last June 22, and since the goal of concluding the agreement was to hold elections, but the political parties failed and did not implement them, so the agreement continues to be valid, and likewise the work of the institutions emanating from it continues, until the parties agree on the rules organizing the elections.

However, the statement did not oppose the formation of a new (third government) which must meet two conditions in order to be able to carry out the elections; to be unified, including all parties, and have the ability to work across the country. As for the condition for its formation, it is dialogue between the parties to the crisis and the acceptance of compromise solutions, that is balanced and acceptable to all.

The last determinant directly relevant to the recent developments, as the statement refuses to form a parallel government, because it will restore the state of division, and it may open a door to violence on the pretext of possessing legitimacy, or push an attempt to seize power by force, and what is clearly implied here is the Bashagha government, as for the reference to handing over power to an executive authority, if it was formed through a legitimate and transparent process, it implies the Dbiebah government, whose head has stated several times that he will not hand over power except to an elected government.

Both governments are unable to complete the elections. This is the reason for not objecting to the formation of a third government, with the veiled hint that the process of forming the government of Bashagha lacks transparency, as the Secretary-General of the United Nations has previously stated.

After this US-European statement, the final word in defining the features of the next stage will be what the Security Council will decide in tomorrow's session, Monday, after hearing the briefing of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. It is unlikely, that the UN Security Council Statement would differ from the statement of the five countries, but with urgency to the legislative authorities to expedite the establishment of the constitutional basis and the completion of elections.

There is no great hope for consensus on the constitutional basis and election laws, during the meeting of Aqila and Al-Mishri in Geneva during the next two days, after the failure of the House of Representatives and HSC Committees in the Cairo Dialogue, and it is also unlikely that there would be consensus between the two Houses, with the participation of the active political and military actors, on a mini-government that would hold the elections.

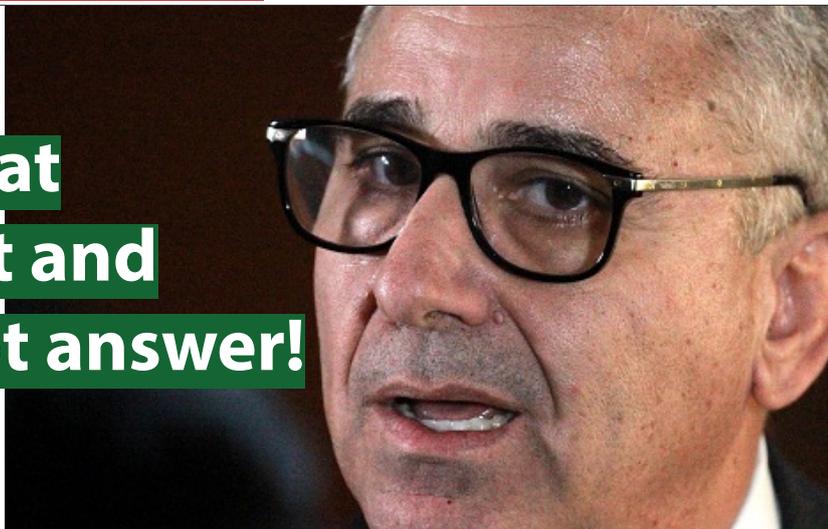
However, it is likely that the United Nations will prepare for a new political forum that will resolve the government file and perhaps the election file as well.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Libya Observer

Opinions

# Simple questions that parallel government and its supporters do not answer!

By **Khalifa Albishbash**, a Libyan writer and blogger



More than two months have passed since the ministers of the parallel government headed by Mr. Fathi Bashagha took the oath in “the sitting room” of Agila, where the Prime Minister designate promised to start his work from Tripoli. Apparently, these days have not yet come and the dream to enter the capital faded away.

Since then, dozens of debates on various platforms between opponents of this parallel government and its supporters who always shift the debate to marginal issues, evading the main structural problems of this very government right from the outset and the way it was formed, accusing their opponents enormous accusations from backing corruption to supporting terrorism, a charge they learned thanks to the recent honeymoon with Haftar activists. Perhaps we should summarize the article here and ask them to answer these simple questions:

Haftar participated in the formation of the Government of National Unity, “the government of Dabaiba” and had half of the members of the dialogue committee formed by the United Nations, as he named the deputy Prime Minister and a number of ministers, in addition to that Dabaiba and Menfi were completely silent about Haftar’s movements in the south, his various mobilizations and provocative statements, while they obligate Qanunu, Juwaili and others to remain silent on various issues! In addition, Dabaiba and his Minister of Finance illegally paid what Haftar has claimed for in form of salaries without providing the Finance with any data to prove this, and his insistence on obtaining the money without going through any legal procedure, and yet Dabaiba and his government accepted in violation of the law! Despite all these concessions, Haftar did not even allow Dabaiba to land at the airports of Sabha and Benghazi and obstructed him with everything at his disposal.

The obvious question here is that, what are the additional things that Bashagha has to offer Haftar, so that the latter mobilizes all his military, media and political tools in his support?

Then, if Dabaiba’s problem is his inability to control and work in the areas controlled by Haftar, as supporters of the parallel government claim, then this argument implicitly means that Bashagha has the ability to control and work there, and the question is why is he not working then? Why did he not start implementing his government’s security plans that he had promised, and start from Jufra, for example? Can Bashagha and his Minister of Interior change even a director of a smallest security directorate in the areas controlled by Haftar and his militias? We do not want to ask miracle questions such as: Can Bashagha change even a guard or a cook in the military camps and facilities run by Haftar and his children? Because this - God forbid! - is a measure that they cannot dream even of thinking to propose.

Another justification that Bashagha gave in his Facebook speeches to justify the existence of his government is the corruption of the Dabaiba government. This corruption is undoubtedly true, but Bashagha never talked about the corruption of his ally, who sorrowed debts of Libyan banks for more than 40 billions, which in fact he took by force (excluding the debts of the Thinni government). In addition to the establishment of an illegal investment entity that relies on force to steal resources and acquire state-owned assets and sell them without even going through any formal legal procedure, knowing that Haftar’s sons, as Bashagha himself put it; ‘Visit countries as envoys to explain his government’s point of view, using private planes and bank assets in billions. Bashagha never asks, indeed he cannot dare even to whisper about the source of this money! or how did Haftar’s kids have amassed all this wealth?

The problem with the parallel government does not lie in the person of Bashagha, nor in the support or opposition of Dabaiba or others. The problem of the parallel government is simply that it is Haftar’s government. He is the one who created, formed and supported it, and he and his sons practically control it. The very idea of Haftar as the “maker of governments” and who “appoints “head of government in place of another cannot be accepted.

Furthermore, the Bashagha government was not even be subjected to the flawed logic of previous dialogues that at least takes into account a minimum degree of equilibrium in the matter of forming a government, even though it was the logic that produced weak and corrupt governments, and half of its ministers were appointed by Haftar, who never accepted it as a partner in his areas of control.

However, this time he goes as far as brazenly producing a government by himself and adopting it in Aqila’s setting room alone without the participation of others in its matter, after which he kept low profile, leaving Bashagha and his supporters as his spokesmen defenders. Objecting to the parallel government is neither support for Dabaiba nor acceptance of corruption that Bashagha’s ally considered as one of its pillars. It is simply an objection to the brazenness and impudence an insolent attempt to install the war criminal Haftar as the king above all who is solely responsible for appointing and dismissing governments. This is a farce that cannot even be discussed!

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Health

## Italy offers to treat Libyan children with incurable diseases



The Italian Ambassador to Libya, Giuseppe Buccino, has expressed his country's readiness to treat Libyan children suffering from incurable diseases in Italian hospitals.

The disclosure came during Buccino's meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister/ Minister of Health in charge, Ramadan Abu Janah, on Sunday.

A statement by the Health Ministry said the meeting discussed strengthening cooperation and activating the agreements between the two countries in the health aspect.

The Italian ambassador expressed his desire to organize visits to Italian doctors who would provide treatment services within local hospitals and specialized centers and deliver training for medical and paramedical personnel.

The two sides also touched upon the debts owed by the Libyan state to Italian hospitals with respect to the treatment of Libyan patients and the war-wounded, in addition to supporting health facilities in the southern region.

Health

## Tripoli Eye Hospital conducts 40 surgeries for patients at risk of blindness



The Eye Hospital of Tripoli has conducted 40 eye surgeries for patients at risk of blindness while hosting the visiting doctor, Ahmed Mustafa, with the help of the hospital's major operating teams.

The Ministry of Health indicated that among the cases are children as young as a few months old who suffer from hereditary glaucoma.

The operations are part of the «Visiting Doctor Program» launched by the Ministry of Health in August of last year, intending to provide treatment inside Libya and allow local doctors to exchange experiences with their colleagues abroad.

It may be worth noting that the Minister of Health had approved a decision to form a national committee to localize eye treatment services in Libya.

The committee prepares plans and programs concerning eye treatment and surgeries inside Libya with the cooperation of visiting doctors.

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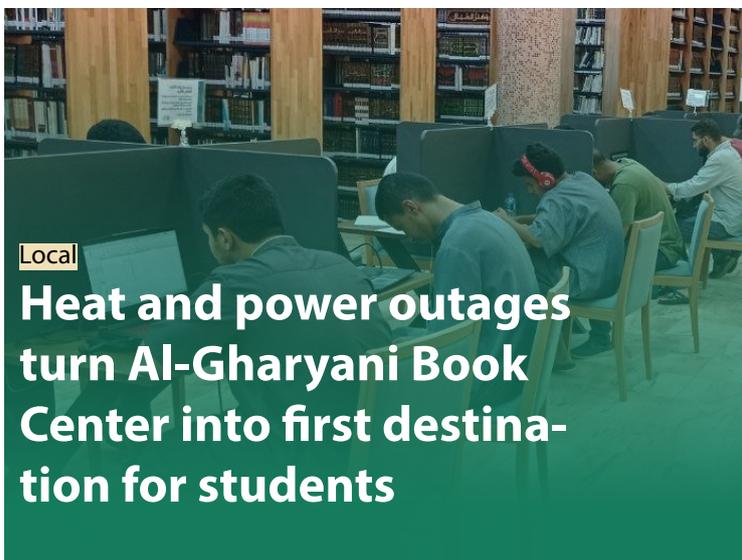


## Authorities arrest two people for looting dialysis supplies from hospital

Two people have been arrested on charges of looting tools used for dialysis treatment from the Tripoli Medical Hospital, the Ministry of Interior confirmed on Tuesday.

Members of the Investigation and Arrest Unit of the General Administration of Central Support Branch, Tripoli, were able to arrest two Libyans, one of whom stole equipment from the hospital and sold it to the other offender, the ministry said in a statement on Facebook.

The ministry seized eight boxes containing tools for hemodialysis treatment and two filters or (dialyzers). It confirmed that the offenders were referred to the competent authorities to undergo legal procedures.



Local

## Heat and power outages turn Al-Gharyani Book Center into first destination for students

Sheikh Ali Al-Gharyani Book Center in the eastern Tripoli suburb of Tajoura has become the first and favorite destination for students in light of long hours of power cuts and high temperatures.

The center contains power generators and provides free services, including internet, a free café, and desktop computers available to all.

The center also houses a big library containing about 30,000 books, in all specialized intellectual, literary and scientific fields. The center opens its doors to visitors from nine in the morning until eleven in the evening, and it recently announced that it will open its doors on Fridays as well, due to the current examination period for most of school and academic levels.

Local

## IOC registers White Tripolitaine Olive in the global encyclopedia of olive varieties



The International Olive Council (IOC) has included the Libyan White Tripolitaine Olive in the international register and the global encyclopedia of olive varieties for the IOC.

As a result of the molecular characterization of the olive varietal samples performed at the Olive Varietal Identification Service of Cordoba University, we can report that DNA extracted from Libyan Olive collected leaves received not matching any variety in the world olive germplasm bank, the university said, according to the Libyan embassy in Spain.

The embassy also noted that the Center for Research and Biotechnology in Libya conducted all scientific procedures of the tree, which led to the registration of White Olives in the name of Libya.

The International Olive Council is the only intergovernmental organization in the world to bring together olive oil and table olive producing and consuming stakeholders. It places in a unique position as a forum for authoritative discussion on issues of interest to the olive industry.

Education

## Ghariani Book Center hosts scientific symposium on educational problems in Libya

The Sheikh Ali El-Ghariani Book Center in Tajoura hosted on Monday a scientific symposium on the quality of education in Libya in coordination with the Tajoura Municipal Council.

The symposium entitled «Quality of Libyan Education between Reality and Ambition» highlighted challenges to good education in Libya, including the lack of appropriate conditions and environment

Speaking to The Libya Observer, Librarian Hisham Al-Kateb, at the book centre said the event was an opportunity for experts and those engaged in education to exchange notes and theses through a positive interactive format to identify and diagnose the problems.

The symposium consisted of six axes, in particular Libyan education quality, governance and entrepreneurship, teachers, school buildings, and remote learning.

The event featured the participation of government officials from the Ministry of Education and educational inspection departments of the municipalities of Tajoura, Souq al-Jumʿa, Abu Salim, Jafara, Tripoli, Zawiya, and Khums.

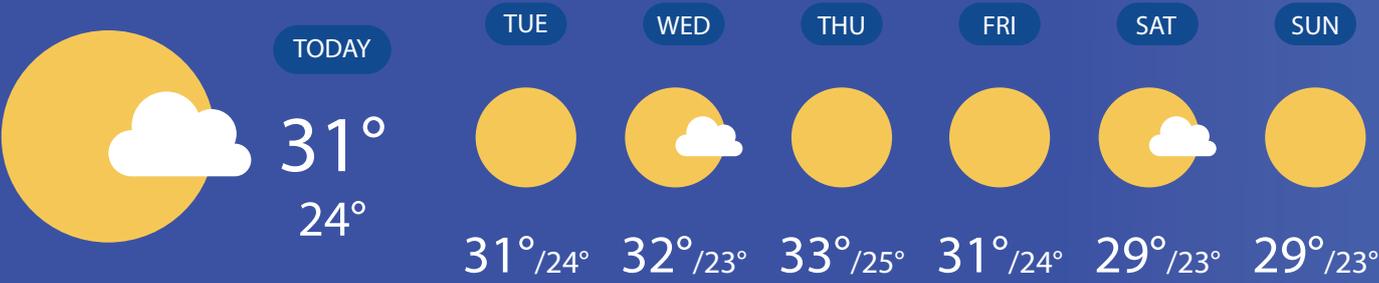
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Photo of the Week



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