

Politics

Gununu: Haftar will never enter Tripoli

The Libyan army spokesman, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Gununu, has stated that the statements of warlord Haftar's spokesman, Ahmed Al-Mismari, are a direct threat to the capital, Tripoli, saying that Haftar will not return to Tripoli no matter with whom he forged alliances.

In press statements, Gununu clarified that they have always supported political and social solutions. He called on UNSMIL to send observers to Sirte, Al-Jafra and Brak Al-Shati to identify the identity of Syrian mercenaries and thousands of members of the Russian Wagner Group being transferred to and from these areas. He also said that they are waiting for a UN investigation to reveal the crimes of genocide committed by warlord Haftar's militia against the people of Tarhuna.

Gununu said that Sirte, Al-Jufra, southern Libya and Al-Khadim base have today become centres for foreign mercenaries such as Wagner group from Russia, Syrians, and local criminal gangs accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity, after they were expelled from Tripoli and Tarhuna, to turn into the most dangerous places for security and community peace in Libya.

Gununu explained that they do not trust the ability of Haftar's militias to expel more than 5,000 Wagner mercenaries and same number of mercenaries from Syria, Sudan and Chad, and they do not believe that they have the ability to make this request at a time when Wagner Company continues to establish camps, fortifications and digging trenches.

The Libyan army spokesman said that they are not confident of the success of any peace path in which the executioner and the victim are treated on equal bases.

circulation of power.

Dbeibah added in his response on Twitter, calling Bashagha the former Interior Minister, to focus his efforts on entering elections and do away from the delusions of military coups.

Tripoli has been seeing security tensions lately with signs of mobilization of forces amid the conflict for power between Dbeibah and Bashagha, who was appointed by the House of Representatives to replace the former.

Politics

Al-Mismari: Drums of war are beating in Tripoli

The spokesman for Khalifa Haftar's forces Ahmed Al-Mismari said the drums of war are beating in Tripoli. This came in his remarks on a statement issued by the House of Representatives' (HoR) Prime Minister-designate Fathi Bashagha, which was seen by political observers as a latent call for war.

Al-Mismari told Saudi Al-Hadath TV Channel that he thought of Bashagha's government remarks as the ultimatum for those who are shouldering weapons, saying that what comes after this statement will only be a declaration of the entry to Tripoli.

Answering a question about whether Haftar's forces would participate in bringing Bashagha's government to Tripoli? Al-Mismari said this was not one of the tasks of their forces and they do not provide support for Bashagha or any others.

"This is a conflict for power in Tripoli, and each of the two men has an armed force and allies on the ground there. Whoever takes power in the capital, whether before or after the fighting, is the one who will be able to represent the Libyan government. We confirm that our forces are not a party to this conflict at all," Al-Mismari said.

Bashagha's statement on Tuesday warned legal action against those who are taking up arms against his government, saying the Government of National Unity has expired and has no legitimate status, adding: "no wrong or fighting with those who took the path of legitimacy and the homeland. We want peace and gasp for avoiding bloodshed, we say no to conflict and war against our brothers. Those who take up arms against the Libyan government are to be subject of legal action for their crime."

Bashagha government's Interior Minister Essam Buzariba also issued a statement calling on the Ministry's personnel to be on alert to protect public and private properties and maintain security in Tripoli and other cities, warning them against joining armed forces that want to fight the legitimate Libyan government and its right to work from inside Tripoli.

Observers believe those three statements are a declaration of war especially with the ongoing mobilization of forces on both sides.

Politics

Dbeibah to Bashagha: Focus on entering elections and stop coup delusions

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has called on Fathi Bashagha to stop sending letters and threats of war as well as targeting civilians.

This came in Dbeibah's response to Bashagha's letter on Wednesday, when the latter asked the PM, calling him ex-PM, to leave his post peacefully and commit to democracy and peaceful circula-

Politics

Tripoli forces say ready to deter any threats on security and safety of the capital



The military and security forces in Tripoli have warned war-seeking parties not to be a cause for fighting, stressing that they will be ready to defend and deter any force that may threaten the security and safety of the capital.

In a statement, on Tuesday evening in Tripoli, the military and security forces affirmed that they 'dissociate themselves from any political conflicts, and fighting in all its forms, affirming social peace.'

The forces said in their statement that 'they have communicated with all parties to prevent war and reach peaceful solutions to end the conflict between the political parties, explaining, however, that they see other parties seeking war and insisting on it for different purposes.'

The statement stressed that they would continue contacts with all parties in order to reach solutions away from war and fighting, calling for reverting to reason and wisdom, and placing the interests of the homeland and the public above all considerations.

Sources close to Tuesday's meeting reported that the meeting included the chiefs of the General Staff, land and air forces, the General Intelligence Service, as well as the commanders of the military regions and the commanders and leaders of the most important military battalions from various cities, foremost from the cities of Tripoli, Misrata, Zawiya and Gharyan.

The sources added that the meeting agreed to establish a contact group led by the commanders of the military regions to communicate with the political parties in order to reach a comprehensive peaceful solution.

However, they warned that 'in the event of intransigence of the party led by Maj. Gen. Osama al-Juwaili and its insistence on war, a joint operations room will be formed to defend the capital.

Humanitarian appeals to end siege by Haftar's militia on Buhadi village, south of Sirte

A number of residents of the village of Buhadi, located 30 kilometers south of the city of Sirte, appealed to the competent authorities and human rights organizations inside and outside Libya, calling for lifting of the siege imposed by an armed militia affiliated with Haftar's forces on the village.

Activists from the village - most of its residents belong to the Qadhadhfa tribe - said that the people of the village have been suffering from a continuous siege for two days, imposed by Tariq bin Ziyad Brigade of Saddam, the son of Haftar.

They stressed that the besieging forces cut off communications, electricity and gasoline, and closed shops. People were also prevented from going out for their needs or treatment, and secondary school exams were suspended.

Sources confirmed that the village has been subjected to intermittent bombardment since Sunday, which led to the fall of some of the shells on civilian homes, without causing any human damage so far.

The sources added that the besieged forces are still mobilizing their forces, and that there is a large military build-up with dozens of armored cars and tanks.

For its part, Haftar's forces said that they surrounded the village after its groups came under fire as they raided a farm exploited by fuel smugglers.

Bashagha hints at possible entry to Tripoli with help of armed forces

Politics

The Prime Minister designated by the House of Representatives (HoR) Fathi Bashagha has hinted at possible entry to Tripoli to assume office with his government in the place of the Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah and the Government of National Unity.

Bashagha added in a speech on Friday to a number of western region's elders in Misrata that 7 million people are awaiting the entry of his government to Tripoli, including the residents of the Libyan capital.

"Those who are supporting Dbeibah are a minority group that is working for its own private interests. They don't even exceed 200 persons," Bashagha said, expressing his desire to enter the capital peacefully so the country is spared from

bloodshed but reiterated that he "is ready to use force if forces backing Dbeibah resorted to using weapons."

"Dbeibah's government is working against the interests of Libyans with the help of foreign countries, and it has its own agenda. It failed since taking office to lead Libya to elections," Bashagha said, warning his government's entry to Tripoli opponents that they would be killed as criminals not martyrs as they would be obstructing the interests of the Libyan people.

Bashagha has tried to enter and take control of Tripoli since receiving confidence from the HoR as a new PM. He failed twice and then said his government would be based in Sirte.



Economy



Eni says ready to increase gas production in Libya to meet Europe's demands

Eni, Italy's oil giant, has expressed the willingness to launch a new phase of investments in Libya aimed at increasing the gas output of the country, leveraging on the significant exploration potential as well as on the existing facilities which grant access to the domestic and the European export markets.

In a statement on Wednesday, Eni said the National Oil Corporation (NOC) Chairman, Farhat Bengdara, along with a delegation of NOC's senior executives, met in Rome with Eni's CEO Claudio Descalzi, to discuss Eni's activity in the country and strategic projects.

Eni CEO and NOC Chairman also discussed on implementation of renewables projects in the Country as the CEO of Eni welcomed the NOC plan to increase the daily output of the country up to 2 million barrels of oil per day and reaffirmed Eni's support to reach this target for the mutual benefit of the parties.



Economy

Al-Hawij discusses the vision of the Ministry of Economy and Trade 2040

The Minister of Economy and Trade in the Government of National Unity (GNU), Mohammed Al-Hawij, discussed on Tuesday the vision of the Ministry (2040), in a meeting with a group of academics and specialists in the field of economy and investment at the Libyan Center for Strategic Studies. The discussion touched on the current situation of the Libyan economy, the impact of the exchange rate on the national economy, the preparation and implementation of the state's economic identity, and the extent to which the ministry's decisions are implemented by the controlling authorities.

The meeting also discussed the importance of the role of the Ministry of Economy and Trade in preparing the general budget of the Libyan state, as well as economic reforms and food and drug security.

Al-Hwaj confirmed that the GNU approved the establishment of the Grain Office based on the proposal of the Ministry of Economy and Trade to provide the strategic grain reserve.

Economy



Minister of Finance confirms that achieving stability in Libya needs support from international organizations

The Minister of Finance in the Government of National Unity, Khaled Al-Mabrouk, has confirmed that achieving stability in Libya needs more technical support from international organizations, especially the World Bank Group (WB).

Al-Mabrouk explained during the Development Partners Forum, which was held on Wednesday in Tripoli, that the WB lend a hand to help Libya in all fields, especially in health and electricity, pointing to the lack of communication that Libya is facing with WB.

He also revealed that the Ministry of Health has started holding meetings with the WB to work on reforming the health situation in the country.

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Economy



Libya, Indonesia discuss trade relations

The Deputy Minister of Economy and Trade for Commercial Affairs, Sohail Boushiha, met on Monday the Indonesian Ambassador to Libya, Mohammad Ma'ruf, to discuss bilateral trade relations and tapping into the Indonesian experiences on the Blue Economy.

The two sides stressed the importance of strengthening the relationship and cooperation in all areas of common interest and to support contacts between the two countries' specialists.

The Ambassador referred to the visit of business people and investors from Tripoli Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture to Indonesia last July in coordination with the Ministry of Economy and Trade.

The delegation toured fisheries and marine resources and paid visits to factories and companies in Indonesia. He also referred to the visit and meeting of Chief advisor of Libyan Graduate Academy with the Dean of Fishery and Marine Science College at the Indonesian University of Diponegoro to discuss cooperation aspects and to see beforehand the proposal to create fisheries and marine sciences discipline at the Libyan Academy.

Boushiha underscored the importance of such visits to exchange experiences, stressing that the ministry of economy would offer all facilities to promote the role of business people and investors from both countries.

Economy



Governor: Central Bank to implement cash orders for government work

The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir said in a meeting with the Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah that the CBL will implement the cash orders in chapters (1,2 and 4) of the budget to facilitate the government and administrative work as well as provide services to the people.

Al-Kabir and Dbeibah reviewed the most important observations of the CBL, according to the monthly report issued by the CBL, which aims at disclosure, transparency and clarification of all government expenditures.

According to the media office of the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Dbeibah stressed the need to increase disclosure and transparency in all expenditures and for commitment to implement basic services for Libyans.

The PM also reaffirmed the role of the CBL as the economic advisor to the state and to contribute to solving all the problems and difficulties facing the government in order to provide services to all Libyan regions without exception.



Economy

Sanalla warns against scrapping Ras Lanuf refinery

Former Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mustafa Sanalla, criticized the ongoing talk about scrapping the Ras Lanuf oil refinery with the aim of 'underestimating' its value, estimating it at zero or less, as he put it.

In a statement posted on his Facebook account, Sanalla praised those whom he described as rejectionist who refused to squander the refinery, which is in dispute with the UAE company Tarsta, pointing out that the talk about scrapping the refinery is not based on accurate technical data.

The NOC Media Department had said that a legal, financial and technical team was formed to present the available alternatives to end the process of closing the refinery.

Opinions

On Libyan army founding anniversary



By Abdulmuncef Al-Bouri, a Libyan writer

Against the backdrop of the outbreak of World War II, a Libyan national army emerged, surrounded by exceptional circumstances and indeed, difficult times. However, it had the honour of contributing to the liberation of the country from fascist Italian colonialism and its alliance with Nazi Germany, when it fought many battles on advanced fronts, until the defeat of Italy and Germany in the war.

After independence, the Libyan army was established, the Military College was inaugurated, and training missions were dispatched abroad to train Libyan commanders and officers who formed the nucleus of the Libyan army.

It was a matter of pride for the Libyan people, as it included individuals from all over the country. Unfortunately, the dangerous and deadly disease of military coups, that began spreading in the Arab world, was transmitted to the Libyan army. Then, coup leaders emerged with slogans that resonated with the emotions and feelings of the Arab public. Indeed, military coup leaders became 'icons' even though they destroyed the very essence of the national state, thereby, shifting loyalty to themselves instead of the homeland, so much so that the situation turned, in most Arab countries that witnessed military coups, to its worst state.

In this context, the following question can be posed: Is loyalty to the country or to individuals? In the Libyan case, since Al-Gaddafi's military coup against the constitutional legitimacy, many Libyans have confused "affiliation and loyalty," which created an understanding in which no distinction is made between these two.

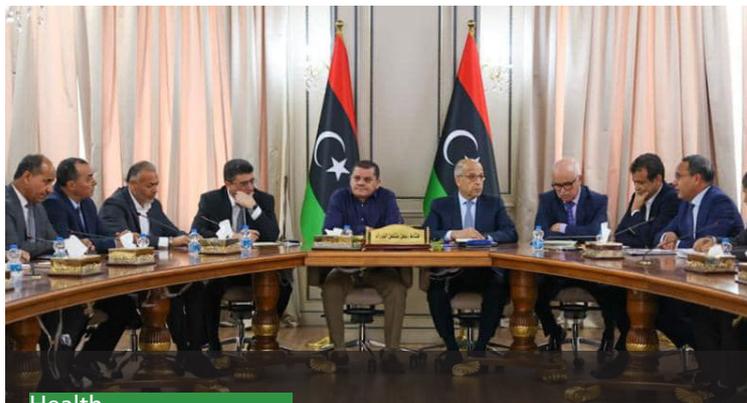
Belonging (affiliation) is stronger in connection to the land, homeland, and identity, and not to individuals, because affiliation is deep rooted in geography, history, and the environment. It goes deep into the meaning of true loyalty to the homeland, and in a way that does not budge an inch against the change of people and time.

Still, some insist and confuse between loyalty to an individual, be civilian or military in addition to the loyalty to the family, the tribe, and region, which affects the sense of belonging, loyalty and devotion to the identity of the homeland! This defect and lack of understanding may be based on historical, family or tribal backgrounds prior to the formation of modern states, backgrounds imposed by reality in a time that has long passed and ended, and yet some in our homeland still insist on its survival.

What we need in Libya is not only a structural change of the military leaders, east, west, and perhaps the south, who are quarreling over their loyalty to individuals, whether civilian or military, and struggling for power in their bids to come to power. What is also needed, removing sons, relatives, and loyalists from these commands and abolishing the centers of power they formed, which will suffice for the basic and entire purpose of building the sound national army, and restructuring its ranks and doctrine, thereby shifting its loyalty to the homeland alone.

The current situation today is almost identical to the time of former dictator, Muammar Al-Gaddafi, who dissolved the army and established the battalion system and placed his sons at the command of these battalions. This produced a succession of unqualified and unpatriotic military commanders as well as rank and file, established through intimate family relations and deep-rooted kinship, tribal and regional ties, through loyalty to him and his dictatorial rule, in addition to favoritism, and thus sons and followers infiltrated successively, the leadership was inherited and merged to occupy sensitive leadership positions. Unfortunately, in the light of our current conditions, the Libyan army lost its actual professional and leadership meaning, and lost with it as well the concept of submission to the one Libyan national will, due to huge number of ranking leaders pledging loyalty to individual, family, tribal and regional leadership rather than to the homeland.

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

Broad government meeting to discuss medical supplies

The Government of National Unity has convened a broad meeting with regulatory institutions to discuss three files related to the provision of medicine and meeting the medical supply needs of the country's health facilities.

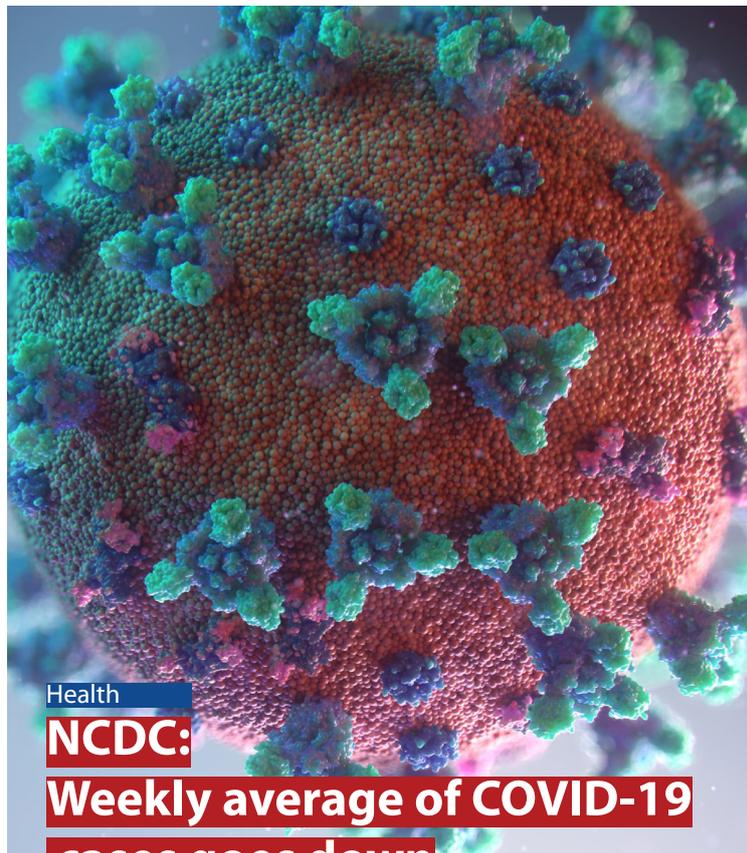
The meeting was attended by Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdel Hamid Dbeibah, his deputy, Acting Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah, and several officials representing national agencies, programmes and major hospitals.

The governor of the Central Bank of Libya, and the heads of the Audit Bureau, Administrative Control Bureau, the Internal Security Agency and the Municipal Guard have also attended the meeting.

They reviewed the outcomes of the technical committee, comprising specialists from the Ministry of Health and Internal Security Agency. The committee was assigned to determining the types of high quality and effective medicine, according to the Ministry of Health statement.

The meeting also discussed the strengthening of the legal and regulatory procedures for medicine, and implementing a national pharmaceutical policy aimed at enhancing the system to ensure quality, safety and effectiveness of medicines and health products, and import essential medicines.

It further reviewed the measures taken by the Ministry of Health in coordination with the regulatory authorities to implement the state's public tender, in order to meet the medical needs of the health facilities in the country.



Health

NCDC:

Weekly average of COVID-19 cases goes down

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has announced a decrease in the weekly average of COVID-19 infections, as it totaled an average of 56 cases per day. The percentage of positive cases went down to 20% by the end of last week.

NCDC reported on its weekly epidemiological situation of COVID-19 that its corona death monitoring centers recorded two deaths between August 12 and 18, with the death rate index stabilizing at the range of 1.33%.

In a related matter, NCDC confirmed that the current wave of Coronavirus has receded, as the geographical areas recording cases have shrunk to only 9 regions.

However, the Center pointed out that failure to record any cases in some regions does not reflect the true epidemiological picture in the regions, as this could be due to failure to report cases.



Health

60 people suffered food poisoning, 2 in critical condition

60 cases of poisoning have been reported in Al-Zawiya city as a result of eating spoiled food from a restaurant in the city.

The Ministry of Health statement quoted the Director General of Al-Zawiya Medical Center, Osama Sarkaz, as saying; 'Al-Zawiya Medical Center received 45 cases of food poisoning, 2 of whom were admitted to intensive care unit and are in critical condition, while several private clinics received the other 15 cases.'

Food and Drug Control Center, for its part, clarified that the cause of poisoning was due to eating meals in a restaurant, from which samples were taken, revealing that spoiled chicken were used in the preparation of the meals.



Education

Final exams for SEC kicks off across Libya

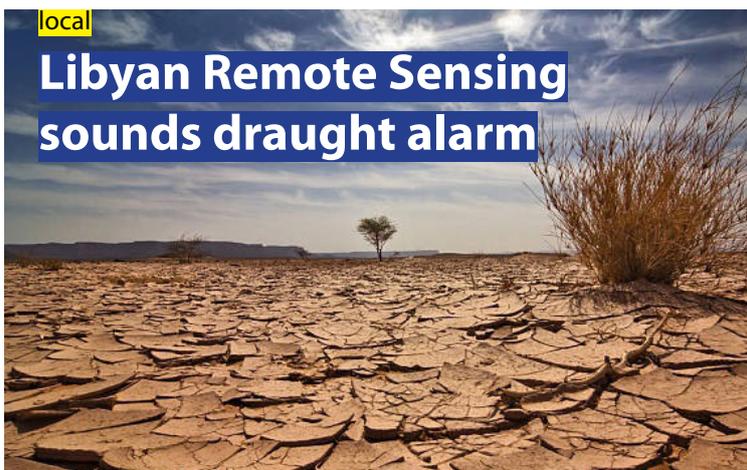
The final exams for the Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) kicked off Sunday across the country.

112,956 male and female students throughout Libya are setting their exams for all major disciplines, scientific, literary and religious studies.

Minister of Education, Musa Al-Maqrif, reassured the students taking the exams that the questions would take into account the different levels, and would cover what has been studied during the school year, and the curricula used.

The minister seized the opportunity, to instruct students on some techniques on how to handle their exams such as; to read the questions carefully, answering the most remembered first, starting from the easiest to the most difficult, and from the shortest to the longest, as well as checking and revising all their answers, once completed.

Students of Arts and scientific departments take their first exams in the subject of Islamic education, while students of religious education take their first exams in the subjects of the Holy Qur'an and its rulings and Islamic culture.



local

Libyan Remote Sensing sounds draught alarm

The Libyan Center for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences has called for declaring the state of emergency to confront and reduce the expected drought and provide an alternative solution for water shortages.

In a statement, the center said that the negative impact of climate change is closer than ever.

It pointed out that on August 19, the Sentinel 3 satellite captured an image of desert dust crossing from North Africa to Italy across the Mediterranean, explaining that this is not the first time, but this phenomenon has become increasingly frequent in recent years.

The disasters of forest fires in countries in both North Africa and Europe increased during the summer season, and according to the statistics of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service, Spain is the country most affected by these fires, as 250,000 hectares have been burned since June 4th, it explained.

The Sensing Center further clarified that the drought that Britain, France and Italy witnessed has been unprecedented, and rivers which are means of transit for ships loaded with foodstuffs and vegetables between regions and countries became dry, and the scale of decline in water levels was terrifying, in such short period of time.

The center noted that Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia are all witnessing fires in different areas of forests and natural reserves.

The center revealed that, according to the recommendations of the National Committee to Combat Desertification, there has been drought during the last three years in Libya, calling for declaring the state of emergency to reduce drought, and to provide an alternative for the lost quantities of water, whether for drinking, irrigation or fodder for breeders to protect livestock that are basically vulnerable, according to the center.

Local



Two drowning victims in Sirte

A woman and a child have died by drowning in the city of Sirte, due to severe turbulence in the sea currents, in the Zaafaran area.

The two bodies were recovered and they were transferred to Ibn Sina Teaching Hospital in the city, according to identical sources.

Despite repeated warnings from meteorological authorities to avoid swimming these days due to sea level fluctuations and charges along the Libyan coast, however, drownings have continued to occur since last Friday, with nearly 10 deaths in just four days.

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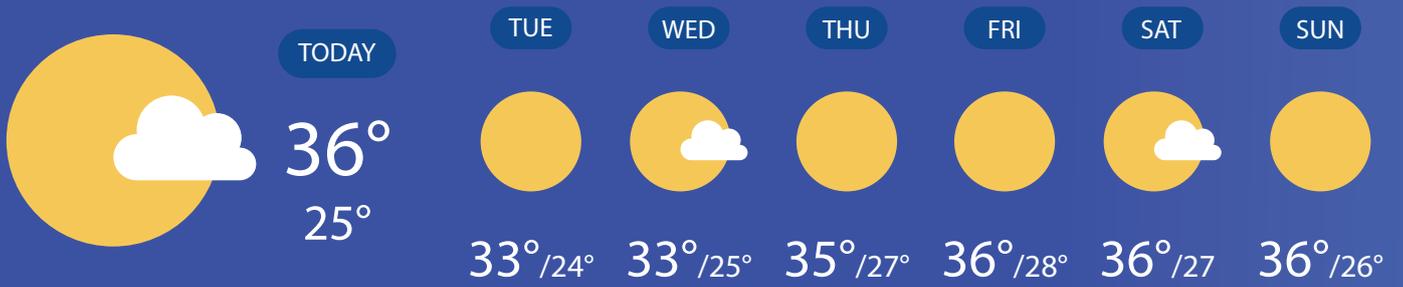


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Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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