

Politics

5,200 people have died so far in Derna because of Storm Daniel, east-based government says

The spokesman for the Ministry of the Interior in the government appointed by the House of Representatives, Tariq Al-Kharaz, said on Tuesday that the death toll of Storm Daniel, which struck the eastern region of the country, reached 5,200 people in Derna alone, adding that 1,300 bodies out of that number were buried after the families had identified them, while there were entire families who died.

Al-Kharaz said the number of bodies that had not been identified was massive and couldn't be buried at present because of

the lack of resources and support, expecting the death toll from the floods in Derna to rise to more than 10,000 people. He also said there were still many unrecovered bodies, adding that specialized rescue teams from Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt were working to recover the bodies that had been swept into the sea by the torrents.

Storm Daniel swept through several areas in eastern Libya on Sunday, especially the cities of Derna, Benghazi, and Al-Bayda, in addition to Sousse and Al-Marj, leaving

thousands dead and missing, and causing major infrastructure damage.

On Monday, the Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah declared all the municipalities that were hit by Storm Daniel and ensuing floods in the east of the country as disaster areas. He also declared, during an emergency Cabinet session, mourning for a period of 3 days, directing all "officials and ministers without exception to assess the conditions in the eastern region."



Politics

UN envoy hails solidarity among Libyans in the wake of Storm Daniel

The UN envoy to Libya Abdoulaye Bathily hailed the solidarity of local institutions from all regions to help confront the effects of Storm Daniel, saying that it was a moment in which everyone united to feel the pain of others, but also a moment in which everyone would heal their wounds together.

Bathily's remarks came as a message of condolence, sympathy and support to the Libyan people following the massive disaster caused by Storm Daniel in the east of the country.

"I feel deeply saddened by the disastrous effects of Storm Daniel on eastern Libya, and I offer my deepest condolences to the families of hundreds of innocent people who lost their lives, and thousands of wounded and missing, with sincere wishes for a speedy recovery for all those injured." He said, praising "the heroic efforts that have been made and are being made by the rescue teams from all members of the society, including military personnel, security personnel, and officials at the national and municipal levels."

He said they saw from watching the videos and photos the exemplary sacrifices made by hundreds of individuals trying to help, and that he was not at all surprised to see how Libyan local and national institutions, local communities and individuals from all over the country came to help their brothers and sisters in the areas that were severely affected.

The UN envoy indicated that the residents of eastern Libya were in dire need of all kinds of assistance, including food, water, shelter and medical care, and would also need assistance to rebuild their homes and restore their livelihoods.

He praised the countries that provided support to Libya, pointing out that the situation was catastrophic, saying the needs were enormous, calling at the same time on the international community to join hands and support the Libyan authorities to help those affected in eastern Libya.



Politics

Dbeibah orders round the clock monitoring of rescue measures in flood-affected areas

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah of the internationally recognized government (GNU) operating from Tripoli on Wednesday ordered round-the-clock monitoring of rescue and relief measures in the flood-affected areas east of Libya.

He gave directives to the heads of government agencies, institutions, and ministries to assign administrative alternates to ensure a 24-hour service and follow up on the situation.

Dbeibah said the measure would ensure continuous coordination between relevant authorities and step up action in the follow-up of work of the emergency and rapid response teams.

Despite the split in the country's administration, the GNU, based in Tripoli, hastened to send tons of medical supplies, body bags, and nearly a hundred doctors and paramedics to the affected areas controlled by the rival government in the east.

Meanwhile, the UN Envoy Abdoulaye Bathily took to his X platform on Tuesday to laud the prompt action of official and civil Libyan bodies towards the flooding crisis, describing it as a "moment of unity" and an opportunity to heal the wounds together.



Politics

UN to raise \$10 million for help people affected by floods in Libya



The United Nations (UN) launched a donation campaign: "Response to Libya Floods," to raise \$10 million to allocate the money to help those affected by the floods in the country, citing the fact that Storm Daniel had caused widespread damage in northeastern Libya, destroying thousands of homes and claiming thousands of lives, adding that at least 10,000 people are still missing. It said the donations should be directed to the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which had immediately allocated \$10 million for urgent, life-saving assistance to affected communities in Libya to allow responders to provide assistance whenever and wherever crises strike, as contributions from around the world would pooled into one fund and allocated at the most critical stages of emergencies.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Martin Griffiths, said on Wednesday on X platform that Storm Daniel claimed the lives of thousands of people, left widespread destruction, and eliminat-

ed livelihoods in eastern Libya, adding that he would allocate \$10 million from the CERF to quickly support those affected by the floods.

In a statement released by his Spokesperson, UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed his heartfelt condolences to the Libyan authorities and the families of those who perished, saying: "At this time, our thoughts are with the thousands of people being affected there in their communities, we stand in solidarity with all people in Libya during this difficult time".

Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric, briefing reporters in New York, added that Guterres said the UN team on the ground was responding at the site. Furthermore: "We are mobilizing resources and emergency teams to support those affected people and are working with local, national, and international partners to get urgently needed humanitarian assistance to people in the affected areas."

Politics

Decomposed bodies threaten Derna with diseases as city desperately needs aids



The member of the Crisis Committee in the Municipality of Derna, Hamad Al-Shalwi, described the humanitarian situation in the city as "catastrophic," stressing that it exceeded what the mind or imagination could fathom, adding in an interview with the Libyan News Agency that there were still many people trapped under rubble and in the mud, saying that the humanitarian situation was very bad, as the smells of decomposing bodies had begun to spread in the air, fearing that epidemics and diseases would spread if there was no quick response.

Al-Shalwi added that the search and rescue efforts were all self-assisted with the help of military forces and others from the Ministry of Interior as well as local community organizations, noting that the first international teams specialized in search and rescue after floods and disasters that arrived in the scene, were from Turkey and had been accompanied by advanced, modern and high-quality equipment.

Al-Shalawi added that food aids arrived from all parts of the country in a scene that indicated solidarity among Libyans. He also said that what Libyans were offering from was a severe shortage of drinking water, the water necessary for operations in the hospital, electric generators, and medical equipment and supplies.

He pointed out to the lack of fuel, especially diesel fuel, needed for the movement of ambulances, noting that Derna "has become three islands in the middle of a sea," and therefore they needed rubber boats and other sea mobile bridges to deliver supplies. He also revealed that search operations during three days had recovered more than 6,000 bodies as September 13, indicating that the number of reported missing persons exceeded 12,000, expecting the death toll to rise in the coming hours after the sea waves began washing bodies on the beaches of Derna and nearby areas.

Politics

WHO: Libya is facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis



The Regional Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Eastern Mediterranean, Ahmed Al-Mandhari, has said that Libya is going through an unprecedented humanitarian crisis as the impact of Storm Daniel begins to unfold.

The storm has caused the most intense and worst floods the country has experienced in the last century, with massive and devastating damage affecting between 1.5 to 1.8 million people in eastern Libya, Al-Mandhari added.

Speaking to Sky News Arabia on Thursday, the WHO official underscored that all those affected by the floods are in dire need of urgent forms of support, primary health services, and life-saving interventions.

He also warned of the increased risk of water-borne and other diseases that occur under such conditions.

With the toll of deaths only increasing, the response teams are in urgent need of body bags, as well as basic living supplies for the survivors, Al-Mandhari explains.

According to his statements, the number of missing people rose from 5,000 to 9,000 as of Tuesday.

He highlighted that the floods cut off electricity and communication in the region, besides the destruction it caused to the infrastructure, public facilities, and vital roads.

Al-Mandhari confirmed that their office in Libya is in close contact with the local health authorities to identify the urgent needs, as he reiterated the organization's readiness to support the response efforts, "especially since the current catastrophic situation requires the solidarity of the donor community and all partners."



The third and fourth planes from the Qatari airbridge arrived at Benina International Airport in Benghazi to help those affected by floods and torrents in eastern Libya. The two planes carried 54 tons of humanitarian and relief aid as an emergency response to the humanitarian situation in areas affected by floods and torrents, bringing the total Qatari aid to 121 tons.

The aid included food, relief materials and medical equipment provided by the Permanent Committee for Rescue, Relief and Humanitarian Aid in the affected areas of brotherly and friendly countries.

The UAE Agency announced the arrival of five relief planes to Benina International Airport in Benghazi on Thursday. The planes carried three rescue teams and urgent relief and medical aid, while on Wednesday, the agency announced the arrival of the first Emirati rescue team to Benghazi, which began its humanitarian mission in the city of Derna.

The Libyan capital, Tripoli, received a Palestinian urgent intervention and response team on Thursday, and the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the team would begin its humanitarian relief mission by participating in search and rescue operations carried out in the areas affected by Storm Daniel in the east of the country. The German embassy in Libya announced that a plane carrying essential aid was heading to the eastern region to help mitigate the effects of the devastation caused by Storm Daniel.

The embassy said in a post on its Facebook page: "Basic and necessary aid has now been successfully loaded onto our plane in Germany, which will head to the eastern region of Libya," without giving details about the amount of aid.

For the last two days, planes carrying medical and relief supplies as well as search and rescue teams have been arriving from several countries, including Turkey, Algeria, Tunisia, Malta, Spain, and Italy.



Economy
Elkaber, Bathily review CBL's road map for the next stage

The Governor of Libya's Central Bank (CBL), Saddek Elkaber, met on Thursday with the UN Envoy Abdoulaye Bathily to discuss a roadmap after the bank's unification and its role in driving economic growth and reinforcing financial and monetary stability in the country.

During a meeting at the CBL's HQ in Tripoli, the two sides discussed the bank's efforts to enhance transparency and disclosure of public spending and revenue using monthly data.

A statement by the CBL on Facebook said that Bathily reaffirmed the UN mission's full support for efforts towards unifying the bank and its readiness to cooperate with the CBL in any steps in this regard.



Politics
Emergency and Ambulance Apparatus makes distress call to rescue families in Soussa

The Emergency and Ambulance Apparatus issued a distress call to all emergency teams to head to the city of Soussa to rescue the stranded people and those affected by Storm Daniel, describing the situation as catastrophic.

The spokesman of the Apparatus, Osama Ali, said in a press statement that more than 1,000 inhabited housing units were flooded with water as a result of the storm and ensuing floods that struck the eastern region.

Ali described what was happening in the city as a major disaster, saying that Soussa was appealing to save what can be saved, but without any action from the authorities.

Soussa Municipal Council member Marawan Al-Nihoum described the city as a disaster, an area without electricity, and drinking water. Al-Nihoum added that the teams were still busy in rescue operations and finding survivors, noting that they were unable to count the number of victims and that the number of missing people was approximately 90. He said that more than 3,000 homes were damaged. Al-Nihoum indicated that bodies were arriving in the city through the sea waves from an unknown direction, and that visitors to the city were swept away by the current and the floods along with their cars, adding that they had no information about them yet. He also explained that the water flooded most of the houses and resulted in major material losses, calling on the Red Crescent to intervene and rebury the bodies.



Economy

CBL holds annual Libyan Banking Conference on Compliance

The second annual Libyan Banking Conference on Compliance kicked off in the Capital, Tripoli, on Monday under the supervision of Libya's Central Bank (CBL) and in cooperation with the Arab Banking Corporation "Bank ABC."

The conference featured a host of officials working in the banking sector, including directors of the CBL departments and representatives of the Arab Banking Corporation from Bahrain, the United Kingdom, Tunisia, and Libya, besides officials from the Libyan commercial banks, sovereign investment funds, and electronic payment companies.

Launching the event was Governor Saddek Elkaber of the CBL, who highlighted the bank's efforts towards developing compliance systems according to best practices and international standards in terms of combating financial crimes and risk assessments for money laundering and terrorist financing.

The conference serves as a platform for Libyan, regional, and international banks to share experiences, discuss how best to combat financial crimes, and enhance the capabilities of Libyan banks in applying international compliance standards, the CBL governor added.

High on the conference's agenda were challenges facing Libyan banks in the field of compliance and best practices for combating financial crimes.



Economy

Libya's oil output surpasses 36 million barrels in August

Libya's crude production amounted to 36,517,121 barrels per day (bpd) last month, a National Oil Corporation bulletin said on Friday.

The NOC noted that petroleum products averaged 458,126 tons, petrochemical products 24,008 tons, production of condensate amounted to 199,438 tons, while natural gas production was estimated at 1.71 billion 597,5111 cubic meters.

Earlier today, the Mellitah Oil and Gas Company announced the successful completion of drilling oil well No. (FB34) in the El Feel field.

The Corporation reported last week a slight decline in crude oil production to 1.204 million barrels per day from 1.208 million barrels recorded on August 23. During the same period, production of condensate reached 50 thousand barrels.



Economy

Italian company wins a \$217 million contract to install compression unit in Sabratha

The Italian Antonini Group has won a \$217 million contract to construct the Sabratha platform compression project.

Under this contract, the company will build a compression unit for Mellitah Oil and Gas Company, which will be installed on a gas platform located 42 meters above sea level and 120 meters from the coast in Sabratha.

The project is expected to take around 27 months to complete. During the six-month operation phase, around 150 employees will work on a floating structure to install the project.

The Italian companies will handle all of the engineering, procurement, and construction of the project in Italy. However, the final installation work will be carried out in Libyan waters.

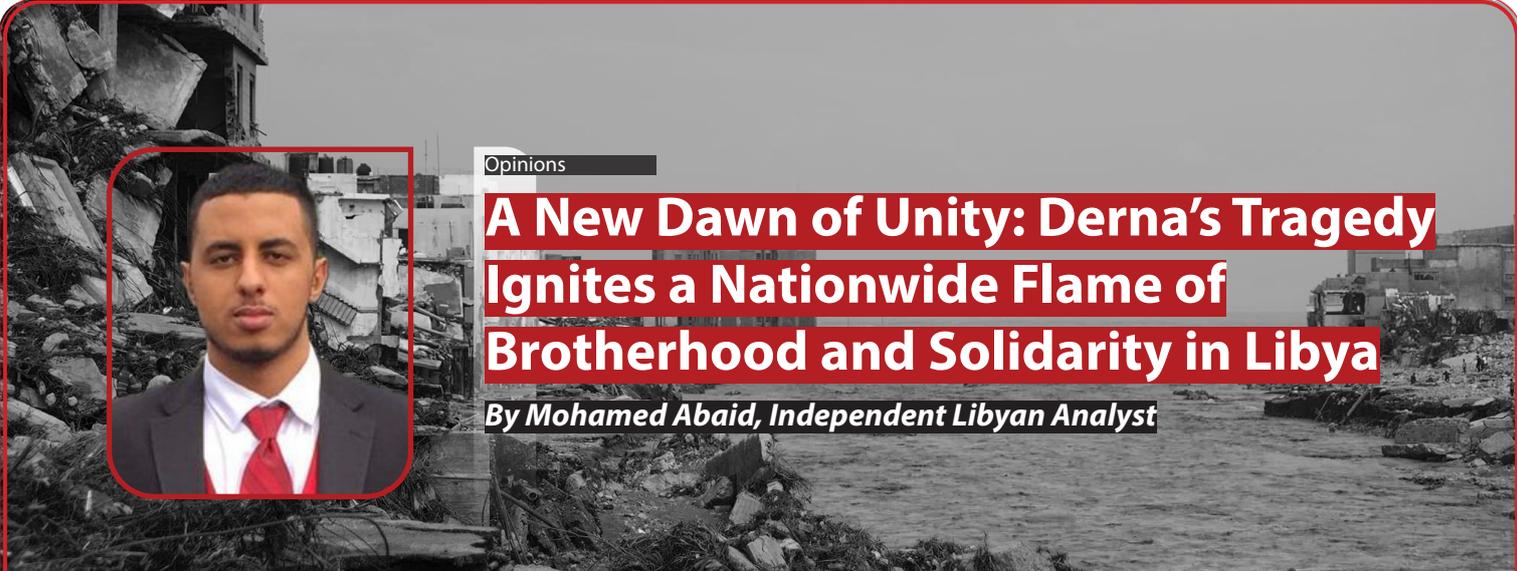
Antonini Group CEO Simone Antonini expressed his delight with the signing of this "significant agreement," noting that the Italian government and Eni CEO Claudio De Scalzi supported the project

as it represents a strategic sector for Italy.

The group had decided to invest in this sector and participate in major international tenders, which has led us to open a branch in Tripoli, Antonini said, indicating that they had already obtained important contracts in the field of engineering, supply, construction, and installation in Africa and the Middle East.

Apart from the Sabratha project, Antonini explained that they had signed a contract worth \$18.6 million to build structures that would accelerate the drilling process of the field. A newly installed platform would transport the produced gas to Sabratha, he explained.

The CEO of Antonini Group expressed his pride in the development of this project, which he said forms part of the group's international growth strategy and strengthens its presence in the Libyan market and the region in general.



Opinions

A New Dawn of Unity: Derna's Tragedy Ignites a Nationwide Flame of Brotherhood and Solidarity in Libya

By Mohamed Abaid, Independent Libyan Analyst

In the wake of the catastrophic events brought about by Storm Daniel in Derna, Libya, where the death toll has surpassed 5,000 and around 10,000 individuals are reported missing, a beacon of hope is emerging amidst the devastation. This tragedy has not only highlighted the urgent need for infrastructure reforms but has also ignited a nationwide flame of solidarity and brotherhood, potentially serving as a catalyst for uniting Libyans.

A Resurgence of Brotherhood and Unity

The harrowing scenes unfolding in Derna have spurred a spontaneous and overwhelming response from every corner of Libya. Citizens, irrespective of their regional affiliations, are rallying to provide aid to the devastated communities in Derna. This nationwide mobilization encompasses a wide range of support, including essential supplies, financial assistance, and temporary housing, showcasing a renewed sense of brotherhood and unity.

This outpouring of support is a testament to the inherent unity of the Libyan people, a unity that has the potential to heal the wounds of the past and forge a path of collective progress and prosperity.

Bridging the Divide: A Nationwide Response

The disaster in Derna has brought Libyans together, fostering a united front in the face of adversity. People from various regions are setting aside their differences, uniting to work towards the common goal of rehabilitating Derna. The government in Tripoli has been proactive, dispatching medical supplies and healthcare professionals to assist in the relief efforts, a gesture mirrored by communities and organizations across the nation.

This united response is a promising sign, hinting at the potential for fostering greater unity and collaboration in Libya. It showcases a renewed sense of national identity, where the focus is on humanitarian values and the collective well-being of the populace, transcending political and regional divides.

Addressing Infrastructure Challenges: A Wake-Up Call

The catastrophe in Derna has underscored the pressing need for substantial infrastructure reforms in Libya. The collapse of the dams, a result of years of neglect, serves as a stark reminder of the importance of maintaining and upgrading the nation's infrastructure. As Libya embarks on the road to recovery, it is imperative to learn from this disaster and to prioritize safety and sustainability in infrastructure development.

A concerted effort is needed to not only rebuild the physical structures but also to establish systems that prevent such catastrophes in the future. This includes investing in modern, resilient infrastructure and fostering a culture of regular maintenance and safety checks.

A Catalyst for Unity and Progress

The collective response to the disaster in Derna could potentially serve as a catalyst for fostering greater unity and collaboration in Libya. The shared grief and empathy generated by the disaster could pave the way for dialogue and reconciliation among the rival factions in Libya.

The collective efforts to rebuild Derna could serve as a blueprint for a new Libya, where unity and collaboration are the cornerstones of governance. It presents an opportunity to build a nation where the bonds of community and compassion triumph over division and discord, ushering in an era of peace and prosperity.

Conclusion

As Libya stands at a crossroads, the tragedy in Derna offers a glimmer of hope for a united future. The resurgence of unity and solidarity among the Libyan populace is a promising sign, hinting at the possibility of a new dawn where Libyans stand united, working hand in hand to rebuild and rejuvenate their nation.

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

Emergency Medicine sends medical convoy to storm-affected areas east of Libya

The Emergency Medicine and Support Centre has dispatched a medical convoy to the eastern parts of the country following the severe weather and floodings that battered the northeastern coasts of Libya.

The team comprises medical and paramedical specialists and paramedics, in addition to 17 ambulances equipped with intensive care and medical intervention services.

The Centre said it had coordinated with its branches in the eastern region to develop a joint action plan for a rapid response to confront the emergency in the affected areas.

The Mediterranean storm, which has officially been named Daniel by the national meteorological services, has lashed the northeastern coasts of Libya, including the key eastern city of Benghazi.

The storm paralysed overland travel and left many without electricity or telecommunication services.



Health

Italian medical team specialized in pediatric cardiac surgery conducted operations in Tajoura Center

The visiting Italian medical team specialized in pediatric cardiac surgery has performed a number of successful surgeries inside the Tajoura Cardiology Center, in cooperation with the medical staff at the Center.

This came after medical examinations conducted by the team for cases registered in the Apparatus for Supporting and Developing Clinical Services.

The visit of the Italian medical team comes as part of the project to localize treatment in the specialty of pediatric cardiac surgery, launched by the Apparatus for Supporting and Developing Clinical Services with the support of the Ministry of Health of the Government of National Unity.



Health

Tons of expired medicines fill the Health Ministry's stores

The head of the Committee for the Disposal of Expired Medicines in the Ministry, Wafaa Al-Ghariani, has revealed that the ministry's stores are full of expired medicines, which exceeds 100,000 tons, including cancer medicines, distributed in various regions in the country.

Al-Ghariani stressed that they will be disposed of through coordination with the judicial authorities, the municipal guard and health facilities, in accordance with applicable health conditions.



Sports

Libyan volleyball team qualifies for semifinals of Men's African Nations Championship

Libyan volleyball team beat Chad 3-0 (25-17, 26-24 and 25-20) on Saturday to reach the semifinals of Men's African Nations Championship in Egyptian capital, Cairo. Libya will play Algeria, which beat Rwanda 3-0.

Libya's team reached this round after being exempted from playing the round of 16 match, where it would have faced the fourth of the first group. This happened because the group consisted of only three teams (Algeria, Burundi, and Egypt).

The national team performed well in the ongoing African Volleyball Championship in Egypt, where it managed to achieve three consecutive wins in the group stage: beating Ghana 3-1, then Kenya by 3-0, and finished the group stage by winning its third match against Cameroon 3-1, to collect nine points and top Group C.

Volleyball in Libya had been seeing a good momentum for some time, as the national team won the gold medal at the 15th Arab Games in Algeria, beating the hosts: the current semifinals' opponent.



Education

Classes in western region suspended "in solidarity" with students in the east

The Ministry of Education of the Tripoli-based government (GNU) has announced the suspension of studies for ten days, starting next Sunday.

The ministry said the decision comes "in solidarity with students in the storm-affected areas, east of the country."

In the same context, the Hakomitna platform also noted that Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah ordered the suspension of classes at the primary and intermediate stages throughout Libya for a period of ten days due to "the tragic circumstances", which some eastern cities are going through.

According to the same source, the Education Ministry is working to provide temporary premises and redistribute students to nearby educational institutions to ensure they enroll in classes as soon as possible.



Crimes

Tripoli Court of Appeal sentences 19 people to death and imprisonment

The Attorney General's Office has disclosed that Tripoli Court of Appeal sentenced three people to death and life imprisonment, and 13 others to 12 years' imprisonment on charges of breaking into a house, killing three of its residents, and seriously wounding two others in 2011.

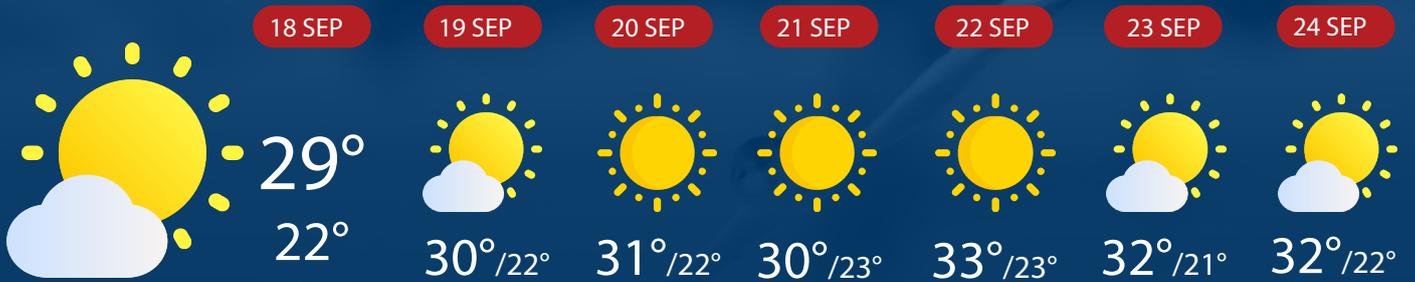
The court also sentenced, on Thursday, two defendants to death for killing a person after chasing him and shooting him in 2012, according to the Attorney General.

Tripoli Court of Appeal also sentenced to death an accused of killing two people and seriously wounding others in 2012.

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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