



The United States and the UK are embroiled in a spat over who should hold the number two job in the UN mission in Libya, Africa Intelligence said on Wednesday.

The French website says that while Washington is backing its candidate Kenneth Gluck, London wants the position to go to its diplomat Joanne Adamson, who is currently serving with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSMA) in Mali.

From 2014 to 2016, Ms. Adams was her country's ambassador to Mali and Niger before she was appointed as deputy head of the European Union delegation to the United Nations.

On the other hand, Kenneth Gluck of the United States served as UN deputy head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic from 2017 to 2019.

He also joined the United Nations Support Mission in Yemen, besides his work with Doctors Without Borders in Somalia and Sudan.

It may be worth noting that Raisidun Zeninga, who holds the position of Deputy Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, is due to leave office this month.



PC responds to HCS's rejection of Ghadames meeting

The Presidential Council (PC) on Monday urged the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS) to assume their national responsibilities, saying the planned meeting between the two sides in Ghadames aims to unite efforts to achieve Parliamentary and presidential elections as soon as possible.

In a statement, the PC said its decision to organize the Ghadames meeting was part of efforts to create a favourable environment leading to general elections within a constitutional framework agreed upon between the HoR and HCS.

The Council stated that despite welcoming the invitation from both sides, the HCS announced Monday that it would not participate in the Ghadames meeting without explaining the reasons. Last week, the PC put forward an initiative to hold a tripartite meeting comprising the HoR, the HCS, and the PC, in Ghadames, on 11 January to discuss the country's crisis and find a way out of the political deadlock.



Parliament (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh and Head of the High Council of State (HCS) Khaled Al-Mishri appeared in a joint press conference from Cairo on Thursday to declare an agreement on the constitutional document.

The deal, created in the Egyptian Parliament's halls, provides that committees of both sides refer the document to their councils for approval.

The two parties also agreed to set a clear and specific road map they would announce later to complete all procedures related to the electoral process, including the foundations and laws, the executive actions, and the unification of institutions.

During the press conference, attended by the Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament, Aguila and Al-Mishri praised the role of international and local parties, led by the United Nations Support Mission

in Libya and its head Abdoulaye Bathily, in addition to the "friendly and brotherly countries seeking Libya's stability, safety, and territorial integrity."

Saleh said, "the elections are the prime goal, and this will be possible after reaching full agreement on the laws governing the process."

He went on to add that "elections will be possible when the logistical and security measures are available," as he stressed the need for a unified authority to conduct the polls.

The HoR speaker indicated that a roadmap for the electoral process would be discussed later in a meeting inside Libya.

For his part, Al-Mishri backed the Egyptian-led agreement, but on the other hand, beneath the surface, there seemed to be nothing new. As he said following previous meetings with Saleh, Al-Mishri confirmed that the two sides reached a consensus on the draft constitutional "except for one or two items," which he did not disclose.

"We agreed in full conformity with the HoR to draft electoral laws, but if this does not happen, the laws will be subject to a referendum, where the opinion of the people, the source of the authorities, will be heard," the HCS head said.

However, he deemed the step very advanced, saying that it ends a controversial chapter, which enables them "to put the cart on the track and advance towards the polls as swiftly as possible."



Politics

Libya's HCS resumes dialogue with HoR, rejects Presidential Council's initiative

The Libyan High Council of State (HCS) voted on Monday in favor of resuming dialogue with the House of Representatives (HoR), after the suspension of communication between the two chambers for more than three weeks.

The HCS said this afternoon that it would resume dialogue with the HoR on all tracks: the sovereign and constitutional positions and the track of the executive authority.

The HCS also voted to reject the Presidential Council's invitation to meet with the Speaker of HoR, Aqila Saleh, in Ghadames on January 11.

Meanwhile, the Head of the HCS, Khalid Al-Mishri, announced last December the suspension of communication with the Speaker of the HoR, Aqila Saleh, and the suspension of the work of the joint committees until the retraction of the law establishing a constitutional court in Benghazi instead of the constitutional circuit court of the Supreme Court in the capital, Tripoli. On December 23, the HoR retracted the law, according to a joint statement issued by the two chambers. The statement was not very welcome by the members of the HCS because it did not cancel the law as they had demanded, but rather retracted its official issuance only.

Last Thursday, the Presidential Council called in an official letter to Saleh and Al-Mishri to attend a meeting in Ghadames on January 11 to resolve the political crisis in the country.

Politics

Libyan PM accuses Saleh and Al-Mishri of working on sharing power through dubious deals

The Libyan Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, said that Libyans are entering a new year and seeing that the Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR) Aqila Saleh, and High Council of State (HCS), Khalid Al-Mishri, plunging the Libyan people with continuous disappointments by insisting on remaining in their positions.

In a cabinet meeting on Monday, Dbeibah said that Saleh and Al-Mishri are busy searching for new ways to share power through "suspicious deals," accusing them of seeking to share power by depriving the Libyan people of holding elections on the previously scheduled date: December 24, 2021.

Dbeibah said that the force majeure that prevented the elections from being held in 2021 was nothing but "a ghoul that the Libyans fear," stressing the readiness of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) and his government to hold elections, adding that 2023 will be the year of elections and the unity of institutions.

He explained that the development sector has been on the move and accelerated since his government took over despite attempts of obstruction.

"We have begun to build schools in all parts of Libya in projects that have been suspended for 20 years. 2023 will have strict follow-up on government procurement to complete all contracts after being accused of corruption previously." Dbeibah said, stressing that the government's most important achievement was activating local administration, which did not happen in the previous years.



Politics

Bashagha's government threatens escalation to stop oil revenues from going into NOC's bank accounts

The Minister of Planning and Finance of Fathi Bashagha's government, Osama Hammad, threatened in a letter addressed to the Attorney General, the Head of the Administrative Control Authority, the Head of the Audit Bureau, and the Head of the Anti-Corruption Authority, to use escalation to stop the flow of oil revenues to the bank accounts of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) to prevent money from going to the Government of National Unity headed by Abdul Hamid Dbeibah.

In his letter, Hammad said the NOC played a pivotal role in violation of the law by sending money to the accounts of the Ministry of Finance of the Government of National Unity (GNU) with financial coverage from the oil revenues deposited in the NOC's account with the Libyan Foreign Bank. Hammad threatened to resort to taking a number of escalatory measures to stop the flow of oil and gas sales' revenues to the NOC's bank account in order to preserve state funds. He also accused the GNU of committing what he described as financial violations, including the transfer of an amount of more than 16 billion and 500 million dinars from the budget's Chapter Three allocations without a legal basis. He also said that taking such measures would contribute to preserving public money from exploitation and squandering.

Since the HoR announced the formation of Bashagha's government, Bashagha has been trying to search for funding sources to cover the government's budget to help it perform its duties.

Economy



African report: Maximum oil production capacity in Libya won't exceed 1.8 bpd

A report by the African Chamber of Energy estimated Libya's maximum oil production capacity at about 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) by 2024, even if elections are held and political stability prevails in the country.

The expectations of the African Chamber for Energy issued at the beginning of this year came after the Government of National Unity said it hoped to produce three million bpd after two or three years.

The African Chamber for Energy, which is concerned with defending the interests of the energy sector in the continent, confirmed that Libya will witness a growth in its production capacity in 2023. Oil blockades in Libya caused a decrease in the production of African liquids, and the report expected that the supply would remain stable despite the effects of the Libyan political conflict on African production levels in 2022.

Political and security divisions in Libya prevented production stability after the collapse of supplies in mid-April when protests forced the closure of many oil sites and exports' terminals.

Meanwhile, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) was involved in the political conflict, which led to the replacement of the Chairman of its Board of Directors.

The African Chamber for Energy said that Libya would witness maximum growth in the medium term compared to 2022, provided that internal conflicts are calmed, and according to estimates, Libya's oil production may reach 1.3 million bpd in 2023 after it had settled at 1.12 million bpd in 2022.

It also expected in the 2023 forecast report for the state of African energy that the demand for drilling platforms and exploration for oil and gas will witness a noticeable increase in 2023, led by countries in the north of the continent, including Libya and Egypt.

Economy



Libyan Oil Minister, US State Department officials review revenues' file

The Libyan Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Oun, discussed with officials from the US State Department the file of oil revenues and how to put them into the best use to develop the country with the transition towards the use of renewable energy.

Oun presented during the meeting, which took place in Washington, the Libyan ministry's vision for the future of the oil sector, and its endeavor to achieve the principle of transparency and good governing, the ministry said in a statement on its Facebook page on Thursday.

Oun highlighted the importance of American technology and experience, and the role the US can play in exploring and developing oil fields in Libya, in addition to exploiting shale oil and gas reserves that can contribute to meeting the needs of the global market.

The American side reaffirmed support for the vision of the Ministry of Oil and Gas in Libya and the importance of taking the benefit from oil revenues to serve Libyans, noting that the American administration does not object to providing technical and practical assistance through its companies in the field of oil and gas.

The meeting was attended by US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for North African Affairs Joshua Harris, North Africa file official at the US National Security Council and his deputy, in addition to the Libya file official at the Near East Office of the State Department.

Economy



Sirte Oil Company resumes production at Al-Jabal field

Sirte Oil and Gas Company has announced the restart of Al-Jabal field at its full production capacity, which will add about 9,000 barrels, and the actual start of the gas lift system in the Zeltan field.

This came in a statement on the company's most prominent oil marketing activities during the last quarter of 2022, on the National Oil Corporation's Facebook page, confirming the completion of the 3D seismic survey project in the Ghadames Basin, with a total area of 1,700 km².

The statement referred to the supply of equipment to develop the company's fields and prepare them to be smart fields.



Economy

Brega to set up a petroleum oil plant and another for gas cylinders

Brega Oil Marketing Company has announced plans to establish a new factory for producing petroleum oils, and another for gas cylinders, in cooperation with the National Oil Corporation. The company indicated that its management had completed the economic feasibility studies, which they will discuss during the general assembly meeting. Brega released a statement Monday listing its most prominent

activities during the last quarter of 2022. In its readout, the company indicated that the Government of National Unity has approved the establishment of the Janzour Oil Depot project and allocated a budget for its implementation. With this new depot, Tripoli will be able to receive oil derivatives through a floating marine point, according to Brega company.



Economy

Central Bank of Libya publishes spending and revenue stats of 947 official bodies

The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) published its annual statement of public revenues and expenditures, which covers the period from 01/01/ to 31/12 2022.

The CBL published revenue and spending statistics for all sectors and their affiliates, which number 947, indicating that total expenditures amounted to 127.9 billion dinars in 2022, while total revenues amounted to 134.4 billion dinars.

According to the CBL, oil revenues reached 105 billion dinars, taxes 1.4 billion dinars and customs 211 million, while spending on salaries reached 47.1 billion dinars, development 17.5 billion, and subsidies 20 billion dinars.

According to the statement, the House of Representatives' (HoR) expenditures exceeded one billion dinars, while the expenditures of the Council of Ministers of the Government of National Unity neared two billion dinars, the High Council of State about half a billion, and the Presidential Council more than 775 million dinars.

Regarding foreign currency exchange revenues, the CBL indicated that they amounted to 27.3 billion dollars, of which 2.5 billion were oil royalties for previous years, while the total foreign currency exchange usages in the past year amounted to 28.5 billion dollars.

The CBL also confirmed the continued decline in customs revenues, which does not go in line with the value of the granted letters of credit that are estimated at 211 million dinars.

Economy



Al-Hibri: Parliament insisted on disbursing six billion LYD to Bashagha government

Former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Ali Al-Hibri, has disclosed that the House of Representatives (HoR) insisted on allocating six billion dinars to the parallel government headed by Fathi Bashagha.

In a televised interview, Al-Hibri said that the HoR's decision to dismiss him came after he rejected this request.

"There were two letters addressed to the HoR, the first issued by the head of the parallel government with a value of three billion and 890 million, and the second from the Minister of Finance, Osama Hamad, with a value of six billion," Al-Hibri explains.

He elaborated by saying that most of these funds were allocated to Chapter Three under the item of projects, indicating that he refused to disburse the funds citing that such projects need careful and in-depth study by the relevant sectors.

Opinions

Libyans and the Unfinished Revolution

By *Mohammed Belrawin*, a political science professor



Revolution is a process of radical, fundamental and comprehensive change in the way a country is governed to replace its social, economic and political policies with what is fairer and more useful, and to seek to build a new system of governance based on human dignity, right to choose and rule of law.

Revolution here does not mean “war”, because wars occur between enemies, and when people revolt, they do not consider their opponents as enemies, but mere unjust, corrupt and failed politicians in the management of the state, and therefore forcing the people to overthrow them, repair what has been spoiled and build more just, free and advanced institutions.

Elements of success of revolutions

For any revolution to succeed, it must go through two complementary stages – the first stage, which is the stage of demolition, i.e. the overthrow of the regime, and the second stage, which is the stage of rebuilding an alternative system to it, thus completing the revolution and achieving its goals for which it was established.

In fact, every student of history of successful revolutions would note that there are important and necessary elements that contributed to their success, perhaps the most important of which are: unified leadership, effective vanguard, and clear programmes.

First: Leadership

Successful revolutions have been led by people and groups filled with hope and dream of a better society. Therefore, a unified revolutionary leadership is necessary to guide the masses and the management of the revolutionaries towards the desired goal. For example, George Washington was the founding father of the United States and commander of the Continental Army for Independence (1775–1783), Lenin was the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, Mao Zedong was the leader of the Chinese Revolution of 1949, the Algerian National Liberation Front was a symbol of collective leadership and leader of the War of Liberation against the French (1954-1962), Ayatollah Khomeini was the leader of the Iranian Revolution of 1979, and Nelson Mandela was a symbol of the South African Revolution (1989-1997). All these (and others) were among the most important reasons and key to the success of these revolutions.

Second: Vanguard

In addition to having a unified leadership, for any revolution to succeed, there must be real revolutionaries who believe in its goals and slogans. A revolutionary is a field person who is involved in the making of the revolution. In other words, revolutionaries are the cadres (i.e. makers) of the revolution, executors of the orders and instructions of the unified leadership, and they are what we can call the active revolutionary vanguard. What is meant by the vanguard here is an organized and trained group that works at the forefront of the masses of people to protect the revolution, achieve its goals, and create the popular support it needs, in other words, it is the field guard and advanced one for the revolution and the first on the battlefield to achieve its goals.

Third: Programmes

For any revolution to succeed – in addition to having a unified leadership and an effective revolutionary vanguard – its objectives must be defined and agreed upon with all active revolutionary forces, otherwise it will not be completed even if it succeeds in its first stage – the demolition phase, because it will fail in its second stage – the reconstruction phase, because those who created it did not

agree in advance on its final goals.

For example, the socialist revolutions succeeded in Russia in 1917 and in China in 1949, because their leaders agreed that the idea of social revolution was necessary to bring about structural changes in society, the leaders of the Iranian Revolution led by Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979 agreed on the idea of establishing an Islamic republic under the leadership of velayat-e faqih, and the South African revolutionaries led by Nelson Mandela agreed on the idea of achieving national reconciliation, ending the era of apartheid in the country, and establishing a just republican system governed by all.

An unfinished revolution

From what has been stated above, it can be concluded that the revolution of February 17, 2011 is an incomplete revolution, in the sense of a revolution that did not achieve its desired final goals, in other words, an incomplete revolution and lacks important and necessary elements for its success and completion, and here one may ask: Why did the revolution fail to achieve its goals? In fact, the main reasons that led to its incompleteness and inability to achieve its goals are: (1) the absence of a unified (individual or collective) leadership, (2) the absence of clear national programmes for the reconstruction of the state and the reconstruction of the homeland, and (3) the absence of an effective and unified revolutionary vanguard to implement agreed national programmes and be willing to sacrifice for them.

Path correction

Perhaps I am not exaggerating if I say that most of the wise Libyans agree that the revolution of February 17, 2011 has succeeded in its first stage - that is, the stage of overthrowing the regime, but it failed in its second stage - that is, the stage of rebuilding the state and achieving peace, security and safety for the citizen, and as a result of this failure, groups of opportunists controlled state key positions, and worse still, they are undemocratic, unqualified, and do not read, and if they read they do not understand, and as a result of their actions, state institutions collapsed and citizens became living in hardship, and the endless spiral of democratic absurdity.

In my humble opinion, Libya will not emerge from this dark tunnel unless the national elites, with all their orientations and affiliations, seek to agree on a “minimum programme” to correct the course of the revolution in simple, peaceful and civilized ways, and to work to rebuild the state and save the homeland as soon as possible.

The elites must realize that what the people need today is the formulation of a new social contract that organizes their lives and achieves the right to choose and live in dignity, the rule of law and the peaceful rotation of power. In other words, the formulation of a social contract that eliminates corruption and corrupt people, and achieves security, safety and a decent living, thus getting rid of those who stole their revolution, pounced on it, changed its course, and tampered with its wealth and sanctities.

In order to correct the course of the revolution and restructure the political, military and security institutions in the state, it is necessary to redress the damage and recognize the mistakes made in the past years and work to fix them by: (1) creating a unified national leadership. (2) Agree on minimum programmes – simple, clear and specific. and (3) reconstituting national administrative, military, and security vanguards – provided that they are competent, capable, and ready, and that their loyalty is to Allah and then to the homeland.

If the good people do not cooperate to achieve these three nec-

essary elements to reform the course of the revolution, inevitably chaos, absurdity, corruption and injustice will continue, and the term "State of Libya" will turn into just a slogan that has no sovereign meaning, used by bankrupts, opportunists and international powers to legitimize their existence and influence, and the "Libyan land" will turn into arenas of conflict, areas of influence, and centers of power - some regional, some ethnic, some tribal, and others family -, and the only loser in this immoral and dirty conflict is the simple, deprived and oppressed citizen in these arenas, regions, and centers. Is it not time for the national elites to become aware of this danger, and seek to "reunite" and speed up agreement on a "minimum programme" to save what is left of the homeland that was founded by

fathers and grandfathers and sacrificed for it with all most dear and precious? Is it not time for these elites to realize that they have no choice but to resort to dialogue between all parties and to give priority to the interest of the homeland and resort to the judgement of the people, and that their slogan should be: "Libya first".

In the end, the question remains: Can these elites do this as quickly as possible, before it is too late? ... I pray to Almighty, that this will be achieved!

Finally, my beloved people, do not forget that this is just an opinion, I believe it is right.

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

NCDC says Libya is free of new Coronavirus variant

An official at the National Center for Disease Control, Ibrahim Al-Deghis, has confirmed that the center has not recorded any cases of the new variant of the Coronavirus, as the latest warnings come within the framework of precautionary measures.

Al-Deghis, a member of the NCDC scientific committee, added that many of the tests they received came out as regular flu, which does not represent a danger to the public.

Regarding the suspension of studies by some education observers in the regions, he said the center understands their concern but ensured that the epidemiological situation in the country is stable.

Al-Deghis explained that the NCDC's policy is to encourage the public, especially elderly people, to get vaccinated against seasonal influenza.



Health

After a successful visit to Zuwara, Eye Hospital Tripoli to send a convoy to Zliten

The Director of the Eye Hospital in Tripoli/ Head of the Corneal Transplant Authority, Rania Al-Khawja, has disclosed plans to dispatch a medical team to Zliten to conduct corneal transplant surgeries.

Al-Khawja said the doctors would carry out 20 corneal transplant operations in Zliten during their visit in the coming days.

A few days ago, the Eye Hospital deployed a convoy to Zuwara, in which a medical team conducted 400 surgeries that did not include corneal transplantation and provided health checks to around 1,249 patients, according to Al-Khawja.

The Eye Hospital said the convoys come within the framework of the national campaign aimed at localizing treatment inside Libya and raising the level of medical services in the country.



Health

Ministers of Labour and Health participate in activities of Public Health Insurance Fund

Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation, "a member of the General Assembly of the General Health Insurance Fund," Ali al-Abed, has stated the need to conduct a comprehensive survey at the national level to create a database through which to work with fixed financial resources to ensure sustainability of the fund's workflow.

This came during his participation in the activities announcing the five-year plan for the General Insurance Fund 2023-2027 in Tripoli, in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister, Acting Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah and a number of officials.

The minister also pointed out the importance of tapping into the experiences of developed countries in this regard, stressing the need for health awareness of citizens and the localization of treatment at home, as well as the actual start of health insurance.



The Ministry of Culture has organized a ceremony that included the distribution of certificates of registration of Libyan heritage sites on Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)'s list of heritage in the Islamic world to the representatives of the sites.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Culture, Mabrouka Toghi, and a number of officials.

Toghi confirmed that the ministry has formed a committee to prepare the national list of Libyan heritage to complete several nomination files for the most prominent heritage sites in various regions of the country on international lists.



Benghazi University denies canceling teaching three basic subjects at Faculty of Law

The University of Benghazi has denied what was circulated on social media regarding canceling the teaching of Arabic, English and scientific research methods within the Faculty of Law. In a statement, the university indicated that it is just a proposal and it has not been approved by the University Council or the Quality Assurance Department.

The university affirmed its refusal to cancel the aforementioned subjects for violating the regulations governing the educational process, which confirms that Arabic and English should be taught as general subjects within the university.



First convoys of Libyan young travelers set out for Tunisia and Algeria

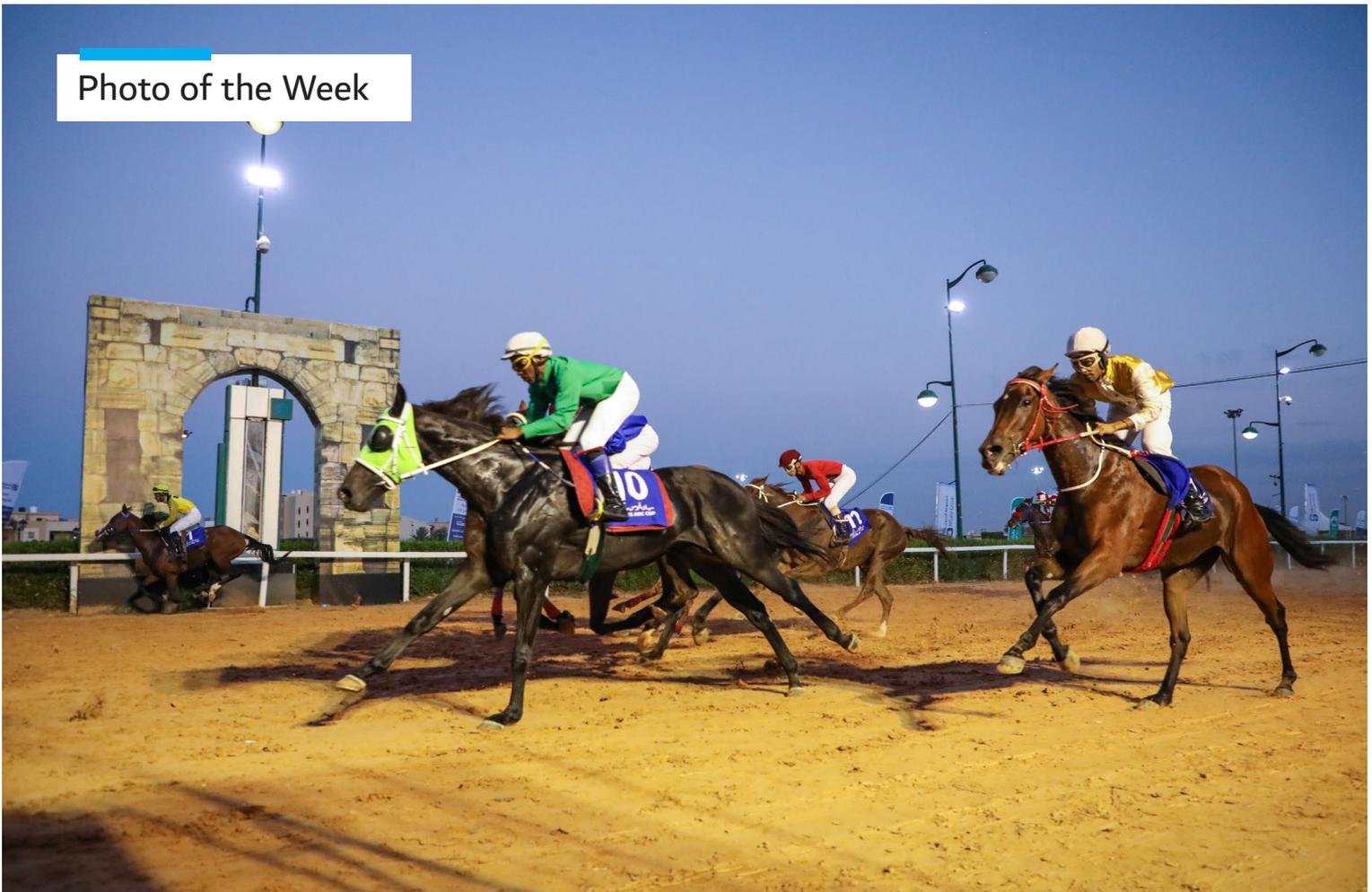
The Ministry of Youth of the Government of National Unity has launched the national program for youth tourism, whose targeting Tunisia and Algeria, as part of the program for the return of life to youth activities locally and internationally.

The first convoys of young travelers from various regions of Libya arrived in Tunisia to visit tourist and cultural attractions and youth institutions, according to a statement by the Libyan Ministry of Youth.

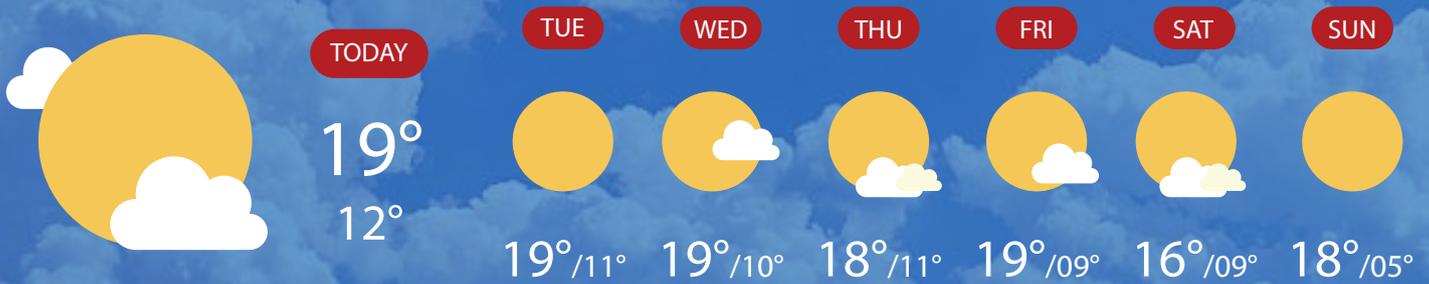
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