

Politics

ICC Prosecutor briefs UN Security Council from Tripoli



Karim Khan, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), delivered a briefing to the United Nations Security Council from Tripoli, focusing on developments in Libya. "My office is working on cases related to crimes committed in Libya between 2014 and 2020," Khan stated.

He revealed that several individuals with arrest warrants have been identified, and their locations are known, as he called on the international community to assist in apprehending them and ensuring justice is served. The prosecutor highlighted progress in investigations, particularly concerning crimes in Tarhuna, and noted significant advancements during his recent visit. As investigations continue, Khan announced plans to issue additional arrest warrants, including some confidential ones.

He reaffirmed the ICC's commitment to completing its roadmap by the end of 2025, emphasizing the need for Libya's cooperation. Khan also reported that families of victims have expressed support for the arrest warrants and called for further action to hold perpetrators accountable.

During his visit, Khan held meetings in southern Libya with families who lost loved ones, relaying their appeals for justice. The briefing followed a series of meetings between Khan and Libyan officials, including Presidential Council Chairman Mohamed Menfi, Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, and Attorney General Al-Siddiq Al-Sour.

Khan's visit to Tripoli is part of an effort to follow up on the legal and humanitarian situation in the country.

Politics

UNSMIL commends large-scale participation in Libyan municipal elections



The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has commended the successful conduct of polling for the first group of 58 Municipal Councils on 16 November, organized by the High National Elections Commission (HNEC).

UNSMIL congratulated in a statement the Libyan people for their impressive 74% voter turnout and HNEC for ensuring a technically sound and inclusive electoral process.

It also hailed the dedications of security agencies involved in ensuring a safe environment for the elections to take place, saying it remains committed to supporting Libya's electoral process and ensuring an outcome that reflects the will of the Libyan people.

"This municipal election is an important step

towards strengthening democracy and ensuring accountable and responsive governance and legitimacy of Libyan institutions," UNSMIL added.

HNEC issued on Sunday figures for the first phase of the municipal elections, which were held last Saturday in 58 municipalities distributed over 16 electoral offices, including 352 polling stations in 77 polling centers. It recorded a participation rate of 74%.

The number of registered voters reached 186,055, including 130,000 men and 56,000 women, while the number of candidates reached 1,786 candidates within 159 lists, in addition to 545 candidates within the individual-independent system.

Turkish Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee endorses MoU with Libya



The Turkish newspaper Yeni Şafak, which is close to the government, reported that the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Turkish Parliament approved a memorandum of understanding between Turkey and Libya regarding the status of Turkish forces in Libya.

This memorandum, which will be sent to the General Assembly of Parliament for approval, will determine the rules governing the work of Turkish forces in Libya, including the use and ownership of properties allocated to them, the storage of military materials, the use of land, air and sea vehicles, the purchase of goods and services, the establishment of infrastructure and communications, in addition to the financial and legal operations regulating their work.

Yeni Şafak mentioned statements by sources in the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding another memorandum of understanding with Libya related to cooperation in the field of exploration of hydrocarbons. The sources indicated that this issue was discussed with the Libyan government within the framework of initiatives to resolve the issue of the suspension of implementation decision issued by a local Libyan court.

The newspaper cited the ministry's sources as saying: "They told us that they would resolve the problem according to their internal legislation. We are ready to follow the path they propose," stressing the continuation of the hydrocarbon cooperation initiative between the two countries.

Politics

Koury calls for making funds available for completing elections in all Libyan municipalities



The Acting UN Envoy to Libya, Stephanie Koury, called on the relevant authorities on Saturday to provide the necessary funding and support to complete the elections in all municipalities.

Koury's call came in conjunction with the launching of the elections in 352 polling centers in 777 polling stations in 58 municipal councils (the first phase): 186,055 voters registered in the municipal council election records. Voting ended at 6 pm, local time.

Koury said during a press conference: "We hope that this process will continue in 2025, to include 58 municipalities, and that we will eventually head to national elections." She reaffirmed the United Nations' commitment to helping Libya achieve stability and prosperity through an electoral process led and owned by Libyans, with a focus on strengthening national capacities.

Koury pointed out that the number of registered representatives has reached more than 4,800 and local observers more than

1,300, considering that the wide media coverage is evidence of everyone's desire for this electoral process to be transparent, fair and credible.

The Chairman of the High National Elections Commission, Emad Al-Sayeh, called on the House of Representatives on Saturday to introduce some amendments to Law 59 of 2012 regarding the local administration system; so that it is qualified for implementation and application on the ground.

Al-Sayeh said that these amendments aim to elect municipal councils that represent the basis of sound local administration, and contribute to achieving the principle of fair distribution of wealth and regional development projects, and enable executive and oversight bodies to exercise their duties in an enforceable manner.

"We cannot talk about fair distribution of wealth and development in the absence of the basis upon which the balance of justice is determined." Al-Sayeh said.

Politics

Takala, Ellafi review mechanism for success of upcoming referendums



The Head of the High Council of State, (HCS) Mohamed Takala - who is still in a dispute for the HCS presidency with Kahlid Al-Mishri pending judicial review - discussed with the Minister of State for Communication and Political Affairs in the Government of National Unity, Walid Ellafi, mechanisms for employing modern technologies to survey the opinions of the Libyan people on national issues and political options in order to achieve the success of the upcoming polls and referendums," according to a statement published by Takala's media office.

The meeting was attended by the First Deputy Head of the HCS, Masoud Obeid, the Rapporteur, Belgassim Dibraz, and HCS member Ali Abdulaziz.

Takala's media office added that the meeting discussed the latest political developments at the local and international levels, and ways to enhance cooperation between the committees of the HCS and the government. Meanwhile, Ellafi stressed the government's keenness to build a positive, integrated relationship with the committees of the HCS, and to coordinate with the HCS members to determine the priorities

and services that Libya's regions need in a way that meets the aspirations of citizens. Benghazi Court of Appeal ruled last Thursday to suspend the implementation of the Presidential Council's decision to establish the "National Commission for Referendum and Survey, and to appoint a council to manage it." Commenting on the ruling, the advisor to the Head of the Presidential Council, Ziyad Daghim, said that the commission was working actively, stressing that the decisions of the Presidential Council can only be appealed before the Supreme Court.

Politics

12 civilians released after 78 days of detention in Benghazi

Twelve civilians, including two minors, have been released after being held for 78 days in Benghazi, according to the Libyan Crimes Watch Organization. The individuals were reportedly arrested in September by the Internal Security Agency's Hun branch after taking part

in a pro-former regime demonstration in Zalla, southeast of Sirte.

The group were transferred by air from Al-Jufra Military Base to Benghazi on September 6. Their whereabouts had been unknown until their release on Monday, November 18.



Economy



HoR Speaker issues decision changing tax on dollar purchase from 20% to 15%

The Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR), Aqila Saleh, decided on Wednesday to make a new reduction in the tax imposed on the banks' selling price of foreign currencies to 15% for all purposes, instead of 20%. This was the second reduction in what is known as the "dollar tax", which had been reduced last October for the first time to 20% instead of the 27% imposed by the HoR last March.

According to the text of the decision, "the granted exceptions must be taken into account", with the possibility of reducing the fee according to the circumstances of the Libyan state's revenues, pertaining to a proposal submitted by the Governor of the Central Bank. The Director of the Office of Presidential Affairs in the HoR, Osama Younis, sent a letter to the Governor of the Central Bank, Naji Issa, and his deputy, Marie Al-Bar-

asi, requesting that the necessary measures be taken regarding the new reduction. The decision of the HoR Speaker came after leaks that continued to circulate for more than a month and a half through Libyan social media regarding a new reduction in the tax, specifically after the Governor of the Central Bank and the new Board of Directors assumed their duties last October.



Economy

Benghazi to host Libyan-French Forum for Development and Construction next week

Benghazi will host the Libyan-French Forum for Development and Construction on November 26 and 27, and it will witness the participation of a large number of French companies and institutions looking to participate in the reconstruction process in Libya.

The Libyan Development and Reconstruction Fund announced on its Facebook page on November 13 that its team and the teams of the French Business Council as well as the French Embassy in Libya had completed the logistical and technical preparations to launch the joint website for the Libyan-French Forum for Development and Construction - "Strategic Partnership".

The Fund explained that this forum would include a large number of giant French companies and institutions and a large number of Libyan national companies that meet the conditions according to the plan set by the Fund's management, noting that November 21 would be the last day for registration and accreditation of attendees from national companies.

The forum seeks to strengthen the bonds of cooperation and economic and technical partnership between Libyan and French companies and institutions. The organizers expect it to serve as a basis for a series of meetings, exchanges and cooperative initiatives aimed at supporting reconstruction

and development efforts in Libya in a spirit of comprehensive, sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership, according to the forum's website.

According to the website, the Libyan-French Forum aims to strengthen the bilateral partnership for development and reconstruction in Libya, facilitate and encourage the presence of French companies in major construction projects in Libya, benefit from French technical knowledge and expertise in the reconstruction and development of Libya's economy, encourage French investors to contribute to development projects in Libya, and strengthen the scientific and cultural partnership between Libya and France.

Economy

Libya and US discuss strengthening economic cooperation



The Chairman of the Oversight Bodies Monitoring Committee in the House of Representatives (HoR), Zayed Hadiya, met with Marina Galkina, the Economic Officer at the US Embassy in Libya, to explore opportunities for enhancing economic ties

between the two nations. The meeting, held in Benghazi at the HoR headquarters, reviewed the latest developments in Libya and discussed boosting cooperation to support Libya's economic recovery. The visit by the US Economic Of-

ficer comes days after the Libya-US Economic Dialogue Mini-Group met in Tunis. The meeting addressed managing government spending amid Libya's ongoing political divisions, as reported by sources close to the discussions.

Economy

Top officials discuss at Attorney General's Office growing phenomenon of fuel smuggling



A high-level meeting was held on Wednesday, attended by Attorney General Al-Siddiq Al-Sour, Head of the Audit Bureau Khalid Shakshak, Governor of the Central Bank of Libya Naji Issa, and Chairman of the National Oil Corporation Farhat Bengdara, to discuss ways to combat the phenomenon of fuel smuggling and its repercussions on the Liby-

an economy. The attendees discussed the results of the judicial measures taken against the organized groups involved in smuggling operations, in addition to studying the cost of imported fuel and its suitability for local needs. The attendees also discussed the extent to which the mechanism for exchanging

crude oil for fuel is compatible with the rules for managing public funds, as proposals were put forward to address the underlying causes of the growing phenomenon of fuel smuggling, in cooperation with the executive and legislative authorities in order to correct the imbalance in the state's general budget.

Economy

Finance Minister signs agreement with African Development Bank to support Libyan economy



The Minister of Finance in the Government of National Unity (GNU) Khalid Al-Mabrouk participated in a forum to launch the African Development Bank's report on the Libyan economy, where he signed a cooperation agreement with the bank's representative Malinne Blomberg to support the national economy and achieve sustainable development. The forum was held on Monday in the

capital, Tripoli, and Al-Mabrouk delivered a speech during which he praised the role of the African Development Bank in providing technical support to Libyan institutions and exchanging ideas to enhance economic development and diversify sources of income. Blomberg stressed the importance of the bank in enhancing governance and transparency as well as supporting eco-

nomical reforms in Libya. While the Chargé d'Affaires of the Japanese Embassy in Libya stated their country's desire to continue supporting economic projects in Libya through training programs in the field of business and economics. The forum witnessed a review of data and statistics on the national economy, which were covered by the African Development Bank's report.



National Center for Disease Control launches flu vaccination campaign

The head of the vaccination department at the National Center for Disease Control, Salem Eshnesheh, said that the center was preparing to launch a new campaign to combat seasonal influenza after completing the vaccination campaign against polio and German measles.

Eshnesheh said in a press statement that the vaccination campaign against polio and measles ended without receiving any reports of any side effects for more than 700,000 children nationwide. He added that the campaign was implemented with high efficiency under the supervision of an independent external observer, in accordance with international standards.

Eshnesheh called on citizens not to listen to rumors nor waste the opportunity for vaccination, which may not be repeated except in the event of the emergence of new pandemic foci.

The number of children vaccinated against polio nationwide reached 81,751, while the number of children vaccinated against measles and German measles reached 67,868, with a rate of 100% in all municipalities.



NCDC concludes campaign with over 700,000 children vaccinated

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) concluded its national vaccination campaign against polio, measles, and rubella on Saturday.

A total of 81,751 children were vaccinated against polio and 67,868 children against measles and rubella on the final day of the campaign, according to statistics released by the NCDC. This brings the total number of children vaccinated since the campaign's launch to 708,700.

The centre reported that vaccination efforts reached 100% coverage across all municipalities, "reflecting the dedication of campaign workers and the cooperation of local communities."

Health

GNU to launch national program for muscular dystrophy patients



The Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity (GNU), Abdel Hamid Dbeibah, has agreed to prepare a national treatment program for muscular dystrophy.

According to Dbeibah's decision, which was published by the Ministry of Health on Sunday, the program is concerned with providing patients' needs, in addition to restricting them to a unified system, supervising the distribution of therapeutic medications to them, and keeping up with modern scientific studies.

During Dbeibah's meeting with the Muscular Dystrophy Patients Organization, it was decided to continue conducting genetic analyzes for patients and their families according to the established context, and to urgently complete treatment for cases less than two years old.

Health

WHO: Vaccines used in Libya are safe



Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) office in Libya, Ahmed Zuwaiten, has stated that the vaccines used in Libya are safe and effective. Zuwaiten added that vaccinations in Libya were licensed by the WHO in 2020, calling on Libyan families to vaccinate their children, in conjunction with the national campaign that launched last Saturday.

The official's statements came during a visit Thursday to the Al-Ghararat clinic in the capital, Tripoli, accompanied by the Director General of the National Center for Disease Control, Haider Al-Sayeh.

Education

Ministry of Higher Education discusses accrediting NCDC as an educational and training institution

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Omran Al-Qayeb, has discussed with the Director of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Haider Al-Sayeh, the steps for accrediting the Center as a leading educational and training institution by the Ministry. During a meeting held on Tuesday, the two sides agreed to establish a postgraduate school concerned

with public health specializations, to qualify a new generation of professionals and experts capable of facing the increasing health challenges.

This comes within the framework of the NCDC keenness to enhance its role as a distinguished educational hub, and enhance its role in training and qualifying national cadres to support the Libyan health system.



Sports

Libya fails to qualify for AFCON 2025 in Morocco

Libyan national football team failed to reach the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals scheduled to be held in Morocco after drawing Benin (0-0) at Tripoli International Stadium on Monday evening. Libya only needed to win against Benin, in addition to Rwanda not winning against its host Nigeria, which had previously qualified as leader of Group 4. The group ended with Nigeria in

first place (11 points) and Benin in second place (8 points, due to the difference in results of direct matches with Rwanda), in third place Rwanda (8 points) and in last place Libya (5 points). The last time Libya qualified for AFCON was in the 2012 edition, which was the third time in its history, and the best result it achieved in the tournament was second place in the 1982 edition.

Sports

Libya's Kyokushinkai team shines at Tunisia International Championship

The Kyokushinkai national team claimed 14 medals at the Tunisia International Championship, a competition featuring athletes from 20 countries across the Arab world, Europe, Africa, and Asia. The 17-member team secured three gold medals, three silver medals, and eight bronze medals in an impressive performance on the international stage. Among the gold medalists were Yazan Al-Saiti, Mustafa Al-Shaheibi, and Mohammed Al-Fal-

lah, while silver medals went to Mohammed Agniewa, Mohammed Amrajae, and Abdul-Salam Al-Werfali. The bronze medalists included athletes Rashwan Al-Shaheibi, Salem Al-Houti, Idris Al-Shaheibi, Faraj Al-Megrahi, Mohammed Al-Mahshahsh, Saleh Al-Werfali, Mohammed Al-Saiti and Zinedine Abu Bakr. The achievement highlights Libya's growing presence in the world of martial arts.



Opinions

Municipal elections nullify invalid arguments

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



Perhaps the most important part of the fact of success of municipal elections is the invalidity of the political sides' argument of the necessity of forming a single government in order for the general elections to be held. The municipal elections were held in 58 municipalities in various regions, in light of the political, security and military division, and in the presence of two governments, and no violations or attacks were recorded in the process, awaiting the announcement of the final results by HNEC, after the completion of the counting, review and consideration of the appeals.

So, why were the legislative elections suspended, when they do not differ in all their practical steps from municipal elections? The argument they put forward after Haftar's defeat in Tripoli and the defeat of his gangs is the same one they put forward every time they are pressured to hold elections. After Haftar's defeat, it was natural for the conflict over power to be resolved through elections, but the de facto authorities insisted on the need to go to a preliminary stage before elections.

The Tunis-Geneva dialogues were held and a new executive authority was elected, and the attendees set a date for the elections on the anniversary of independence on December 24. However, the de facto authorities' premeditated intention to thwart the elections, put obstacles in their way, and perpetuate the current situation is what tipped the scales in their favor

in the end, and the elections were not held, and the opponents' exchanged accusations of thwarting them.

With the continued demand for holding elections in internal and external discourses, and the success of the municipal elections, it is no longer acceptable to claim that the elections require a single government, and that there must be a political dialogue sponsored by the United Nations mission (UNSMIL) to form a new government to supervise the elections.

It is true that the general elections, i.e. the parliamentary and presidential elections, or just the parliamentary ones, are more important than the municipal elections, and the interaction with them and participation in them is much greater than the municipal elections, and therefore they will need greater preparations, and it is expected that they may not proceed quietly and peacefully, especially if the presidential elections include the main axis of conflict between several entities and figures, one of which did not hesitate to wage wars, and attack innocent people in their homes and interests, in committing the most heinous crimes in order to reach the seat of power.

But despite all the negative aspects, there is no alternative to conducting elections, because they are the only available way to achieve change, and because the principle is their success as the previous elections succeeded, provided that all the conditions for

this success are available, while the exception is their failure, and this is only expected if a political-military party deliberately sabotages them if it finds that they are not going in its interest, and thus does not recognize their results.

The technical aspects of the electoral process are ready, the experience accumulated by the High National Elections Commission is vast, the financial and logistical support is available, and we have more than one proof of the ability of the security directorates to secure polling stations, sorting and counting. Nothing is hindering the move towards change through elections except the de facto authorities. Nothing is pushing them to voluntarily give up power and privileges, and even with the collapse of their arguments and the invalidity of their claims of force majeure and institutional division, etc., this will not force them to settle the matter and return to the people to choose their representatives. Perhaps some of them are now working on formulating new arguments, seeking more disruption, and there is no reliance on a divided international community that has more important and more dangerous files than the Libyan file. Only the movement of the Libyan people with all their categories and components, in a peaceful and persistent manner that does not leave the squares, and in all cities and villages, is what will force everyone to submit to the popular will and implement all demands.

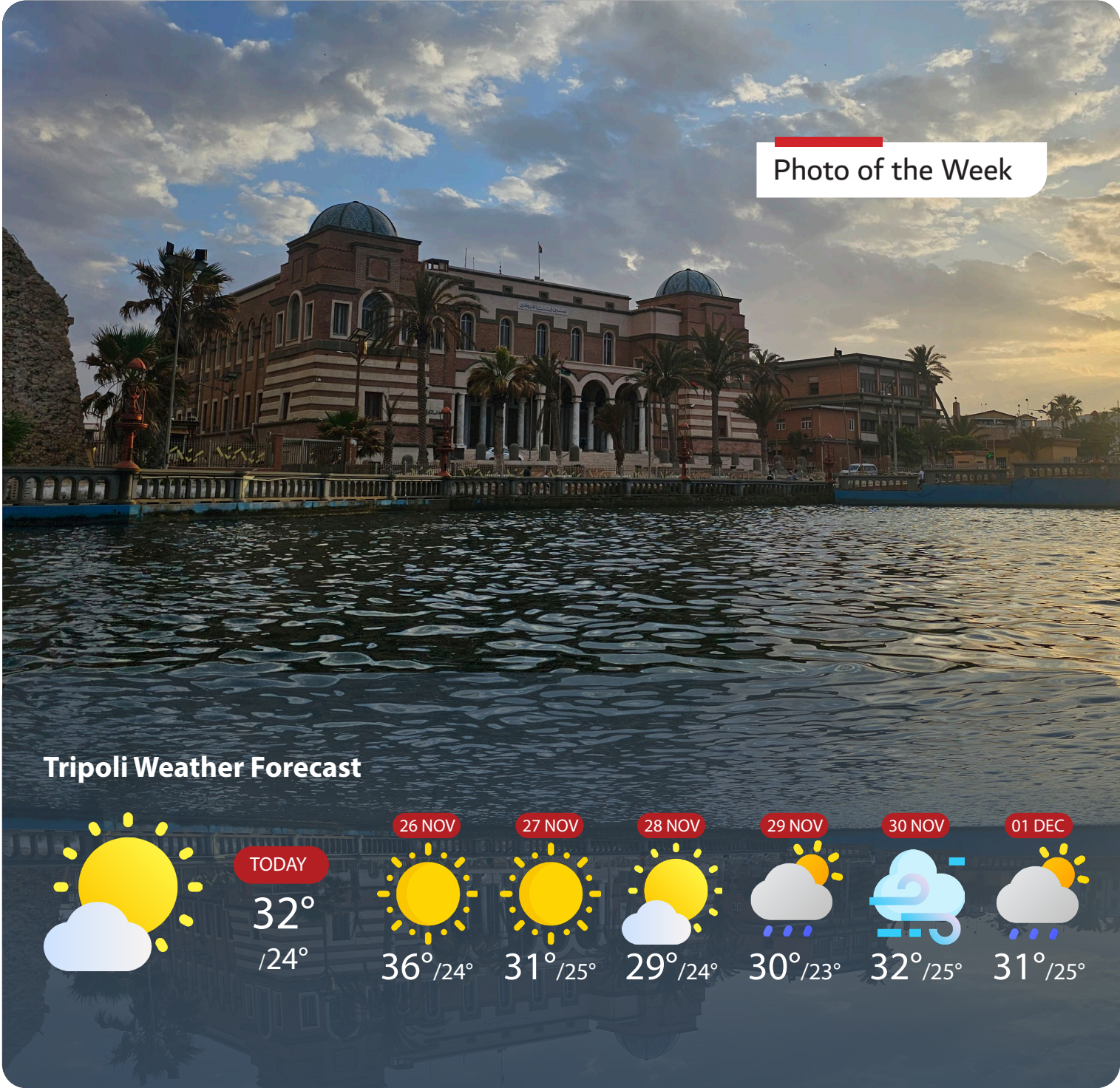
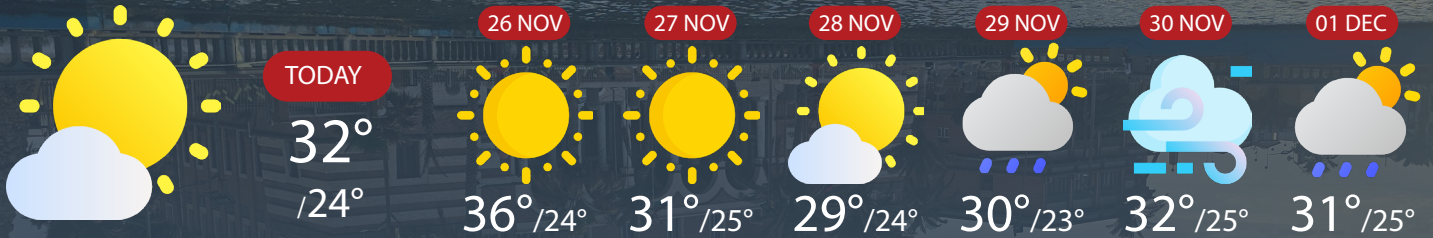


Photo of the Week

Tripoli Weather Forecast



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