



Politics

Military leaders in Tripoli tell Bashagha «not to cross the red line»

Leaders of security and military factions in the western region have reiterated that Tripoli is “a red line,” vowing to confront any attempts to generate chaos within the area or seek to sow discord among security components in the capital.

The Prime Minister-designate of the east-based Parliament, Fathi Bashagha, has disclosed lately his intention to carry out a new attempt to enter Tripoli, saying that he received support from the military leaders there.

The leaders reaffirmed their strict rejection of a new transitional phase under any guise, stressing the need to hold elections on fair constitutional grounds.

Elections are the only way out of the political deadlock, the group said, underscoring that they would accept only legitimate bodies elected by the Libyan people.

They reaffirmed their support for national reconciliation, provided that “war criminals” are barred from positions of power. In this context, the leaders cautioned against attempts to tailor laws and constitutions to suit specific people.

Politics

Libyan PM sacks Sanallah from NOC Chairman's post, appoints Bengdara

The Libyan Prime Minister, Abdul Hamod Dbeibah, has issued a decision to sack the board of directors and chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mustafa Sanallah, and appoint Farhat Bengdara as new chairman.

The decision, widely circulated on media outlets but not yet announced in official channels of the Government of National Unity, names Hussein Safar, Masoid Mousa, and Ahmed Ammar as board members of the NOC, in addition to the deputy minister of oil and gas.

Sanallah has been NOC's Head since August 2014, while Bengdara served as Central Bank of Libya's Governor from 2006 to 2011.

Oil and Gas Minister, Mohammed Oun, called for the dismissal of Sanallah more than once since last year over accusations of spying and hiding billions of dinars of oil revenues in NOC's bank accounts and serving the interests of foreign companies.

Dbeibah agreed with Oun on June 23 about replacing Sanallah. He asked for recommendations.

Observers believe that Bengdara is close to Khalifa Haftar and has been recommended for the job by Saddam Haftar who met with Ibrahim Dbeibah - the PM's advisor - in the UAE a few days ago. The meeting, according to sources with knowledge of the conversation, was sponsored by the UAE and led nowhere as to understandings between the two. However, appointing Bengdara as NOC chairman by Dbeibah says otherwise.

Bashagha tells British MPs: Libyan PM Dbeibah is protected by militias with terrorist links

The Prime Minister-designate who was appointed by the House of Representatives (HoR), Fathi Bashagha, said that the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, is in Tripoli by the protection of a limited number of militias, some of which are believed to be linked to “international terrorist groups”.

Speaking via videoconference, Bashagha told a number of the members of the United Kingdom's Parliament that using those militias as a strength factor by Dbeibah is happening in line with the resumption of terrorist groups' activities, especially in south Libya as well as the the ongoing lack of security and the powerful influence of militias over the government and decision-making, all amid the increasing human rights violations.

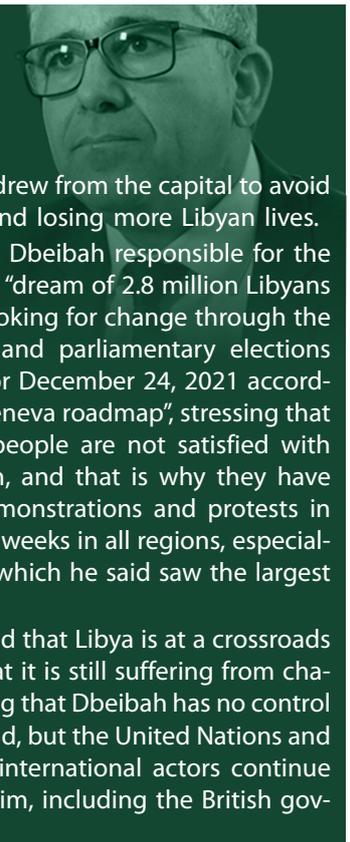
Bashagha said that under Dbeibah, Libya's

revenues are used to protect personal interests, rather than for the benefit of the Libyan people, adding that Dbeibah's period in office had witnessed an unprecedented rise in the prices of foods and medicine without any intervention by the government, let alone the electricity crisis that worsened despite all the massive amounts of money spent on the power sector.

Bashagha also confirmed that Libyan students spent the entire academic year without books due to the race for commissions and deals, in an incident he described as the first of its kind in Libya, in addition to the return of political and institutional division, the rise of hate speech and incitement of violence. He also accused Dbeibah of giving orders to shoot him and his supporters in densely populated neighborhoods, when he entered Tripoli peacefully last May to carry out his duties, adding

that he withdrew from the capital to avoid bloodshed and losing more Libyan lives. He also held Dbeibah responsible for the failure of the “dream of 2.8 million Libyans who were looking for change through the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for December 24, 2021 according to the Geneva roadmap”, stressing that the Libyan people are not satisfied with this situation, and that is why they have gone on demonstrations and protests in the past few weeks in all regions, especially in Tripoli, which he said saw the largest crowds.

Bashagha said that Libya is at a crossroads now, and that it is still suffering from chaos, reaffirming that Dbeibah has no control on the ground, but the United Nations and some other international actors continue to support him, including the British government.



Politics

Williams: Conflict over power in Libya will continue amid lack of vision for elections



The UN Special Advisor on Libya, Stephani Williams, says the dispute over the executive authority will continue as long as there is no vision for elections and the power and resources remain confined to Tripoli.

Speaking to Al Sharq News Channel, Williams said that “the lust” for the executive power would only be over after reaching an agreement on the constitutional basis for the elections.

She urged political actors to listen to the people indicating that “a new generation has emerged after the uprising against Gaddafi that wants elections and wants to choose who will represent them.”

She talked about progress in the Cairo and Geneva meetings, confirming that efforts are focused on achieving national reconciliation. Williams disclosed that the UN mission is playing an intermediary role between the Government of National Unity headed by Abdul Hamid Dbeibah and the parallel government headed by Fathi Bashagha.

Addressing the oil and electricity crisis, Williams said the closure of oil facilities affected the electricity services. “50% of the sector has been in a state of paralysis since last April, and the state does not have access to millions of oil revenues.”

She underscored that any return to violence is unacceptable, noting that the Joint Military Committee (5+5) has reiterated that the cessation of hostilities must continue to hold.

Politics

Bengdara takes charge of NOC, says his assignment was backed by foreign partners

The newly appointed Chairman of the National Oil Corporation, Farhat Bengdara, arrived at the NOC’s HQ on Thursday morning, promising oil workers a salary increase and ensuring foreign partners that all agreements would be preserved.

In a press statement at the NOC’s HQ in Tripoli, Bengdara revealed that he had contacts with the US diplomatic mission in Libya, which expressed concerns that oil revenues could be tampered with or used against specific parties.

“These concerns have been answered, and the matter has been clarified to foreign partners... (including France and other states).”

He said his assignment enjoyed consensus between international and local parties, noting that all agreed on the importance of protecting the sector from the political struggle.

“The oil sector has become part of the political strife, but we will work to prevent political interference in the sector.”

The former Central Bank governor reiterated the importance under the current conditions to regain Libya’s oil and gas export capacity as quickly as possible.

On Wednesday, PM Dbeibah issued a decree appointing Farhat Bengdara and four others to make up the board of directors of the National Oil Corporation, ending Sanallah’s eight-year stewardship.

Bengdara chaired Libya’s Central Bank during the former regime of Muammar Gaddafi between 2006 and 2011 before he joined the uprising that overthrew Gaddafi and killed him.

Politics

UK, US urge for protecting independence and integrity of Libya’s NOC

The embassy of the United Kingdom has reiterated on twitter that the independence and integrity of the Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) must be protected and respected.

The UK embassy indicated on Thursday that it “shares the views and concerns of the US embassy that commanded the work and leadership of NOC Chairman Mustafa Sanallah”. Meanwhile, The US embassy published tweets by ambassador Richard Norland as saying

that they are following with deep concern developments surrounding the NOC, adding that the reported replacement of the NOC board may be contested in court but must not become the subject of armed confrontation.

Norland has reiterated that the NOC is vital to Libya’s stability and prosperity, saying that it has remained politically independent and technically competent under the leadership of Mustafa Sanallah.

After entering the Tripoli headquarters of the NOC, the Chairman of the NOC, who was appointed by the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeiba, Farhat Bengdara addressed the media in a brief press conference from inside the premises, saying he is officially now the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NOC by the force of law, vowing to convene full board meeting on next Sunday. The move came after the deci-

sion by Debiabh to sack Sanallah and the board and replace them with a new board headed by Bengdara, a move rejected by Sanallah.

Sanallah rejected in a video statement Dbeibah’s decision and rendered it illegal, saying he is no longer a head of government, adding that Dbeibah aims to manipulate the NOC to his benefit by striking deals with the UAE.

Economy

Libya's Oil Ministry: Restructuring NOC's Board of Directors drives Libyan



The Ministry of Oil and Gas of the Government of National Unity (GNU) welcomed on Tuesday, the decision No. 642 of 2022 of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister, Abdel Hamid Dbeibah, regarding the restructuring of the Board of Directors of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and appointment of Farhat Bengdara as new chairman.

The ministry published a copy of the decision of the GNU Council of Ministers, saying that this step preserves the oil wealth and drives the Libyan economic growth.

It also thanked the Council of Ministers for their response after many recommendations made by the Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Aoun, regarding the restructuring of the Board of Directors of the NOC.



Economy

Libya's NOC lifts force majeure on Zueitina and Brega oil ports

The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) has lifted force majeure on Brega and Zueitina oil ports, resuming exports after nearly four months of shutdown.

NOC added in a statement on Wednesday that oil tanker "Ebla" was on its way to ship condensates after being technically cleared by Sirte company.

The NOC Chairman, Mustafa Sanallah, whom the Government of National Unity sacked on Tuesday and replaced him with Farhat Bengdara, commented on the lifting by saying that the step was done after long negotiations, allowing the tanker to ship from Brega and Zueitina ports, adding that experts were negotiating for resuming production for Waha and Mellitah companies.

"Over the past few days, we contacted with the Petroleum Facilities Guard and the Chairman of the Energy Committee of the Libyan House of Representatives. We then were convinced about the importance of shipping condensates to solve the gas shortage crisis in the eastern region, and to ensure flow continuation to the Zueitina and northern Benghazi stations, as well as Al-Sarir station once production of the fields of Waha Company started," Sanallah said.

The NOC reassured the oil market that Libya continues to assume its responsibilities and maintain a regular flow of oil to global markets, stressing that instructions were given to companies to gradually increase oil and natural gas production capacity.

Sanallah hasn't commented yet on the news of his dismissal from the NOC chairman post by Dbeibah's government and replacing him with Farhat Bengdara, who is close to Khalifa Haftar and his sons.



Economy

Iron and Steel Company's General Assembly convenes for first time since 2013

The General Assembly of the Libyan Iron and Steel Company convened Tuesday for the first time since September 2013. The meeting was attended by the management committee and external supervisor: the Audit Bureau.

The media office of the Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah said that the meeting discussed the company's activity for the year 2021 and performance indicators for the first quarter of 2022, in addition to approving the estimated budget for 2022, as well as following up on the ratification of balance sheets, and final accounts for the uncompleted years, which would require coordination with the Audit Bureau.

The meeting saw as well approving the main system of the company and the structure of its capital.

Dbeibah, who is also the Head of the company's General Assembly, said the lack of meetings of the Assembly had hindered following up on the performance of the company and on assisting it on the legal and administrative levels.

Dbeibah said the meeting was to allow the General Assembly to handle the issues facing the company legally and administratively over the last years.

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Opinions

A new schism case



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

Attack is the best form of defense. This theory was produced by Sports competition, and its efficacy was proved in all competitions and conflicts, not only in sports, but also in all aspects of human strife.

Thus, Aqila Saleh, Speaker of the House of Representatives, did not resort to defense in the face of the challenges of the protests, but went into offensive, pointing fingers of accusations to the President of the PC and his brother, Sami Al-Menfi of being behind the incidents of storming and burning the parliament headquarters. He also included in his offensive, the Debeiba government, accusing it of agitating the public against his parliament, by holding it responsible for the political stalemate and deterioration of services.

Sami Al-Menfi, dismissed the accusations considering them political rather than legal, threatening Saleh with legal action. Furthermore, the Al-Menfa tribe supported Sami, denouncing the accusations that implicated the Presidency Council and its president in the political conflict.

The accusation against Al-Menfi was a pre-emptive attack, to abort an initiative that the President announced to launch to resolve the political impasse. Even if the initiative is proved unsuccessful and rejected by some parties, calls to the PC to intervene and activate its powers to end the HoR and HCS did not cease, with the possibility that the USA and European countries would back any presidential move in this direction, and this will push the Presidential Council to the forefront to take over the leadership of this phase, while the role of Saleh and his HoR would decline, and obviously, the High Council of State too, so Saleh rushed to launch a counterattack on the PC in the person of its president, and on the Debeiba government, which he failed to overthrow, in order to empower the Bashagha government, despite all the cards that he played.

Saleh's accusations against Al-Menfi are illogical and implausible, because the latter's personality and inclination to be neutral and not to get involved in the conflict are incompatible with the alleged conspiracy against the Parliament. Indeed, the Presidential Council has been distancing itself from interacting with the political conflict, this in itself rules out and refutes any suspicions that he was behind the targeting of the parliament's headquarters.

The accusation would have been acceptable if Al-Menfi had an anti- House of Representatives position, either expressed in his statements or positions he took, and before this targeting by inciting demonstrations to undermine HoR. It would be logical if he would first seek to support the popular and tribal trend in Cyrenaica, which calls for holding of legislative elections, but the Presidential Council and its president did not have any hostile position against the House of Representatives and the HCS, and remained distant from the battleground. It did not even support Debeiba in the face of Saleh and his parallel government, even though they came to power together in one accord.

Targeting the House of Representatives does not require any conspiracy. The popular resentment has reached its maximum level, and everyone is well aware that it is the main driving force behind obstruction of any political solution, and that overthrowing it, is the most important step in the path of reform, and addressing the political impasse, as well as the corruption that eroded all its corners, and all the justifications that they have been selling about the end of the government's term were not convincing, because the parliament had expired years ago, yet it refuses to step down and offer the people, the opportunity to elect a new parliament, which will serve as a constituent assembly given the magnitude of the crises that any legislative house would inherit.

One of the uncalculated results of this escalation against the President of the Presidential Council is the implication of the tribal component in the East in the political conflict. It would be divided between supporters and opponents of this escalation of Saleh towards Al-Menfi, which began with the rejection by the Al-Menfa tribe of the accusation against Al-Menfi, and its support for the President of the PC and his brother, as a parallel gathering was held that continued its support to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Evidently, the state of equilibrium in the conflict continued.

Among the repercussions of assigning Bashagha to lead a new government, is the political and military divisions of the Western Libyan front, between supporters and opponents of this assignment. However, the opponents outweigh the supporters. Likewise, in the East part of the country, a new division is emerging, and although the tribes will cope and contain the conflict and reduce its intensity to the lowest level, the conflict will not subside completely. It could even escalate, if the Presidential Council, under the pressure it is exposed to, decides to take the initiative and assume the responsibility of addressing the political impasse, by taking bold decisions and fixing specific dates for elections.

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

Opinions

Terrorism has no nationality, ethnicity nor religion. FETO



By Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu

On the evening of July 15, 2016, the “Fethullahist Terrorist Organization” (FETO) launched a bloody coup attempt against the people and the government of my country. Their aim was to establish a radical, fundamentalist regime, loyal only to their ringleader Fetullah Gülen.

As FETO affiliated army units left their barracks to occupy key locations, such as the Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul and fighter jets and attack helicopters bombed strategic targets including the Parliament, Presidential compound, army and police headquarters; thousands of civilians took to the streets to stop this unprecedented heinous coup attempt. The plotters killed 251 innocent civilians and left thousands injured. On that night the Turkish people defended democracy with their lives. This heroic response was something the conspirators did not foresee.

To understand what transpired, one has to understand the true nature of FETO. FETO was established in the late 1960’s as a so-called “religious movement”. In the guise of promoting education and inter-religious dialogue, it managed to cover its malign intentions.

The well-planned and wide-spread infiltration by FETO members and converts into the army, law enforcement, judiciary and numerous government institutions, including my Ministry, was carried out for decades clandestinely for an overarching plan, of which the final phase was unleashed on July 15, 2016.

Had the coup attempt succeeded, there would have been a very different Türkiye today. Democracy would not have existed and fundamental rights and freedoms would have been suspended indefinitely. The nation would have fallen in the hands of an extremist government.

FETO not only controlled a significant portion of educational institutions, but also owned numerous financial institutions. Their bank accounts were fed by prominent FETO members in industry and commerce, as well as by officials and members of the public. Many innocent civilians were also lured into contributing to FETO’s finances as their piety was manipulated. The enormous income driven from their schools around the globe was channeled into these accounts clandestinely waiting for their ultimate move.

Following the bloody coup attempt of July 15, 2016, a resolute cleansing of the public sector, including government institutions and the military, as well as of the private sector from all FETO affiliated persons and companies was initiated. Some prominent conspirators have been apprehended. Others escaped justice and found refuge in foreign countries. The head of the FETO terrorist organization, Fethullah Gülen, still resides in the United States. Our government has been requesting the extradition of Gülen to Türkiye from the United States as well as that of FETO members from European countries for years. Unfortunately, these requests have not been fulfilled yet.

On the other hand, elsewhere in the world, an increasing number of governments understand the danger this terrorist organization also poses to them and are taking the necessary steps. FETO is also engaged in illegal activities such as visa fraud, money laundering and arms trafficking. Consequently, FETO members are being cleared from public and private sectors in many countries. Many schools affiliated with this terrorist organization abroad have been transferred to the Turkish Maarif Foundation after 2016. Today, Maarif Schools are functioning in many countries and are providing excellent education worldwide.

The nature and scope of Türkiye’s fight against FETO is no different than that exercised by other countries against organizations which had terrorized officials and civilians alike, and endangered democratic values, fundamental rights and freedoms. Türkiye is doing what the respective countries in their fight against terrorism have done in the past. All procedures are in compliance with law.

Terrorism does not have a nationality, ethnicity or religion. This menace threatens humanity as a whole. Therefore, the response to this threat must be united and determined. No state has the luxury to differentiate between terrorists and no terrorist organization can be classified as “useful” according to preferences. FETO is responsible for the loss of hundreds of lives as well as other grave crimes against the Turkish people. Six years after July 15, 2016, Türkiye continues its resolute fight against FETO, just as it continues its fight against other terrorist organizations such as the PKK, PYD-YPG, DHKP-C and DAESH. We expect the international community to stand in solidarity with Türkiye in the fight against terrorism.

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



Libya is free of monkeypox, NCDC says

The National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has confirmed that no cases of monkeypox have been recorded in the country so far.

“The community health laboratory had received four suspected monkeypox cases from different regions.. after conducting the necessary analyzes, it was found that the results were all negative,”The centre stated on Tuesday.

In the event of symptoms, the centre advised citizens to reach out to the nearest health center and take the required tests, confirming that all centres have been informed to stay alert for any suspected cases and to deal with the disease within an integrated preventive plan.

Meanwhile, Libya’s Covid-19 tally increased during the past few days as the NCDC records showed the numbers growing at twice those registered last week.

They urged citizens who did not vaccinate against Covid-19 to immediately take their shots and complete all doses, recalling the need to adhere to precautionary measures, wear masks, and stay away from crowded places as much as possible.

Health

14 Libyan doctors died of sudden cardiac arrest in just a month

A committee comprising a number of specialists has been set up to investigate sudden deaths of several doctors while working in hospitals, Deputy Head of the General Syndicate of Doctors, Tariq Shuhaima, has revealed.

Shuhaima confirmed in a statement to The Libya Observer that the number of doctors who died due to sudden cardiac arrest totaled 14, most of whom were anesthesiologists.

Knowing the causes of death of these doctors requires viewing the forensic report with the approval of the Attorney General, Shuhaima added.

The deputy head of the Doctors Syndicate said that the committee assigned to investigate the incidents will commence its meetings after the blessed Eid Al-Adha.

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Sports



Al-Akhdar tops six-team final round of Libyan Football League

Al-Akhdar football club topped the six-team final round of the Libyan football League after beating Al-Olompj at Radiss Stadium on Wednesday 2-0 within the first week of the round, while Al-Ittihad and Al-Ahly Benghazi drew 0-0 and Al-Ahly Tripoli and Al-Nasser 1-1.

Al-Akhdar bossed the match against Al-Olompj and the first goal was scored by Ahmed Kerwa at the 11th minute and then the second goal was scored by Sohaib bin Suleiman at the 57th minute.

Now Al-Akhdar has three points, and Al-Olompj has zero points at the bottom of the six-team group.

Al-Nasser drew Al-Ahly Tripoli 1-1. Junior Agabi scored for Al-Nasser first at the 42nd minute and then Al-Ahly Tripoli leveled the score at the minute 72nd by Anis Salto.

Next Sunday, Al-Ahly Benghazi will play its typical opponent Al-Nasser, Al-Ahly Tripoli will play Al-Akhdar and Al-Ittihad will play Al-Olompj.

Crimes



Criminal Investigation Agency arrests 20 wanted persons during June

The Criminal Investigation Agency arrested last June 20 defendants involved in criminal offenses including, murder, robbery, kidnapping, fraud, and the use of forged documents.

The Agency indicated in a report that eight defendants involved in premeditated murder, four wanted in cases of kidnapping, threats and defamation, in addition to six defendants in various cases, including theft, attempted murder, serious harm, fraud, and two others accused in the case of using forged documents.

Sports



Libyan Olympic Committee announces its symbolic participation in Islamic Solidarity Games in Turkey

The Libyan Olympic Committee has announced its symbolic participation in the game of petanque, in the Islamic Solidarity Tournament, which will be hosted by Turkey next August.

In a statement, the committee expressed its dissatisfaction with the negative results of the participants in the Mediterranean Games, which embodied the suffering of the Libyan sports federations, which lacks the administrative and financial support.

It also renewed its call on the government to pay attention to sports federations and provide them with appropriate conditions, support Libyan athletes and solve the problems they face.

Local



Warfali sisters separated during colonial era reunited after nearly a century

Two Libyan sisters who were separated during the Italian occupation of Libya have been reunited after 94 years.

Fatima al-Tabouli al-Warfali went missing while escaping Italian forces in the late 1920s, and her family hadn't heard from her since.

Her sister Oum al-Saad al-Tabouli al-Warfali, who lives with her family in Bani Walid town, southeast of Tripoli, said she was told that her sister died after losing her in the southern region of Fezzan while fleeing the Italian occupation. However, she told local media that she never lost hope that she would be reunited with her other sister Fatima.

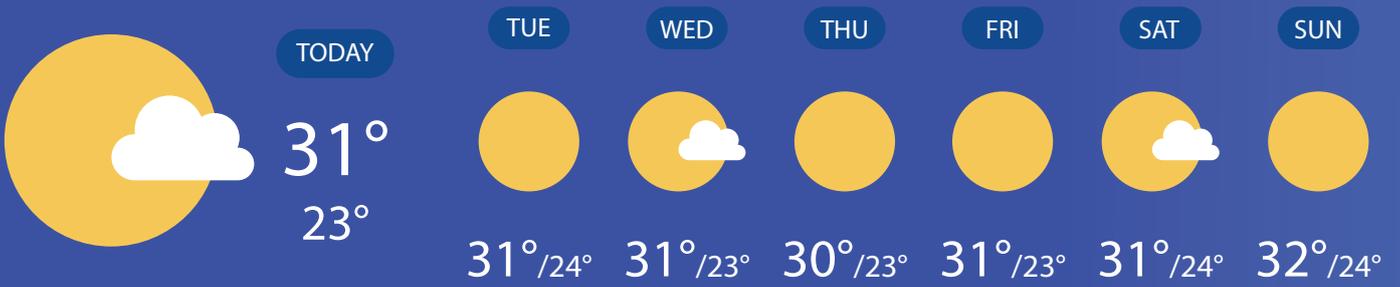
The two sisters were reunited, amid a celebration joined by notables from the Warflaa and the Mujabara tribes in Jalu, where Fatima was married.

Italian forces committed massacres and atrocities against Libyans and erected mass detention camps in the desert, in an attempt to suppress the resistance movement during the colonial era between 1911-1943.

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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