

Politics

Rockets rain down on Tripoli

Attacks on civilians in Tripoli continue as Haftar receives more support from UAE

One civilian has been killed and others injured as Khalifa Haftar's forces have fired a rocket on the densely populated area of Ger-garesh in Tripoli, Health Ministry said in a statement.

Haftar's rockets fell also on Abu Salim and Mazawgha areas in Tripoli, leaving two civilians injured - one child - according to the mayor of Abu Salim.



The attacks also targeted Awlad Dayab area near Mitiga Airport in Tripoli, causing material damage and panic among the residents.

Meanwhile, a rocket fired by Haftar's forces on Ain Zara exploded near a bakery where many people were queuing for bread. The rocket went off 200 meters away from the bakery, causing no casualties.

The media office of Volcano of Rage Operation said two military cargo planes arrived in the Emirati Al-Khadim airbase in eastern Libyan Marj town coming from Abu Dhabi's Sweihan airbase.

The media office said the two tracked planes on Tuesday come after three similar ones coming two days ago from Abu Dhabi to Marj eastern Libya.

Politics

75 million dinars allocated to Libyan municipalities to confront Coronavirus pandemic

The Libyan Presidential Council has allocated 75 million dinars to municipalities, local councils and steering committees in order to respond to the challenges facing communities amid the outbreak of Coronavirus in Libya.

The Presidential Council said Tuesday that the funds should be distributed to cover all aspects related to precautionary measures against Coronavirus outbreak in

the country as well as the budget of medics and paramedics at the medical and quarantine centers.

The funds also include purchasing the disinfection materials as well as training and awareness programs, as per the recommendations of the Libyan National Center for Disease Control.

The decision is to be implemented by the relative committees in coordination with the Local Governing and Finance Ministries.



Politics

Tripoli-based HoR: Haftar prevents access of medical aid to areas under their power



The Freedom and Human Rights Committee of the Tripoli-based House of Representatives (HoR) has accused Haftar and his militias of preventing the delivery of essential humanitarian and medical aid for countering the coronavirus to areas under their control.

In a statement, the committee said: "This crime, in addition to other violations committed by Haftar's gangs, can constitute a war crime and a crime against humanity," stressing that these crimes have been documented by the monitoring committee of the Ministry of Justice, and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), in addition to many local and international organizations.

It held the militias of Haftar are responsible for the displacement of hundreds of thousands and the destruction of civilian institutions, including health, water, and power facilities, not to mention depriving many children of access to education, since the beginning of the aggression against Tripoli last April.

Politics

Libyan Crime Watch reveals death of three inmates in prisons under eastern authorities

The Libyan Crime Watch has said it had documented the death of three prisoners as a result of the lack of medical care and neglect and poor humanitarian conditions in prisons in the eastern region, noting the Kuwefia and Qarnadah prisons in particular.

The human rights group revealed that the deceased included 21-year-old Rida Khaled, who died after suffering a chest disease and was deprived of appropriate health care, Ahmed Ali Al-Zalawi died of a heart attack in Kuwefia prison, and Majdi Ali Al-Wahishi, who developed a fever and died in his prison, due to the lack of medical care.



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Politics

Minister: 57.000 families fled Tripoli since start of Haftar's offensive in April 2019



The Minister of Displaced People's Affairs of the Government of National Accord, Yousef Jalala, said there over 57.000 displaced families from Tripoli since the start of Khalifa Haftar's offensive on April 04 2019.

Jalala told Asharq Al-Awsat that the total number of displaced individuals is over 342.000, mostly women, children, elderly, handicapped and disabled people.

"Some IDPs are living with their relatives in areas away from the fighting, others have rented houses and some others have travelled abroad, especially to neighboring countries. At least 10% of IDPs are living in shelter places, while sole families had to live in deserted buildings due to the hike in rent prices as the number of displaced families increased." Jalala added.

He said his ministry is working on getting approval to provide cash aids to the displaced families but the endeavor is still a no-go. He also said that the GNA provided 120 million dinars for 64 municipalities across the western region to help displaced people at the beginning of the conflict.

He said there are some measures this Ministry is taking to protect the civilians who are displaced to deserted buildings and others in different areas against the outbreak of Coronavirus.

"We have formed a team to gather information, in coordination with civil societies and crisis committees in municipal councils, and to contact international humanitarian organizations working in Libya in order to help provide assistance to the displaced families." Jalala added.



Politics

Misrata city accuses Libya's Presidential Council of negligence as fighting rages on

Misrata Emergency Room has blamed the Presidential Council for taking no serious measures to cut ties with the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Saudi Arabia as well as any other country backing up the aggression on Tripoli.

"We find negligence toward supporting frontlines and forces by the Presidential Council bewildering amid the sacrifices of our sons." Misrata Emergency Room said in a statement.

It also held the international community accountable for protecting civilians and halting the aggression, urging the UNSMIL to change its neutral stance and saying that "the evil axis" of UAE, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia are still supporting putschist Khalifa Haftar against the legitimate Government of National Accord (GNA) and they are partners in the crimes of killing Libyans.

Meanwhile, heavy fighting has been ongoing on different frontlines, especially Al-Wishka in eastern Misrata, for over five days between forces of the GNA and Haftar.

GNA forces started attacks on most frontlines, except for Al-Khallatat frontline, where Haftar's forces started first, according to sources from Volcano of Rage Operation, who said GNA forces advanced on Ramla and Twaisha frontlines near Tripoli International Airport as well as Salah Al-Deen, which the sources described as the toughest frontline since there were Wagner Group mercenaries in there fighting with Haftar's forces.

On Al-Wishka frontline, GNA and Haftar's forces are still fighting with heavy artillery and airstrikes as GNA forces managed to target a whole brigade and destroy their main operations room, killing eight senior leaders, including Major General Salim Deryaq.

Economy

Brega Company: No risk of fuel crisis



Brega Oil Marketing Company has told customers not to resort to panic, reaffirming that there is no shortage of any fuel.

"The oil tanker "VALLE.DI NAVARRA" has arrived at the oil port of Zawia loaded with a shipment of gasoline, estimated at 38 million liters," the company announced on Saturday.

It explained that the tanker has already started to unload its cargo directly to the Al-Zawiyah oil warehouse, assuring consumers that fuel supplies are continuing to flow without interruption.

The company indicated that two other tankers are waiting to unload their cargo, one of which is loaded with 37 million liters of diesel fuel, while the other contains 40.5 million liters of gasoline fuel.

Economy

CBL confirms payment of government workers' January and February salaries



The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) confirmed Wednesday, that salaries of government employees' for the months of January and February have been forwarded to the accounts of public authorities in commercial banks.

The CBL demanded, in a statement all entities that have not yet forwarded the portfolios and financial instruments to commercial banks, to transfer them urgently, in order to be implemented and deposited in the beneficiaries' accounts, noting that procedures for disbursing the salaries for March are underway.



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Economy

The US commits \$ 6 million USD to combat Covid-19 in Libya



The US Embassy in Libya disclosed Saturday that its government has allocated 6 million dollars in humanitarian aid to Libya, in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

"The assistance is to help Libyan health officials prevent the spread of the disease and respond to those in need," the embassy stated.

It added that the funds are an addition to the American efforts to invest in the Libyan health sector through the United States Agency for International Development, noting that the US has invested more than \$ 715 million USD in total aid to Libya over the past twenty years.

Economy

NOC: Oil shutdown losses close to four billion USD



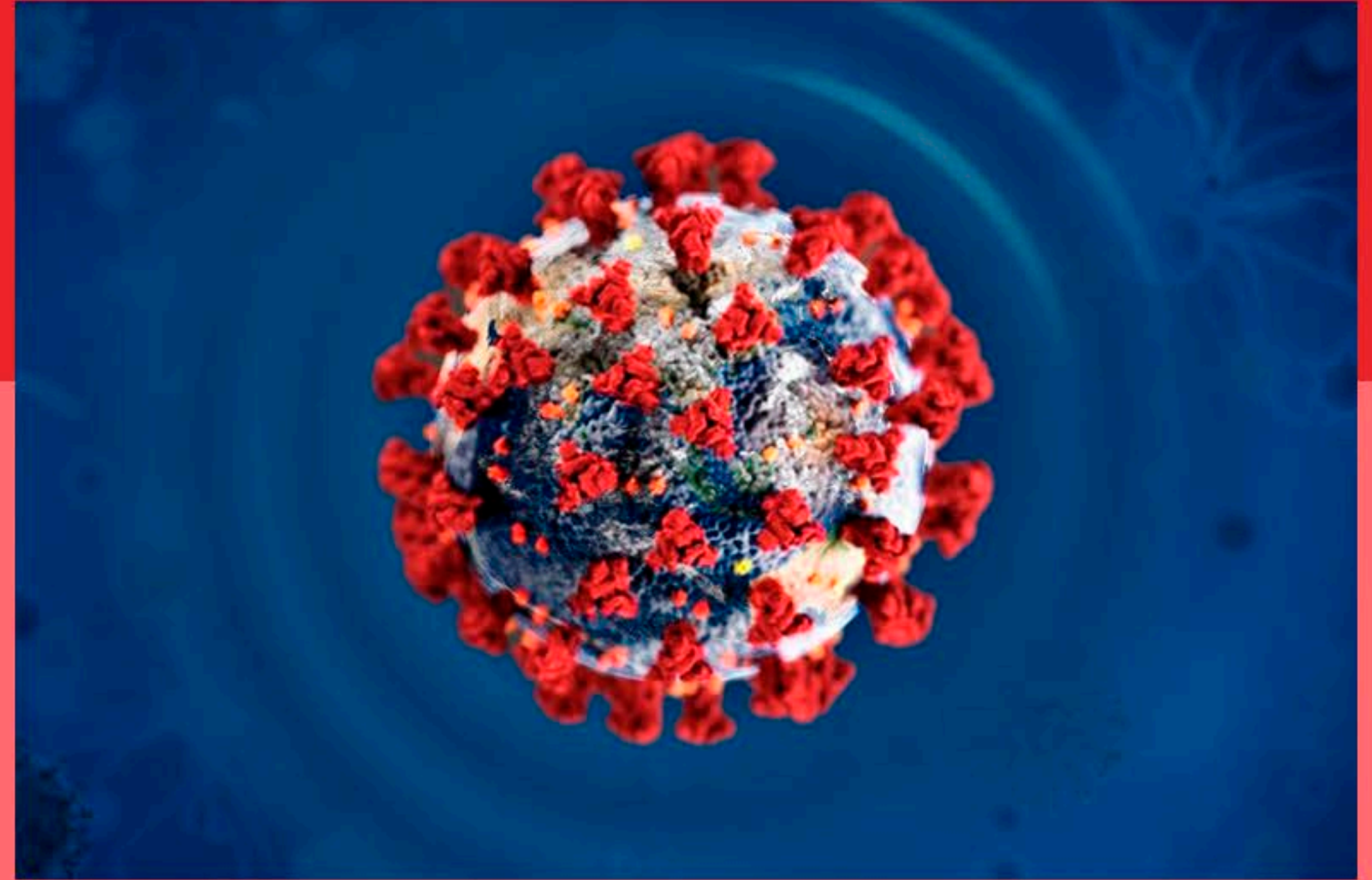
The National Oil Corporation (NOC) estimated the losses resulting from the closure of ports and oil fields since January 17th, at \$ 3,808 billion dollars.

NOC indicated in a statement issued Monday, that these amounts could have been spent on medical equipment to help fight coronavirus in Libya.

It assured citizens that it is doing its utmost to make sure that fuel is available in all parts of Libya without exception, despite the severe difficulties and the illegal closure of many oil production and distribution facilities.

Health

Libya: Five new Coronavirus cases, eight in total; amid dismay at Health Minister



The Libyan National Center for Disease Control has announced five new positive Coronavirus cases in the country, bringing the total number to eight.

The center said Sunday the Reference Laboratory in Tripoli had received 12 samples for people who were in contact with the woman who contracted COVID-19 in Misrata, adding that five of them tested positive and seven tested negative.

Only on Saturday was the number of Coronavirus cases moving upward with two new cases; a woman from Misrata and a man from Tripoli.

Meanwhile, 24 municipalities in western Libya called on Sunday in a joint statement on the Presidential Council to sack the Minister of Health Ahmad Bin Omar and his deputy Mohammed Haythem, citing their negligence and lack of action toward the outbreak of Coronavirus in Libya.

The municipalities gave the Presidential Council 48 hours to respond positively to their demands, sack the Minister and his deputy and to distribute the budgets for the municipal councils or they would halt all kinds of cooperation with it.

Health

Health Ministry: 50 sterilization and ambulance cars have been distributed to several cities



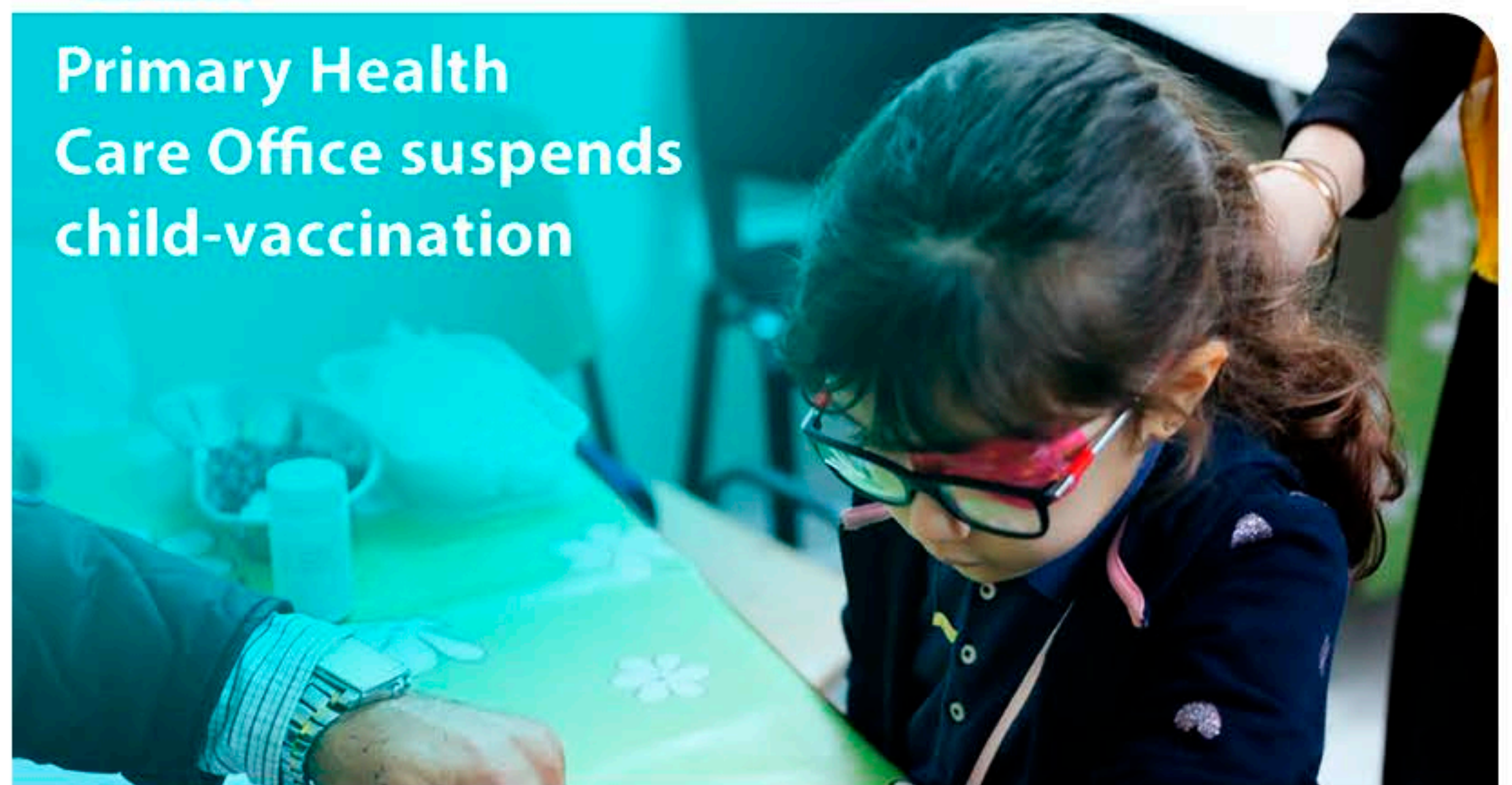
The Ministry of Health said it had distributed around 50 sterilization and ambulance cars to several municipalities, but did not specify the cities that will receive this equipment.

In a statement, the ministry said the cars were loaded with medical equipment and supplies, as part of measures to curb the coronavirus outbreak.

According to the ministry, Tripoli Central Hospital had also received a shipment of medical supplies yesterday to raise the readiness of hospital departments.

Health

Primary Health Care Office suspends child-vaccination



The Primary Health Care Office in Tripoli has announced a suspension at its vaccination units for a period of two weeks, renewable.

The office explained that it took the decision after confirming the first cases of Covid-19 in the country, saying it is for the safety of our children.

The decision includes all immunization for children, with the exception of newborns, according to the Primary Health Care Office.

Opinions

Effort to anticipate and reduce impact of disaster

*By Mohammad Amar Ma'ruf, Charge d'affaires
of the Embassy of Indonesia in Libya*

In the past 4 months, the world is challenged with a global outbreak in the form of a corona virus which is called COVID 19. This outbreak aggravates human problems, especially in areas of the country that are being veiled by other griefs/disasters. Indeed we should see the event that happened as a moment of reflection for strengthening cooperation to end all forms of disputes and to protect human soul.

As part of international community, the Indonesian representatives in Tripoli-Libya together with the Libyans and other foreign missions in particular are closely watching and trying to empathize toward the real problems of the world today, especially in a country that is being hit by conflict.

Moreover, these problems are related to how to save and protect the souls of various age levels who are vulnerable in protecting themselves, especially elderly, women / pregnant women, children and infants.

Today, misunderstandings between one and another seem make noble efforts made by the leaders / leaders of the relevant countries to make peace more complicated. While this has not yet revealed the solution, the new deadly pandemic, namely Corona Virus 19 (COVID 19) appeared. No choice except all sides take a reflective moment for protecting and saving lives from these non-natural disasters.

Realizing this condition, the Indonesian representatives in Tripoli continued to work together with youth leaders and the Libyan community as well as leaders of representatives of friendly countries and members of the international community to sit together virtually discussing what steps and activities were really needed to be contributed in reducing the burden.

One form is to encourage the formation of cooperative communication media in the form of virtual communication through social media in collaboration with existing mainstream media to expand the network and its scope. This informal and voluntary communication forum called Volunteer Covid 19 WhatsApp Group. This virtual communication gives positive meaning to share an idea to reduce the burden of the problems faced today.

Some interesting things conveyed by volunteers of the WA CC-19 Group are sharing the same prayers and hopes that COVID 19 can be overcome and encourage a healthier life to anticipate diseases.

What is also very interesting here is the facilitation of interesting ideas with a work in the form of technical products that are useful and efficient (applied technology products) at least to reduce the spread of COVID 19 outbreaks such as the Rapid Disinfectant Cluster Cleaning Room that was created by local technicians from various countries, including Libya and Indonesia. Picture of the Product is hereby attached. This product was created by the Alumni of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Indonesia. The technicians are committed to sharing knowledge about manufacturing this product.

In this context, the perspective of life protection and safety is top priority. It is very sad when we see this aspects are ignored. This can also be happen if enforcement of the principles of sustainable development and the development of alternative energies are left behind.

In response to this, the Indonesian Representative in Tripoli also opened to various elements of the nation in the country of Libya to share the best ideas from our respective stakeholders. The goal is to open dialogue with each other in order to contribute the idea to save human soul as an asset of not only for our respective nation but also for the world.

In this regard, the Indonesian Representative in Tripoli also promotes and encourages the realization of constructive people to people contacts for the development and management of human resources. The Indonesian Representative in Tripoli also encourages technical cooperation and training whose benefits could be felt directly to support the growth and economic development of the accredited country.

Indonesian Representative in Tripoli Libya always refreshes itself toward its commitment of the Indonesian Representative abroad to always strengthen the understanding and meaning of the presence of the Indonesian Representative Abroad to be a positive part of national development and also the development of accreditation countries.

May Allah Almighty always protect all citizens of Indonesia, Libyan and other world citizens.

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

National monitoring and response network urges people "stay at home"



Member of the national monitoring and response network of the National Center for Disease Control, Fatima Al-Bakoush, appealed on Monday on citizens in all parts of the country to self-isolate their selves at home and not to go out unless necessary.

In a press statement, Al-Bakoush called on the authorities to follow the step of Misurata and impose a 24-hour curfew, to limit the virus from spreading.

She pointed out that the first Covid-19 patient in Libya is doing well and will be transferred to Al-Hadaba General Hospital for quarantine and to be under the auspices of specialists.

Health

Health Ministry urges medical personnel help as country braces for a wave of coronavirus patients



The Ministry of Health has urged all medical staff and health care providers to volunteer and join the workforce in hospitals across the country in order to be ready in case of a Covid-19 widespread in the country.

The ministry listed on its Facebook page several phone numbers for volunteers who wish to join in.

The first case of Covid-19 in Libya was confirmed on Tuesday. According to the health ministry, the Covid-19 patient is in a stable condition with a slight fever but required no ventilator.

Health

20 doctors undergo special training for infection and coronavirus control



The National Center for Disease Control said on Tuesday that it had trained around 20 doctors in infection and coronavirus control.

"The training workshop was held at the center's HQ in Tripoli, in the framework of the national training, awareness, and prevention program launched by the center under the auspices of Hommer Company," the center stated.

The trainees were mentored on prevention methods and the necessary steps that must be taken by doctors working in this field, in addition to how to deal with the suspected cases, according to the center.

FACT CHECK: COVID-19 is NOT airborne

The virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks. **These droplets are too heavy to hang in the air. They quickly fall on floors or surfaces.**

You can be infected by breathing in the virus if you are within 1 metre of a person who has COVID-19, or by touching a contaminated surface and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands.

To protect yourself, keep at least 1 metre distance from others and disinfect surfaces that are touched frequently. Regularly clean your hands thoroughly and avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.

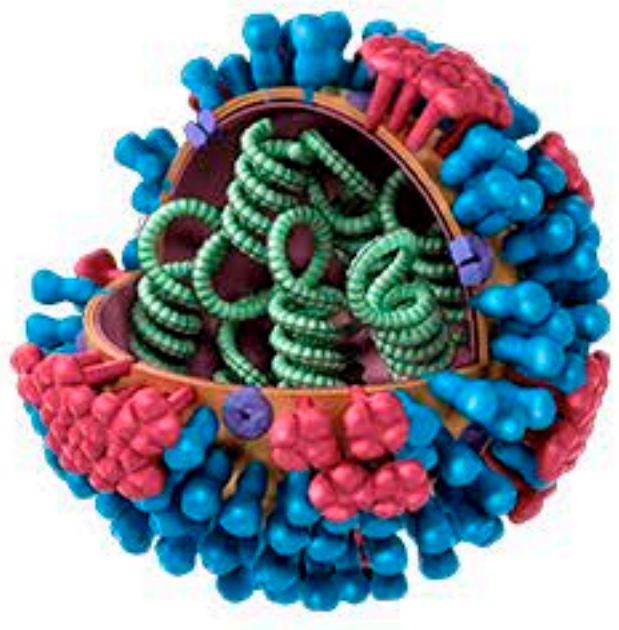


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March 28 2020

#Coronavirus #COVID19



Q&A on coronaviruses (COVID-19)

What are the symptoms of COVID-19 infection

The virus can cause mild, flu-like **symptoms** such as:

- fever - cough - difficulty breathing - muscle pain - tiredness

More serious cases develop severe **pneumonia**, acute respiratory distress syndrome, sepsis and septic shock that can lead to death.

Are some people more at risk than others?

Generally elderly people and those with underlying health conditions (e.g. hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease and cancer) are considered to be more at risk of developing **severe symptoms**.

Are children also at risk of infection?

Disease in children appears to be **relatively rare and mild**. A large study from China suggested that just **over 2%** of cases were under 18 years of age. Of these, **fewer than 3%** developed severe or critical disease.

What about pregnant women?

There is limited scientific evidence on the severity of illness in **pregnant** women after COVID-19 infection. That said, current evidence suggests that severity of illness among pregnant women after COVID-19 infection is similar to that in non-pregnant adult COVID-19 cases, and there is no data that suggests infection with COVID-19 during pregnancy has a negative effect on the foetus. At present, there is no evidence of transmission of COVID-19 from mother to baby occurring during pregnancy. ECDC will continue to monitor the emerging scientific literature on this question, and suggests that all pregnant women follow the same precautions for the prevention of COVID-19, including regular handwashing, avoiding individuals who are sick, and self-isolating in case of any symptoms, while consulting a healthcare provider by telephone for advice.

When should I be tested for COVID-19?

Current advice for testing depends on the stage of the outbreak in the country or area where you live. National authorities may decide to only test subgroups of suspected cases based on the national capacity to test, the availability of necessary equipment for testing, the level of community transmission of COVID-19, or any other criteria.

How can I avoid getting infected?

The virus enters your body via your eyes, nose and/or mouth, so it is important to avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.

Washing of hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or cleaning hands with alcohol-based solutions, gels or tissues is recommended in all settings.

It is also recommended to stay 1 metre or more away from people infected with COVID-19 who are showing symptoms, to reduce the risk of infection through respiratory droplets.

What should I do if I have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19?

Notify public health authorities in your area who will provide guidance on further steps to take. If you develop any symptoms, you should immediately call your healthcare provider for advice, mentioning that you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19.

Am I protected against COVID-19 if I had the influenza vaccine this year?

Influenza and the virus that causes COVID-19 are two very different viruses and the seasonal influenza vaccine will not protect against COVID-19.



weather

TRIPOLI WEATHER FORECAST










DAY	DESCRIPTION	HIGH / LOW	PRECIP	WIND	HUMIDITY
FRI APR 3	 AM Clouds/PM Sun	21°/14°	20%	NE 26 km/h	73%
SAT APR 4	 AM Showers	18°/13°	50%	NNW 30 km/h	67%
SUN APR 5	 Partly Cloudy	19°/12°	10%	NNW 18 km/h	60%
MON APR 6	 Mostly Sunny	20°/13°	0%	NE 14 km/h	60%
TUE APR 7	 Mostly Sunny	20°/12°	10%	ENE 17 km/h	58%
WED APR 8	 Mostly Sunny	19°/12°	10%	ENE 15 km/h	57%
THU APR 9	 Mostly Sunny	20°/12°	0%	NE 15 km/h	58%

Photo of the Week : The Arch of Marcus Aurelius, Tripoli



Features

Waw an Namus, a piece of the moon in Libya's desert



The Libyan Desert is a whole other world, whether you're looking for adventure or want to escape the day-to-day life; it's a place with endless wonders, weirdness, and secrets.

Waw an Namus is another fantastic site from the desert region, one of the weirdest geographic landscapes on our planet, most famous for being the spot that had the best visual experience of total solar eclipse of all time, where thousands of tourists travelled there to observe the total solar eclipse that occurred in 2006 under the transparent desert sky.

The place boasts a volcanic mountain that rears to (575m); its surface extends from 10 to 20 km which consists of dark volcanic tephra and black basaltic rocks, if you are eager to visit the moon, this will be a great choice, seeing that the nature of the land makes it the closest thing we have to the moon on Earth, this could be seen clearly from an aerial shot, as Google Earth program shows, therefore it is called "A piece of the moon".

Scientists are uncertain of the last volcanic eruption happened here, it may have been centuries ago, it is also thought that the knowledge of iron use in Africa dates back to the ancient Nok civilization that used iron powder located in the southwestern part of the site.

The mountain is surrounded by palm and bamboo trees with colorful lakes scattered on its foot fitting in perfectly with the golden sand and creating an incredible natural scene, while the nature of the region makes it a natural reserve for dozens of birds and animals. It was first visited by a French expedition commissioned by the French traveler Laurent Roubeli in 1918, followed gradually by other expeditions. "Waw an Namus" was also the title of the book of the Italian geologist Angelo Bessi, who wrote about the extended area from south-central Libya to the northern region of Chad. The book was published by the Petroleum Exploration Society in Libya in 1966.

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