

## Politics

### Libyan military leaders discuss in Paris forming unified security units



A number of Libyan military leaders discussed, during two-day meetings in the French capital, Paris, the formation of joint units to achieve several security goals, according to a statement issued by the French Foreign Ministry on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended the Chief of the General Staff of the Libyan Army, Lieutenant General Mohammed Al-Haddad, and his counterpart of Khalifa Haftar's forces, Abdelrazik Al-Nathori in addition to officers from the 5+5 Joint Military Committee.

The French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs clarified the founding framework for the meeting of the Libyan military in Paris, saying that the meeting comes within the framework of working meetings focused on unifying military institutions and

establishing stability in the country, while ensuring that Libyan sovereignty is fully respected.

It added that the meeting falls within "France's support for dialogue between security actors in Libya and for the actions that have been achieved within the framework of the security working group co-chaired by the United Nations and emanating from the international follow-up committee to the Berlin process."

The French statement reaffirmed that "France continues its support for the United Nations and the security movement mobilized by all Libyan actors," which made it clear that it "aims to form joint units with the aim of achieving three main goals represented in establishing security on the

Libyan borders and confronting terrorism and destabilizing foreign interventions."

The statement noted that these actions will be followed up within the framework of the upcoming security working groups co-chaired by the United Nations, which will soon be held in Benghazi on July 25, 2023.

Tripoli hosted on May 24 the first meeting of the security working group of the International Working Committee for the Berlin process, with the participation of members of the "5+5" joint military committee from eastern and western Libya, and in the presence of representatives of the members of the group, which includes, in addition to the United Nations, France and Britain. Turkey, Italy and the African Union.

## Politics

### UN official: We support forming Supreme Finance Committee to regulate public spending



The Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations for Political Affairs, Rosemary A. DiCarlo, has commended the decision recently taken by the Presidential Council to form the Supreme Finance Committee to regulate public spending and promote transparency with the participation of all Libyan parties.

This came during her phone call with the head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, according to the media office of the Presidential Council.

DiCarlo praised the Presidential Council efforts exerted to achieve peace and stability throughout the country, especially in the files of national reconciliation and support for elections.

## Politics

### Amnesty calls for release of professor detained by Haftar-backed authorities in Benghazi



Amnesty International has officially documented the kidnapping of Professor Belkacem Eljard by the so-called Internal Security Agency operating under the Haftar-backed authorities in Benghazi.

"Activist Belkacem Eljard was kidnapped by armed men affiliated with the Internal Security Agency from his home in Benghazi on 27 June," the organization tweeted on Tuesday.

It called on the "Libyan Arab Armed Forces", (Khalifa Haftar's self-styled army) to reveal his fate and ensure his safety.

The organization noted that Eljard was arrested for his criticisms on social media. "Amnesty International has previously documented how the Internal Security Agency has subjected critics of the LAF to arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and torture."

It may be worth noting that Eljard is a professor of geography at the University of Benghazi and also lectures students at the university's branches in Al-Murra, Derna, Ajdabiya, and Al-Abyar.

Politics

## New lawsuit filed in the US against Haftar, Wagner's boss

The Libyan-American Alliance announced that it had filed a lawsuit in the US courts in favor of the Libyan victims against Khalifa Haftar and the Wagner Group, as well as its boss Yevgeny Prigozhin.

The Alliance announced in a statement that its lawyer, Tania Manson, would reveal during a press conference the details of filing the lawsuit against Prigozhin and Haftar at the Washington Federal Court, accusing them of violating human rights and committing war crimes against Libyan civilians.

The lawsuit accuses Haftar and Prigozhin of deliberately torturing the plaintiffs and committing murder and torture against their family members, saying they are liable for damages under the Torture Victims Protection Act.

The statement indicated that Haftar was named as a defendant in 3 separate civil lawsuits in the Eastern District Court of Virginia, for the extrajudicial killing and torture of Libyan civilians. On July 29, 2022, the court found Haftar liable presumptively for plaintiffs' claims under the Torture Victims Protection Act.

The American-Libyan Alliance was the lead counsel for the first lawsuit filed against Haftar, on behalf of several families who lost loved ones during the attack on Tripoli in April 2019.

Politics

## Al-Mishri hits out at Dbeibah, says he is a man of war

The head of the High Council of State (HCS), Khaled Al-Mishri, accused Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah of "harassing" the HCS and preventing the elections within the council to go ahead in a televised statement broadcast on the HCS Facebook page on Thursday.

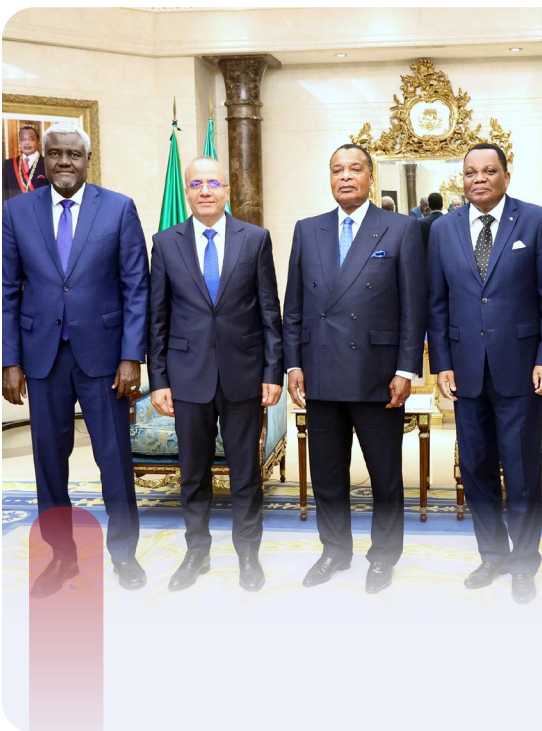
Al-Mishri made his remarks days after a group of HCS members were barred from leaving the country.

He warned that any "reckless" action by the PM towards any member of the HCS or its president will lead to chaos and undesired consequences.

According to Al-Mishri, the Internal Security Agency of Dbeibah's government summoned members of the HCS before the voting session on what was presumably a road map to elections, insisting that Dbeibah was behind this course of action. He accused Dbeibah of giving the illusion that he is a man of peace while doing the exact opposite. "He is the one generating the wars to remain in office and spend money without accountability or oversight," Al-Mishri said.

"Conspiracies and threats will not intimidate us, and nothing will stop us from achieving elections and changing the present authorities."

The HCS head had addressed the Public Prosecutor to open an investigation into stopping the HCS members at the Mitiga International Airport, accusing the head of the Internal Security Agency of issuing the relevant instructions.



Politics

## Congo's President reviews with Libyan PC Deputy Head AU's support for reconciliation

The President of the Republic of the Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso, who is also the Head of the High-level African Union's (AU) Commission on Libya, discussed in the capital, Brazzaville on Wednesday with the deputy in the Presidential Council, Abdullah Al-Lafi, the file of national reconciliation.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Congo, and the Director of the Office of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, they discussed mechanisms for the AU's support for the national reconciliation efforts led by the Presidential Council at the continental and international levels.

According to the Presidential Council, the two sides stressed that the members of the Preparatory Committee for the inclusive conference, which will be held in the capital, Brazzaville, should be invited to put forward proposals that ensure the success of organizing this national event with the participation of the concerned parties.



Economy



## Libyan-Serbian Friendship exhibition inaugurates in Belgrade

The "Libyan-Serbian Friendship" exhibition has kicked off in the Serbian capital, Belgrade, with the participation of 16 Libyan companies.

The Libyan firms had the opportunity to display distinctive Libyan products, such as olive oil, dates, and honey, besides dairy and seafood products, all packed and manufactured in Libya.

"The exhibition represents an opportunity for Libyan companies to display their products and services, expand the network of trade relations with Serbian companies, and contribute to strengthening cultural and economic relations between the two countries," a statement by the Hakomitna platform said on Wednesday.

The exhibition will run until July 23, under the supervision of the Libyan Embassy in Belgrade, and the sponsorship of the Export Development Center, Cibes Exhibitions Company, and the General Exhibitions Authority.

The opening ceremony featured the participation of the Director of the Export Development Center, Muhammad Al-Deeb, the Head of the General Authority for Exhibitions at the Ministry of Economy, Issam Al-Awl, the Deputy Speaker of the Serbian Parliament, and the Grand Mufti of Serbia, as well as ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions in Belgrade.

Economy

## NOC launches training program for graduates of oil-related disciplines

Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat Bengdara, announced on Monday a training program for graduates of oil-related disciplines with an opportunity for more than 7,000 graduates from across Libya.

All those who pass the training program will be appointed to the oil companies, Bengdara said during a meeting at the NOC's HQ in Benghazi, noting that the accepted applicants will receive a monthly grant of 1,000 dinars during the training program.

He said that by investing in young people, we could build a generation capable of bringing positive change to the sector.

"Our goal is to cultivate ambition in these graduates so they can lead the sector in the future," Bengdara disclosed.

Economy

## Head of Presidential Council asks for making public funds neutral to political conflict

The Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi expressed his aspiration to "neutralize public funds" away from the political conflict, create a suitable environment for holding elections, end the transitional periods, and ensure a fair distribution of resources.

Menfi added on Thursday in his speech at the convening of the first meeting of the High Financial Arrangements Committee to follow up on government spending and ensure distribution of funds in a fair manner in Sirte that the issue of allocating resources and distributing them fairly is a technical issue that the committee will be able to implement, but it requires a strong will from all parties to maintain the unity of this committee, and to resist any attempts to "disrupt this national mechanism."

He also called on experts to follow up on the committee's work and express their observations, pledging to adhere to the highest levels of transparency and openness toward the public and informing the people of the course of action of the committee.

Menfi urged for ensuring the committee's apolitical and professional work away from "any political positions." He called on the committee to contribute effectively to "calming tensions" and to be "a model for the possibility of comprehensive national consensus on contentious issues."

He stressed the importance of the role of the Audit Bureau and Administrative Control Authority in following up on existing or planned projects to ensure that the executing and contracting authorities do not deviate from development projects.

Economy



## Minister of Economy reviews return of British companies to Libya

The Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Huweij, discussed with the Deputy Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Libya, Katherine Wild, the mechanism for the return of British companies and the resumption of contracted investment projects in various regions of the country.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Director of the Foreign Trade Department and Head of the International Cooperation Department at the Ministry, Al-Huweij reviewed the results of the British delegation's recent visit to Benghazi, and the ongoing arrangements for organizing the delegation's visit to the capital, Tripoli, in the coming period.

Al-Huweij stressed the importance of holding a meeting of the Libyan-British follow-up committee with the aim of developing bilateral relations and cooperation in the fields of trade and investment, in addition to strengthening the role of the Libyan-British Business Owners Council to organize economic and trade activities and establish a partnership between the two countries' private sectors.

Wilde expressed the United Kingdom's desire to enhance cooperation with Libya in the fields of trade, investment, transportation, free zones and renewable energies.

Wilde stressed the keenness of British companies to resume their activities in Libya and to contribute to the reconstruction and participation of the local private sector in the implementation of investment projects.

The two sides also agreed to enhance communication between the competent departments of the ministry and the commercial attaché of the British Embassy in Libya and to organize bilateral meetings that include economic and commercial actors in both countries.

According to the Ministry of Economy and Trade, these meetings came within the framework of efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with friendly countries and partners, attract foreign investments to the country, and achieve economic and social development.

Economy



## Indonesian embassy organizes workshop for Libyan businesspeople

The Indonesian embassy in Libya organized a workshop at Radisson Blu Hotel and invited a number of Libyan businesspeople who were interested in exploring the Indonesian market. The workshop was supervised by the Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires, with the participation of the Libyan-Indonesian Association of Businesspeople, to promote Indonesian products, including the sectors of petrochemicals, food, agricultural and fish products, medical equipment, cosmetics, paper sector, stationery, furniture, and information technology.

The Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires stressed his country's desire to increase the volume of trade exchange and imports to the Libyan market, noting that the Indonesian market is promising for the Libyan market's needs of various commodities, and that the embassy is ready to provide facilities for Libyan businesspeople wishing to visit Indonesia to discover the market there.

The Chargé d'Affaires invited the attendees to go to the 38th edition of the Expo Indonesia trade fair to be held in the capital, Jakarta, on October 10-22, 2023. He also revealed during a presentation that Egypt comes at the forefront of the Arab countries in terms of the volume of trade exchange, and the value in the past year amounted to about (492 million dollars), while Saudi Arabia came at the forefront of the Arab countries in the field of importing Indonesian goods by about (120 million dollars).

The Head of the Libyan-Indonesian Association of Businesspeople revealed, in a statement to the Libya Observer, that the volume of Indonesian imports to Libya jumped by 1000% since the beginning of the year, thanks to the efforts made by the association in cooperation with the Indonesian embassy in Tripoli to overcome some of the obstacles that were encountering Libyan businessmen to import from the Indonesian market, expressing the hope that attending the "Expo Indonesia" next October will encourage more businesspeople to enter the Indonesian market and benefit from the quality of products with reasonable prices.

It's noteworthy that the sectors of foods, stationery and paper products came at the top of Indonesian imports to Libya in the past years.

Economy

## Minister of Economy, Tunisian Ambassador follow up commercial movement between two sides

The Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Hawij, has followed up with the Tunisian Ambassador to Libya, Al-Asaad Al-Ajili, the commercial movement through the joint land borders, and the facilitation of transit procedures for citizens, goods and services from both sides.

The two sides discussed the current arrangements for the convening of the joint Libyan-Tunisian Higher Committee, stressing the importance of strengthen trade relations and supporting business owners and companies in both countries, according to the media office of the Ministry of Economy.





Opinions

## Bathily's initiative may calm down the conflict

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

Following the announcement of the roadmap by Khaled Al-Mishri, Head of the High Council of State (HCS) and its approval in violation of HCS's Rules of Procedure, the majority of HCS members rejected the roadmap, which debate has been continued by political parties. However, the House of Representatives (HoR) failed to hold a session to discuss it, amid reports that its speaker, Aqila Saleh, had been subjected to pressure to force him to resign.

Al-Mishri was insisting on passing the roadmap, so he did not give it sufficient time for discussion within the HCS, and he did not care about the opposing bloc, as the required quorum was not realized for its adoption in the next day's pending session, as 38 votes were required, while the number of voters available was only 34.

The objections and boycott that Aqila Saleh was subjected to in the last session, indicate his loss of control that he has always enjoyed over the HoR, and this is an unprecedented development, as no bloc was formed to oppose Aqila and his loyal group, over the past years, and even the deputy who violated the context that Aqila wanted in one of the past sessions, another loyal deputy confronted him, and Aqila reprimanded the one who tried to prevent a possible quarrel between the two deputies.

Al-Mishri's roadmap does not aim to pave the way for elections, as much as it is a roadmap to change the executive authority, which is a stated goal agreed upon by Al-Mishri and Aqila, since last October in Morocco, preceded by a change of leaders of sovereign positions. Recent developments in the capital indicate an attempt to empower Faraj Boumtari, former Minister of Finance of Al-Sarraj's government, to the position of the governor of Central Bank of Libya (CBL) instead of Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir, after his arrival in Tripoli, in the same way that the head of the Administrative Control Authority was changed, but security services of the government took the initiative and arrested him.

In the following two days, members of HCS were prevented from traveling to Turkey to receive a pre-paid training

course on the principles and rules of parliamentary work. The session organized by HCS Presidency precedes by a few days, the periodic elections for the HCS Presidency, through which Al-Mishri seeks to obtain a sixth consecutive term as head of the HCS.

In parallel with these developments, statements came out from the regions of the south threatening to close the oil fields, unless Boumtari is released, which is the same threat made by a person who presented himself as the head of the High Council of the Azwiya tribe, adding it as a condition for ousting the government and the governor of the CBL to reopen the oil fields.

UNSMIL commented on these developments with a traditional statement, in which it stated its dismay at the kidnappings and arbitrary arrests, and called on all parties not to escalate, and to avoid any unilateral measures.

In the previous article, I said that the scene was moving towards more escalation, as the momentum of the elections is declining, and Aqila- Al-Mishri alliance is facing an existential challenge. Al-Mishri did not succeed in mobilizing opinion on his side with his recent televised speech. Indeed, such televised speech may have backfired, as social platforms, and media outlets circulated reports about a bribe provided by Al-Mishri to HCS members, by sending them to Turkey, a few days before the round of elections for the HCS presidency. At the other side, attempts to remove Aqila Saleh from the presidency of the House of Representatives continue. All these developments will weaken their ability to remove the Dbeibah government and form a new government, portfolios of which to be shared by active parties. The conflict over the government and financial resources may intensify to the extent of limited armed confrontation. The move of the UN envoy, and activation of an initiative that brings together the political, social and military spectrum, to agree on elections and their laws, may be a temporary solution to calm down the conflict.

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

## Minister of Health reviews needs of dialysis centres



Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Jinnah on Saturday held a meeting to review the emergency needs of dialysis centres. The meeting which grouped officials from the Health Ministry and the Medical Supply Department discussed mutual procedures with the pharmacy and the medical equipment departments to establish supply chains of kidney medications and operators. This comes, days after the Organ Donation Organization warned of a shortage in medications for kidney disease patients.

Health



## Libyan health authorities sign agreement with Italian medical university

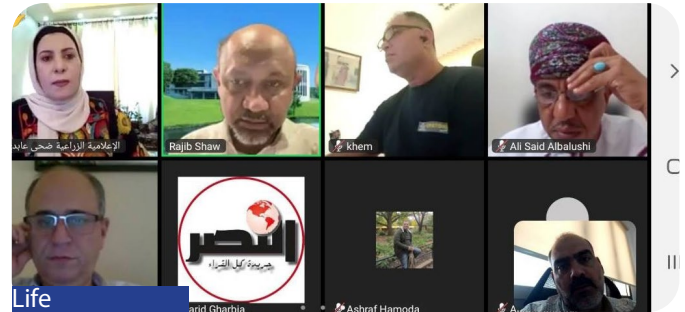
Libya's Emergency Medicine and Support Centre has signed a cooperation agreement with the Italian International University of Health and Medical Sciences.

Deputy Prime Minister/ Minister of Health Ramadan Abu Jinnah attended the signing ceremony with the Director General of the Center, Tariq Al-Hamshari, and the president of the Italian university.

Abu Jinnah praised the effort of the Emergency Medicine and Support Center in advancing the treatment localization project launched in 2021, describing it as a successful and encouraging experience.

Through this project, the Centre made progress in therapeutic services, increased efficiency, and reduced medical expenses," the minister said.

A spokesman for the Emergency Medicine and Support Center, Malik Marsit, said the cooperation agreement comes within the framework of efforts to develop the experience of the Centre's staff.



## Virtual regional symposium on natural heritage, biological diversity and geological heritage concludes

A virtual regional symposium via Zoom platform, addressing media professionals in Arab world, on "natural Heritage, biodiversity and geological heritage", concluded Thursday.

The symposium was organized in the context of the Ecology and Earth Sciences Programme at the UNESCO Cairo Office. It focused on introducing UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks, and management of multiple natural hazards.

The regional 4-day symposium kicked off on Monday, July 10, and was co-organized by the Libyan National Committee for Education, Culture and Science and UNESCO Regional Office for Science, and Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development of the Government of National Unity.

The symposium was aimed at providing the media sector with basic information on the protection of biodiversity and geological heritage as per the methodology used by UNESCO, to present the role of these sites in implementing sustainable development goals and strengthening the link among people, and to familiarize readers, those with interest and specialists in the field of media and journalism with the role played by these sites and their importance for development.

The symposium also included natural hazards affecting these sites in programmes and events of the media sector, newspapers and news; for effective follow-up during crises.



Education



## Libya, Palestine review cooperation in education sector

The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Omran Al-Gaib, discussed at the Ministry's office in Tripoli on Tuesday with ambassador, Emad Zuhairi: Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine, and the accompanying delegation, aspects of cooperation between the two countries in education and research fields in the presence of a number of university deans and department directors.

Al-Gaib stressed the depth of the Libyan-Palestinian relations in various fields, especially the scientific, research and academic fields, underlining the Ministry's keenness to consolidate these relations in a way that achieves the common interests of the two peoples to support the higher education and scientific research sectors. He emphasized the interest of the Government of National Unity in developing the system of higher education and scientific research in Libya.

The Palestinian ambassador also wished to prepare an executive program between Libya and Palestine in the fields of higher education and scientific research as well as the exchange of students between the universities of Libya and the Arab universities of the Palestinian Authority in Jerusalem. He praised the development that was witnessing in various fields and called for strengthening aspects of cooperation.

Sports

## For third time, Al-Ahly Benghazi wins Libyan Basketball League title



The Al-Ahly Benghazi won the Libyan Basketball League title for the third time in its history, after defeating Al-Ahly Tripoli with a score (67-57), at the Suleiman Al-Darrat Complex in Benghazi.

With this result, Al-Ahly Benghazi raised its score to nine points at the top of the quadruple crowning teams, and Al-Ahly Tripoli's points rose to eight in second place.

In the last round, which will not affect Al-Ahly Benghazi's crowning of the title, Al-Ahly Benghazi will face Al-Ittihad, while Al-Ahly Tripoli will play with Al-Nasr.

Education



## Authorities handover newly-constructed schools as part of "Return To Life" project

The Administrative Centres Development Agency has completed the construction and development of several new schools of various education stages as part of the Return To Life scheme launched by Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah.

The agency handed over Um Al-Ajer School for primary education in Zliten, with a capacity of 600 students.

Al-Mashashiya Municipality also announced the completion of Al-Ajer School for primary education, which is equipped with six classrooms that could take up to 360 pupils.

Last Saturday, the education authorities in Zintan received a newly constructed modern school for primary education, with a capacity of eight classrooms.

The PM announced earlier this year plans to establish 500 new schools equipped with the latest technologies and means of education.

Sports



## Sports minister welcomes weight lifting champion Ihsan Shalaby

Minister of Sports of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Shafi' Al-Juwaifi, received Saturday athlete Ihsan Shalabi, who was crowned with two gold medals in weightlifting at the Arab Championships, recently held in Algeria.

Al-Juwaifi congratulated Shalabi, urging him to continue to shine in all international forums, stressing that the ministry will support outstanding Libyan athletes.

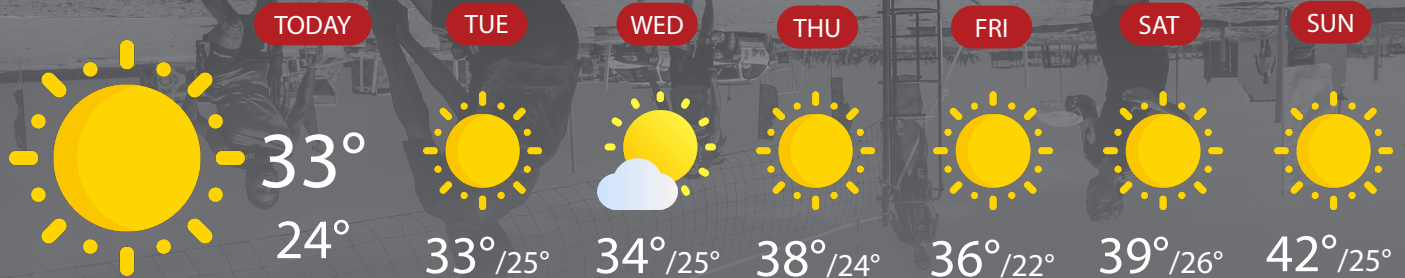
Champion Shalabi earned Libya two gold medals and two new records, after his brilliance in the snatch lifting by lifting 139 kg, as well as his brilliance in the prose weight lifting, when he was able to lift 174 kg, thus breaking two Libyan records in the prose lifting, as well as the total, for he collected 313 kg of the two-weight lifting.



Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



+218 94 424 69 28 [libyaobserver.ly](https://libyaobserver.ly) [lyobserver](https://lyobserver)

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