

Politics

HoR, HCS agree on solution for Central Bank of Libya's crisis

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) said that following a new round of consultations on Wednesday regarding the crisis at the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), representatives from the House of Representatives and the High Council of State reached compromise on appointing new leadership for the CBL. According to UNSMIL, two parties initialed an agreement on the procedures, criteria, and timelines for appointing a Governor, Deputy Governor, and Board of Directors

for the CBL, in accordance with the provisions of the Libyan Political Agreement. UNSMIL said it would host a signing ceremony on Thursday, in the presence of the international community. Representatives of the two chambers are expected to return to review and consult on this agreement before officially approving it. The expected nominations included Naji Issa for the position of Governor of the CBL, and Marie Al-Barasi was nominated for the position of Deputy Governor after

the conclusion of consultations between the two parties. Sources expected that the procedures related to this appointment would be completed within a week of signing the agreement, which says that the CBL Governor and his Deputy will begin their duties within two weeks of the date of their official start in their position. They added that consultations would also take place to appoint a new Board of Directors in accordance with Libyan legislation.

Politics

Libyan Attorney General's Office dismantles Nigerian organized crime network



The Libyan Attorney General's Office announced on Thursday the dismantling of a network of criminal gangs infiltrating from Nigeria to Libya to practice witchcraft and sorcery, organize illegal immigration, kidnapping, drug trafficking, and theft. A statement published by the Office on its Facebook page explained that the intelligence service referred information related to a meeting of illegal immigrants, with the aim of coordinating criminal activities run by five criminal organizations: "High Viking", "EMSI", "Eye", "Black Axe", and the "New Blacks in Africa" movement. The Office concluded that 35 illegal immigrants linked to these groups, which are based in Nigeria, committed acts of witchcraft and sorcery inside Libya, and exploited them in human trafficking, including forced labor. The groups were accused of directing female immigrants under the control of the organizations to perform domestic service, running brothels in the country, and trafficking women internationally, as well as organizing illegal immigration to the countries of the northern Mediterranean, kidnapping, drug and psychotropic substance trafficking, and theft. Libyan intelligence was able to arrest the suspects, including the leader of the "Viking" group in Libya, and he confessed to the infiltration of the five organizations into Libya, and the consolidation of their presence by establishing structures in which hundreds of illegal immigrants were involved to achieve common goals between these gangs and the mafia organizations active in the Mediterranean countries. The Office said the investigators decided to refer all of the individuals to the judiciary.

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G7 members express concerns about crisis of CBL and HCS in Libya

The G7 Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union reiterated in New York their unwavering commitment to Libyan stability, sovereignty, independence and unity. They expressed deep concern about recent developments in the country, in particular those involving the leadership of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) and the High Council of State (HCS), which show the fragility and unsustainability of the present status quo. The G7 members urged relevant Libyan parties to rapidly reach the necessary compromises to begin to restore the institutional integrity of the Central Bank of Libya and its standing with the international financial community. They called on Libyan political actors to refrain from taking harmful unilateral actions that create further political tension and fragmentation and make the country vulnerable to harmful foreign interference. The G7 members also noted advances made in the organization of local elections and they called for a free, fair and inclusive participation of all Libyans. "It is now imperative to relaunch a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process facilitated by the UN towards free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections." They said. They expressed their support and commended the efforts made by UNSMIL officer in charge Stephanie Koury in support of the stabilization of Libya. They called on the Secretary General to appoint a new Special Representative without delay.



Politics

Koury: We received promises from authorities in eastern region to open oil fields and ports

The Acting Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Stephanie Koury, revealed Thursday that she had received promises from the official authorities in the eastern region to open the oil fields and ports as soon as possible, calling on all parties to protect all resources and keep them away from political conflicts.

Koury stressed in her speech during the signing ceremony of an agreement to resolve the crisis of the Central Bank of Libya, in the presence of representatives of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State and diplomatic missions accredited to Libya, the urgent need to end the closure of oil fields and ports and the disruption of production and exports. Koury expressed her thanks to all Libyan parties that contributed to the success of the agreement on the Central Bank of Libya, considering that this consensus focuses on procedures that ensure good governance and the independence of the Central Bank.

"We have followed in the past weeks how the conflict over the Central Bank of Libya has threatened the economic situation, the fragile security situation, and the living conditions of all Libyans," she said, noting that "today's outcomes are positive and promising, as they highlight the ability of the Libyan parties to overcome challenges when the national spirit prevails, and to put the interests of the Libyan people as a priority above all else."

Koury stressed that this agreement will lead to consultations between the House of Representatives and the High Council of State to appoint the bank's governor and his deputy within a week of signing this agreement, as well as appointing a board of directors within two weeks of appointing the governor.

Politics

Arkenu company in Benghazi exports 5 million crude barrels despite shutdown

Benghazi-based oil services company Arkenu Oil Company – set up only in 2023 and whose ownership is unknown – is said to have exported 5 million barrels of crude from the Marsa Al-Hari-ga terminal in Tobruk over recent months, with more due to follow soon, African Energy website said.

It added that the oil shipments continued while facilities across the rest of the country had been blockaded by forces controlled by Benghazi-based Khalifa Haftar. According to the website, all oil shipments are believed to have gone to China. African Energy approached Arkenu and the National Oil Corporation for comments, but hadn't received any.

According to a well-placed source in Libya speaking to African Energy, Arkenu exported two cargoes in May, although this was not reported at the time. It exported a further cargo in July, news of which was first reported in African Energy. Two further cargoes were sent in August. It is expected to ship two more in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, a recent report published by OilPrice website considered that "Haftar's clan is still making oil money through a private oil company based in Benghazi (Arkenu) that is allowed to freely bypass the blockade and export to international markets." "This means that the National Oil Corporation is not in any way in control at the moment, and that major international companies operating in Libya will pay close attention to who their exports go to, while observers will also be interested in knowing where this money goes." The report says.

The website reported that Arkenu's oil sales go to the company's foreign bank accounts, bypassing the Libyan state, which the report explained by saying: "This means that Haftar is bypassing the role of the bank and allowing oil exports to pass to earn revenues that can be directed to Benghazi. Therefore, the increase in exports does not necessarily mean that talks aimed at mediating the crisis have made any progress."



Politics

South Tripoli Court of Appeal rules to suspend Al-Mishri's presidency of HCS

The South Tripoli Court of Appeal has ruled to temporarily suspend Al-Mishri's presidency of the High Council of State.

The court ruled to accept the appeal and suspended the implementation of the contested decision against the election session and its outcomes. For his part, Khaled Al-Mishri described the ruling of the South Tripoli Court of Appeal, which decided to temporarily suspend his duties as President of the High Council of State, as "null and

void." Khaled Al-Mishri expressed his surprise, in a press statement, at the ruling of the South Tripoli Court of Appeal, which he said was "issued by a department not concerned with constitutional issues," adding that the High Court Law is binding on all courts and other bodies.

Al-Mishri considered Takala's filing a lawsuit against him in his capacity as President of the High Council of State as an acknowledgement of his right to chair the High

Council of State.

The court ruling came after a lawsuit filed by Mohamed Takala "against Khaled Al-Mishri assuming the presidency of the High council of State despite the lack of a decision on the ballot paper, in addition to the presence of two people in the session and participating in the voting without having the status of members, which affects the validity of the session and its results," according to the lawsuit.

Politics

Presidential Council calls for dialogue with House of Representatives to approve a unified budget



The Presidential Council has called on the United Nations Mission in Libya to lead a dialogue mechanism with the House of Representatives to reach a unified budget law or agree on temporary financial arrangements. This came in a letter sent by the advisor of the Head of the Presidential Council, Ziyad Daghim, to the Acting Head of the United Nations Mission to Libya, Stephanie Koury, and circulated by local media. Daghim said that the executive authority is competent, according to (Article 9, paragraph 6) of the political agreement, to issue temporary financial arrangements through a higher financial committee consisting of the relevant institutions. Daghim pointed out that the main cause for the current crisis was the lack of a budget law that restores the Central Bank to its technical role away from the political

role or determining spending priorities. He stressed that the existence of a unified budget law for 2024 requires 3 constitutional requirements that were not met in what was issued by Parliament, noting that the requirements are represented in submitting a draft budget law by the executive authority, provided that the executive authority consults with the High Council of State before submitting the draft law, and the House of Representatives approves the draft budget law with the quorum described according to the sixth amendment to the Constitutional Declaration. He called for the necessity of UNSMIL leading a dialogue mechanism that ensures reaching a unified budget law or agreeing on temporary financial arrangements. Regarding the initialed agreement between the representatives of the House of

Representatives and the High Council of State, Daghim indicated that "the Presidential Council is open to what was stated in the statement and is ready for a direct dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations Mission with the House of Representatives to address the unilateral decisions related to the financial and economic crisis sparked by the issuance of the unilaterally prepared and issued budget law, which is an opportunity to address the competence of appointing the Board of Directors of the Central Bank." The Presidential Council announced its support for the agreement between the House of Representatives and the High Council of State to appoint a new governor for the Central Bank, but it insisted on its right to appoint the Board of Directors of the bank based on the political agreement.

Politics

Al-Mishri: HoR Speaker's withdrawal of authorities from Presidential Council violates political agreement



Khaled Al-Mishri - in his capacity as Head of the High Council of State - announced the invalidity of the decision of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, to withdraw the title of Commander-in-Chief of the Army from the Presidential Council, due to its violation of Article (12) of the additional provisions of the political agreement signed in Skhirat in 2015. In a letter addressed to Saleh and published by the media office of the High Council of State on its Facebook page, Al-Mishri explained the reasons for the invalidity of the decision by referring to the second paragraph of Article (08) of the political agreement regarding the jurisdiction of the Council of Ministers, which was reconstituted by Article (01) of the Eleventh Constitutional Amendment issued

on November 26, 2018, which stipulates that the amended political agreement shall guarantee, in accordance with what was agreed upon, the formation of the Presidential Council of a President, two deputies, and a separate Prime Minister, to the constitutional declaration. The letter explained that accordingly, the Presidential Council is the body that exercises the powers of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, adding that Article (12) of the additional provisions of the political agreement stipulates that if it is necessary to make a subsequent amendment to the Constitutional Declaration that affects the agreement or one of the institutions emanating from it directly or indirectly, the House of Representatives and the High Council of State are

obligated to agree among themselves on the formula of this amendment, provided that it is finally approved without amendment by the House of Representatives in accordance with the mechanism contained in the Constitutional Declaration. Al-Mishri said that the decision taken by Saleh in the session of August 13, regarding withdrawing the title of Chief Commander of the Libyan Army is considered invalid for violating Article (12) due to the lack of agreement with the High Council of State. The House of Representatives issued a decision to end the term of the Government of National Unity and withdraw the powers of the Chief Commander from the Presidential Council and grant them to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh.



Economy

Libya is working on developing oil-rich cities' digital infrastructure

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) signed on Wednesday cooperation agreements with telecom companies Al-Madar, Libyana and Hatif Libya under the slogan "Toward Smart Oil Cities" to develop digital infrastructure in oil-rich cities.

The agreements aim to integrate the latest communications and information technologies to improve the efficiency of oil operations and enhance production sustainability, according to a statement

by the NOC on its Facebook page.

These partnerships reflect the strategic role played by communications in facilitating smart control and management of resources, which enhances the continuity of this vital sector.

NOC Board Member Hussein Safar said that these agreements represent a qualitative shift in cooperation between the oil and communications sectors, stressing that digital transformation will play a pivotal role in developing the sector and

enhancing its position locally and internationally. He explained that the use of modern technology will reduce operating costs and increase productivity.

The telecommunications companies expressed their readiness to provide the necessary technical and logistical support to ensure the success of these initiatives, noting that communications technology will enhance the ability to immediately control and analyze big data related to oil production.



Economy

Italy's Eni starts exploratory drilling in Ghadames Basin

Italian oil company Eni confirmed it would be launching onshore exploratory drilling activities in the Ghadames Basin in Libya next month, as well as the launching of an offshore drilling campaign in the Sirte Basin by the end of 2025.

During the Libyan-Italian roundtable, which kicked off Monday in Rome, Martina Obizzi, President of the North Africa and Levant region at Eni, said: "Exploration activities are one of the main pillars in the energy sector," according to the Energy Capital & Power website.

"We have not stopped looking at Libya from an exploration perspective, and we are looking forward to resuming these activities as soon as possible," Obizzi added, noting that there are more than a billion undiscovered resources in Libya.

Eni is working jointly to operate offshore exploration operations in Areas A and B in the Ghadames Basin, alongside British Petroleum and the Libyan Investment Authority.

The Libyan-Italian roundtable will discuss the role of Italian companies in developing the oil and natural gas sector in Libya, in addition to discussing the launching of the third edition of the Libya Energy and Economy Summit next year in Tripoli.

Economy

Minister of Economy reviews with German Ambassador economic challenges in Libya



The Minister of Economy and Trade of the Government of National Unity, Mohammed Al-Hawajj, has discussed with the Acting Chargé d'Affaires of the German Embassy, Sven Kroesbe, the current economic and financial challenges in Libya, and ways to enhance economic and trade cooperation

between the two countries. During the meeting, the recommendations of the Joint Economic and Commercial Forum, which was held in the capital, Tripoli, during the last period, were discussed. Both sides stressed the importance of cooperation between the competent department

of the Ministry, and the affiliated bodies with the commercial office of the embassy, in networking the Libyan-German private sector by facilitating the procedures for issuing visas to owners of companies, businesses and investors from both sides, to participate in the economic activities.



Economy

Italy reiterates support for sustainable development in Libya

The Italian Ambassador to Libya, Gianluca Alberini, has reaffirmed his country's continued support for Libya's economic development and sustainable energy sector.

In a speech at the Libya-Italy Roundtable Forum held in Rome on Tuesday, Alberini emphasized the potential for Libya to become a significant energy supplier to the European Union. He further underscored the importance of a stable business environment in Libya for fostering growth and cooperation. The Energy Capital & Power website quoted Alberini as saying, "Italy can be an entry point for Libya into the largest European energy market. We are interested in helping Libya become a united, peaceful, and prosperous country."



Economy

Central Bank of Libya extends acceptance of 50 dinars banknotes

The Issuance Department of the Central Bank of Libya decided that banks should extend the period for withdrawing the 50 dinars banknotes from customers until December 31, 2024.

The decision said that the banknotes would continue to be accepted by the Central Bank, its branches, and its affiliated departments of commercial banks until the end of business day on Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

The Central Bank of Libya announced the withdrawal of the first and second issues of the 50 dinars banknotes from circulation in mid-April.



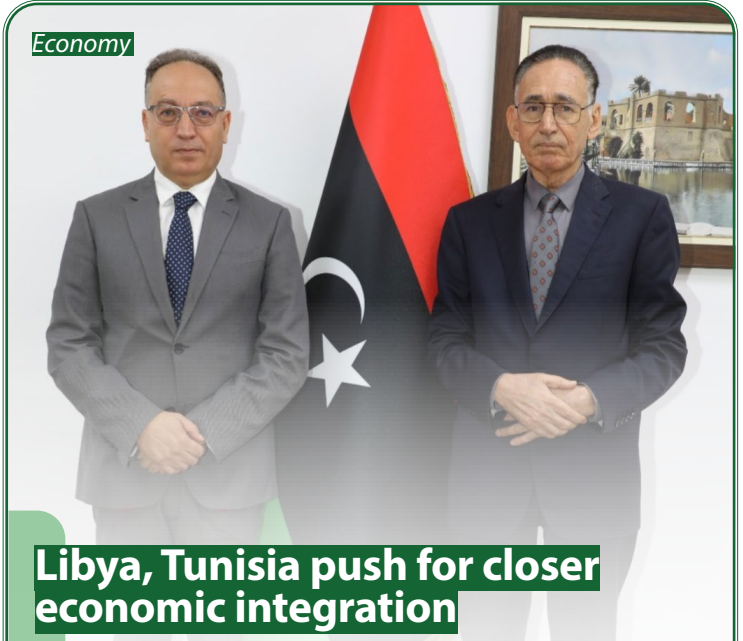
Economy

Libya, Spain aim to boost economic ties

Prime Minister Abdulhamid Al-Dbeibah met with Spain's Ambassador to Libya, Javier García-Larrache, on Tuesday to discuss enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries.

According to the PM's media office, the talks focused on expanding Spanish companies' operations in Libya, promoting mutual investments across various sectors, and ensuring that major oil fields -particularly the Sharara oil field- remain free from political conflicts to guarantee production stability.

Both parties expressed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and working together for the benefit of both nations.



Economy

Libya, Tunisia push for closer economic integration

Minister of Economy and Trade Mohamed Al-Hweij met with the Tunisian Ambassador to Libya, Asaad Al-Ajili, to discuss enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries.

Talks focused on increasing trade through shared land borders and streamlining procedures for the movement of goods and services.

The two sides emphasized the importance of fostering private sector involvement, facilitating investment opportunities, and creating a framework for closer economic integration.

Both countries are pushing for the convening of the Joint Higher Trade Committee, led by their respective prime ministers, to take place soon in Tripoli.



Sports

Al-Ahly Tripoli and Al-Hilal teams are out of CAF Confederation Cup

Al-Hilal team is now out of CAF Confederation Cup from the round of 32 after losing the second leg match on Sunday against Al-Masry of Port Said on penalties 3-5. This came after the match time ended with Al-Masry winning 3-2, the same result that Al-Hilal won in the first leg match that was held last week in Benghazi. Meanwhile, Al-Ahly Tripoli also bid farewell to the CAF Confederation Cup after losing to its host Simba of Tanzania by 1-3 in the second leg of the round of 32 of the tournament on Sunday. The first leg match ended in a goalless draw at Tripoli International Stadium, so Simba won the qualification ticket at the expense of Al-Ahly Tripoli.



Education

Minister of Education discusses cooperation with UNICEF

The Minister of Education in the Government of National Unity, Musa Al-Magaryif, discussed on Sunday with the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in Libya, Muhammad Fayyadi, the cooperation agreement signed between the two sides. Both sides discussed the implementation of joint projects between the two parties, such as the OpenEMIS project, the 21st Century Teachers project, and the training of a thousand school principals. Al-Magaryif appreciated the role of UNICEF and its cooperation in implementing the projects prepared by the Ministry to develop the education sector in Libya.

Sports

Nasser Al-Hadiri named as coach for Libyan national football team



The Libyan Football Federation (LFF) has appointed national coach Nasser Al-Hadiri to lead the national team, succeeding the Serbian coach Micho, who was dismissed in the past few days after the team's negative results in AFCON qualifiers. Coach Al-Hadiri will be assisted by national coach Abu Bakr Al-Harak, while Misbah Shangab will be the goalkeeper

coach, while the national team awaits an important match on October 09 against Nigeria in AFCON qualifiers. The Head of the LFF, Abdul Hakim Al-Shalmani, said in a press statement that the LFF had already concluded its agreement on everything with national coach Al-Hadiri to take over the training of the Libyan national team, as the new coach has great experience at the

technical level and previously held the position of assistant coach with the Spaniard Javier Clemente in the Libyan national team in 2014." The national football team has also dropped in the world rankings for September issued by the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) to 121st place globally, 34th in Africa and 17th in the Arab world.

Opinions

Contradictions of Libyan political personality

By *Abdullah Alkabir*, political writer and commentator



One of the axioms of political work is consistency, unity of opinions and positions towards events when they are similar, meaning that there is no duality in the position based on interest, but rather building the strategy from the ground up according to national interests and goals, and this will necessarily lead to avoiding double standards, as it is not possible, for example, for a politician to violate the law or not to object to violating it as long as it is beneficial to her/him, and protest and reject violating it if it is not in his/her interest.

The fear of falling into the trap of contradiction is the reason for the ambiguity of some statements by political figures, which can be interpreted either way, so we see them hesitate in announcing their positions, they go first to evaluate the position in all its dimensions, and activate their memory in search of similar previous positions or events, and what their comment was on such matter at that time, as for amateurs, they are often the ones who fall into the trap of contradiction, without thinking or feeling often, because they practice political work with a confined horizon not more than serving their narrow interests.

With developments of the crisis that have protracted for more than a decade after the February Revolution, many figures have appeared on the Libyan political scene falling into countless contradictions. With the escalation of the crisis and the intensification of the conflict, these contradictions have become clear to every observer and a source of ridicule for social media activists.

Some members of the House of Representatives frequently appear on satellite channels, and have not missed an op-

portunity to criticize the Government of National Accord in Tripoli's use of the Turkish government to thwart Haftar's attack on Tripoli, considering this measure a violation of national sovereignty. Yet, they ignore the House of Representatives' approval of the militias affiliated with it, contracting the Russian security company Wagner, by an undeclared agreement, as stated by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Some of them violate the law, do not abide by the legal rules, and refuse to implement judicial rulings if such rules are against them. At the same time, they resort to this judiciary to challenge the decisions of their opponents, accusing them of exceeding their powers according to the legal references that they had previously failed to abide by. The House of Representatives, the Government of National Unity, the Central Bank, and other institutions did not comply with some of the legal rulings issued against them, completely ignored them as if they did not exist, and at the same time, they are never late in filing lawsuits and petitions with the Attorney General, within the framework of the prevailing state of conflict between the conflicting political parties.

Using the law as a weapon to strike at the opponents, an approach used by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the extent of establishing a constitutional court, in a bid to abrogate the constitutional chamber of the High Court, with the intention of transferring powers of the Constitutional Chamber to Aqila's Constitutional Court, and here a contradiction will emerge that is not without humor, as the country does not resort to a constitution that requires a constitutional court, which organizes the legal

authority according to the articles of the constitution, and decides any constitutional dispute between the institutions, and the constitutional declaration is limited in size and interim, and therefore does not need an independent constitutional court.

Another contradiction is that political figures ignore public opinion in cases of calm, and the absence of anything that would shake power and influence, and resort to addressing it and appealing to gain sympathy if the seat of power is seriously threatened. The politician makes many statements and media appearances, hoping to influence public opinion to support him before he falls from his seat of power and is shattered. Even after the fall, he did not hesitate to appeal to public opinion by addressing it through the media, while these figures ignored people's complaints, protests, and legitimate demands to improve their conditions, when their power was firmly established and not threatened with collapse.

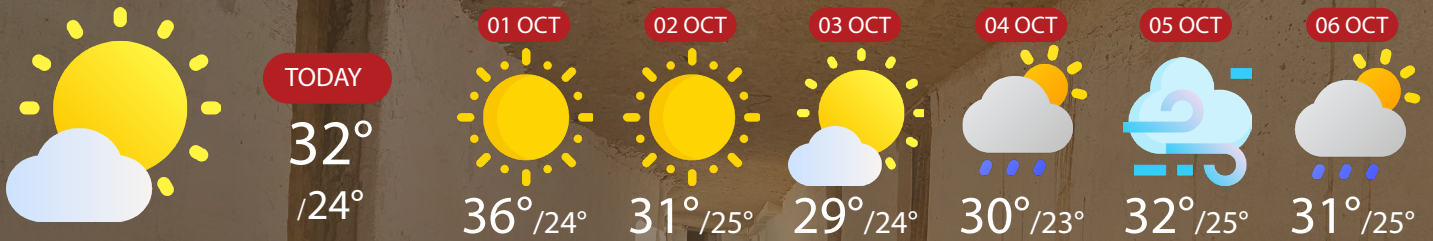
These blatant contradictions in Libyan political behavior can be considered an additional takeaway lesson in the political transition phase, when the political elite exceeds its basic role in establishing the foundations of the state, and is tempted to exercise power, so it deviates from its duties and role, and its goal becomes to preserve their own power and privileges thereof, and engage in a state of conflict with other political forces and figures, so chaos prevails, disintegration increases, and the collapse continues, as an inevitable prelude, until the moment of explosion comes, so the system restores its presence with new arrangements that is a mere temporary truce in-between chaos or revolution breaks out.

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

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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