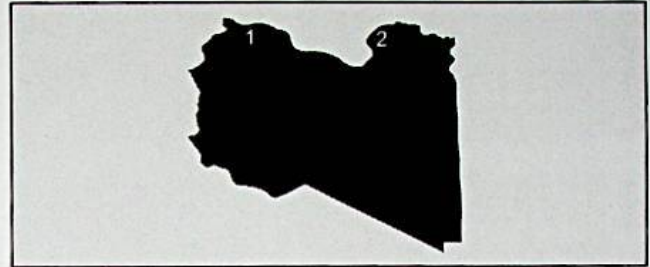


Summary: ENI Chief Executive Officer Paolo Scaroni meets with interim Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thini; Missile attack targets Tripoli International Airport; Libyan Central Bank's media director kidnapped; Police Colonel assassinated in Benghazi



ENI Chief Executive Officer Paolo Scaroni Meets With Interim Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thini

ENI Chief Executive Officer Paolo Scaroni met with interim Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thini in Tripoli(1) on 23 March. According to ENI, the meeting focused on efforts to maintain and increase the company's production levels in Libya. ENI also stated that Scaroni and the interim Premier discussed the growing importance of Libyan natural gas exports to Italy in light of the ongoing crisis in the Ukraine. Interim Prime Minister al-Thini additionally noted that he and Scaroni discussed economic development projects that ENI intends to implement in Libya. These projects—primarily in the health, water, and educational sectors—will benefit local residents living near oil and gas fields.

Based on media reports in: Libya al-Mustakbal, Libya Herald

Missile Attack Targets Tripoli International Airport

Unknown assailants launched a missile at Tripoli International Airport on the afternoon of 23 March. The missile landed in an empty space and did not cause any casualties or damage. The incident comes shortly after unknown assailants launched two artillery rounds at the airport on 21 March. The artillery rounds caused substantial material damage to the airport's main runway, forcing a temporary cancellation of all flights. Some regional airlines resumed flights after a repair team fixed the runway, but most European airlines announced a hiatus so they could assess the situation. The exact motive behind the attacks remains unclear, but rumors are spreading that they may have been carried out in an attempt to undermine the Zintani militia tasked with guarding the airport.

Based on media reports in: Libya Herald

Libyan Central Bank's Media Director Kidnapped

Unknown gunmen kidnapped the Libyan Central Bank's media director, Essam al-Aaoul, in Tripoli on 24 March. Al-Aaoul is a well-known figure who also edits the online news website al-Watan. The exact motive behind the abduction remains unclear at this point, but it is possible that a criminal group kidnapped al-Aaoul with the hope of extracting a ransom payment. Kidnapping for ransom has become prevalent in Libya, with criminal groups usually targeting prominent Libyan officials and their family members. However, it also remains possible that a militia kidnapped al-Aaoul in a bid to gain influence over his news website's reporting. Militias regularly use violence to intimidate Libyan journalists whose outlets publish unfavorable stories. Highlighting the dangers militias pose to the Libyan press, unknown gunmen recently tried and failed to assassinate a cameraman in Benghazi(2) working for the television channel Libya Awallan.

Based on media reports in: Libya al-Mustakbal, Libya Herald