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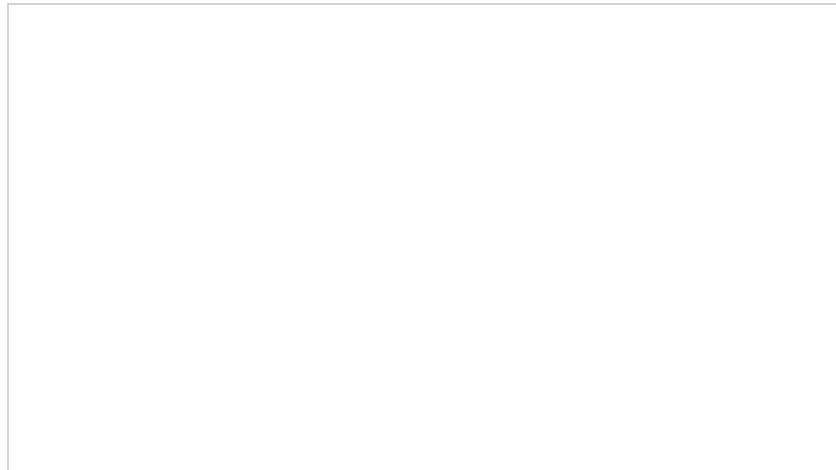


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Monday, August 22, 2011, 08:15

## Press digest



The following are the top stories in the Maltese and overseas press:

The Times reports how the Libyan rebels are in a final push to oust Gaddafi. It also reports how an escaped prisoner was caught after a rooftop chase.

The Malta Independent carries the heading Tripoli Rises and reports how Libyan rebels are celebrating in Tripoli.

In-Nazzjon says shots were fired at a Maltese ship as it tried to berth in Tripoli in an attempt to evacuate workers.

I-orrizont says another agency has been found to be exploiting workers providing services to the government. It also reports on developments in Libya.

The overseas press

Television pictures all over the world show jubilant crowds greeting rebel fighters as they approached the centre of Tripoli with little apparent sign of resistance. By early this morning, rebels had seized the symbolic centre of Tripoli, Green Square, where hundreds of people rejoiced and volleys of celebratory gunfire rang out. The compound of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi was being heavily defended – although there were no details of the whereabouts the "rais" himself. Gaddafi repeated an audio message late on Sunday for Libyans to "save Tripoli," and compared the city to Baghdad during the Iraq War. It was believed that battles between rebels and Gaddafi loyalists continued in parts of the city. The Libyan leadership has appealed for a ceasefire.

Claims that the capital had been overrun were earlier dismissed by Libyan government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim. Blaming Nato for the rebel advances on the city, Ibrahim appeared on Al Jamahariya TV to appeal for a ceasefire, saying that Libya held the world responsible for air strikes against the city. Ibrahim said that Nato was providing support to "armed gangs who were intent on revenge and settling tribal scores". He said 1,300 people had been killed in fighting between midday local time and 11.15 p.m. on Sunday – figures that were disputed rebels.

USA Today quotes Nato saying Muammar Gaddafi's regime was "clearly crumbling" and the time to create a new democratic Libya had arrived. Nato Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said that the sooner Gaddafi "realises that he cannot win the battle against his own people, the better". Nato warplanes have flown nearly 20,000 sorties in the past five months, including about 7,500 strikes against Gaddafi's forces.

CNN says the chief prosecutor of the Netherlands-based The International Criminal Court Luis Moreno-Ocampo has confirmed that Saif al-Islam Gaddafi – a son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi – had been detained by rebel forces. Saif Gaddafi was indicted along with his father earlier this year on charges of ordering, planning and participating in illegal attacks on civilians. Earlier, the Libyan rebels said that the two of Gaddafi's sons had been arrested in a village in the western Tripoli area.

### Similar Stories



Aug 21st, 22:19

Jubilation as Tripoli falls - Seif al-Islam 'captured' - Celebrations in Malta

- Jubilation as Tripoli falls - Seif...
- Updated: Rebels close in on Tripoli
- Libya rebels gain ground in east as...
- Libyan rebels reject ceasefire proposals
- Tripoli bombed, Gaddafi lashes 'colonial...

### Popular Stories

1. Updated - KMB: Gaddafi has no choice but...
2. Updated: Gaddafi aircraft speculation denied
3. Man accused of blackmailing his married...
4. Libya developments: PM cuts short his holiday
5. Libyans remove all traces of Gaddafi from...
6. Life at the Tripoli Corinthia amid the...
7. Updated: Ambassador met rebels in secret
8. Updated: Libyan community wants 'new...
9. PBS chairman reinstated

### In Discussion

1. Updated - KMB: Gaddafi has no choice but...
2. Joe Brincat asks Ombudsman to investigate...
3. Libya developments: PM cuts short his holiday
4. PBS chairman reinstated
5. No inquiry into use of rubber bullets in...
6. Malta recognises transitional council as...
7. Lawyer objects to Arriva drivers checking...
8. Malta should not remain a spectator in...
9. Police officer complains about 'violent'...

Rio de Janeiro will host the next World Youth Day in 2013. El Mundo reports that Pope Benedict made the announcement to hundreds of thousands of young Roman Catholic pilgrims, assembled to celebrate Mass at a military airbase, at the close of this year's event in Madrid. The 1.5 million-crowd of young people from around the globe erupted in cheers at the announcement. Rio will also host the Summer Olympics in 2016 and Brazil will host the World Cup in 2014.

Environment Daily quotes a UN report issued today saying that population growth and water stress were driving the earth to a food and environmental crunch that only better farming techniques and smarter use of the ecosystem would avert. The 35-page assessment, compiled by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the [International Water Management Institute \(IWMI\)](#), says the global population was expected to rise from seven billion in 2011 to at least nine billion by 2050, boosting demands for water that were already extreme in many countries and set to worsen through global warming.

Al Thawra quotes Syrian President Bashar Assad saying his regime was in no danger of collapse and warning against any foreign military intervention in his country. In his fourth public appearance since the revolt against his family's 40-year rule erupted in mid-March, Assad also said he expected a parliamentary election to be held next February.

Al-Ayyam says Gaza militants have agreed to a cease-fire with Israel to stop three days of violence, after a deadly attack on Israelis near the Egypt-Israel border set off a round of Israeli airstrikes and rocket barrages from Gaza. The sudden flare-up also threatened Israel-Egypt relations, after Egypt said five of its policemen were killed by Israeli fire as Israel's troops and aircraft pursued the militants responsible for killing eight people Thursday. Egypt complained strongly as thousands demonstrated in Cairo, and Israel apologised.

Oslo News reports a ceremony was held to remember the victims of last month's twin terrorist attacks – the country's worst bloodshed since World War Two. Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg said the country had collectively defeated hatred. Anders Behring Breivik – who has admitted to planting the car bomb that killed eight and to the shooting rampage – remains in solitary confinement at a prison in Oslo.

Venezuela's Globovision showed supporters of President Hugo Chavez shaving their heads in solidarity with their leader's struggle against cancer as hundreds prayed and sang at a televised event. Barbers shaved off the hair of several men and at least one woman while the crowd swayed to a religious song. Chavez, bald from chemotherapy, smiled, clapped with the music and waved to the crowd.

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