

THE NEWSCAST

MIGRANT BOATS SINK OFF GREECE AND MADAGASCAR, LEAVING DOZENS DEAD

Eight people, most of them minors, lost their lives following the sinking of a migrant boat near the Greek island of Samos. The Greek coast guard rescued 36 people from the northern part of the island, with rescue operations still underway. In a separate incident, Somali Minister of Information, Daoud Aweys, announced that at least 22 Somalis died when two migrant boats capsized off the coast of Madagascar. The two boats had departed from Somalia, heading toward the French island of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean. Local fishermen discovered the first boat near Nosy Iranja Island, rescuing 25 people, while seven lost their lives. The second boat, carrying 38 people, reached Krater Port, where 23 individuals were rescued, though details on the other casualties remain unclear.



TRUMP'S HARDLINE IMMIGRATION POLICY: A THREAT TO THE U.S. ECONOMY

President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to adopt a strict immigration policy, promising controversial mass deportations. Analysts, however, warn that such measures could significantly harm the U.S. economy, especially in sectors heavily dependent on foreign labor. Agriculture and construction are among the sectors most affected, employing thousands of migrants, including undocumented ones. Official estimates suggest that approximately 11 million undocumented migrants live in the United States, most of whom are from Mexico. Of these, around 8.3 million were employed in 2022, making up 5% of the labor force, according to Pew Research Center.

LIBYA-MALTA AGREEMENT: MIGRANT NUMBERS DECLINE AMID CONTROVERSY



Official data shared in the Maltese parliament revealed a decline in the number of irregular migrants arriving in Malta since the signing of a controversial agreement with Libya. According to Malta Today, more than 15,000 people have entered Malta irregularly since 2011, with only 3,500 returned or relocated to other countries. The agreement, signed in 2020, facilitated the interception of migrant boats departing from Libyan shores within Libyan territorial waters. The two countries also established joint coordination centers in Valletta and Tripoli, staffed by officials from both sides, to implement the terms of the agreement.

TUNISIA ADOPTS COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIES TO COMBAT IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN COLLABORATION WITH EUROPE



Tunisia is intensifying its efforts to combat irregular migration through comprehensive strategies aimed at reducing the flow of African migrants using Tunisian territory as a launch point toward Europe in unsafe boats. President Kais Saied recently affirmed that Tunisia is cooperating with Italy and European partners to ensure the return of irregular migrants to their countries of origin. Tunisian academic and analyst Manal Weslati noted that tackling irregular migration has become a top priority during Saied's second presidential term, with local strategies focused on achieving sustainable development to bolster security and stability.



MAURITANIAN SECURITY FORCES DISMANTLE MIGRANT SMUGGLING NETWORK TO EUROPE

Mauritanian security forces announced on Wednesday the dismantling of a migrant smuggling network comprising three individuals of Asian nationality who were planning an irregular migration trip to Europe. Authorities thwarted an attempt to transport 125 foreign migrants across the Atlantic Ocean toward European shores. The operation, conducted in the "City Plage" neighborhood of the capital Nouakchott, resulted in the seizure of equipment intended for the journey, including fuel containers, life vests, luggage, and a boat engine.



WOMEN MIGRANTS IN NORTHERN FRANCE: RISKS AND STRUGGLES FOR SURVIVAL

Women living alone in migrant camps in northern France face significant risks, including sexual assault and forced prostitution. Humanitarian organizations are striving to locate these women in camps and move them to safer places. Khulood, a 26-year-old Syrian-Kuwaiti migrant, recounted her story while watching her two-year-old son Adam, who has spent his entire life on migration journeys. Adam's father fled to Germany upon learning of her pregnancy, leaving Khulood to seek refuge in the UK. She found temporary solace at the Catholic Relief Center in Calais, which provides a safe haven for single women migrants, with or without children.



LIBYAN ARMY CAPTURES 300 MIGRANTS ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE DESERT TOWARD THE MEDITERRANEAN



The Libyan Army's 444 Brigade announced on Monday the interception of over 300 migrants, including men, women, and children, attempting to cross the desert en route to the Mediterranean Sea. The brigade released aerial images showing the migrants seated on the ground under the watch of soldiers. The operation was carried out by a desert patrol, and the migrants have been handed over to the relevant authorities. The timing of the operation was not disclosed.

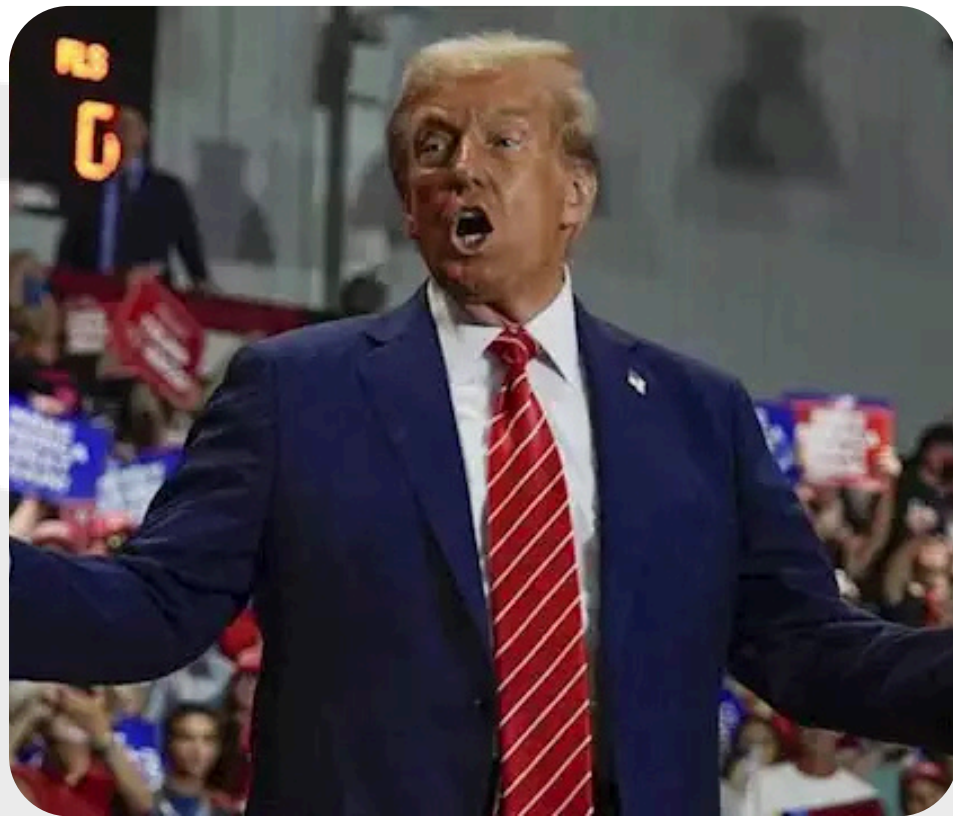
BULGARIA STRENGTHENS BORDER SECURITY WITH TURKEY AFTER PARTIAL SCHENGEN ENTRY

Bulgaria has intensified its security efforts on the border with Turkey following its partial entry into the Schengen Area, aiming to protect the European Union's external borders from irregular migration. Bulgarian Border Police Chief Anton Zlatanov announced the deployment of 100 additional border officers from Romania, Hungary, and Austria to secure the shared border with Turkey. Reports also indicated that Bulgarian authorities recruited over 1,000 additional personnel to reduce migrant pressure by up to 70%. This move is part of a broader initiative to strengthen the security of the EU's external borders, with expectations that regional and international cooperation will support Bulgaria's efforts in managing irregular migration flows.



TRUMP ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO TO HALT MIGRATION AND ENHANCE SECURITY COOPERATION

President-elect Donald Trump announced that he had a "highly productive" conversation with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, during which Mexico agreed to halt migration flows through its territory. Trump described this measure as a "de facto closure of the southern border of the United States" in a post on Truth Social on Wednesday. Sheinbaum confirmed the conversation, calling it "excellent," and stated that Mexico is handling migrant caravans before they reach the U.S. northern border. The discussion also touched on enhancing security cooperation within Mexico's sovereignty framework and addressing the issue of fentanyl consumption.



MAURITANIA BEGINS REPATRIATING PAKISTANI MIGRANTS AMID MALI'S REFUSAL TO RECEIVE THEM

Mauritanian police announced the initiation of repatriation procedures for irregular Pakistani migrants after Malian authorities refused to accept them at the border. Mali justified its refusal by stating that the migrants lacked documentation proving their entry through Malian territory. According to Mauritanian media, the incident occurred at the "Kouki" border crossing, prompting the Mauritanian police to return the migrants to the capital Nouakchott, where preparations for their deportation to Pakistan are underway. The Mauritanian police assured that the migrants are currently receiving proper care, including food and health services, in accordance with international humanitarian laws and related agreements.



DEPORTATION OF BANGLADESHI MIGRANTS FROM LIBYA FOR LEGAL VIOLATIONS



The Anti-Illegal Migration Agency in Tripoli, Libya, announced on Wednesday the deportation of a group of irregular Bangladeshi migrants without specifying their number. The agency stated that the deportation followed the completion of removal procedures based on travel documents due to violations of Libyan laws. The International Organization for Migration reported a significant increase in Bangladeshi migrants arriving in Libya, with at least half of them entering via Turkey. The organization also noted that 95% of Bangladeshi migrants leave their country for economic reasons, with 69% classified as unemployed.

MIGRANTS IN NORTHERN FRANCE AWAIT ENGLISH CHANNEL CROSSING AMID HARSH CONDITIONS

Hundreds of migrants in northern France are waiting for an opportunity to cross the English Channel to Britain after their asylum requests were rejected or they were returned to other European countries under the Dublin Regulation. For many, the United Kingdom has become their final hope, even though it was not their original destination. At a camp in Loon-Plage, a British-registered vehicle creates a stir among the migrants. Groups quickly gather around a trailer operated by a British volunteer, distributing wooden planks and pallets. These materials have become essential resources for cooking and heating, particularly as a severe cold snap grips the region this week.

