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The official opening of 'Libya 2009 Afrobasket', the 25th FIBA Africa Championship for men. The championship was opened on Wednesday 5 August 2009. It marked the start of with all sixteen participating nations getting set for the jump-ball in the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi in an event that coincides with the celebrations commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Libya's Great AL Fateh Revolution. Libya upstaged South Africa to win their opening game in the 25th edition of the FIBA Africa Championship 2009 for Men, by 16 clear points, 88-72. (Read more on this story on pages 18 and 19)

Britain Denies Entry Visa to 12 Libyan Imams

The British government denied on Wednesday entry visas for twelve Libyan Imams (preachers) who were to lead prayers during the month of Ramadan in a number of mosques in England.

Oea daily reported on Thursday that the group was sponsored by World Islamic Call Society (WICS), a well internationally known Libyan charity association.

The WICS provided the British embassy in Tripoli with all needed documents, financial support and other guarantees regarding the members of the group, the paper said.

Muslim countries, including Libya, send imams to lead prayers and preach to Muslims abroad during the holy month of

Ramadan every year.

The denying of entry visas to a the Libyan religious delegation comes after a few weeks since the British ambassador to Tripoli called, during a press conference, on Libyan authorities to facilitate and speed up visas to British citizens wishing to visit Libya.

The British ambassador also called for signing some sort of understanding agreement that

would allow for issuing five-year entry visas to British citizens by the Libyan embassy in London.

The daily reported that the British information attaché in Tripoli denied commenting on his country's action saying it was a matter of sovereignty.

Although the British embassy in Tripoli insists that its visa services are best, Libyan citizens dispute such claim

saying they are suffering Britain. tremendously when it comes to applying for entry visa to

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