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The cabinet ponders on national security and the economy



M. Egge
The 96th session of the Council of Ministers of the Republic, was chaired by the President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Muse Bihi Abdi, accompanied by the Vice President of Somaliland, H.E. Abdirahman Abdilahi Ismail (Sayli'i), mainly dwelt on pertinent issues concerning security and economical affairs of
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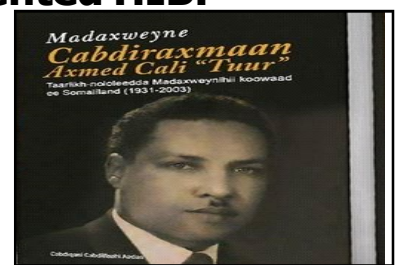
President holds meeting with traditional leaders of the eastern regions



Mohamoud Walaaleye
The President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Muse Bihi Abdi, has received at the presidential palace Sultans and traditional leaders from Togdeer, Sanaag, Sarar, and Sahil regions who responded to the invitation extended to them.
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Biography of first President become best seller over Five thousand book presented HIBF

Mohamoud Walaaleye
Hargeisa International Book Fair concluded last Thursday in Hargeisa and featured the biography of the First
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Edna Adan raises the Somaliland issue with the British Empire



Mohamoud Walaaleye
Lady Edna Adan is said to have raised the issue of Somaliland's recognition of the British Empire in a meeting with Prince Charles yesterday. Edna Adan who met Prince Charles,

Prince of Wales the heir apparent to the British throne as the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, at the Commonwealth games of Nations opened in Birmingham City in the UK.

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Sanaag academics called to safeguard the security and stability



Some of the young academics of the Erigavo community called on the community of Sanaag region and the public at large to work for the unity and development of the country.

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Kore urges youngsters to vote peacefully and shun violence

Guled A. Mahir
The Minister of Information Culture and National Guidance Hon. Suleiman Yusuf Ali Koore has praised the founder of Hargeisa International Book Mr. Jama Musa Jama for exposing Somaliland to the global



community.
The minister was speaking during the 15th Hargeisa International Book Fair.
The minister thanked those people who had worked with Mr. Jama for the past 15 years. He said they had

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The police in anti-narcotics in Burco



Mohamoud Walaaleye
The Togdeer regional police force, with the help of the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice committee (PV&PV), is conducting operations against illicit drug and immoral activities in Burao City.

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Somaliland employment creation summit kick-starts in Burao



Mohamoud Walaaleye
A well-organized event on employment creation akin to a similar one held in 2020,
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It is joyful that liberation veterans are in leadership, Vice-Minister Selef



Mohamoud Walaaleye
Hon. Muse Ibrahim Selef, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Trade and
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If HIBF is globally acknowledged after 15, Somaliland too can get recognition!



Mohamoud Walaaleye
On 28th July Thursday night, the Hargeisa cultural center was a platform for young people who enthusiastically flocked the fair.

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Inside:

Partnerships key to basketball growth in Horn of Africa, says Duale



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The cabinet ponders on national security and the economy

the nation.

First of all, the council listened to a briefing from the Minister of Interior, Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed, and informed them about the security situation in the country.

The council also heard a report from the Minister of Financial Development, Dr. Saad Ali Shire, who briefed the council on the ongoing process of preparing the budget for 2023 and the areas where the budget places importance.

The minister also shared with the council the report of the meeting of the Somaliland Economic Forum (Somaliland Economic Forum) which will be held in early September this year.

On the other hand, the Minister of Justice of Somaliland, Hon. Saleeban Warsame Guled,



presented to the Cabinet of Ministers the law on the legal assistance services for people who cannot afford a lawyer.

The minister has explained the components of this law, which the ministry incorporated within the preparation of the office of the General Counsel, and its

importance of it for people who are unable to hire lawyers.

At the end of the meeting, the Cabinet of Ministers approved by a majority vote the constitution of the Somaliland Fire Brigade, which was debated in the council during the previous council sessions and was thus approved

If HIBF is globally acknowledged after 15, Somaliland too can get recognition!

The evening program which was the closing of the 15th edition of the book fair was seen by young people who arrived at the center hours before the starting time due to their curiosity.

When the program started and the traditional folk dance was presented, the stage became congested, and all seats reserved for the participants were more than full.

The chairman of the Hargeisa Cultural Center Dr. Jama M. Jama, who spoke at the event thanked all those who participated in the HIBF and praised the energetic young staff of the center, without them the event would have been like this.

Dr. Jama also thanked a Djibouti citizen Faisal, whom he said since the international book fair was started every year he used to participate; he also welcomed a Senegalese patron, this year's guest nation, who works in Hargeisa, to

speak on behalf of his country.

The Senegalese thanked the HIBF administration, the president and the people of Somaliland, and noted similarities of the two countries' cultures that made it easy for him to work in Somaliland and feel safe.

Minister of Information Hon. Saleeban Yusuf Ali, who spoke at the closing event, recalled the stages of the reconstruction of the country, and the difficult circumstances which were endured, and advised teenagers present to not get mixed up in the hullabalos of the political parties, but only on the voting day to exercise their voting rights

At the end of the event, various songs were performed by the Horn Stars group.

The event ended in a pleasant atmosphere, and all participants pledged to attend next year's sixteenth fair.



He said Somaliland people should realize that not everyone was meant for leadership, hence the country will always be led by one president. The information minister said "I have worked for four presidents, three of them as a minister and the fourth as a member of parliament. I can attest that no former president of this country build houses or bought cars for a particular tribe.

They all worked for Somaliland as a nation."

He requested the people of Somaliland to vote peacefully for whomever they want and should not in any circumstance resort to violence.

He went on to say that the people should not be involved in the squabbles of politicians instead they should protect the peace and harmony of the country.

President holds meeting with traditional leaders of the eastern regions



In the meeting, issues such as the development of the country, security, and the general situation in the country were focused on. The meeting ended with consensus of hopeful tidings.

The president was accompanied by the Ministers of Internal Affairs, Water Development, Health

Development, Justice, Council Relations, and Constitutional Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Chairman of the Refugees and Displaced Persons Agency.

The Sultans side consisted of:-

1. Sultan Mahmoud Guled Mire
2. Sultan Said Yusuf Duale

3. Sultan Mohamud Haji Hussein
4. Sultan Sh. Yusuf Abdi Awad
5. King Mohamud Ali Arab
6. Garad Ali Ahmed Hirsi
7. Sultan Mustafa Mohamed
8. Sultan Abdirahman Kodax
9. Sultan Abdirahman Abyan
10. Sultan Ahmed Fahiye
11. Sultan Ahmed Hassan
12. Sultan Ali Jama Galal
13. Sultan Abokor Omar Adan
14. Sultan Mohamed Aden
15. Sultan Mohamed Ahmed
16. Sultan Ibrahim Cige
17. Sultan Abdirisq Omani
18. King Abdullahi Haji Hassan
19. Sultan Mohammed Ali of Japan
20. Sultan Barkhad Abdi Shaybe
21. Sultan Mohamed Jama Isa

Edna Adan raises the Somaliland issue with the British Empire

The meeting between Lady Edna and Prince Charles, which has not been disclosed, is expected to raise the issue of the independence of the Republic of Somaliland, which has a deep relationship with the United Kingdom.

The meeting comes a few days after a meeting between Lady Edna and members of the French Senate where the issue of Somaliland's independence and other issues was raised.



Kore urges youngsters to vote peacefully and shun violence

done Somaliland a great deal in terms of International exposure.

He added "Hargeisa International Book Fair under the stewardship of Jama Musa Jama has worked hard to promote our culture through music and books. They have put a lot of their time and energy in this work to promote Somaliland in the

International arena."

He urged the people of Somaliland to respect their leaders at the present time and in the future.

Minister of Information reminisced with nostalgia 30 years ago.

He said, "When Somaliland was proclaimed as a nation in Burao 31

year ago, the country was in ruins and gunfire was the order of the day. I was amongst the first batch of youths then who broke the shackles of tribalism. I was in my early twenties.

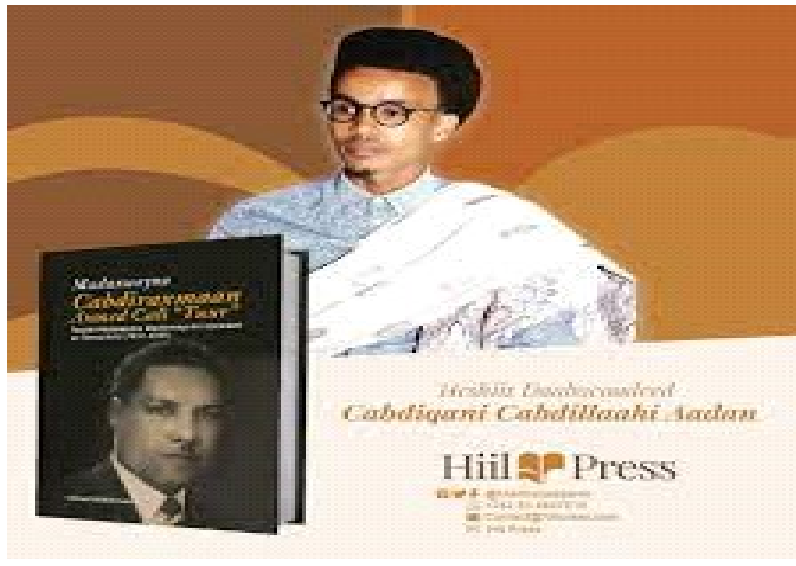
Minister Suleiman urged the youths to participate in national building through peaceful means.

Biography of first President become best seller over Five thousand book presented HIBF

President H.E. Abdirahman M. Ali, and became the fair's best-seller book.

HIBF presented various books that exceeded five thousand and it was said that eighty percent of them were written in the Somali language by young people who grew up and studied within the country.

The chairman of the HIBF center Dr. Jama who spoke at the closing ceremony said that after 15 years, the progress of the center can be seen from the change in the books displayed, compared to the beginning; 80% of the books were written in English before.



Sanaag young academics called to safeguard the security and stability of Somaliland



At a meeting held on Friday in the city of Erigavo, the youth strongly opposed anyone who harms the security and development of the Erigavo region and the country. Some of the young intellectuals who spoke at the gathering denounced and labeled it as unfortunate the goal of those trying to pursue war and rebellion to reach the highest post of the country.

The youth called the community of Sanaag region and the people of Somaliland, in general, to be careful and stay away from those calling for rallies and violence, and be ready to safeguard the security and stability of Somaliland.

The police in anti-narcotics in Burco

While Burao Police forces have been put on alert, the anti-narcotics operation was carried out in all the neighborhoods of the city of Burco. Sheikh Mohamed Abdillahi, one of the PV&PV officials and other scholars who spoke, thanked and praised the efforts of the police force in the fight against drugs and immorality.

He said that the operation is to fight against drugs, alcohol, cannabis, and all the public immorality, he called on the community of Burco to work with the police force and religious scholars and report all places they see bad.

The deputy commander of the



Togdeer Regional Police Force, Major Khadar Farah, who made a statement, said that legal action will be taken against anyone who tries to import illicit drugs into the region. He called on parents to look closely on their children's conduct and what

they are doing away from home so that their future won't be compromised.

The operation of the Togdeer regional police force, which started in the town of Burao, is said to last for three days.

Somaliland employment creation summit kick-starts in Burao

was opened by the government yesterday 30th July in the city of Burao.

Ministers, parliamentarians, academics, university students, and job seekers attended the event.

The job-related fair is a platform where people who need employment and its creation can meet.

"Companies provide employment, and it's one of the innovations of the government to create a job for the youth, therefore, I encourage the youth to take advantage of it", stated Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed,

Minister of Interior

"As a ministry, because of the importance of Togdeer region to the country, therefore, we have decided to hold the employment summit here, this year; so that the youth of the region can benefit from it", were the words of Hon. Mustapha M. Ali Minister of Employment, Social and Family Affairs JSL

The event provides a platform where employers and employees or job seekers exchange market information, hence create a avenue for networking between them, will

be on for a couple of days, 30 and 31 July 2022.

Ministry of Employment officials pointed out the benefits of the fair, including finding information about existing job opportunities, creating job and internship opportunities, and promoting the rationale of young people to develop skills and creativity.

During the event, the officials of the Ministry of Labor said that the teenage job-seekers received employment and job training, career and professional counseling, and complete job information.

It is joyful that liberation veterans are in leadership, Vice-Minister Selef

Tourism said it's a joy as the country is led by the veterans who liberated the country from the regime of Siad Barre.

Deputy Minister Selef who was speaking at a launching ceremony of the book "The Spark of Struggle" said that many lessons can be learned from the information in the book that Dr Ali, the author of the

book, presented it earlier.

Hon. Selef said that the students who protested in the UFFO uprising were arrested, their goal was to save the arrested youth.

"It's a joy that the veterans who liberated the country from the brutal regime are leading today, and we expect them to advance prosperity of the nation," said Deputy Minister Hon. Selef.



Partnerships key to basketball growth in Horn of Africa, says Duale



The aim of the tournament is to connect local and foreign teams to help nurture talent in the country and by extension the region," said the company's Chief Executive Officer Abdirashid Duale.

The US Metro Alliance basketball team from Minnesota is in Somaliland for a series of friendly matches in a tour sponsors Dahabshiil believe will help inspire basketball players not only in the country but the region.

Metro Alliance, who also has players of Somali origin living in America, is set to play the Hargeisa local government team and the Ministry of Energy teams who play in the Somaliland Serie A basketball league in the capital Hargeisa.

"The aim of the tournament is to connect local and foreign teams to help nurture talent in the country and by extension the region," said the company's Chief Executive Officer Abdirashid Duale.

"We have been in the forefront in sponsoring local sports because we believe our youth need to be engaged in sports and we all know sports is an international language that connects the youth and countries together."

Duale said Dahabshiil has always encouraged youth integration and involvement in activities that keep them healthy and away from social

vices like crime and substance abuse. This, he added, has informed the company's continued support for sports in the Horn of Africa region.

The money transfer company has in the past sponsored football events in the country where the population of the youth is at 60 percent.

"We love the way Dahabshiil has brought Minnesota Somali basketballers together with our brothers in Hargeisa," said talented young basketball player, Hamze Saeed. "It's the same model as remittances, keeping Somalis together in solidarity from all corners of the world."

Dahabshiil marketing executive Saad Abdi said the company will continue encouraging the youth to take up sport and will help talented youth achieve their dreams of playing at the highest level in sport. "The company has engaged in supporting and empowering the youth through sport over the last two decades and we will continue using our position to open up opportunities for the youth. This basketball tournament is just one of the avenues we are using to empower the youth," said Abdi.

He said the basketball tournament between the US team and local clubs in the region is one among many that the company will be supporting now and in the future.

15th Hargeisa International Book Fair in Pictures



Nadifa's *The Fortune Men* book wins Wales Book of the Year award

A novel by Nadifa Mohamed about a Cardiff man wrongfully convicted of murder has won the 2022 English language Wales Book of the Year award.

The Fortune Men, the author's third novel, is a fictionalised retelling of the story of Mahmood Mattan, a man wrongfully convicted of murder in 1950s Cardiff.

The news of this year's winners was announced during a special broadcast of BBC Radio Wales' Arts Show.

It was first declared that *The Fortune Men* was awarded the Rhys Davies Trust Fiction Award, then the *Wales Arts Review* People's Choice Award, before going on to win the overall award and the crowning title of Wales Book of the Year 2022.

For this hat-trick, Nadifa receives a total prize of £4,000 and a bespoke trophy, designed and created by the artist Angharad Pearce Jones.

Nadifa Mohamed was born in Hargeisa, Somaliland, in 1981 and moved to Britain at the age of four. Her first novel, *Black Mamba Boy*, won the Betty Trask Prize; it was shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award, the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, the Dylan Thomas Prize, and the PEN Open Book Award. Her second novel, *Orchard of Lost Souls*, won a Somerset Maugham Award and the Prix Albert Bernard. Nadifa Mohamed was selected for the Granta Best of Young British Novelists in 2013 and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

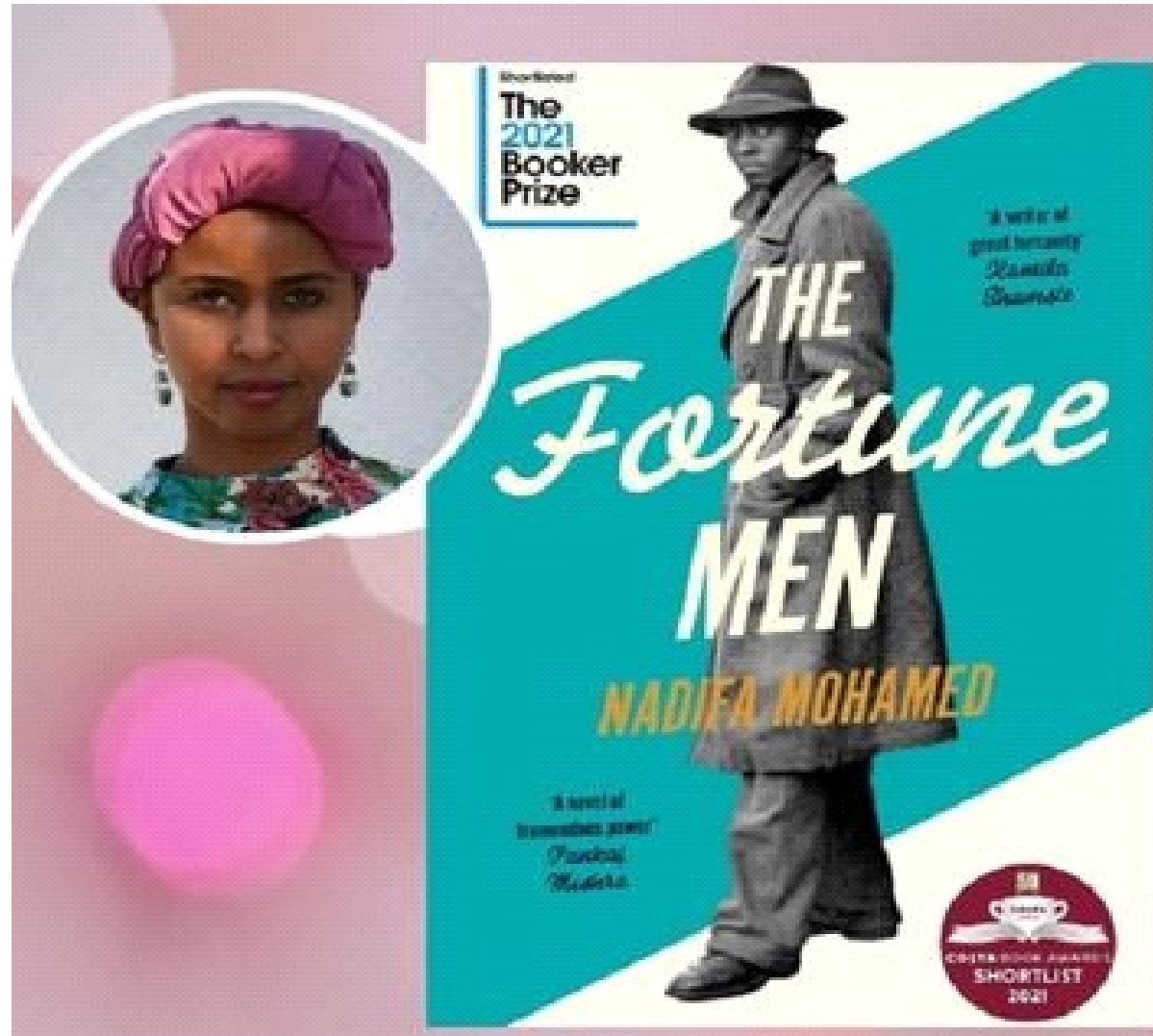
The Fortune Men was shortlisted for the 2021 Booker Prize. Nadifa Mohamed lives in London.

In the novel, Mahmood Mattan is a father, chancer, petty criminal. He is many things, but he is not a murderer. So when a shopkeeper is brutally killed and all eyes fall on him, Mahmood isn't too worried. He is innocent in this country where justice is served. It is only in the run-up to the trial, as the prospect of returning home dwindles, and it dawns on Mahmood that he is in a fight for his life – against conspiracy, prejudice, and cruelty – and that the truth may not be enough to save him.

'Compelling'

The Awards are judged by an independent panel appointed annually. Judging the English-language books this year are poet and writer Krystal Lowe, journalist and broadcaster Andy Welch, author and presenter Matt Brown, and poet and recipient of a 2020 Rising Stars Award Taylor Edmonds.

On behalf of the judging panel, Krystal Lowe said: "We want to thank every single writer who submitted their book to this award. It was not only a joy but an honour to read every



one of them.

"It was incredible to see the breadth of talent and creativity living in Wales, and I look forward to following the long and fruitful careers of all the writers who submitted. We are so pleased to have selected Nadifa Mohamad's *The Fortune Men* and hope that many people read this compelling novel."

Category Winners

Celebrating books across four categories – poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, and children & young people – as well as the Wales Arts Review People's Choice Award, tonight's broadcast saw Literature Wales announce a total of six prize-winners.

The winner of the English@BangorUni Poetry Award was *A Voice Coming from Then* by Jeremy Dixon (Arachne Press). His second poetry collection, *A Voice Coming from Then*, starts from Jeremy's teenage suicide attempt and expands to encompass themes of bullying, queerphobia, acceptance and support.

The winner of the Creative Non-Fiction Award was *The Journey is Home: Notes from a Life on the Edge* by John Sam Jones (Parthian). In this clear and absorbing memoir John Sam Jones tells a story of journeys and realisation, of acceptance and joy.

The winner of the Children and Young People Award was *The Shark Caller* by Zillah Bethell (Usborne). Set on the shores of Papua New Guinea, this novel is a spell-binding adventure of friendship, forgiveness, and bravery.

'No surprise'

The Wales Book of the Year Award

has been organized by Literature Wales since 2004, and during that time some of Wales' most famous authors have received awards alongside new, bright talents.

Leusa Llewellyn, Literature Wales' Joint Interim CEO said: "Many congratulations to all of the category winners, everyone at Literature Wales have been enjoying and discussing the shortlisted books for months.

"A special congratulations to Nadifa for winning the hat-trick with *The Fortune Men*. It's no surprise at all that she has captured the judges' and the readers' hearts with this powerful novel about injustice and oppression.

"*The Fortune Men* brings alive the multicultural docklands of our capital city in the 1950s with its sights, smells and sounds, with Cardiff becoming an intriguing character in its own right within the pages of this captivating novel."

'Takes chances'

The Welsh-language Wales Book of the Year Award 2022 was awarded last week to the "masterpiece" *Mori* by Ffion Dafis.

Mori which also won the Welsh @ Bangor University Fiction Award, was announced as the winner by Literature Wales on Radio Cymru. A powerful contemporary story, *Mori* is the first novel from the actress and presenter Ffion Dafis following the success of *Syllu ar Walia* (Y Lolfa, 2017). The novel follows Morfudd and her obsession with a girl who sends a request to be her friend on social media.

Her relationship with the girl forces Morfudd to face the secrets of her

past and embark on a journey of self-discovery and acceptance which takes her to very dark places.

Ffion Dafis is originally from Bangor, and is a familiar name in the arts sector in Wales. She is known for playing the role of Llinos in the television series *Amdani* and *Rhiannon* in *Byw Celwydd* on S4C. She played the part of Lady Macbeth in Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru's ground-breaking production of Shakespeare's play at Caerphilly Castle in 2017.

This is the fourth year running that a novel has been named the Welsh-language Wales Book of the Year. *Mori* follows *tu ôl i'r awyr* by Megan Angharad Hunter, *Babel* by Ifan Morgan Jones, and *Llyfr Glas Nebo* by Manon Steffan Ros in the chain of novels to receive the coveted title. These four books are published by Y Lolfa.

Ffion receives a cash prize of £4,000, as well as a trophy designed and created by the artist Angharad Pearce Jones.

On behalf of the Panel, Mirain Iwerydd said: "Reading *Mori* was like creeping into the recesses of the main character's mind and experiencing all that transpired through her eyes. Writing a character like *Mori* is no mean feat. She is complicated, and occasionally very dark thoughts cross her mind.

"The novel takes chances and explores themes and subjects which haven't been discussed in Welsh-language literature in such a manner before.

"I believe that *Mori*'s character alone is a masterpiece, but combine this with the careful weaving of humorous and skilled narrative

created by Ffion Dafis – well, that's how you win Wales Book of the Year! Completely deserved. Congratulations Ffion."

This sentiment was echoed by judge Melanie Owen, who added: "Mori is an exceptional piece. Us three judges have very different tastes when it comes to literature, but *Mori* appealed to everyone. Ffion's talent as a writer cannot be disputed – I look forward intently to read whatever she writes next."

'Popular'

It was also announced that the collection *Y Pump* topped the *Golwg360* Barn y Bobl (people's choice) poll.

The ten writers who penned the 5-novel collection will share the accolade and prize: Elgan Rhys and Tomos Jones (Tim), Mared Roberts and Ceri-Anne Gatehouse (Tami), Marged Elen Wiliam and Mahum Umer (Aniq), Iestyn Tyne and Leo Drayton (Robyn), Megan Angharad Hunter and Maisie Awen (Cat)*.

The main Awards were judged by an independent panel appointed annually. Judging the Welsh-language books this year are broadcaster Mirain Iwerydd, presenter of BBC Radio Cymru 2's Sunday Breakfast Show; presenter and columnist Melanie Owen; the academic, editor and author of the academic journal, *Llên Cymru*, Siwan Rosser; and the director, poet and writer Gwion Hallam **. Gwion Hallam, however, was not part of the discussions about the fiction category or the main prize due to a conflict of interest.

The Wales Book of the Year Award has been organized by Literature Wales since 2004, and during that time some of Wales' most famous authors have received awards alongside new, bright talents.

Leusa Llewellyn, Literature Wales' Joint Interim CEO said: "Congratulations to Ffion Dafis for winning the Wales Book of the Year Award with *Mori*, a novel which has given us a Blodeuwedd-esque antiheroine to marvel at and fear all at once. It's wonderful to see a new novelist succeed this year, and I hope this will inspire other emerging writers across Wales to put pen to paper.

"Congratulations to the *Y Pump* writers and co-writers, an ambitious and pioneering project which platforms new and future writers and their own unique stories.

"The series sets the tone to transform our literary landscape, helps underrepresented writers use their voice, and does all of this with bells and whistles.

"We're extremely lucky to have writers like these creating work in Welsh, and it's no surprise that they've captured the popular vote and won the *Golwg360* Barn y Bobl award."

Competition amongst East African ports heats up

Tanzania, Somaliland and Mozambique are investing heavily in expanding and rehabilitating existing ports as they roll out newer facilities in a race to become the most preferred trade gateways in East Africa.

Kenya's Mombasa Port, on the other hand-the largest and busiest facility in East Africa - is experiencing lower investor activity as delays, congestion and poor management impact operations, according to GBS Africa, a UK-based consultancy firm, in its Africa Ports Report 2022.

The investments being made to upgrade port infrastructure elsewhere in the region are increasing the vibrancy and diversity of East African trade routes, but also piling pressure on Mombasa Port to up its game.

"The traditional dominance of the Port of Mombasa is being challenged by other regional facilities that are attracting more investment and are less resistant to reform, while entirely new deep-water seaports are being constructed to diversify regional trade and shipping routes," according to the report.

Even Kenya's recently commissioned Lamu Port is tipped to give Mombasa a run for its money.



"If Mombasa does not soon attract fresh investment, it will lose its ranking to Chinese-operated Lamu port and other regional facilities," said GBS Africa.

The World Bank's global Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) 2021, ranks the Port of Mombasa at position 293 and Dar es Salaam at position 362, out of a total 370, with the low rankings linked to delays, congestion and mismanagement of the facilities.

The regional upstart is the Port of Berbera, in Somaliland.

Since 2016, the port has benefitted from 442 million US dollars in investments, following an agreement signed between the government of Somaliland and Emirati multinational logistics company, DP World.

When complete, the Port of Berbera is expected to handle up to 3 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) annually, triple the current capacity

of regional heavyweight Djibouti, which has a capacity of one million TEU annually. By 2050, Berbera is projected to handle 18.1 million tons of cargo.

Ethiopia is among the strategic investors in the port and has committed to developing infrastructure to build what is known as the Berbera Corridor into a major regional trade gateway, thereby offering land-linked Ethiopia with the option to diversify its supply lines away from Djibouti's congested port. In 2021, Tigrayan rebels disrupted supply lines to Djibouti, pushing the Ethiopian government to speed up the development of alternative trade routes - with Berbera and Eritrea's ports of Assab and Massawa emerging as top options. A deal with Eritrea is yet to materialise. Djibouti currently handles up to 95 percent of all of Ethiopia's inbound trade, according to the report.

"The revamped port of Berbera now offers an alternative to Djibouti as a gateway to lucrative trade routes through the Suez Canal," read the report in part.

The report describes Somaliland's port as a "game-changer" for the Horn of Africa country that to date has hardly been recognised on the international trade scene. By 2035, the report projects the Port of Berbera to facilitate trade with a value equivalent to nearly 27 percent of Somaliland's GDP and to be responsible for 75 percent of its total trade.

Djibouti and Somalia, as well as Somalia's other semi-autonomous region of Puntland (with a port at Bosaso), have also signed up investment partners from the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates to breathe fresh life into their ports as the region emerges from civil strife.

Apart from the UAE's DP World investments in the port of Berbera in Somaliland, the firm is also linked with the development of the Port of Bosaso in Puntland, while Turkey's Albayrak is investing in Somalia's

port at Mogadishu.

Tanzanian ports have also in the recent past mounted an aggressive campaign to become gateways to Uganda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda (previously all served by the Port of Mombasa) through increased investment and new operations.

Last year, Tanzania began negotiating with China Merchant Holdings (CMH) to build the 10 billion US dollar Bagamoyo port project, which would see Tanzania open the largest port in East Africa, with a 20 million TEU container capacity. However, the project has been hit by delays over Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) concerns.

Meanwhile, Tanzania's Port of Dar es Salaam is also upping its game, offering faster and more cost-effective trade and transport solutions to address similar challenges to those facing Mombasa Port.

"Although it is smaller than Durban and Maputo, Dar es Salaam is fast catching up on the market share of the Port of Mombasa for Indian Ocean commerce and trade," said GBS in the report.

Dar es Salaam's port, currently able to handle more than 10 million tonnes of cargo annually will soon have higher capacity thanks to an ongoing expansion programme estimated to cost over 400 million US dollars.

The report says that thanks to increased efficiencies, Dar es Salaam is increasingly becoming a top choice for land-linked countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe.

The port is becoming a regional transshipment hub for soft commodity exports, such as tea, coffee, tobacco, oilseeds, cotton, sisal, and cashew nuts, as well as metals like copper.

In Mozambique, a gas-fuelled economic boom is creating fresh demand for shipping services. As a result, the five seaports of Maputo, Beira, Nacala, Quelimane, and Pemba are all undergoing expansion and rehabilitation.

In 2021, Maputo, the country's largest port, posted a new high growth record of 21 percent, handling 22.2 million tonnes of cargo, from 18.3 million tonnes in 2020. The increase has been credited to increased foreign investor activities.

"Maputo port's operations are managed by a highly successful joint venture between the local government, and South African and UAE companies," said the report.

DP World's involvement across major ports in the region is heavily entrenched as it emerges as a key player, even though planned investments have been in some quarters politicised and framed as "takeovers".

Somaliland delegation observes links between conservation and tourism

A high-ranking government delegation from Somaliland is visiting Namibia this week as the guests of the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) to learn about the enormous potential of conservation when done in partnership with landowners.

The group of six includes Somaliland's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Hon Shukri Ismail, the Minister of Trade and Tourism, Hon Mohamoud Hassan Saad, the Minister of Parliament, Hon Mubarak Musa Ismail, the Chairman of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, Production and Energy at Somaliland's House of Representatives; the Head of Mission to the United States, Bashir Goth; and the Cheetah Conservation Fund's Senior Advisor to Parliament, Ms Fatima Saeed. This is their first visit to Namibia. Conservation in Somaliland is hampered by the fact that the territory is not recognised as an independent country but it has a functional government and operates as a separate political entity from Somalia under the banner, the Republic of Somaliland.

The visiting delegation will explore the link between rural development, tourism and cheetah conservation. In this regard, it is guided by the Cheetah Conservation Fund which



is based near Otjiwarongo in Namibia but with a very strong operational and institutional presence in Somaliland. For instance, the fund's operations in Somaliland are so successful that there are now more than 80 young cheetahs in their care at three foster facilities.

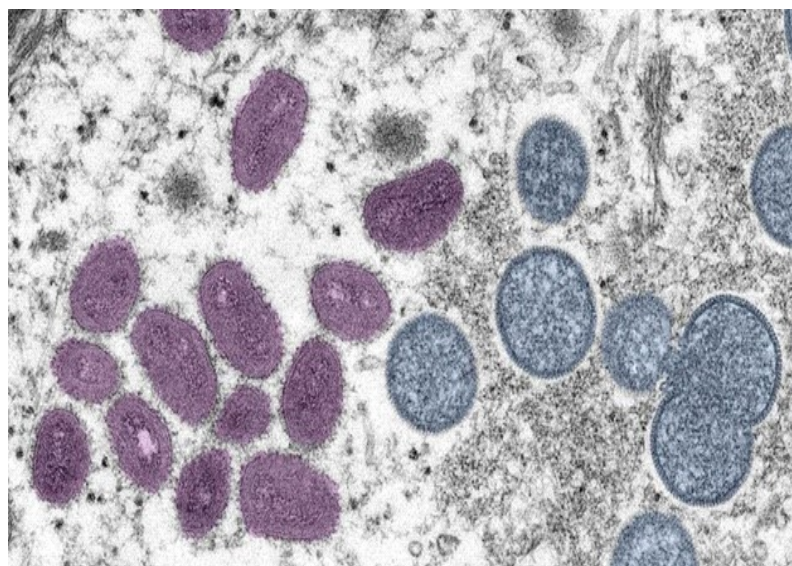
Together with the Executive Director of the Namibian Association of Community Based Natural Resource Management Support Organizations (NACSO), Maxi Pia Louis, the CCF's founder and Executive Director, Dr Laurie Marker is taking the delegation on a tour of central Namibia. The goal of the tour is to transfer institutional knowledge and experience about Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), eco-tourism, and the development of concessions around protected areas.

"The knowledge transfer between Namibia and Somaliland will assist the Somaliland government in developing their own model to meet the needs of nomadic pastoral communities while mitigating threats to wild species at their new CCF facility," said Dr Marker.

In December 2021, the CCF and Somaliland sponsoring partner, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change began construction of the CCF Cheetah Rescue and Conservation Centre at Geed-Deeble ("Land of Trees") to provide a permanent home for the animals. The centre is built on 50,000 ha that the Somaliland government has set aside to become its first national park. When complete, the centre will provide a permanent home for the rescued cubs. Phase one of the complex is expected to be finished this year so that the cubs can be moved early next year.

Compiled by: Yusuf Omar Hindi

Monkeypox: First deaths outside Africa in Brazil and Spain



Brazil and Spain have reported their first monkeypox deaths.

A 41-year-old man in Brazil became the first fatality from the virus outside Africa. Spain announced two deaths soon afterwards - the first in Europe.

Last week, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the monkeypox outbreak a global health emergency.

But infections are usually mild and the risk to the general population is low.

On Friday Brazil's health ministry said the victim there had suffered from lymphoma and a weakened immune system, and "comorbidities aggravated his

condition".

Brazil has so far reported 1,066 confirmed cases and 513 suspected cases of the virus. Data from Brazil's health ministry indicates that more than 98% of confirmed cases were in men who have sex with men.

Shortly afterwards, Spain's health ministry confirmed Europe's first death from the virus - a patient who suffered from encephalitis.

A second death linked to monkeypox was confirmed by Spanish authorities on Saturday.

The health ministry said that of 3,750 monkeypox patients with available information, 120 or 3.2% had been hospitalised.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are 21,148 cases worldwide. The monkeypox virus is a member of the same family of viruses as smallpox, although it is much less severe and experts say chances of infection are low.

It occurs mostly in remote parts of central and west African countries, near tropical rainforests.

Health officials are recommending people at highest risk of exposure to the virus - including some gay and bisexual men, as well as some healthcare workers - should be offered a vaccine.

Last week, WHO director general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said declaring the outbreak a global health emergency would help speed up the development of vaccines and the implementation of measures to limit the spread of the virus.

Dr Tedros said the risk of monkeypox is moderate globally, but high in Europe.

But, he added, "this is an outbreak that can be stopped with the right strategies in the right groups". The WHO is issuing recommendations, which it hopes will spur countries to take action to stop transmission of the virus and protect those most at risk.

Monkeypox: WHO declares highest alert over outbreak



The monkeypox outbreak has been declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organization.

The classification is the highest alert that the WHO can issue and follows a worldwide upsurge in cases.

It came at the end of the second meeting of the WHO's emergency committee on the virus.

More than 16,000 cases have now been reported from 75 countries, said WHO director general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

There had been five deaths so far as a result of the outbreak, he added. There are only two other such health emergencies at present - the coronavirus pandemic and the

continuing effort to eradicate polio. Dr Tedros said the emergency committee had been unable to reach a consensus on whether the monkeypox outbreak should be classified as a global health emergency.

However, he said the outbreak had spread around the world rapidly and he had decided that it was indeed of international concern.

Too little was understood about the new modes of transmission which had allowed it to spread, said Dr Tedros.

"The WHO's assessment is that the risk of monkeypox is moderate globally and in all regions, except in the European region, where we

assess the risk as high," he added. There was also a clear risk of further international spread, although the risk of interference with international traffic remained low for the moment, he said.

Dr Tedros said the declaration would help speed up the development of vaccines and the implementation of measures to limit the spread of the virus.

The WHO is also issuing recommendations which it hopes will spur countries to take action to stop transmission of the virus and protect those most at risk.

"This is an outbreak that can be stopped with the right strategies in the right groups," Dr Tedros said

Covid in China: Million in lockdown in Wuhan after four cases



Almost one million people in a suburb of Wuhan - China's central city where the coronavirus was first recorded - have been placed under lockdown.

Jiangxia district residents have been ordered to stay inside their homes or compounds for three days after four asymptomatic Covid cases were detected.

China follows a "zero Covid" strategy, including mass testing, strict isolation rules and local lockdowns.

This has resulted in far fewer deaths than in many other countries.

But the strategy is facing growing opposition as people and businesses continue to face the strain of restrictions.

In Wuhan, a city of 12 million people, regular testing uncovered two asymptomatic cases two days ago.

Two more cases were found through contact tracing, and shortly after the lockdown order was issued.

Wuhan became known around the world in early 2020 as the first place scientists detected the new coronavirus - and the first city to be put under harsh restrictive measures.

At the time, the wider world was shocked by the strict lockdown, but many cities and countries were soon forced to impose their own similar measures. Later, China became known as a Covid success story, with restrictions lifted much earlier than in many other countries.

But that has changed again, with China pursuing a "zero Covid" strategy resulting in frequent local lockdowns, rather than trying to live with the virus as in most other countries.

Travel decisions, sport choices, the timing of a day's activities and, in some cases, even the ability to find work are all dependant on Covid.

The rest of the world may have moved on, but in China it's testing, scanning, showing scans, more testing, scanning again, planning for the next test etc etc.

One day this may end but right now there is not the slightest hint that it's just around the corner.

The threat of being locked down or being denied permission to leave a city constantly hangs over the entire population.

In the cities which have had the longest, most strict lockdowns there is fatigue over the Covid threat.

For the tens of millions of people living in places like Jilin City, Changchun, Xi'an and Shanghai, the idea of being ordered to stay at home again for months at a time seems unbearable.

China's zero Covid approach has prevented hospitals from being swamped by infected patients and it has kept death rates much lower than they would have been otherwise - but, at some point, China will have to find a way to move forward.

If it doesn't, the economy will sink.

Most importantly, there is the Communist Party Congress to get through in autumn, and the country's low vaccination rates have to be improved, especially among older people.

It is the only way out.

Last month, Shanghai - China's giant financial capital with nearly 25 million residents - finally emerged from a strict two-month lockdown, though residents are adapting to a "new normal" of frequent mass testing.

A rising number of Chinese companies and factory production lines are maintaining a closed-loop system in order to follow the goal of completely eliminating Covid.

In order to keep parts of the economy open, employees have been told to live temporarily in their workplaces to minimise contact between work and home.