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The President receives top DP World **CEO for the Middle East and Africa**



By M.A. Egge

he President H.E. Muse Bihi Abdi received a delegation led by Mr. Suhail Al Banna, who is the group Senior Vice President and Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the Middle East and Africa of DP World, at the Presidential Palace on Saturday 3rd December.

The Head of State thanked and praised the DP world for the numerous tangible investments the

Committee

Registration of new Political

Organizations and Approval

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he Minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed flanked by the Director General of the minister Mr. Mohamed Yusuf Ismail, had a meeting with the new Ambassador of the Danish Government to the Republic of

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of National Parties on Saturday 3rd

December gave certificates to 10 new political organizations who are

eligible to contend for political party

for

Mohamoud Walaaleye

he

multinational made in Somaliland. They discussed on aspects related to the projects carried out by DP World in the country, especially in Berbera, with a focus on the completion of the construction of the first part of the Free Zone, which is expected to be completed by the end of this month of December.

It will be followed by the implementation of a second phase. It is also worth noting that there are many companies, both local and

foreign-owned that have already been listed to establish themselves in the Free Zone area.

All corporations taking advantage of the tax-free facility will propel the county's economic growth and development.

The DP World officials briefed the president on the general activities of the Port of Berbera which is under their management and were hopeful that the port will be an

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Approved Political Organizations Issues Certificates for Contention Eligibility



Interior Minister meets Danish Ambassador By M.A. Egge



Information minister highlights the vibrancy of democracy in a competitive system



The only thing an aspirant owes one is only the vote, he says

By M.A. Egge he Minister of Information, Culture and Awareness Hon. Suleiman Yusuf Ali Koore once again reiterated the need for peaceful stability and security as the

main catalyst that nurtures and cushions livelihood in order to make progressive developments in the social, education, health and business sectors of the nation.

Foreign Affairs Minister congratulates President of UAE on the Eve of celebrations of the 51 **Years of Independence**

Guled A. Mahir

he minister of foreign affairs international and cooperation Dr. Issa Keyd



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Chief Justice presides over the new AG's assumption of office



Parliament approves the 2023 annual budget estimates



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Central Bank becomes AAOIFI Member, Signs Agreements in Manama



Inside:

The making of a global port, and the unmaking of a people



By M.A. Egge he Governor of the Somaliland Central Bank Dr. Eng Ali Abdillahi Dahir participated in a conference jointly organized by the Central Bank of

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tinue on page Minister of Water inaugurated Go'ondale water dam



By M.A. Egge he Minister of Water **Resources Development** Hon. Ali Hassan Mohamed Continue on page 3

Dahabshiil CEO appeals for relief support in concerted efforts by entrepreneurs, IC in the wake of drought



The President receives top DP World **CEO for the Middle East and Africa**

economic center that serves the countries of the Horn and East Africa.

The DP World has made monumental development investments and projects in the country such as:-

-Berbera Port's new container terminal inaugurated, has a capacity for 500,000 TEUs a year. -Second phase expansion of the terminal will increase capacity up to two million TEUs a year,

-Berbera Economic Zone under development aims to attract investment and new businesses, and to create jobs,

-Expanded port, economic zone and Berbera corridor will transform Berbera into an integrated maritime, industrial and logistics hub in the Horn of Africa.

The new container terminal with a deep draft of 17m, a quay of 400m and three ship to shore (STS) gantry cranes, can handle the largest container vessels in operation today, and increases the port's container capacity from current 150,000 Twenty Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) to 500,000 TEUs annually. The terminal also includes a modern container yard with eight rubber tyred gantry cranes (RTGs). A new port One Stop Service Centre is also currently being built and will be ready in quarter three this year.



DP World has committed to investing up to US\$442 million to develop and expand Berbera Port, and with the first phase now complete.

Other projects includes extending the new quay from 400 to 1,000 metres, and installing a further seven STS gantry cranes, increasing the total from three to 10, enabling the port to handle up to two million TEUs a year, and multiple large container vessels at the same time.

Part of the overall Berbera plan and modelled on DP World's Jebel Ali Free Zone in Dubai, the economic zone is linked to the port and strategically located along the Berbera to Wajaale road (Berbera Corridor). The economic zone will serve as a centre of trade with the aim to attract investment and create jobs, and will target a range of industries, including warehousing, logistics, traders, manufacturers, and other related sectors. It will allow producers, suppliers, and customers to operate in a conducive and competitive environment for investment and trade.

The Berbera Corridor road upgrade project, funded by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), and the Hargeisa Bypass Road funded by UK Aid, is set for completion in quarter four, 2021 and guarter three 2022, respectively. The road will link to the existing modern highway on the Ethiopian side and position Berbera as a direct, fast, and efficient trade route for Ethiopian transit cargo.

(Additional information: sources)

Information minister highlights the vibrancy of democracy in a competitive system

Hon. Koore stressed that it was necessary for the youth to be privy to the country's history, especially the stages of upheavals and struggles underwent hence appreciate the present, given the nation's aspirations.

Elaborating on the matter he said, "We need to bear in our minds that peaceful stability and security is of utmost importance hence is the basic precursor leading to any kind of development, whether it is in business, education or health or any sector of our socio-economical life". He underpinned the imperativeness of having the youth grasp well the country's historical tribulations and achievements hitherto realized, and reflect upon them, given the national aspirations to prosper even further. He urged the youth to instill patriotism in them hence wary of not having a situation where the country can be rent asunder by coaxing them to take note of how Hargeisa was in ruins in the late 1990s.

On the other hand, Minister Koore pointed out that the people have the right to exercise their political rights of voting.



In an effort to dissuade the youth to be swayed by rogue politicians, he said, "We have chosen the democratic system to develop the country, it is not a difficult path, failure is not accepted, the constitution specifies that three parties would front any presidential contenders hence any aspirant is indebted to only your sole vote and nothing else". He reminded them that the constitution spells the tenure of the three official national parties as only a decade; and after the ten years, emerging and verified political organizations contend for the top three slots hence front their presidential aspirants.

He said that when the three-party rule bill was being formulated, the late President Mohamed I. Egal felt that it would be dictatorial and hence amended it to carry the ten-year tenure article, for it to be thereafter enacted.

Central Bank becomes AAOIFI Member, Signs Agreements in Manama

Approved Political Organizations Issues Certificates for Contention Eligibility



elections as per the constitution. The Chairman of the Registration Committee Mr. Said Mohamed Elmi spoke at the event who commended leaders of the new organizations and stated they were

people who emerged from tough and competitive elections.

He praised them for their cooperation during the period of vetting, which was a heavy responsibility.

"Until the day when the three parties come out and given the Certificate, our cooperation will continue...", he said.

He added that they are now starting new processes of orientating the new organizations on building their structural and office procedures. The chairmen of the new organizations who spoke at the meeting praised the work done by the committee.

"From now on, we are preparing to participate in the elections of the three national parties that the country will have ... ", said the Chairman of the Barwago Political Association, Dr Mohamed Abdi Gabose.



Bahrain, the AAOIFI and the Islamic Development Bank, which opened on November 27th, 2022, in Manama, Bahrain.

This meeting was attended by delegates reaching up to 500 members from the financial

Central Bank be a center to enter the Examinations of the Fellowship Programs set/provided by the AAOIFI Organization to develop knowledge. CSAA (Certified Sharia 2. Advisor and Auditor)

CIPA (Certified Islamic 3. Professional Accountant) CPFAS, (Certified 4. Proficiency in Financial Accounting Standards).

Interior Minister meets Danish Ambassador

Somaliland and Somali Affairs, Ambassador Steen Sonne Anderson and his delegation. The ambassador is visiting the country in his maiden visit.

The minister a briefed the Danish delegation on the peaceful stability and general security situation cherished and prevalent and the country.

Of note, Hon. Kahin spoke about the progress that Somaliland has made in the last 30 years, without the help of the world community while emphasizing that achievements realized are solely as a result of

homemade collaboration between the government and the people, as Somaliland stands for peace and progress.

They also spoke about the elections and the epic democracy in Somaliland. The Minister said that the state have prepared put in place all the aspects expected and required of it in as much as the funding and security are concern. He pointed out to the visitors that the Committee for the Registration of Organizations and the Approval of National Parties had already submitted to the NEC the list of organizations that are eligible to contend for the top three slots to become the next official national political parties as per constitution. The Ambassador on his part thanked the Minister for his good reception, saying that the Government of Denmark is working with the Government of Somaliland, in terms of development and democracy, hence praised Somaliland for its security and progress. The meeting ended in a mutual

understanding between the two parties.

institutions that are members of the AAOIFI.

The Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions, abbreviated as AAOIFI, is a group of more than 45 governments that issue standard guidelines for Islamic financial institutions, which today the Central Bank of the Republic of Somaliland, became a full member of the AAOIFI member countries, after fulfilling all the requirements for becoming a member of the AAOIFI. During the meeting, Somaliland

Central Bank entered into two parts of various agreements with AAOIFI. Part One Agreement

That the Somaliland

Part Two Agreement

That the AAOIFI Agency be 1. established with the Somaliland Central Bank a Central Sharia Supervisory Board, which will be affiliated to the Central Bank

2. That the Somaliland Central Bank and the International Organization of AAOIFI cooperate in the field of research.

3. That the international agency AAOIFI conducts programs to improve the quality of Central Bank employees.

Foreign Affairs Minister congratulates President of UAE on the Eve of celebrations of the 51 Years of Independence

Mohamoud has sent congratulatory message to President of UAE and ruler of Abudhabi Sultan Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for the development witnessed under his leadership since the country attained independence.

In a Twitter message, the foreign minister sent congratulations to the people of UAE on the auspicious occasion of celebrations of their 51 years of independence from the British.

He stated, "I congratulate the leadership and the people of UAE on their celebrations of 51 years of independence."

Dr. Issa went on to say, "You have a lot to celebrate within 51 years you have transformed the lives of your people and the country. Your country has become a center of trade and a tourism magnet under your stewardship. You have also



protected the culture and

constitution of the union of your emirates."

Chief Justice presides over the new AG's assumption of office



By M.A Egge

The Chief Justice who is the head of the Supreme Court and also the Chairman of the National Justice Committee Hon. Adam Haji Ali

Hon. Adam described AG Hayaan as a veteran legal don and practitioner and hoped he would handle the heavy duly responsibilities bestowed upon him. He pointed out that the prosecution department had a good working relationship with the judiciary in the management of justice, each being independent of the other. The former public prosecutor Mr. Hassan Ahmed Adan, who gave a brief speech, gave a re-cap of his various achievements noting the bolstering of the prosecution department, their training and the number of buildings added since, while he was at the helm. On the other hand, the new Attorney General Hon. Abdirahman Jama Hayaan thanked the former Attorney General for his efforts pledging diligence and that he will continue

to address the issues that need strengthening and improvement. Present during the function to witness the handing over ceremony

Parliament approves the 2023 annual budget estimates

By M.A. Egge

Hargeisa (THT):-The members of the House of Representatives approved the 2023 annual government budget by a majority vote in their session on Tuesday 29th of November 2022.

Of the 65 MPs in attendance, 55 MPs voted for the approval of the budget while six MPs rejected it, and four remained silent.

The annual budget for 2023 is 3,581,440,706,340, (three trillion, five hundred and eighty-one billion, four hundred and forty million, seven hundred and six thousand and three hundred and forty shillings). This year's total budget is 4% more than the previous year, while the central government's budget is 5% more than the previous year.

The annual budget estimates approved comprise of the following

sectors:-

- · General government budget
- Central Government Budget
- Local government budgets
- Independent Institutions
- Overseas projects

This one has generally increased, or exceeded that of the previous year for 2022, by 4%, given that the central government sector budget has increased by 5% compared to previous budgets.

The 2023 budget forecast will focus chiefly on the following:-

- 1. Security
- 2. Elections
- 3. Agricultural production
- 4. Water
- 5. Fisheries
- 6. Environmental protection
- 7. Foreign (Recognition lobbies)
- 8. Technical skills institution and
- 9. National Employment Program



Minister of Water inaugurated Go'ondale water dam

(Ali Marehaan) led several top government officials to inaugurate the Go'ondale water dam at Go'ondale in the Oodweine region. With him was his colleague the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Hon. Shukri Haji Ismail Bandare, and the Director General of the Ministry of Rural Development, and the governor of Daadmadeed region on Sunday 27th November 2022.

They officially cut the ribbon from a large water dam, a project that has been implemented by the Ministry. The community of Go'on-dale and

its environs will greatly be served by the water catchment, something that was direly needed in the area, for it will serve the water needs.

The community leaders and residents of the area thanked the government for availing the dam to them.

The minister and other government officials who spoke at the function urged the community to use the amenity wisely and safeguard it. They underscored the necessity of such a facility in pastoral areas pointing out that they were paramount for the livelihood of both the people and their livestock.

Ahmed presided over the assumption of office of the newly appointed Attorney General Hon. Abdirahman Jama Hayaan. He takes over from Mr. Hassan Ahmed Adan.

The Chief Justice who presided the handing over hailed the former AG for his service to the nation and thanked him for the good work he has done. He pointed out that rotational changes of the guard in any institution were a normal administrative procedure in dispensing public services. He applauded the exemplary duties of the outgoing official and wished his predecessor success in his new tasks.

held on Monday 28th November 2022, included the Solicitor General Mr. Abdisamad Maal, the Deputy Attorney General Ahmed Mire Osman and the Chief Prosecutor of Togdeer Region Jama Duale Said. Others who graced the occasion were Chief Prisons Commander Brigadier General Ahmed Awale Yusuf (Libaah), Operations Commander of the National Police Force Brigadier Ibrahim Abdi Haji, Lawyer Mohamed Jama, Abdisalan Yusuf of UNDP, Fahmi Ali of EUCAP and Muuna Hirsi from Office of Development and Commonwealth of the British Government (Foreign Commonwealth and Development office).

Dahabshiil CEO appeals for relief support in concerted efforts by entrepreneurs, IC in the wake of drought



Dahabshiil CEO Abdirashid Duale appealed to the business fraternity and the International Community (IC) to respond in a concerted manner to the drought and aid in

addressing the basic dire needs of the affected populaces. "As the drought worsens in the *Continued on page 4*

Dahabshiil CEO appeals for relief support in concerted efforts by entrepreneurs, IC in the wake of drought

He said.

region, it is high time for the private sector, the diaspora communities, charitable organizations and the international community to come together to address the urgent needs", Mr. Abdirashid Duale, told VOA radio in an interview on Friday. The programme was focusing on how aware or sensitive the entrepreneurs were to the effects of climate change.

"Although the public's ears are not new to hearing about climate change, many people are not aware of its effects, but prolonged drought, socio-economic changes, which have generally affected rural and urban areas are showing signs of being victims of climate change". He observed that there is climate change in the world, "and countries and territories that used to have rains are in recent times experiencing drought and hunger, countries that used to have a cold climate has changed hotness", hence the climate change in Somaliland has a great negative impact.

Mr. Abdirashid said that these issues have affected the lives of the rural and urban areas when it comes to the economy.

The CEO of Dahabshil companies spoke about the role that can be played by businessmen in dealing with the problems of drought, pointing out that "the businessmen in all Somali areas whereby Dahabshil and Somtel companies operate in should participate in the addressing the plights of their

community, in any eventualities. He said that the Dahabshiil company has participated in various relief support efforts during the drought seasons such as water supplies and other needful services. He said that the people in the diaspora can play their part in helping the poor people who have suffered, reminding the listeners that there are still droughts and floods in the areas, regardless of the regions in question.

He also called on charity organizations and international countries to play a role in helping people in need.

Minister of Transport and Road Development Receives Ethiopia Zone Five Region Delegation in Tog Wajale

The minister of transport and Road Development Hon. Abdirisak Ibrahim Mohamed Farah accompanied by the deputy mayor of Tog Wajale, the town police chief and immigration boss welcomed a delegation from the Somaliadministered region of Ethiopia. According to the minister, the delegates will attend a seminar in Hargeisa.

Addressing the press in the town the deputy mayor said "It is an honour to receive our brothers from Ethiopia Somali-administered region. They will attend a workshop that will begin on Saturday 3rd December 2022 in Hargeisa." Speaking to reporters the Somaliland minister of transport Mr.Abdirisak stated, "Welcome to Somaliland its your second home. Our countries have a lot in common and share a historic relationship."

The minister revealed that the Ethiopian delegation was led by two ministers. The assistant minister of trade and transport and assistant minister of finance.

Also addressing the press was the head of the Ethiopian delegation, who thanked his hosts for the warm welcome.

The delegation was whisked away to Hargeisa where they to hold official meetings with different Somaliland government officials.

The making of a global port, and the unmaking of a people



Having survived centuries of successive governments, colonialism and war, have Berbera's dockworkers finally met their match?

Somaliland's dockworkers have been part of the unique fabric of the breakaway republic - and the broader Horn of Africa region – for centuries. Known locally as Geelle or Geelaha Dekeda - Somali for "camel" or "camels of the port" respectively – this association of men have carried heavy goods on their backs, moving like a caravan from docks to warehouses under high temperatures and humid conditions, since at least the 19th century. Since then, the Geelle have been an integral part of Somaliland's infrastructure and history. Today, the dockworkers' professional association, in which membership is inherited through kinship, is well known in the de facto sovereign state. Many of the group's hees hawleed ("work songs") spontaneously composed while loading and unloading ships – have become famous across Somalispeaking regions of the Horn. During the Ethio-Somali war in 1977-78. one such song became

notorious for revealing to the people how military officers had secretly ordered the dockworkers to divert sugar to the army. "You are wondering and waiting for a sack of sugar which travelled to Godey [a city in Ethiopia] at midnight wearing a military uniform," it went. More recently, Geelle work songs describing everyday activities and perceived injustices have spread online through platforms like YouTube and TikTok.

For hundreds of years then, the Geelle have persisted through successive democratic and military governments, colonial rule, and the Somali civil war. However, their toughest challenge may be unfolding today. In 2017, the UAEbased DP World, a leading global port operator and logistics giant, signed an agreement with the Somaliland government to modernise Berbera, the region's main port. This may change The modernisation of Berbera Since taking over Berbera, DP World has expanded the quay by 400m, established a new container terminal, and recently launched '<u>Berbera Economic Zone'</u>, a free zone that exempts traders and business partners from taxation for re-exports and allows them to employ foreign labour.

In 2021, the multinational also started managing the port's operations, with the latest in crane models becoming operational that June. Since that shift, just 30% of goods arriving to the port have been unloaded and reloaded by the Gelle. In Somaliland, as elsewhere, containerisation - which allows goods to be transferred across various modes of transport without unpacking - has made much traditional dock work redundant. The majority of manual labour has been replaced by computerised work in cranes and offices. This has increased the turn-around speed of goods and profoundly changed the kind of port work required. Despite the dockworkers' efforts, DP World has declined to hire them, though the company has recruited 500 Salavtore, labourers who arrange

Ministry of Finance Hold Meeting with Security Departments

The ministry of finance had started a campaign for tax collections in cooperation with the revenue police and traffic police.

In a meeting between the senior revenue collections officials and the chief of revenue police and his traffic counterpart revealed that members of the public have not paid different taxes from land rates, trade taxes, and many miscellaneous

goods inside ships before the crane lifts them up. Most of them worked in the port before DP World and now receive regular income and, so far uniquely in Berbera, medical insurance.

Nonetheless, these overall shifts have integrated Berbera into what anthropologist Anna Tsing describes as "supply chain capitalism" - new and innovative ways of linking labour, capital, and nature into a global network of containerised commodity production and distribution. They are also an illustration of how the "just-in-time" containerised global trade has placed dockworkers in complex technological chains of maritime logistics in which working conditions and power structures have altered.

Between aspiration and despair While the dockworkers have been allowed to continue working at Berbera, their status and future remain uncertain. As has happened in other port cities around the world, the Geelle and their families may have to migrate to find work elsewhere before long. This would not only end centuries of history and change the port's job markets, but it could transform the whole urban outlook of Berbera. However, the Geelle are not ready to simply disappear just yet. Their labour union has more than 1,000 members and continues to negotiate with the Somaliland Port Authority. In the last few years, dockworkers have organised several protests, claiming that they

revenues.

The Director of Customs Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Batuun confirmed that the due to 2022 budget the tax collection campaign would continue until the end of the year.

The revenue police boss stated that his officers would arrest all those who have defaulted on their tax payments.

are losing their jobs and rights, and demanding regular employment in the port. During these protests, the association itself has faced conflicts, as many members feel the organisation has stopped representing their interests. These splits are hampering the Geelle's negotiation power vis-a-vis both Somaliland Ports Authority and DP World.

It should also be noted that not all Geelle are against the port's modernisation. Some believe the new infrastructure will lead to more wealth and comfort. These individuals are resigned to seeing an end to the physically demanding labour of loading and unloading ships manually in extreme weather and imagine a future in which their children operate computers in the air-conditioned offices at the port.

While many Geelle despair at the manner and effects of the developments at Berbera, one told us: "Things are now changing; there are cranes loading and unloading ships. We are sticking around now to raise our children to go to school and get better jobs. We don't want our children to replace us". Research in this piece was made possible by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York. The statements made and views expressed are solely the responsibility of the authors. The research is part of the project: Port Infrastructure, International Politics, and Everyday Life in the Horn of <u>Africa</u>

everything for the Geelle. As one dockworker told us in May 2022: "We have been doing the work manually, and there is no reason to purge us from the port, but the modernisation of the port puts a great risk to our future."

President Ruto gazettes 51 principal secretary nominees



In the list, Ruto retained three PSs from his predecessor's administration.

• The notice is dated December 1, 2022.

• Parliament on Thursday unanimously approved the appointment of Principal Secretaries nominated by President William Ruto. President William Ruto has gazetted all the 51 Principal secretary nominees who will work under his administration.

The gazettement comes hours after MPs approved all of them after vetting by various departmental committees.

The notice is dated December 1, 2022.

Parliament on Thursday unanimously approved the appointment of Principal Secretaries nominated by President William Ruto.

Court had stopped the vetting of the nominees after the Law Society of Kenya and two others moved to court challenging the list, saying it lacked regional and gender balance.

Justice Nduma Nderi said the petitions, which were consolidated, were filed prematurely and on November 29, the court okayed National Assembly to continue vetting the 51 nominees.

In the list, Ruto retained three PSs from his predecessor's administration.

Belio Kipsang will now take over the state department for basic education while Peter Tum will be at the state department for medical services under the Ministry of Health. Charles Hinga has been approved as the housing and urban development PS.

They will be sworn in on Friday.

Award winning writing at the London Welsh

Three authors shortlisted for the English-language fiction category of the Wales Book of the Year 2022 award will appear at the London Welsh Centre on Monday 5th December at 7pm to read and discuss their work.

The authors are Rhiannon Lewis, author of *I Am the Mask Maker*, Sian Hughes, author of *Pain Sluts*, and Nadifa Mohamed, whose novel, *The Fortune Men*, won both the fiction category and Wales Book of the Year award. The Fortune Men was also shortlisted for the 2021 Booker Prize and Costa Novel of the Year.

The evening will be chaired by Andy Welch, journalist, author, and Assistant Production Manager at Guardian News and Media, who was a Wales Book of the Year judge. **Rhiannon Lewis**

Rhiannon Lewis was born in Cardigan, West Wales and grew up



Creative Writing with the Open University, for which she gained a Distinction, she began writing short stories in earnest.

Several of her published stories have been adapted for film and TV.

An adaptation of her story, Consumed, was premiered in 2021 at the Glasgow Short Film Festival and has since won Best Fiction Short at the RVK Feminist Film Festival and Best Foreign Film at the Copenhagen Short Film Festival. Award and the Prix Alvert 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 and Costa Novel of the Year. Nadifa Mohamed

lives in London.

How Somali girls with disabilities are overcoming barriers to education

Katra is a student at a school in Somalia supported by UNICEF Canada's UNdaunted program, which provides access to education for girls with disabilities.© UNICEF/ Mulugeta Ayene

For most of 17-year-old Katra's* life, school has been a distant dream. Born with a physical disability that impacted her legs, Katra wasn't allowed to leave her family home in Burao, Somaliland because of the stigma around disability in her community. That meant no trips to the market, no visits with friends – and certainly no chance of attending school.

In fact, some people in Katra's community thought there wasn't a point in her even seeking out opportunities for education.

"I was told many times that I was useless, good for nothing," she says. Then, in December 2021, Katra heard about a UNICEF program that changed everything. A local nongovernmental organization called Youth Volunteers and Environment Conservation (YOVENCO) visited her family to tell them about <u>UNICEF</u> <u>Canada's UNdaunted initiative</u>.

UNdaunted focuses on the biggest barriers to education for children with physical and intellectual disabilities, especially working with parents and communities to explain why all children can benefit from access to schooling.

"Education helps break the cycle of poverty," says UNICEF Canada president and CEO David Morley. "The chances of child marriage decrease for girls who receive more education. They then go on to have healthier children, participate more in the formal labour market, make more money and provide better health care and education to their children in turn. So, educated girls lead to empowered women who are then able to have their voices heard on decisions for their families and society as a whole."

And even though a lot of progress has been made in recent years, "there are significant challenges for girls and their families to enroll in and attend school," says Emmanuelle Abrioux, chief of education for UNICEF Somalia's Education Program.

In fact, while Somali children expect to receive an average of just 1.72 years of schooling in their lifetimes, boys tend to receive much more government, allied clan militias, and Al-Shabaab in parts of the country. "Conflict poses a direct threat to education, through attacks on schools and teachers, as well as destruction and looting of school property. This contributes to a situation where children are not safe."

Even the gender breakdown of teachers has an impact on whether girls go to school or not. At the primary level, only 12 to 18 per cent of teachers in the country are women, and at the secondary level, this number becomes even smaller – just 5 per cent. Abrioux says the limited number of female teachers "is felt to have an impact on the ability of schools to understand and respond to girls' particular needs." And for girls with disabilities, there are even more barriers. That was certainly the case for Katra.

"In the last two years, I tried to go to school but I did not have a way to get there. And, every place I went to study, there was a staircase, so it was a challenge for me. I lost hope and forgot about education," she says.

Students who take part in UNdaunted learn under an Accelerated Basic Education model, which was designed to offer eight years of primary-level schooling in just four years. It's not just basic schooling.

The program also outfits schools with ramps and accessible toilets, trains teachers so they understand the specific needs of students with disabilities, and provides financial support to students in the form of scholarships and a food ration program.

It has also distributed 12,000 learning kits, 34 wheelchairs, sports kits, and personal hygiene products to students in Burao.

UNdaunted receives funding from the Government of Canada, part of their advocacy and support for girls' education and their Feminist International Assistance policy, designed to put gender equality at the centre of Canada's international aid. After the YOVENCO visit, Katra knew right away that she wanted to participate. In fact, she was one of the first three girls to register - and she was instrumental in encouraging other girls to take part. "Education is the best way a person with disabilities can develop themselves," she says. "I try as much as possible to bring people with disabilities to the school; I advise them not to give up and study. I tell every girl, the fact that you have disabilities does not mean you don't have a life. You can achieve a lot. You and the person without a disability are the same. I always say, 'Lift yourselves up.'" That's exactly what Katra is doing. Thanks to how hard she has worked, school officials will be assessing her progress to see if she's ready to be transitioned to a formal middle and upper primary school. According to one of her teachers, it looks like she will be. "I knew all along that one day, I would prove them wrong," says Katra.

on a small farm near the coast. In March 2018, her debut novel, *My Beautiful Imperial*, was listed by the Walter Scott Prize Academy as one of its recommended historical novels.

In 2019, her novella, *The Significance of Swans,* was runnerup in the New Welsh Writing Awards. In September 2020, her short story 'Piano Solo' won the William Faulkner Literary Contest in New Albany, Mississippi, making her the first British author to win that contest. **Sian Hughes**

Sian Hughes lives in Cardiff with her husband, three teenagers, and a menagerie of wayward animals. In 2019, after completing an MA in *Pain Sluts* is her debut collection of short stories.

Nadifa Mohamed

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 and 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 Maughan

Andy Welch is a Welsh journalist and broadcaster, now residing in London.

He works for the Guardian, where he is an editor on 'The long read'. He has produced podcasts, worked for NME and BBC 6 Music, and taught cultural theory at numerous universities.

He recently contributed an essay to Welsh (Plural); Essays on the future of Wales, about learning to love the accent he grew up with during his childhood in Rhyl.

The event will start at 7pm, upstairs in the bar at The London Welsh Centre, 157 – 163 Grays Inn Rd, WC1X 8UE. Tickets are free and can be booked <u>here</u>. schooling (1.95 years) than girls do (1.48 years).

The reasons for this are complex. Girls may face challenges like child adolescent marriage and pregnancies. Abrioux also cites the direct and indirect costs of schooling - school fees, uniforms and textbooks can be costly, and families may not be able to afford losing a girl's contributions to the household - a challenge that has been exacerbated by the country's current drought emergency which is also impacted by food shortages and rising global prices.

"Conflict and instability also impact both access and continuity of education," she says, referring to the ongoing armed conflict between the THT

THT Buzzle

By: Abdillahi Said

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Infectious Covid virus can stay on some groceries for days



The Covid virus can reside on some ready-to-eat groceries for days, UK experts have confirmed.

Scientists carried out tests for the <u>Food Standards Agency</u> (FSA), purposely smearing the virus on to packaging and food products, including fruit, pastries and bottled drinks.

They chose items that people might put in their mouth without cooking or washing.

The risk to consumers remains very low, they say.

Their report says it should be noted that "foods and packaging considered as part of this study were artificially inoculated with Sars-Cov-2 and therefore are not a reflection of contamination levels found on these foods at retail, and lower levels of contamination will require less time to decline to undetectable levels."

Noteworthy' findings

For most food products tested there was a "significant drop" in the levels of virus over the first 24 hours.

But in some cases traces survived for about a week, the University of Southampton team found.

"For a highly infectious agent such as Sars-Cov-2, which can be transmitted through touching contaminated surfaces and then the face, these findings are highly noteworthy," they say.

The public may be interested in the finding that virus may persist in an infectious state, on foods and food packaging surfaces, for several days under certain common conditions." sneezed near it, for example, because Covid is spread by respiratory droplets.

Breathing in infected droplets, rather than touching infected surfaces, is still the main way people catch Covid.

Anthony Wilson, microbiological risk assessment team leader at the FSA, said: "In the early stages of the pandemic, we didn't know much about how the virus would survive on different food surfaces and packaging, so the risk assessment was based on a worst-case assumption.

"This research gives us additional insight into the stability of coronavirus on the surfaces of a variety of foods and confirms that assumptions we made in the early stages of the pandemic were appropriate, and that the probability that you can catch Covid via food is very low."

Food tests

The team examined a range of temperatures and humidity levels to mimic typical storage conditions, measuring the rate of inactivation of the virus, and found:

Fresh fruit and veg

The virus appears to last longer on produce with uneven surfaces broccoli and raspberries - than on smooth skinned ones such as apples (although some chilled fresh peppers had detectable virus a week later).

Apples contain natural chemicals in their skin that may start to break down the Covid virus within minutes or hours, the scientists say. Baked goods

Destries and a second second

But they add that there is no need for shoppers to take extra precautions when handling food other than washing your hands before preparing and eating it, and rinsing fresh produce to help to remove any contamination on the surface.

They picked foods often sold loose at grocery, deli or bakery counters, such as apples, peppers, cheese, ham, olives, crusty bread and croissants.

The packaging tested included drink bottles, cartons and cans. The amount of virus they applied was designed to simulate how much might land on food if someone who was infected coughed or Pastries such as pain au chocolat appeared to have little virus after a few hours - perhaps because they are coated in a fine layer of egg wash during baking, say the FSA scientists. Eggs contain arachidonic acid which might have an antiviral effect.

Deli items

Cheese and cold meat, with a high protein and fat content, appear to allow the virus to survive for days possibly a week.

Drinks and ready meal containers Covid can survive for up to a week on plastic surfaces. For cartons, it could be several days. For aluminium cans, it is probably only hours, say the researchers.

Compiled by: Yusuf Omar Hindi

What is Strep A and what are the symptoms to look out for?

THT

Health officials say parents should be aware of an infection called Strep A, after children in the UK died from it.

Since Covid restrictions eased, there are more opportunities for infections like this to spread. Cases have been increasing in recent weeks.

While most people do not get extremely sick, the highly contagious bacteria that causes the infection can cause serious illness and complications.

What is Strep A?

It's a bacteria sometimes found in the throat or on the skin.

Many people carry it harmlessly without even knowing, but they can spread it to others who might become ill.

How can you get it?

People can catch it through close contact and from coughs and sneezes.

Outbreaks can sometimes happen in places like schools and care homes.



What are the symptoms? Most often, symptoms are mild - a sore throat or a skin infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics. But Strep A can cause a range of things - and some of them are more serious.

One is scarlet fever, which mostly



affects young children and, again, needs antibiotics.

It causes a rash and flu-like symptoms, including a temperature, sore throat and swollen neck glands.

On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel.

Someone who has scarlet fever may have what doctors call a strawberry tongue - because its appearance looks a bit like a strawberry.

Is Strep A dangerous? Very rarely, Strep A can also cause something called invasive group A streptococcal infection or iGAS. This can be deadly.

Invasive disease happens when the bacteria get past your body's immune defences. This can happen when you are already ill or are on treatments, such as some cancer therapies, that affect your immune system.

Warning signs of invasive disease include:

• fever (a high temperature above 38C)

• severe muscle aches

Urgent, early medical help is essential.

The UK Health Security Agency advises: "Anyone with high fever, severe muscle aches, pain in one area of the body and unexplained vomiting or diarrhoea should call NHS 111 and seek medical help immediately."

What to do if your child is unwell If you think your child may have any symptoms from Strep A then you should speak with your doctor. Tell them if you have been in contact with someone who has had Strep A recently.

Is there a vaccine? No. Strep A is treated with antibiotics.

Malawi starts landmark malaria vaccination drive

Malawi has begun vaccinating children as part of a world-first, large-scale campaign against malaria.

The RTS,S vaccine - more than three decades in the making - was developed by pharmaceutical company GSK.

However, early trials show just more than 30% of the five to 17-montholds who received it were protected. But Malawi believes it will still play a key role in the fight against the disease, which killed some 2,500 infants in the country two years ago. "We're quite aware of its low efficacy... [but] in malaria control there is no single intervention that does it all," Dr Michael Kayange, the country's national malaria control programme manager, told the BBC's Focus on Africa. We're not saying that the malaria vaccine has come to eliminate malaria but it's one tool towards malaria elimination." Malaria has been one of the biggest scourges on humanity for millennia and mostly kills babies and infants. But the disease, caused by parasites transmitted through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes, disproportionately affects Africa: in 2020, the continent recorded 95% of malaria cases and 96% of malaria deaths. Children under five accounted for about 80% of all malaria deaths in Africa, according to the World Health

Organization.

Dr Kayange said the new immunisation campaign will ensure that all children under five, even in the remotest parts of the country, will be covered.

The first part will see 11 of the country's 28 districts will be covered, with 330,000 children expected to be vaccinated in this phase alone. How does it work?

The vaccine, which has been through rounds of testing in Malawi, Ghana and Kenya over the past few years, needs to be given four times once a month for three months and then a fourth dose 18 months later. RTS,S shares similarities with another malaria vaccine developed by University of **Oxford**. Both target the first stage of the malaria-causing parasite's lifecycle by intercepting it before it gets to the liver and establishes a foothold in the body. The vaccines are built using a combination of proteins from the malaria parasite and the hepatitis B virus, but Oxford's version has a higher proportion of malaria proteins. The team think this helps the immune system to focus on malaria rather than the hepatitis. Trial results of the Oxford vaccine from 409 children in Nanoro, Burkina Faso, have been published in the Lancet Infectious Diseases. It shows three initial doses followed by a booster a year later gives up to 80% protection.



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