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The government urged the world to stand up against terrorism and extremism

We appreciate the support and solidarity extended by our international partners during this critical time



The Ministry of Defense has asked the international community to stand up against terrorism and extremism after a suicide attack organized by terrorist groups was thwarted. A press release The Ministry of Defense issued last Wednesday updated the international

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Togdeer residents back oil drilling in the region

By Mohamoud Walaaleye

A major community awareness meeting at Barkulan Hotel for the dissemination of the Toosan oil well drilling project took place on Saturday at Burao in Togdeer region.

The event was attended by government officials, traditional

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Collection of voter cards is underway in three regions



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Borama police nabs assorted drugs, arrests culprits



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The VP back home from a European tour



By M.A. Egge

The Vice President H.E. Abdirahman Abdilahi Ismail (Saali'i), and his delegation which was on a official trip to some European nations have returned to the country.

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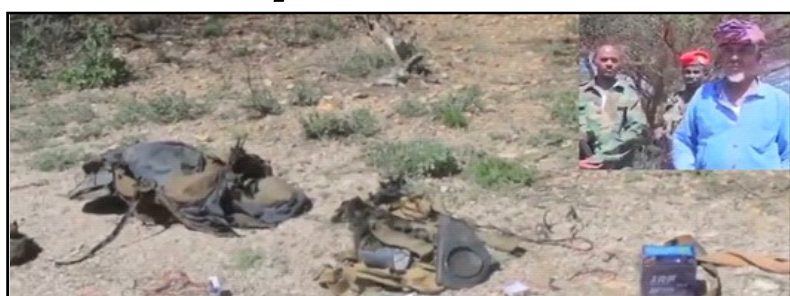
Somalia President Informs Sool Traditional Elders to Hold Peace Talk with Somaliland

The president of Somalia Mr.Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has unequivocally confirmed his stance on the war between the government of Somaliland and militants aligned to traditional elders fighting in Sool region.

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Las Anod elders and intellectual fraternity say terrorist threats are real



By M.A. Egge

Las Anod elders and intellectual fraternity Las Anod elders and intellectual fraternity have warned against the threat of terrorism which they described as a reality.

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Plans to avail cheaper health services and insurance scheme for civil servants underway



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Ministry of Finance in-conjunction with UNDP Hold Training for Internal Auditors

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The government urged the world to stand up against terrorism and extremism



community on an incident that took place in Somaliland. Earlier this morning, at approximately 3 am local time, a planned terrorist attack was successfully thwarted by our vigilant security forces.

According to the latest information, six individuals belonging to a terrorist group, who were plotting a suicide mission, prematurely detonated explosives in the village of Sii-xawle. This village is situated

between Yagori and Samekaab, within the region of sool and in close distance to Lascanod.

Tragically, two of the perpetrators lost their lives as a result of the premature detonation, while the remaining four managed to flee the scene.

This incident serves as a stark reminder that terrorist organizations continue to pose a threat to the peace and security of Somaliland

and the surrounding region.

However, we assure our citizens and the international community that our security forces are constantly vigilant, closely monitoring the activities of these extremist groups. The Ministry of Defense reiterates its commitment to maintaining the peace and stability of Somaliland. We will not allow these acts of terror to disrupt the tranquility and progress we have achieved. Our security forces remain steadfast in their dedication to protecting our citizens and ensuring their safety.

We urge the international community to stand together in the fight against terrorism and extremism. Collaboration and shared intelligence are vital in our collective efforts to counter these threats effectively.

The Ministry of Defense will continue to provide updates as the investigation progresses.

We appreciate the support and solidarity extended by our international partners during this critical time.

Somalia President Informs Sool Traditional Elders to Hold Peace Talk with Somaliland

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud reiterated his view after meeting the traditional elders from Sool region of Somaliland who had visited him in Villa Somalia. The head of state told the traditional elders that he cannot interfere in Somaliland internal affairs.

The president of Somalia told the traditional elders to hold talks with Somaliland government for peace to reign in Sool.

He stated Sool region is in Somaliland and only that government can restore peace to the region.

The traditional elders who met president Hassan Sheikh Mohamud are Garaad Jama Garaad Ismael, Garaad Abdirizaq Garaad Soofe, Garaad Abdisalaam

Hassan, Ugaas Mohamud Ugaas Abdillahi and Sultan Mustafe Awseed.

Somalia head of state pledged to help in the peace process.

Sool region traditional elders with assistance from militants with links to Alshabab, the terror group fighting in Somalia, started fighting Somaliland army in Las Anod town. Another actor in the war of Las Anod is a tribal militia sponsored by the Puntland administered region of Somalia.

The government of Somaliland has revealed that Sool region is part and parcel of its territory and those instigating the war in Las Anod have links to terror groups.

By: Guled Abdi Mahir



Las Anod elders and intellectual fraternity say terrorist threats are real

They also decried the war on the peace on Somaliland and called for joint efforts to prevent it.

This follows the spate of the deaths that have just unfolded following a group of terrorists who succumbed to explosions from improvised devices that they were trying to set up.

One of the elders who was lamented of the new development at the spot where the incident occurred called on the area residents to be vigilant against war organized and supported by foreign entities.

"There was an accident here, they were preparing to blow up the city of and some were to blow up the

bridge. Is the man who is doing this a Muslim or a patriot?", he posed.

He stated that the incident was a testimony to what the intellectuals were warning about that the war was organized from abroad.

"We believe that American and British Somalis were behind the insurgency wars being perpetrated", he charged.

He called on the Las Anod community to reflect on the situation, and said, "I say to the community, that the war is not as you think, we have cautioned against it and told you before. Look at the problem, the killers are here amongst our own and this incident is a testimony".



Togdeer residents back oil drilling in the region

leaders and eminent personalities of the region, and other invited guests.

The area residents and people of the Togdeer region showed their total support blending with the cultural leaders and scholars of the eastern region for the drilling of the oil well in Hood area of Togdeer region (Tosan-1 Block SL10B/SL13).

"We will not be there for anyone. We know that we have had an impact on the war going on in the city of Las Anod. We are going to start drilling oil wells", said the representative of Genel Energy Mr. Ibrahim Hassan. "The administration of Togdeer region and the elders are ready to confront anyone who is against the public interest." Stated Togdeer Regional head.



The VP back home from a European tour



Upon landing at Hargeisa airport, they were welcomed by officials and a large number of people.

The VP told the media that he had met foreign dignitaries in various meetings he attended in Holland, Finland and Belgium.

"We were first in the Netherlands, where two crucial meetings were held".

He said that in the Netherlands he participated in a meeting where all Somaliland communities living in

Europe had gathered.

"We then went over to Finland and met with various officials including those of their foreign ministry".

"We finally reached in Belgium where we received similar cordial receptions", said the VP.

Collection of voter cards is underway in three regions



By M.A. Egge

Potential voters who were recently registered have started collecting their cards in Awdal, Saahil and Sanaag regions have in readiness for the upcoming elections.

The exercise that will be on for 10 days will see the distribution of cards continue in Maroodi-jeeh, Sool and Togdeer. The collection is going on procedurally and in peaceful scenario with the security arms of

the state keeping vigil to ensure the process is incident free all through the distribution sites.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs urges the public to take the voting card, which is a right of the citizens of the Republic of Somaliland.

They urged the citizenry to maintain order by working with the security forces and the National Electoral Commission. Earlier on the Chairman of the National Electoral Commission Mr. Musa Hassan Yusuf said that the total number of people who registered or changed their place to vote is 386, 674 (three hundred, eighty seven thousand, six hundred and seventy four people in the whole country).

This includes newly registered voting persons, replacements of lost cards and those who have changed residences or polling stations.

The chairman asked the people living in the three regions where the distribution of cards started on 31st May to help the National Electoral Commission in the implementation of the exercise just as he called upon the NEC staffers to depict patriotic diligence in their duties.

Borama police nabs assorted drugs, arrests culprits

By M.A. Egge

The police force in Borama on Wednesday seized various drugs including alcohol and cannabis and syringes and needles used for vices at the same time.

The commander of the police department in Awdal region, Col. Abdikhayre Arraweelo who was flanked by both his deputy and the regional operations commander said that they have arrested drug addicts including alcohol and cannabis, syringes in a residential house in the city.

He pointed out that the disgraceful injectable drugs for narcotics were a new twist in the vices saga to be nabbed. Such vices were hitherto unknown hence not used in the country.

He confirmed that the narcotics were captured together with three suspects arrested who were using them and a woman, in her residential



house.

On the other hand, he asked the community of Borama to ascertain the backgrounds of tenants before they leased their houses.

He said that the suspects would

swiftly be arraigned in a court of law and that the security arms of the state will always be vigilant against such malpractices and tendencies that were precarious to breach of public security.

Plans to avail cheaper health services and insurance scheme for civil servants underway

By M.A. Egge

A strategic pilot plan to enable the civil servants and their families benefit from amply cheaper health services and insurance scheme has been initiated in a crucial meeting that also pledged to see to it that it is realized.

The Head of the Somaliland Civil Service Commission (CSC) chaired the meeting that was graced by the attendance of both the Chairman

and of the National Insurance Agency and his deputy, along with the Director General of the CSC and the Director of the CSC Training Institute, amongst other officials.

This meeting pondered on how to get government employees cheaper insurance scheme and health services at low prices throughout the country.

The leaders who participated in this meeting analyzed the establishment

of a suitable system for government employees and their relatives to get cheap health services and insurance scheme.

This task will be carried out jointly by the CSC and the National Insurance Agency, with the agreement to establish a strategy for the implementation of the task in the near future, and to continue the efforts until the plan is realized.

Ministry of Finance in-conjunction with UNDP Hold Training for Internal Auditors



A training program for local government internal auditors; was held in Hargeisa. The seminar, organised by the ministry of finance and UNDP, seeks to empower internal auditors, on public audit law. Local governments internal auditors, will learn public finances and accounts laws. Moderators of the training, confirmed that the seminar; is part of the JLPG decentralisation program.

Speaking at the training venue, director general ministry of internal security, Mr.Mohamed Yusuf Ismael stressed the importance of this

course; to local government internal auditors.

The DG emphasised that it was necessary; for districts to have internal auditors, to audit their books of accounts.

Director general ministry of finance, Mr. Mohamed Hussein Osman stated the importance of internal and external auditors for transparency of government finances.

He said "An internal auditor, works to ensure, government finance and accounts books are balanced. They work inside the local government finance and accounts offices to audit it and protect government from misappropriation of funds."

Dr Sada Mire: Another Distinguished Somalilander, Another International Award

conservation solutions for poor communities.

The newly named National Geographic Explorers represent the next generation of influential leaders, communicators, and innovators. Among the year's recipients is Dr Sada Mire, a Somaliland-born archeologist whose scholarly works have shed much light on Somali and Horn of Africa ancient civilizations. The National Geographic Society Announces the 2023 Wayfinder Award Recipients.

The National Geographic Society is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2023 Wayfinder Awards. This year's awardees include an Egyptologist, documentary filmmaker, investigative journalist, biologist, urban ecologist and other innovators, and were selected for their exemplary achievements in exploration through science, education, conservation, technology, and storytelling.

Wayfinder Award recipients are individuals who have proven themselves to be the next generation of influential leaders, communicators, and innovators whose critical work inspires us to learn about, care for, and protect the wonder of our world. Their groundbreaking work covers a vast array of impact-driven projects including connecting youth to the ocean, using innovative technology to track insects across landscapes, investigating critical environmental stories, and developing equitable

"On behalf of the National Geographic Society, we're proud to name these 15 trailblazers as 2023 Wayfinder Award recipients for their exceptional contributions on a local and global scale," said Alexander Moen, chief explorer engagement officer at the National Geographic Society. "We're thrilled to celebrate each of these individuals at Base Camp headquarters in June for our annual Explorers Festival where we'll recognize their remarkable achievements that bring our mission to life."

The Wayfinder Award recipients join the Society's global community of National Geographic Explorers and each receive a monetary prize to support their work.

Dr. Sada Mire is a Somali archaeologist, art historian, science communicator, and presenter. She fled Somalia as a refugee, becoming a Swedish citizen, and holds a Ph.D. from University College London's Institute of Archaeology, where she is serving as Associate Professor of Heritage Studies.

Mire is the first Somali woman to study archaeology, and for over a decade she was the only trained Somali archaeologist working in Somalia and Somaliland. Mire and her team carried out and published the first and most comprehensive

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Hargeisa Airport Customs acquires a cold-storage facility



By M.A. Egge

Director General of Finance Mr. Mohamed Hussein Mu'adinka inaugurated a new cold-room storage facility for services at the Egal International Airport. The new refrigeration facility will be

used to store perishable and associated products that are not resistant heat such as foodstuffs, medicine, vegetables, etc. The said at the function of inaugurating the facility, that saw the attendance of several senior

government officials, that the airport customs services are of great importance hence have to dispense its duties aptly.

He noted that the establishment of the cold-room would help greatly in perfecting its duties to the community members using the facility.

"The Hargeisa airport customs has for the first time established cold-room storage facility to protectively store perishable products", he said. He said that the Ministry of Finance has trained staff to take care of service the facility.

Airport customs manager Mr. Ahmed Mumin was grateful of the facility.

"We are very grateful to the heads of the Ministry of Finance, the Minister of Finance and the Director General for the extensive work they have done for us", he said

Former MP Unveils One Million Forum Program

Renown politician Mr. Mohamed Ali Hirsi (Obama) has unveiled a project called 'One Million Forum' that will work for the benefit of the public.

One Million Forum has brought together youths and intellectuals from Somaliland; but based in different corners of the planet.

Politician Mohamed Ali Hirsi (Obama) revealed that; this program will work for the interest of the people of Somaliland

He said "It is a day of great joy, we meet here to start 'One Million Forum' project. Many experts and intellectuals have understood; the magnitude of its benevolence. We also have representatives, in all Somaliland regions; and the five continents of the world our officials are present. Most importantly, we want the program impact, to be felt



by every individual. It is a charity cause; that seeks to empower people economically."

He stated that ONE MILLION FORUM will also promote

Somaliland international recognition.

The founder of the forum said; that it will lobby for Somaliland entry to community of nation.

Dr Sada Mire: Another Distinguished Somalilander, Another International Award

mapping of Somaliland's archaeology and is the founding director of its Department of Archaeology.

She is also a cultural theorist who believes we need culture in times of war, as articulated in her TED Talk 'Cultural heritage: a basic human need.' In 2021, with her book Divine Fertility, she became the first archaeologist of non-European descent to win the SAfA Book Prize. Mire's other honors include being selected by the Hay Festival of Literature and Arts for their 30 Global Writers and Thinkers for 2017-2027 and the New Scientist magazine list of the Most Inspiring Women in Science of All Time. She is the founding director of Horn Heritage



Foundation and its Digital Museum, working on research and conservation of heritage across the Horn of Africa.

Mire's work regularly appears in international broadcast media with

her as a presenter, writer, or subject, including in The Guardian, CNN, Current World Archaeology, National Geographic, Vanity Fair Magazine, Channel 4, Futura Channel, the BBC, The Sunday Times, and New Scientist.

Patriotism, Nationalism and Constitutionalism Training for Ministry of Internal Security Held in Hargeisa

The Director General ministry of parliamentary liaison and Constitutionalism, Mrs. Deqa Abdi Yusuf and director of security at ministry of interior Mr. Ibrahim Ali Ismael, opened a training program on patriotism, nationalism and constitutionalism; for employees of ministry of internal security in Hargeisa.

Addressing the participants, the DG

Deqa Abdi Yusuf urged the civil servants; to take benefit from the training program; and increase their knowledge of courses they will learn. On the other hand, the director of security ministry of internal security, thanked the ministry for parliamentary liaison and Constitutionalism; for enabling the training of patriotism and the constitution.



India train crash death toll surpasses 230, estimated 900 injured

At least 233 people have been killed in eastern India after two passenger trains derailed in an accident that also involved a collision with a freight train, according to officials.

The accident on Friday in Odisha state's Balasore district – India's deadliest rail incident in more than a decade – also left an estimated 900 people injured, Pradeep Jena, the state's top civil servant, said on Saturday.

The death toll is expected to rise, Jena said.

More than 200 ambulances had been called to the scene of the accident and 100 additional doctors, on top of 80 already there, had been mobilised to get the wounded to hospital and care for those still at the scene.

Video footage showed rescuers climbing up one of the mangled trains to find survivors, while passengers called for help and sobbed next to the wreckage.

The collision occurred at about 7pm local time (13:30 GMT) on Friday when the Howrah Superfast Express, running from Bengaluru to Howrah, West Bengal, collided with the Coromandel Express, which runs from Kolkata to Chennai. Authorities have provided conflicting accounts on which train derailed first to become entangled with the other and have yet to make any statements about possible causes. Debabrata Mohanty, editor at the Hindustan Times, told Al Jazeera that four livestock wagons on the train that left from Kolkata went off the track shortly before 7pm. "No one knows how it happened, but it was traveling at around 100 km/h,"

he said.

Shortly after, the train coming from Bengaluru crashed into two of the derailed rail coaches. "But most of the casualties happened because this one particular train got derailed, not because of the two trains colliding," Mohanty added.

An extensive search-and-rescue operation has been mounted, involving hundreds of fire department personnel, police officers and sniffer dogs. National Disaster Response Force teams were also at the site.

One survivor narrated his nightmare as he was jolted awake when the carriage he was sleeping in overturned.

"My sleep broke and 10-15 people fell on top of me," he told reporters, as he sat on the ground in the dark, steps away from the crash site. "I hurt my hand and neck ... I saw someone had lost their hand, someone had lost their leg ... I got out of there and since then I have been sitting here."

On Friday, hundreds of young people lined up outside a government hospital in Odisha's Soro to donate blood.

"I am personally indebted and grateful to all the volunteers who've donated blood for a noble cause," Jena wrote in a tweet.

Jena described it as a "violent and tragic accident involving three trains – two passenger trains and one goods train".

The cause of the accident was being investigated, said Amitabh Sharma, a spokesperson for the

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Multi-cancer blood test shows real promise in NHS study



A blood test for more than 50 types of cancer has shown real promise in a major NHS trial, researchers say.

The test correctly revealed two out of every three cancers among 5,000 people who had visited their GP with suspected symptoms, in England or Wales. In 85% of those positive cases, it also pinpointed the original site of cancer. The Galleri test looks for distinct changes in bits of genetic code that leak from different cancers. Spotting treatable cancer early can save lives.

The test remains very much a "work in progress", the researchers, from Oxford University, say, but could increase the number of cancers identified. Often, patients have symptoms, such as weight loss, with a range of possible causes and require multiple tests and hospital visits. More than 350 of those in the study - the biggest of its kind in patients with suspected cancer symptoms - were subsequently diagnosed with cancer, using traditional methods such as scans and biopsies. About:

75% of those testing positive on the blood test were found to have cancer

2.5% of those testing negative were found to have cancer. Although not accurate enough to "rule in or rule out cancer", the test was really useful for patients lead researcher Prof Mark Middleton told BBC News.

"The test was 85% accurate in detecting the source of the cancer - and that can be really helpful because so many times it is not immediately obvious when you have got the patient in front of you what test is needed to see whether their symptoms are down to cancer," he said.

"With that prediction from the test, we can decide whether to order a scope or a scan and make sure we are giving the right test the first time." The findings will be presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology conference, in Chicago.

'More research'

The NHS has also been using the Galleri test, developed by

Cambridge company GRAIL, in thousands of people without symptoms, to see if it can detect hidden cancers. Initial results are expected next year - and, if successful, the NHS in England plans to extend the rollout to a further one million people in 2024 and 2025. The test is particularly good at finding hard-to-spot cancers such as head and neck, bowel, lung, pancreatic, and throat cancers. Dr David Crosby, from Cancer Research UK, said: "The findings from the study suggest this test could be used to support GPs to make clinical assessments - but much more research is needed, in a larger trial, to see if it could improve GP assessment and ultimately patient outcomes." NHS national director for cancer Prof Peter Johnson said: "This study is the first step in testing a new way to identify cancer as quickly as possible, being pioneered by the NHS - earlier detection of cancer is vital and this test could help us to catch more cancers at an earlier stage and help save thousands of lives."

India train crash death toll surpasses 230, estimated 900 injured

Indian Railways. The details of the accident were not immediately clear, nor was the sequence of events.

Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who is expected to visit the area on Saturday, said the priority was "removing the living to the hospitals. That's our first concern - to look after the living".

Sudhanshu Mani, former Indian Railways general manager, told Al Jazeera that investments had gone into track maintenance and other safety measures in recent years.

"Today's accident is very unfortunate," Mani said, adding that the number of casualties would be high due to number of people aboard the trains.

"But the number of accidents has come down and there are projects on the way to improve the safety even more," he said.

There was no official confirmation of the total number of passengers on the trains.

Despite government efforts to improve rail safety, several hundred accidents happen annually on India's railways. In October 2018, a train ran over a crowd watching fireworks during a religious festival in northern India, killing at least 60 people and injuring dozens more on the outskirts of Amritsar, a city in Punjab state.

At least 146 people were killed in November 2016, when a passenger train traveling between the cities of Indore and Patna slid off the tracks. More than 200 people were injured.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that rescue operations were under way and "all possible assistance" was being given to those

affected.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who was rushing to the site of the crash, tweeted: "Will take all hands required for the rescue ops."

Vaishnaw also announced compensation of about one million rupees (\$12,000) to the families of those killed, \$2,400 for those who had suffered "grievous" injuries, and \$600 for people with "minor" injuries.

Several hundred accidents occur every year on India's railways, with most of them blamed on human error or outdated signalling equipment.

More than 12 million people ride 14,000 trains across India every day, travelling on 64,000km (40,000 miles) of track.

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA AND NEWS AGENCIES

Eating disorder group pulls chatbot sharing diet advice

A US organisation that supports people with eating disorders has suspended use of a chatbot after reports it shared harmful advice.

The National Eating Disorder Association (NEDA) recently closed its live helpline and directed people seeking help to other resources, including the chatbot.

The AI bot, named "Tessa," has been taken down, the association said.

It will be investigating reports about the bot's behaviour.

In recent weeks, some social media users posted screenshots of their experience with the chatbot online. They said the bot continued to recommend behaviours like calorie restriction and dieting, even after it was told the user had an eating disorder.

For patients already struggling with stigma around their weight, further encouragement to shed pounds can lead to disordered eating behaviours like bingeing, restricting or purging, according to the American Academy of Family Physicians.

"Every single thing Tessa suggested were things that led to the development of my eating disorder," Sharon Maxwell, a weight inclusive activist, wrote in a widely viewed post on Instagram detailing an interaction with the bot, which she said told her to monitor her weight daily and maintain a calorie deficit.

"If I had accessed this chatbot when I was in the throes of my eating disorder, I would not have gotten help."

In a statement shared with US media outlets, NEDA CEO Liz Thompson said the advice the chatbot shared "is against our policies and core beliefs as an eating disorder organisation".

The association had planned to close its human-staffed helpline on 1 June 2023, and dismissed the staffers and volunteers who had maintained the information and

treatment options helpline, which was launched in 1999. Officials quoted by NPR cited growing legal liabilities among the reasons for the switch.

Nearly 10% of Americans will be diagnosed with an eating disorder in their lifetime. The disorders often thrive in secrecy and treatment can be costly, or unavailable in many parts of the country.

Knowing this, Ellen Fitzsimmons-Craft, a professor of psychiatry at Washington University's medical school, and her team set out to create a cognitive-behavioural tool that could offer prevention strategies for people with eating disorders.

She told BBC News the chatbot she designed was based on proven interventions that have been found to be effective in reducing eating disorders and related behaviours.

"It was never intended to be a replacement for the helpline," she said. "It was an entirely different service."

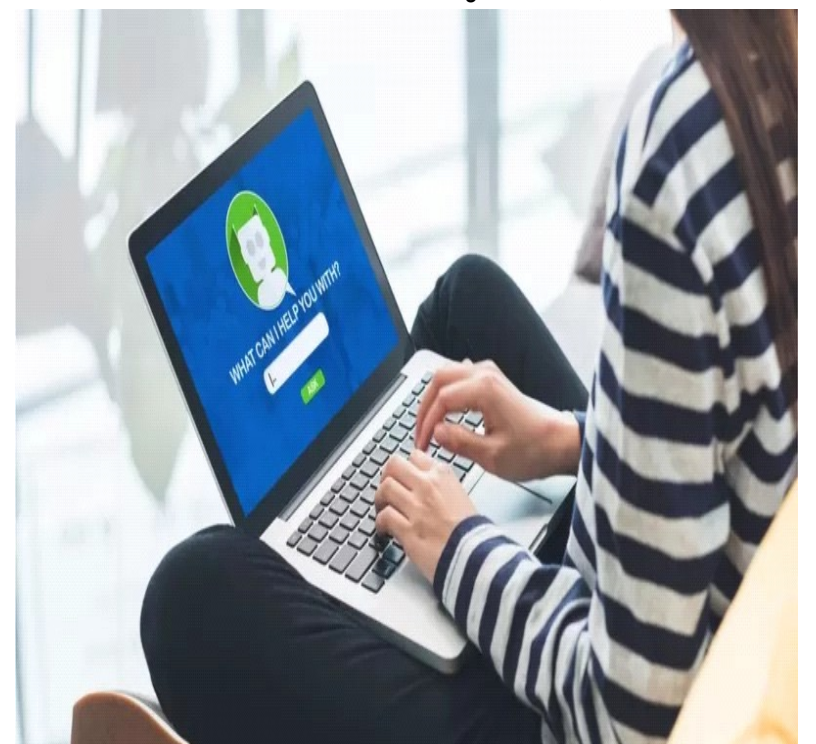
Ms Fitzsimmons-Craft and her team gave the programme to NEDA and a technology firm to deploy to clients last year. Since then, she said she believes a "bug" or flaw has been introduced into her original design to make the algorithm function more like recent AI tools like ChatGPT. (NEDA has said the bot is not run by ChatGPT and does not have the same functions).

"Our study absolutely never had that feature," she said. "It is not the programme that we developed, tested and have shown to be effective."

The BBC has reached out to NEDA and the health technology firm Cass for comment.

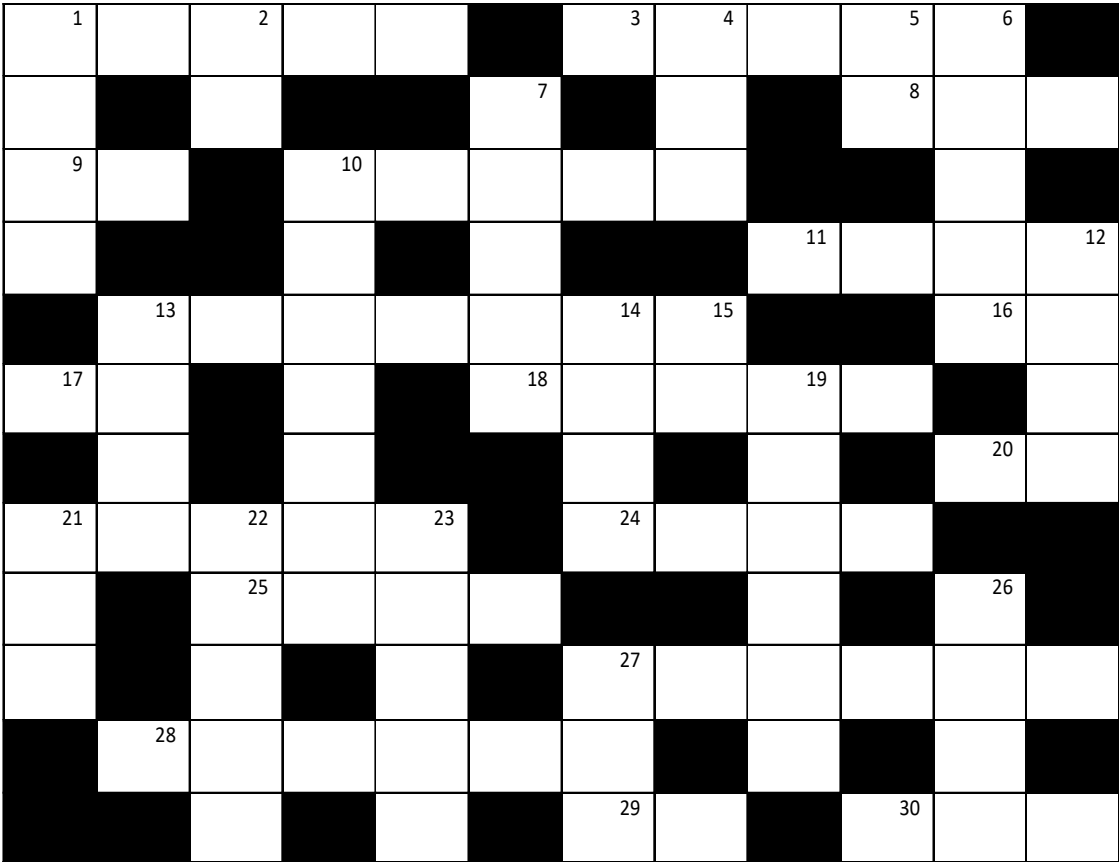
Abbie Harper, a former helpline staffer, told BBC News that days after helpline staff officially unionised, workers were told they would no longer have jobs.

"In the middle of our regular Friday staff meeting, the CEO and chairman of the board popped in to let us know we were being replaced with a chatbot and our jobs were being eliminated," she said.



THT Buzzle

By: Abdillahi Said



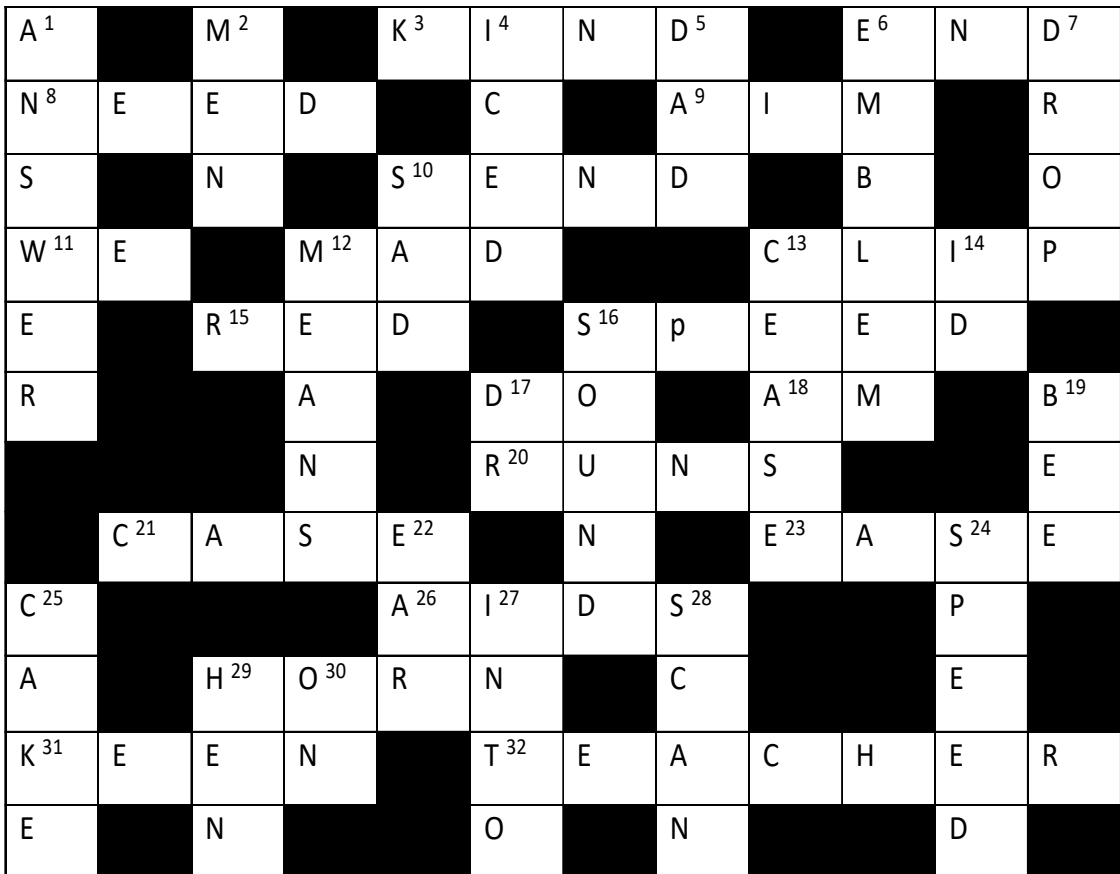
ACROSS

- 1 paperback/ text book
- 3 approaching/ around
- 8 fix amount/something
- 9 Accordingly
- 10 Terminate
- 11 Graphic arts
- 13 Interest
- 16 Hence
- 17 Toward
- 18 Achieve
- 20 Resting on
- 21 Seaside
- 24 Rotation
- 25 Super star
- 27 Want
- 28 Individuals
- 29 Negative
- 30 Attach

DOWN

- 1 Most excellent
- 2 Top up
- 4 an Active insect
- 5 world's largest organization
- 6 temporary shelter
- 10 Attach
- 12 Quickly
- 13 Essential/ basic
- 14 Have a rest
- 15 short forms of Not available
- 19 Carpet tiles
- 21 Crossbow
- 22 Property
- 23 Pleased/ glad
- 26 Recycled
- 27 Marker or art pen

Previous Answer



Somaliland Tax System and administration

(Part 5)

1.8. Types of Taxation Systems

The tax systems may be summarized as follows:

- 1. Proportional Tax System
- 2. Progressive Tax System
- 3. Regressive Tax System

	Proportional tax		Regressive tax		Progressive tax	
Income (Ksh.)	Amount of tax (Ksh.)	Tax as % of income	Amount of tax	Tax as % of income	Amount of tax	Tax as % of income
20,000	5,000	25	6,000	30	4,000	20
40,000	10,000	25	10,000	25	10,000	25
60,000	15,000	25	12,000	20	18,000	30

Source: Adopted from Mankiw (1998).

Let us explain these systems one by one in details.

1.8.1. Proportional Tax System/Structure

It is the system in which the rates of taxation remain constant as the tax base changes.

A proportional tax, also called a **flat tax**. This implies that the rate of taxation should be the same regardless of the size of the income.

Tax Liability = Tax Base x Tax Rate

Somaliland Tax System and Administration – Course Manual

The Republic of Somaliland

MOFD & NCHE

Somaliland Tax System and Administration - Course Manual

1.8.1. Proportional Tax System/Structure

It is the system in which the rates of taxation remain constant as the tax base changes.

A proportional tax, also called a **flat tax**. This implies that the rate of taxation should be the same regardless of the size of the income.

Example

Ali has \$10,000 of taxable income and the tax rate is 30%. Calculate his tax liability.

Solution

Tax liability = Tax Base x Tax Rate

= \$10,000 x 30% = \$3,000

Activity

Ahmed's taxable income is \$50,000 and the tax rate is 30%. Calculate his tax liability.

A) Advantages of Proportional Tax Structure

Proportional tax system has the following advantages:

- It is simple in nature;
- It is uniformly applicable;
- It leaves the relative economic status of taxpayer unchanged.

B) Disadvantages of Proportional Tax Structure

Proportional tax system has the following disadvantage:

- Inequitable distribution;
- Inadequate resources: means that the tax for the rich and poor are the same. Hence, the government cannot obtain from the richer sections of the society as much as they can give
- Inelastic in nature: because the government cannot raise the rate whenever it wants to raise the revenue.

Proportional tax system suffers from the defects of inequitable distribution of the tax

burden, lack of elasticity and inadequacy of funds for the increasing needs of the modern

government. Hence, it is not particularly and universally accepted

1.8.2. Progressive Tax System

It is a system in which rates of taxation would increase with the increase in income **i.e.**

higher the income, higher would be the rate of tax.

The term progressive refers to the way the rate progressive from low to high.

Example 1

Jurisdiction **J** imposes a tax on real property located within the jurisdiction. The tax is

based on the market value of real property and consists of three rate brackets.

Covid: Top Chinese scientist says don't rule out lab leak



The possibility the Covid virus leaked from a laboratory should not be ruled out, a former top Chinese government scientist has told BBC News.

As head of China's Centre for Disease Control (CDC), Prof George Gao played a key role in the pandemic response and efforts to trace its origins.

China's government dismisses any suggestion the disease may have originated in a Wuhan laboratory. But Prof Gao is less forthright.

In an interview for the BBC Radio 4 podcast Fever: The Hunt for Covid's Origin, Prof Gao says: "You can always suspect anything. That's science. Don't rule out anything."

A world-leading virologist and immunologist, Prof Gao is now president of China's International Institute of Vaccine Innovation after retiring from the CDC last year.

In a possible sign that the Chinese government may have taken the lab leak theory more seriously than its official statements suggest, Prof Gao also tells the BBC some kind of formal investigation into the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) was carried out.

"The government organised something," he says, but adds that it did not involve his own department, the China CDC.

We asked him to clarify whether that meant another branch of government carried out a formal search of the WIV - one of China's top national laboratories, known to have spent years studying coronaviruses.

"Yeah," he replies, "that lab was double-checked by the experts in the field."

It's the first such acknowledgement that some kind of official investigation took place, but while Prof Gao says he has not seen the result, he has "heard" that the lab was given a clean bill of health.

"I think their conclusion is that they are following all the protocols. They haven't found [any] wrongdoing."

More from John Sudworth on Covid

I Jul 2020: Wuhan, city of silence

I Dec 2020: Wuhan scientist would 'welcome' visit probing lab leak theory

I March 2023: Toxic debate over lab leak theory hampers search

IThe virus that causes Covid, it is almost certain, once came from

bats.

But how it got from bats to us is a far more controversial question, and from the start there were two main possibilities.

One is that the virus spread naturally from bats to humans, perhaps via other animals. Many scientists say the weight of evidence suggests that is the most likely scenario.

But other scientists say there is not enough evidence to rule out the main alternative possibility - that the virus infected someone involved in research which was designed to better understand the threat of viruses emerging from nature.

Those two alternatives now find themselves at the heart of a geopolitical stand-off, a swirling mass of conspiracy theories, and one of the most politicised and toxic scientific debates of our time.

In the new BBC podcast we shed light on this difficult, but vitally important, question through interviews with some of the leading scientists from all sides of the debate - as well as on-the-ground reporting, from the streets of Wuhan to the inside of a high-security laboratory in the US.

A Singapore-based scientist, Prof Wang Linfa, was visiting the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), where he is an honorary professor, in January 2020, just as the coronavirus outbreak was taking hold.

He tells the BBC a colleague at the WIV had been worried about the possibility of a lab leak, but that she was able to dismiss it.

Prof Wang is a professor of emerging infectious diseases at the Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore, and collaborates regularly with Prof Shi Zhengli, a professor with the same speciality at the WIV.

Long-standing friends, they are two of the world's top experts on bat coronaviruses - earning themselves the nicknames Batman and Batwoman.

Prof Wang says Prof Shi told him she "lost sleep for a day or two" because she worried about the possibility that "there's a sample in her lab that she did not know of, but has a virus, contaminated something, and got out".

But he says that she checked her samples and found they contained no evidence of the virus that causes Covid or any other virus close enough to have caused the outbreak.

He also says there's "zero chance" that Prof Shi or anyone in her team was hiding the fact that they had found evidence of a lab leak because they were behaving like nothing happened, including going out for dinner, and planning a karaoke session.

Now-declassified US intelligence suggests that several researchers

at the WIV became sick in autumn 2019 with symptoms "consistent with both Covid-19 and common seasonal illnesses".

But Prof Wang tells us that he suggested Prof Shi take blood samples from her team to see if they had Covid antibodies in January 2020. He says she followed his advice and all the tests were negative.

Prof Wang is one of a group of scientists who believe that the evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the virus passed to humans in a Wuhan market.

The Huanan Seafood Market - which sold much more than its name suggests, including wild mammals - was connected to many of the early cases, people who worked or shopped there.

Although China has shown a marked lack of transparency, those scientists say there is now enough information, such as the data on those early cases and the environmental sampling in that market, to rule out a lab leak.

In fact, such claims of certainty have been there from the start, most notably in a March 2020 paper which has become one of the most read and most controversial scientific papers of the internet age.

"The Proximal Origin of Sars-Cov-2" was written by some of the most eminent scientists in the field of virology and emerging disease, and it concluded: "We do not believe that any type of laboratory-based scenario is plausible."

It helped to bolster the idea - that quickly became prevalent in much of the media coverage - that the lab leak was a conspiracy theory.

But one of the paper's authors has told the podcast that he now has doubts about the strength of that earlier conclusion.

Ian Lipkin, a professor of epidemiology at Columbia University in New York, has long-experience tracking diseases around the world, including in China, where he has built strong contacts.

He was also the scientific adviser on the Hollywood blockbuster Contagion.

Prof Lipkin now says ruling out any lab-based scenario in the paper was putting it too strongly.

While he continues to believe that the market remains the most plausible explanation for where Covid came from, and does not believe the virus was deliberately engineered, he does not feel all laboratory or research scenarios can yet be excluded.

And he volunteers a theory of his own, pointing to another Wuhan laboratory - run by the Wuhan Centre for Disease Control - located just a few hundred metres away from the Huanan Seafood Market.

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