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## Alarming Increase of Al-Shabaab and Extremist Activity in Las'anod, Somaliland Raises Concerns

"600 insurgents led by Fuad Mohamed Qalaf (Shangole) one of the leaders of the Al-Shabaab have entered Las'anod, Somaliland"

The government calls upon the international community, neighboring countries, and relevant regional organizations to provide support and assistance in combating terrorism and extremism in Las'anod.



Mohamoud Walaaleye  
A press release issued on the evening of Saturday 9th September by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reveal that a prominent terrorist leader of al-Shabaab and 600 terrorists have entered the town of Lasanod, and called on the public to be vigilant.

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## Newly graduated units of the armed forces posted to Oog



*The national army is resilient and a well disciplined, says Somaliland Interior Minister*

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## The police arrests suspect on spreading false news about the national armed forces

By M.A. Egge

The police have arrested Aydarous Mohamed Abdilahi (Sha'rawi) for treason. The Police Force said that the

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## Meeting on lithium mining expediency held in Hargeisa



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## UCID chief visits military frontlines in morale-boosting trip



By M.A. Egge

The Chairman of the UCID party Eng. Faisal Ali Warabe, visited the front line of the national army base command in Oog on Monday where he was

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## The VP Inspects Borama Water Supply Project



By M.A. Egge

The VP H.E. Abdirahman Abdillahi Ismail (Sailli'i) inspected the water expansion project in Borama, the capital of Awdal region. Water expansion in Boorama city has been going on for the last few years in determination to amply

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## Police return cash of accident victim to next of kin



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## Government denies the news spread by Somalia about the country's universities



*The universities of Amoud, Hargeisa and Burao are affairs of Somaliland and not Somalia, says Prof. Suleiman Dirir*

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## Alarming Increase of Al-Shabaab and Extremist Activity in Las'anod, Somaliland Raises Concerns



The government has expressed great concerns in the gravity of the issue in the presser whose full excerpt of the press release reads as follow:-

The Government of the Republic of Somaliland Security Forces have confirmed that approximately 600 insurgents led by Fuad Mohamed Qalaf (Shangole) one of the leaders of the Al-Shabaab have entered Las'anod, Somaliland in the last couple of days, this has sparked growing concerns among authorities and citizens. Sources have shared that the objective of the visit by Shangole is to train the local militants on how to prepare explosives and how Al-Shabaab can create a base in the mountains of Erigavo, Sanaag.

In the past few months, Las'anod has witnessed a disturbing increase in attacks, recruitment efforts, and

the spread of extremist propaganda. These activities undermine the efforts made by the government and security forces to maintain law and order in the area. The rise in violent incidents and extremist ideologies poses a significant threat to the peace and stability of Somaliland and the region as whole.

The Government of the Republic of Somaliland has expressed their deep concern in the past to the International Community and various Security Agencies in the region, as these incidents jeopardize the social fabric of the community and country. The rise in extremist activity not only affects the security of Las'anod but also has the potential to spill over into neighboring regions, further destabilizing the area.

The Government of the Republic of Somaliland, in collaboration with the

security forces, is taking urgent measures to address this critical situation. Efforts are being made to enhance intelligence gathering, strengthen border security, and improve coordination among security agencies to counter the threat posed by Al-Shabaab and other extremist groups.

The government calls upon the international community, neighboring countries, and relevant regional organizations to provide support and assistance in combating terrorism and extremism in Las'anod. Cooperation and collaboration are essential in effectively addressing this pressing issue.

Furthermore, the government urges the local community to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities or individuals to the authorities. The collective efforts of the government, security forces, and the community are crucial in overcoming this threat and restoring peace and stability to Las'anod.

The government of Somaliland reaffirms its commitment to the safety and security of its citizens and will continue to take all necessary measures to counter extremist activities. It stands firm in its determination to protect the values of peace, unity, and harmony that are the foundation of our country.

## UCID chief visits military frontlines in morale-boosting trip



received by the army chief Major General Nuh Ismael Tani.

He was accompanied on the trip by members of the Somaliland House of Representatives from Awdal and Sahil regions and held meetings with the general.

He noted that whereas the purpose of the visit was one to show the peoples' solidarity and support for their military, he was equivocal that the nation would not accept a situation of having an administrative caucus within another, inside the country.

He said that the protection of the integrity of the national borders was without question and has to be safeguarded.

"We are very grateful to you for the successful battles you have had and once again I am sure that we shall be victorious and triumphant", he said.

Of note, the UCID chief made it clear that the national borders of all nations were not divinely mapped but since that of Somaliland was made just as those of other

countries, "the nation has the right as any country has the right to protect its borders" hence restore the unity of its nation, and the unity of its land. He continued, "It is known to us that no matter how many times you have gone to war, you have never once been rumored to have abused ethical rules on prisoners nor have you mutilated the dead bodies".

He boosted their morale by assuring them that the whole nation is behind them and that they should not be disappointed at all on minor hiccups.

He stated that the past 15 years has seen a lot of development made in Lasanod and Sool region and that the stay of the security forces in the area during the time had no blemish at all.

On the other hand, the chairman of UCID sent a message to the Sool traditional leaders, and the people of Sool region, and called upon them to "acknowledge that they are Somaliland people, hence we ought to build the nation together".

## Newly graduated units of the armed forces posted to Oog

By M.A. Egge

More units of the armed forces who have just completed their military training at Sheikh military center have reached on Tuesday the Oog military base where they have been posted to.

An event held yesterday at the command to welcome the troops who was attended by the Minister of Interior Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed, the Minister of Defense Hon. Abdiqani Mohamud Aateeye, the Minister of Justice Hon. Saleeban Warsame Guled and the Commander of the National Forces Major General Nuh Ismail Tani. Hon. Kahin noted that the nation's armed forces were a resilient and a disciplined one who can overcome any precarious situations.



His defense counterpart Hon. Aateye said that Lasanod will be freed from the enemy invasion and that the armed forces sacrificed their lives to safeguard peaceful stability in the whole country.

He urged the populaces to stand by their servicemen and support them to the hilt in fortifying the nation's solidarity.

Hon. Suleiman Warsame Guled

indicated that they and all the people of the nation indeed support the security force in their national duties.

On his part, the Commander of the National Forces Major General Nuh Ismail Tani pointed out that it was his expectations that the armed forces would mount and engage in strong operations that would be triumphant in their endeavours, sooner rather than later.

## The VP Inspects Borama Water Supply Project

supply the town with clean piped water. The VP was briefed on the projects and its achievements by the mayor of Borama, the governor of Awdal region, the head of the Shaba water company and the manager of the water management company of Borama, Abdirahman Abdisalan Sheikh Ali Jawhar; who generally acknowledged in agreement that the government has made a tangible efforts to get enough water for the people. The project is funded by the Somaliland Development Fund (SDF).

On the other hand, they revealed that the water expansion project in Borama is just

about being completed and is in final touches.

H.E. the VP said that the successive governments in the country have made a lot of efforts and succeeded in getting enough water in the city of Borama, and soon the water shortage in the city will be resolved.

Borama is the capital of Awdal region.

"This project has been going on for 8 years, and it was started by the government led by Ahmed Mohamed Mohamud Silanyo. After a long survey, the second water production center in Borama town was successful, which was implemented in the

west of Borama town, funded by the SDF", he said.

The VP noted that despite the efforts taking sometime, the remaining works on the reservoir tanks and associated chores on the project will be completed by the government and line agencies. Saying that most pipes are now relaying water to the households, the final touches on the works are underway.

Earlier on the VP led the Amoud University graduation ceremony at the campus in churning out the 22<sup>nd</sup> batch of 1034 students in various categories.

## Government denies the news spread by Somalia about the country's universities

By M.A. Egge

The National Commission for Higher Education has declared that there is nothing in the news that the Universities of the country have participated in a conference in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Some Somali media reported on Wednesday that the universities of Amoud, Hargeisa and Burao participated in a conference on higher education in Somalia.

However, the Higher Education Commission of Somaliland has denied the claims on the reports.

The chairman of the National Commission for Higher Education, Prof Suleiman Dirir Abdi, who

reported to Dawan newspaper, said that the news related to the participation of the country's universities in the Somalia conference is not true.

"The universities of Amud, Hargeisa and Burao are Somaliland, and they are not part of the meetings and affairs of Somalia. The news about the participation in the meeting in Mogadishu is false."

The statement of the chairman of the commission thus dispels the rumours and the doubts raised by some of the community about the news spread by some Somali media over the week.





## The police arrests suspect on spreading false news about the national armed forces



accused has confessed to crimes committed against the nation according to Article 184 of X.C.G.

He is said to have spread false propaganda about the National Armed forces, while on the other hand he supported the group fighting in Lasaanod.

The suspect is said to be under investigation and will be referred to a competent court to answer to the charges.

## Meeting on lithium mining expediency held in Hargeisa

By M.A. Egge

The Ministry of Mines and Energy has organized a meeting to discuss the regulation of Mining and Exploration in Gabiley and Marodijeh regions, which was held at the meeting hall at the ministry's headquarters.

The meeting was attended by the Minister of the Ministry Abdilahi Abdi Farah, his deputy, the director of the department of Mines, the ministry's legal expert and officials of the sector.

Also in attendance was the Governor of Marodijeh Region, the Deputy Governor of Gabiley Region and the administrators of Dar es Salaam and Agabar districts.

Al Nasri Mining Co, Sugaal Mining Company, Seven Mining Company, and the two cooperatives Dhuxun and Maluugta were also



participants.

This meeting, which is of great importance to the country's mineral production plan, was based on the following points:

1. Regulating and finding sustainable solutions for lithium mining sites.
2. Interpretation of the Mining Act (Act

No. 100/2023) and the application of the laws

3. Protection of security.

They concluded the meeting by setting up a committee to reduce disputes in mining issues and to work together on social issues such as security.

## Parliamentary Committee for Constitutional Affairs, Justice and Human Rights Inspect Burao Correctional Facility



Parliamentary committee for justice which had lately been preoccupied in inspections of justice department facilities across the country, met with the governor of Togdheer region and administrators of courts in Burao. The parliamentary committee also visited the Burao Prison to ascertain their welfare. They checked the general hygiene, health of inmates and food rations of prisoners at the prison. Members of the committee also checked the process of inmates rehabilitation by the custodial corps. After assessment of Burao Prison the

justice committee members held a meeting with officer in charge of Burao Prison and ministry of justice coordinator for Togdheer. The officials informed the committee about the situation of the prison and welfare of the inmates.

Justice committee members quizzed the official on matters pertaining their docket. Chairman of the parliamentary watchdog was led by Hon.Yahye Abdillahi Amin (Araarse) and his deputy Hon.Fuad Ahmed Diriye and other committee members.

The justice committee occasionally visit justice prisons to review the wellbeing of inmates.

## Governor of Sahil Receives Livestock Donations for the Army



Governor of Sahil Mr.Ali Abdi Abdillahi received donations of livestock from the people of Laasa-dacawo district. The livestock donations was intended for the soldiers at the front line stationed in Oog town.

The governor of Sahil who was on an official visit in Laasa-dacawo met with elders and traditional leaders of the area.

Area residents handed 246 goats and sheep to governor Ali Abdillahi

Abdi. The inhabitants of Laasa-dacawo pledged their support for Somaliland army.

Speaking at the venue the people called on the country citizens to protect sovereignty of Somaliland and avoid anything that might cause insecurity.

The governor stated that this was the first donation and will continue to support the causes of Somaliland National Army .

## Police return cash of accident victim to next of kin



By M.A. Egge

The traffic law enforcement forces recovered large amounts of money from a vehicle that had an accident fatally killing the owner who was

driving it and handed it back to the next of kin.

An official who spoke for Somaliland's road safety force said

that two thousand one hundred and twenty dollars and ten Ethiopian riyals were handed over to the relatives of the deceased who died in a car accident.

The security officer also added that the deceased was a businessman for the last 30 years.

On the other hand, the security forces advised the members of the community to avoid carrying large sums and instead use financial institutions for safe keeping and transfers.

Traffic accidents have of late increased tremendously in the country.

## Over five thousand temporary teachers to undergo proficiency exams

By M.A. Egge

The Ministry of Education and Science and the Public Service Organization jointly announced that 5,221 temporary teachers will undertake proficiency exams with the aim of absorbing the best 600 as permanent staffers.

Of the 5221 employees who will take the exams, 4,859 are to remain teachers whereby the remaining 362 will be the employees within the

ministry.

The Chairman of the Civil Service Commission Mr. Khalid Jama Qodax, spoke about the requirements and procedures for the recruitment of public school teachers and educational staff, and urged them to complete all the requirements related to entering the exam.

The Minister of Education Hon.

Ahmed Mohamed Diriye (Toorno), said that the workers were on temporary basis, and noted that they will be distributed to the districts.

The minister stood firm that educational centers and places cannot hire temporary workers, and said that the decree issued by the President of Somaliland will be implemented in absorbing all workers.



## US offers \$10mn bounty for leads on al-Shabaab leader Ahmed Diriye



### Taming al-Shabaab's growth

By 2013, he was a senior adviser to Godane, and served in al-Shabaab's "Interior Department," where he oversaw the group's domestic activity.

He shares Godane's vision for al-Shabaab's terrorist attacks in Somalia as an element of AL-Qaeda's greater global aspirations. On April 21, 2015, the U.S. Department of State designated Abu Ubaidah as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist pursuant to Executive Order 13224, as amended.

"As a result of this designation, among other consequences, all property and interests in property of Abu Ubaidah that are subject to U.S. jurisdiction are blocked, and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from engaging in any transactions with Abu Ubaidah," the US said.

The Department of State designated al-Shabaab as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist in March 2008.

In April 2010, the UN Security Council's Somalia Sanctions Committee added al-Shabaab to the 1844 Sanctions List by pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 1844 (2008).

The United States government has issued a bounty of up to 10 million dollars for information on the whereabouts of Ahmed Diriye, also known as Ahmed Umar and Abu Ubaidah, a high-ranking member of the Somalia-based Al-Qaeda linked militant group Al-Shabaab.

The State Department Rewards for Justice Program issued the notice saying in a statement that Abu Ubaidah currently serves as the leader of al-Shabaab, a position he assumed following the death of the former Al-Shabaab leader, Ahmed Abdi Godane.

Abu Ubaidah was part of Godane's inner circle at the time of Godane's death.

The US has linked the Al-Shabaab leader to attacks in the East African region including Kenya.

"Under his leadership, AS terrorists have conducted attacks in Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, and Djibouti that have resulted in the death of hundreds of individuals," the US State Department said on Thursday. Prior to replacing Godane, the US said, Abu Ubaidah served in several positions within al-Shabaab, including as Godane's assistant, the deputy governor of the Lower Juba region of Somalia in 2008, and al-Shabaab's governor of the Bay and Bakool regions of Somalia in 2009.

## Morocco earthquake: 296 killed as buildings damaged



A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.8 has struck central Morocco, killing at least 296 people, the country's interior ministry says.

The epicentre was in the High Atlas Mountains, 71km (44 miles) southwest of Marrakesh, at a depth of 18.5km, the US Geological Survey said.

The quake struck at 23:11 local time (22:11 GMT). There was a 4.9 aftershock 19 minutes later.

People died in Marrakesh and several areas to the south, the ministry said.

"According to a provisional report, the earthquake killed 296 people in the provinces and municipalities of al-Haouz, Marrakesh, Ouarzazate, Azilal, Chichaoua and Taroudant," the statement said, adding that 153 people were injured and hospitalised.

Unverified video clips on X (formerly Twitter) show damaged buildings, other buildings shaking and rubble-strewn streets. People are seen fleeing in alarm and some walking through clouds of dust.

Some buildings in Marrakesh's old city have collapsed, one resident told the Reuters news agency. Several clips on X show buildings crashing

down, but the BBC has not identified where they were.

Locals are said to have decided to stay outside their homes in case the city is rocked by powerful aftershocks.

Another man in the historic city described feeling a "violent tremor" and seeing "buildings moving".

"People were all in shock and panic. The children were crying and the parents were distraught," Abdelhak El Amrani told the AFP agency.

He said power and phone lines were down for 10 minutes.

AFP also reported that one family was trapped in the collapsed rubble of a house - and that a number of people in Marrakesh were taken to hospital.

The quake's epicentre in a remote area of the High Atlas Mountains was relatively shallow - and tremors were also reportedly felt in the capital Rabat, some 350km away, as well as Casablanca and Essaouira.

Simple buildings in mountain villages near the epicentre may not have survived and, being remote, it may take some time to determine casualties there.

## Radio Ergo Weekly Feedback Report, Issued: 8 Sep 2023

### Brief Summary

There was an increase in the number of callers complaining about drought and water shortage this week (31 August-3 September 2023) as compared to the previous week, especially from central regions of the country. As previously, callers in some areas also reported rainfall which created an overall mixed picture. A few callers noted the disruption caused by conflict on lives and livelihoods. Two callers spoke of an outbreak of flu in their areas. The farming and livestock programmes were popular with callers seeking advice and intervention. The following summarises the calls by theme.

**Drought and water shortage** – in Somaliland, a handful of callers in Togdher, Sanag, Sool, and Hargeisa complained of water scarcity and lack of rainfall. A female caller in Togdher said their farms had suffered a setback, and another said their livestock had no fodder or water. A caller in Taleh said the drought was being exacerbated by months of conflict that had displaced people. In Puntland, callers in Karkar, Garowe, and elsewhere complained of lack of rainfall and water scarcity. One said their livestock had no water and they needed aid; another said the Puntland government and aid agencies should help people who



were suffering. In Mudug, callers in Bandiradley, Galkayo, and Harardhere said they were doing alright but waiting for rain. Several callers in Hiran said the rain had stopped and the land was dry. One said they had no water or fodder and needed water aid. In the south, callers in Kismayo and Balad said they had had inadequate rainfall. A caller in Burhakaba, Bay, said they faced food and water shortage due to drought, and a caller in Gedo said they needed aid because of drought.

**Protection** – a caller in Bardera, Gedo, said food was scarce as the area was cut off and prices were high. He added that some people were moving to Al-Shabab controlled areas despite warnings by the government and other pressures. A caller in Dinsor, Bay, said their area was blockaded and transport was not coming in or going out. A caller displaced by the conflict in Lasanod to el-Afweyn said they needed aid.

**Health** – a caller in Galkayo reported widespread flu in the area. Another caller in Kismayo also reported widespread flu saying it was causing breathing problems in those who were sick.

**Education** – a caller in Garowe said they had no free schools and the government should provide education services.

**Flood prevention** – a caller in Buleburte, Hiran, said every time they worked hard to grow crops their farms were destroyed by floods. He wanted advice on how to stop this from occurring. Another Buleburte caller was thankful they were recovering after the last floods had receded.

**Agriculture** – farmers in Jowhar and Baidoa wanted help with seeds and farm inputs. A caller in Hinlabi, Mudug, said they had their seeds ready to plant and were awaiting the rain. A caller in Sahawanag said their fields looked burned and crops had failed.

## U.S. denies role in Somali army drone attack causing civilian casualties

Mogadishu (HOL) - At least seven civilians, including a grandmother and five children, were killed in a drone strike in central Somalia on Thursday after militants sought refuge in a house compound containing a family, according to local elders.

The Somali Ministry of Information has confirmed that five al-Shabab members, including three leaders, were killed in a joint operation in the west El-lahelay in the Galgaduud region. Among those killed were Olol Ali Guled, who served as the head of al-Shabaab's insurgent militia in Galmudug, Shuuke Ali Dheeg, and Isse Barre, and two other wanted al-Shabab members. Although the government did not specify which international partner supported the attack. The U.S. military's Africa Command (AFRICOM) issued a statement on Friday confirming that Somali national forces conducted a counter-terrorism operation near

El-Lahelay, killing three al Shabab leaders.

The AFRICOM, which has been helping the Somali government in its yearlong offensive against al-Shabaab, acknowledged the loss of civilian lives but did not specify the exact number.

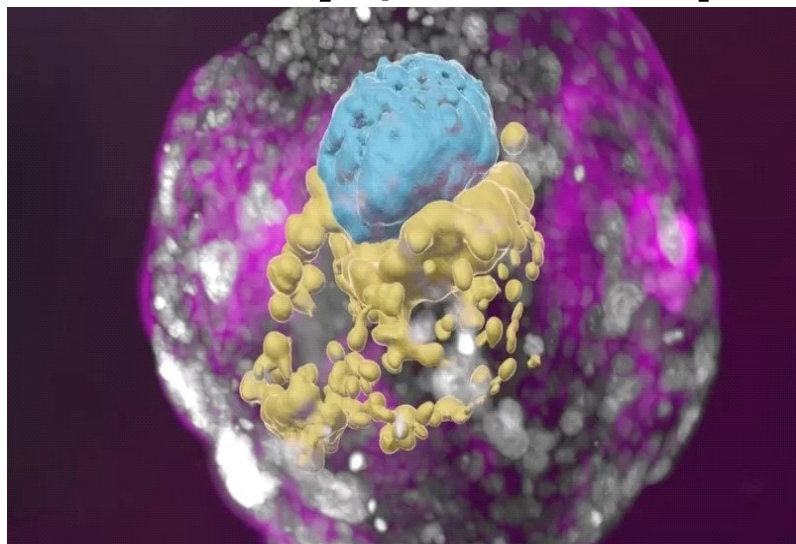
"Unfortunately, civilians were injured and killed in the vicinity of the operation," AFRICOM said in a statement. "U.S. forces were not onsite for the operation and did not conduct air strikes during or in support of the operation."

Speaking to BBC Somali, Somalia's deputy information minister, Abdirahman Yusuf, denied responsibility for the civilian casualties. He asserted, "[Al-Shabab] placed explosive devices in a civilian house, which caused the deaths of innocent people."

Al-Shabab has been fighting since 2006 to topple the country's central government and install its own rule, based on a strict interpretation of Islam.



## Scientists grow whole model of human embryo, without sperm or egg



**Scientists have grown an entity that closely resembles an early human embryo, without using sperm, eggs or a womb.**

The Weizmann Institute team say their "embryo model", made using stem cells, looks like a textbook example of a real 14-day-old embryo.

It even released hormones that turned a pregnancy test positive in the lab.

The ambition for embryo models is to provide an ethical way of understanding the earliest moments of our lives.

The first weeks after a sperm fertilises an egg is a period of dramatic change - from a collection of indistinct cells to something that eventually becomes recognisable on a baby scan.

This crucial time is a major source of miscarriage and birth defects but poorly understood.

"It's a black box and that's not a cliché - our knowledge is very limited," Prof Jacob Hanna, from the Weizmann Institute of Science, tells me.

**Starting material**

Embryo research is legally, ethically and technically fraught. But there is now a rapidly developing field mimicking natural embryo development.

This research, published in the journal *Nature*, is described by the Israeli team as the first "complete" embryo model for mimicking all the key structures that emerge in the early embryo.

"This is really a textbook image of a human day-14 embryo," Prof Hanna says, which "hasn't been done before".

Instead of a sperm and egg, the starting material was naive stem cells which were reprogrammed to gain the potential to become any type of tissue in the body.

A total of 120 of these cells were mixed in a precise ratio - and then, the scientists step back and watch. About 1% of the mixture began the journey of spontaneously assembling themselves into a structure that resembles, but is not identical to, a human embryo.

"I give great credit to the cells - you have to bring the right mix and have the right environment and it just takes off," Prof Hanna says. "That's

an amazing phenomenon."

The embryo models were allowed to grow and develop until they were comparable to an embryo 14 days after fertilisation. In many countries, this is the legal cut-off for normal embryo research.

Despite the late-night video call, I can hear the passion as Prof Hanna gives me a 3D tour of the "exquisitely fine architecture" of the embryo model.

I can see the trophoblast, which would normally become the placenta, enveloping the embryo. And it includes the cavities - called lacuna - that fill with the mother's blood to transfer nutrients to the baby. There is a yolk sac, which has some of the roles of the liver and kidneys, and a bilaminar embryonic disc - one of the key hallmarks of this stage of embryo development.

**'Making sense'**

The hope is embryo models can help scientists explain how different types of cell emerge, witness the earliest steps in building the body's organs or understand inherited or genetic diseases.

Already, this study shows other parts of the embryo will not form unless the early placenta cells can surround it.

There is even talk of improving in vitro fertilisation (IVF) success rates by helping to understand why some embryos fail or using the models to test whether medicines are safe during pregnancy.

Prof Robin Lovell Badge, who researches embryo development at the Francis Crick Institute, tells me these embryo models "do look pretty good" and "do look pretty normal".

"I think it's good, I think it's done very well, it's all making sense and I'm pretty impressed with it," he says. But the current 99% failure rate would need to be improved, he adds. It would be hard to understand what was going wrong in miscarriage or infertility if the model failed to assemble itself most of the time.

**Legally distinct**

The work also raises the question of whether embryo development could be mimicked past the 14-day stage.

This would not be illegal, even in the UK, as embryo models are legally distinct from embryos.

"Some will welcome this - but others won't like it," Prof Lovell-Badge says. And the closer these models come to an actual embryo, the more ethical questions they raise.

They are not normal human embryos, they're embryo models, but they're very close to them.

"So should you regulate them in the same way as a normal human embryo or can you be a bit more relaxed about how they're treated?" Prof Alfonso Martinez Arias, from the department of experimental and health sciences at Pompeu Fabra University, said it was "a most important piece of research".

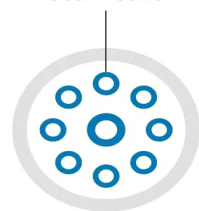
"The work has, for the first time, achieved a faithful construction of the complete structure [of a human embryo] from stem cells" in the lab, "thus opening the door for studies of the events that lead to the formation of the human body plan," he said.

The researchers stress it would be unethical, illegal and actually impossible to achieve a pregnancy using these embryo models - assembling the 120 cells together goes beyond the point an embryo could successfully implant into the lining of the womb.

### Creating a model of the human embryo

#### 1. Starting materials

Stem cells

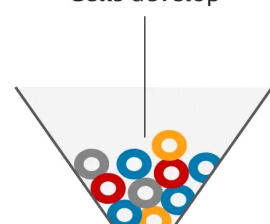


#### 2. Transformed into four types of cells

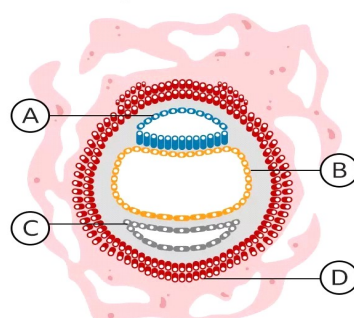
- A. Epiblast**
- B. Hypoblast**
- C. Extraembryonic mesoderm**
- D. Trophoblast**

#### 3. 120 cells mixed and grown in shaker

Cells develop



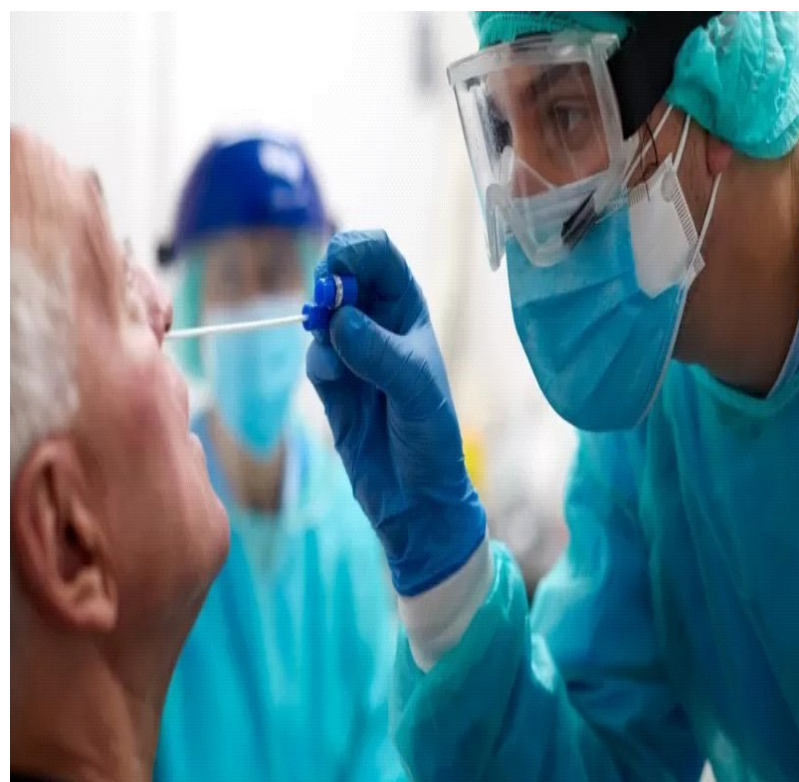
#### 4. Spontaneously forms embryo-like structure



Source: Nature/Weizmann Institute

BBC

## New Covid variant BA.2.86 behind Norfolk care home outbreak



**A new Covid variant is spreading in England and is behind an outbreak at a care home in Norfolk, health officials say.**

There have been 34 confirmed cases of BA.2.86, with 28 of those at the care home. There have been no deaths.

It is too early to draw conclusions on whether it is more serious than past variants, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said.

People eligible for a booster jab this autumn are encouraged to come forward.

The government recently announced that the vaccine rollout would be earlier than planned because of the new variant. It will start next week.

The UK Health Security Agency's **latest briefing** on Covid includes an analysis on BA.2.86, an Omicron spin-off.

It says out of the 34 cases confirmed through sequencing in a lab, five people have needed hospital treatment.

Based on detection of multiple unlinked cases in different regions of the UK, it's likely there is "established community transmission of BA.2.86", UKHSA says.

Scotland has also recorded two cases.

Norfolk County Council has been offering infection advice and support to the care home where there has been an outbreak.

Staff and residents were asked to have tests when an unusually high number of people became unwell, health officials say.

Lab analysis found that BA.2.86 was confirmed in the majority of samples from those tests.

This is an early indication that the variant "may be sufficiently transmissible to have impact in close contact settings", the analysis said.

The variant has been detected in a

number of countries around the world.

Dr Renu Bindra, incident director at UKHSA, said BA.2.86 had a significant number of mutations compared to other Covid variants circulating at the moment.

But she added: "The data so far is too limited to draw firm conclusions about the impact this will have on the transmissibility, severity or immune escape properties of the virus."

Dr Bindra said it was likely to be some time before a confident assessment on that could be made.

"It is clear that there is some degree of widespread community transmission, both in the UK and globally, and we are working to ascertain the full extent of this," she said.

**Changing dates criticised**

The Department of Health and Social Care has been criticised for changing its mind on the start date of the autumn Covid and flu vaccine programme.

It usually begins in early September, but was pushed back to October to increase protection in December and January when flu and Covid are more likely to cause problems.

The timing has now changed again, to 11 September, because of concerns over the new variant.

Pharmacists said last week that they had been left with very little time to prepare for the rollout of Covid and flu vaccines.

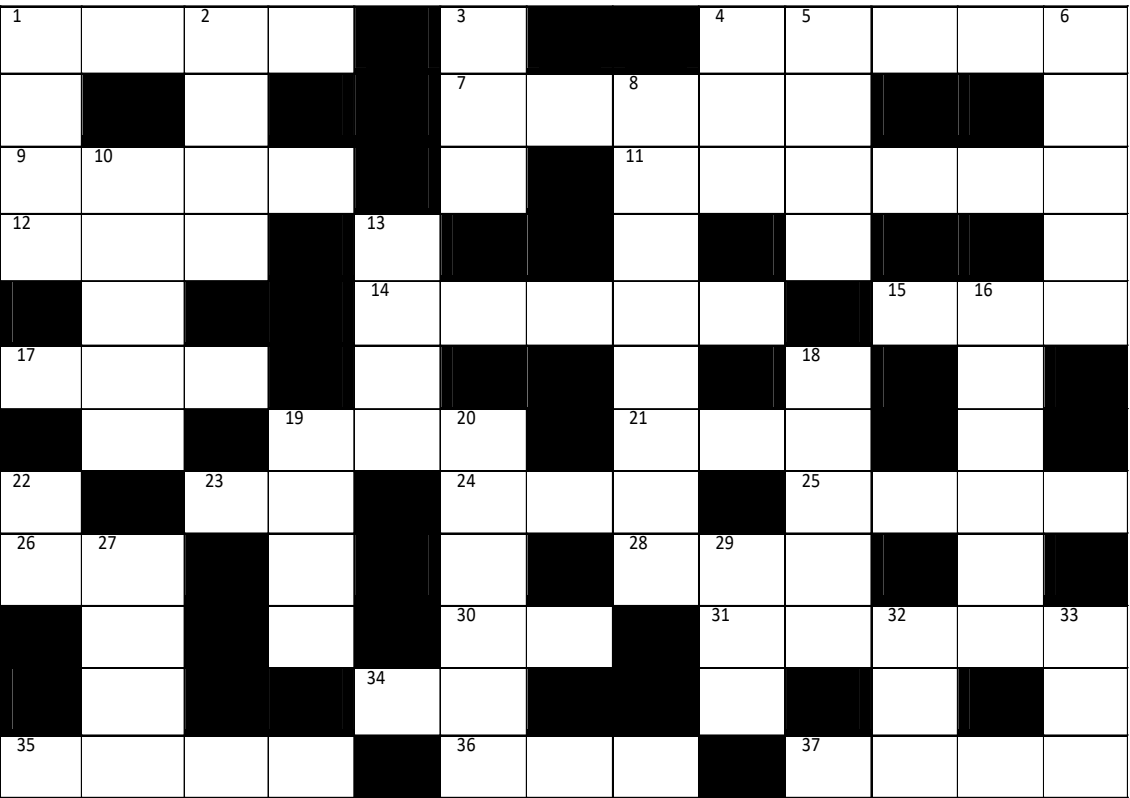
People who are eligible for a Covid-19 vaccine include:

- residents in a care home for older adults
- all adults aged 65 years and over
- anyone aged six months to 64 years in a clinical risk group
- front-line health and social care workers
- anyone aged 12 to 64 years who lives in the same house as people with weakened immune systems



# THT Buzzle

By: Abdillahi Said



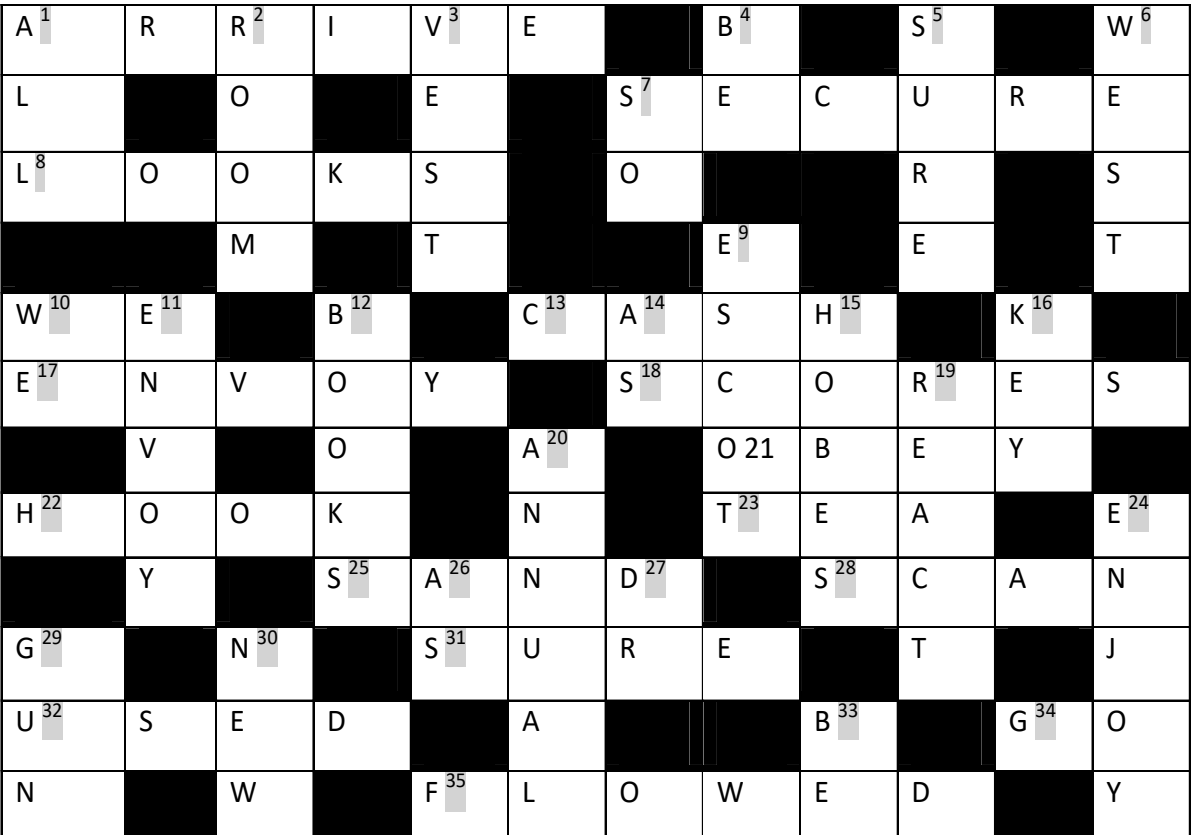
ACROSS

- 1 Complete  
4 Media info  
7 approve.  
9 tons  
11 safeguard.  
12 closures  
14 contend or debate  
15 donkey male  
17 liquids or water related  
19 oldness  
21 bother or swallowing  
23 United nations  
24 Understand  
25 paintings  
26 right  
28 customary  
30 morning counter  
31 crews  
34 active  
35 Unpleasant  
36 Finish  
37 Weapons

DOWN

- 1 Shopping mall  
2 deceased  
3 earlobes  
4 Coop  
5 Time out  
6 planting  
8 Immigrants  
10 Apply oil  
13 Band of people  
16 Classification  
18 Government  
19 Opposing  
20 Discharge  
22 Not at all  
27 Royal  
29 et cetera  
33 safe our selves

## Previous Answer



# Somaliland Tax System and administration

(Part 18)

Table 7: Tax Payment Compliance and Penalties

S/No	Description	Due Date	Penalty
1	Payroll Tax	15 <sup>th</sup> of the Next Month	2%
2	Business Income Tax	30 <sup>th</sup> April	2%
3	Rental Income Tax	30 <sup>th</sup> April	2%
4	Goods and Service Tax (GST)	21 <sup>st</sup> of every month	2%
5	Withholding Tax	15 <sup>th</sup> of the Next Month	2%

### 3.2.7. Tax Tribunal (Dispute Resolution)

As normally occurs, taxpayers can sometimes can complain the Ministry of finance's tax assessment and collection. In Somaliland, this process is protected in the legal framework. Therefore, according to the Somaliland revenue act, 72/2016, a Tax Tribunal Commission (TTC) is established. The TTC operates in an independent, accessible, and efficient review mechanisms safeguard a taxpayer's right to challenge a tax assessment and receive a fair hearing in a timely manner. The taxpayers can dispute:

- (i) The accuracy of the facts used by the auditor,
- (ii) The correctness of interpretation of the tax law, and
- (iii) The penalties imposed by MOFD.

MOFD has adopted a tiered review mechanism, starting with submission to the internal Objections and Appeals Unit (**OAU**) for an administrative review. Where a taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of an administrative review, the case will be raised to the Tax Tribunal Commission (**TTC**).

The procedures which the tax tribunal works and the compliant process and forms that can be applied by the taxpayers are annexed in this manual. They are also ready and can be found the TTC office and the ministry of finance's website. **slmof.org**.

### CHAPTER FOUR: TAX CALCULATIONS

#### Learning Outcomes

After studying this chapter, students should be able to:

- Calculate Somaliland income taxes on business, payroll and rental;
- Familiarize with allowed and non-allowed deductions;
- Operate calculations for Somaliland taxes on partnership, Goods & services; road (Circulation), registration, stump, administration, withholding etc.
- Apply how to calculate the taxes by using online tax calculator.

#### 4.1. Business Income Tax

Business tax includes any trade, profession, vocation, or adventure in the nature of trade but does not include employment. Corporate tax is another form of a direct tax. This is the tax that corporations and other businesses must pay to the government on the profits they earn. However, partnerships and sole proprietorships do not pay corporate taxes.

The corporate tax in the U.S. is separate from income tax. In Somaliland business income means any income derived by a person carrying on a business and its coverage are described under Section 69 of the SRA 2016.

Businesses pay income taxes on their earnings; the Inland Revenue taxes income from corporations, partnerships, self-employed contractors, and small businesses. Depending on the business structure, either the corporation, its owners, or shareholders report their business income and then deduct their operating and capital expenses. The difference is their taxable business income.

Section 58 (Rate of Income Tax for Companies) of the SRA specifies that the chargeable income of a company for a year of income is charged to income tax at the **rate of 10%**.

N.B:

- In tax system/structure, Somaliland uses **Proportional Tax Rate**.

To be continue next issue



Compiled by: Yusuf Omar Hindi

# Wegovy: Weight-loss drug firm becomes Europe’s most valuable



The maker of weight-loss drug Wegovy has become Europe’s most valuable firm, dethroning the French luxury conglomerate LVMH. Shares rose after the Danish pharmaceutical giant, Novo Nordisk, launched the popular drug in the UK. At the close of trading on Monday, the firm had a stock market valuation of \$428bn (£339bn). Famous personalities such as Elon Musk are among the reported users of the drug, which has captivated Hollywood and the public more widely since it was

approved by regulators in the US in 2021. Fanfare’ There has been a global shortage of the jabs so only limited stock arrived for the NHS in the UK on Monday. The company said it would continue to restrict global supplies as it works to ramp up manufacturing. Sophie Lund-Yates, lead equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown, told the BBC’s Wake Up to Money programme the firm had been “genuinely surprised” by the uptake and said it had been “a victim of its

own success”. “It’s not common that you see a pharmaceutical company so entrenched in popular culture but there are people saying that we need to take a step back and ensure it is being used appropriately and responsibly. Of course, with a lot of fanfare for a drug, you are risking a lot of blowback in the future,” she said. In the UK, NHS guidelines say patients can only access Wegovy, which contains the drug semaglutide, if they are significantly overweight and have weight-related health problems. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), nearly one in three adults are obese in the UK, which is the highest level in Europe. Last month, a new trial showed Wegovy has also been proven to reduce the risk of a stroke or heart attack. While the findings still have to be fully reviewed, experts agreed the results were potentially significant.

# NHS gets limited stock of Wegovy weight-loss jab



**Some NHS patients could be prescribed the Wegovy weight-loss drug after limited stock arrived in the UK.** The injection will be offered by some specialist NHS weight-loss management services, as well as some private clinics. As doses become available, it could help tens of thousands of patients in England, the NHS said. There has been a global shortage of the jabs, which blunt appetite. The cost to the health service is unclear. What is Wegovy and does it work? Experts warn the jabs - widely used in the US and endorsed by many celebrities - are not a quick fix nor a substitute for a healthy diet and exercise. In trials, users often put weight back on after stopping treatment. The Danish maker of Wegovy, Novo Nordisk, said it would continue to restrict global supplies as it works to ramp up manufacturing. It said in a statement there would be a controlled and limited launch: “As we expect supply to be constrained for the foreseeable future, a proportion of available supply will be allocated for use only within the NHS.

unmet medical need are prioritised. “We are closely monitoring demand and are working with regulators and providers to ensure people living with obesity can have access to and remain on the treatment.” NHS guidelines say patients can only access Wegovy, which contains the drug semaglutide, if they are significantly overweight and have weight-related health problems. Eligible patient can be prescribed it for a maximum of two years via specialist weight-management services, alongside diet and exercise advice. These services are largely hospital based, meaning only about 35,000 have access, but the government says tens of thousands more people could be eligible if a new scheme to let GPs prescribe it works. An NHS spokesperson said: “Despite global supply constraints, NHS England is taking action to begin implementing NICE guidance for weight management, while at the same time working to restore supplies of this class of drug for people with type 2 diabetes. “Around 50,000 eligible patients in England could be prescribed Wegovy through NHS specialist weight management services, that are able to provide appropriate multidisciplinary care.”

“We will continue to work with healthcare professionals to help ensure that patients with the highest

# Turkey surgery warning as mother-of-four dies after gastric sleeve

A father whose daughter died after travelling to Turkey for weight-loss surgery has urged people to think again before doing the same. Shannon Meenan Browse from Londonderry was 32 when she died in August.



The mother-of-four travelled for a gastric sleeve operation 18 months ago but, according to her father, got sick almost straight away. Shane Meenan said his daughter could not keep any food down in the wake of the operation. He said the illness got so bad her teeth began to rot due to constant vomiting. The family were told she died in Altnagelvin Hospital from “malnutrition due to gastric sleeve”. One of the UK’s leading bariatric surgeons, Prof David Kerrigan said people are taking a “massive risk” by travelling abroad for weight-loss surgery. In the UK, he said, patients undergo a rigorous preparatory process that includes a psychological assessment and there is “a proper after-care programme”. ‘Lost my heart and soul’ A BBC investigation in March found that seven British patients who travelled to Turkey for weight-loss surgery **died after operations there**, while others returned home with serious health issues. In 2019 the Department of Health (DoH) said it was **considering setting up Northern Ireland’s first dedicated weight-loss surgery unit**.

But an assessment to determine whether or not the unit should be created in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, was stalled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The department told BBC News NI it will be some time before work to deliver the service will resume. Dr Nicola Herron, a Derry-based GP, said the experience of Ms Meenan Browse and her family was “beyond heart-breaking”, adding that doctors in Northern Ireland were becoming increasingly concerned about people travelling abroad for surgery. “The professionals here are sometimes at a loss as to how to look after people who have come back after this major surgery - because this is a specialist area. That is very worrying,” Dr Herron said. Most people, she added, don’t realise just how serious the surgery can be. Mr Meenan, meanwhile, told **BBC Radio Foyle**, that his daughter’s death had lost him his heart and soul. “She left behind four beautiful children and we have to be strong now for them.”

The two most common types of weight loss surgery are: ● Sleeve gastrectomy or gastric bypass, where some of the stomach is removed or the digestive system is re-routed past most of the stomach ● Gastric band, where a band is used to reduce the size of the stomach so a smaller amount of food is required to make someone feel full “A sleeve gastrectomy is where a large part of the stomach is removed so it’s much smaller than it was before,” the NHS website says. “This means you cannot eat as much as you could before surgery and you’ll feel full sooner.” Risks associated with this type of surgery can include difficulty swallowing, vomiting and, in some cases, serious illness and death. Recalling his daughter’s ordeal, Mr Meenan said she couldn’t keep her vitamins - nor anything else - down. “As each day passed, she was getting sicker and sicker.” ‘Nothing they could do’ Mr Meenan said the only food his daughter could eat without throwing up was broth from ready-made noodles.

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