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President holds crucial meeting with the heads of the Political Organizations

As he briefs them on SL-Ethiopian MoU and the summit on the resumption of Somaliland –Somalia Talks



By M.A. Egge

Hargeisa: The President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi, on Sunday held a crucial meeting on briefings that lasted for several hours with the leaders of the ten political organizations that participated in the

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Somalilanders within the country and abroad should patriotically support the nation and its aspirations, says FM Dr. Isse



By Mohamoud Walaaleeye

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hon. Dr. Isse Keyd Mohamud together with the Deputy Minister Hon. Rooda Jama Elmi and the Director General of the

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Somaliland Government warns it's citizens residing in Mogadishu Somalia



Religion and Endowments minister attends Saudi Ministry of Hajj meeting in KSA



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Somalia is subversively undermining Somaliland-Ethiopia MoU in cahoots with al-Shabaab, says Minister Kahin



The government of Somaliland has accused the Somali government of Mogadishu of organizing concerted efforts and plans against the agreement reached by Somaliland and Ethiopia.

The Minister of Internal Affairs of

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The Minister of Communications says that the security of Government Ministries' Emails is well protected



Guled Maher

Somaliland Minister of Communications and Technology Dr. Ahmed

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Somaliland scoffs at Somalia's naïve act of purporting to hold sway over the country's territorial integrity



By M.A. Egge

The government of Somaliland has taken a strong stance against the infringing of its affairs and the flouting of the country's territorial integrity by the Mogadishu government of Somalia.

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Somaliland has shown that it is mature in terms of maritime laws in implementation of the Ethiopian MoU Agreement

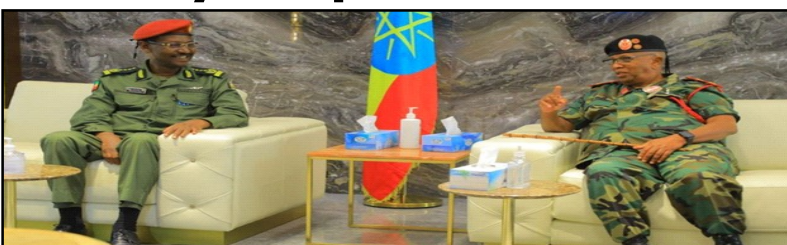
Guled Maher

The Chairman of the Legal Council of the Republic of

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Somaliland and Ethiopia discusses issues of military cooperation between the two sides



Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) Chief of Staff Field Marshal Birhanu Jula held talks with Somaliland Chief of Staff, Major General Nuh Ismail

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Sagaljet becomes a pacesetter in terms of success as it celebrates its 17th Anniversary



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President holds crucial meeting with the heads of the Political Organizations



Somaliland National Party elections (hence became eligible to vie for the top three spots of becoming official national parties), while the two national official opposition parties that were invited to the meeting did not attend it.

The news was contained in a Presidential presser dated 7th January 2024 signed by the director of Presidential Media Nassir Yusuf Dahir.

The press release noted that the President of the Republic of Somaliland gave a general briefing to the leaders of the political organizations on the general situation in the country, and informed them about the historic Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Somaliland and the Federal

Government of Ethiopia.

Similarly he briefed the political organizations' leaders on the resumption of the Somaliland – Somalia Talks which took place in a summit held in Djibouti.

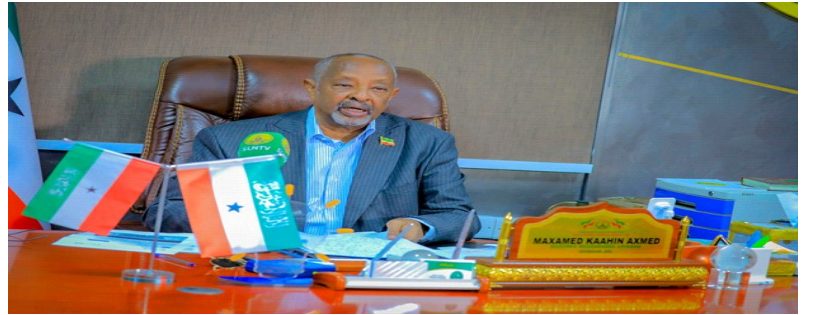
On their part, the leaders of the political organizations presented their views on the consensus agreement, as well as giving and contributing on suggestions as per the official agreement which was adopted conceitedly.

The meeting reportedly also dwelt on the upcoming national elections. The president was flanked at the meeting by the chairman of the Kulmiye party who is also the Minister of Internal Affairs of Somaliland, Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed, the first deputy chairman of the Kulmiye party, Abdiaziz

Mohamed Samale, the second deputy chairman of the Kulmiye party, Mr. Ahmed Abdi Hussein (Ahmed Abdi Deere), the secretary of the Kulmiye party Faisal Abdirahman Madar, Minister of Livestock and Rural Development, Hon. Said Sulub Mohamed, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon. Isse Keyd Mohamud, Chairman of the Refugees and Displaced Persons Organization, Mr. Abdikarim Ahmed Mohamed (Hinif),

On the part of the political organizations, the meeting was attended by chair leaders of Barwako, Dr. Mohamed Abdi Gabose, Shacabka, Dr. Mohamed Mohamud Kaahin, Tlo-wadag, Mr. Ibrahim Mahdi Bubaa, Rejo, Abdilahi Ahmed (Dahab), Ogal, Mrs. Rooda Abdi Muse, Horseed Mr. Abdilahi Iman Derawal, Deputy Chairman of Mideeye, Mr. Abdigani Guled Mohamed, the deputy chairman of the Kaah association, Mr. Abdullahi Ibrahim Habbane, the general secretary of Hilaac, Dr. Fosi Mohamud Qofal, general secretary Ogaal, Mr. Abdikhalik Abdullahi Mohamed and general secretary of political organizations Hamza Hassan Ahmed.

Somalia is subversively undermining Somaliland-Ethiopia MoU in cahoots with al-Shabaab, says Minister Kahin



Somaliland Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed was on Thursday categorical that Somalia is plotting subversions to undermine the agreement, and that they are allied with terrorist groups.

"We are vivid that the authorities of Mogadishu, themselves, have entered into secret military and maritime agreements with the Ethiopian government, in which they have not yet disclosed to their own people the official details of the contents of those agreements", he said.

He noted that the Somalia government is fighting tooth and nail in efforts to undermine the MoU that Somaliland and Ethiopia struck, especially in the media and diplomatic fronts.

He said, "The government of Somalia is deliberately, and not secretly, conducting propaganda and organized war in Somaliland, which they are openly cooperating with the federal government of Somalia, and the Al-Shabaab organization", and added, "the Federal government media and that of al-Shabaab have joined forces and are now in cahoots".

He said that a secret agreement was brought before the Somali parliament recently struck between the Somali defense minister and his Ethiopian counterpart.

"It was brought before the Somali Parliament, an agreement that the Minister of Defense of Somalia entered into with the Ministry of

Defense of Ethiopia, which is to cooperate in matters of the sea and the land. This agreement is secretly hidden from their own Somali community," said Mohamed Kaahin.

The minister made the nation's historical perspective as a sovereign country clear hence reminded all that Somaliland upon attaining its independence entered a voluntary union with the ill-fated former Somalia regime and later on justifiably reverted to its sovereignty. He pointed out that what Somaliland did was nothing new but belligerently as others before it, the country dissolved the union just as Senegambia (Senegal and Gambia), Egypt n Syria, Ethiopia and Eritrea etc did before.

Of note are countries like Sudan Timor and others which saw it best to separate.

The minister underpinned the fact that as for severing the union with Somalia and reverting to the prior 1960 sovereignty status, Somaliland was justified and needed no coercion from any quarters to divert the aspirations of its subjects.

He called on the people of Somaliland to be ready to defend their country and their people.

He said, "I call on the people of Somaliland to prepare for the defense of their nation, their lives, and their wealth. Somaliland and Somalia should be the neighbourly countries that they are"

Somalilanders within the country and abroad should patriotically support the nation and its aspirations, says FM Dr. Isse

Ministry Mr. Ahmed Abokor Mohamed held a press conference in his office on Saturday to thank the Somaliland diaspora around the world for their support and cooperation that they showed towards their nation.

Hon. Isse said that Somalia does not have the capacity to discuss Somaliland's agreements with the world at all.

He said, "Hasan Sheikh cannot talk about Somaliland and the international agreements it has entered into at all. Somaliland is a free country. There is no one who can stand against what is in the interest of her country and her people".

The FM said that Somalia has gone to great lengths to oppose the agreement between Somaliland



and Ethiopia, but it has nothing to do with it and no one will stop the implementation of the agreement". "The government of Villa Somalia, which has been running up and down everywhere in recent days, claiming that it Somaliland is part of them, given that they know the facts vividly hence do not even have

complete control of their own backyard".

Minister Isse praised the Somaliland communities that have shown support for the cooperation agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland, and said, "I congratulate all Somaliland communities in the world. I am telling them that we have entered an unprecedented time and it is necessary for you to participate in the efforts to recognize Somaliland." He called on them to organize demonstrations in support of the agreement between Somaliland and Ethiopia.

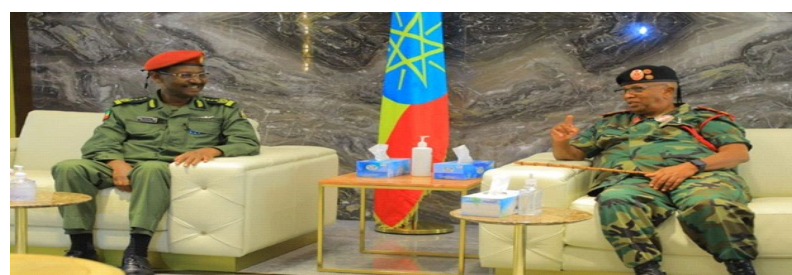
"You must defend the nation of Somaliland, and at the same time appear on the social media advancing the cause and defend it to the hilt as patriots".

Somaliland and Ethiopia discusses issues of military cooperation between the two sides

Thani today on ways of military cooperation.

The military delegation of Somaliland led by the chief of staff was warmly welcomed at the headquarter of ENDF, it was learned.

On the occasion, Field Marshal Birhanu and Somaliland's Chief of Staff, Major General Nuh Ismail Thani discussed issues of military cooperation between the two sides, according to the Ethiopian National



Defense Force.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Partnership and Cooperation inked last week by Prime Minister Abiy

Ahmed and President Muse Bihi Abdi includes wide scopes of cooperation in social, economic, political, and military fields.

Somaliland Government warns it's citizens residing in Mogadishu Somalia

The Ministry of Information Culture and National Guidance of the Republic of Somaliland strongly denounces the recent statements made by the government of Somalia, which undermine the existence of Somaliland. The accusations made by Hassan Sheikh and his government, alleging that the Republic of Somaliland government intends to harm journalists and protesters, are baseless and without merit.

Furthermore, we express concern over the actions taken by Somalia's security agency, NISA, who have been targeting individuals of Somaliland origin or with a Somaliland dialect, under the guise of compassion. These actions are clearly aimed at sowing discord and division among the people of Somaliland. Given the historical

injustices perpetrated against Somalilanders from 1961 to 1991 by various Somali administrations, this tactic is seen as an aggressive act against Somalilanders worldwide and an attempt to undermine our unity.

Most recently, Abdibasid Mohamed Gani, a Somalilander expressing support for the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Somaliland and Ethiopia, was attacked during a live social media broadcast by two NISA officers, who in addition, seized the contents of one of his shops, forcing him to close his businesses and return to Hargeisa. These incidents highlight the alarming actions taken by the Somali government against Somalilanders.

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Somaliland scoffs at Somalia's naïve act of purporting to hold sway over the country's territorial integrity



The latest development has been underscored by the House of the Representatives of Somaliland's National Assembly who scoffed at the Mogadishu naïve act of purporting to render null and void the recent MoU agreement that the government of Somaliland struck with the Federal Government of Ethiopia over their bi-lateral relations.

The parliament moved a motion that was expressly endorsed unanimously to make it clear to both the Somalia government and the international community of nations that Somaliland has always been an entity as a nation quite separate from that of Somalia.

It reiterated its rights as having won its independence from Britain and that it did not secede from Somalia but simply severed its ill-fated union that factual history has well

documented it.

The motion made it vividly clear to all concerned that Somaliland was a country with all the trappings of nationhood that charted and cruised its own course as a quite independent and sovereign a state as any other may be as per the aspirations of its people.

It termed the innuendoes emanating from Somalia of purporting to hold sway over Somaliland as a blatant infringement of the country's territorial integrity and internal affairs.

While citing several legal clauses enshrined in Somaliland National Constitution, the parliament further reiterated its right as a national institution which is obligated to oversee the legalities entailed whenever the country enters any international agreements with any foreign country, multi-national

institutions or whatever collaborative entity thereof, since Somaliland is an independent entity as a nation.

The motion took a swipe on the purported claim and action made by Somalia to assume that Somaliland was part of its territory. It is worth noting that since Somaliland severed its ties and dissolved its ill-fated union with Somalia over three decades ago and reverted to its nation-hood status, the only times that the two former unions had discussions were through the initiatives of Somaliland-Somalia Talks whereupon both entities were at a round table as separate nations.

Somaliland has never been, nor is not, part and parcel of the regional government of Somalia as largely assumed.

It all rests at the essence of Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty of States, which Somaliland is holding its sway in, as an independent nation. Unlike Somalia, Somaliland's electioneering processes has for the past two decades perfected that of universal suffrage from the councilors level at the grassroots all the way to the parliamentarians and office of the president itself, with yet another (sixth) forthcoming national elections around the corner later this year.

The Minister of Communications says that the security of Government Ministries' Emails is well protected



Yusuf Idris chaired a meeting to strengthen the use of E-government e-mail, which is used to communicate with the agencies and ministries of the country. He said that the security and safety of the emails used by the country's ministries have been strengthened, and he said that the meeting will discuss how to maintain the

protection and how each ministry can use the email provided by the ministry.

The minister said that the government's e-mails are being protected and safeguarded by authentic Microsoft standards hence they are fortified with governing password protocols even when officials are transferred.

Somaliland has shown that it is mature in terms of maritime laws in implementation of the Ethiopian MoU Agreement



Somaliland, lawyer Mohamud Hussein Farah, has underpinned the importance of the MoU agreement reached by the two countries of Somaliland and Ethiopia.

He spoke in depth about the issue in an interview he gave to the public media regarding the maritime laws of Somaliland and the memorandum of understanding reached by Somaliland and Ethiopia which has been discussed a lot in the Horn of Africa and the rest of the world.

The chairman of the Laws Committee was giving details about the maritime laws that Somaliland used to have and the time it started, we have dated that Somaliland had maritime laws in the years 1904 to 1905.

"There were maritime regulations that were made by the British, which included the Bulahar Regulation, Berbera Port Regulation and many others that were designed to govern Somaliland's maritime sector," said Mohamud Hussein.

The lawyer noted that when looking at the maritime laws of Somaliland before the British, there were rules and regulations of the people of Somaliland which governed the Somaliland sea.

He pointed out that by the time Somaliland got its independence, it was using the maritime rules inherited from the British

government hence the country was recognized by 35 nations upon attaining its sovereignty in 1960, which included the most powerful countries in the world, the United States, amongst others.

He revisited the fact that following the ill-fated union with the former Somalia regime of the Italian protectorate, the dissolution of the union saw Somaliland revert to its colonial borders to date.

Mohamud Hussein Farah said that upon Somaliland reverting to its independence in 1991, he noted that it also regained its land and sea rights, something whos legalities ought to be understood correctly. Chairman Mohamed explained that after the return of Somaliland's independence, Somaliland has re-organized its constitution stepped into the process of democracy with all the justifiable trappings of statehood entailed since hence governing itself.

The Chairman of the Law Reform Committee emphasized that the historical agreement reached by the Republic of Somaliland and the Government of Ethiopia as a great success and said that there are many opportunities for Somaliland in it that surpasses all negative aspects.

He also suggested the media participate in the defence of their country and noted that Somalia is using the media to undermine the development and existence of Somaliland.

Somaliland Government warns it's citizens residing in Mogadishu Somalia

It is regrettable that Hassan Sheikh's government perceives the fundamental freedoms exercised by the people of Somaliland, including their right to express support for the agreement independence, as treacherous. Instead, they should embrace the ideals of unity and denounce the agreement, echoing the sentiments of the Banadir administration. The people of

Somaliland remain steadfast and resilient, driven by unwavering love for their cause, which they have fought for despite great sacrifices. Today, they stand poised to see their flag represented on international platforms.

We strongly urge the Somaliland community and the media to be

vigilant and recognize the trap set by our adversaries against Somaliland. Similarly, we call upon Somalilanders residing in Hamar to be cautious of the threats posed by the Somali security forces (NISA) and to closely monitor the actions of the Somali government, which is actively targeting the citizens of the Republic of Somaliland in that region.

Religion and Endowments minister attends Saudi Ministry of Hajj meeting in KSA



Guled Maher

The Minister of Religion and Endowments of the Republic of Somaliland, Sheikh Mohamed Haji Adan Ilmi, attended a meeting held by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, regarding the annual Hajj fee collection always attended by the stakeholders of the Hajj in Islamic countries.

Sheikh Mohamed Haji Aden Ilmi,

during his stay in Saudi Arabia, had similarly a special meeting with the Minister of Hajj and Umrah in Saudi Arabia, Dr. Tawfiq Bin. Fawsan Al-Rabiah.

On the other hand, the Minister held a meeting with the institutions working on Hajj and Umrah affairs and discussed issues related to Hajj and Umrah.

He is expected to hold various meetings with Saudi Government officials while he is still in KSA.

He was accompanied by the Director of the Hajj and Umrah Department of the Ministry of Religion and Endowments, Sheikh Mohamed Hassan Haji Yusuf (Abu-Layla).

Have the Houthis made this Somaliland's moment?



Houthi attacks on shipping continue. While Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin announced a multilateral effort to patrol the passage with warships, this is dangerous and unsustainable virtue signaling. Perhaps President Joe Biden believes this akin to the Obama-era anti-piracy mission just 400 miles away, but that was in open water far from shore. The U.S. Navy was seldom under threat from land-based missiles, drones, or the type of suicide speedboat that struck the USS *Cole* off the coast of Yemen a quarter century ago.

A better analogy would be to the Reagan-era mission to protect reflagged tankers transiting under fire from Iran in the Persian Gulf. In that operation, American ships faced constant air and sea threats. Even that was easier. The Bab el-Mandeb is twice as narrow at the Strait of Hormuz; indeed, the Missouri River is at places wider than the waterway now under threat. In the 1980s, Iran

took advantage of that narrowness to mine shipping channels; it is only a matter of time until the Houthis do likewise. Iranian harassment of shipping ended only when the United States responded militarily. Not only is the U.S. Navy vulnerable so close to shore, but sustainment is difficult. Ships spend as much time in port for maintenance as they do at sea. This is why less than one-third of the U.S. Navy's aircraft carriers are now at sea. Replenishment at sea is also difficult near Yemen, as supply ships to provide jet fuel, ammunition, and food would be even more vulnerable to Houthi attack. Congestion and the Chinese presence in Djibouti limit that port's utility. Perhaps it is now Somaliland's moment. The self-governing region consisting of the northern third of Somalia is a perfect, elegant solution. Briefly independent in 1960, the U.S. recognized it. Its subsequent marriage to Somalia failed, but it divorced before Somalia could drag it into state failure.

While Somalis turned to warlordism, piracy, and incubated terrorism, Somaliland turned to business and technology. Businesses flocked to the region. Coca-Cola moved a bottling plant there. Somaliland hosts two multibillion-dollar cellphone and mobile money companies whose control rooms look like NASA mission control. Berbera, which once hosted a space shuttle emergency landing strip that today is a modern airport, also boasts a deep-water port run by Dubai World. Both airfield and port meet or exceed the standards of airfields used by U.S. forces in Iraq, Bahrain, Oman, or Niger. Somaliland has long sought international recognition. It has governed itself longer than it was part of Somalia. Generations have grown up as Somalilanders only, accustomed to democracy and free markets. The country tilts westward, hosting European and east African diplomats. In 2020, it became only the second African country to rebuff

China and establish ties with Taiwan.

As commander of U.S. Africa Command, Gen. Stephen Townsend visited both Berbera and Somaliland's capital Hargeisa. So too has the intelligence community, which sees Somaliland as a stable base from which to monitor Yemeni weapons smugglers and al Shabaab terrorists. Only the State Department refuses, as Secretary Antony Blinken frets about angering Somali politicians who side with China anyway.

Earlier this month, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed shook the region. In exchange for a lease that will enable Ethiopia to build a port and operate its own navy, Ethiopia agreed to recognize Somaliland's independence. Many other countries have said they will not be the first to recognize Somaliland, but they will not be third either. Expect a

cascade of recognition.

The U.S. should recognize Somaliland within minutes of Ethiopia. If the Pentagon stations helicopters and Bell Boeing V-22 Ospreys at Berbera, it can secure freedom of navigation more quickly and at lower cost. Aircraft react faster and patrol more widely. An aircraft carrier might carry 5,000 men; an Osprey can operate with four. In short, a Berbera-based air patrol would be a permanent solution rather than one that runs an overstretched Navy into the ground. It is time for the White House to set the State Department straight. Somaliland is the solution, not the problem.

Michael Rubin is a contributor to the Washington Examiner's Beltway Confidential. He is director of policy analysis at the Middle East Forum and senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Somaliland seeks to shield itself from neighboring chaos and it refuses to become a "banana republic"- Haitham El-Zobaidi

Somaliland is not seeking to be a "banana republic". It is more like a strategically-located haven of stability seeking to secure a place for itself despite being next to a hotspot of unrest. This combination of Somaliland's strategic location as a Red Sea gateway, Ethiopia's human, agricultural and water resources and the financial and investment assets of the Emirates, can change the face of the region. Let us start the discussion with a hypothesis that could have settled current issues: if Somaliland had been an oil-rich country, it would have been an independent country today, and it would not have needed to go through the testing unity with Somalia, a country mired in conflicts from its founding day until now.

There are common historical traits between the Gulf protectorates and the Somaliland protectorate. At roughly the same time, the two regions were politically under British influence at its apex during the rule of the British Empire. Just as influential sheikhs with a deep-rooted history in the Gulf region ruled protectorates that turned into states following independence, Somaliland was ruled by sultans with a long history and a prominent status at home.

Britain dealt with the Horn of Africa, South Yemen and the Gulf as part of its empire in India. The focus on these regions of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula was not fortuitous. Interest in that part of the



world preceded the opening of the Suez Canal. But the importance of the Gulf of Aden and its shores rose with the shift of maritime traffic towards the Red Sea then reaching the Mediterranean through the newly-opened canal. The Indian currency, the rupee and paisa, was also that of Somaliland, Aden, the sultanates of Arabia southern coast, Muscat and the sheikhdoms of the Gulf. Indian post office stamps bearing the names of these protectorates were at the time an essential part of dealing with the world. The British army did not intend to abandon its positions there, and in fact fought Italian attempts at expansion.

Somaliland was affected by the first steps of British withdrawal from East of Suez. For ten years, between 1960 and 1970, Britain departed first from Somaliland, then from Aden, the South Arabian region and then from the Gulf. The day it decided to exit Somaliland, it left behind, at least in theory, an independent state with a national council. No less than 35 countries recognised the modern

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Sagaljet becomes a pacesetter in terms of success as it celebrates its 17th Anniversary

By M.A. Egge

A well-organized event that was held on Friday night at Grand Haadi Hotel to commemorate the 17th anniversary of the Sagaljet company since its inception saw profound praises heaped on the institution in the manner they handle their business hence have come of age with progress.

Various eminent guests who spoke at the forum all acknowledged that the Sagaljet company is an example of Somaliland's developmental successes.

"I admit that Sagaljet is successful and one of the most prominent companies in the country today", said Abdiaziz Samale the Kulmiye party deputy chair.

Similarly the KAAH political organization chair noted, "I appreciate that the company honours its employees every year, and it is an example that deserves to be emulated."

"If you see a company or a private business fledged, you should know



that it has the welfare of its employees at heart", said politician Su'ad Ibrahim.

It is worth noting that the Sagaljet company is most noted in the nation for being foremost in acknowledging its staffers and prioritizes their welfare hence honours them with awards year in year out.

The head of work and workers at Sagaljet Mohamed Mohamud, said that "the real core of the company are the workers who are the driving force behind its success and who has brought it to this level". The chairman of Sagaljet Mr. Abdi Yusuf Aar, who spoke on the occasion, said that the company's employees are not the only ones who are currently

at work but notes the contribution of the previous staffers.

"Sagaljet is not only for those who are at work presently but it is grateful to all the employees who participated in the company's history and contributed to its development and success."

Sagaljet company presented various awards to the employees and other members on the occasion.

Abdihakim Mohamed Dahir was chosen as the best employee of the Sagaljet company for the year.

The Sagaljet company especially honored Hibo Nura, a non employee, who has on her part immensely educated mothers.

Somaliland Special Envoy categorically rejects Somalia's recent misrepresentation of the current MoU between the Republic of Somaliland and the Federal Government of Ethiopia

The office of the Somaliland Special Envoy reasserts Somaliland's independence from Great Britain on June 26th, 1960. On May 18, 1991, Somaliland formally withdrew from its failed union with Somalia and has been separated from that country since that date.

Therefore, this office categorically refutes Somalia's false claim of ownership of the Republic of Somaliland and its mischaracterization of the recent MoU signed by the Republic of Somaliland and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to port access in Somaliland is no different from the many leases that countries have made with other countries.

on 8th January 2024 The office of the Somaliland Special Envoy categorically rejects Somalia's recent misrepresentation of the current MoU between the Republic of Somaliland and the Federal Government of Ethiopia. Contrary to Somalia's claims, Somaliland has consistently entered into agreements with Somalia as the independent sovereign state of Somaliland and has never been a "federal member state of Somalia." This principle underpins all nine agreements with Somalia, dating back to the first bilateral meeting

when Her Late Majesty's government, headed by Prime Minister David Cameron, hosted the 'Chevening Talks' between Somaliland and the then Transitional Federal Government of Somalia on June 20-21, 2012.

The Somaliland Special Envoy further wishes to clarify Somaliland's position regarding agreements entered with Somalia. While Somaliland has consistently engaged in these talks in good faith to seek peaceful solutions to our differences and mutually beneficial neighborly collaboration with Somalia. Regrettably, Somalia has consistently failed to uphold its commitments in these agreements and has never honored any of the agreements it had publicly co-signed with Somaliland.

Furthermore, any suggestion that Somaliland requires Somalia's consent for a bilateral agreement is again blatantly false. Somaliland proudly maintains independent relations with numerous countries, including Ethiopia, and has successfully entered a number of international and bilateral agreements prior to this MOU. None of these agreements sought or received consent from Somalia.

Over the past 33 years, the contrasting situations of Somaliland and Somalia speak volumes.

Somaliland has emerged as a thriving democracy and a beacon of stability in the Horn of Africa, effectively managing its internal affairs, governance, and elections without international support. Our country and its coast have consistently been free of piracy, terrorism, and banditry.

By contrast, Somalia continues to need international peacekeeping forces for its own protection as it has struggled for the past 33 years with internal strife, corruption, and terrorism, which repeatedly gets referred to as a failed state by the international community. Therefore, instead of resorting to mischaracterizations and unfounded claims of ownership over Somaliland, which has often been described as a 'Rare African Miracle,' Somalia would be better advised to put its own house in order. Surely, the international community recognizes the stark differences between the two entities and appreciates Somaliland's contribution to the regional peace and stability of the Horn of Africa.

While Somaliland will not hesitate to defend its sovereign right to enter into independent international relations as it sees fit, we remain committed to constructive dialogue and peaceful coexistence with Somalia as a neighbor.

Somaliland seeks to shield itself from neighboring chaos and it refuses to become a "banana republic"- Haitham El-Zobaidi

state. Somaliland even received a congratulatory message from the US Secretary of State. But international pressure forced Somaliland's council to abandon independence and become part of the modern state of Somalia. Within a few months, problems started to emerge between the people of Somaliland and the populations coming from the south. The independence declared by Somaliland in 1991, after the collapse of government in Mogadishu, was a continuation of its position in 1961, the first year of unity. The region was prey to abuses of authority by the late Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre and his relatives.

The civil war in Somalia and the chaos crated by terrorism and piracy from 1991 to date have been destabilising factors. What does Somalia have to offer Somaliland after more than 30 years of civil war? Somaliland is more like a strategically-located haven of stability seeking to secure a place for itself despite being next to a hotspot of unrest. Setting aside historical considerations, are not 30 years of chaos enough for rational forces, in a place that is well-equipped to be geographically independent, to steer away from tragedy?

It suffices to look at the legacy of the last three decades. Many countries with the characteristics of Somaliland were established since the 1990s after artificial political unions became untenable. So is Somalia as a united country more important than the Soviet Union, the heir to the Russian Tsarist Empire in Europe and Asia? Or is it more important than Yugoslavia or Czechoslovakia in Europe? Indeed, is Somalia more important than Sudan, which became two states when coexistence proved impossible? What about Eritrea, which seceded from Ethiopia?

In the Horn of Africa, Somaliland appears more than qualified for independence.

The Ethiopian factor is important in the push for independence. The memorandum of understanding signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland is a preliminary step in a multi-fold political and economic dynamic. The Eritreans are still settling scores with the Ethiopians and will not grant them a convenient sea outlet in the foreseeable future. Despite the calm prevailing over politics in Djibouti, the most this country can offer Ethiopia is a toll-based access to a port, while what Addis Ababa seeks is a sea port with full amenities, both commercial and military.

Ethiopia is an important state with a

lot of potential. While countries like Egypt and Sudan were preoccupied with political problems, Ethiopia was engaged in political and economic rebuilding. This construction drive, which has made considerable progress under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, has caught the attention of some in the Arabian Gulf, especially in the United Arab Emirates.

The UAE competed with Turkey and Qatar in Somalia, then became convinced that Somalia is a region of instability not worth the investment. It turned its attention to Ethiopia via Somaliland. What began as a port development contract turned into a vast project extending from the coast of the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea, to deep into Ethiopia's agricultural lands.

This combination of Somaliland's strategic location as a Red Sea gateway, Ethiopia's human, agricultural and water resources and the financial and investment assets of the Emirates, can change the face of the region.

This is a region exhausted by civil wars, conflicts, piracy and terrorism, where many opportunities have been squandered. No need to imagine how Somaliland could end up if what one sees now in Mogadishu also spreads there.

The objections expressed by Somalia's authorities, its government and the warlords council, will fall on deaf ears in Hargeisa or Berbera. If there were anything worth saying, it would have been said since 1991, and even since independence in 1961. If there were other alternatives, Addis Ababa would have sought them without risking a crisis with a neighbouring country. Can someone like Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki be trusted? We all remember how he turned against Arab countries which backed Eritrea's independence, rushing to establish relations with Israel right after independence. Can Ethiopia compete with a French base in Djibouti? Is there a sane person who would invest in Somalia today?

Ironically, fragile states are described in the West as "banana republics". Until the late 1980s, one could find Somali bananas in the country's markets. But Somalia's warlord state destroyed even banana cultivation and trade and deprived the country of its revenues. Somaliland did not enjoy the oil fortunes that would have allowed it to shield its independence in the 1960s. But today it seeks to shield itself from neighbouring chaos and it refuses to become a "banana republic."

Mogadishu had its chance. Now, Hargeisa and Addis Ababa have theirs.

Scientists crack mystery of how MS gene spread



Why are diseases more common in some parts of Europe than others, and why are northern Europeans taller than their southern counterparts?

An international team of scientists say they have unearthed the answer in the DNA of ancient teeth and bones.

The genes which protected our ancestors from animal diseases now raise the risk of multiple sclerosis (MS).

The researchers call their discovery "a quantum leap" in understanding the evolution of the disease.

And they say it could change opinions on what causes MS, and

have an impact on the way it is treated.

Why look at MS?

There are about twice as many cases of multiple sclerosis per 100,000 people in north-western Europe, including the UK and Scandinavia, compared with southern Europe.

Researchers from the universities of Cambridge, Copenhagen and Oxford spent more than 10 years delving into archaeology to investigate why.

MS is a disease where the body's own immune cells attack the brain and spinal cord, leading to symptoms like muscle stiffness and problems walking and talking.

They discovered that genes which increase the risk of MS entered into north-western Europe about 5,000 years ago via a massive migration of cattle herders called Yamnaya. The Yamnaya came from western Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, and moved west into Europe, says **one of four Nature journal papers published** on the topic.

The findings "astounded us all", said Dr William Barrie, paper author and expert in computational analysis of ancient DNA at University of Cambridge.

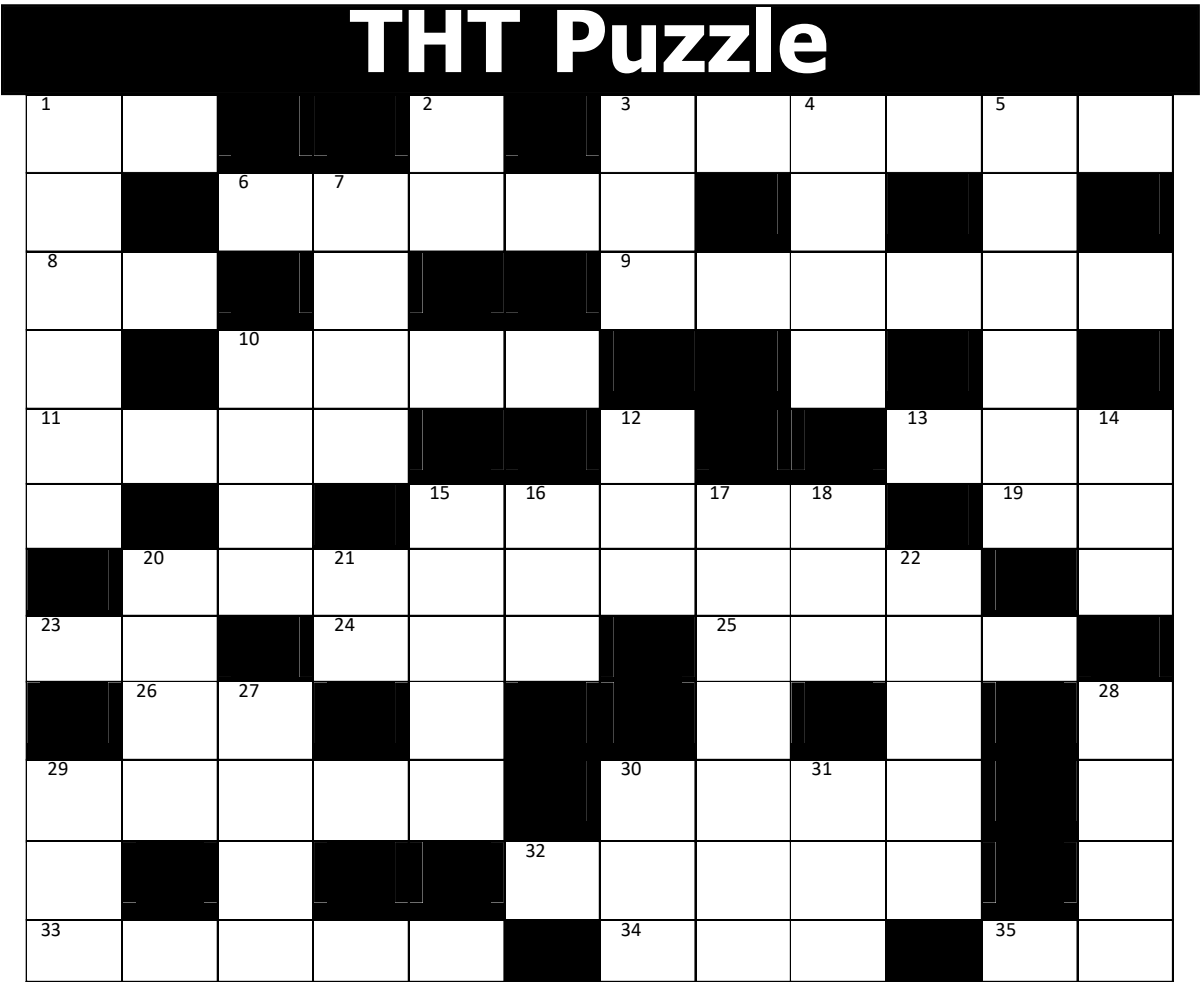
At the time, the gene variants carried by the herding people were an advantage, helping to protect them against diseases in their sheep and cattle.

Nowadays, however, with modern lifestyles, diets and better hygiene, these gene variants have taken on a different role.

In the present day, these same traits mean a higher risk of developing certain diseases, such as MS.

The research project was a huge undertaking - genetic information was extracted from ancient human

Continue on page 7



- ACROSS
- DOWN
- 1 Therefore

3 have enough money.

6 Wait for

8 Being as

9 Escaping

10 Quantity used on papers

11 Eye or lookout

13 damaging/opposite of good

15 Municipal

19 Towards

20 Speech

23 Go off

24 Ocean

25 Change or control

26 Upon

29 Shouts or cracks

30 Ticket or meal

32 Salaries

33 Crash

34 Reddish

35 Remain
- 1 Secure

2 not available in short forms

3 breakfasted

4 Stand facing

5 Repetition

7 Calendar week

10 Rootle

12 amount in cash

14 Puppy

15 Stairs

16 Drink

17 Juvenile

18 Ending

20 Shortly

21 BEING AS

22 Occasions

27 Surname

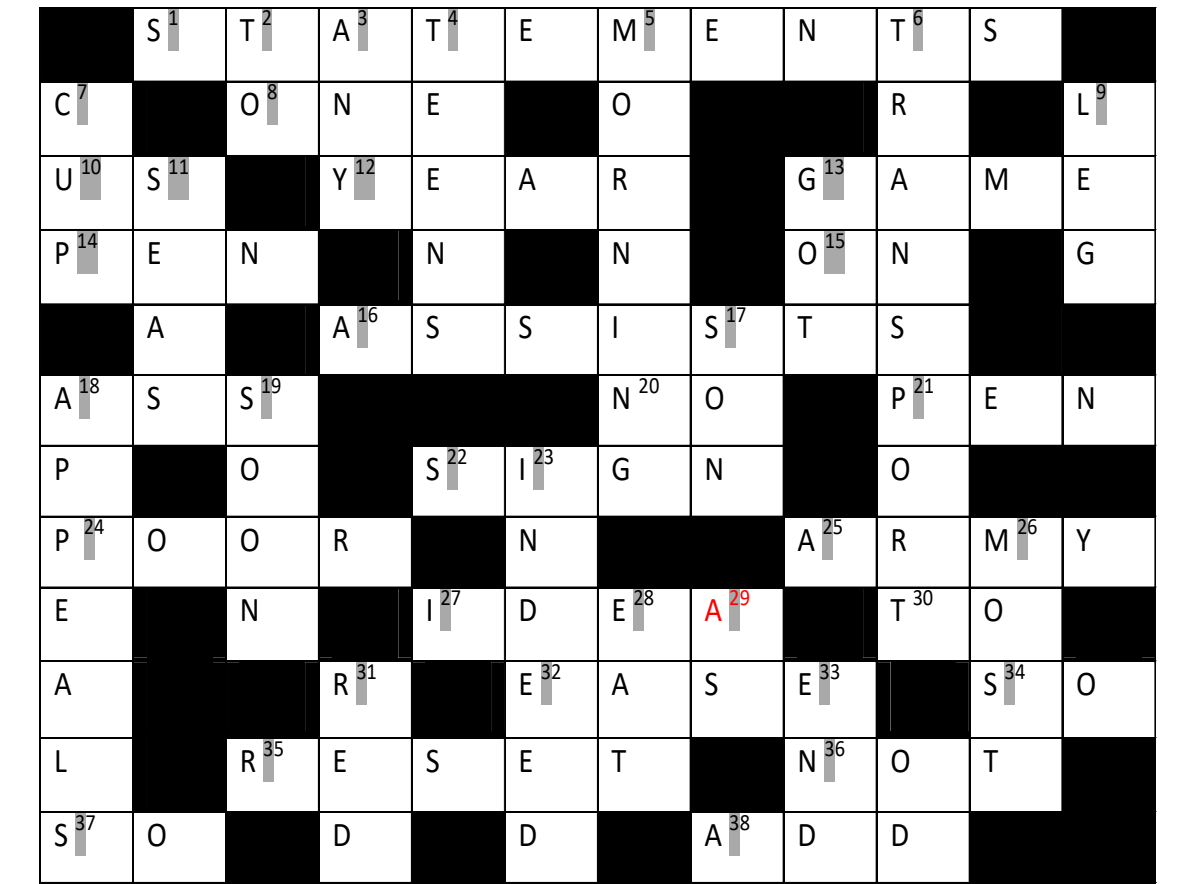
28 Family tree

29 Witnessed

30 Far away

31 Reddish

Previous Answer



Somaliland Tax System and administration

(Part 36)

Table 12: Total Local Governments Revenue and Expenditure 2013-2017 (SISh)

Year	Revenue	Expenditure	Surplus/Deficit
2013	69,947,893,770	74,296,275,454	-4,348,381,684
2014	113,527,920,858	108,899,007,629	4,628,913,229
2015	142,549,750,417	124,317,429,201	18,232,321,216
2016	9,521,029,630	382,868,148,607	-373,347,118,976
2017	5,126,937,355,256	8,443,029,857,406	-3,316,092,502,150

Source: Sources: Ministry of Interior:

7.6. Somaliland Local Governments Budget 2022 By District
Table 13: Somaliland Local Governments Budget 2022 By District (SISh)

No	District Name	Mis 2021	Mis 2022	Difference	%
1	HARGIESA	98,679,100,000	154,762,185,093	56,083,085,093	56.83
2	FARAWAYNE	1,505,941,000	1,558,271,000	52,330,000	3.47
3	BALIGUBADLE	2,198,398,000	5,821,884,000	3,623,486,000	164.82
4	SALAXLAY	2,700,000,000	4,400,000,000	1,700,000,000	62.96
5	GABILAY	39,196,324,720	45,083,600,000	5,887,275,280	15.02
6	ARABSIYO	976,605,000	1,291,105,000	314,500,000	32.20
7	WAJAALE	8,304,051,000	8,970,589,000	666,538,000	8.03
8	ALLAY-BADAY	756,907,000	1,511,130,000	754,223,000	99.65
9	BURCO	27,503,899,724	45,413,176,592	17,909,276,868	65.12
10	DURUQSI	444,000,000	444,000,000	-	0.00
11	OODWAYNE	7,198,000,000	10,382,500,000	3,184,500,000	44.24
12	BUUHOODLE	-	3,208,000,000	3,208,000,000	0.00
13	BORAMA	20,732,000,000	37,751,000,000	17,019,000,000	82.09
14	BAKI	1,446,850,000	3,825,520,000	2,378,670,000	164.40
15	SAYLAC	12,222,293,416	15,974,058,812	3,751,765,396	30.70
16	LUG-HAYA	-	3,360,000,000	3,360,000,000	0.00
17	CEERIGAABO	10,393,000,000	12,020,000,000	1,627,000,000	15.65

18	BADHAN	-	3,200,000,000	3,200,000,000	0.00
19	DHAHAR	-	2,292,000,000	2,292,000,000	0.00
20	LAAS-QORAY	-	2,292,000,000	2,292,000,000	0.00
21	CEEL-AFWAYN	1,133,000,000	3,393,388,000	2,260,388,000	199.50
22	GAR,ADAG	1,047,000,000	2,819,400,000	1,772,400,000	169.28
23	LAASCAANOOD	15,519,222,000	18,941,599,000	3,422,377,000	22.05
24	TALEEX	-	2,292,000,000	2,292,000,000	0.00
25	XUDUN	-	2,292,000,000	2,292,000,000	0.00
26	CAYNABO	3,247,000,000	4,547,675,916	1,300,675,916	40.06
27	BERBERA	105,776,836,278	117,179,194,873	11,402,358,595	10.78
28	SHEEKH	4,584,940,000	7,036,062,500	2,451,122,500	53.46
29	XAGAL	388,200,000	398,200,000	10,000,000	2.58
30	BULA-XAAR	775,000,000	-	(775,000,000)	-100.00
31	SH. XASSAN GEELE	574,000,000	-	(574,000,000)	-100.00
32	QORYAALE	-	761,900,000	761,900,000	0.00
33	BAU-MATAAN	-	300,000,000	300,000,000	0.00
34	LAAS-CIIDLE	-	200,000,000	200,000,000	0.00
35	AGABAR	-	240,000,000	240,000,000	0.00
36	SABAWANAAG	-	1,527,910,000	1,527,910,000	0.00
37	LAAS-GEEL	-	532,635,000	532,635,000	0.00
38	DIARASALAAM	-	1,064,700,000	1,064,700,000	0.00
39	XAAJI SAALAX	-	382,000,000	382,000,000	0.00
40	Dacarta	-	408,575,000	408,575,000	0.00
41	HARA-SHEEKH	-	300,000,000	300,000,000	0.00
42	CADAADLEY	700,000,000	700,000,000	-	0.00
GRANT TOTAL		368,002,568,138	528,878,259,786	160,875,691,648	43.72

Table 14: Somaliland Local Governments Budget 2022 by Grade (SISh)

Grade	Miisaaniyadda 2021	Miisaaniyadda 2022	Faraqa	Korodhka
Grade A	317,800,382,722	431,150,755,558	113,350,372,836	36%
Grade B	20,553,293,416	36,157,946,812	15,604,653,396	76%
Grade C	15,224,188,138	40,978,542,416	25,754,354,278	169%
Grade D	13,589,513,424	20,591,015,000	7,001,501,576	52%
Total	368,002,568,138	528,878,259,786	160,875,691,648	44%

To be continue next week

Compiled by: Yusuf Omar Hindi

How much should you exercise for a longer, healthier life? Study offers clues



● There are many factors when it comes to living a long and healthy life.
● Some of these factors cannot be changed, while many others are modifiable.
● A new study from researchers at the University of Jyväskylä has found that while exercise is important to living a long life, following other healthy lifestyle habits may have an even greater impact. Many factors are involved when it comes to living a long and healthy life. Some factors like genetics *Trusted Source* and gender *Trusted Source* cannot be changed. However, many other habits, such as nutrition, physical activity, reducing stress, not smoking, and proper sleep, can be modified.

A new study *Trusted Source* from researchers at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland that is currently being peer-reviewed has found that while exercise is important to living a long life, following other healthy lifestyle habits may have an even greater impact.

Longevity: Exercise may not be a factor on its own

Ms. Anna Kankaanpää, project researcher at the Gerontology Research Center in the Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland and lead author of this study, told Medical News Today she decided to study the correlation between leisure-time physical activity and mortality risk because a previous study *Trusted Source* conducted at the University of Jyväskylä suggested that the association

may be due to genetic influences.

"This finding contradicts results from a study involving Swedish twins, which found an association independent of genetic factors," Kankaanpää continued. "I aimed to explore the reason for this discrepancy." Also, in the study, the researchers discuss that while previous research shows a link between exercise and a lower risk of mortality from all causes and cardiovascular disease, some previous research — such as this study *Trusted Source* published in December 2021 — found exercise does not reduce all-cause mortality and incident cardiovascular disease in older adults or people with chronic conditions.

This, the researchers say, may show there are other underlying factors than exercise alone affecting how long a person lives. Physically active lifestyle linked to lower mortality risk

For this study, the research team used the data of more than 11,000 sets of adult twins from the Finnish Twin Cohort.

The amount of physical activity study participants had was assessed through questionnaires given in 1975, 1981, and 1990. Participants were placed into four groups: sedentary, moderately active, active, and highly active. And participants' mortality was monitored until 2020, a span of 45 years.

At the end of the study, Kankaanpää and her team found that over a third — almost 40% — of participants from the sedentary group died by the mortality follow-up in 2020, which was the largest percentage of the four groups.

Participants in the active groups had between 15% and 23% lower all-cause mortality risk when compared to the sedentary group.

"I was not surprised (by these results) because numerous observational studies consistently indicate this association," Kankaanpää commented.

Also, in the study, the researchers discuss that while previous research shows a link between exercise and a lower risk of mortality from all causes and cardiovascular disease, some previous research — such as this study *Trusted Source* published in December 2021 — found exercise does not reduce all-cause mortality and incident cardiovascular disease in older adults or people with chronic conditions.

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"I was not surprised (by these results) because numerous observational studies consistently indicate this association," Kankaanpää commented.

How do other lifestyle factors affect mortality risk?

The researchers then factored in other lifestyle factors, including body mass index (BMI), health status, alcohol use, and smoking status.

When those factors were applied, the mortality rate of participants from the sedentary group dropped to a maximum of 7%.

The scientists also found that participants in the sedentary and highly active groups experienced accelerated biological aging *Trusted Source* when compared to the moderately active and active groups. According to the study, the researchers believe the beneficial association of long-term exercise with reduced death risk was largely accounted for not only by exercise but also by other health-related factors. Instead of regular physical activity being the cause of lower mortality risk, it may instead be an indicator of an overall healthy lifestyle, helping to extend a person's life.

"It would be interesting to study whether the same holds for cause-specific mortality, such as mortality due to cardiovascular diseases," Kankaanpää said when asked about the next steps in this research. "Moreover, I would like to investigate the reasons behind the accelerated biological aging observed in highly active participants."

One healthy habit does not counteract unhealthy lifestyle

After reviewing this study, Dr. David Cutler, a board certified family medicine physician at Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, CA, told MNT that this study's conclusion that the health benefits of being physically active may reflect healthy behavior in general, rather than exercise being the cause of reduced mortality, makes sense.

"(It) is consistent with my own observation that while many people exercise to gain health benefits, they often expect it to counteract unhealthy behaviors, which it does not," Dr. Cutler explained. "This

notion of 'compensatory belief' was supported by findings in the study."

"Compensatory belief is the common notion that if you do something healthful it can counteract something unhealthful," he continued. "For example, if you exercise it will eliminate the adverse effects of smoking. And in fact, what the study found was that the mortality in the sedentary group improved if you eliminated factors such as obesity and smoking."

Dr. Cutler also said it is important to remember that engaging in healthful physical activity does not offset unhealthful diet, smoking, alcohol and drug use, or other detrimental activities like ignoring high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes.

"Significant improvements in health have been found worldwide through five simple measures: avoiding obesity, keeping blood pressure normal, not smoking, controlling diabetes, and treating high cholesterol," he added. "Regular exercise might add to those benefits, but it won't offset the detrimental effects of ignoring those proven beneficial pursuits."

Some exercise is better than none for healthier, longer life

MNT also spoke about this study with Dr. Cheng-Han Chen, a board certified interventional cardiologist and medical director of the Structural Heart Program at MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute, Saddleback Medical Center in Laguna Hills, CA, about this study.

Dr. Chen said this study clearly shows that being able to perform some exercise is associated with decreased mortality compared to just being sedentary and that some exercise is better than none.

There have been other studies in the last few years that showed that there is kind of a leveling off (of) the benefits (of exercise)," he explained. "A study on the number of steps people take every day. These studies have shown that after a certain amount of walking — around 7,000 or 8000 steps a day — the benefit levels off. So it's not like if you walk 20,000 steps a day, you're better off if you walk 7,000 steps a day."

"(This study) corresponds with other (recent) studies that showed at least a moderate amount of exercise is helpful," Dr. Chen added. "That it might not be necessary to have a very high degree of exercise to get the health benefits should be the message."

Scientists crack mystery of how MS gene spread

remains found in Europe and Western Asia, and compared with the genes of hundreds of thousands of people living in the UK today.

In the process, a bank of DNA from 5,000 ancient humans, kept in museum collections across many countries, has now been set up to help future research.

'Find sweet spot'

Prof Lars Fugger, paper author and MS doctor at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, says the discovery helps "demystify" the disease.

"MS is not caused by mutations - it's driven by normal genes to protect us against pathogens," he explains. Vaccinations, antibiotics and higher standards of hygiene have changed

the disease landscape completely - many diseases have disappeared and people are living decades longer.

The researchers say modern immune systems may now be more susceptible to autoimmune diseases, like MS, where the immune system attacks the body rather than protecting it.

Drugs currently used to treat MS target the body's immune system, but the downside is the risk of suppressing it so much that patients struggle to fight off infections.

When treating it, we are up against evolutionary forces, Prof Fugger says.

"We need to find the sweet spot

where there is a balance with the immune system, rather than wiping it out."

The team now plans to look for other diseases and conditions in ancient DNA, and follow them back in time. Their research could reveal more about the origins of autism, ADHD, bipolar disorder and depression.

Another Nature paper uncovered even more clues about our genetic past - that the Yamnaya herders could also be responsible for north-western Europeans being taller than southern Europeans.

And while northern Europeans carry more genetic risk for MS, southern Europeans are more likely to develop bipolar disorder, and



eastern Europeans more likely to have Alzheimer's disease and type 2 diabetes.

DNA from pre-historic hunter-gatherer people raises the risk of Alzheimer's, but ancient farmers' genes are linked to mood disorders, the research explains.

It also discovered that humans'

ability to digest milk and other dairy products and survive on a vegetable-heavy diet only emerged about 6,000 years ago. Before that, they were meat-eaters.

The research compared DNA from thousands of ancient skeletons found in Eurasia to genetic samples from current-day Europeans.