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The people will go to polls and everyone will vote for the person of their choice, says the President

Fortunately for us in KULMIYE we are going to polls, and would compete against adversaries we prevailed upon before, he adds



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi who is also the flag-bearer of the ruling KULMIYE party gunning to retain his seat in the forthcoming elections, attended over the week the executive council meeting at the party's headquarters in Hargeisa.

Continue on Page 2



Somaliland delegation meets Ethiopian Somali State Leader, IGAD, UN officials in maiden GaFa water resource access launch



By M.A. Egge

A high-level delegation led by the Minister of the Interior of Somaliland, Mohamed Kahin Ahmed, welcomed the officials of the IGAD regional

Continue on Page 2

The initial phase of the formulation of Somaliland-Ethiopia MoU has been completed, says committee Chair Bashe Awil



By M.A. Egge

The chairman of the technical committee for the task of the implementation of the MoU between Somaliland and Ethiopia, Bashe Awil Haji Omar, revealed the completion of the first phase of their task and said that their work is

Continue on Page 2

The VP criticizes the West's non-adherence to their democratic ideals which they zealously advocate for



By M.A. Egge

The Vice President H.E. Abdirahman Abdullahi Ismail has wondered why the western world that advances and supports democracy has failed to acknowledge fully and recognize the

Continue on Page 3

MAKE THE COMMEMORATIONS MORE ELABORATE THAN EVER



The National Committee for the Preparation and Celebration of the 33rd Anniversary of the 18th May National Day Urges the Populaces

Continue on Page 3

Inside

Somaliland Ministry of Social Affairs and Pharo Foundation jointly hold consultation workshop on employment enhancement and job creation



Continue on page 4

President names Colonel Abdi Ali Haid as the new head of the apex military court



By M.A. Egge

The Head of State H.E. Musa Abdi has appointed Colonel Abdi Ali Haid Raage to become the new Magistrate

Continue on Page 3

Ethiopia and Somaliland sign MoU for police training program



Continue on Page 3

Deutsche Welle Somaliland's highlights justifiable quest for international recognition



Continue on Page 3

The ambition and mission of the nation is to improve the economy of the country and its people, says Finance Minister Sa'ad,



As he thanks contributors to Somaliland Economic Conference 2023

Continue on Page 4

Somaliland and Turkey have already discussed on the Turkish –Somalia pact



Continue on Page 4



Continue on Page 7

The people will go to polls and everyone will vote for the person of their choice, says the President



The Head of State was welcomed by the chairman of KULMIYE party, who is also the minister of interior, Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed with all party stalwarts present, opened the meeting.

They were informed by the chair about the activities of the party and how they are engaged in preparing for the elections.

The meeting of the executive committee of the KULMIYE party focused on various issues including the acceleration and preparations for the elections, the MoU agreement between the Republic of Somaliland and Ethiopia which is going on well and the general security situation in the country.

The participants gave suggestions and views based on knowledge and experience, which can contribute to the party's efforts to win the country's government for the third time in a row.

The chairman of the technical committee of the charged with the task of formalizing the agreement between the Republic of Somaliland and Ethiopia, Mr. Bashe Awil informed the members of the committee about the progress of the national tasks assigned to them, and underlined the fact that the

agreement is close to success, and both concerned countries are working to implement the envisioned agreement.

The President briefed the members of the executive committee on the agreement, and noted that the government has prepared a transparent agreement that will at last benefit the nation from what it has been striving for in its major aspirations for thirty-plus years.

While speaking to the members of the press at the end of the meeting, the Head of State H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi made the assurances that the points, advices and suggestions and proposals put forth by the participants during the party executive council meeting will be considered and applied as per need.

He said, "Our meeting regarding the preparations for the elections had discussions on many practical ideas for the benefit of the party and the nation in the preparation of the elections, and the decisions have been collected for implementation". He noted that said that what was at stake in the general elections were both the retention of the Presidency and at the same time the national officialdom of the party hence

emphasized the utmost need of bolstering the party that has been at the helm for the past 14 years in a stretch.

He said that the people and the nation are going to the polls with everyone free to exercise their freedom of political rights and vote in their preferences.

The President cautioned against the politics of polarization that could cause unwarranted rife incidents hence urged for sanity and wisdom to prevail during the electioneering period. He warned against volatility and uncouth actions that may undermine the elections which may set back security stability that prevalent.

He pointed out that the KULMIYE political party is unrivalled and is the only one political party that can boast of past formidable and impeccable records as concerns the struggles of the nation and development streak.

"The people will vote and everyone will vote for the person they want, but they ought to be united such the elections should not bring us unnecessary conflicts",

In expressing his confidence of retaining the seat, the President continued, "We are going to the elections as KUMIYE party. Fortunately, the aspirants who have been nominated are a team that we have competed against each other before and we know each other very well. We may have been wary if the aspirants were new".

The other two aspiring candidates of WADDANI's Abdirahman Irro and UCID's Feisal Ali Warabe competed with the incumbent president during the last presidential elections.

The initial phase of the formulation of Somaliland-Ethiopia MoU has been completed, says committee Chair Bashe Awil

entering a second legal phase, to treatise the pact.

He said that they have so far collated the pre-requisite body of information needed for the process of formulating a legal framework by collecting them as much as possible through numerous meetings; while engaging widely with all social structures of the populaces, noted advices given and made tentative trips to orientating themselves with locations that abound in the MoU.

He likewise revealed that Somaliland has hired an international English legal firm, which will support Somaliland in the entailing process of the agreement in preparation for the final binding agreement.

On the other hand, he said that the agreement will be completed by both sides when they are ready, and they will act quickly and shock the

enemies of Somaliland.

He said. "The work of the technical committee on the Somaliland-Ethiopian agreement, the first phase has now been completed, which was to collect the information and the different views of the community, what we have collected and prepared, will be converted into action by preparation of the final document of the MoU".

He continued, "This agreement will be prepared professionally with a British legal firm that we have retained".

He said that once the MoU goes through the naysayers and distracters who are enemies of the nation of Somaliland and its progressive development and aspirations will be silenced with shock.



Somaliland delegation meets Ethiopian Somali State Leader, IGAD, UN officials in maiden GaFa water resource access launch



organization in Wajale, led by the President of the Somali Region of Ethiopia, Mustafa Muhammed Agjar, who was part of a delegation of the large program of water access facilities programme being implemented in the region, dubbed GaFa.

The Somaliland delegation included the Minister of Finance, Water Resources and the officials of Gabiley region and Wajale district received the visiting delegates at the frontier town of Wajale.

They participating together in the laying of the stone for a large-scale project that is being implemented in the countries that are part of the IGAD organization, which is the utilization of underground water in Wajale, which is indeed a big deal, and would further bolster and cooperation between the countries of Somaliland and Ethiopia.

Minister Kahin highlighted the water importance of project that IGAD is implementing in Wajale, which would have beneficial impact for the residents across the borders.

He appealed to the facilitators of the project to expand the projects along the frontiers for the good of the inhabitants of the region.

He said, "our message from Somaliland to the IGAD officials who are here today is that we need to expand cooperation in terms of traffic, economic and security and the sharing of resources as a community".

He expounded on the good working relations between Somaliland and Ethiopia, with the smooth traffic flow. The regional organization IGAD is implementing a project in the city of Tog-wajale to utilize underground water to promote cooperation between neighboring countries in the Horn of Africa.

The President of the Somali state of Ethiopia Mr. Mustafe Muhammed Omar noted, "Today we are here for a plan that is part of a larger program to be implemented in the countries that are part of IGAD in the field of water".

He said that the project of utilizing the land under water, a new initiative led by IGAD, will greatly contribute to the water cooperation between all countries in the Horn of Africa.

On his part the Minister of Water of the Federal Government of Ethiopia, Dr. Habtamu Itafa, who also spoke at the venue elaborated on the project further hence stated the benefits that would be reaped in due cause by the residents of the area.

He said, "Today we have come here as part of some IGAD countries for the development of underground water service, and we are running a large irrigation project in Togwajale which we want to benefit the communities of the two cities".

He pointed out the IGAD member states had who had their water ministers in the launching of the project were those of Kenya, Uganda, Southern Sudan and Djibouti.

The Water Ministers of IGAD member countries representatives of UN Agencies and various development partners along with higher government officials visited Tog-Wochale water supply and sanitation project in Somali region of Ethiopia.

The water project under construction with a cost of over 490 million birr will benefit more than 56,000 residents in the area.

The visit includes multi-village drought-resistant drinking water project in Tog-Wochale town and joint infrastructural development activities in borderland community of Ethiopia.

The brief discussion was also held with residents of borderland community in the town as part of the visit.

On Tuesday, the ministers along with UN officials launched ground water access facility (GaFa) initiative and visited various water projects in the region.

The new initiative aims at addressing the water scarcity affecting millions of people in the Horn of Africa.

The VP criticizes the West's non-adherence to their democratic ideals which they zealously advocate for



efforts and achievements of the nation of Somaliland.

The VP criticized the western world that zealously advocates, advances and supports democracy for

miserably failing to recognize the efforts and achievements of the nation of Somaliland.

As reported by the SOLNA News Agency, the Vice President of

Somaliland shared a message on X (Twitter) highlighting the achievements of the Republic of Somaliland during its existence.

In his writing, he noted that Somaliland is one of the African countries that has implemented and succeeded in democracy, noting that Somaliland has held five elections, two of which were won by opposition parties.

He lamented that the Western countries that exaggerate democratic ideals have largely failed to recognize the efforts and achievements of the Republic of Somaliland.

MAKE THE COMMEMORATIONS MORE ELABORATE THAN EVER

By M. A. Egge

The national committee charged with the task of the preparation and commemoration of the 18TH May Day celebrations have called on the members of the public within the country and abroad to make the marking of the national day elaborately more intense and extensive as never before.

They made the call on Tuesday when the committee that was appointed and named by the Head of State met to assess and appraise the ongoing preparations under the chairmanship of the interior minister Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed.

Both he and his Information, Culture and National Guidance colleague Hon. Ali Mohamed Hassan popularly known as Ali-Mareehan and the Hargeisa city Mayor Cllr. Abdikarim Ahmed Mooge spoke at length on the importance of the day in the nation's history.

Hon. Kahin reminded Somalilanders that May 18th is a day that is for everyone and the nation marking the day the nation re-asserted its independence which it initially won from the colonial yokes on the 26th of June 1960.

Noting that each country has its history and heritage that they mark elaborately, he said that it was incumbent upon all people, the young, old and sundry to duly play their part in making the day a success.

He urged the youth to learn of the history of their nation and be steadfastly patriotic.

"I call upon the entire nation of Somaliland, all the citizens both at home and abroad, to prepare for this occasion with unity and togetherness and mark it elaborately", he said.

He continued, "We all have a duty to celebrate this national day just as we also have an obligated duty to protect our peace and security concertedly".

On his part, Hon. Ali Hassan Mohamed indicated the need to celebrate the 33rd anniversary of the Republic of Somaliland re-asserting its independence on 18th May 1991 by noting, "The purpose of this meeting is related to the

commemoration of the great event of May 18, which today has ten days left to prepare for and mark the great day".

He said that the preparations and conviction to make it elaborate should go on until the D'Day.

He was categorical that this year's 33rd anniversary should be the most strikingly dynamic.

Given the steadfast aspirations of the people of Somaliland in gaining international recognition, the minister said that it was incumbent upon the populace to tirelessly elaborate it to the world and underpin the resilience of the nation and its people being rebuild itself fully from ruins.

The Minister of Information said that the majority of the youth who are those born after 1991 do not have information about the destruction that the regime of Siad Barre brought to the capital of Hargeisa and other major towns hence in a recent tentative 'voxpop' interviews pointed out that they grew up to see a modern nation devoid of the said genocidal and apocalyptic ruins subjected to the nation; hence they ought to know of the nation's history and the struggles of both the initial independence and the second liberation of re-asserting and re-establishing the essence and independent nation hood of the Republic of Somaliland.

He said that the destructions perpetrated by the then Somalia regime left no stone in seeing to it that no living soul, commercial and residential buildings, mosques or even trees stood, and as such the youth who never witnessed it or its aftermath have to know the history. He said that Somalilanders have the obligation to scoff and rebuke the Mogadishu government's dream of trying to curtail and stunt Somaliland's aspirations and progress by being most elaborate than ever in marking this year's 33rd anniversary.

The Minister of Education Hon. Dr. Ahmed Adan Buhane and the Hargeisa city Mayor also echoed similar words in their addresses at the meeting.

Cllr. Abdikarim notably urged for the

solidarity and unity of the nation to concertedly have the state, political parties and the general populace to make both the preparations and observation of the commemoration become a resounding success.

He particularly appealed to the residents of the capital city to intensively and extensively indulge in the preparations to flamboyantly observe the anniversary.

Meanwhile, such preparations were going on in other regions and districts across the country.

The Gebilay governor appointed his deputy to lead a similar committee at the regional level in which included the local mayor amongst other officials to see to it that the national celebrations becomes a success.

This year will be the 33rd anniversary of the 18th May national celebrations that the country has always annually marked is to honour the day the nation re-asserted and re-established its independence is this year felt, palpitated and expected with more enthusiasm and anxiety more than ever before.

The aspirations of the populace for the endeavours of their hopes, wishes and wants as far as the Republic of Somaliland is concerned, is more evident than ever.

The security forces public parade in the itinerary is expected to be the biggest and largest the country has yet witnessed 33 years down the line.

The anniversary which is now ten days away has strongly been felt nationwide at the markets which has done more than ample sales from miniature flags to billboards, t-shirts and assorted dresses and patriotic materials and gears.

The most sold items in the country's markets in the month of May are the Somaliland flag and the materials and associated accessories to celebrate the 18th of May, and every place and every business is waving the tricolor flag.

People's feelings are similar when you see how happy they are that one might be mistaken to assume that the main event was to be held the following day!

President names Colonel Abdi Ali Haid as the new head of the apex military court



General of the apex Armed Forces High Court with immediate effect. In a Presidential decree released on Saturday, the President noted that in exercising his executive powers as per Article 90 of the constitution he has relieved Colonel Suleima

Musa of the post and replaced him by the incoming officer.

The President thanked the outgoing chair of the Armed Forces Court for the services he held for the nation in his capacity. The appointment takes effect immediately

Ethiopia and Somaliland sign MoU for police training program



Ethiopia and Somaliland have signed an agreement in Addis Abeba, under which Ethiopia will train new police forces in Somaliland.

The Somaliland Police Force published on its Facebook page on Thursday that the President of the Ethiopia Police University, Deputy Commissioner General Mesfin Abebe, and the head of training of

the Somaliland Police Force, Gen. Abdi Ahmed Tiir, signed the agreement regarding the training of police forces.

However, they did not provide further details about the deal. The agreement followed Somaliland Police Chief Mohamed Aden Saqadhi's recent visit to Ethiopia where he met with the Ethiopian Federal Police Commissioner.

Deutsche Welle Somaliland's highlights justifiable quest for international recognition



By M.A. Egge

The Deutsche Welle media in Germany has highlighted the efforts of the Republic of Somaliland in the last 30 years in its aspirations to move from de-facto to de-jure state and the justified international recognition it so rightly deserves.

In a report prepared and aired the Deutsche Welle radio station, the commentator said that underpinned that Somaliland is a peaceful country that has been struggling for a long time to gain diplomatic recognition from the world.

Jama Muse Jsamac, a political and cultural analyst interviewed said that Somaliland was an independent country that gained independence from Britain on June 26, 1960 and was the 12th African country to gain independence before Somalia became independent.

Mr. Jama Musa said that the union of Somaliland and Somalia was intended for the five Somali states to unite, a greater Somalia dream, but that dream had failed and that

Continue on page 4

Deutsche Welle Somaliland’s highlights justifiable quest for international recognition

after the bitter struggle and destruction of the Siad Barre regime in Somaliland, the people of Somaliland decided to return to and re-assert their 1960 independence in a declaration on May 18th 1991. Mr. Jama said that Somaliland has met the requirements of an independent nation, and noted that five presidents have changed democratically.

He also stated that the Republic of Somaliland is based on the aspirations, will and selfless efforts of its people who have supported their government without the world contributed anything tangible to it. He also argued that Somaliland now has relations with many countries in the world and has political representatives in many countries. He said that 70 percent of

Somaliland’s youth have become wise in Somaliland and do not accept and totally refuse anything to do with Somalia. On the other hand, an Ethiopian journalist who recently visited Somaliland said that there is peace, business and a functioning government in Somaliland. The journalist also said that the people of Hargeisa are vibrant, business oriented and content with their nation.

The ambition and mission of the nation is to improve the economy of the country and its people, says Finance Minister Sa’ad,

By M.A. Egge
Somaliland’s minister of financial development Hon. Sa’ad Ali Shire has said that the ambition and mission of the nation is to improve the economy of the country and its people. He also said that the economic conference in the city of Hargeisa was held in 2023 with the aim of expanding the economy and modernizing it, and the provisions that came out of it were aligned with the country’s third national plan. On the other hand, he revealed that the content of the conference will be presented. He said, “Last year in 2023, a national conference was held in the city of Hargeisa, the purpose of which was to expand the economy



and modernize it. The issues that emerged were adapted to the third national plan of the country, so that what came out of the conference would be a legacy; enshrined projects, policies, structures and procedures were produced from the

conference, which are in line with the national plan”. He emphasized, “When the meeting is held, its essence is to present the results of that coordination, and I am here to thank everyone who contributed to it”.

Somaliland and Turkey have already discussed on the Turkish –Somalia pact



By M.A. Egge
The government of Somaliland has cautioned Turkey against its warships flouting the territorial waters and the coasts of the Republic of Somaliland. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somaliland Dr. Isse Keyd Mohamud, said that Turkish warships have no rights whatsoever to come to the

coast of Somaliland. He disclosed that the government had already contacted the Turkish government and informed of the same, in the wake of the Turkish-Somali pact. Dr Isse Keyd noted that the Turkish government is aware that Somaliland’s coast guards are in control of the security of its coasts

while it has nothing to do with the cooperation agreement between Somalia and the Turks. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somaliland gave the sentiments in an interview with the Somali section of the BBC when queried on how the government views the recent defense agreement between Turkey and Somalia.

Somaliland Ministry of Social Affairs and Pharo Foundation jointly hold consultation workshop on employment enhancement and job creation



By Goth Mohamed Goth
The Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour and Family Affairs, and Pharo Foundation together with Pharo Ventures jointly organized a consultation workshop on employment enhancement and job creation. The employment workshop served as a pivotal platform for stakeholders from government bodies and senior management of Pharo Foundation and Pharo Ventures to convene and deliberate on crucial strategies for fostering job creation across public and private sectors. The workshop focussed on addressing key obstacles to productivity and employment, with a particular emphasis on health barriers, financial constraints hindering entrepreneurship and innovation, and structural impediments. The workshop shed light on the disconnect between the burgeoning number of graduates and the scarcity of employment

opportunities, underscoring the pressing need to bridge the gap between educational outputs and the demands of the job market. Moreover, the event facilitated fruitful exchanges between 14 ministries, including the Ministry of Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Health Development, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Livestock Development, Ministry of Trade and Tourism, Ministry of Investment Development, Ministry of Information Technology, and Ministry of Fishery. Each ministry representative discussed their contribution to national production and employment and the multifaceted challenges encountered in their respective domains. This collaborative effort aimed to foster alignment and pave the way for concerted action towards overcoming barriers to employment and unlocking new pathways for sustainable economic growth and job creation.

Towards the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and a KBA System for Somaliland



By Goth Mohamed Goth
Candlelight, in collaboration with the Somaliland Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, organized a three-day workshop on Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in Hargeisa, Somaliland. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce stakeholders to the concept of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and their significance for biodiversity conservation, train participants in the methodologies and criteria for identifying and delineating KBAs, initiate discussions and collaboration among stakeholders for the identification of potential KBAs in

Somaliland, set up a National Coordinating Committee (NCG), lay the groundwork for future KBA assessments, mapping, and conservation planning efforts. The key participants/audiences were:

- Government of Somaliland agencies responsible for environmental management and conservation.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in Somaliland.
- Academic institutions and researchers involved in ecological studies and biodiversity monitoring in Somaliland.
- Community-based organizations (CBOs) representing local communities living in and around potential KBA sites.
- Private sector stakeholders with interests in sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Forging bonds: People-to-People diplomacy between Taiwan and Somaliland



The pivotal role of non-presidential signatories, particularly foreign ministers, is crucial.

In an era where traditional diplomatic norms face challenges, Taiwan and Somaliland, two de facto states not recognized by the UN and a majority of countries, are pioneering a unique approach toward international relations. Through people-to-people diplomacy, they navigate the complexities of non-recognition, forging meaningful connections that transcend conventional state boundaries.

The 1961 Vienna Convention establishes a comprehensive framework for initiating, sustaining, and concluding diplomatic relations, based on mutual consent among sovereign states. International diplomacy typically unfolds on significant platforms, with countries adhering to established diplomatic protocols that emphasize formal state-to-state interactions. However, unique scenarios arise when entities such as Somaliland and Taiwan, which operate under the cloak of international non-recognition, engage in diplomacy. Taiwan was a founding member of the UN in 1945 under the name the Republic of China, but was replaced by the People's Republic of China in 1971 under UN Resolution 2758. It's noteworthy that this resolution doesn't say anything about Taiwan not being able to join the UN under a different name. It currently maintains full diplomatic relations with 12 countries. Likewise, after an unsuccessful union with Southern Somalia, a former Italian colony that began on July 1, 1960, Somaliland, a former British protectorate, declared its independence from the Republic of Somalia on May 18, 1991.

Taiwan and Somaliland hold strategic significance that is drawing major global powers into a new cold war competition. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC)

is vital to the global economy due to its dominant role in semiconductor manufacturing — a fact highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic when disruptions in chip supply impacted industries worldwide. Similarly, Somaliland's Berbera Port majority-owned by UAE-based DP World and the prospects of the recent MOU with Ethiopia, is emerging as a focal point due to its strategic location and potential to serve as a shipping and military hub, challenging Djibouti's long-standing dominance in the Horn of Africa.

Djibouti's geostrategic importance has historically been tied to its proximity to the Bab el-Mandab Strait, a vital maritime choke point through which over 20,000 ships pass annually. In 2023, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait handled 12 percent of global maritime traffic, including 75 percent of European exports. For trade between Northern Europe and Asia, the alternative to this route is a 6,500 km detour around the Cape of Good Hope. Its location has made it a nexus for international military presence, hosting bases from the United States, China, France, Japan, Germany, Spain, Italy, and Saudi Arabia. The substantial fees paid by the U.S. and China for their bases underscore the location's strategic value.

However, Somaliland's Berbera Port is well-positioned to challenge this dominance. It offers a strategic alternative to Djibouti, particularly as it aligns itself with regional powers like the UAE and Saudi Arabia, potentially shifting regional dominance in its favor. The competition for influence in Somaliland and the Horn of Africa mirrors broader global rivalries. On one side are Western nations led by the U.S. and U.K., along with allies like Taiwan and the UAE, which has a military base and a representative office in Somaliland. On the other side are BRICS nations, with Russia recently re-establishing a presence in Eritrea and China

working alongside regional partners like Ethiopia and Somalia, despite the U.S. announcing new military bases in five Somali cities. Somaliland thus stands as a potential hotspot of global competition, where strategic interests and alliances could redefine the balance of power in the region.

Thus both Taiwan and Somaliland are compelled to innovate within the realm of international relations, fostering subtle, people-centered engagements over formal diplomatic ties. This approach is embodied through the establishment of representative offices — the "Taiwan Representative Office" in Hargeisa on August 17, 2020, and the "Somaliland Representative Office" in Taipei on September 9, 2020. These offices operate under a nomenclature that strategically avoids the term 'embassy' to mitigate issues surrounding international recognition.

People-to-people diplomacy: Navigating terminology and engagement

The ties between Somaliland and Taiwan are exemplified by a unique model of international engagement, distinctly manifested in the establishment of the "Taiwan Representative Office" in Hargeisa and the "Somaliland Representative Office" in Taipei. These entities were officially established following a significant agreement signed by the foreign ministers of both regions on February 26, 2020, in Taipei. This event marked a pivotal moment in the diplomatic landscapes of both regions, as they navigated the complex terrain of international politics without formal state recognition.

Avoiding the conventional terminology of "embassies" and "formal diplomatic relations," the use of "representative offices" and terms like "ties" or "highly official relations" signifies a strategic and cautious approach to diplomacy. The success of the Taiwan-Somaliland model in modern diplomacy is becoming increasingly evident. In August

2021, just a year after establishing the Taiwan Representative Office in the Republic of Somaliland in Hargeisa, Taiwan replicated this approach by opening a Taiwanese Representative Office in Vilnius, Lithuania. Notably, the formal designation of the Republic of China (ROC) was once again eschewed in favor of the Taiwan representative office, aligning with what certain scholars term as the "Strategic Logic of Taiwanization". This concept underscores how Taiwan's growing national identity serves as a strategic response to China's expanding military prowess. This nomenclature not only respects the delicate sensitivities surrounding their international recognition but also emphasizes a commitment to foster connections on a people-to-people basis rather than traditional state-to-state diplomatic frameworks.

Leveraging shared values and stability

Somaliland and Taiwan, each navigating unique international landscapes, capitalize on their distinctive political systems and shared democratic values to bolster their international standing. Somaliland's "pastoral democracy" which blends traditional clan-based governance with modern democratic processes, offers a model of stability and participatory governance. This system, detailed in the studies carried out by scholars such as Ioan Lewis and Abdi Ismail Samatar, showcases how such governance structures stand in stark contrast to the more centralized and often tumultuous political landscapes typical of the Horn of Africa.

Similarly, Taiwan presents itself as a beacon of progressive democracy in East Asia. Its vibrant civil society and successful democratic processes, as institutionalized since its separation from mainland China in 1949, serve as a model for participatory governance globally. This democratic resilience is further underscored by Taiwan's ongoing efforts to strengthen its international presence and relationships, as evidenced by the establishment of the Taiwan Representative Office in Hargeisa on February 26, 2020.

Addressing formal diplomatic challenges through socio-cultural initiatives and trade in Somaliland-Taiwan relations Since initiating informal ties in February 2020, Taiwan and Somaliland have developed their partnership through significant

educational, agricultural, and technological programs, alongside cultural exchanges. This cooperation, characterized by impactful, developmental rather than purely political maneuvers, began with the establishment of representative offices in Taipei and Hargeisa.

In 2021, Taiwan introduced scholarships for Somaliland students in crucial fields like engineering, healthcare, and agriculture, fostering foundational relationships between future leaders and communities. That same year, Taiwan supported Somaliland's agricultural sector by setting up a demonstration farm 45 km outside Hargeisa to introduce advanced practices and technologies aimed at improving local agricultural production and quality.

Technological collaboration was also strengthened in March 2021 when both regions signed a comprehensive IT cooperation agreement to enhance Somaliland's government digitization, including training for local staff and upgrading internet systems for e-government initiatives.

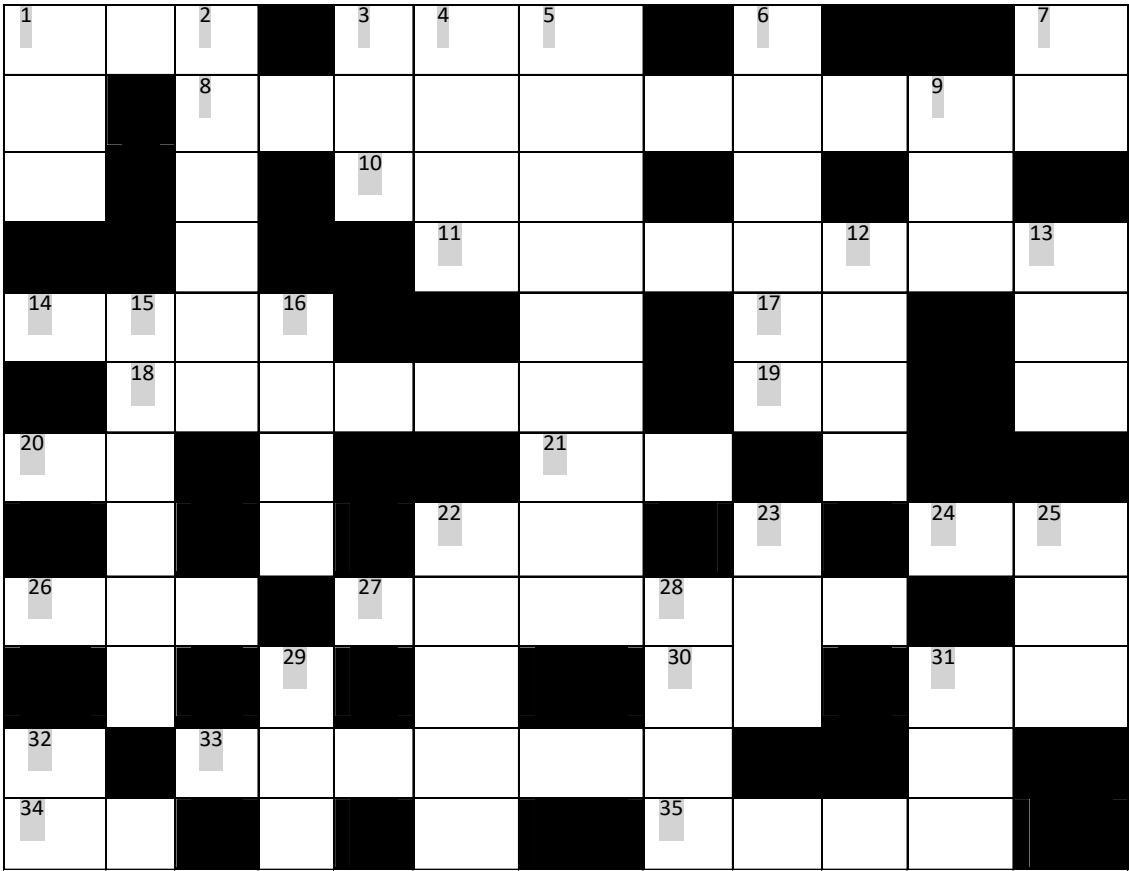
Moreover, on July 31, 2023, Taiwan and Somaliland signed a "Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Business and Trade Relations," aimed at fostering bilateral exchanges and exploring opportunities in trade, investment, mining, and oil resources, based on Somaliland's rich natural resources including minerals, livestock, and marine fisheries.

The strategic role of foreign Ministers in Taiwan-Somaliland diplomacy

In the complex realm of international diplomacy between Taiwan and Somaliland, the pivotal role of non-presidential signatories, particularly foreign ministers, is crucial. This strategy was highlighted on February 26, 2020, when Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu and Somaliland's Foreign Minister Yasin Haji Mohamoud convened in Taipei to sign the agreement establishing representative offices in both Taipei and Hargeisa.

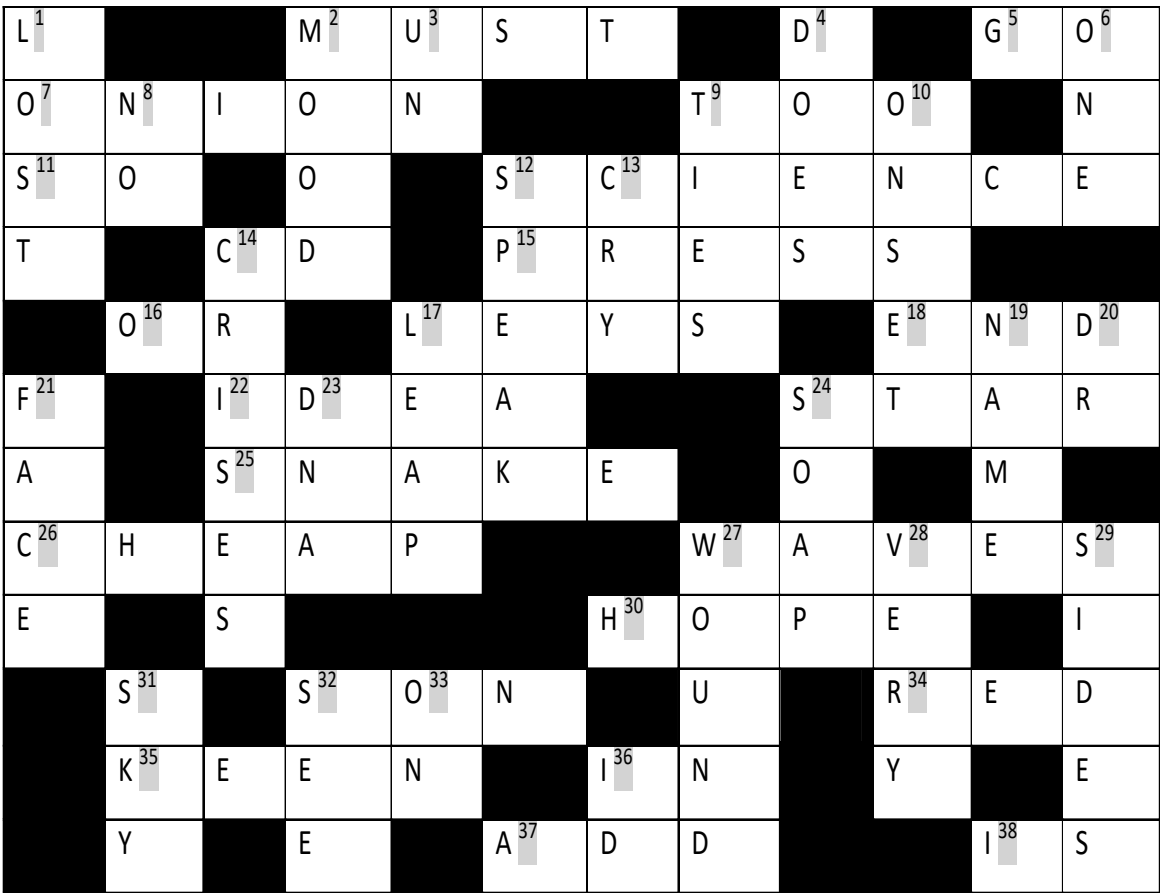
By utilizing high-level officials who are not national leaders, both entities effectively mitigate potential repercussions from other countries and international bodies. This deliberate and strategic layer of diplomacy is geared towards building enduring relationships and maintaining a low profile to avoid controversies that could draw negative attention or provoke retaliation.

THT Puzzle



- DOWN
- 1 question.
2 confirm.
3 shed tears
4 vicinity
5 travelers
6 increasing
7 U'S
9 Have a meal
12 Almost immediately
13 Sun shine
15 Nearby
16 Simple
22 brain power
23 individual
25 Perceive or look
28 possessive pronoun
29 Carpet
31 double or single bed
32 Negative or nope
- ACROSS
- 1be present.
3 crowns head wear
8 storylines.
10 Yeah
11 Support
14 Concern assist
17 Negative
18 Cause
19 Travel
22 be present
24 Remains
26 Furthermore
27 Symbols
30 United Nations in short forms
31 Be there
34 Atop
35 Stated

Previous Answer



Bird flu: Scientists see gene editing hope for immune chickens



Researchers have developed gene-edited chickens that are partially resistant to bird flu.

Although the birds are not completely immune, the scientists say their work shows it might be possible to block the virus in three years.

The latest results suggest that making further changes to the birds' DNA could produce fully immune chickens.

Critics say gene editing tackles the symptoms of high-density farming rather than the root cause of animal diseases.

Professor Helen Sang, of the the University of Edinburgh's Roslin Institute, said the team had made significant progress.

The researchers identified three genes they believed were important for the bird flu (formally known as avian influenza) virus to reproduce in the chickens. They made two small changes to one of the genes using a technique known as gene editing.

The resulting chickens had no side effects after two years. They also had increased resistance to bird flu, but were not fully immune: half the chickens infected with a high dose of the virus developed an infection.

Although any increase in resistance to bird flu should be welcome, only a solution that provides complete immunity can be used in practice.

Any intervention that develops partial resistance would also encourage the virus to change in order to fight back and so, if the intervention were widely used, it would slightly increase the risk of another human global pandemic if a mutation made the virus deadly to humans.

But Prof Mike McGrew, also of the Roslin Institute, told BBC News that experiments in test tubes showed if changes are made to all three genes, then a fully resistant bird might be possible.

"When we did these edits in the cells there was no growth of the virus at all. The changes stopped all replication of the flu.

"I am extremely confident that editing the three genes will give full immunity."

Gene editing involves making precise changes to DNA to change the function of a gene. In this instance the three genes were altered to stop them helping bird flu reproduce, but in a way that did not harm the bird.

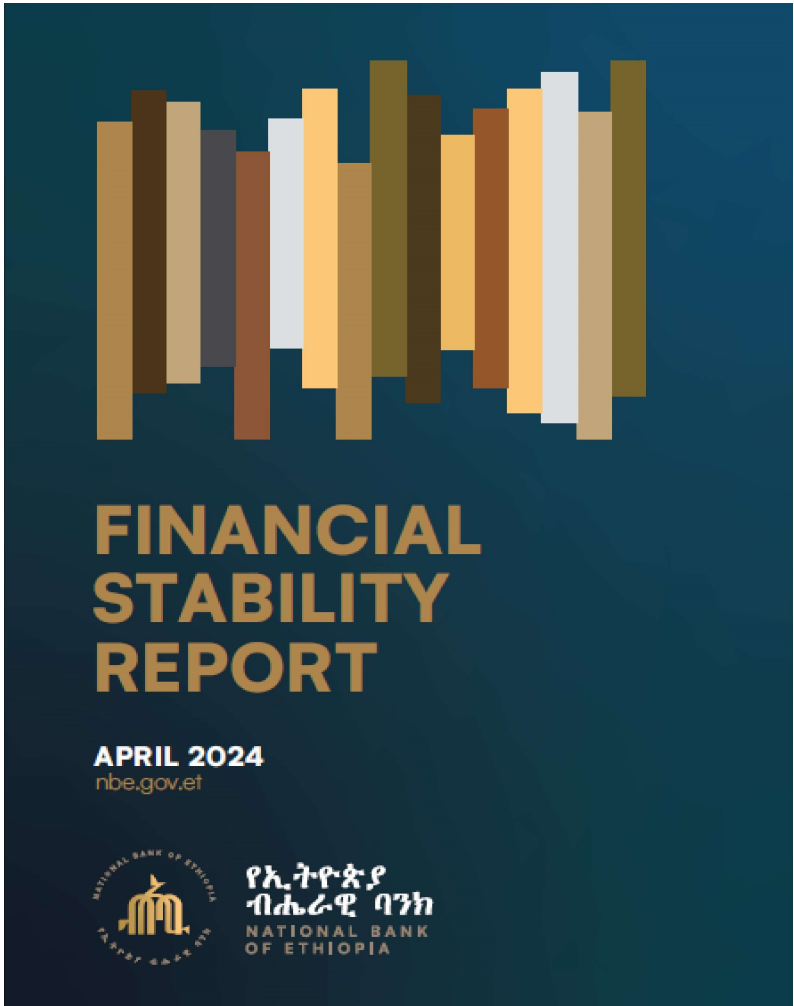
The researchers are trying to identify the further genetic changes required, before producing gene-edited chickens for the next phase of their research. Bird flu is a major global threat, with a devastating impact in both farmed and wild bird populations. In the UK alone, the current outbreak of H5N1 bird flu has decimated seabird populations and cost the poultry industry more than £100 million in losses.

It is thought to have emerged in intensive poultry farming in China in the 1990s.

In rare instances, mutations in the bird flu virus allow it to infect people and cause serious illness.



Ethiopia Financial Stability Report



f) Conclusion

In general, domestic economic conditions are expected to improve in 2024. It is anticipated that the economy will grow strongly by 6.2 percent, equally driven by services, agriculture, and industry from the supply side, and by personal spending and investment from the demand side. The growth is expected to be supported by economic liberalization, the peace dividend, and a recovery of the tourism industry.

Furthermore, following the peace dividend and NBE's stringent policies on bank credit growth and direct advances to the government, inflation is projected to fall to 20.7 percent in 2024. Likewise, due to an anticipated rise in government revenue as a result of improvements in domestic resource mobilization, implementation of the fiscal consolidation strategy, and the resumption of the influx of donor funds, the budget deficit is predicted to sustain at 2.5 percent of GDP in 2024.

The current account deficit is anticipated to decrease to 2.0 percent of GDP in 2024 with the expected expansion of exports of goods and services. External debt service to export dropped from 20.4 percent in 2022 to 16.5 percent in 2023. On the other hand, headwinds include drought in parts of the country, debt vulnerabilities, a widening gap between the official and parallel exchange rate, and the effects of the Russia-Ukrainian war in Europe and the Middle East.

3. FINANCIAL SECTOR STABILITY AND RISK

This chapter analyzes the stability and risks in the Ethiopian financial sector across the banking, microfinance and capital goods financing, and

insurance sectors, which are all regulated and supervised by NBE. Policy actions taken by the government and the regulator remain supportive to the sector's resilience and financial stability. Primary and secondary financial markets are not yet properly

established although significant work on launching capital markets has proceeded with a new proclamation on Capital Market Authority and preparation is underway for the establishment of Ethiopian Stock Exchange in 2024.

3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

At end-June 2023, total assets of the financial sector amounted to Birr 3,120.5 billion, 20.4 percent higher than a year earlier (Table 3). These assets constituted 35.8 percent of GDP^a, compared with 42.1 percent at end-June 2022. The financial sector continued to be dominated by the banking sector, whose total assets accounted for 96.3 percent of total financial sector assets at end-June 2023 (slightly less than a year before because of a stronger growth of the microfinance sector). This implies that the stability of Ethiopian financial system/sector largely depends on the health and stability of the banking sector. As a result, the banking sector is analyzed in more detail in the following sections.

4. All financial data used in this chapter are provisional (not audited)

^a In line with international practice, the Board of NBE has approved an independent supervisory agency for the insurance sector.

± The report does not provide a

detailed analysis of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) and pension funds, which are not regulated by NBE.

² Nominal

³ Including the Development Bank of Ethiopia.

⁴ Nominal

3.2 BANKING SECTOR

At end-June 2023, 31 (all domestic) banks operated in Ethiopia;⁵ of these, the Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE), a development finance institution, accounted for nearly five percent of the banking sector's assets. The rest are three full-fledged interest-free banks, five MFIs that had graduated to commercial banks, and 22 conventional commercial banks, including the country's largest bank, the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE). Except for DBE and CBE, all are private banks.

As the following sections show, the banking sector is assessed as safe, sound and stable at the end of June 2023.

3.2.1 Commercial Banking Industry

3.2.1.1 Role in the Economy

The banking sector is of high importance to the Ethiopian economy. Total deposits at end-June 2023 reached Birr 2.2 trillion, 24.8 percent of GDP; and total loans & bonds of banks amounted to Birr 1.9 trillion, 21.7 percent of GDP (Table 4 and Figure

7). Total bank deposits grew by 24.6 percent, reflecting rapid growth in both saving and time deposits. Similarly, loans & bonds grew by 24.3 percent. However, GDP increased at a faster rate. Accordingly, the share of deposits in GDP decreased from 28.2 percent of the previous year to 24.8 percent at end-June 2023, and that of loans & bonds from 16.0 percent to 14.3 percent. The share of loans in GDP is low by international comparisons, and the objective is to increase it significantly in the medium term, thereby also reducing credit concentration risk (see Section 3.2.1.3 below). A related positive development in this regard is the shift in the loan portfolio. Since 2021, total credits to the private sector have exceeded loans to the public sector (Figure 8). Notwithstanding droughts and conflicts in parts of the country, and the war in Ukraine and the associated global commodity price shock, total assets of commercial banks reached Birr 2,845.9 billion at end-June 2023 – an increase of 19.9 percent from the previous year due to Ethiopia's strong economic growth (see Section 2.2 above). The major contributors to total asset growth were loans & advances and bonds

Table 3: Total Assets of the Financial System and the GDP, 2022-2023 (billions of Birr and percent)

Sector/Assets/GDP	June 2022	Share in total assets (%)	June 2023	Share in total assets (%)	June 2023 vs. June 2022 (%)
Banks ^a	2,500.8	96.5	3,003.7	96.3	20.1
Microfinance	46.1	1.8	61.7	2.0	33.8
Capital Goods Finance	5.0	0.2	5.4	0.2	8.0
Insurance	40.8	1.6	49.7	1.6	21.8
Total Assets	2,592.7	100.0	3,120.5	100.0	20.4
GDP ^a	6,157.0	-	8,722.3	-	41.7
Total assets (%) of GDP	42.1	-	35.8	-	-6.3 percentage points

Source: NBE Database

Table 4: Banks' Major Balance Sheet Items (billion Birr)

PARTICULARS	06/2019	06/2020	Growth(%)	06/2021	Growth(%)	06/2022	Growth(%)	06/2023	Growth(%)
Total Assets (net) ¹¹	1,215.1	1,462.4	20.4	1,843.2	26.0	2,374.1	28.8	2,845.9	19.9
Loans & Bonds	912.3	1,085.8	19.0	1,317.3	21.3	1,521.1	15.5	1,890.3	24.3
Loans and Advances (net)	443.6	559.0	26.0	766.9	37.2	986.7	28.7	1,247.5	26.4
Bonds ¹²	468.7	526.8	12.4	550.4	4.5	534.4	(2.9)	642.8	20.3
Total Deposits	898.9	1,041.9	15.9	1,360.1	30.5	1,735.3	27.6	2,162.2	24.6
Saving deposits	518.0	622.5	20.2	855.8	37.5	1,085.3	26.8	1,370.1	26.2
Demand deposits	316.8	356.4	12.5	439.6	23.4	567.1	29.0	679.9	19.9
Time deposits	64.1	63.1	(1.6)	64.7	2.5	83.0	28.3	112.2	35.2
Regulatory Capital	93.8	105.2	12.2	121.9	15.9	168.9	38.5	212.4	25.7
GDP ¹³	2,690.8	3,374.7	25.4	4,341.0	28.6	6,157.0	41.8	8,722.3	41.7
Share (%) of Loans in GDP	16.5	16.6	0.1	17.7	1.1	16.0	1.6	14.3	-1.7
Share (%) of Deposits in GDP	33.4	30.9	-2.5	31.3	0.5	28.2	3.1	24.8	-3.4
Share (%) of Loans & Bonds in GDP	33.9	32.2	-1.7	30.3	-1.8	24.7	5.6	21.7	-3.0
Share (%) of Loans & Bonds in Total Assets	75.1	74.2	-0.8	71.5	-2.8	64.1	7.4	66.4	2.4

Source: NBE Database & Monetary and Financial Analysis Directorate of NBE