

# The Horn Tribune

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## Somaliland President says Ethiopia deal can deter Red Sea assaults

President adds accord can secure 'freedom of navigation' in waterway where Houthi rebels have attacked international shipping



The deal that Somaliland has struck with Ethiopia to lease a strip of land near the entrance to the Red Sea would help "secure freedom of navigation" for international shipping that has faced attacks around the vital waterway, according to the breakaway country's president. Somaliland, which declared

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### Somaliland eyes on more Ethiopian investment in fishery sector



Somaliland seeks increased Ethiopian investments in the fishery, agriculture, and logistics sectors as Hargeisa craves boosted trade ties with its gigantic neighbor.

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### Berbera Economic Corridor Plays Vital Role to Connect People in Region: President Somali Region Ethiopia



President Somali Region of Ethiopia Hon. Mustafe Muhammad has highlighted

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### Passionate 18<sup>th</sup> May speech by Barkhad Kariye in Addis Ababa underscore the D'Day's essence and meaning to the youth of Somaliland



By M.A. Egge  
The Deputy Ambassador of Somaliland to Ethiopia Barkhad Kariye gave a passionately emotional speech concerning the essence, meaning

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### Somaliland defies foreign meddling on sea deal

*Lambast entities trying to weaponize it against Ethiopia*



### Global charities launch awareness campaign to protect cheetahs in Somaliland



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### Somaliland is a security fence in defense of neighbourhood stability, says Ambassador Mohamed Omar Haji



By M.A. Egge  
Somaliland's ambassador to Taiwan, Ambassador Mohamed Omar Haji, said that Somaliland has been cushioning its neighboring countries from security threats in the region

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### Issuance of vehicle insurance coverage underway



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### Somaliland Diaspora should remain vigilant to the threat of non-Somalilanders and paid trolls



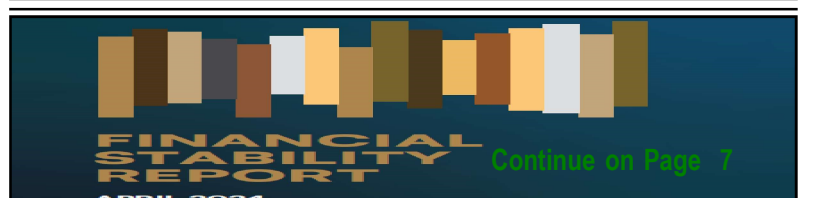
MOFA: PRESS RELEASE  
This year, Somalilanders again will exercise their

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### Dahabshiil Group constructs emergency wing for Buhoodle Central Hospital



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## Somaliland President says Ethiopia deal can deter Red Sea assaults



independence from Somalia in 1991 when it re-asserted its independence but has failed in its long-standing quest for global acceptance, signed the accord in January that swapped access territory on the Gulf of Aden in return for formal recognition from landlocked Ethiopia.

But Somalia has vehemently opposed the deal, with its president declaring blatantly that “not an inch” of its territory would be signed away by anyone.

Somaliland President Muse Bihi Abdi told the Financial Times that the Ethiopia accord would “...allow Somaliland to support international efforts to secure freedom of navigation in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea”, where vessels have come under repeated assaults in recent months from Houthi rebels backed by Iran.

Ethiopia’s blueprint for the land around Berbera included a port and fleet that would help fend off maritime threats, he suggested. “Ethiopia will build a naval military base and have commercial ships and in exchange Ethiopia will give us recognition — that’s the basics,” said Bihi Abdi.

Bihi Abdi also said the deal was an important step to realizing his nation’s dream of full independence. “The historic memorandum of understanding between Somaliland and Ethiopia will provide us with a clear pathway towards international recognition,” he said from Hargeisa, capital of the breakaway nation. Ethiopia has sought access to the coast ever since the 1993 split with Eritrea left

it landlocked. It views the Somaliland deal as a way to alleviate its dependence on Djibouti for sea access, although the US, EU, Arab League and Egypt — which has a dispute with Ethiopia over a huge dam on the Blue Nile — have warned that the plan could escalate conflict in a region already battered by terrorism and war.

A senior Ethiopian official involved in the Somaliland talks said he was “optimistic” that a final agreement would materialize, adding: “It’s just a matter of realpolitik and necessity.” Omar Mahmood, senior analyst for Eastern Africa with Crisis Group, said that while the deal had created significant “blowback”, Ethiopia did not want to “completely give it up”. China, Russia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates have also sought access to the Horn of Africa, a poor but strategically important region that includes Somalia and Djibouti. Somaliland has attracted a \$300mn investment from Dubai-based DP World into Berbera and its wider economic zone, which represents about 75 per cent of Somaliland’s government revenue, with the aim of transforming it into a regional trade hub.

Hargeisa said international recognition could unlock further investments into its \$3.4bn economy that is based on sea trade, remittances and camel livestock. Recognition was an “economic game-changer”, Bihi Abdi said.

By the president’s office there is a framed copy of the agreement that Somaliland signed with Britain when the former protectorate secured its independent in 1960. It then united

with the former Italian colony of Somalia, only to sever ties and re-establish its sovereignty in 1991 after a decade-long independence war and the fall of the Somali dictator Siad Barre.

Somaliland has recently struggled to contain violence in its east, where some local clan leaders have declared their intention to sever ties with Hargeisa and rejoin Somalia. But the breakaway country has delivered relative stability to its 5.7mn people compared with Somalia, which collapsed into conflict and warlord feuds after the fall of Barre and has been battling a brutal Islamist insurgency linked to al-Qaeda.

Somaliland has its own army and elected parliament, prints its own currency and issues its own passports. The UK, the UAE, Turkey, Ethiopia and Taiwan have all established a presence there. Despite such autonomy, Mogadishu wrongly considers it fully part of Somalia and Somaliland has not been formally recognized by any country.

Bihi Abdi, a former Somali military pilot turned rebel fighter who is standing for re-election in November, insisted Somalilanders “support” the prospective deal with Ethiopia.

Some international capitals fear its potential to cause a new rift in a region beset by armed hostilities. Somalia is already fighting a long-running insurgency by the al-Shabaab jihadi group and Ethiopia is still reeling from a brutal and costly civil war in the Tigray region.

Washington, an ally of Mogadishu, said it was “concerned” about the agreement which “threatens to disrupt the fight” against Islamist militancy. Bihi Abdi dismissed this claim as baseless.

He also sought to play down tensions with Somalia, saying war between the two was not teneble. He also said the deal could actually help prevent any potential conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea by satisfying Addis Ababa’s need for sea access.

“We’ve been working towards international recognition of our independent status for over 33 years,” Musa Bihi Abdi said. “We’re ready.”

## Somaliland eyes on more Ethiopian investment in fishery sector



Having a strategic location, easy access to the sea, and untapped natural resources, Somaliland expects more Ethiopian FDI following the recent sea deal between the two sides.

“We also need to unlock the big opportunities to cement investment links with our gigantic yet landlocked neighbor. I encourage Ethiopian investors to utilize Somaliland’s strategic location, easy access to the sea, security, and resources which are not utilized properly,” said Investment Minister Abdirizak Ibrahim speaking exclusively to The Ethiopian Herald.

Somaliland has vast potential for fishery development and can export fish products to Ethiopia and the latter’s investors can tap this business opportunities as well, he said adding his country can offer easy business entry to foreign investors.

In Somaliland, foreigners and locals are provided with equal investment opportunities, we lease land and offer licenses and tax exemptions. Somaliland is seeking potential

investors from Ethiopia and African nations.

“Currently, lots of Ethiopian investors have been engaged in various small and medium businesses, but we hope that big companies will arrive and invest in the future.”

Somaliland expects more investors from Agribusiness as Ethiopia’s agricultural sector is going through rapid positive changes, the minister added.

The MoU is expected to bring lofty benefits not only to both sides but also to the region at large. Once the deal is effectuated, trade will flourish and business will boom, the minister expressed his optimism. Signaling the ongoing collaboration among Ethiopia, Somaliland and DP World in Berbera Port development, the Minister stressed the need for regional cooperation to facilitate investment and trade in the area.

Ethiopia is also a country with large fishery resources and the production is mostly concentrated in Lake Tana and Great Rift Valley Lakes.



He emphasized the fact that he saw the 18<sup>th</sup> May as a sacred day meant to remember and honour all those who stood for, fought for or died for the struggle of re-establishing Somaliland’s sovereignty that today has seen to it that the youth prosper and continue buiding their nation. He paid special tribute to the veterans, both fallen and alive, for their bravery in saving the nation and its people through their steadfastness in the bitter struggles. He profoundly noted not only the moral and material support they put on the struggles, but precisely their blood and sweat.

He thanked profusely the neighbouring Ethiopian government for having fervantly stood by Somaliland through thick and thin from the times of the struggles to date.

The event that was elaborately organized and marked saw the attendance of reps of international entities, Ethiopian and Somaliland government, Somalilanders from the country and abroad and scores of eminent personalities.

Various speeches and concerts dotted the all-night long celebrations, albeit held ten days late.

## Passionate 18<sup>th</sup> May speech by Barkhad Kariye in Addis Ababa underscore the D’Day’s essence and meaning to the youth of Somaliland

and depiction of what the 18<sup>th</sup> Day of May means to the larger majority who comprise of youth and what it stands for to them.

He gave the address in a well parked hall in the capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa in an event hralding commemoration of the day that the nation of the Republic of Somaliland re-asserted its

independence that it first earned from the colonial masters, the then British Empire hence later entered an unfateful union with the Italian Somaliland of Mogadishu without having the legal binding Charter of the Union being signed.

The subsequent perpetration of constant intimidation, torture and ultimately genocide ensued a

prolonged bitter war that saw Somaliland sever the ties and re-establish its essence as a sovereign entity again.

Ambassador Barkhad noted that the young members of Somalilanders view the lost time in the iuntenable illegal union with the south as a dark and painful memmory forever etched in their minds.



## Somaliland is a security fence in defense of neighbourhood stability, says Ambassador Mohamed Omar Haji



Of note, he said that Somaliland's policy having good relations with all countries.

When asked about the agreement between Somaliland and Ethiopia and the feelings of Djibouti he said that the country is very close to Somaliland and they have good relations hence underpinned the fact that the agreement is very beneficial and that it would prevail at last for the better of all in the region.

"Somaliland is politically related to neighboring countries; socio-politically it has taken to live with them in the best way possible. Somaliland's security and stability has led to the peace of the neighboring countries and good business", he said.

He noted, "We have big threats in the world, you see, there are two big threats where we live, one is the threat of extremism led by Al-Shabaab, and the other is the threat of the Red Sea, both of which we are facing. We have warded off the dangers as long as we could all throughout our existence".

for quite a while.

The ambassador also pointed out that the neighboring countries should understand that Somaliland has been a security wall that has all along been cushioning the threats at the Horn of Africa that has been emanating from situations such as terrorist activity and the tension in the Red Sea marine passage.

He gave the sentiments as he spoke in an exclusive interview with a local

media outlet, MMTV.

Ambassador Mohamed Omar Haji said that Somaliland government and citizens have survived the political storms, conflicts and changes that have been afflicting hence since its existence it has been a sort of a buffer zone that shouldered and vouched for the security and stability of its neighbours.

## Somaliland Diaspora should remain vigilant to the threat of non-Somalilanders and paid trolls



# PRESS RELEASE

constitutional right to vote, and will be electing their president and political parties in just under 171 days.

Indirect campaigning has already begun, and unfortunately the Somaliland Ministry of Foreign Affairs has observed on social media an increase in divisive and hateful rhetoric, particularly from our diaspora.

While we respect everyone's right to free speech, we at MOFA respectfully urge our valued diaspora community to exercise this right intelligently and with wisdom. Elections can stir strong emotions, but it is crucial to express these emotions thoughtfully and to ensure debates remain civil and substantive.

It's also important that you all remain vigilant to the threat of non-Somalilanders and paid trolls, attempting to inject themselves into our electoral processes to create disinformation, distrust and division amongst our citizens.

Remember, the world is watching us, friends and foes alike, so let us show them a mature, civil and progressive Somaliland.

## Berbera Economic Corridor Plays Vital Role to Connect People in Region: President Somali Region Ethiopia



the immense significance of the Berbera Economic Corridor for the development of people-to-people ties in the region.

A panel discussion on the Berbera Economic Corridor and People's Movement is underway in Jigjiga city, Somali Region of Ethiopia.

Mayor of Hargeisa City in Somaliland, Abdulkarim Ahmed Moge; Mayor of Berbera City, Abdushukur Mohamod, Mayor of Borema City; Mohamed Ahmed Warsamena, and the Mayor of Gabilai City, Mohamed Amin Omar are in attendance at the panel discussion organized by Jigjiga University in collaboration with the Jigjiga City Administration and the Ethiopian Cities Forum.

Somali Chief Administrator, Mustefe Muhammad, Jigjiga University Board Chairman, Tesfaye Beljige and officials of Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure and Jigjiga University are also participating in the meeting.

Mustefe said on the occasion that the utilization of the Berbera Economic Corridor is crucial for fostering regional development and strengthening people-to-people connections.

He also highlighted the importance of port and sea transport services for the people in the region.

Jigjiga University Board Chairman

and Chief Government Whip at the House of Representative, Tesfaye Beljige, emphasized the significant role of the development activities along the Berbera Corridor in facilitating the transfer of African trade, services, and capital.

He underscored the importance of the Berbera Economic Corridor in the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063, by boosting trade and investment activities in the region.

Academician from Somaliland and Ethiopia are expected to present and discuss the numerous benefits of the Berbera Economic Corridor, including infrastructure development, the road connectivity to Ethiopia, and the various social and economic advantages it offers to the region.

## Somaliland defies foreign meddling on sea deal

Somaliland has vowed to continue defying and counter-fighting the ongoing smear campaign by what it calls 'arch and historical enemies' to fracture the glowing ties between Addis Ababa and Hargeisa.

The all-weather comradeship between the two neighbors will get more boosts devoid of external meddling, said the Somaliland Ministry of Information in an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*.

Since the signing of the Ethiopia-Somaliland sea deal, some external entities tried to besmirch the very intent of the agreement and bewilder the international community with coordinated propaganda, Director General at the ministry Mustafe Abdi said, "Some Arabian entities that have issues with Ethiopia on the Nile are trying to use us as a weapon to attack our brothers in need. But surely, Somaliland cannot serve as a bullet to hit Ethiopia,"

"We believe Ethiopia is the second country for Somalilanders. Ethiopia was there by our side when we were being subjugated and chased by a dictatorial rule.

"Somaliland people faced

persecution elsewhere. Ethiopia was the only country that hosted fleeing Somalilanders and treated them well when they were killed and tortured by Mohammed Siad Barre", he said. "Somaliland cannot conspire against their second nation. Ethiopia is where they can go and get refuge during turbulent times. It is clear that many Somaliland communities live in Ethiopia and there is also a large population of Ethiopian origin", he added.

"Somaliland has the full right and ability to decide its fate without any external involvement. It is also countering the smearing propaganda campaigns waged by some entities through aggressive communication work. Ethiopia's well-being and security are beneficial to Somaliland", he noted.

To fend off the ongoing acts of meddling and defamatory propaganda, Somaliland media tries to explore Ethiopian media and align their agenda accordingly. Some entities have also tried to cast doubt on the deal saying it is all rhetoric but currently lawmakers are working on the deal and will announce the progress in due time.



# Global charities launch awareness campaign to protect cheetahs in Somaliland



Two international conservation charities have joined forces to launch an awareness campaign in Somaliland, to educate the public about the critical issue of wildlife trafficking, with a specific focus on the cheetahs of the Horn of Africa. The campaign, organized by the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) and the Wild Africa Fund, is aimed at combating the illegal wildlife pet trade in cheetahs from the Horn of Africa.

The charities highlighted the innovative media strategies employed by the Wild Africa Fund to reduce poaching of African elephants and rhinos, which will now be extended to address the

trafficking of cheetahs in the Horn of Africa.

“The initiative underscores a significant step towards protecting Somaliland’s wildlife and raising global awareness about the devastating impacts of illegal wildlife trade,” the CCF said in a statement. The campaign comes amid reports that more than 200 cheetahs have been trafficked into the Middle East annually, out of a regional population of about 400 individuals in the Horn of Africa.

The awareness program, developed in collaboration with Somaliland’s two relevant ministries, included interviews with key government officials and

influential social media personalities, who pledged to use their platforms to advocate for the conservation of wildlife in Somaliland.

The CCF is currently caring for 97 cheetahs rescued from the illegal wildlife pet trade at its Cheetah Rescue and Conservation Center (CRCC) in Geed-Deeble in Somaliland.

The world population of cheetah is less than 7,000 individuals, and this regional subspecies has recently been uplisted by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to “Endangered.”

## Dahabshiil Group constructs emergency wing for Buhoodle Central Hospital

By M.A. Egge

The Dahabshiil Group has laid the foundation stone for the new building the emergency department to be added to the Buhoodle district hospital.

The new building was funded by Dahabshiil Group, Somtel, E-Dahab and Dahab-Plus.

The ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the extension of the general hospital in Buhoodle district, was attended by Buhoodle district officials, traditional leaders, the medical staff community and officials from the Dahabshiil company.

The manager of Dahabshiil Company in Buhoodle, Ismail Ise, highlighted the various development public services that the group has established for the people of Buhoodle and the surrounding areas.

In fact, it is the third project in the health sector alone that they have funded.

Similarly the group had done road constructions and associated services in the area.

He said, “We are laying the foundation stone today for the Central Hospital in Buhoodle, especially the emergency department; the building is part of the renovation of the hospital”.

He continued, “It is not the first time

that this type of construction is carried out in Buhoodle district, it is third work for the health sector”.

He elaborated, “We have contributed a lot to the hospital for mentally ill people and we have handed over an ambulance to the local authorities”.

He added, “We have done a lot of work at the University of East Africa branch in Buhoodle, we have focused on the training hall and the promotion of education services”.

Thus, the philanthropic projects they carried out in the area is unparalleled by any other private institution in the country.

The director of Buhoodle district hospital Dr. Ismail Mohamed Ahmed welcomed the philanthropic activities that the Dahab-Shil company has done at the central hospital in Buhoodle district.

He said. “I welcome Dahab-Shil Company to take a big part in the development of the hospital, and I thank them for responding to the request we made.”

It is not the first time that the company Dahab-shiil Group is involved in development while the public services in Buhoodle district, with the hospital officials promising to steadfastly step up the services they carry out in that district.

# Issuance of vehicle insurance coverage underway



By M.A. Egge

The Somaliland National Insurance Agency has started the implementation of the policy in establishing the services in the country.

A large conference event held for the function of the announcement this week saw the attendance of finance minister Hon. Sa’ad Ali Shire and deputy transport minister Hon. Musa Yusuf Selef and the insurance service providers amongst other officials, transport operators and invited eminent personalities.

A conference discussed the implementation of traffic insurance coverage in Hargeisa, and

members of the cabinet, transport company and insurance companies were announced at the time of the transportation insurance policy.

While making it public that the implementation of the transportation insurance policy will be started in June, the head of the National Insurance Agency Mr. Guled Musa Galal urged the people to take the insurance covers duly.

He further announced that the first 20 clients to obtain the vehicle insurance coverage policy will be for free.

Somaliland’s deputy mayor Hargeisa Khadar Ahmed Omar and

the traffic law enforcement commander revealed that the city roads traffic routes will be reviewed especially in as far as passenger vehicles plying up-country was concerned. They said that the move was to ease traffic vehicles congestion in the city.

Speakers at the event spoke on the imperativeness of having the vehicle insurance coverage, a move they described as on that would ease a lot of burden of the vehicle operators, be they owners or drivers. They also noted that in recent months focus was put on having operators have both road and driver licenses as per the regulations.

## PVPV committee briefs parliamentary committee



By M.A. Egge

The sub-committee on Shariah and family affairs of the Somaliland House of Representatives held a meeting with the national Promotions of Virtue and Prevention of Vices (PVPV) committee hence pondered on ways and means of bolstering concerted efforts in the cooperation and eradication measures to combat bad practices in the country such as blasphemy, immorality, narcotics and associated unwarranted vices.

The chairman of the Parliamentary Shariah and Family Affairs committee Hon. Barkhad Jama Batuun headed the meeting.

The PVPV Committee gave a detailed report on how they fight against narcotics, illegal drugs, immorality, and blasphemy.

The committee promised to create a National Code to address the

issues and ease the services rendered by the PVPV.

The parliamentary committee praised the PVPV committee for their prominent role in the society and how they are engaged in dealing with or eliminating unwarranted vices in the community. Recently an establishment of a new police unit was announced to support the sector in combating vices.

The government has started a plan to secure the information of the displaced people in the country

The National Agency for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons will dispatch teams to collect data information on the displaced persons traversing the regions in the country.

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# Ministry of Energy and Minerals holds meeting with partner stakeholders and Renewable Energy Companies



and Minerals held a meeting, chaired by Minister H.E. Abdullahi Farah Abdi, and flanked by Mr. Mohamed Saeed, the Director General bringing together the Ministry's stakeholders, including Renewable Energy Companies.

The discussion focused on:

1. Engaging with and accelerating the adoption and utilization of renewable energy resources, such as Geothermal, Solar, and Wind power in the country.
2. The Department of Energy presented a new PV (Photovoltaic) regulation to help manage and further develop the renewable energy sector.

By Goth Mohamed Goth

On Thursday, the Ministry of Energy

# Somaliland Government Sends Congratulatory Cables to Ethiopia on Occasion of its National Day

By Goth Mohamed Goth

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations on behalf of our people and the government of the Republic of Somaliland we wish the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Happy National day. Somaliland would like to convey its best wishes and heartfelt congratulations to our brotherly neighbors with whom we share a long history, on commemorating their National Day.



# Issuance of vehicle insurance coverage underway

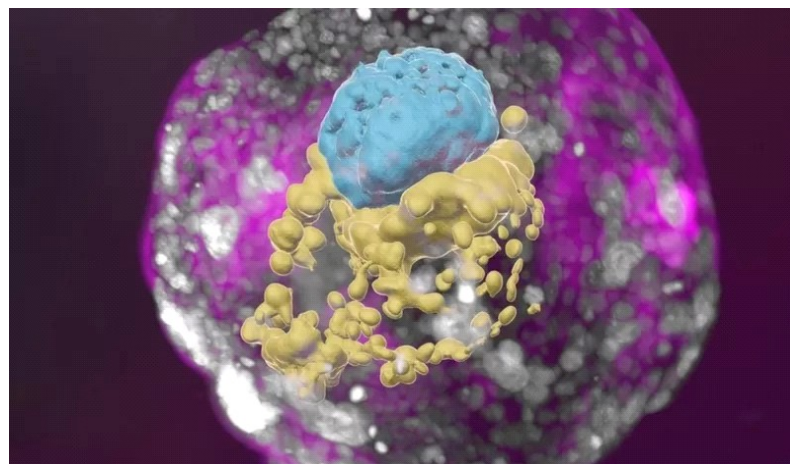
By M.A. Egge

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revealed that the city roads traffic routes will be reviewed especially in as far as passenger vehicles plying up-country was concerned. They said that the move was to ease traffic vehicles congestion in the city. Speakers at the event spoke on the imperativeness of having the vehicle insurance coverage, a move they described as on that would ease a lot of burden of the vehicle operators, be they owners or drivers. They also noted that in recent months focus was put on having operators have both road and driver licences as per the regulations.

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



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

The Weizmann Institute team say their "embryo model", made using stem cells, looks like a textbook example of a real 14-day-old embryo. It even released hormones that turned a pregnancy test positive in the lab. The ambition for embryo models is to provide an ethical way of understanding the earliest moments of our lives. The first weeks after a sperm fertilises an egg is a period of dramatic change - from a collection of indistinct cells to something that eventually becomes recognisable on a baby scan.

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

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

Starting material

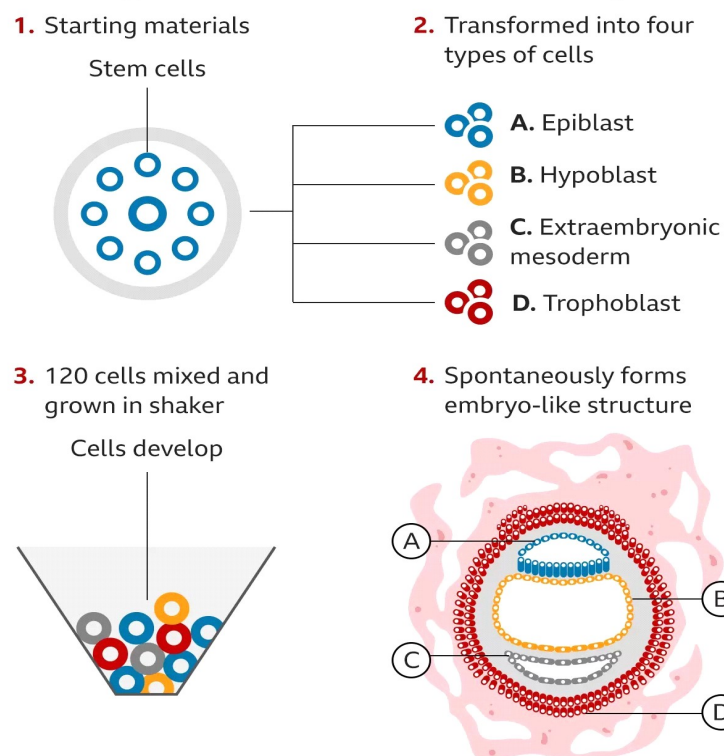
Embryo research is legally, ethically and technically fraught. But there is now a rapidly developing field mimicking natural embryo development. This research, published in the journal *Nature*, is described by the Israeli team as the first "complete" embryo model for mimicking all the key structures that emerge in the early embryo.

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

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

A total of 120 of these cells were mixed in a precise ratio - and then, the scientists step back and watch.

## Creating a model of the human embryo



Source: Nature/Weizmann Institute



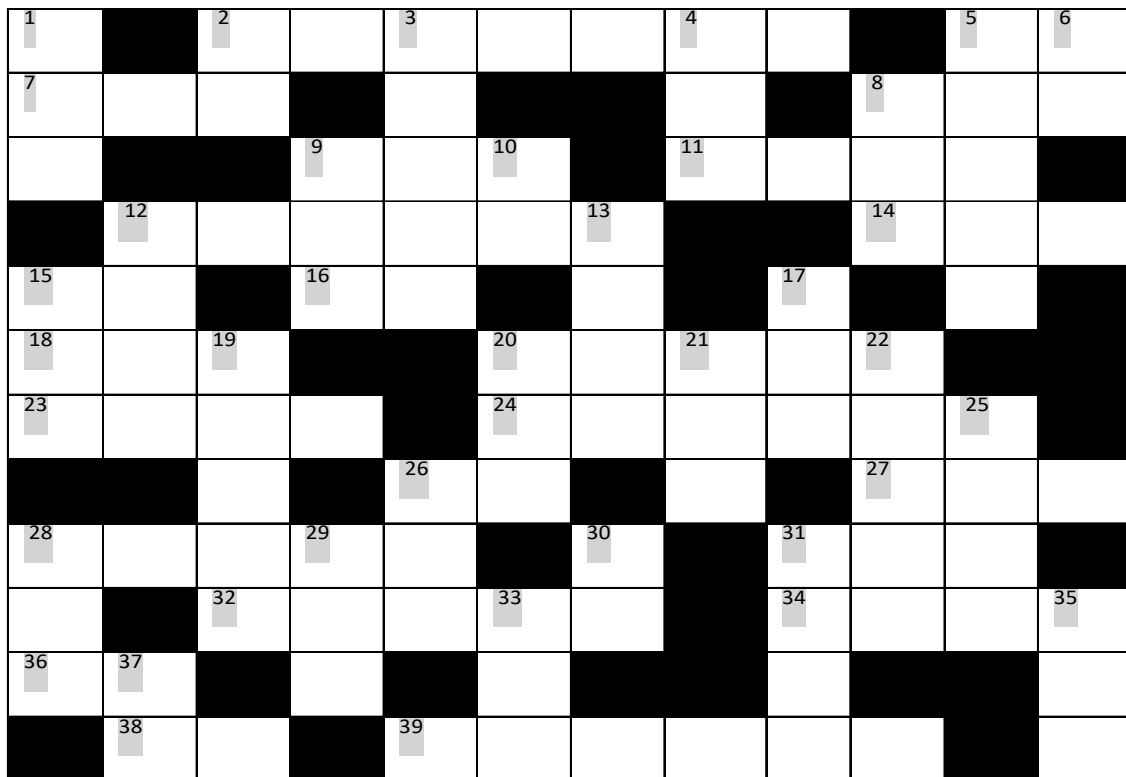
# PVPV committee briefs parliamentary committee

The chairman of the agency Mr. Abdikarim Ahmed Mohamed Hinif, said that it was an annual exercise to collate comprehensive updated data and information. He explained that the data were two

sets, one being the agency's while the other was to be shared by the IOM. He revealed that the findings of the data would be publicized.



# THT Puzzle



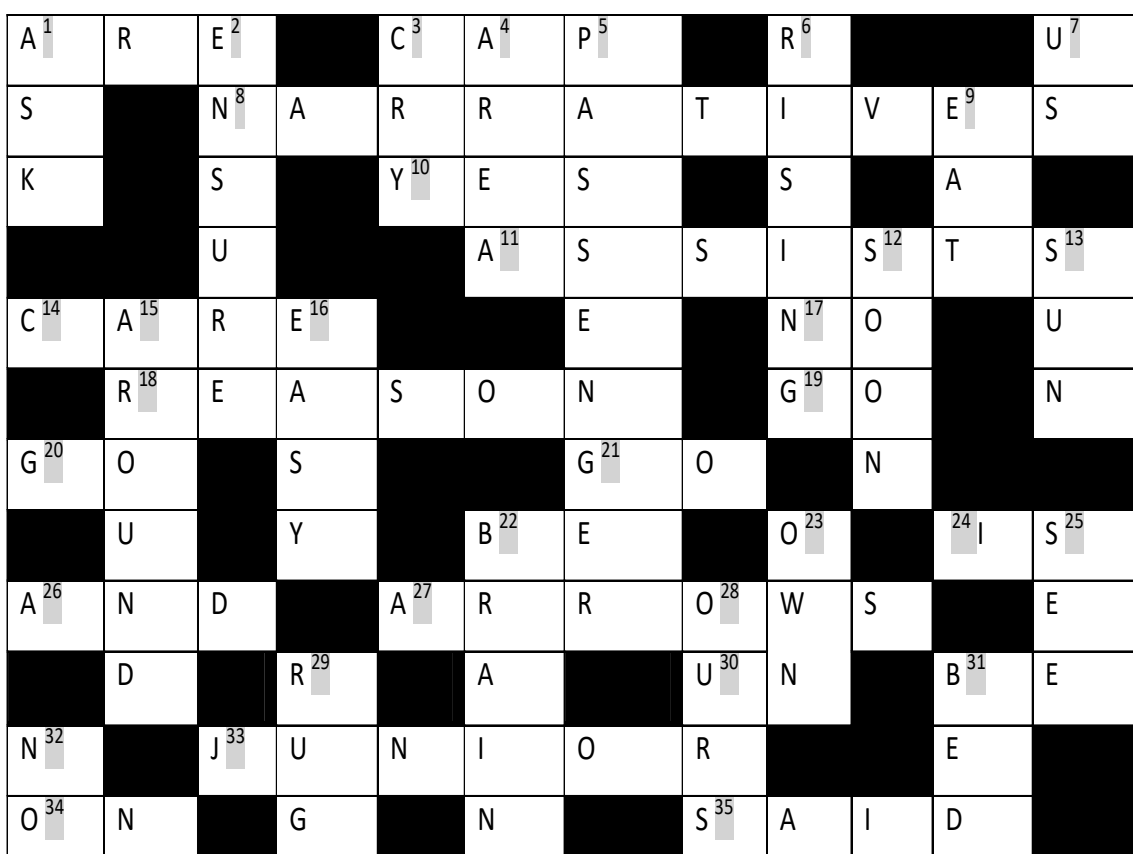
**DOWN**

- 1 Atmosphere
- 2 Identification
- 3 Additional
- 4 Instantly
- 5 Entire
- 6 Proceeding
- 8 Be seated
- 9 Saying
- 10 power systems opposite of AC
- 12 Space
- 13 Alarm uses cars or lorries
- 15 A well known Islamic boxer
- 17 Place something
- 19 Creation
- 20 Firearm
- 21 Lubricant
- 22 Peacetime
- 25 Insult
- 26 Personal or private
- 28 Increase addition
- 29 Cereal
- 30 Remain
- 31 Zone
- 33 Container
- 35 Attempt
- 37 on time

**ACROSS**

- 1 immediate
- 5 toward
- 7 Child
- 8 Youngster
- 9 Unhappy
- 11 Postponement
- 12 Look for/ explore
- 14 knock or touch point
- 15 By the side of
- 16 pronoun
- 18 Rule
- 20 Assembly
- 23 Steely
- 24 Combined
- 26 Scheduled or preposition place or time
- 27 Assistance
- 28 Permit
- 31 Donkey
- 32 Disco
- 34 Time out
- 36 Perform or ensuring
- 39 Twelve-monthly

## Previous Answer



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scotland has also recorded two cases.

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

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

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

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

The variant has been detected in a number of countries around the world. Dr Renu Bindra, incident director at UKHSA, said BA.2.86 had a significant number of mutations compared to other Covid variants circulating at the moment.

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

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

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

Changing dates criticised

The Department of Health and Social Care has been criticised for changing its mind on the start date of the autumn Covid and flu vaccine programme. It usually begins in early September, but was pushed back to October to increase protection in December and January when flu and Covid are more likely to cause problems.

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

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

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

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

# Ethiopia Financial Stability Report



minimum requirement. Thus, at all levels of risk stress, CBE's CAR and liquidity position will remain above the regulatory minima.

40.2 41.6 BY OWNERSHIP  
 Public 54.0 49.5 52.0 46.7 51.3 48.7  
 31.0 27.5 Private 46.0 50.5 48.0 53.4  
 48.7 51.3 69.0 72.6 June 18  
 3.2.1.3 Credit Concentration  
 Banking Industry Credit

exchange, and stringent NBE regulations pertaining to the surrender of foreign currency proceeds. Overall, the loan portfolio across sectors is relatively diversified.

Table 6: Banking Loans by Sector (billion Birr)

Sector	June 2022		June 2023		Change in percentage points (BA)
	Amount (billion Birr)	Share (%) (A)	Amount (billion Birr)	Share (%) (B)	
Agriculture	43.4	4.2	83.7	6.4	2.2
Building & Construction	115.9	11.3	132.3	10.1	-1.2
Manufacturing	260.7	25.3	304.6	23.2	-2.1
Import	118.3	11.5	99.3	7.6	-3.9
Export	176.4	17.1	205.4	15.7	-1.5
Domestic Trade & Services	173.8	16.9	270.9	20.7	3.8
Staff & Consumers	90.7	8.8	138.2	10.5	1.7
Other Business	50.4	4.9	76.5	5.8	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1029.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1311.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: NBE Database

Table 5: Banking Industry Market Shares, June 2023 vs. June 2022 (percent)

Type of bank	Total Assets		Total Loans & Bonds		Total Deposits		Total Capital	
	June 2022	June 2023	June 2022	June 2023	June 2022	June 2023	June 2022	June 2023
<b>BY SIZE CLASS</b>								
Large	54.0	49.5	52.0	46.7	51.3	48.7	31.0	27.5
Medium	26.9	28.0	29.0	30.5	29.5	29.4	28.8	31.0
Small	19.1	22.5	19.1	22.9	19.3	21.9	40.2	41.6
<b>BY OWNERSHIP</b>								
Public	54.0	49.5	52.0	46.7	51.3	48.7	31.0	27.5
Private	46.0	50.5	48.0	53.4	48.7	51.3	69.0	72.6

Source: NBE Database and Off-site Reports

the combined assets and deposits of the 24 small banks 17 accounted for 22.5 percent and 21.9 percent, respectively, of the whole banking sector – an annual increase of 3.4 and 2.6 percentage points, respectively. Likewise, their combined total capital share increased from 40.2 percent of the sector's total capital in 2022 to 41.6 percent at end-June 2023. The growth of the small banks' aggregate market share can be explained by the increase in their number (two more banks had joined the banking sector) and the rapid initial expansion of recently established banks. However, with an individual share in assets, deposits, and loans & bonds of less than one percent, none of the small banks can be considered a systemic bank. Assessment of Systemic Risk

Stemming from Industry Structure As indicated above, CBE is a systemic bank in the Ethiopian banking system and can therefore entail systemic risk. Because of its relatively strong capitalization, CBE is believed to have withstood a number of recent negative domestic and external shocks, including local conflicts and droughts, global inflation, disruptions to the supply chain brought on by the war in Ukraine, changes in the price of oil and other commodities, climate change and others. Yet CBE has a high cushion of regulatory capacity as its capital adequacy ratio (CAR) is significantly above NBE's 8 percent minimum capital requirement, and its liquidity position is also above the 15 percent

However, because the majority of the bank's paid-up capital is government-issued promissory bond (Proclamation No. 994/2017 Government Bond) that has not yet been fully paid for in cash; CBE's capital position requires targeted policy and regulatory attention in the event of unfavorable circumstances. Furthermore, even though the stress tests performed show that the systemic bank is resilient to credit risks (see Section 3.2.1.5 below), NBE will continue to monitor the bank's exposure to loans transferred to the Liability and Asset Management Corporation. 18 Total Assets Total Loans & Bonds Total Deposits Total Capital BY SIZE CLASS Large 54.0 49.5 52.0 46.7 51.3 48.7 31.0 27.5 Medium 26.9 28.0 29.0 30.5 29.5 29.4 28.8 31.0 Small 19.1 22.5 19.1 22.9 19.3 21.9

Concentration by Economic Sector Even though manufacturing continued to account for the largest share of loans and advances (23.2 percent) from Ethiopian banks at end-June 2023, domestic trade and services increased in importance, expanding by 3.8 percentage points to 20.7 percent (Table 6). The faster growth in loans to domestic trade and services could mean that domestic demand for credit financing has increased as a result of the government's import substitution policy,<sup>19</sup> and that banks are turning to domestic business as a result of issues in the global market. Compared to other sectors, the import sector's share of loans declined at a faster pace – by 3.9 percentage points. Main reasons for this were unfavorable international economic conditions such as the war in Ukraine, supply chain problems, shortage of foreign

Banking Industry Credit Concentration The banking sector's loans and advances are concentrated in the hands of a few large borrowers. The top ten borrowers from the banking industry held 23.5 percent of total loans & advances of the banking industry at end-June 2023, a significantly higher share than a year earlier (18.7 percent). Moreover, even though borrowers with an individual credit exposure of above Birr 10 million constituted only 0.5 percent of the total, they held almost three quarters (73.7 percent) of the entire banking sector loans – again, a higher share than the year before. Virtually all loans (99.8 percent at end-June 2023) were held by borrowers from urban areas.<sup>20</sup> 3.2.1.4 Soundness Indicators The commercial banking industry in Ethiopia is considered sound and resilient based on an assessment of To be continue next week