

# The Horn Tribune

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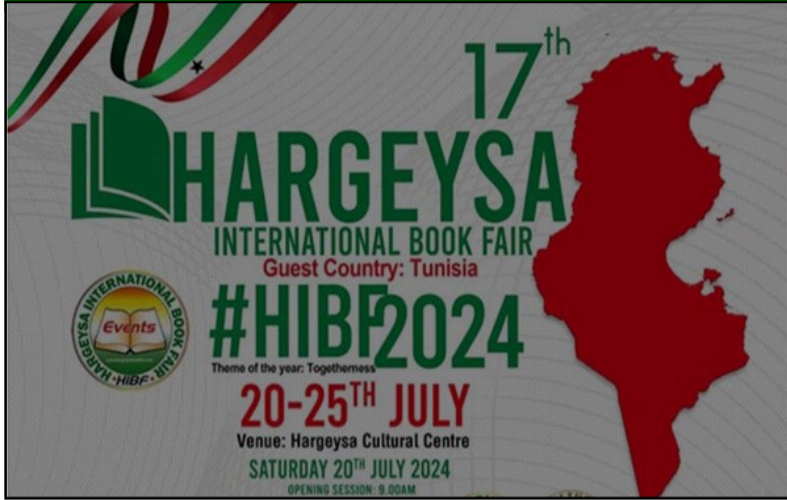
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## Maintain unity to safeguard togetherness, the VP tells the nation as he opens Hargeisa International Book Fair 2024

"If we don't unite, the biggest thing will be the collapse of our security, we are proud of being a democratic nation, let's..." VP Sayli'



By M.A. Egge

The Vice President H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Sayli' has underscored the importance of having a united people in a nation, where the setting is of harmonious setting. The VP underpinned the fact when he opened the 17th Hargeisa International Book Fair on Saturday

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### The director of the HCC reiterated the importance of togetherness at the 17th opening session of the HIBF



The director of the Hargeysa Cultural Center Dr. Jama M. Jama reiterated the importance of togetherness at the 17th opening session of the HIBF. Read below full excerpts of the speech;

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### HCC facilitates educational opportunities for the public every year leading up to HIBF 2024



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### Somaliland, UN discuss bilateral relations, security and decentralization projects



By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Interior of the Republic of Somaliland Mohamed Kahin Ahmed received in his office the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United

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### Central Bank leads operation ridding frontier town of illegal money changers in bid to maintain rates stability



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### National Armed Forces cautions against false claims about serviceman, warns culprits to desist from propagating fake news



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### NEC announces Key Dates for upcoming Presidential elections



By Goth Mohamed Goth

Somaliland National Electoral Commission (NEC) unveiled a schedule of events that will culminate in the declaration of winners for this year's presidential

and party elections.

As previously determined, voters will visit polling stations on November 13, 2024, to elect the state's leader for the next five years and determine

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### Locally Led Climate Action for Community Training Held



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### Somaliland calls on UN to 'urgently re-evaluate' decision to lift Somalia arms embargo after local militias seize two truckloads of weapons



The government of Somaliland has called on the United Nations (UN) and the international community "to urgently

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### Somaliland Institute of Agriculture (SIAR) Unveils Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation



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17th Hargeysa International Book Fair – 20-25 July 2024, Somaliland, Hargeysa



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# Maintain unity to safeguard togetherness, the VP tells the nation as he opens Hargeisa International Book Fair 2024



at the Hargeisa Cultural Centre. In his speech he emphasized the need for solidarity hence reminded the audience that Somaliland was a nation that boasted democratic processes and tradition which is only realised through unity and togetherness. He cautioned that when such togetherness is ruffled, much is stood to be lost. He however noted that there was much goodness realized in uniting a people. He said that vast achievements and benefits reaped through togetherness than when a people are divided. The VP pointed out that it was a year of elections, despite having been post-poned, hence there is even more need in maintaining and safeguarding the prevalent solidarity.

He said that it was an honour for the country to host the exhibition and hailed the efforts of the head of the centre Mr. Jama Musa Jama for his constant efforts and in putting the country in a global map. The fair which has this year's theme is "Togetherness", and Tunisia is a guest nation had its opening graced by the attendance of international participants, eminent personalities from the various councils of the government, diplomats that include those of resident embassies, a horde of artistes and numerous notable personalities. It is worth noting that each year the fair has a partner country as it hosts the expo, with this time round being Tunisia. The event is expected to be held for five days and would have in its itinerary 123 speakers, 35 panels and 3 children's sessions, 24 new

Books (Somali), 22 performance artistes, 16 paint artists, 10 diplomats, 1 circus and 1 Chess and a tradition African "Shax" competition. In a speech delivered by the Vice President, he said that it is a great honour for Somaliland to host the International Book Fair successfully perennially for almost the past two decades. "We thank the cultural centre and its chairman, Jama, and the workers for the hard work they have been doing for 17 years, and they started from scratch, they are very grateful" "It is a great honour for us that every year different countries come to this forum to exchange knowledge and learn a lot from us, and we learn from them", he said. He continued, "This year's theme is togetherness, its value has been widely explained, and today there is a great need for the country and people to be together", and added, "Togetherness is doing a lot in our country and the world where there are many challenges, and togetherness can overcome challenges be they, climate change, drought, education, health, access to clean water or associated issues". He advised the populace to shun tribalism and to think of themselves as constituents. "If we don't unite, the biggest thing will be the collapse of our security, we are proud of being a democratic nation, let's not undermine it", he concluded.

# NEC announces Key Dates for upcoming Presidential elections

the three parties that will be recognized as national parties for the next decade. In stark contrast to Somalia, Somaliland has successfully conducted one-person, one-vote elections since 2001, including a public referendum for the national constitution. Since then, the country has held seven additional elections, comprising three presidential elections, two parliamentary elections, and three local council elections. Since 2002, the upcoming elections on November 13 will mark the ninth instance of elections and the third occurrence of simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections in a country often recognized as an established democracy and a beacon of stability and democratic values, not only within the Horn of Africa but across the entire continent albeit remaining poorly rewarded by an international community which appears to favor 'rump' Somalia to the south – as a U.S. former diplomat calls it. Last week, the Commission assured voters that the NEC was fully prepared for the November 13 elections and did not foresee any issues that would hinder the process, given its active communication with all stakeholders.

"Election Timeline, Operational Plans and Budget: NEC has developed a comprehensive work schedule to oversee election preparations which are progressing as planned. We are currently preparing all necessary equipment and ballot boxes for the election and making excellent progress. Additionally, training, awareness campaigns, and regional and district staff recruitment will begin shortly. The NEC has received a budget of \$7.5 million for the election thus far. Along with the government, NEC have developed a detailed plan for the disbursement of the remaining funds. The NEC is also in discussions with international donors regarding their potential financial contributions to the election budget", a statement of the electoral body released said. In the statement, the Somaliland National Electoral Commission (NEC) clarified that in the upcoming elections, the Biometric Voter Verification System (BVVS) will be employed to verify voters before they cast their ballots. This system, a pioneering technological breakthrough, is utilized by only a select few countries worldwide. Currently, the government is the sole contributor to the available election budget.

celebration of art and creativity in its all forms and shapes of art. You witnessed the starting with traditional dancers. We will have 123 speakers who come to this stage, among them 25 foreign scholars, writers and artists coming from 14 different countries; we have 35 panels (26 Hargeysa and 6 Gailey and 3 children sessions Hargeysa, Gabiley and Arabisiyo); over 30 new Books (mostly Somali new books); 50 performance artists; 16 painters artists; presence of 10 diplomatic missions, a circus for children and STEM entertainments, Chess and Shax competition... We have Tunisia as the Guest country of the HIBF. We welcome our friends to our home, to Somaliland. It is a blessing to have you here with us. You arrived this morning and I know you are tired, but we equally see you the energy in your faces. Welcome. We welcome other guests, some of them are coming next few days. We are together for six days, but as a nation, as global citizens, and as humanity, we need to be together and united against the challenges of the nature, man made and nature challenges. That is why we chose togetherness as the team of the year. When we chose the Somali term "Isahaansho" as the theme of the year, we could have select coexistence, unity, solidarity, as we actually did in the past. But togetherness is stronger. We are together, and we want to be together for celebrations and for existence. It

is a feeling. Togetherness is the pleasant feeling of being united with other people in friendship and understanding. Giving your community a greater sense of togetherness, is to provide an open door with others who want to join. We want to be together for critical dynamics, encompassing climate change, economic challenges, and other pressing issues. For Somalilanders, it is a year of elections. Elections divide. We want to be together and recall this togetherness for the whole year. This year, we have deliberately selected Togetherness as our theme to underscore the resilience demonstrated by Somaliland and the global community in the face of these formidable challenges. Democracy is hard to sustain. Freedom of speech is hard to sustain, so as to the climate change and other major world-wide complications. Somaliland and its resilience could be an example for all. Once again, we are determined to embrace this spirit of resilience and leverage the power of togetherness to address these local and global challenges collectively. I wish you a pleasant stay in Somaliland. For the first time comers, please visit different places of Somaliland, connect to your peers, enjoy the hospitality this nation proofed to the world. Welcome to Somaliland, Welcome to the Hargeysa International Book Fair.

# Somaliland, UN discuss bilateral relations, security and decentralization projects

Nations attached to UNSOM, George Conway. Their discussions mainly entailed the cooperation between the Republic of Somaliland and the United Nations, security and development projects, such as the JPLG decentralization programmes. The minister gave the representative information about the security situation of the Republic of Somaliland, the projects and activities of the two sides that are essential to the nation. The Minister expressed the concern of the Government of the Republic of Somaliland regarding the illegal weapons flowing into Somalia, which has in the last few days seen vast caches of illegal weapons make way to the hands of tribal militias and militants in Somalia which threatens the stability and security of the Horn of Africa region as a whole. On the other hand, the Minister shared with the United Nations



officials the importance of the Government of the Republic of

Somaliland and the Government of Ethiopia on the agreement signed by the President of the Republic of Somaliland Mr. Muse Bihi Abdi and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia earlier in the year. The meeting ended with mutual understanding. The Minister was accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Security of the Ministry of Interior Abdillahi Hussein Mohamed and the Director General of Security Mubarik Ahmed Ali.

## The director of the HCC reiterated the importance of togetherness at the 17th opening session of the HIBF

His excellency the vice president of the Republic of Somaliland, the mayor of our capital, other members of the executive, leaders of our political parties, members from the parliament, commanders of our forces, council of Somaliland artists, youth from different regions, ladies and gentlemen. Dear friends, Good morning.

It is blessing day. 17th years of the Hargeysa International Book Fair opens its doors today. And we are together one more time. It is a major target of this movement for the commitment to promote the reading and writing culture among our society, especially among the youth. The consistent yearly event goes beyond the book, and as you know, and as you will witness, it is

## Somaliland calls on UN to 'urgently re-evaluate' decision to lift Somalia arms embargo after local militias seize two truckloads of weapons



incident in Aabud Waq, where civilians and clan militias captured a large cache of weapons and ammunition from the Mogadishu government, further highlights the critical security situation," Somaliland said.

Ethiopia was among the countries that advocated for the lifting of the three-decades arms embargo. Following a two-day official visit in September 2023 to Addis Abeba by Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Ethiopia officially joined Somalia and other countries and called upon the UN Security Council (UNSC) "to consider the request of the Federal Governments of Somalia for the lifting of the arms embargo imposed on the country for more than 30 years."

The UN Security Council (UNSC) subsequently lifted the arms embargo on Somalia in December of the same year after 31 years. Somalia welcomed the decision and said it would enable its security forces to effectively tackle security threats including from Al-Shabaab militants.

However, Somaliland had objected to the decision from the get go, and once again repeated its position in the statement on Tuesday. "The subsequent proliferation of these captured arms, now widely documented on social media, raises serious questions about the wisdom and timing of this decision," Somaliland said.

Adis Standard

re-evaluate their decision to lift the arms embargo" on Somalia.

"We urge the international community to take immediate steps to address this crisis and prevent further destabilization of the region," according to a statement by the Somaliland Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued on Tuesday.

Somaliland's concern followed the news earlier this week that local militias seized two truckloads of weapons from government forces in the village of Shiilamaow, about 20 kilometers northwest of Abudwak town, close to the Ethiopian border, according to a report by the VOA, which also stated the weapons included "DshK and PKM machine guns, AK-47 assault rifles, pistols, and ammunition."

Somalia's Internal Security Ministry admitted the incident and said the

weapons were initially seized by government security forces from "illegal weapons traders" and were being escorted when local armed militias erected a checkpoint and intercepted the weapons.

citing a local official as saying, the news stated that "the local militias overpowered government forces after receiving reinforcements from clansmen." The incident resulted in the death of 12 people, including two soldiers.

"The Government of the Republic of Somaliland expresses grave concern over the alarming escalation of arms proliferation in Somalia, as evidenced by recent events. In the past three months, Al-Shabaab has successfully seized substantial quantities of weaponry from government forces in central Somalia. Moreover, the recent

## HCC facilitates educational opportunities for the public every year leading up to HIBF 2024

The Hargeisa Cultural Center has allowed different citizens to benefit from different education offered.

The education provided by HCC before HIBF includes a Somali creative writing course, Professional library and Archive Training, a GIS course,

A message posted by HCC on their Twitter account reads;

"Thank you to all the talented participants who participated in our pre-HIBF2024 Somali Creative Writing Course! Your dedication and passion for storytelling were truly incredible. We can't wait to see where your creative journey takes you next

Every year, young teenagers benefit



from the knowledge that HCC facilitates for the community in the

days before the start of the international book fair.

## Central Bank leads operation ridding frontier town of illegal money changers in bid to maintain rates stability

By M.A. Egge

Illegal money changers have been rounded up in Tog-wajaale town in a clean-up operation campaign led by the Central Bank at the end of the week in efforts to cushion exchange rates stability.

In a bid to rogue out illegal money changers at the vibrant frontier town, the exercises led by none other than

the Director of the Central Bank himself Mr. Mohamed Qasim Hussein Dalmar, around seventy unlicensed money changers were rounded up and had their operations curtailed and their tools of the trade and working facilities confiscated. The administration of Tog-Wajale district and all the area security

agencies participated in the operation meant to curb disruptions of the main exchange rates hence curtail scamming which spikes them.

The DG reminded the people that the Central Bank's rules guiding the regulations of exchange rates ought to be adhered hence the stakeholders in the business have

## National Armed Forces cautions against false claims about serviceman, warns culprits to desist from propagating fake news

By M.A. Egge

The command of the National Army has cautioned of fake news being circulated about Somaliland servicemen presently undergoing training in Ethiopia have had mishaps befall hence sternly warned those behind the allegations to desist from it immediately.

The military headquarters not only scoffed at and retorted to the allegations but warned the culprits that stern action would be taken against those peddling the lies.

The members of the public have also been assured by the strength of a press release that all the servicemen in training are safe and sound and that the claims were a mere flimsy and baseless lies being peddled.

A statement from the National Armed Forces press office circulated to the media on Friday

read as "follows:

The command of the Somaliland National Army assures all the people of Somaliland that there is nothing true about the news concerning the Somaliland servicemen who are undergoing military training Ethiopia, hence they are safely and soundly undertaking their training programmes.

"The command of the National Army is warning all people who spread lies and wrong information about the National Army to refrain from it forthwith; otherwise, they will be subjected to legal actions taken against them". END.

The statement from the military headquarters follows the fake news and propaganda spread and peddled in the social media claiming that the Somaliland servicemen currently undergoing military training in Ethiopia has had mishaps fallen upon them.

## Locally Led Climate Action for Community Training Held



By Goth Mohamed Goth  
Geed Beer, Rejo Beer Initiative has been empowering grassroots communities for Locally Led Climate Action and supporting Young people over the past few weeks.

On Wednesday, the hashtag#GeedBeer, in collaboration with Oxfam Somali, organized a two-day Training on "Locally Led Climate Action for Community" at hashtag#Abaarso

Village. This training program was part of the African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) Program.

The training program was designed to equip local communities with the knowledge, skills, and capacity to take direct action against climate change. The focus was on helping community members identify climate risks, develop and implement localized solutions, and drive sustainable change from the ground up.



to be registered and licensed. He gave a stern warning to operators who flout the law that action would be taken against them swiftly.

He revealed that those they rounded up hence found to have flouted the

regulations number 70. Given that Wajaale is a border town and the main gateway to Ethiopia cherishing vibrancy in the commercial sector, it was precarious and a soft spot to disrupt the exchange rates since there was a myriad of money changers.

# 17<sup>th</sup> Hargeysa International Book Fair – 20-25 July 2024, Somaliland, Hargeysa

Growing with prominence in the Horn of Africa and Beyond as a yearly cultural festival, the Redsea Cultural Foundation, through its Hargeysa Cultural Centre, once again is organizing the most vibrant festival for the 17th time this year at Hargeysa, Somaliland. The Hargeysa International Book Fair (HIBF), which started as a reading and writing culture promotion in a nation that is recovering from a civil war, is now an iconic platform beyond books and reading promotion. Effective in addressing its founding mission, responding to the fear of losing Somali art and cultural expressions such as poetry and theatre due to the destruction that forced the community to refuge, including the leading artists, it has year after year set the boundaries and firmly created a community of art and knowledge production. Its sister institutions, the Berbera Cultural Centre, the Somaliland Centre for African Studies, and the publishing arm all collaborate to make the festival a melting pot of academic, literary, entertainment, and diplomatic relations.

With youth and women at its epicentre, and because of the country's political situation (i.e. unrecognized), it turned out to be the flagship interface for the international community to connect to Somaliland and vice versa. It became an open window for the young to engage with the world and for the international community to engage with Somaliland people when political restrictions do not allow direct engagement with the government. This has significantly shaped so many people's identification of Somaliland with the Book Festival and the Cultural Centre, and vice versa. The consistency in hosting the fair with an ever-increasing number is a testimony to the call to have the festival, which was a well-tough action. The community it has created is beyond 70,000, bringing together global, regional, local, and diaspora communities. Accordingly, the 17th anniversary of the annual Hargeysa International Book Fair will be held from the 20th to 25th of July in Hargeysa, Somaliland. The year's theme is **Togetherness**, and the Guest country is **Tunisia**. The first fair had

the theme of Freedom in 2008, followed by censorship in 2009. The remaining themes up to now included Citizenship (2010), Collective Memory (2011), Visualizing the future (2012), Journey (2013), Imagination (2014) Spaces, (2015), Leadership & Creativity (2016), Wisdom (2017), Connectivity, (2018) Coexistence, (2019), COVID19, (2020), Neighborhood, (2021), Solidarity for 2022, Resilience in 2023. Over the years, we have welcomed Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, Djibouti, Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda, Egypt, and Ethiopia, Senegal, and the last Guest Country was Morocco in 2023.

### **Togetherness: The Theme of the Year**

The world is currently grappling with critical dynamics, encompassing climate change, economic challenges, and other pressing issues. This year, we have deliberately selected **Togetherness** as our theme to underscore the resilience demonstrated by Somaliland and the global community in the face of these formidable challenges. Once again, we are determined to embrace this spirit of resilience and leverage the power of togetherness to address these global challenges collectively. It's imperative to recognize that climate change is at the core of many catastrophic incidents in the region, leading to recurrent droughts, unexpected flooding, and global warming. The sustainability of traditional livelihoods in the Horn of Africa is increasingly under threat due to these climate-related impacts. It's crucial to acknowledge these challenges and take decisive action as a global community which we believe the theme of the year embraces.

### **Tunisia: The Guest Country**

The Guest Country representatives in the festival have consistently fostered a strong sense of Pan-African unity, and togetherness allowing for the exchange of culture. This year by hosting Tunisia we are expanding the cultural exchange between Northern and Eastern Africa which existed beyond time. The participation of Tunisia is

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## Somaliland Institute of Agriculture (SIAR) Unveils Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation



By Goth Mohamed Goth Hargeisa, Somaliland – The Somaliland Institute of Agriculture Research (SIAR) has unveiled a comprehensive strategy plan aimed at revolutionizing the country's agricultural sector and enhancing food security. The plan outlines ambitious goals, strategies, and action steps to address the pressing challenges faced by Somaliland's farmers. At the heart of SIAR's strategy is a commitment to boosting agricultural productivity, improving livelihoods, and building resilience to climate change. The institute aims to achieve this through cutting-edge research, technology transfer, and capacity building. Key objectives of the strategy plan include:

- Increasing crop yields through drought-resistant, short-duration, and high-yielding varieties, as well

- as improved agronomic practices.
- Import and evaluate new high-value crop varieties suitable for Somaliland's diverse agro-ecological conditions.
- Reducing post-harvest losses to minimize food wastage.
- Strengthening SIAR's research capacity through human capital development and infrastructure upgrades.
- Improving farmers' incomes by promoting value-added agricultural products and facilitating access to credit.
- Building resilience to climate change through the adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices.

To achieve these goals, SIAR will collaborate with farmers, government agencies, research institutions, and development partners. The institute will also prioritize knowledge sharing, capacity building, and technology

transfer to empower farmers and promote sustainable agricultural practices. The strategy plan outlines a clear roadmap for the next three years (2025-2027), with specific activities, timelines, and responsible departments. It also emphasizes the importance of monitoring and evaluation to track progress and make necessary adjustments. SIAR's leadership expressed optimism about the plan's potential to transform Somaliland's agricultural sector and improve the lives of rural communities. They emphasized the institute's commitment to working closely with farmers and other stakeholders to ensure the plan's success. As Somaliland strives to achieve food security and economic growth, the implementation of this strategic plan is expected to play a pivotal role in realizing the country's agricultural potential.

# 17<sup>th</sup> Hargeysa International Book Fair – 20-25 July 2024, Somaliland, Hargeysa

particularly exciting, given its significant role in ancient civilizations and as a crucial link between the Mediterranean and Africa. The country's present-day social, political, and environmental dynamics not only captivate interest but also hold paramount importance for global comprehension. Tunisia's rich architectural and heritage landscapes, coupled with its preservation efforts, will serve as a key topic in intercontinental dialogues. Furthermore, the influence of religious monuments on the nation's educational journey, exemplified by the magnificent mosque of Kairouan, reflects the pivotal role of Islam in the advancement and dissemination of knowledge.

### Prominent Guest Speakers

The festival brings together prominent global, regional, and local figures and influential people. We have more than 30 nations joining us from around the world. These are just very few among the massive pool.

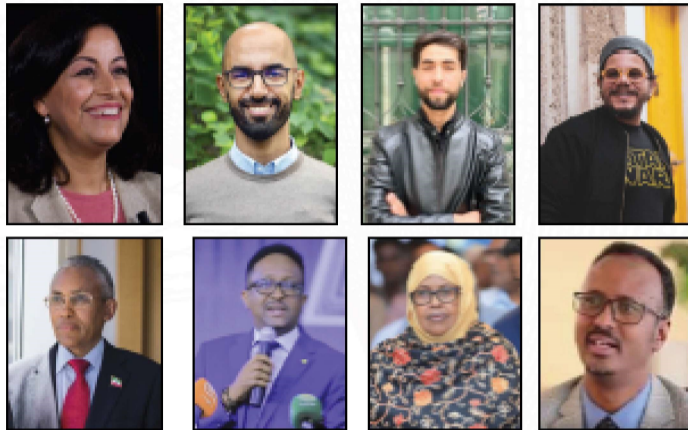
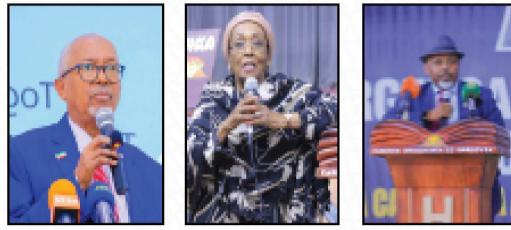
**Dr Edna Adan Ismail**, Patron of the Hargeysa International Book Fair, won the 2023 Templeton Prize award in recognition of her extraordinary efforts to harness the



power of the sciences to affirm women's dignity and help them flourish physically and spiritually. She is a nurse-midwife, hospital founder, and healthcare advocate who has courageously changed cultural, religious, and medical norms surrounding women's health in East Africa, improving the lives of thousands of women and girls in the region and beyond. Her many achievements include the founding of the Edna Adan University and Edna Adan Hospital, which has significantly reduced maternal mortality in Somaliland, and her tireless campaign to end female genital mutilation (FGM) around the world.



**Minister Shukri Ismail Bandare**, Minister for Environment and Climate Change of Somaliland is a long-serving minister who has led several key government ministries.



She is a robust environment advocate and wildlife protection campaigner in Somaliland and beyond. **Amina Milgo** is the current chairperson of the Board of the Redsea Cultural Foundation. She is Somaliland's most prominent women's issues advocate and change agent. Her role in research, policy, and leadership is exemplary, and she has received recognition from Somaliland's government.

### Guest Country Representatives

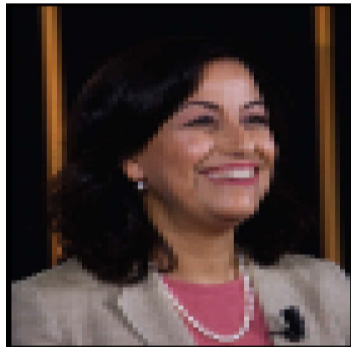
**Dhafer Bin Khalifa** is an academic and co-founder of the Creative Collective Association in 2016, a grouping of several cultural and creative projects based in the Medina of Tunis that aims to promote culture through CCI. His work encompasses a multidisciplinary approach involving various subjects, such as ecological resilience through creative solutions and entrepreneurship development in ICC fields, particularly crafts, to bridge the gap between the university and its ecosystem. He has



over a decade of experience in PFE SFE projects, including international experience in Spain, Belgium, and Portugal. **Dhafer** also serves as the 4 C Career Centre director, supporting graduates in professional integration and entrepreneurial project development.

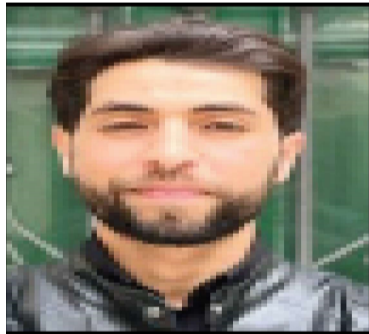
**Leila Ben-Gacem** is a social entrepreneur, Ashoka Fellow; founder of Blue Fish, a consultancy that designs and implements projects to improve the economic dynamics of heritage and culture. Leila is the general manager of TUNISTORIC, founder of Dar el Harka, a community co-working space and founder of Dar Ben Gacem, a Boutique Hotel, and

shared-economy catalyst, in the medina of Tunis. **Leila** is a co-founder and president of Mdinti, Medina's first economic interest group. Leila is also the treasurer of



UltraMirage El Djerid, and was an elected city council member, at her native town of Beni-Khalled. Before switching careers, Leila held various positions at multinational corporations and has a BS in Biomedical Engineering.

**Firas Khelifi**, an engineer with a



Master of Science in Ecological Intensification of Agricultural Systems. An environmentalist deeply committed to defending nature, biodiversity, and combating climate change in urban areas. The founder and organizer of TEDxPasha Street, the first TEDx event in the Medina of Tunis, aimed at empowering the youth to design urban solutions and foster cultural dynamics. Additionally, the founder and leader of JCI EL Médián, an NGO focused on youth empowerment to enhance their sense of belonging and improve urban resilience.



**Mr. Jamel Ben Saidan**, is the most famous advocator for the Medina of Tunis, who tirelessly shares urban legacies with visitors from all over the world, and is the best representative of the Medina of Tunis.

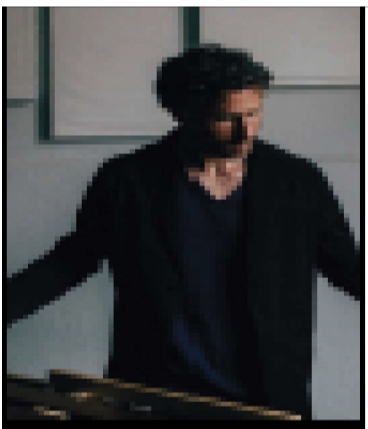


**Mr. Yikunnoamlak Mezgebu**, Director of the Ethiopian National Archive and Libraries Agency

**Nerisa Kamar**, library and information management expert and Project Coordinator - Information Africa Organization, Kenya



**Sven Kacirek** is a German musician and producer who brings in a unique blend of electronic and traditional elements and has been



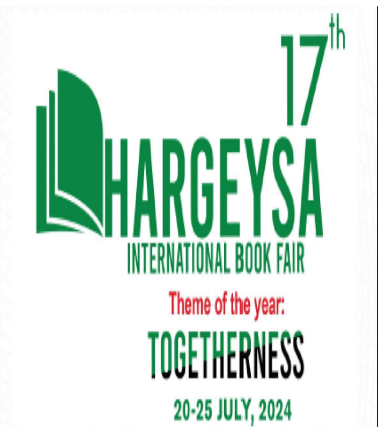
part of several music co-production projects within the region, including collaborations with local artists.

**Suad Ibrahim** is a leading woman



and gender inclusivity advocate. She was also one of the highly expected parliamentarian contenders for the 2020-21 elections. Her clan nominated her, making her the first female nominee to represent a clan.

**Sadia Muse** is a parliamentarian Candidate for the 2020-21 elections as a representative from the Sanaag region. She is also the Director of PENHA Somaliland.



### Social media tags

- Follow us
- on twitter @HIBF, official hashtag #HIBF2024.
- on FB fb.com/HargeysaBookFair or fb.com/XaruntaDhaqankaHargeysa
- web: [www.redsea-online.org](http://www.redsea-online.org)
- e-mail: [info@hargeysabookfair.or](mailto:info@hargeysabookfair.or)

### HIBF 2024 Program: Hargeysa Cultural Centre

Day One: Saturday, 20th of July 2024 - MC Dr Fatumo Abdi

#### 09.00-09.10: Opening Session

Chaired by: **Dr. Jama Musse Jama**, Director of the Redsea Cultural Foundation  
[National Anthem(s) | Welcome message]

#### 09:10-09:40 Session One:

##### Welcoming Remarks:

**H.E. Abdikarim Ahmed Moge**, Mayor of Hargeysa City.

A word from Somaliland Business on behalf of Local Support of the HIBF.

Poetry Reading about **Togetherness** by a young poet.

A word from **Dr Edna Adan Ismail** Patron of the Hargeysa International Book Fair.

Ambassadorial Delegation: One on behalf of all: The delegation being present at the opening are EU, Germany, Danish, Taiwan, British Office, Swiss, UAE, Ethiopia, Kenya, Turkey.

#### 09:40 - 11:00 Session two:

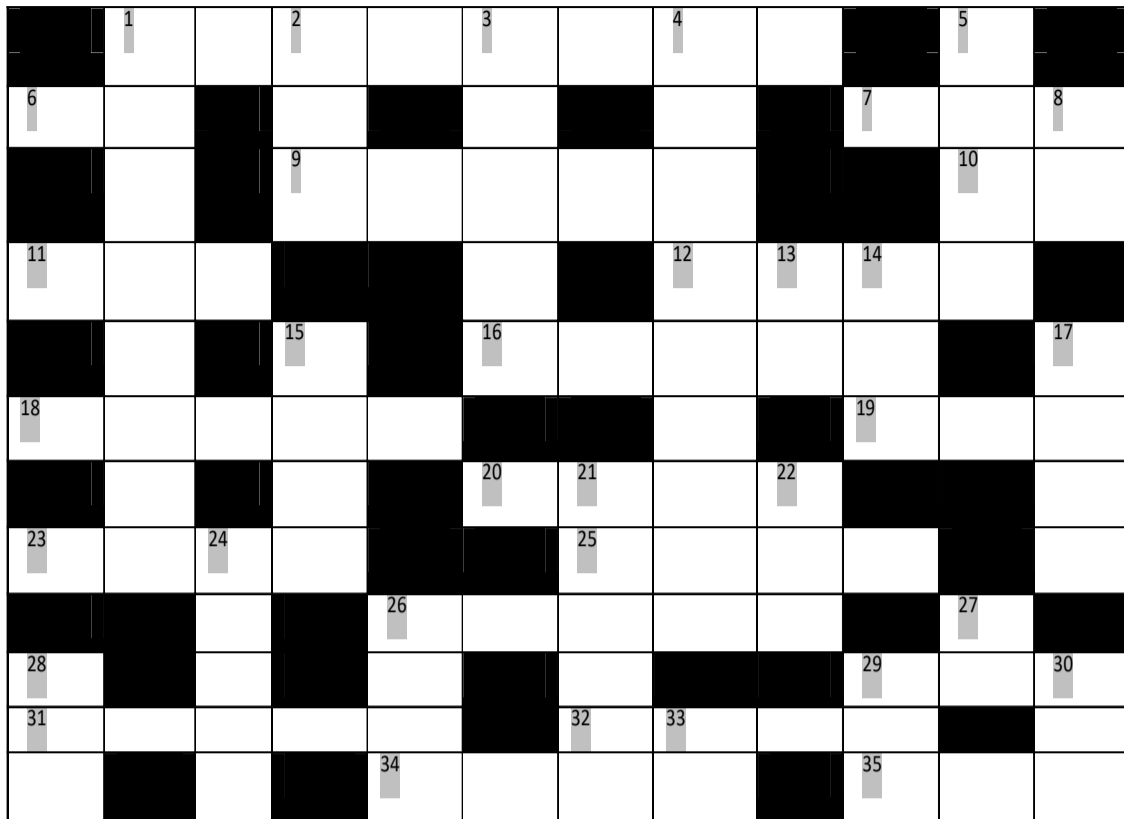
##### Hargeysa International Book Fair Official Opening Ceremony

**The theme of the Year: Togetherness** by **Ayaanle Ahmed Yasin**, former deputy Speaker of the parliament and scholar.

**Official Opening**  
Vice President of Somaliland Republic **HE. Abdirahman**

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# THT Puzzle



**Across**

- 1 publish/ broadcast
- 6 otherwise
- 7 father
- 9 in which one
- 10 Negative
- 11 snows
- 12 simple
- 16 northern
- 18 chocolates
- 19 swallow/ dinner
- 20 pop group
- 23 vicinity
- 25 CT scan
- 26 established
- 29 network
- 31 jeans
- 32 period
- 34 exams
- 35 wetness

**Down**

- 1 wing chair
- 2 right now
- 3 confederation
- 4 consistency
- 5 countless
- 8 make
- 31 by the side of
- 14 that girl (pronoun)
- 15 brainstorm
- 17 continues
- 21 belongings
- 22 father
- 24 occurrence
- 26 chosen
- 27 Pronoun
- 28 secret agent
- 29 latest
- 30 at most

## Previous Answer

B <sup>1</sup>	A	K	E <sup>2</sup>	S <sup>3</sup>		S <sup>4</sup>	W <sup>5</sup>	E	E	T	S <sup>6</sup>
E			S <sup>7</sup>	T	A	T	E				O
G <sup>8</sup>	O <sup>9</sup>		T <sup>10</sup>	O		A		T <sup>11</sup>	A <sup>12</sup>	B <sup>13</sup>	
S <sup>14</sup>	C	R	A	P		F <sup>15</sup>	O <sup>16</sup>	R	C	E	S
	E		T		O <sup>17</sup>	F	F	I	C	E	
T <sup>18</sup>	A	K	E		R		F <sup>19</sup>	E	E		S <sup>20</sup>
	N			I <sup>21</sup>		B <sup>22</sup>	I	D	S		O
T <sup>23</sup>		S <sup>24</sup>	I	N	G		C		S <sup>25</sup>	U	N
R		O		T		R <sup>26</sup>	E	D <sup>27</sup>			
I		N <sup>28</sup>	E	E	D <sup>29</sup>			A <sup>30</sup>	I	R	S <sup>31</sup>
B <sup>32</sup>	E	G		R <sup>33</sup>	A	I	N <sup>34</sup>	Y			O
E		S <sup>35</sup>	O		D		O <sup>36</sup>	S	L	O	

# 17<sup>th</sup> Hargeysa International Book Fair – 20-25 July 2024, Somaliland, Hargeysa

**Abdallahi Ismail Saylici**  
**The Cultural and Artistic Performance of Tunisia and Somaliland**

Traditional dance performances of Tunisia will be performed by Halkar Academy, a traditional dancers based in Somaliland. Known for their vibrant performances and skilled choreograph.

**11.00-11.30[Break – media meeting]**

**Opening of Exhibition of Paint Arts Featuring Togetherness**

**11:30-12:30 Guest Country Panel**

The Guest Country panel is a foundational program of the Hargeysa International Book Fair, serving the mission of uniting nations across the continent. Since 2012, it has been an integral part of the Fair, fostering connections between Somaliland and the Guest countries in the spirit of Pan-Africanism. This year, Tunisia will be the highlighted Guest country, with emphasis on the perspectives of the representatives who represent diverse backgrounds but share a commitment to the promotion of art, culture, and heritage.

**Panellists**

**Dhafer Bin Khalifa** is an academic and co-founder of the Creative Collective Association in 2016, a grouping of several cultural and creative projects based in the Medina of Tunis that aims to promote culture through CCI. His work encompasses a multidisciplinary approach involving various subjects, such as ecological resilience through creative solutions and entrepreneurship development in ICC

fields, particularly crafts, to bridge the gap between the university and its ecosystem. He has over a decade of experience in PFE SFE projects, including international experience in Spain, Belgium, and Portugal. Dhafer also serves as the 4 C Career Centre director, supporting graduates in professional integration and entrepreneurial project development.

**Leila Ben-Gacem** is a social entrepreneur, Ashoka Fellow; founder of Blue Fish, a consultancy that designs and implements projects to improve the economic dynamics of heritage and culture. Leila is the general manager of TUNISTORIC, founder of Dar el Harka, a community co-working space and founder of Dar Ben Gacem, a Boutique Hotel, and shared-economy catalyst, in the medina of Tunis. Leila is a co-founder and president of Mdinti, Medina's first economic interest group. Leila is also the treasurer of UltraMirage El Djerid, and was an

elected city council member, at her native town of Beni-Khalled. Before switching careers, Leila held various positions at multinational corporations and has a BS in Biomedical Engineering.

**Firas Khelifi** is an environmentalist deeply committed to defending nature's biodiversity and combating climate change in urban areas as an engineer with a Master of Science in Ecological Intensification of Agricultural Systems. He is also the founder and organizer of TEDxPasha Street, the first TEDx event in the Medina of Tunis, aimed to empower youth to design urban solutions and foster cultural dynamics. He is also the founder and leader of JCI EL Médian, an NGO focused on empowering youth to enhance their sense of belonging and improve urban resilience.

**Jamel Ben Saidan**, a renowned advocator for the Medina of Tunis, tirelessly shares urban legacies with visitors worldwide and is the best representative of the Medina of Tunis.

**Chaired by: Fatima Omer**, is a distinguished certified strategic communications and marketing professional with over 17 years of experience working with top Fortune 500 companies. She has collaborated with the world's largest media outlets and currently serves as a senior Communications Advisor to the Somaliland Ministry of Foreign Affairs, leading their strategic communication initiatives. In 2018, she founded Papaya Creative Group, a pioneering agency in Hargeisa specializing in Marketing, Communications, and Design. Using her extensive experience, Fatima is also a dedicated media literacy advocate focusing on digital media literacy in Somaliland.

**12.30-13.00 Music & Traditional Dance, Art Galleries / photography, and Book Browsing**

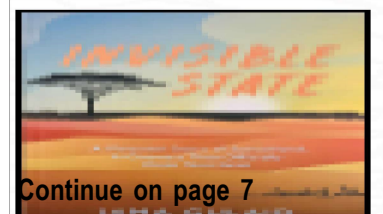
**Lunch Break**

**16.30-17.00: Book Launch**

**The Invisible State**; by Dr Jama Gullied presented by Mohamed Barud Ali the author of *Weerane* and colleague and friend of the author.

**Taariikh ku saabsan guriga dariiqada Sheekh** by Sayid-Ahmed Dhegey, presented by Mohamed Sharma'arke.

**Chaired by: Rooble Mohamed** Consultant, Communications Specialist and University Lecturer.



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# 17<sup>th</sup> Hargeysa International Book Fair – 20-25 July 2024, Somaliland, Hargeysa



Leila Ben-Gacem  
Speaker

Firas Khelifi  
Speaker

Dhafer Bin Khalifa  
Speaker

Jamel Ben Saidan  
Speaker

Fatima Omer  
Moderator

### 17:00-18:00 Panel 2: Knowledge Production in Somaliland

The evolving research landscape in the Global South is gradually being reshaped, predominantly through the establishment of regional centres for knowledge production led by local academics. This shift is further reinforced by the collaborative partnerships being forged, marking a departure from the previously tilted dynamics, where the Global North held a dominant position within the global system. The panel aims to bring together academic institutions engaged in the production of scholarly knowledge through Think Tank deliberations and journal publications in Somaliland. The discussion will centre on the transformative developments that have transpired, the conducive local environments, and the strategies required to sustain and elevate them into globally influential voices, fostering knowledge production that is locally grounded yet globally impactful.

#### Panelists

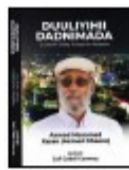
**Dr. Mohamed Hassan** Founder and Director of The Rako Research and Communication Centre

Peace & Development (APD). Also, he manages APD's Institute of Public Policy. In the past few years, he led and supervised several research projects on political economy, local governance/ decentralization, climate change, and policy-related topics. Mr. Elmi studied political economy at Westminster College in Missouri, USA. Additionally, he received a Masters of Philosophy (MPhil) in economic history from the University of Cambridge, in the UK.

**Tirsit Yetbarek** Head of Somaliland Centre for African Studies (SCAS). She is the host of the Academic Dialogue in Hargeysa (ADIH) an academic discussion platform and the Associate Editor of Dhaxalreeb the Bi-annual academic journal of SCAS.

**Faheema Haji-Ibrahim** is the Academic Coordinator of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) at Hargeysa University. She is currently a Ph.D candidate at the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom (UK). Her research area focuses on the education relevance, employability and sustainable career path for youth in somaliland.

**Abdikadir Mohamed** lead researcher at HIR Institute for Research and Development an



### the Author: Captain Ahmed Mohamed Hassan

Captain Ahmed Mohamed Hassan, known as Ahmed Dheere, is a Somali former Air Force pilot known for refusing to follow his orders to bomb the city of Hargeysa, during the dictatorial rule of Mohamed Siad Barre of Somalia. In an interview in 2009 with BBC Somali the author said that it was his duty as a human being to save the lives of defenceless and innocent people, adding that he refused to be a vessel for destruction and that it is only other people who make his actions seem heroic.

**Samsam Abdi Adan** is former minister of Education as well as former minister of Finance of Somaliland. She founded SOMRA (one of the first Local NGOs who supported Somaliland people when the country was liberated). In the past she led the National Library. In 1988 when the bombardment of Hargeysa was happening, Samsam was among the citizens who fled from Hargeysa. She will relate the story of destruction and ... of the women and children who were fleeing from Hargeysa under the aerial bombardment.

in conversation is about this biography of Pilot Ahmed, and the story behind this refusal. Edited by **Cali Cabdi Coomey**, the book trama revolves around the harsh decision taken in a moment of heat to abandon the action and escape by landing the plane in neighbouring Djibouti.

**Chaired by: Abdirahman Yusuf Arten** is a former member of the Somaliland Parliament author, professional theatre director and literary critic.

#### 20:00-21:00:

Music Performance- Major Musical Event

**Roda Kayf** a young emerging musician from Somaliland who began her musical journey by singing old captivating Somali



songs known as "Qaraami." With her unique and beautiful voice, she quickly gained recognition in the music industry. Roda then transitioned to singing modern songs, blending traditional Somali sounds with contemporary beats.

**Mustafa Dollar** is a highly talented singer and composer from Somaliland. He is known for his unique voice and music with modern influences, creating a sound that is both original and captivating. Mustafe Dollar has gained recognition in the Somali music industry for his soulful vocals and heartfelt lyrics that resonate with audiences around the world.

Chaired by: Naima Caro Edeg Media

**Day Two Sunday, 21st July 2024 08:15 – 08:45 Arts & Book Stalls - Visiting**

**09.00-9:45 Panel 3: Tunisia and**

### Somaliland Panel

This panel is the continuation of the Guest Country panel that highlights the relationship forged and needs to be forged between the Guest country and Somaliland. The panel brings three Tunisian representatives and two Somaliland scholars to the stage to talk about the communal social element of the two nations and the role they need to play in the continental development missions.

### Tunisian Guests in conversation with Fatima Omer and Abdilahi Omer

**Dhafer Bin Khalifa** is an academic and co-founder of the Creative Collective Association in 2016, a grouping of several cultural and creative projects based in the

Medina of Tunis that aims to promote culture through CCI. His work encompasses a multidisciplinary approach involving various subjects, such as ecological resilience through creative solutions and entrepreneurship development in ICC fields, particularly crafts, to bridge the gap between the university and its ecosystem. He has over a decade of experience in PFE SFE projects, including international experience in Spain, Belgium, and Portugal. Dhafer also serves as the 4 C Career Centre director, supporting graduates in professional integration and entrepreneurial project development.

**Leila Ben-Gacem** is a social entrepreneur, Ashoka Fellow; founder of Blue Fish, a consultancy that designs and implements projects to improve the economic

in Hargeysa, the primary local partner for the Diaspora Humanitarians (DHum) research project, spearheaded by the Danish Institute of International Studies (DIIS). Dr. Hassan's scholarly pursuits chiefly revolve around diaspora, youth, and social policy matters. Beyond academia, he is the founder of a prominent Somali TV station and the initiation of the largest single greenhouse project in the Somali region. Furthermore, he has been the driving force behind the Guul Fund initiative, an impact fund active in the Horn of Africa.

**Mustafe Elmi** serves as the head of research & institutional development at the Academy for

independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to social research, policy analysis, strategy development, advocacy, learning, and capacity-building by fostering comprehensive social development in Somaliland and the broader Horn of Africa region.

**Chaired by: Abdalgani Aid Almi** is the Director of research and innovation at Beder International University, an Affiliate Researcher at Somaliland Center for African Studies and one of the UCL fellows working on the Zeila research project. He is an esteemed lecturer who taught both local and international universities.

**19:00-20:00 In Conversation with**

Abdirahman Yusuf Arten will converse with the two penallists about the story, and the discussion



Leila Ben-Gacem  
Speaker

Firas Khelifi  
Speaker

Dhafer Bin Khalifa  
Speaker

Jamel Ben Saidan  
Speaker

Fatima Omer  
Speaker

Abdilahi Omer  
Speaker

To be continue next week