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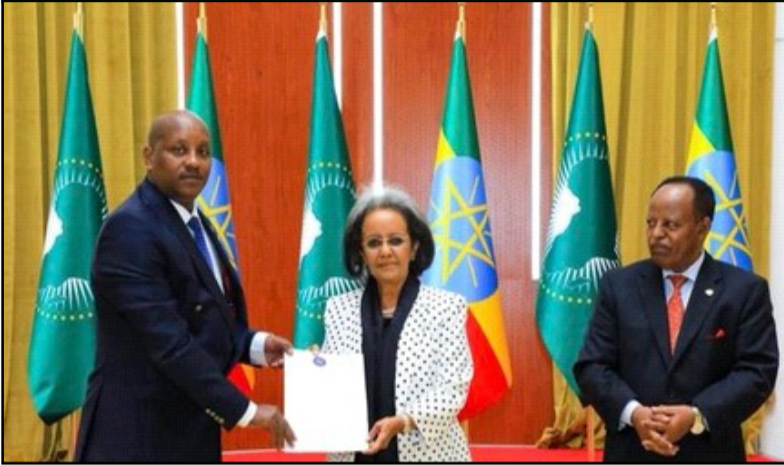
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Ethiopia's newly appointed Ambassador to Somaliland details his main goals and the significant relationship between the two nations

Our foremost priorities are ensuring security, promoting economic integration, and enhancing people-to-people connections, says Amb Teshome



Mohamoud Walaaleye
The new Ambassador recently appointed by Ethiopia to Somaliland H.E. Teshome Shunde Hamito said he will work to strengthen cooperation between the two countries and the two peoples. Hon. Teshome who gave a brief speech at an event held for ambassadors recently appointed by the President of Ethiopia to several

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UK Houses of Commons and Lords step up justifiable cause for Somaliland aspirations



He elaborated on the essence and implications of the MoU citing that it would bring more stability and catalyze economic growth for the region- MP Gavin Williamson

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Government Establishes Ministerial Level 'Recognition Task-Force'



The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Somaliland announced that it has made a noteworthy advancement towards

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Somalilanders are blessed to freely learn and practice their religion without hindrances, says Religion Minister Sh. Mohamed Adan



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Somaliland stands in solidarity with all the Somalia families affected in ghastly terror attack



Somaliland sends its heartfelt condolences to the next of kin, members of families and all the relatives affected by the horrific terrorist attack at Somalia's Liido beach on Friday night that claimed three dozen lives and

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Minister Ali Marehaan hails Somaliland democracy, says it has impressed friends and foes



By M. A. Egge
The Somaliland Minister of Information, Culture and National Guidance Hon. Ali Mohamed Hassan popularly known as Ali Marehaan has hailed the country's democratization processes and practice terming it a

feat that have impressed both friends and foes alike.

The country of the nation of Somaliland has indeed practiced a vibrant democratic process at a lightning speed of time unparalleled by many a country in quite a short spell of time.

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Alarming US Visa Fraud Scheme Exposed in Somalia, Raising U.S. Security Concerns



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Dahabshil group welcomes Ethiopia PM's statement on the key role of the private sector & entrepreneurship market-based Forex rate



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The international community's response—or lack thereof—to these developments could prove pivotal in shaping the region's future

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Ethiopia's newly appointed Ambassador to Somaliland details his main goals and the significant relationship between the two nations



appointed Ambassadors following the culmination of their training over the past few weeks, according to the Office of the Prime Minister. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided training over the past weeks to newly appointed ambassadors to enable them understand the dynamics of global diplomatic circumstances and promote national interests with efficiency and determination. Ethiopia's decision to send a whole ambassador to Hargeisa is a groundbreaking move! It's a significant step towards recognizing Somaliland's sovereignty and opens doors for enhanced diplomatic relations & cooperation. A new chapter in East African politics?

This move comes at a time when the government of Somaliland the beginning of this year upgraded the status of its diplomatic office in Ethiopia and made it to the level of an embassy.

countries in the world said; "With Somaliland, we share a common border. Therefore, our foremost priorities are ensuring security, promoting economic integration, and enhancing people-to-people connections.

President Sahlework Zewde urged the newly appointed 24 ambassadors to work diligently and maintain Ethiopia's national interest. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed conferred last Tuesday with newly

Government Establishes Ministerial Level 'Recognition Task-Force'

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Somaliland announced that it has made a noteworthy advancement towards receiving international recognition. The Ministry also mentioned that Somaliland has formed a State Recognition Taskforce at the ministerial level to plan and work towards gaining recognition. It was also mentioned that this decision is in line with the government's continuous diplomatic efforts, including the recent Memorandum of Understanding with Ethiopia for sea access. Ethiopia and Somaliland entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 01 January 2024, which allows Ethiopia to access the sea in exchange for providing international recognition to Somaliland. The ruling Prosperity Party (PP) announced in January that it had made the decision to bring the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that Ethiopia signed with Somaliland "to a practical agreement" while simultaneously paying attention to the principles of

give and take to secure additional options for port access with other neighboring countries in a resolution that was issued at the conclusion of four days of meetings by members of both the Executive and the Central Committee. The agreement with Somaliland, according to the ruling party, demonstrates "Ethiopia's position for regional economic and cultural ties." In February, Somaliland announced that it was "on course without any wavering, and remain seized" of the implementation of the MoU and that it had appointed a high-level advisory group and a technical team of international legal experts to advise and guide the process. Following declarations of disapproval from Egypt and the other Arab League members, Ethiopian officials formally retaliated against those who disapproved of the MoU, all the while upholding their position to see through the agreement. Since then, though, Ethiopia has not provided an update on the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which has sparked criticism from the neighboring Somali government and ensuing diplomatic disputes.

UK Houses of Commons and Lords step up justifiable cause for Somaliland aspirations

M.A. Egge
The both houses of the British parliament have pepped up the ante on the Somaliland nation's quest for its justified international recognition following members of the House of Commons and that of the Lords urging their government to swiftly look into the matter. The highlighting of the matter puts into the limelight the imperativeness of officially re-recognizing Somaliland, a country that first got its sovereign independence from Britain on the 26th of June 1960. It is worth noting that in the course of this week, three stalwart members brought the Somaliland issue to their respective august houses shortly after the Liverpool City Council voted once again to have Somaliland gain international recognition. The Lord Start Polak was very vocal at the House of Lords underscoring the need to see to it that Somaliland is recognized with its inevitability now being more dire given the dynamic political changes in the wake of the Somaliland-Ethiopia MoU agreement signed in the beginning of the year. He observed that the agreement seeks to recognize Somaliland and grant Ethiopia much needed sea-shore coastal amenities on leased land. He elaborated on the essence and implications of the MoU citing that it would bring more stability and catalyze economic growth for the region. In emphasizing his insights on the



issue he outlined, "The Ethiopia-Somaliland MoU is a landmark agreement with wide-reaching implications. It addresses crucial economic and security needs while setting a new path for regional diplomacy and international recognition. As we navigate these complex geopolitical landscapes, it is essential that we remain engaged and proactive in fostering stability and cooperation in the Horn of Africa. "We must support the efforts of countries such as Somaliland and Ethiopia to bring stability in this region, and I look forward to working with the noble Lord, Lord Collins, on this matter going forward". Similar facts were eloquently presented by MP Gavin Williamson in the House of Commons urging FM David Lemmy to expressly look into the matter. Said MP Gavin, "Ethiopia is on the cusp of recognizing the Rep of Somaliland, I would ask the Minister to look at where British policy is to ensure it reflects the new reality". He also asked the Foreign Minister

if he had time to meet him to discuss how "we can strengthen and deepen our relationship between Britain and the Republic of Somaliland". So too has Lord David Howel impressed upon his peers at the House of Lords in addressing the issue as late as last Tuesday, magnifying the imperative need of seeing to it that Somaliland is justifiably recognized as deserved. "In this house, a noble Lord mentioned one tiny little non-country - Somaliland. It is a disgrace that the country, which is full of vigour, operates in very difficult circumstances, is separated from Somalia, and does not even have the status of a nation". In chagrin, he quipped, "It's treated as some sort of pariah, some difficult and unacceptable break in the pattern of international affairs". He urged the UK government to look at the case, "I hope those in the new government who are interested in the Commonwealth will look at the issue of Somaliland again".

Minister Ali Marehaan hails Somaliland democracy, says it has impressed friends and foes



In two decades alone the country is about to hold the national presidential and political parties' elections marking almost the tenth time that the nation goes to the polls, holding vibrantly free and fair elections that are awesome, something most of the developing countries have failed to do in 60 to 70 years albeit going to the polls for the umpteenth time. The minister noted that the vibrant political aura that witnesses bold debates, freedom of speeches, expressions and press is totally unmatched in the Horn of Africa hence have had many countries captivated. He observed that the International Community has always been closely following the democracy

practiced in the nation. He observed that the Somali communities and territories have constantly been conversing about it and are equally impressed. On the contrary, he pointed out that foes have admired the feat in chagrin with countries like Somalia seeking to beam in Somaliland's limelight as concerns the vibrant, free, fair and successful universal suffrage electioneering processes held, and similarly associated developmental progress cherished. He said that the Somali nations have not done anything remotely tangible nearing such achievements realized in elections as has been done in Somaliland hence the envies.

NISA Agents from Somalia Apprehended in Somaliland Over Targeted Assassination Plan



Somaliland's National Intelligence Agency (NIA) has intercepted an alleged assassination squad sent by Somalia's National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA). The squad was reportedly tasked with destabilizing the strategic city of Borama through targeted killings, according to a statement published by the NIA on social media.

The statement adds that two operatives are in custody while six more are under close surveillance. The agency has called for public vigilance, urging citizens to report suspicious activities to a dedicated hotline. This transparency underscores the gravity of the situation and the NIA's strategy to involve the public in national security efforts.

Recently, the NIA has been notably public in its operations, a shift that coincides with the appointment of its current director awhile back. By sharing details of operations, the agency emphasizes community involvement as a key component of national security.

This transparency has been welcomed by the public, who see it as a demonstration of accountability and an effort to build trust. However, this departure from traditional intelligence methods, which typically operate in the shadows, has sparked some criticism. Experts argue that revealing operational details could compromise the agency's effectiveness and tip off potential threats. While community involvement is crucial, maintaining a balance between transparency and operational secrecy is essential to ensure national security is not compromised.

This thwarted plot bears striking similarities to security challenges Las Anod, where a series of assassinations and bombings have plunged the region into turmoil. These incidents in Las Anod have been used as a pretext to instigate broader conflict, suggesting a coordinated effort to undermine Somaliland's stability. Targeting Borama, a crucial cultural and

economic hub, indicates a broader strategy to weaken Somaliland's governance and sovereignty.

The alleged assassination attempt follows a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Somaliland and Ethiopia on January 1st, 2024. The MoU, granting Ethiopia access to the Red Sea through the port of Berbera and formal recognition for Somaliland, has dramatically shifted regional dynamics and further strained already tense relations between Hargeisa and Mogadishu. The MoU showcases Somaliland's efforts to assert its independence and foster economic development, sharply contrasting with Somalia's apparent focus on exporting regional instability.

High-ranking Somali officials, including the President and Foreign Minister, have publicly issued threats and declared intentions to destabilize Somaliland in the wake of the Ethiopia-Somaliland agreement. These statements, documented by SomalilandChronicle.com, coupled with the alleged assassination plot, paint a troubling picture of Somalia as a failed state that, unable to govern its own territory effectively, resorts to exporting chaos to its neighbors.

Somalia's inability to control its borders, tackle internal extremist threats, or provide basic services to its citizens starkly contrasts with Somaliland's relative stability and democratic governance. Rather than focusing on internal reconstruction, Somalia appears to be channeling its limited resources into destabilizing a peaceful neighbor, raising serious questions about its priorities and the international community's continued support.

The MoU has not only aggravated Somalia but also prompted hostile reactions from other regional actors. Notably, Djibouti has shifted from its quasi-neutral stance to open antagonism. Djibouti's President Ismail Omar Guelleh seems to have called up every resource at his

disposal including extended invitations to anti-Somaliland forces, including those currently engaged in conflict with Somaliland in the eastern Sool region and groups aiming to foment unrest in Awdal. This alignment of regional actors against Somaliland further complicates an already volatile situation.

As tensions mount, Somaliland finds itself in an increasingly under pressure. The foiled assassination attempt in Borama, combined with ongoing instability in Las Anod and growing regional hostility, paints a picture of a peaceful nation surrounded by escalating threats. Despite these challenges, Somaliland continues to pursue stability, economic development, and international recognition, standing as a beacon of relative peace in a troubled region.

The interception of these alleged operatives underscores the real possibility of open conflict between Somaliland and Somalia. It remains unclear whether Somaliland has formally addressed Somalia's alleged attempts to foment conflict within its borders or brought the matter to any international forum. This silence on the diplomatic front raises questions about Somaliland's strategy in dealing with external threats.

The international community's response—or lack thereof—to these developments could prove pivotal in shaping the region's future. As tensions simmer, the need for transparent dialogue and robust conflict resolution mechanisms becomes increasingly urgent, not just for Somaliland and Somalia, but for regional stability as a whole.

As Somaliland bolsters its defenses and continues its pursuit of international recognition, the stability of the entire Horn of Africa hangs in a precarious balance. The coming weeks may prove critical in determining whether this latest incident becomes a catalyst for diplomatic engagement or a precursor to further escalation. (Source: AS).

Taiwan representative Allen Lou praises Somaliland as the "only country to say no to China in Africa."

Local and international experts and diplomats on Wednesday discussed what they called China's "bad governance model" in Africa, criticizing it for creating unpayable debts for countries in that continent.

They highlighted Taiwan's model in Somaliland as an alternative, at a half-day symposium, themed "China's Bad Governance Model for Africa — Alternative Visions," which was organized by the Taipei-based non-governmental organization, Taiwan Inspiration Association.

Eric T. Schultz, former United States ambassador to Zambia told the Taipei seminar that the landlocked African country where he was posted from 2014 to 2017 is widely considered "Ground Zero" for China's Investment on the continent.

He said that since the Patriotic Front government assumed power in 2011, Zambia has worked hand-in-hand with China on a number of major construction programs.

Unfortunately, as part of these deals, only Chinese companies were allowed to compete, meaning the profits were ultimately shared by Chinese companies and government officials, while ordinary Zambians received none of the benefits, Schultz said.

In total, Beijing provided more than US\$10 billion in loans to Zambia during the Patriotic Front administration — from 2011 to 2021 — which was as much as 50 percent of the country's GDP, he noted.

Using the case of Zambia as an example, the retired envoy urged the U.S. and its democratic allies, including Taiwan, to do more to help African countries

repay Chinese debt. "We should work to expand the reach and influence of democratic rule, while expanding the reach and influence of commerce," he said.

Doing so is not intended to "impose our views, but by encouraging we should help African countries manage the burden of China," he added.

Schultz encouraged democratic allies to help African countries press China for better terms, debt forgiveness, and interest forgiveness.

An alternative to China's bad governance model, is the relationship between Taiwan and Somaliland, according to Taiwan's representative to Allen Lou.

Lou praised Somaliland as the "only country to say no to China in Africa."

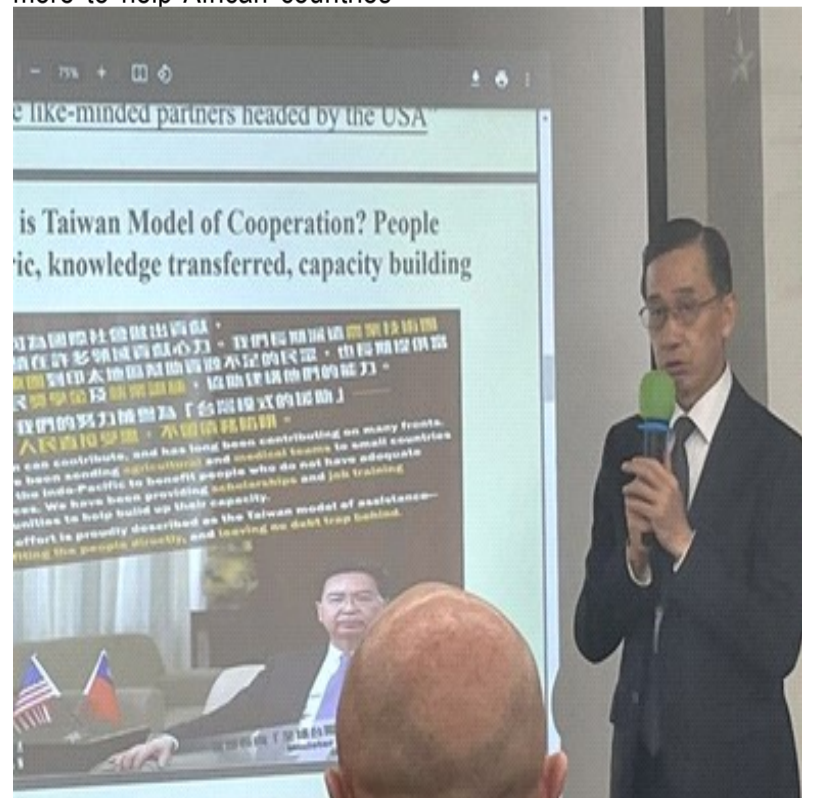
In contrast to the Chinese model in Africa, Taiwan's model of cooperation focuses on "people centric, knowledge transfers, and capacity building," Lou said at the symposium.

Ultimately, Taiwan wants to create a model in Somaliland to win more friends in East Africa, the envoy said.

Lou also called on more like-minded partners headed by the U.S. to join such cooperation in Somaliland "so we can work together to achieve more."

Somaliland declared independence from Somalia in 1991 and has functioned as a de facto state ever since, but it has yet to be recognized diplomatically by any other country in the world.

Taiwan and Somaliland set up representative offices in each other's capitals in 2020.



Somalilanders are blessed to freely learn and practice their religion without hindrances, says Religion Minister Sh. Mohamed Adan



By M.A. Egge

Somaliland is blessed to have been bestowed by Divine guidance on a complete way of life through the religion of Islam that adheres to the Holy Book of the Quran.

The sentiments were relayed by the Minister of Religion and Endowment Sh. Mohamed Haji Adan Elmi at the close a week-long major event on the interpretations of the Holy Quran that was held at the Alahzar Mosque in Hargeisa.

He called on the Somaliland populaces to adhere and conduct themselves as per the teachings and the tenets spelt out in the Divine book that wholly encompasses private, public and mass conducts that enables the faithful safely and soundly prosper both on earth and in the hereafter.

The minister especially pointed out that the country is blessed to fully and freely learn and practice their

religion without any qualms, hindrances, impediments or phobia as some Muslims experience, or are subjected to, elsewhere in the world. He urged all the faithful to step up the reading of the Islamic scriptures and expand their ken of knowledge of the religion.

He urged the nation to stick to the virtues expected of them and shun vices as per the teachings of the Noble Quran.

Somaliland stands in solidarity with all the Somalia families affected in ghastly terror attack

injured or maimed almost seventy more.

In the wake of the attack that had so many innocent lives perish, the government of the Republic of Somaliland underpinned its sadness and how it is appalled while noting that it stands in solidarity with the all the family members of all civilians those affected in the barbaric, ghastly and horrific attack. The message of the condolence was issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Somaliland on Saturday

following the ill fated incident hence read as follows;

“We are deeply saddened and appalled by the horrific terrorist attack at Liido Beach that claimed the lives of innocent civilians, particularly the youth”.

The statement added, “Somaliland government extends its heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims. We stand in solidarity with all the families of the civilians affected during this difficult time.”



Fostering reciprocal diplomacy: Building bridges – The Somaliland-Ethiopia MoU



The Somaliland-Ethiopian relationship is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon of a deeply historical nature and scope. It is still developing in the modern period in conditions of radical change. This multidimensional relationship has substantial economic and strategic dimensions with far-reaching implications for the Horn of Africa.

The relations between Somaliland and Ethiopia date back several centuries. The relation has been molded by trade, cultural exchange, and at the time sporadic conflicts. Thus, historical trade routes that traversed Somaliland allowed for passage of goods, ideas, and, of course, a circulation of people, which bonded the two regions together. By this historical interdependence, the relationship has developed out of both cooperation and rivalry.

The economic factor is now the underlying aspect of the Somaliland-Ethiopia relationship in the modern

world. The strategic significance for their economic collaboration could be the availability of the Port of Berbera in Somaliland. This will give an almost perfect outlet for Ethiopian trade. This route shall be equally viable in contrast with the Djibouti routes, which similarly are not only crowded but also politically volatile. What it means is that “Using Berbera port diversifies access to the international markets and makes it less dependent on Djibouti. For Somaliland, investments in the port’s expansion are a vital economic lifeline through increased trade and generated revenue, spurring job creation

Mutual economic benefits extend even beyond bilaterally traded goods. Ethiopia has made massive investment in the Berbera corridor through road and rail infrastructure. Apparently, this is more about strategic rather than a commercial partnership. This developed infrastructure will perhaps ease the

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Container cargo fast-screening services introduces at Berbera port



By M.A. Egge

The Ministry of Finance has introduced the swift non-intrusive screening of containers that would greatly alleviate inspection chores, in the shortest time possible.

The new container Xray screening services will undoubtedly hasten the time of general inspection just as it

would increase the security and efficiency of cargo by fast scanning the containers at the port.

It would thus completely do away with the irksome traditional manual inspection that has been the norm that hitherto delayed the transportation, clearing and forwarding services altogether.

Customs operators at Berbera Port

who use this device have the opportunity to easily know the types and quantity of all the goods inside the containers.

Businessmen who use the Port of Berbera have thanked the Ministry of Finance for introducing the new service that gives them the opportunity to have services rendered to them fast-tracked as far as inspection and taxation are concerned.

This new facility is expected to improve operations and improve the flow of goods and services at the port since it would swiftly aid in ascertaining the verification of the manifest for tariffs and security purposes without the traditional time-consuming manual means.

Dahabshiil group welcomes Ethiopia PM’s statement on the key role of the private sector & entrepreneurship market-based Forex rate

Dahabshiil Company has welcomed the shift to a market-based exchange regime as part of a major revision of Ethiopia’s foreign exchange (FX) system. A statement published on the company’s Twitter handle read as follows;

“We welcome Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed Ali’s statement on the key role of the private sector & entrepreneurship, & a market-based forex rate. This will be good news for our customers including the diaspora who want to remit money to Ethiopia & for its exporters & importers.”

The statement comes after The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) announced a shift to a market-based exchange regime as part of a major revision of the country’s foreign exchange (FX) system. The move follows the government’s announcement yesterday regarding Ethiopia’s macro-economic reform program.

According to the NBE, banks are now permitted to buy and sell foreign currencies from and to their clients and among themselves at freely negotiated rates. The

Commercial Bank of Ethiopia reported a buying rate of 74 and a selling rate of 76 birr per 1 USD, showing a 30% devaluation within a day.

The American Embassy in Addis Ababa commented, “Implementing a market-based foreign exchange system is a tough but essential move for addressing Ethiopia’s macroeconomic issues.” They further urged, “We encourage the government to work with development partners to implement these reforms.”

Alarming US Visa Fraud Scheme Exposed in Somalia, Raising U.S. Security Concerns



A potentially devastating visa fraud scheme, allegedly orchestrated by high-ranking Somali government officials, has been uncovered, raising serious concerns about U.S. national security. The revelation threatens to upend U.S. immigration policies and diplomatic relations, highlighting a chilling reality that underscores the vulnerabilities of the American visa issuance system.

A startling letter sent to U.S. Ambassador Richard Riley by Dr. Abdillahi Hashi Abib, a Somali lawmaker and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, lays bare a massive, government-backed operation that could be allowing terrorists to enter the United States under false pretenses. This letter, dated July 30, 2024, exposes a web of corruption and deceit that could have catastrophic consequences far beyond Somalia's borders

At the heart of the scandal is a shocking statistic: 600 out of 700 visas issued to Somali civil servants by the U.S. Embassy have resulted in overstays, with these individuals failing to return to Somalia. This staggering 86% overstay rate is not just an alarming figure—it is a dire warning that American security may be at risk. This overstay rate is alarmingly higher than the global average of less than 3%, suggesting a systemic exploitation of the U.S. visa system. US Homeland Security overstay reports are available here. Compounding this alarming scenario is the well-documented infiltration of Somali government institutions by Al-Shabaab, a notorious terrorist organization. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud himself has acknowledged this infiltration, underscoring the threat posed by the visa fraud scheme. The possibility that individuals with terrorist ties could be slipping into the United States undetected is a chilling prospect that demands immediate action.

Dr. Abib's letter accuses Somalia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs of masterminding a scheme to misuse civil servants' passports, securing visas from the U.S., Canada, EU, and UK for individuals who are not government employees. The alleged cost for these fraudulent services ranges from \$20,000 to \$25,000 per visa, indicating a lucrative operation potentially funneling millions of dollars into corrupt hands. This revelation

suggests a deeply entrenched network of corruption that poses a significant threat to global security. In 2017, former President Donald Trump implemented a travel ban that included Somalia among several Muslim-majority countries, citing national security concerns and the potential threat of terrorism. These new allegations of widespread visa fraud reinforce those fears, highlighting the critical need for vigilant visa controls. The potential for terrorists to exploit these vulnerabilities is a chilling reminder of the dangers posed by lax immigration enforcement. The U.S. Embassy in Somalia faces an urgent need to reevaluate its visa issuance practices. The traditional diplomatic courtesies extended to government officials must be reconsidered in light of these explosive allegations. The international community is already reacting; Turkey has suspended tourist visas for Somali service passport holders as of July 15, 2024, signaling growing global distrust of Somalia's travel documents. The scandal reveals disturbing evidence of political manipulation within the visa process. While hundreds of "civil servants" remain in the U.S., over 30 Somali Members of Parliament have been denied visas, raising suspicions that the system is being exploited to serve certain political factions. Dr. Abib's frustration with the lack of response from Somali officials to his repeated warnings is palpable. He urges the

U.S. Embassy to investigate potential political interference, emphasizing the urgent need to address these threats.

As this story unfolds, the demand for immediate and thorough investigations by U.S. authorities grows more pressing. The integrity of the U.S. immigration system is at stake, and the potential impact on national security is too great to ignore. These revelations highlight the urgent need to overhaul current vetting processes and reinforce visa policies related to Somalia.

Although Ambassador Riley has only recently assumed his post, he faces the challenge of navigating a complex diplomatic landscape. Previous U.S. engagements with the Somali government have been criticized for lacking sufficient scrutiny, particularly concerning the fight against Al-Shabaab. Ambassador Riley's reputation as a troubleshooter with experience in challenging environments may lead to increased accountability and oversight in diplomatic relations. The Somali MP, Dr. Abib would only confirm the authenticity of the letter he sent to the US Embassy in Mogadishu and would not comment further.

The U.S. Embassy in Mogadishu has yet to comment on these allegations, but the gravity of the situation demands a swift and comprehensive response from U.S. officials. This scandal serves as a stark warning of the dangers posed by failed states in an interconnected world. As the international community grapples with these revelations, the need for a delicate balance between diplomatic engagement and national security becomes ever more critical. The world watches anxiously as the implications of this visa fraud scheme continue to unfold, underscoring the urgent need for action to protect against potential threats.



Government warns resident foreigners, refugees against indulging in local politics



By M.A. Egge

The government has issued a strong warning to foreigners, including refugees residing in the country, not to get involved in the local politics at all.

The caution was expressed during a meeting where the chairman of the Somaliland National Agency for Refugees and Displaced Persons Mr. Abdikarin Ahmed Mohamed (Hinnif) met the directors of the various departments of the agency and the refugee verification committee.

While dwelling on the issue of refugees and their non-participation in political matters were discussed, both local and international

constitutions regulating the matter were highlighted.

The national constitution bars resident foreigners, including refugees, to indulge in the local politics of their host country.

It was well noted that as concerns general public regulations that legally cover individual or group conducts that boards on petty or capital crimes and associated misdemeanors were universal but those inclined to politics or disharmony was well out of bounds hence would cause them to lose the rights of residence.

Various legal clauses were quoted in driving the point home.

Education ministry to review curricula in improving education quality



By M.A. Egge

The National Education Committee convened to improve education and review the country's curriculum

The National Education Council is out to review the national education curricula with the aim and view of raising its general and caliber.

This was revealed following a high stake meeting that brought the ministry of education, the National Examinations Council and the board itself under the chairmanship of the Education Minister Hon. Ahmed Adan Buhane

The meeting, which was convened by the board, was its thirtieth session and sought to focus on improving the quality of education in Somaliland and how to delve into

the most appropriate ways and means to improve education in Somaliland.

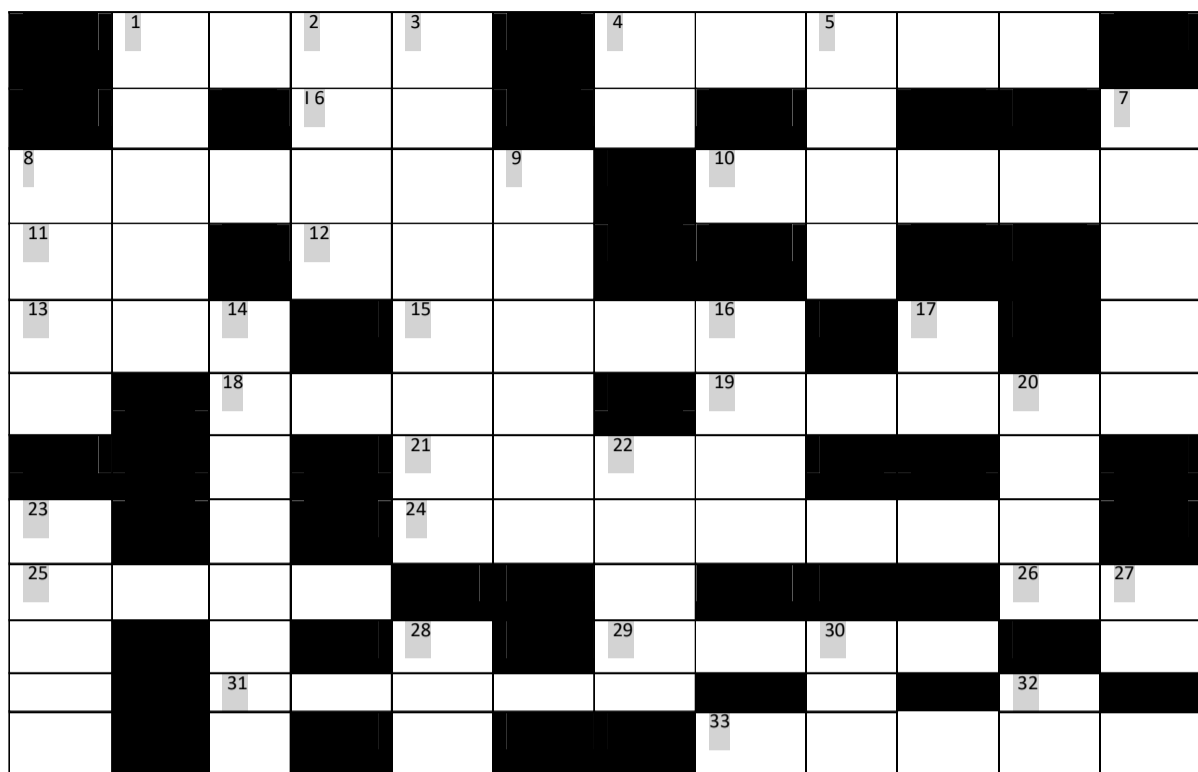
A number of agendas related to improving the quality of education in general were discussed.

The thanked the National Education Board and the officials of the National Examinations Office for their work for the nation.

On the other hand the head of the examinations council briefed the meeting on the successful conclusion of the 2023/24 educational end year exams for both primary and secondary schools in the country.

In conclusion the meeting underscored the imperativeness of raising the quality of education in the country.

THT Puzzle



Across

- 1 Do
- 4 plant seeds
- 6 The situation, him etc
- 8 French Republic
- 10 Property
- 11 AC power in short
- 12 Obtain
- 13 Preposition
- 15 after another
- 18 Teen-age
- 19 Blank
- 24 Arts school
- 25 Entrance
- 26 Accordingly
- 29 Support
- 31 Problem
- 33 Extra

Down

- 1 Protest march
- 2 Monarch
- 3 etc.
- 4 Consequently
- 5 Simple
- 8 Speedy
- 9 Racial
- 14 Neogjborng country name
- 16 Require
- 17 Upward
- 20 Dolls
- 23 Suggestions
- 28 Usage
- 30 Reddish

Previous Answer



Fostering reciprocal diplomacy: Building bridges – The Somaliland-Ethiopia MoU

movement of goods across the border/region but has a far-reaching impact on regional connectivity and economic integration. Regional integration, therefore would be very fundamental in the horn of African State: this is, to lock horns, to ensure stability and prosperity, which has been deviled by conflict and underdevelopment.

Security cooperation is also an important aspect of the relationship between Somaliland and Ethiopia. Both countries face serious security problems – piracy and terrorism coming from the wider region. Cooperation in addressing these threats is crucial to the region as well. Somaliland, due to its comparatively stable government and its strategic location, has an important role in counter-piracy in the Gulf of Aden and in securing the sea routes. Also on the security front, both will provide painful support with Ethiopia's large military. This security cooperation not only enhances their bilateral security ties but also assists the overall process of peace maintenance and security in the entire Horn of Africa.

The political dimension of this relation becomes more significant with the hunt for international recognition by Somaliland. It was in 1991 that Somaliland declared independence from Somalia; since then, it has been seeking international recognition as a sovereign state. Ethiopia's strategic backing in Somaliland's pursuit of international recognition is part of the deepening political relations between the two countries. Apparently, this is not just a symbolic gesture given the geopolitical and economic importance of Somaliland that Ethiopia has recognized. In turn, the alignment of Somaliland with Ethiopia's strategic interests, especially on security grounds, is a mutual relationship founded on benefit.

The Memorandum on Understanding between Somaliland and Ethiopia signed on 1 January 2023 has been a defining moment for either country in their diplomatic ties. This is a broad-based document that captured most aspects of their partnership in strategic, economic, and geopolitical perspectives. In the MOU, it is an official agreement to expand co-operation reflecting mutual interests as perceived by either country.

At the political level, the MoU has significant connotations on the regional dynamics of the Horn of Africa. This is, in the context, a strategic alignment of Somaliland with Ethiopia with far-reaching potential to reshape the geopolitical

landscape in the region. The formalization of their cooperation basically set a precedent for constructive engagement and partnership that is critical in a region often characterized by instability and conflict.

It stipulates it in the agreement, wherein clearly stated is the reciprocity principle that, in politics, would translate into the two countries supporting each other's strategic interests. Ethiopia is willing to bolster Somaliland's efforts to gain international recognition, which is a foremost political gesture as far as their bilateral relationship is strengthened. This is very vital for Somaliland, as gaining recognition as a sovereign state on the international scene. In return, the Somaliland administration's commitment to supporting the strategic interests of Ethiopia, particularly on security grounds, enhances that of the entire region. This MoU presents a new phase of political cooperation that goes beyond diplomatic relations only. A door has been opened in this regard for increased political engagement, regional stability, and economic development. For the commencement of much more of what is to come between the two states, commitment towards their common goals and common aspirations will be significant in realizing the true scope of their partnership as they forge ahead to meet the challenge and seize the opportunities that are before them.

Economic Importance

Economic interests are just but one cornerstones of the contemporary relationship today between Somaliland and Ethiopia. The strategic importance of Somaliland's Port of Berbera as a critical outlet for Ethiopian trade-as an alternative to the congested, politically unstable routes through Djibouti-is reflected in Ethiopia's investment in the infrastructure of the Berbera corridor identified as strategic in making possible regional connectivity and economic integration in a strategic partnership.

The Port of Berbera, situated on the Gulf of Aden, is thus a key point for the landlocked state of Ethiopia that had relied almost entirely on ports for its imports and exports. Traditionally, however, landlocked Ethiopia has largely been forced to rely on the more southerly port of Djibouti as its principal gateway to the sea, but now, as this port becomes increasingly clogged and with ties also increasingly strained with Djibouti, the need for alternative routes has become increasingly

To be continue next week

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3.3 MICROFINANCE AND CAPITAL GOODS FINANCE BUSINESS SECTORS

This section focuses on the stability and vulnerability to risks for the microfinance and capital goods

finance business sectors. Given their share, these sectors are not expected to pose a significant risk to Ethiopia's overall financial system. At end-June 2023, all MFIs together accounted for 2.0 percent of the financial sector's total assets, and all Capital Goods Finance Companies for 0.2 percent (see Table 3 in section 3.1 above). Therefore, the analysis in this section is limited when compared to that of the banking sector, but more details are provided in the Annexes.

At end-June 2023, 47 microfinance institutions (with a total of 1,109 branches) and six Capital Goods Finance Companies ²³ (with a total of 55 branches) were operating in Ethiopia.

3.3.1 Microfinance Sector²⁴

The microfinance sector grew strongly in the year to end-June 2023. Total assets and deposits increased by 33.7 percent (from Birr 46.1 billion to Birr 61.7 billion) and 28.8 percent (from Birr 21.7 billion to Birr 27.9 billion), respectively. Liquid assets and net loans also increased significantly (Table 9).

15 Awdal journalists undergo proficiency course



By M.A. Egge

The coordinator of the Ministry of Cultural Information in Awdal region, Saddam Mohamed Aqli, presided over the proficiency course for 15 journalists who were drawn from various media institutions in the region.

The training, which lasted for three weeks, was given by experts from Media-INK, who zero in on topics such as media ethics, disaster management, emergency (swift) news coverage, reporting on climate change etc.

Coordinator Saddam Mohamed described the training as timely and

helpful in improving the quality of journalism and the accuracy of the information they report and thanked the facilitators of the

He noted that such training and the improvement of journalists' skills and the media are part of the policy focuses of the Ministry of Information of Somaliland under the direction of Minister Ali Mohamed Hassan "Ali Marehaan".

He urged the journalists who benefited from the training to put in good use the knowledge they have learned in the media organizations they work in and the society in general they serve.

Capital increased by 39.4 percent and further increase is anticipated because each microfinance

institution is required to reach a minimum of Birr 75 million within seven years.²⁵

	Major items	June 2019	June 2020	June 2021	June 2022	June 2023	Change 2022-2023 (%)
A	Assets						
1	Total liquid assets	7.1	6.9	8.6	9.7	12.3	26.9
2	Gross loans	16.7	22.1	25.3	31.7	39.2	23.8
3	Provisions	0.7	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.2	-21.0
4	Net loans	16.0	21.0	24.0	30.2	38.0	25.9
5	Gross NPLs (PAR>90 days)	1.0	1.6	2.2	2.5	1.7	-32.5
6	Total assets	25.5	30.8	36.1	46.1	61.7	33.7
B	Liability and Capital						
7	Total deposits	14.3	16.2	19.1	21.7	27.9	28.8
8	Borrowings	2.3	2.6	3.8	8.5	11.3	32.6
9	Total capital	5.9	6.1	7.0	12.1	16.8	39.4

Source: NBE Database

²³ Waliya Capital Goods Finance Business S.C, Oromia Capital Goods Finance Business S.C, Addis Capital Goods Finance Business S.C, Debub Capital Goods Finance S.C., Kaza Capital Goods Finance Business S.C, and Ethio Lease Ethiopia Goods Finance Business S.C.

²⁴ The analysis for the microfinance sector excludes data for the microfinance institutions that have been transformed into banks in the period end-June 2019 to end-June 2023 (Amhara Credit and Saving Institution, Oromia Credit and Saving Institution, OMO MFI, Somali MFI, and Sidama MFI).

²⁵ This applies to MFIs established in 2023 and later; already existing MFIs must reach the Birr 75 million by the end of January 2028; see NBE Directive No. MFI/36/2023.