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The wake of Somaliland MoU agreement with Ethiopia has vividly brought to fore eternal enemies of the country

"Be proud of Somaliland. Be proud of what you learned in school, be proud of your teacher who taught you, and be proud of the people who fought for the country..." Pres Bihi.



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi, expressed shocking dismay that the Mogadishu administration is still maintaining the argument that Somaliland is part of it and not an independent entity. He noted that it depicted deep

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The 2nd meeting of the Shariah committees of the central bank and financial institutions has opened

By Mohamoud Walaaleye

The 2nd conference of the Shariah committees of the Central Bank of Somaliland and the country's financial institutions opened in Hargeisa on Saturday.

The conference was attended by

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The Somaliland government responds to the Mogadishu regime's baseless claims about the upcoming election

The Government of the Republic of Somaliland strongly condemns the



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State urges populaces, security apparatus to be vigilant in safeguarding peaceful stability

By M.A. Egge

The government has once more urged the people of the nation to be vigilant in safeguarding and maintaining peaceful order and stability as the nation goes to polls in about five weeks' time.

This was stated following the 133rd

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Third Conference of the Somaliland Economic Forum kicks-off next week

By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Finance Development of Somaliland,

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Political parties, organizations sign code of conduct as the nation is about to go to polls

By M.A. Egge

The National Electoral Commission brought together the official political parties and the political associations which would take part in the upcoming elections on the 13th of November 2024 to sign the code of

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Public Employees Retirement and Entitlement Bill Approved



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Somaliland receives \$2m from Taiwan to boost elections kitty

By M.A. Egge

The government of Somaliland has received \$2m from the Taiwanese government as

funds in support of the forthcoming elections on November 13th to be held in the country.

On hand to receive the cheque from

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We are not insulting anyone, but we are defending the nation, says Information DG

By M.A. Egge

The Director General of the Ministry of Information, Culture and National Guidance Mr. Mustafe Abdi Isse has

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enmity and malice on the part of the leaders of Somalia towards Somaliland hence they do not want to see the country make strides in developmental progress, chart its own future or enter any agreements. The Head of State stated the facts as he addressed thousands of students drawn from 37 high schools drawn from Hargeisa city who thronged at the mega hall of Hargeisa University. The students have just completed civics courses that entailed basic constitution hence meant to build and instill a sense of patriotism to build the youth. The president congratulated the students who he described as leaders of tomorrow. He emphasized the need and imperativeness of upholding patriotism and urged them, and the nation at large, to be steadfast in the maintaining and safeguarding peaceful stability in the country, especially now during the elections season. He took the opportunity to tutor the students on the complex Horn of Africa geopolitics and at the same time update them on the current situation in world politics. President Bihi expressed his happiness that 37 high schools are today open in Hargeisa, something that was impossible over three decades ago when the nation re-asserted its independence first earned from Britain on 26th June 1960 after dissolving the ill-fated union with the Mogadishu government of Italian colony. He urged the students to shun tribalism and be proud of their nationhood and the knowledge and

science they have learned. He said, "Be proud of Somaliland. Be proud of what you learned in school, be proud of your teacher who taught you, and be proud of the people who fought for the country. We have nothing to do with treacherous people for they are not patriots at all". The president expounded on the legacy that the veterans left and noted that their special indelible mark be noted. In the upcoming elections, the President urged the populaces, and especially the youth, to cast the votes without incidences hence uphold and maintain the safeguarding of peaceful stability across the nation. He at the same time called upon the political parties in contention to adhere to the etiquette and tenets of the electioneering processes such that the exercise may be successful and incidence free. He urged for political speeches not to be vitriolic and offensive rhetoric. Saying that the majority of voters are young people, he asked them to vote peacefully and according to the law and stipulated regulations. On the other hand, the President Musa Bihi Abdi, spoke about the conflict situation in the world, especially in the Horn of Africa, mentioning the large number of troops that the Egyptian government is deploying in Somalia. He said, "After the MoU agreement that Somaliland made with Ethiopia, many enemies of the nation of Somaliland vividly came out in the open. We now have a situation of powerful governments in the world in the vicinity intimidating us with threats".

He continued, "The government of Egypt, an Islamic government, and one of the largest governments, has surprisingly brought 10 thousand soldiers, heavy weapons and their vehicles to Somalia in the first part. It is also surprising that the president of Egypt said at every forum that it is impossible for Somaliland to separate from other Somalis and that they would not accept Somaliland's recognition". He then elaborated, "to explain the Egyptian President's enmity, you ought to know that each and every leader is concerned with his own partisan interests aligned to the whims of his nation's wants and needs and the international countries support each other in cahoots to achieving their abetted aims". He further noted, "As for the so-called human rights and integral respects, it is a mere lip-service and a sham since if at all was there, what happened in Palestine could not have occurred and it is testified more clearly by what is happening in Lebanon today". He thus attributed the present scenario as an extension of a war fought between Egypt and Ethiopia a century and a half ago over the Nile waters, that the Egyptians are rekindling by proxy; something that does not concern Somaliland. In other words, the Mogadishu government of Somalia who unrealistically do zealously want to have another 'reunion' with Somaliland are in cahoots with Egypt to abet on the stunting of Somaliland's aspirations and at the same time engage in the Nile waters war as a payback to Egypt. He said that the crocodile tears of Somalia claiming that their country is being dismembered or their "brethren" are being cut-off are mere nonsensical and do not hold water. He said the same lies being perpetuated by Hassan Sheikh has similarly been echoes from the cries of his predecessors oblivious to the real facts and situation on the ground. He made it clear that the essence of the nationhood of Somaliland was a people driven initiative that is now cemented in the nation's constitution and is completely irreversible.

State urges populaces, security apparatus to be vigilant in safeguarding peaceful stability

session of the council of cabinet meeting that was chaired by the Head of State H.E. President Musa Bihi Abdi. They discussed the preparations for the elections and security in the Thursday afternoon session and sent a message to the people of Somaliland. Much was analyzed on security issues and elections, as well as a call to the people of Somaliland to step up vigilance against enemies

of the nation. Initially they were briefed on the security of the country by the Minister of Interior, who is the chairman of the ruling Kulmiye party, Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed, who briefed the council on the general security of the country and the Horn of Africa. The council pondered in depth the preparations for the elections scheduled for November 13, 2024 and on how the ruling party's efforts

to defend its seat third for time is going on. The cabinet members called on the populaces to be more wary of the enemies of the Republic of Somaliland who want to undermine the existence of the nation and are not happy to see the country make steps in achieving and realizing its aspirations of being a de-jure state. The members of the public have been asked to collaborate with the security personnel in safeguarding

The 2nd meeting of the Shariah committees of the central bank and financial institutions has opened



officials of the Central Bank, private banks, money changers associations, and some of the country's clerical and associated scholars discussed the importance of making financial laws based on Sharia. The Director General of the Central Bank, Mohamed Qasim Hussein, who spoke at the meeting, said that whenever the financial system is applied according to Sharia, progress is always achieved. The Governor of the Central Bank, Eng Ali Abdillahi Dahir, noted the

bank's satisfaction in holding the meeting. "Without abandoning our laws and Islamic investiture, we must facilitate access to investment", he said. Some of the country's scholars who spoke at the meeting said; "The practice of Sharia has an important role in the development of our economy", noted Sheikh Almis Yahya. "Our society must strive to be productive", said Sheikh Mohamed Sheikh Mohamed Omar Dirir.

Political parties, organizations sign code of conduct as the nation is about to go to polls



conduct declarations as per the election regulations. The elections will also see the nation vote for the president and vice-presidential aspirants which would be held on the same day. The essence of the ceremony is to impart on the players to adhere to the tenets and norms of the elections as per the laid down rules and regulations such that the processes may be free, fair, without

incidences hence become ultimately successful. it puts in check unbecoming conduct that are dotted with vitriolic and offensive rhetoric that may emanate from the political campaigns. At the meeting, the chairmen or top reps of the all the political parties and political organizations present made pledges stating to abide by the principles laid down in the code of conduct that they signed.



peaceful stability at all times by reporting any suspicious acts or intentions of wayward and treacherous elements they may deem.

Clear instructions were given to all security apparatus and their personnel to be more vigilant than ever in going about their duties.

Somaliland receives \$2m from Taiwan to boost elections kitty



meant to boost the NEC elections kitty in support of the presidential and political party elections that's six weeks away.

Both the minister and the NEC chief thanked the government of Taiwan for the financial support they provided in the previous parliamentary and civic elections in 2021 and the new support they are now providing for the coming one.

Dr. Sa'ad noted the good relationship between Somaliland and Taiwan that he observed share the same ideals on the imperativeness of democratic ideals.

On his part the NEC chief pledged that the money would be put in good use as per the allocations intended for the purposes of the electioneering processes.

the ambassador of Taiwan was the Minister of Finance Dr. Saad Ali Shire.

The event was attended by the chairman of Somaliland National

Electoral Commission Musa Hassan Yusuf and members of the commission including officials of NEC secretariat.

The Taiwan ambassador explained the intentions of the funds as being

The Somaliland government responds to the Mogadishu regime's baseless claims about the upcoming election

recent comments made by the Mogadishu administration at the United Nations regarding Somaliland's upcoming presidential and political party elections. These remarks are baseless and reflect a continued attempt by an illegitimate administration to undermine the democratic rights and sovereignty of the people of Somaliland.

The administration in Mogadishu, which controls a fraction of its territory and is plagued by insecurity, with much of its land dominated by Al-Shabaab militants, has no legitimacy or authority to speak on the internal affairs of Somaliland. The so-called government in Mogadishu has failed time and again to hold any credible, transparent, or inclusive electoral process. It is laughable for such a regime—where no citizen participation or one-person-one-vote elections have occurred for decades—to comment on Somaliland's well-established democratic system.

Somaliland, a nation with a proud tradition of democracy, will once

again demonstrate its commitment to its people's right to self-determination. The Somaliland people will elect their president and new political parties through free and fair elections in November 13 2024. The Mogadishu regime has no role to play in this process and no say over Somaliland's future. We urge the Mogadishu

administration to focus on its own internal crises, restore security, and ensure the basic governance of its own territory rather than issuing statements on matters outside of its control. The Republic of Somaliland will continue on its path of democracy, stability, and development, and we will not allow any external interference to distract us from that goal.



Third Conference of the Somaliland Economic Forum kicks-off next week



Dr. Saad Ali Shire, has announced that the Third Conference of the Somaliland Economic Forum will start on 8th 2024.

The conference brings together the government, businessmen and academics together in analyzing the economic issues of the country.

The minister revealed that this year's theme was "economic development", while pointing out that social services should be improved.

The conveners are the committee of cabinet ministries for economic affairs.

"This conference is the third one which brings together the government, businessmen and academics to discuss current and future economic issues, and its basis is cooperation between government agencies and investors and businessmen in the private sector out to boost businesses"

Public Employees Retirement and Entitlement Bill Approved



By M.A. Egge

The Somaliland Senate, the GUURTI, unanimously approved the Law on Pensions, Entitlements rights of Government Employees, Law No. 108/2024, which was previously passed by the Somaliland House of Representatives.

The session was chaired by Speaker Hon. Suleiman Mohamoud Adan had 54 MPs

seated and saw 47 of them pass the bill; four rejected it and 2 were silent. The Speaker informed the members of the council that soon its members will be dispatched upcountry, to the regions and districts of the nation, so that the members can inform the community about the importance of maintaining and sustaining public security in the face of the elections, that is, in six weeks away.

We are not insulting anyone, but we are defending the nation, says Information DG

called for the preservation and heralding of culture and its positive tenets.

The DG expressed the sentiments as he held a meeting with the staffers of the department of culture at the ministry's headquarters.

He noted that the culture department of the ministry held in trusteeship the preservation and impartation of culture and its wisdom and associated positive norms, to and for the nation.

On the other hand, he urged the artistes to uphold expected etiquettes that befit cultural wisdom. He said that the Department of Culture and the Ministry of Information is not a place to attack individuals or produce malicious plays, songs and messages directed to specific individuals, but instead they cater for the preservation, upholding and



heralding cultural norms and social etiquettes that further cohesion and solidarity amongst the people of the nation.

He said, "It is good that we work together, and work well together. We do not want anyone to be insulted. This is the department of culture and national guidance. We do not produce insulting plays, insulting songs, mocking comedies". He continued, "We are bringing out something that is useful for the society and we give guidance that is useful to, and for, the nation and defending the country".

Darlington Gacmadheere Foundation Comes of Age

Achievements of the institution in its 13th anniversary



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The Last Will and Testament of a Dictator: Djibouti's Precarious Transition from Guelleh and Its Global Reverberations

As Ismail Omar Guelleh's once-iron grip on Djibouti loosens, the Horn of Africa teeters on the brink of upheaval. Whispers of the president's failing health have begun to circulate through diplomatic channels, lending an air of urgency to discussions about the country's future. While such rumors are often exaggerated in the world of geopolitics, they serve as a stark reminder of an immutable truth: Guelleh, like all mortals, will one day

depart the stage. This inescapable reality casts a long shadow over Djibouti's political landscape, forcing regional and global powers to confront the implications of a post-Guelleh era. The potential power vacuum left by Guelleh's eventual exit threatens to unleash a perfect storm of domestic instability and international power plays that could reshape the geopolitical landscape far beyond Djibouti's borders. Guelleh's

regime, while repressive, has maintained a delicate balance between ethnic factions, foreign interests, and economic pressures. However, Guelleh's failure to craft a coherent succession plan—a political testament—has left Djibouti exposed to chaos. This oversight leaves the nation vulnerable to chaos and opportunism in the wake of his departure, whether through natural causes or political upheaval. In the aftermath of Guelleh, both the U.S. and China will likely vie to install



Darlington Gacmadheere Foundation Comes of Age

By M.A. Egge

The Darlington-Gacmo-dheere-Foundation held an event on Tuesday in Hargeisa to celebrate the 13th anniversary of the establishment of the organization which mainly caters for education scholarships.

This event, which was held at Hotel Mansoor in Hargeisa, presented the achievements of the Darlington Gacma-Dheere Foundation during its 13-year existence and was attended by various eminent personalities, leaders and numerous state officials.

The Darlington Gacmo-dheere Foundation is a non-profit organization that aims to improve the education of young people in Somaliland who cannot afford to pay for tertiary education, and at the same time they are getting help in high schools.

The organization was founded by the students who graduated from the Ex-Sheikh School and named after their beloved teacher Richard R. Darlington who was locally known by the nickname Gacmadheere, meaning 'long hands'.

Revealed at the event was the fact that the organization has so far sponsored 82 students from the regions of Somaliland; fifty eight (58) students have already graduated from different colleges and now they have found different jobs in different parts of Somaliland in different fields. The organization pays for university tuition fees as well as textbooks.

Sponsored students studied in various faculties such as Business, Law, Medicine, Engineering, ICT, Education, Lab techniques, Public Health etc with the students freely choosing the institutions or courses they want faculties they want such as Hargeisa University, Amoud University, Golis University, Sanaag University, Burao University, Berbera University and Nugaal University.

Professor Eid Ali Ahmed who is the main force behind the foundation spoke in depth about the stages the program has gone through and the way they select the students whom they award the scholarships.

He beamed with contentment when

he narrated that one day as he was entering a mosque a young man greeted him and when he sought the youth's introduction he was informed that the young man happened to be one of the recipients of the foundation's scholarship and was now an employed engineer.

The young man, said the professor, was from Badan.

"The students we sponsored came from different areas like Badan, Lasaanood, Zeyla, Erigavo, Burao, Hargeisa, Berbera, they come from all areas of Somaliland. For instance we do not know the 7 students sitting here but we know that they were the best students and are really quite hard working people".

He pointed out that they provided education to deserving students from low income families.

Of the 58 students have already graduated from the sponsorship programme, about twenty nine are fresh graduates with 13 of them having studied medicine, 6 are civil engineering graduates, 5 are ICT, and the rest did Nursing, Nutrition and Agricultural courses.

The Chairman of Higher Education of the Republic of Somaliland Prof. Suleiman Dirir Abdi greatly praised the Darlington Gacma-dheere Foundation for their fete in seeing to it that deserving students are financed in education.

He described the foundation as a light and a candle for the nation of Somaliland, and he pledged that his organization would support the programme.

He said that the higher education board will see to it that such students are supported even further. He also spoke about the history of Richard Darlington in whose honour the programme is named.

The chairman of the independent banking association of Somaliland, Mr. Khalif Noor, also spoke at the venue and expressed his elation to the programme and its achievements.

On her part Dr. Adna Adan Ismail profoundly lauded the initiatives done by Prof Eid and mentioned that the practical performance of the

Darlington Gacma-dheere Foundation as being a result of just and equal examinations and tests subjected to the deserved recipients.

She said, "Professor Eid, I applaud the work that Darlington Foundation is fronting, I am very grateful to you, and the students who passed the test that made it possible for you to get a free education at Darlington – Foundation through your own prowess".

She hoped that such compassion, goodwill, humanity and patriotism depicted may be instilled upon the youth of Somaliland and wished them well in their endeavours.

The former Vice President of the Republic of Somaliland, Abdirahman Aw Ali Farah, praised the efforts made by the foundation and their vision in advancing education in the nation by supporting the under-privileged.

He said, "I am grateful to the Darlington Foundation, when listening to their moving stories, these young people deserve to be role models".

He continued, "In fact, this institution of Darlington Gacma-dheere Foundation is the foundation of Professor Eid Ali Salaan, who put in a lot of energy and tirelessly worked on it".

He spoke at length on the ideals the late Darlington stood for and described him as a father figure.

A happy recipient of the scholarship, Farhan Farah Ali, narrated his experience since Prof. Eid first broke the news to him and told him to register himself at Burao University under the programme.

He hailed the transparency in the awarding system and was elated when he informed the audience that upon finishing his accounting degree he got a job with the local bottling company SBI and have since risen up the ranks to head its sales division.

He profusely thanked the foundation and its vision.

Guest of honour Abdirahman Aw Ali Farah lastly presented certificates to the esteemed members of the foundation who have put their selfless efforts into the programme.

their favored proxies at the helm of the government. Yet this power struggle will only serve to exacerbate Djibouti's already volatile domestic situation. As these giants compete for influence, the country risks descending into political fragmentation, economic stagnation, and potentially, civil unrest. The U.S., having focused solely on maintaining military dominance without investing in local governance or economic resilience, could find itself marginalized in Djibouti's next chapter. China, with its calculated approach, may exploit this vacuum, tightening its grip on the region.

The fragility of Djibouti's political system cannot be overstated. Guelleh's iron-fisted rule has systematically eroded the country's institutions, leaving them ill-equipped to manage a transfer of power. The judiciary is a tool of the regime. The electoral commission is a mere rubber stamp. Even the military, traditionally a stabilizing force in many African nations, is a wild card. Guelleh has cultivated personal loyalty among its leadership, raising the specter of factional infighting or even a coup in his absence.

Lurking beneath the surface are simmering ethnic tensions. The majority Issa and minority Afar communities have a history of conflict, kept in check by Guelleh's calculated balance of power. His exit could reignite these divisions, plunging the country into unrest. The stakes extend far beyond Djibouti's borders, threatening regional stability and global trade routes.

Djibouti's escalating debt to China, now over 70% of its GDP, has shackled the nation to Beijing's economic will, placing it on the brink of economic collapse. Despite IMF warnings, Guelleh's borrowing spree continues, playing into China's 'debt-trap diplomacy' through projects like the Doraleh Port. This strategic asset could fall under Beijing's control, granting China unprecedented leverage over one of the world's most crucial maritime chokepoints. The ability to monitor or potentially interfere with maritime traffic at the mouth of the Red Sea would be a strategic coup for China, shifting power dynamics not just in the Horn of Africa, but across the Middle East and beyond. Meanwhile, the U.S. now stands on the verge of strategic obsolescence, its influence fading in the shadow of China's rise. Years of myopic focus on counterterrorism in Somalia have left Washington unprepared for the complexities of

a post-Guelleh Djibouti. The State Department's Africa Affairs division and AFRICOM's lack of strategic foresight have resulted in a policy vacuum. While the U.S. has been fixated on maintaining its military foothold at Camp Lemonnier, China has been playing a long game of economic and political influence.

France, long Djibouti's primary ally and protector, finds itself treading a delicate line between maintaining its foothold and resisting China's expanding reach. Recent developments underscore the precariousness of America's position. Djibouti's increasingly erratic foreign policy moves, particularly its tacit support for Houthi forces, have sent shockwaves through diplomatic circles. This apparent realignment threatens to transform Djibouti from a stabilizing force in the region to a potential enabler of maritime insecurity. Rumors of Guelleh's government imposing restrictions on AFRICOM's operational capabilities suggest a deliberate effort to constrain the U.S. military's ability to project power.

Adding to this complex tableau is the rise of the Republic of Somaliland, Djibouti's neighbor to the south. Somaliland's ascent threatens to redraw the Horn of Africa's geopolitical map. With Ethiopia poised to reroute trade to Berbera, Djibouti's lifeblood—its control over regional commerce—could be drained. The UAE's investment in Berbera is as much about countering Turkish influence in Somalia as it is about economic opportunity. As Somaliland gains clout, pressure for international recognition may grow, potentially redrawing the political map of the Horn of Africa.

As Djibouti approaches the inevitable end of Guelleh's rule, the stakes could not be higher. What happens next will ripple across the region, shaping the balance of power not only in the Horn of Africa but in the global corridors of trade and influence. The battle for Djibouti's future will be fought on multiple fronts – political, economic, and strategic. The outcome of this struggle will have profound implications not just for the Horn of Africa, but for global trade and power dynamics. As Guelleh's reign draws to a close, the world must brace for turbulence in this small but pivotal nation. The question is not whether change will come to Djibouti, but what form it will take and who will shape it. The answer may well determine the future of East Africa and beyond.

Somaliland is where India can counter China in eastern Africa

India should develop closer relations with Somaliland, especially by using its port. This could provide India a valuable tool for countering China's influence along the eastern coast of Africa.

In looking for access to the Red Sea, India should avoid overcrowded Djibouti and opt for Somaliland's port of Berbera. Berbera handles 1/10 as much traffic as Djibouti's port, but it is

growing, thanks to investment by Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which are new members of the BRICS grouping and key partners for India.

India has frequently deployed anti-piracy patrol boats and warships to the Gulf of Aden, north of Somaliland, to maintain stability in the region. As India strives to gain more influence, Somaliland itself

could become India's strategic lynchpin.

Somaliland's location and history hold key advantages for India. A breakaway region of Somalia, it controls an 850km coastline along the Red Sea, and Berbera is one of Africa's busiest ports. Before a civil war destroyed Berbera, the British used the port to connect Ethiopia with India. And earlier this year, Ethiopia signed a historic deal with Somaliland to gain

commercial and military access to the port.

In developing closer relations, India would be joining Somaliland's growing network of partnerships. In striking contrast to Somalia and many other African countries, Somaliland is relatively stable and has been a democracy for more than 30 years.

Despite being broadly unrecognized as a sovereign state, it has begun partnering with many countries. Its capital, Hargeisa, hosts consulates of Djibouti, Ethiopia and Turkey, as well as liaison offices of Britain, Denmark, the UAE, and Kenya.

India and Somaliland already share strong trade relations. Somaliland imports various goods from India: food, petroleum, gas, machinery, building materials, apparel, tobacco, pharmaceuticals and cars. India is one of Somaliland's major trading partners by container volume, along with the UAE, China, Turkey, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. Berbera port's impressive operations and location within Africa make it a strategic asset for India. Last year, Berbera ranked even above Kenya's port of Mombasa in the World Bank's Container Port Performance Index.

It is also well placed for India to establish a naval base. From it, India could counter Pakistan's attempt to spread Islamist extremism in Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as the regional influence of the Chinese army, which has a base in Djibouti.

Closer ties with Somaliland could also strengthen India's relationship with the UAE, which has invested US\$300 million in expanding Berbera port and the nearby free trade zone. Among other extensive investment and aid to Somaliland, the UAE is co-developing the Berbera Corridor with Ethiopia to connect that landlocked country to the port. In return for such help, Somaliland will

allow the UAE to establish an air and naval base in Berbera.

The UAE has already docked ships at Berbera, about 250km south of Yemen, where the Saudi-led coalition that includes UAE troops was recently fighting Houthi rebels.

Because Ethiopia and the UAE became members of the BRICS in 2023, closer collaboration with them could enhance India's status within grouping and provide opportunities for accessing Berbera port. Ethiopia is leading the way by shifting all its commerce to Berbera.

Crucially, a stronger bond with Somaliland would help India counter China's influence in the region. In 2020, Somaliland recognised Taiwan. It continues to support Taiwan diplomatically, despite intense pressure from China and lobbying by members of the opposition Waddani Party. However, given the small size of its economy and lack of broad diplomatic recognition, Somaliland will not be able to resist China's influence for too long—unless India shows up.

If India established a stronger economic presence in Somaliland, it would benefit Indian businesses and enhance Somaliland's prosperity. As African countries increasingly seek to extricate themselves from China's debt-trap diplomacy and look for alternatives, India's growing engagement in the region could inspire other fence-sitters to eschew finance from China.

India must revisit its Africa strategy and partner with other like-minded countries to counter China's influence in the region. Closer relations with Somaliland are crucial in developing a pax-India—a zone of influence for India—along the east African coast.

Samir Bhattacharya is an associate fellow with the Strategic Studies Programme of the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi.

The President receives French government delegation



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi, received on Monday at the Presidential Palace a French delegation led by the France Ambassador to Kenya Amb. Arnaud Suquet.

The discussions in the itinerary were mainly on the strengthening of

the relationship between the two countries, the Republic of Somaliland and the French Government, and the support of the French Government in projects in the areas of health development, preservation of historical sites, culture and livestock development. The meeting also pondered on the issues of Somaliland's pending

elections, and the general safety and security of the Horn of Africa region. The President of Somaliland was accompanied at the meeting by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon. Dr Isse Keyd Mohamud, Finance Development Hon. Dr Saad Ali Shire, Privacy and National Development, Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Diriye (Toorno), the Special Envoy of the President in charge of negotiations Adna Aden Ismail and the Ambassador of the Republic of Somaliland to France Amb. Abdirahman Yasin.

The French delegation consisted of Mathieu Bruchon, the head of the regional economic service for East Africa and the Indian Ocean, the political advisor of the French Embassy Lucile Carrez and Mohamed Sahardid Raage, who is an adviser on business affairs.

Somaliland to deploy iris biometric equipment donated by Taiwan for November polls

Iris biometrics devices donated by Taiwan to Somaliland for election in that East African country in 2021 will still be deployed for upcoming elections in the country in November.

This is according to Taiwan's Ambassador to Somaliland, Allen Lou. The diplomat mentioned this recently as he announced fresh support of \$2 million given by Taiwan to the country in preparation for the presidential and national party elections to take place in six weeks from now.

The official said the equipment donated four years ago will be used in six of the country's cities during the general elections scheduled for November 13, according to Taiwan News.

In 2021, the government of Taiwan donated 2,500 iris biometric voter verification devices estimated at \$2 million to help Somaliland's National Election Commission (NEC) organize parliamentary and local government elections that year.

Iris ID has previously confirmed to *Biometric Update* that its iris



biometrics software and hardware are part of the system, and it is working in partnership with South African integrator Neametrics Africa. The new support of \$2 million, the Taiwanese representative is quoted as saying, is part of their collaboration with Somaliland to "advance transparency, accountability, fairness, and trust of the 2024 Somaliland election."

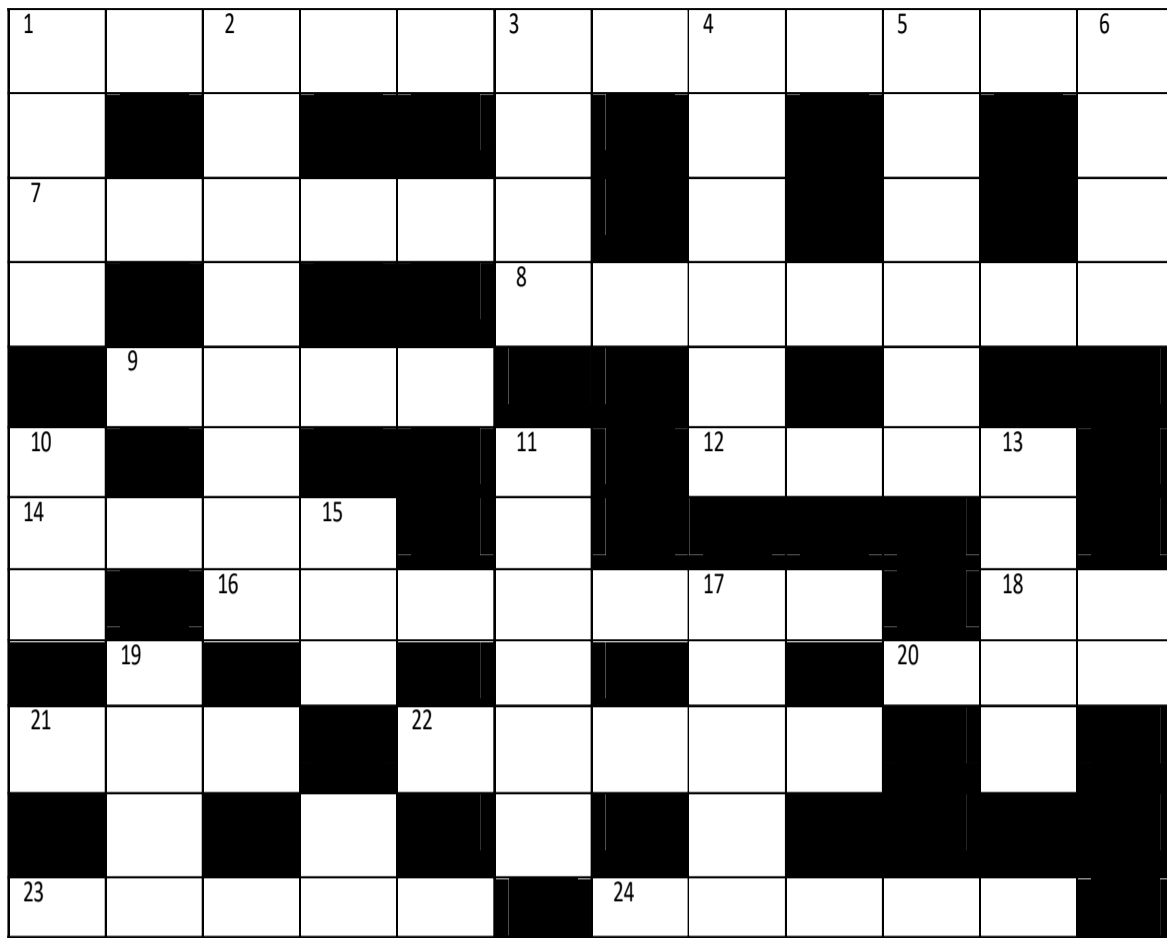
The Taiwanese official also praised the government of Somaliland for its commitment to democratic principles, describing the country as a beacon of democracy in East Africa.

The two countries have longstanding collaboration on various issues of mutual interest that

touch on politics and the economy. Somaliland, like Taiwan, functions as an independent country without much international recognition. It declared independence from Somalia in 1999, but it is not yet recognized by the United Nations. Meanwhile, as the elections in Somaliland approach, the country is in full swing with preparations. Not only has the elections management agency field-tested the equipment to be deployed, it has also been holding meetings and campaigns urging people to take part in the elections.

Somaliland has used the holding of regular and credible elections to showcase its democratic maturity and assert its independence.

THT Puzzle



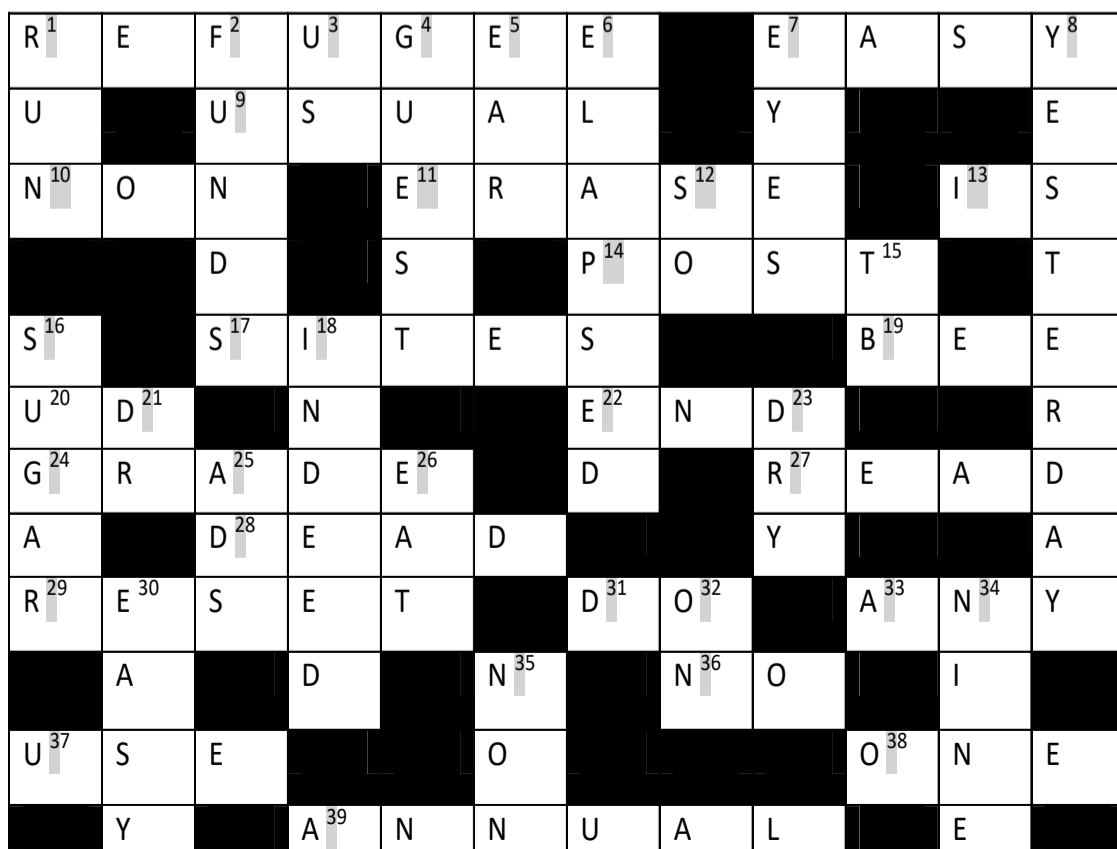
ACROSS

- 1 much experienced person in culture etc
- 7 Carrot
- 8 Bids
- 9 Due west
- 12 Cut off
- 14 Section/group
- 16 Accurate
- 18 On the way to
- 20 Sunshine
- 21 Furious/angry
- 22 Going away
- 23 Department store
- 24 Commend/ exalt.

DOWN

- 1 Billboard
- 2 Disease/ virus
- 3 Sort out
- 4 sarcastic
- 5 Detention
- 6 Seed/ chicken seed
- 10 Weapon
- 11 Individual
- 13 System
- 17 Waterway
- 19 Separate/ section

Previous Answer



President Bihi Talks Somaliland's Journey to Independence and Regional Stability

In a captivating interview with Al-Arabiya TV, President Muse Bihi Abdi of Somaliland lays bare the transformative vision for his region, capturing the attention of the Horn of Africa and the world. His words carry the weight of history and the fervent hopes of a people who have persevered against all odds. As tensions swell in a geopolitically charged landscape, Bihi's promise of a sovereign future shines like a beacon, inviting us to witness Somaliland's remarkable journey toward independence.

A Historical Resolve: The Quest for Recognition

"Why all this effort over four decades to be recognized as a state?" It's an arresting question, one that Bihi takes head-on, weaving a gripping narrative of Somaliland's turbulent past. "We were two independent states in 1960," he recalls, his voice steady yet passionate. "But after decades of conflict and a government collapse, Somaliland rose again in 1991, declaring back its status as an independent entity amid the chaos in Mogadishu, where divisions continue to fester." In a region laden with strife and forgotten histories, Somaliland's journey is not merely about seeking recognition; it's a relentless fight for dignity, stability, and self-determination. While Somalia has lurched from crisis to crisis, Somaliland has emerged as a unique success story, masterfully building its own institutions, economy, and security forces. With only one terrorist incident reported since 2008, and a commitment to managing its affairs independently, the resilience of Somaliland stands as a striking contrast to its neighbor's ongoing turmoil.

Groundbreaking Agreements: Somaliland and Ethiopia

As President Abdi confidently unveils the recently drafted memorandum of understanding with Ethiopia, the stakes become even clearer. "This agreement prioritizes our national interests and recognizes our statehood in exchange for granting Ethiopia a sea outlet," he explains, a glimmer of determination lighting his eyes. "Both parties understand the significance this holds for regional stability and mutual cooperation. It is more than just a paper; it's a commitment to peace and progress."

Yet, amidst the optimism, skepticism lingers. The Ethiopian government has been cautious in declaring its recognition of Somaliland, but Abdi assures, "I was there when the deal was made, and both sides agreed to recognize Somaliland as a state." As the prospect of peace hangs in the balance, the strategic implications of this partnership could redefine the Horn's political landscape, steering it toward a newfound era of collaboration and trust.

The Voices of a People: Support Amidst Opposition

Amidst whispers of dissent within Somaliland, Bihi stands firm, emphasizing the overwhelming support of his people. "Only one minister resigned over this matter," he counters strongly, "and the vast majority of Somalilanders aspire to independence." This is a sentiment that resonates deeply within the hearts of those who have long yearned for freedom, emphasizing a united front against the background of international pressures.

The question of union looms large, but Bihi's stance is unwavering. "The failed union of 1960 has long been exposed," he asserts emphatically. "It is no longer a viable path for us. We cannot rebuild what has already collapsed." His words reflect the collective memory of a people who refuse to be defined by a tumultuous past, but instead choose to forge a path toward a brighter future.

Security Concerns and the Road Ahead

Amid security concerns stemming from regional tensions, Bihi confronts the harsh realities. The closure of the Egyptian cultural library reflects a cautious stance toward external influences that threaten Somaliland's autonomy. "The struggle for our independence is an internal matter, and outside interference will not be tolerated," he declares resolutely.

As Somaliland stands poised on the brink of elections in November, Abdi reassures the world of the democratic promises that lie ahead. "Our people will voice their support for independence or union, and I will respect their decision," he states confidently, emphasizing the democratic process as the ultimate expression of the will of the people.

An Invitation to the World

In closing, President Muse Bihi Abdi extends an urgent invitation for recognition—to the international community, to neighboring nations, and to anyone with ears to listen. "We are not seeking to isolate ourselves; we are striving for a partnership based on mutual respect. Somaliland embodies stability and security within the Horn of Africa, and our aspirations are not merely dreams; they are the will of our people."

As viewers and readers alike absorb his powerful words, they are left with a compelling call to action: to recognize Somaliland as it truly is—a beacon of democracy and stability in a region riddled with conflict. This is not just a story about politics; it's about a people, their past, present, and a hopeful future.

The narrative of Somaliland is one that deserves to be spread far and wide, igniting discussions and encouraging a deeper understanding of this resilient nation's journey.

In addition to Djibouti, Ethiopia decide to import fuel at Somaliland's Berbera port

It has been pointed out that there is a distribution problem due to the non-replacement of the stations destroyed by the development of the corridor

Due to the reduced service capacity of the Horizon Oil Storage Depot in Djibouti, a proposal to import fuel through Berbera port in Somaliland is pending government decision.

Ato Lemesa Tulu, director of oil products marketing research at the Oil and Energy Authority, told the reporter that the reduction in service capacity of the Horizon fuel storage depot in Djibouti is causing disruptions in fuel supply in Ethiopia. "The government doesn't have a problem buying fuel," said Mr. Le Mesa, but he explained that the service provided by Horizon, Djibouti's fuel storage depot, has been reduced for 18 years since it was built and has never been repaired.

Explaining the decrease in service capacity through Djibouti, "For example, we need ten million liters of diesel per day, but the amount of fuel shipped from Djibouti is decreasing. Out of the ten million liters we need per day, only eight million liters are being released per day," he said.

Mr. Lemesa said that he believes that other alternative ports need to be used to solve this problem. He stated that a study has been done so that as much fuel as the port of Djibouti can handle, should be imported through Djibouti, and the rest should be found and imported through another port.

"Accordingly, Somaliland's Berbera Port has convenient and adequate service facilities, it has been identified through research, a recommendation to use the port has been submitted to the government and a decision is being awaited," he said.

He said that if the problem at the port of Djibouti is not resolved, the disruption in oil supply will continue next year.

In addition to the problem in Djibouti, another reason for the disruption of fuel supply in Addis Ababa is that the Addis Ababa city administration has not taken action to quickly replace the destroyed gas stations in the corridor development.

Mr. Lemesa pointed out that when eight gas stations were demolished in the corridor development, replacement stations were not considered, and as a result, gas stations are disappearing in the center of the city.

He explained that in the corridor development that has been carried out so far, three stations (Bole Nok, Bole Brass Total and Nyala Motors Nok) have been demolished, three stations from Four Kilo to Piazza and the stations in front of Kazanchis and Mexico Wabi Shebele have been demolished.

"Gas stations are disappearing from downtown. For example, there is no station between four and six kilos. There is not a single station near the piazza. Bowl to intersection, too. There is not a single station from Urail to Bole," he said.

Therefore, when the city administration demolished the stations, they should have prepared a place for the same use in the same area.

He also pointed out that a total of 17 stations will be demolished during the development of the corridor, including the stations that have been demolished so far.

Addis Ababa city needs 1.6 million liters of gasoline per day, and it has been reported that the oil and energy authority has distributed gasoline from the Sululta reserve depot to twenty fuel tanks to alleviate the recent fuel shortage

In his comments to ETV, Getachew Amonwe, Director of Fuel Distribution at the Oil and Energy Authority, presented other reasons for the problem.

Mr. Getachew stated that there is no shortage of fuel supply as up to 1.6 million liters of fuel is being supplied to Addis Ababa city per day, but all gas stations cannot have equal supply in one day.

The director said that 120 stations are providing service in Addis Ababa, adding that although most of the stations have four machines, some of them are providing service with only one machine.

He also said that the authority is working to find out and solve other causes of the problem.

Currently, there are more than 770,000 gasoline vehicles in Addis Ababa, and only 120 gas stations provide service for these vehicles.

President hails Adadley's role in liberation struggles, as residents profoundly welcome him

By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi and members of his delegation were warmly welcomed in Adadley, which is 90 km south-east of the capital Hargeisa.

The community residents in Adadley and its suburbs, waving fresh twigs and while with some adorned in the flag of the nation similarly waved the flags and the symbols of the KULMIYE party, accorded the Head of State and his entourage a hilarious reception with deafening ululations and escorted him to the dais whereupon he addressed the masses.

The local leaders of the district, members of the traditional leadership, scholars and eminent physicians from the area, some of the cabinet members, politicians and other contemporary leaders

welcomed the president to the district in their speeches.

They clearly registered their support to the President and the ruling KULMIYE party in his quest for re-election in the upcoming residential and political parties' general elections on the 13th of November 2024.

The second vice-chairman of the KULMIYE party, Mr. Ahmed Abdi Hussein (Ahmed Abdi-Dhere) and the regional governor of Marodi-jeh, Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Aalin Timbaro welcomed the president and explained in depth the importance of Adadley district and the role it played in the struggle to liberate the country, and has a significant role as a factor of production hub.

The Head of State on his part expressed his thankfulness to the residents for the warm reception accorded to him that emitted

patriotism, solidarity and unity. President Muse Bihi Abdi highlighted the historic importance of the sons of the area who played major roles in the fight of emancipation from the colonial yokes when they were foremost in refusing the poll taxes to the recent liberation of the nation.

He mentioned various figures who hailed from the area that have made history as being foremost in the education and development sectors living legacies.

He also underlined developmental projects and activities undertaken in the area under his administration.

On the other hand, the president inspected the boarding school in Adadley district. He later graced an elaborate event held by the local community in Dibbis area to his honour.

Education ministry conducts 4-day course for school inspectors

By M.A. Egge

The Ministry of Education has concluded an apprentice training session in Burao for the education school inspectors drawn from the districts and divisions of the eastern parts of the country.

The director of the inspection department of the Ministry of Education and together with the coordinator of the Ministry of Education of Togdeer region convened the 4-day training for the inspectors of Togdeer, Saahil, Sanaag, Badan,

Daadmadee, Buhoodle and Sarar regions.

The course is aimed at improving the quality of education.

It was agreed that such seminars should be constantly held periodically such that the sector may be put on toes for perfection. The regional education coordinator thanked all the participants for its efforts in improving education.

The inspectorate director agreed that similar courses should be held constantly.

Energy ministry, SBF discuss situation of the sector

By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Energy and Minerals Hon. Abdillahi Farah Abdi, and the director general of the ministry, Mr. Mohamed Osman Said, met with experts from the Somaliland Development Fund to discuss the sector.

The purpose of this meeting was to analyze the situation in Somaliland's energy sector and how Somaliland's Development Fund Phase III would be included in the development of the country's energy and mineral resources.

The officials of the ministry led by the minister gave a comprehensive

report to the experts of the Somaliland development fund on the current situation in the energy sector, the challenges, and investment opportunities in the energy and mining sectors of Somaliland.

The meeting agreed upon the need and intention of maintaining such meetings to develop the energy and mining areas of the country.

The minister emphasized the importance and benefit of finding or seeking funding for the mines and energy sector of Somaliland, and the ministry's commitment in the direction.

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