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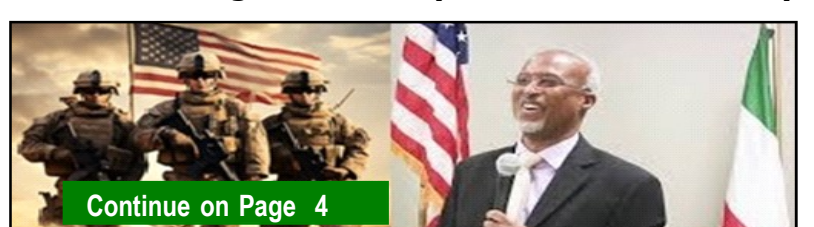
New treasury chief to toe laid down regulations to the hilt



By M.A. Egge
The newly appointed Minister of Finance Hon. Abdillahi Hassan Adan emphasized that as he assumes the tasks of the ministry, he would make sure that the laws applicable governing the

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Somaliland Expresses Gratitude to Congressman Scott Perry for Advocating Recognition Bill



The Republic of Somaliland has extended its heartfelt appreciation to U.S. Congressman Scott Perry for his visionary leadership in introducing

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President reiterates his service to the nation and people of Somaliland



By M.A. Egge

The Head of State, H.E. President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Iirro has reiterated the fact that he would adhere to the tenets of his oath of office of defending the nation, religion and the people. He expressed the fact during the second session of the Cabinet meeting that he chaired on Thursday while flanked by the Vice President H.E. Mohamed Ali, opened on Thursday afternoon at 2:00 pm at the Presidency. It is worth noting that the Cabinet Meeting has been rescheduled to have their weekly sessions held in the afternoon (2:00 pm to 5:00 pm), giving the ministers more time to do their regular duties. The ministers generally gave briefs on the events that had been going on over the week that were mainly their assumptions of their official

duties. It is only the newly created resettlement ministry that is yet to receive their official duties, on Saturday, following the merger of parastatal agencies. The Minister of Finance and Economic Development shared with the council the economic situation of the country and the acceleration of national revenue collection while the Minister of Defense and Security briefed the council on the latest developments in the clashes in Erigavo, reporting the situation as calm. The Minister stated that in general the country is safe, but noted that caution and vigilance are needed. Similar brief on security was given by the Interior minister. On the other hand, the Attorney General of the Republic briefed the Council of Ministers on Law No. 71/ 2015 concerning the Amendment

and Supplementation of the Law on the Separation of Powers between the Government and Independent Institutions, which the Council deliberated upon at length. The Minister of the Presidency on his part highlighted the preparatory activities plan for the first 100 days of the term of office of the Government headed by President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi. Lastly, the President underpinned the fact that he and his deputy were sworn to defend the country, the people and religion and as such, he aspires to adhere to the expectations. He told the Council, that foremost, his government gives first priority to dialogue, peace and brotherhood for all Somaliland society to live together; but at the same time his government is committed to the National Defense of the Republic of Somaliland, anytime, anywhere.

Government appeal for calm, says it has contacted neighbouring Somali State of Ethiopia following clashes at Da'awaley

the spate of violence that erupted at Da'awaley in Harshin district of the Somali state of Ethiopia that threatens the cross-border harmonious setting of the pastoral residents that has claimed lives and left several injured. The Somaliland Minister of Interior Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab a.k.a. Sandeere said that they have made efforts as a government to quell the violence hence has reached to their counterparts in the neighbouring country. He appealed for calm and asked the residents of the area to keep their cool as the matter is being addressed by the concerned government of Ethiopia. He made the appeal through a press conference he called last evening in his office. "I would like to inform you about the violence that has escalated in the fifth district, where the Somali regional government forces and

people from the area fought, which resulted in casualties, deaths and injuries, and serious violence. I express my deepest condolences to the victims of the deaths and injuries. When we learned of this incident, we contacted the authorities of the Somali state of Ethiopia. We noted that since they are responsible for the people of the area, they should address the matter and calm the situation". Public works minister Hon. Hussein Aideed and Sports and Youth Deputy Minister Hon. Yusuf Nouh Yusuf a.k.a. Tadase who flanked the minister at the presser also expressed similar sentiments. They all sent their condolences to the scores reportedly dead following the skirmishes and wished quick recovery to the injured. People who were injured in the fighting in Da'awaley area have been taken to Bali-gubadle town

hospital in Haut region for medical attendance. The interior minister briefed the nation on the situation of the conflict that occurred in the area that pitted the Ethiopian regional government Liyuu police force and one of the clans of the Somali regional government, which resulted in the clash with a number of deaths and injuries. The minister said that during the discussions with the security officials of the Somali regional government, they agreed to protect the people and that the authorities of the area. He added that they have sent a large delegation from Somaliland and that the government is saddened by what happened. He urged the people living in the area where the violence occurred to remain calm and maintain peace.

New treasury chief to toe laid down regulations to the hilt



institution would have to be adhered to the hilt. He gave the sentiments as he took over the office from predecessor Dr. Saad Ali Shire on Tuesday. He and new Minister of State for the Ministry, Hon. Mawliid Ismail Abdilaahi took over from the previous heads of the ministry. The handover ceremony, which was held at the Bar Haraf Hotel in Hargeisa and was attended by the Governor of the Central Bank, the National Accountant General, parliamentarians, traditional leaders, senior employees of the ministry and other distinguished guests. The outgoing minister Mr. Saad Ali Shire, welcomed the new officials appointed by the President to the ministry and briefed them on the vast responsibilities entailed in the ministry. Hon. Abdillahi, who himself is not a new face in the financial world, noted that his administration would see to it that applicable laws, rules, regulations and tenets that

encompass the systemic financial management would have to be adhered to. "In accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Somaliland, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is responsible for major tasks in the country, including setting the national budget, implementing and enforcing laws to guide the national financial administration, formulating and implementing effective financial, economic, and tax policies, ensuring fair and equitable distribution of economic opportunities, collecting and regulating income taxes in the country, and balancing government revenue and expenditure", he said. He pointed out that while fulfilling his mandate, he would focus on establishing an efficient, transparent, financial management system that reflects the extensive work and mission of the ministry for the nation of Somaliland.

Somaliland Expresses Gratitude to Congressman Scott Perry for Advocating Recognition Bill



a historic bill to recognize Somaliland's sovereignty. In an official statement, Hussein Adan Igeh (Deyr), the Spokesman of the President of Somaliland, conveyed the nation's gratitude on behalf of its government and people. Addressing Congressman Perry directly, Hussein praised his steadfast commitment to justice, democracy, and the aspirations of Somaliland's citizens. "This historic step reflects not only your steadfast commitment to justice and democracy but also your profound understanding of the aspirations of the Somaliland

people, who have worked tirelessly to build a peaceful, democratic, and self-reliant nation in the Horn of Africa," Hussein stated in the letter. The statement highlighted the significance of this legislative move in Somaliland's 33-year pursuit of international recognition. Hussein underscored the stability, good governance, democracy, and respect for human rights that Somaliland has consistently upheld. "At a time when much of the region faces turmoil and uncertainty, Somaliland has remained an anchor of peace, democracy, and

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Somaliland Expresses Gratitude to Congressman Scott Perry for Advocating Recognition Bill

progress—a testament to the enduring spirit of our resilient people and their desire to contribute meaningfully to the global community,” the statement read. Hussein also emphasized the introduction of the recognition bill as a testament to the deep partnership between Somaliland and the United States, describing it as a pivotal moment in the nation’s journey toward international recognition and greater global engagement. “The introduction of this Bill also underscores the deep and enduring partnership between Somaliland

and the United States of America. It reflects America’s unwavering support for democratic principles and the rights of self-determining nations,” he remarked. Somaliland declared its regained independence from Somalia in 1991 and has since built a peaceful, democratic, and self-reliant nation despite the lack of formal recognition. The bill, introduced by Congressman Perry, represents a significant step forward in Somaliland’s quest to secure its place in the international community.

The letter concluded with a pledge to continue fostering the values of peace, democracy, and self-determination while strengthening bilateral ties with the United States. “This marks a turning point in Somaliland’s success story,” Hussein wrote, “made possible by the unwavering support of champions like you.” The move has reignited hope among Somaliland’s citizens and leadership, who view it as a validation of their decades-long efforts to gain recognition and contribute to global progress.

President holds consultative meeting with national political parties



By M.A. Egge

The President H.E. Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro once again reiterated the need for the defence of the nation and at the same time similarly extended a branch of olive to the belligerent residents of Sool region and appealed for peaceful reconciliation. The Head of State stated the facts as he held on Saturday an unprecedented national consultative meeting with the official national political parties which he said would be a constant one in his administration. The meeting brought together the heads of the three parties viz., the ruling party WADDANI, KULMIYE and KAAH led by their consecutive chairmen Messrs Hirsi Ali Haji Hassan, Mohamoud Hashi Abdi and Mohamed Kahin Ahmed respectively.

Noting that the political parties were part of national institutions, he pointed out that they ought to be engaged in deliberations of national interests. While thanking the political party officials for promptly heeding his call for the consultative meeting, the President underpinned the fact that the nation has to be safeguarded from within and without. He further noted that the country was not one at war with its own but would always be diligent in their duties and aspire to the guidelines of nationhood and its governance as per expectations. He stated that the security arms of the government have full orders and directives to handle matters that undermine national cohesion and internal security as per their duties. The President congratulated the

three political parties to have won and clinched officialdom to become the only official political parties mandated to operate for the next ten years. In reciprocation, the chairmen of the opposition parties thanked the President for his call and pledged to work with the government as duly per national calling. They gave their advice to the Head of State as to how national cohesion may be cemented and combatting wayward social media propaganda which undermines cohesiveness and renders populaces asunder. They pledged that they would do their best to help foster peaceful security and stability, national economy and solid unity, hence, tether such negative and unbecoming propaganda from within the country and abroad. They also sought from the state the bolstering of political parties to make democracy and its institutions be a formidable process in nation building. On his part, the chair of the ruling party WADDANI echoed the sentiments of his colleagues and further underpinned the need to have concerted efforts focussed in addressing insurgency and associated miss-demeanor.

New cabinet ministers take over their portfolios in the changes of guard

By M.A. Egge

The majority of the newly appointed cabinet ministers and their deputies have taken over the offices they have been assigned. The mass change of the baton of leadership at the helm of the state ministries follows the ascent to power of the Waddani administration which shoved off the Kulmiye one in an outstanding land slide victory hitherto unseen in the nation of two to one. Following the unveiling of the new administration’s key officials, the newly elected and sworn into

office Head of State, H.E. President Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro directed that the assumption of the new officials to office should be completed within three days. It is as per this directive that all the outgoing ministers prepared immediate handover and transfers of the offices to the incoming administration hence the en-masse events. So far almost all ministries have seen the change at the helm with all events witnessing the concerned officials, senior

personalities in the social, socio-economical and associated political status of the society invited to attend the functions give diverse sentiments. While officials mentioned the tasks that they had already implemented in the course of their duties, and also pointed out remainders, the new officials pledged to do their utmost best to sincerely, faithfully and diligently fledge the institutions further than they are. Below are photos round-up of changes of guard already done:

Information Minister Promises to Improve Ministry Services and Staff

By M.A. Egge

The new Minister of Information, Culture and National Guidance who has just taken over the helmship at the ministry has pledged to make sure that the characteristically descriptive name of the institution lives to its intended standards. He pointed out that he would focus on uplifting to improve both the capacities of services provided and skills of the staffers. The minister expressed the sentiments at the hand-over function held at the ministry’s headquarters held on Wednesday where he and his deputy Hon. Musa Askar Guleid took over from their predecessors Ali Mohamed Hassan and Said Habane respectively.

The new minister of Information who has been at the helm of the legislature for over a dozen years as the deputy speaker and an intellectual and top cleric in his own right, promised to build all the capacity facilities of the television, radio stations and their staff and make it a formidable force to be reckoned with hence mirror the essence of what the nation of Somaliland entails. Among his statements were: “I want to make the ministry an institution that reflects the nation, that disseminates reliable, appealing, trustworthy, and interesting news; that it should be a ministry that guides the nation, defends it if it is attacked, and disseminates the best of it if the nation moves forward”. He continued, “I have plans to establish the ministry’s strategic policy, improve the tools the ministry uses, and I will work to build the skills and knowledge of the ministry’s employees.” He spoke of the need to safeguard, build and develop the moral culture in society and work towards mutual brethren-ship, harmonious setting and social cohesion within the country. While lamenting on the miss-use of the social media, he decried the fact that unwarranted praise is given to



one who uses the platform for spite, abusive and malicious intentions rending people asunder while sadly the society deems such ill innuendoes of waywardness as heroic deeds. He equally decried the invasion of perverse social culture through deliberate obstinacy that has been perpetuated by social media and needs to be tethered and controlled to put evil intentions in check. The ministry DG Mr. Mustafa Abdi Isse gave details of the significant activities undertaken during the tenure of the outgoing officials. The director said that most of the positive activities carried out by the ministry were the efforts of Minister Ali Marehan. In fact, many relay and booster FM stations were established in all major regions of the country. The DG said that there are projects that are currently underway, such as the construction of a theater for five to six hundred people with all the necessary modern theater equipment, which is almost complete, the implementation of a radio station intended to reach the entire Horn of Africa. He pointed out that only the electricity supply is still incomplete; and also the implementation of a media training institute had been done with the first batch of which has just graduated. The outgoing minister Ali Marehaan explained about the technical hiccups that hit the solar panels installation arising. He however said that works on the radio was about to be completed with less than 10 per cent of the chores remaining. With the solar panels functioning fully, the large amounts of fuel to generate power would be a thing of the past.



Somaliland could host US military if it serves mutual interest and regional security-Somaliland USA Envoy



Somaliland reclaimed its sovereignty from Somalia over three decades ago, but it lacks international support for its independence

Somaliland is ready to host a US military base in the port of Berbera if it serves mutual interest and regional security, Bashir Goth, Somaliland representative in Washington, said in an interview with TASS published on Thursday. According to the outlet, the envoy made the remarks in response to a question about Somaliland's willingness to host an American army camp if its independence from Somalia is acknowledged.

"Somaliland will be ready to host a US military base in Berbera if it serves the common interests of our two countries," Goth was quoted as saying.

Somaliland declared independence from Somalia in 1991, following the overthrow of Somali military ruler Siad Barre and after a decade-long civil war. While not internationally recognized as a country, the territory on the southern coast of the Gulf of Aden has since

established its own government, security structures, and currency. Despite this, Somalia still regards the province as its own territory.

Earlier this year, the de facto independent state struck a major deal with Ethiopia to lease 20km (12 miles) of coastline to the landlocked state for commercial purposes and to build a marine base – in exchange for Somaliland being recognized as a country. The agreement has since heightened tensions with Somalia, which accuses Ethiopia of aggression and undermining Somali territorial integrity through the "illegal" Red Sea access pact.

The authorities in Mogadishu have warned that they are prepared to go to war to prevent their East African neighbor from supporting Somaliland's sovereignty claims. In October, the Somali government declared an Ethiopian diplomat persona non grata and ordered him to leave within 72 hours due to "activities incompatible with his diplomatic role." It previously expelled Ethiopia's ambassador from Mogadishu and has threatened

to kick out thousands of Ethiopian soldiers fighting the Al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group Al-Shabaab in Somalia if the maritime agreement is not revoked.

Speaking to TASS, Goth dismissed any negative consequences for relations with Mogadishu if the US, under President-elect Donald Trump, recognizes Somaliland's autonomy.

"We consider ourselves an independent and sovereign state. Therefore, we view any partnership that we establish with friendly countries exclusively through the interests of our country," the diplomat told TASS.

Somaliland is hoping Trump will support its statehood push when he returns to the White House in January. According to analysts cited by the Semafor Africa news agency, the move would allow Washington to establish long-term intelligence operations to monitor weapons movement in a volatile region and the activities of China, which has a permanent military base in neighboring Djibouti.

Somaliland's Rising Stakes: A Test of Diplomacy, Resilience, and Survival-Prof Nassir



As the sun rises over Somaliland's rugged mountains and golden coastline, it casts its light on a nation caught in the crosshairs of history. For decades, Somaliland has fought to define itself as a beacon of democracy and stability in one of the world's most volatile regions. Its peaceful elections, marked by the triumph of Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi "Ciro," have once again placed this unrecognized state under the global spotlight. Yet, even as it celebrates its democratic gains, Somaliland finds itself encircled by a web of adversaries—regional and global powers united by a singular goal: to derail its march toward self-determination.

Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea, China, and Turkey—each with their own agenda—are converging in an unholy alliance of geopolitical intrigue. They see in Somaliland not just a fledgling democracy but a potential disruptor of the status quo, a nation determined to carve its destiny free from the constraints of external control. For Somalia, Somaliland's assertion of independence threatens its territorial integrity and political narrative. Somalia's diplomatic machinery, fueled by allies such as Egypt and Qatar, works tirelessly to choke Somaliland's quest for

recognition at every international forum.

Suffice it just to mention Djibouti, the region's traditional trade and maritime hub, views Somaliland as an emerging rival. Its leaders understand the implications of a recognized Somaliland, with its Berbera port poised to challenge Djibouti's stranglehold on regional logistics and trade routes. Eritrea, ever the shadowy operator, sees an opportunity to maintain its influence by ensuring Somaliland remains isolated and embroiled in regional complexities.

But the stakes rise further with the entry of global powers. China, with its insatiable appetite for strategic outposts, is determined to extend its Belt and Road Initiative into Somaliland, not as a partner but as a master. Its opaque infrastructure deals and media manipulation campaigns are aimed at embedding its influence while ensuring Somaliland remains beholden to its economic leverage. Meanwhile, Turkey, with its eyes on military and economic dominance in the Horn of Africa, seeks to align with Somalia and other regional players to block Somaliland's aspirations.

These forces are not just vying for influence; they are engaging in

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succeeded in meeting the three dimensions of efficiency, popular acceptance, and balanced representation.

In general, there will be internal files such as restoring national unity and reducing tension and conflict in the region of Sool eastern regions of Somaliland to reach solutions that satisfy the parties while avoiding further bloodshed of the people of this blessed country. In addition to the internal economic file, which will require tremendous efforts to overcome the current economic problems of inflation and high unemployment rates.

In the external file, the president will have to find the right balance to reconcile the interests of

Somaliland without provoking disputes with neighboring countries regarding the memorandum of understanding with Ethiopia, which has caused a clear political crisis recently. This is to ensure the maximum benefit and advantage for Somaliland from strengthening economic and diplomatic relations with Ethiopia, the UAE, and other countries, while also gaining the concerned parties to reduce tension in the region. I believe this is a diplomatic matter that will not be difficult for the president given his astuteness and extensive diplomatic experience.

By: Dr. Abdulaziz Khalaf-Horn of Africa Newspaper-Senior lecturer at University of Hargeisa

The new government: reality and challenges- Dr. Abdulaziz Khalaf

The Republic of Somaliland is witnessing rapid developments with the formation of the new government by His Excellency the new President of the Republic, H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi Irro, through a presidential decree. The new government includes 28 ministers, three state ministers, and 17 deputy ministers, in a move to fulfill electoral promises and the strategic plan of the ruling National Party, which took power after a presidential election characterized by transparency, where the opposition won by a two-thirds majority over the ruling party.

This step reflects the democratic climate enjoyed by the republic, which has not received international recognition despite its success in the peaceful transfer of power to six presidents who have ruled the republic since its declaration of secession from the Federal Republic of Somalia in May 1991. Four of these presidents were



directly elected by the people in free elections, and none of them managed to serve a second term. The current government faces multiple political, economic, and social challenges that it seeks to overcome to preserve national interests in a complex reality, raising questions about the new government's ability to tackle these major challenges facing the country. Emerging democratic systems require the formation of a government characterized by the following dimensions:

1. Technocratic competence.

2- Popular acceptance.

3- Balanced community representation.

And this is done in a way that maintains social balance in the allocation of political positions among community components, especially with the presence of tribalism, which has a clear impact on the satisfaction of the community and its various segments. In general, the signs of balance and societal acceptance are largely evident in the new cabinet, in which His Excellency the President has

SL-SAG Condemns Somalia's \$600K Lobbying Campaign Against Somaliland's Re-Recognition Efforts



and mature democracy. The seamless transfer of power showcased the nation's political maturity and readiness to be a key player on the global stage. Somaliland's stability, democratic governance, and geopolitical significance underscore its readiness to be recognized as a sovereign state.

Strategically located near the Bab al-Mandab Strait (ĘĘ ĆáããĘ) and the Gulf of Aden, Somaliland controls critical maritime corridors and boasts the Berbera Port, one of Africa's most important ports. This makes Somaliland a focal point in the geopolitical landscape, attracting interest from global powers such as China, Turkey, and Russia. The United States, however, has lagged behind in forging meaningful partnerships with Somaliland—a missed opportunity that SL-SAG urges President-elect Trump to address. Immediate recognition of Somaliland and the establishment of military and economic relations would advance U.S. interests in the region while countering China's expanding influence.

The Biden administration's adherence to the outdated and ineffective "One Somalia Policy" has failed to address the realities on the ground, wasting valuable time and resources. Somaliland's independence and recognition are not only a matter of justice but also a strategic imperative for regional and global stability.

SL-SAG calls on the U.S. government, NGOs, and policymakers to see through this misguided lobbying effort and engage with Somaliland as a reliable partner committed to peace and prosperity. We urge all stakeholders to reject divisive tactics and support Somaliland's legitimate aspirations for recognition.

The Somaliland-American Support Group (SL-SAG) vehemently condemns the Somali government's deeply misguided decision to allocate \$600,000 to a lobbying contract with the BGR Group in Washington, DC. This campaign aims to oppose Somaliland's Re-Recognition Bill (H.R.) currently before the U.S. Congress. This decision reflects Mogadishu's continued disregard for its own internal crises and its relentless attempts to undermine Somaliland's sovereignty and democratic progress.

As Somaliland-American citizens, we categorically reject the misuse of taxpayer funds for such lobbying efforts. We are sharply critical of the current U.S. administration for permitting the squandering of American taxpayer dollars on endeavors that contradict the principles of democracy and progress.

For over three decades, Somaliland has stood as a beacon of stability, democracy, and economic growth in the Horn of Africa. It has consistently demonstrated a commitment to self-reliance, peacebuilding, and the rule of law—values that sharply contrast with the

governance challenges and conflicts that persist in Somalia.

Rather than addressing its critical security, humanitarian, and governance issues, the Somali government has chosen to divert substantial resources toward undermining Somaliland's legitimate aspirations. These funds would have been far better spent on supporting Somalia's struggling citizens or rebuilding essential infrastructure. It is particularly egregious that the U.S. government recently forgave \$1.1 billion in Somali debt, only to see such funds misused. SL-SAG unequivocally condemns the exploitation of American taxpayer money for lobbying efforts aimed at stifling Somaliland's democratic progress. "This campaign is a desperate attempt to obstruct Somaliland's rightful pursuit of international recognition," said an SL-SAG spokesperson. "Recognition is earned through stability, democracy, and progress—not through expensive lobbying to suppress the genuine aspirations of a thriving democracy."

On November 13, Somaliland held its sixth presidential election, further solidifying its reputation as a stable

Somaliland's Rising Stakes: A Test of Diplomacy, Resilience, and Survival-Prof Nassir

active destabilization. Proxy actors, economic isolation tactics, disinformation campaigns, and military posturing are the weapons of choice. Somaliland, perched on the Gulf of Aden and near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, holds the keys to one of the most strategic maritime corridors in the world. Its geographical position is both its greatest asset and its most perilous vulnerability. The waters surrounding it are rife with piracy, terrorism, and global power competition, making Somaliland's stability essential not just for the region but for the global economy. And at the heart of this storm stands Dr. Ciro, a seasoned diplomat with decades of experience in navigating the treacherous waters of international relations. His victory in the polls has inspired hope among Somaliland's people, but it has also made him a target. He inherits a nation rich in untapped resources but surrounded by adversaries eager to exploit its weaknesses. The world has seen what happens to resource-rich but vulnerable nations in Africa—Sudan's descent into chaos, the Sahel's spiral into extremist violence, the Congo Basin's plunder by transnational criminals. These are cautionary tales that Somaliland cannot afford to ignore.

Dr. Ciro's challenge is nothing short of monumental. He must walk a tightrope, balancing immediate threats with long-term ambitions. Somaliland's democracy, still fragile, must be fortified against the external pressures of disinformation and internal cracks that adversaries will seek to exploit. The president must forge alliances not out of

desperation but from a position of strength, ensuring that any agreements with foreign powers serve the long-term interests of his nation.

Recognition remains Somaliland's ultimate goal, but it cannot come at the cost of sovereignty. Dr. Ciro understands that his nation's rich resources and strategic location are bargaining chips in a high-stakes game. Yet, he also knows that Somaliland must not trade these assets for fleeting gains. His vision must extend beyond the immediate allure of international recognition to a future where Somaliland is a sovereign leader, respected and self-reliant.

The battle ahead will test every ounce of Dr. Ciro's diplomatic skill, every fiber of Somaliland's resilience. It is a battle not just for recognition but for survival in a world where power and influence often trample over principle. Somaliland stands at a crossroads, its destiny hanging in the balance. The question now is whether its leaders can rise above the machinations of those who seek to contain it, crafting a future defined by self-determination and strength.

As the world watches, Somaliland's struggle is more than a regional story. It is a lesson in resilience, a testament to the power of democracy, and a warning to those who underestimate the resolve of a nation determined to chart its own course. And for Dr. Ciro, this moment is not just a test of leadership—it is the defining challenge of his life. And Somalilanders are confident that President "Ciro" has the ability to overcome these challenges.

By Prof. Nassir Hussein Kahin

the newly appointed President of Somaliland to advance the long-standing people-to-people relations.

He also outlined Somaliland's active engagement with IGAD and the AU, where efforts are underway to enhance the region's perception of the state.

Ambassador Abdillahi Mohamed Duale, Somaliland's Special Envoy to the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

These endeavors include promoting the state's achievements in democratic governance and stability to strengthen its case for international recognition, he noted. While mentioning that the former President Muse Bihi Abdi's peaceful transition of power to Somaliland's newly elected leader, President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi, the Ambassador described the democratic process as a hallmark of Somaliland's political maturity in

a volatile region.

Somaliland's new president-elect, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi. (Photo: X)

The transition to President Abdirahman marks another milestone for Somaliland, which has consistently demonstrated its commitment to democratic principles for more than three decades. This peaceful transfer of power is being celebrated as a testament to the strength of its democratic institutions, he added. Mohamed also stated his optimism that the new president and his cabinet would consolidate recent developments in the relations among Horn of Africa countries.

The renewed collaboration between the peoples of both countries would enhance economic and security cooperation and infrastructure development, solidifying their longstanding relationship, it was learnt.

Somaliland's New Administration Expects to Cement People to People Ties: Somaliland AU & IGAD Envoy

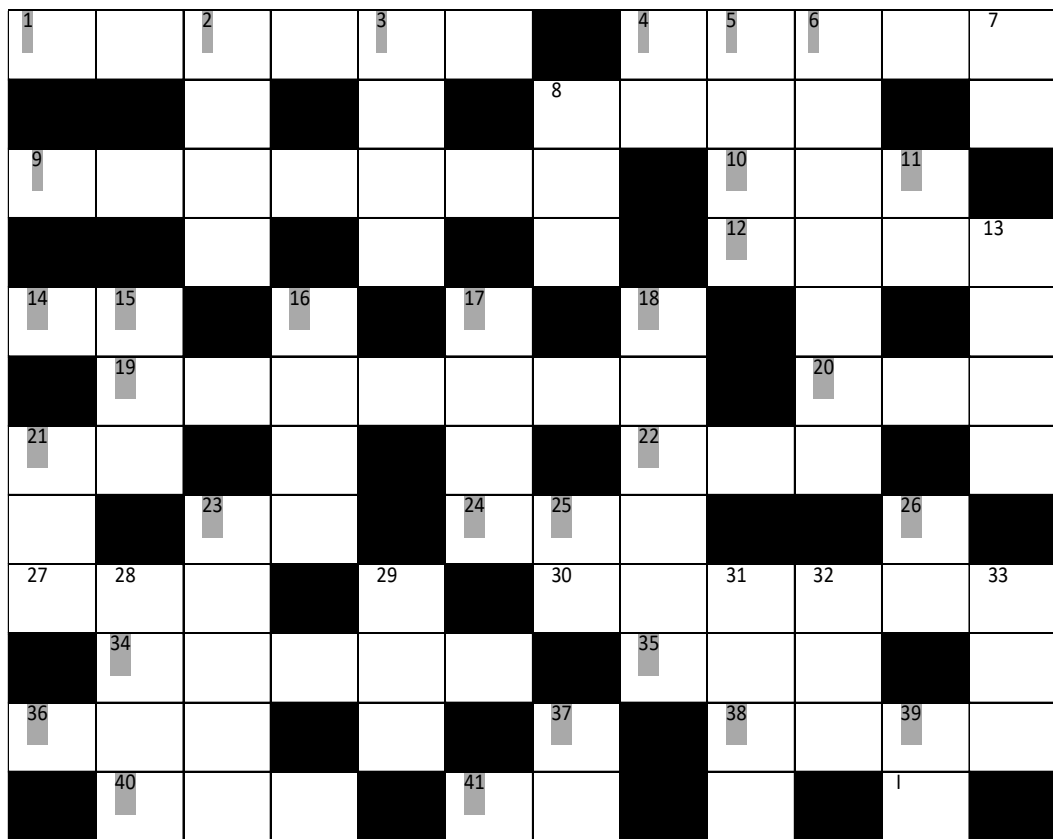
Somaliland's new administration would bolster cooperation with the peoples' of Ethiopia, the Somaliland Ambassador expressed, as he highlighted the significant role Ethiopia has played for regional stability.



In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald, Somaliland's Special Envoy to the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Ambassador Abdillahi Mohamed Duale, expressed his confidence in



THT Puzzle



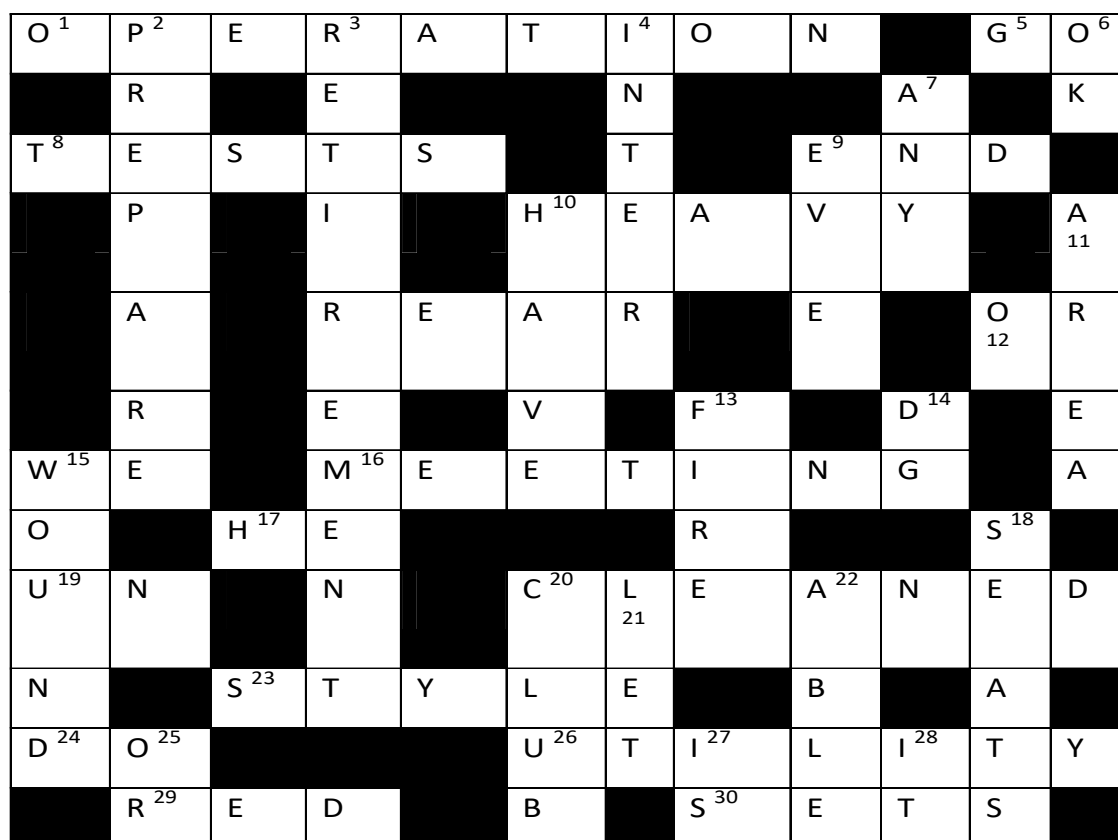
DOWN

- 2 Change/replace
- 3 Title role
- 4 Personal pronoun
- 5 1s
- 6 Efficiency
- 7 doctor
- 11 Make
- 13 Directions
- 15 Ending
- 16 Certainly
- 17 Graphic arts
- 18 Leaders
- 21 The strongest country
- 23 Brunette
- 25 Europe in Short
- 26 Inside
- 28 Impression
- 29 Limb
- 31 Geering
- 33 Also
- 37 Otherwise
- 39 Welcoming

ACROSS

- 1 Photographic camera
- 4 Injury
- 8 Rental
- 9 Include
- 10 Islamic festival
- 12 Slow down
- 14 Myself
- 19 Indiscrimination
- 20 Attempt
- 21 Kind of lorries model
- 22 Make dry
- 23 Be present
- 24 Perceive
- 27 Atmosphere
- 30 Imperative
- 34 Gates
- 35 Stage set
- 36 Brand new
- 38 Resound
- 40 In addition
- 41 Doctor

Previous Answer



China Stands Behind Somalia Amid US Push for Somaliland Recognition



With US Republicans backing recognition of Somaliland, a top Chinese diplomat has visited Mogadishu to offer Beijing's support

In the article, "China Stands Behind Somalia Amid US Push for Somaliland Recognition" by Jevans Nyabiage, the author discusses the increasing support from the United States for recognizing Somaliland. Amid this, China's special envoy for the Horn of Africa, Xue Bing, visited Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, to assure the Somali government of China's support for its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The backdrop includes the recent inauguration of Somaliland's new president, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi (also known as Irro), which was attended by officials from the U.S. and Taiwan, prompting protests from China due to its stance on Taiwan.

With Republicans in the U.S. advocating for Somaliland's recognition, including a bill introduced by Congressman Scott Perry, the article speculates on potential implications for U.S.-China relations in the region. Analysts express that while recognition could occur under the Trump administration, it may not be immediate due to the need for a strategic review.

Geopolitically, both China and the U.S. are vying for influence in the Horn of Africa because of its strategic shipping lanes. China has established a significant presence, including a naval base in Djibouti, while the U.S. is considering using Somaliland's port to counter China's influence.

The article concludes that if the U.S. recognizes Somaliland, it could strengthen its ties with Taiwan and affect China's diplomatic relations in the region.

The complete piece is as follows: China Stands Behind Somalia Amid US Push for Somaliland Recognition

With US Republicans backing recognition of Somaliland, a top Chinese diplomat has visited Mogadishu to offer Beijing's support. China's special envoy for the Horn of Africa, Xue Bing, has visited Somalia to assure the nation of Beijing's support amid growing support in Washington for recognition of the Republic of Somaliland.

Xue, who was appointed in 2022 to mediate regional crises, told Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud that China "supports

Somalia in safeguarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity" during his visit to the capital, Mogadishu, on Tuesday.

It follows the December 12 inauguration of Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, also known as Irro, as the new Somaliland president.

Located on the Gulf of Aden coastline, Somaliland restored its independence in 1991 but has not been recognized by any country. Mogadishu continues to be considered part of Somalia.

Last week's swearing-in ceremony was attended by Taiwan's deputy foreign minister Wu Chih-chung, leading to a protest by China, with Beijing saying it opposes the "establishment of official institutions or any form of official exchanges between Taiwan authorities and Somaliland."

Beijing sees Taiwan as part of its territory, to be brought under mainland control by force, if necessary. Most countries, including the United States, do not recognize the island as an independent state, but Washington is opposed to any unilateral change to the status quo.

The US was also represented at Irro's inauguration, with US Ambassador to Somalia Richard Riley leading a delegation as he praised Somaliland's "commitment to fair and credible elections and the peaceful transfer of power."

It follows growing calls for Washington to recognize Somaliland as America prepares for Donald Trump's return to the White House in January.

Support for Somaliland has been growing among Republican policy leaders on Capitol Hill, right-leaning think tanks, and Africa advisers in Trump's incoming administration, according to US-based news outlet Semafor.

US Republican congressman Scott Perry last week introduced a bill calling on the US government to recognize Somaliland "as a separate, independent country."

The bill hails Somaliland's record of peaceful elections and commitment to democratic governance. This is in sharp contrast with Somalia, which continues to grapple with Islamic

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Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has been reassured by China's special envoy for the Horn of Africa Xue Bing of China's support. Photo: Reuters

extremist rebel group Al-Shabaab. Somaliland was also part of the agenda of Project 2025, a controversial policy wish list created by the right-wing US think tank The Heritage Foundation, which has been widely viewed as a blueprint for Trump's next administration. Trump has repeatedly distanced himself from the document, though

Mogadishu might also try to draw closer to US competitors such as China, Iran, or Russia, "but the country is so unstable and the government so dysfunctional that it wouldn't be a very tempting partner for those countries beyond some limited involvement," Meservey said.

Djibouti, and Yemen, is one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. In Djibouti, Chinese firms have funded and built projects such as the Doraleh multipurpose port and the Djibouti free-trade zone. Beijing also opened its first overseas naval military base in Djibouti in 2017 to protect its interests and citizens in the region.



Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, also known as Irro, has been sworn in as president of Somaliland, even though the country has never been recognized internationally. Photo: AFP

many of its themes have aligned with his statements. In the Project 2025 document, it called for "the recognition of Somaliland statehood as a hedge against the US's deteriorating position in Djibouti." Joshua Meservey, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute think tank in Washington who focuses on great power competition in Africa, said while it was "possible" for the Trump administration to recognize Somaliland, it might not happen soon. "[Trump's] team will have to get in place and do a strategic review before any such decisions are made," Meservey said. He also noted that Mogadishu would react strongly to any such move.

John Calabrese, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington, said at least two of Trump's more competent nominees for key national security positions—Marco Rubio and Mike Waltz—are both China "hawks". They not only regard China as the number one peer competitor but also as an adversary, Calabrese said. "So, to the extent that they believe recognizing Somaliland would advance US objectives to counter China in the Horn, they might stake out that position," he said. China and the US are both angling for influence in the Horn of Africa, where the Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the Gulf of Aden, between Somaliland's Port of Berbera,

The US, meanwhile, has been eyeing access to Somaliland's Port of Berbera as an alternative to its Djibouti military base, Camp Lemonnier, to counter China's influence in the region as well as to protect trade routes amid Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea. According to Guled Ahmed, a non-resident scholar at the Middle East Institute, the recognition of Somaliland was studied by the African Union back in 2005, when it was determined that it was justified and unique and would not open a Pandora's box. He said, from a geopolitical aspect, it will improve maritime security in the Red Sea and "become a successful democratic model for inspiration in the troubled Horn of

Africa". Seifudein Adem, an Ethiopian global affairs specialist and a research fellow at the JICA Ogata Research Institute for Peace and Development in Tokyo, said China's diplomacy in the region would meet headwinds should the US recognize Somaliland. If it got US recognition, Somaliland may upgrade and formalize its diplomatic relationship with Taiwan, he said. Plus, stronger ties between an independent Somaliland and Ethiopia could amplify the profile of any relationship between Somaliland and Taiwan, at least in

Africa, he said. Jevans Nyabiage



Kenyan journalist Jevans Nyabiage is the South China Morning Post's first Africa correspondent. Based in Nairobi, Jevans keeps an eye on China-Africa relations and also Chinese investments, ranging from infrastructure to energy and metal, on the continent.

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