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President Abdirahman Irro presents Annual Quran Recitation Competition winners with awards

The scholars urged the entire Somaliland community to fully cooperate with and duly support President Abdirahman Irro's government.



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro has presented various coveted, treasured and valuable awards to numerous winners of the Annual Quran Memorization and Recitation Competition.

At the same time the top clerics of

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Somaliland Foreign Minister denies holding talks on Palestinian resettlement

Somaliland is not in any talks with anyone about the resettlement of Palestinians, the foreign minister said on Friday. "I haven't received such a proposal, and there are no talks with anyone regarding Palestinians," Abdirahman Dahir Adan, Somaliland's foreign

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President Holds Iftar Consultative Meeting with Former Presidents



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NIA denies purported statement, sends warning to those behind it



Press Release

The National Intelligence Agency of the Republic of Somaliland wishes to inform the public and all relevant

stakeholders that the claims regarding "intelligence members transfers," which were circulated on social media, are entirely unfounded

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Erigavo is peaceful, states the VP as he urges Sanaag residents to fully embrace conciliatory cause



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State to provide 57 public educational centers with electrical solar energy



By M.A. Egge

In a bid of the state providing 57 public educational institutions with solar electrical supply, the Minister of Minerals and Energy Hon. Eng. Ahmed Jama Barre, accompanied by the ministry's

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Somaliland and Ethiopia meet on strengthening cooperation of institutes for diplomatic studies



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World class assessment of Somaliland Customs and Excise Administration System



By M.A. Egge

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of the Republic of Somaliland has initiated an assessment of the Customs and Excise Administration System.

This international assessment

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U.S. reportedly weighs Somaliland recognition in exchange for military base



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Forging Unity Through Force: Somaliland's Integration of Tribal Militias on Security and Statehood Under President Irro's Vision



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President Abdirahman Irro campaigned on a platform of change for the better, says eminent cleric Sh. Ali Jowhar

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President Abdirahman Irro presents Annual Quran Recitation Competition winners with awards



awards well deserved, foremost being the keys to a new car that the first-place winner won.

He prayed to God to reward the young excelling competitors with abundance for the Words of God that they had memorized in their hearts.

On the other hand, for the first time in history of the competition, the President presented golden awards to the top female students who topped the Holy Quran Memorization Competition during the month of Ramadan.

It is worth noting that the President had personally requested and directed that female students be included in the national recitation competition.

The President then held a large meeting with the top clerics of the nation where he delivered a speech that captivated their hearts given its wisdom.

The scholars who spoke at the meeting prayed greatly for the President, the country, and the people of Somaliland.

The scholars urged the entire Somaliland community to fully cooperate with and duly support President Abdirahman Irro's government.

the nation have urged the people of Somaliland to cooperate and support the administration of the government of the day led by President Abdirahman Irro.

This time round, they consisted of youth from both genders.

The event is held every year and culminates during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

This year Annual Award Ceremony of the Holy Quran Competition was held at the Presidential Palace and was attended by more than 400 people.

Attendees included the country's top Islamic scholars and members of the clergy, scholars from all six major regions, members of the

cabinet, military commanders, parliamentarians, male and female Quran memorization competitors and numerous distinguished guests.

The Minister of Religion and Endowments Hon. Sh. Abdillahi Dahir Jama (Baashe), delivered a speech in which he informed the audience about the different stages of the Holy Quran Memorization Competition during the month of Ramadan, noting that the competition lasted for more than 3 months.

The Head of State H.E. Abdirahman Irro shook hands with the winners of the Quran memorizers' competition and presented them with valuable

State to provide 57 public educational centers with electrical solar energy



Director General Mr. Shu'ayb Osman Mahmoud, inaugurated the tenders for the design, supply, installation, testing and operation of the Solar Battery Energy Storage System, earmarked for the public educational institutions.

The tenders are divided into two lots, namely LOT 1 and LOT 2 across the country's main regions; the opening of which was held at the Somaliland Electricity Recovery Project Implementation Unit office (SESERP/PIU).

The purpose of the opening was to begin the evaluation and selection of the various bidders who submitted the tenders for the contracts for the said solar electricity installations.

The first (LOT 1) consists of 29 schools in Saahil, Togdeer and Sanaag regions and the second (LOT 2) is of 28 schools in Maroodi-jeeh and Awdal regions.

The head of procurement of the Somaliland Electricity Recovery Project, Mr. Abdirisq Hassan Jibriil, explained the procedure and process for opening these

contracts, so that the participants are aware of the procedure for opening these contracts for providing electricity to educational institutions in the country's regions.

On the other hand, the Head of the Somaliland Electricity Recovery Project, Mr. Abdifatah Omar Abdilaahi, provided details on the components of the project, especially the third component, which includes educational institutions.

The Director General Mr. Shu'ayb Osman Mahmoud, noted that the competitors will be judged in a transparent and fair process in accordance with the laws and regulations to ensure fairness and transparency.

In conclusion, the Energy Minister urged the Evaluation and Selection Committee to exert diligence and fairness as they go about the tasks of evaluating the best tenders in the contracts, such that the goals of the project may be realized and achieved.

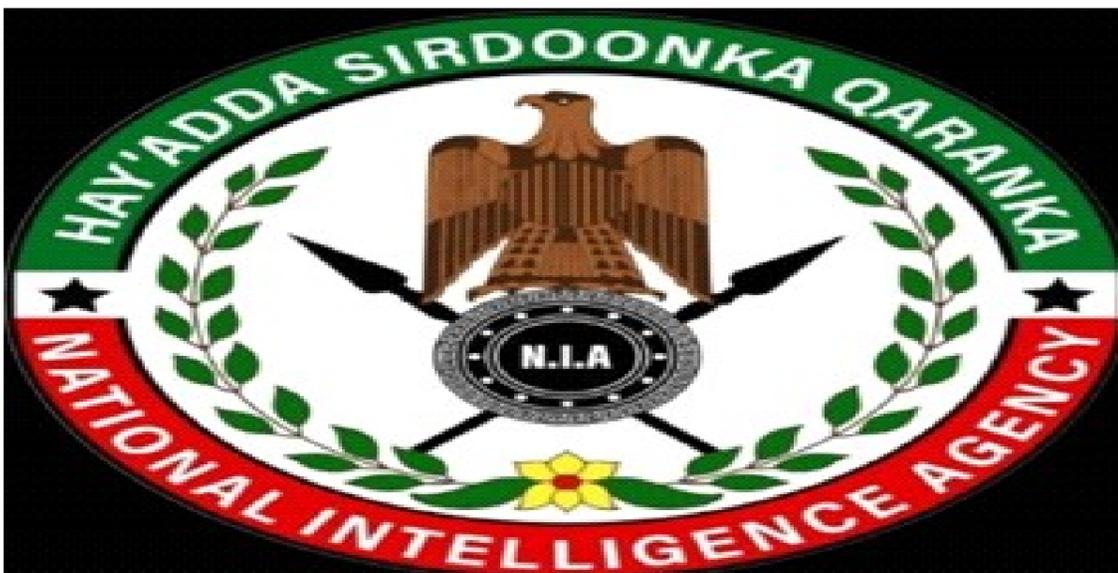
Somaliland Foreign Minister denies holding talks on Palestinian resettlement

minister, told Reuters.

Citing US and Israeli officials, the Associated Press reported on Friday that the US and Israel had contacted officials from Sudan, Somalia and its breakaway region of Somaliland to discuss using their territory to resettle Palestinians displaced from Gaza.



NIA denies purported statement, sends warning to those behind it



and did not originate from this agency.

In response to this misinformation, the Somaliland Intelligence Agency has initiated an investigation to determine the source of the false statements and the individuals

responsible for their dissemination. Legal action will be pursued against anyone involved in spreading this false information, both domestically and internationally.

The National Intelligence Agency of the Republic of Somaliland urges

the public to refrain from sharing unverified information regarding the Intelligence Agency and other security institutions in Somaliland. Individuals found to be disseminating such information will face legal consequences.

World class assessment of Somaliland Customs and Excise Administration System

follows the Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT), a methodology for assessing domestic taxes developed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the Taxpayers' Association.

The Customs assessment is based on the standards set by the World Customs Organization.

The Minister of Finance and Economic Development, who opened the meeting, noted the special importance of the government to know "where we are in the administration of various taxes and how the ministry is committed to obtaining a reliable and accurate assessment so that we can protect ourselves from existing gaps, as well as to know the taxes we collect, those we miss, the existing system and the development we need whether it is in terms of the system and the personnel and training they need".

The Director General of the Ministry of Finance also noted the

importance of this assessment and how it is of particular importance as a Ministry to conduct a comprehensive assessment that touches on every aspect, which will enable us to know where we are in terms of internationally recognized standards.

He said, "The assessment is intended to determine where we stand as a country in terms of international standards, this is the first time that an international assessment has been conducted in Somaliland regarding the system we use to manage the various taxes collected by the government".

In conclusion, the Ministry of Finance is engaged in various efforts aimed at accelerating and modernizing the tax administration and management process and identifying loopholes.

The assessment programme is being conducted by a company called Parker Russell, hence supported by the African Development Bank, specifically the ISEGP project.

President Holds Iftar Consultative Meeting with Former Presidents



By M.A. Egge
The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro hosted an iftar (breaking the daily fasting) consultative meeting with former Presidents of the country, Musa Bihi Abdi and Dahir Rayaale Kahin. The President briefed the two

former Presidents on the general situation in the country. The meeting followed previous ones that the Head of State had with the former Presidents of Somaliland to exchange information and discuss the general situation in the country. Speaking about the meeting he had

with the two former Presidents, the President of Somaliland posted on his social media account, saying, "This evening we had a meeting and iftar together with the former Presidents of our Republic of Somaliland, the 3rd and 5th, Mr. Dahir Rayaale Kahin and Mr. Musa Bihi Abdi. He continued, "The two former Presidents exchanged views on the overall situation of the country in terms of development, economy, peace, and the changes that my government is implementing". The President noted that he and his predecessors spoke at length at the history of the reconstruction of this country, the long journey that has been made towards the process of handing over power to the country and our electoral system. He concluded, "God willing, we will continue with the national consultation meetings that are being held to jointly move this country forward." Since he took over the reins of the government H.E. Abdirahman Irro has had several similar tête-à-têtes with both former leaders.

Erigavo is peaceful, states the VP as he urges Sanaag residents to fully embrace conciliatory cause



By M.A. Egge
The Vice President H.E. Mohamed Ali Aw Abdi and the delegation he leads who are on pacification a working trip to Sanaag Region once again graced yet another occasion whose event witnessed the absorption of more local militia to the mainstream national armed forces. In his speech the VP welcomed the nationalized army and reminded the nation that Erigavo is the peaceful place and that in place is still the extended olive branch for peace

and urged populaces to reconcile. The Vice President said that the nationalization of the civil army in Erigavo is nearing completion and that there still remains a few. He pointed out that the absorption process has been handled quite well. He characterized the processes and the efforts of the nationalization of the local militia dubbed civilian forces as a great victory for the entire Republic of Somaliland. He stated the fact that the chief of defense forces Brig General Nim'aan Gahnuug has always been

on hand to receive the combatants and their subsequent military hardware and armour. While the VP was emphasizing the convictions and commitment of the Head of State in prioritizing peaceful stability, reconciliation and dialogue in addressing whatever conflicts that abound, he made it clear that as much as Erigavo is now stabilized, the olive branch for continuation of dialogue remains open. He said, "The purpose of the nationalization of the army was to restore peace in Erigavo and Sanaag hence the reconciliation efforts should concertedly continue."

Somaliland and Ethiopia meet on strengthening cooperation of institutes for diplomatic studies



By M.A. Egge
The Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Somaliland, Mr. Mohamed Abdirahman, who is on a working trip to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia met with senior officials of the Institute of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Government of Ethiopia, including the Deputy Director, Mr. Bereket Diriba. Mr. Bereket Diriba warmly welcomed the visitor to the

headquarters of the IFA Institute, informing him of extensive details on the departments and functions that the institute carries out for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the country of Ethiopia in general. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen cooperation between the two Institutes, the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) and the Somaliland Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs (SIDIA), to share experiences related to research, workshops, development and promotion of diplomatic skills.

Food Aid from the President to Poor Families in Daami Neighborhood



By M.A. Egge
Food aid from the President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, was delivered to 360 needy families, who live in the Daami neighborhood of Hargeisa on Sunday. The delivery of the food aid intended by the President of Somaliland to the poor in the Daami neighborhood was greatly facilitated by MP Barkhad Jama Batun and the Mayor of the capital Hargeisa, Abdikarim Ahmed Mooge. MP Barkhad said on the occasion of the distribution event, "I am grateful to the President of the Republic of Somaliland, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Cirro, who delivered foodstuffs to the 360 families today". He also thanked the Mayor of Hargeisa who was involved in delivering the food to the

neighborhood and was instrumental to the results of the alms being distributed here to the needy". On his part Mayor Abdikarim Ahmed Mooge praised the community of Daami for their good support, and thanked the President of Somaliland for the food aid he delivered to the neighborhood. "We are grateful to our President for remembering you on this blessed day in the Holy month of Ramadan. As local government representatives, we are happy that our needy residents of Daami have been bestowed this aid from their own president." The community and youth of Daami neighborhood on their part thanked the President for the food aid he delivered to the poor people of Daami neighborhood, noting that they deserved it.

Forging Unity Through Force: Somaliland's Integration of Tribal Militias on Security and Statehood Under President Irro's Vision



The integration of tribal militias in the national Somaliland forces represents a crucial development in the geopolitical landscape of the region, under the leadership of the President Irro.

This development towards the unification of these militias with a centralized military structure raises important implications concerning national unity, security and the primary objective of achieving the recognized state.

By examining the dynamics of this integration process, it becomes clear that although there are potential advantages, important challenges must be resolved to carry out a stable and cohesive nation.

One of the main benefits of the integration of tribal militias in national forces is the improved national unity potential. Historically, the tribal identities of Somaliland played an important role in the formation of the political and social fabric of the region.

By formalizing the relationship between these groups and the national army, WADDANI aims to fill the divisions and to promote a feeling of purpose shared between the various communities of Somaliland. This initiative could reduce longtime tribal rivalries, promoting an inclusive environment where various clans collaborate under a common national identity. The challenge, however, consists in ensuring that integration does not simply translate into the domination of a tribal faction over others, which could intensify tensions rather than mitigate them.

In addition to promoting unity, the integration of tribal militias can strengthen the Somaliland security framework. The traditional role of these militias has often involved local protection and the application of law and order in their respective territories.

By incorporating their structures into a national military force, the government can take advantage of its local knowledge, experience and loyalty to improve the overall security apparatus.

This is particularly important given the precarious security environment

of the region, characterized by threats of external actors and the residual impact of civil conflicts. With the President Abdi Rehman Irro at the helm, integration illustrates a strategic approach to strengthen the Somaliland defenses by creating a more versatile and reactive soldier capable of adapting to local security needs.

However, the success of this step is based on the creation of clear command and control structures which prevent the emergence of fragmented power bases - something that has historically tormented post-conflict establishments.

In addition, the realization of the State is intimately linked to the effective integration of tribal militias. For Somaliland, obtaining recognition as an independent state is a main objective, but there remains a controversial question in international relations.

By forming a coherent national army which includes various tribal groups, the vision of Irro of the State is improved. A unified army illustrates not only a commitment to national integrity but also tests the region's ability to govern itself effectively.

While these forces work together under a singular command, it sends a powerful message to national and international audiences that Somaliland takes proactive and constructive measures to stabilize its governance and promote peace. Nevertheless, for this integration to be effective, it is essential that it promotes a feeling of belonging to all the tribes of the national narrative, avoiding marginalization and promoting a fair representation.

The implications for the integration of tribal militias also extend to the succession of potential challenges associated with loyalty and allegiance. While these forces go from local militia to national entities, concerns may arise concerning their commitment to a unified state rather than local interests.

This change requires robust training, professional development and clear communication of national values to ensure that the

newly integrated forces act in the best interest of the State rather than their tribal affiliations. The Administration of the President Irro must cultivate a culture of professionalism and responsibility in the ranks to prevent a re-emergence of tribalism which could threaten cohesion and undermine the stability of the emerging governance structure of Somaliland.

Finally, the integration of tribal militias into national forces has implications for the social contract between the State and its citizens. For many communities, militias have been traditional sources of security and governance. Consequently, as the government seeks to absorb these groups, it must guarantee that citizens feel confident in the transition and recognize the State as a legitimate supplier of security and services. Not achieving it could cause disillusionment and lack of confidence in the national government, further complicating efforts to unify different societal factions.

In conclusion, the integration by the Somaliland of tribal militias in the national forces under the Irro President offers a promising opportunity to promote unity, improve security and make progress towards the recognized state. However, the realization of this vision depends on the next generation of challenges inherent in loyalty, representation and social acceptance. A coherent national force, informed by the various tribal identities that make up Somaliland, can ultimately serve as a powerful agent for stability and progress in the quest for legitimacy and lasting peace.

Author: Abdul Rafay Afzal
Bio: Author is Pakistan's youngest International Journalist currently writes in 15 countries also Editor in Chief of an International Magazine The Advocate Post writes about International Relations, geopolitics, legal affairs etc.

President Abdirahman Irro campaigned on a platform of change for the better, says eminent cleric Sh. Ali Jowhar



By M.A. Egge

Sheikh Abdillahi Sheikh Ali Jawhar, one of the most eminent clergy scholars in the country has pointed out that change has come with the ascension of the President of Somaliland, H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro to the top-most seat in the country.

He lauded the Head of State for justifiably instructing that the female fraternity be incorporated into the annual noble Holy Quran Memorization and Recitation competition held every month of Ramadan.

He also called on the President to promote farming in the country to boost local production and economy. He observed that his style of leadership and actions has already depicted the difference from past norms. The cleric expressed his sentiments while addressing a clergy meeting with the President over the week.

"A new government with a new administration has been put in place for us, headed by the new President of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi, who had campaigned on a platform of real change", said the cleric. He noted, "The real change has come. I believe that the real change is not the individuals who are being appointed, but the governance system as a whole. It is the upholding, bolstering and fledgling of diligent and pragmatic leadership".

Sheikh Abdullahi Sheikh Cai Jawhar praised the

president for the direction of inclusion of girls/women in this year's annual participation of Quran recitation and memorization competition.

"We thank the president for making it possible for the female gender fraternity to be included in the annual Quran recitation competition as justifiably deserved, since they were hitherto excluded. Women have the same rights as men except for what Islamic Sharia ordains, and this shows us the importance our government gives to the Islamic religion, which puts the Quran first. We congratulate those who won."

The eminent cleric who was part of the group of scholars, who were hosted by the President at the presidential palace, encouraged the president to continue his efforts and progress being seen.

"Today, President Abdirahman is expected to excel in his endeavours as he has been a career diplomat with a lot of experiences hence fully understands what real governance is and we wish him success".

Sheikh Abdilaahi suggested to the president that he focus his efforts on agricultural development so that society can benefit.

"President, we suggest that you focus your greatest developmental efforts on subsistence agriculture. It is worthwhile that agricultural practices be promoted wherever water wells and dams are established.



Specific Procurement Notice

Invitation for Bids [IFB]

Goods

(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

IFB Number: RFB002/2025

Purchaser: Ministry of Finance, Somaliland Government

Project: Institutional Support for Economic Governance Project (ISEGP)

Contract title: Supply and Installation of Furniture and IT Equipment of ICPAS New Building

Country: Government of Somaliland

Loan No. / Grant No.: 5900155018607

Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding (International) (OCBI)

OCBI No: N/A

Issued on: 5th March, 2025

1. The Government of Somaliland has received financing from the African Development Fund hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Institutional Support for Economic Governance Project (ISEGP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Procurement of Furniture and IT Equipment for ICPAS New Building.
2. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Furniture and IT Equipment for ICPAS New Building, at Hargeisa, Somaliland.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (International), (OCBI) method as specified in the Bank's "Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations" dated October 2015 and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Finance, PFM Department, and email: procurement@somalilandpfm.org, CC hassan@somalilandpfm.org and inspect the bidding document during office hours from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the address given below PFM Department, Opposite of Ministry of Education and Science.
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below clearly marked "Supply and Installation of ICT and Furniture Equipment for ICPAS New Building" on or before 10th April 2025 at 2:00pm local time. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected.
6. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below PFM Department, Ministry of Finance on 10th April 2025 at 2:15 pm local time.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a "Bid-Securing Declaration".
8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
9. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

PFM Office, (Opposite of Ministry of Education and Science)

Attn: Procurement Officer, Ms. Ubah Hussein,

Email: Procurement@somalilandpfm.org CC to: hassan@somalilandpfm.org

Tel: 00-252-63-4194081, or 00-252-63-4475005,

Hargeisa, Somaliland

VP lays foundation stones for water wells being drilled in Erigavo



By M.A. Egge

The Vice President H.E. Mohamed Ali Aw Abdi has on Monday laid the foundation stones for three water wells being drilled in Erigavo.

The event was attended by the Minister of Water Resources, both the Sanaag regional and district administration officials and those of the municipality amongst other notable personalities.

The VP was once again categorical in his address at the event on how the WADDANI administration government led by the President H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Iirro is indeed committed to implementing effective and tangible development projects in Sanaag region that would contribute to the basic needs of the residents of the region.

The VP and his entourage who have

been in the region for the past fortnight on a mission of pacification, reconciliatory overtures and nationalizing of the local community militias has for the umpteenth time urged and called for coexistence and harmonious cohesion to prevail amongst the people of the region.

He pointed out that there is need for concerted efforts to be exerted in achieving unity and solidarity hence appealed for the welcoming back of residents who had fled due to fear of insecurity given that the city has completely been peacefully stabilized.

He reminded the audience the essence of the Holy month of Ramadan and urged them to use the opportunity to forgive each other and be merciful as ordained in the Islamic religious tenets

President Abdirahman Iirro lauds military for selfless courage, as he visits hospitalized casualties



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Iirro paid a special tribute to the military casualties hospitalized and being treated at Hargeisa Group Hospital where he visited on Friday.

The soldiers who comprised both the national armed forces servicemen and local re civilian militia suffered casualties after having been injured in the latest skirmishes incident at Buqdarkeyn in Sanaag region while in operation for the defense of the nation.

The Head of State wished swift recovery for the servicemen as he personally visited individually each and every one of them at the hospital.

He was briefed on their individual situations by the doctors and physicians at the hospital.

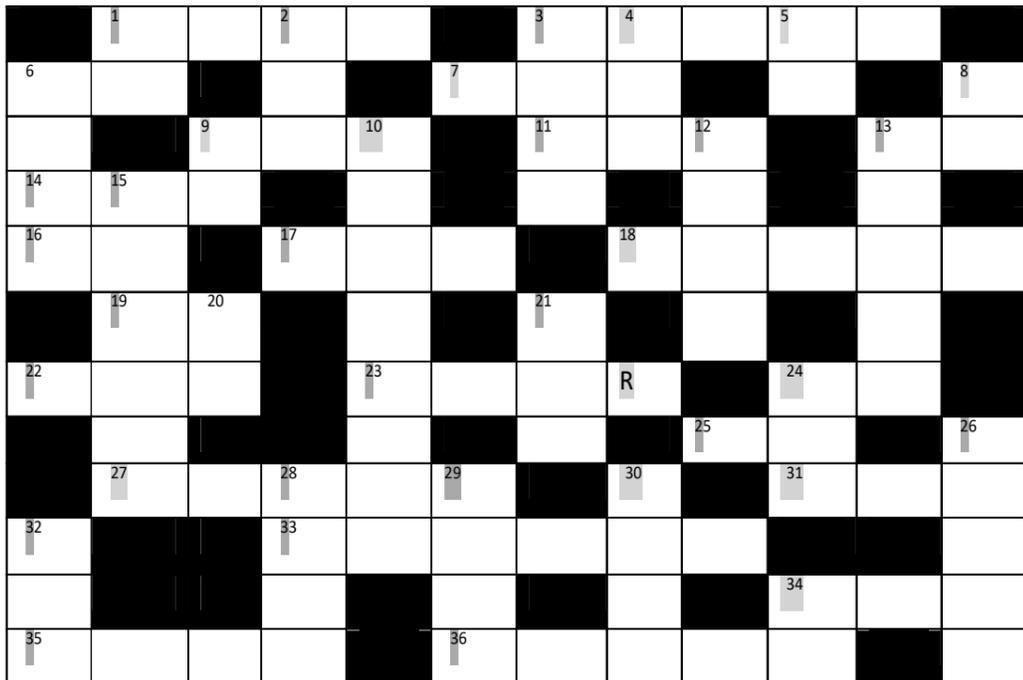
Further information and the progress on their recovery were also given to the President by the minister of interior, the chief of police and the deputy chief of defense who accompanied him to the hospital visit.

The President praised the wounded soldiers for their selfless courage, sacrifice and tireless efforts that they are indulged in, day and night, to defend the country, the people and the religion.

The visit of the President of the Republic underlines the deep gratitude and appreciation that the nation has for the heroes of the National Army and the Civilian Forces, depicting the government's commitment to stand by them and support them during their recovery from injuries. The President prayed to God to grant them good health and congratulate them.

THT Puzzle

By: Abdilahi Said



DOWN

- 1 Match
- 2 On the way to
- 3 Teenage
- 4 Engineer in short form
- 5 Towards
- 8 Inside
- 9 Being as
- 10 schooling
- 12 Match
- 13 Cyber
- 15 Audial
- 20 Operation director in short form
- 21 full of mud
- 24 Achieved
- 26 pig
- 29 Plant seeds
- 30 Examine/ct scan
- 32 Queue
- 34 Be present

ACROSS

- 1 Pipe
- 3 par of mouth
- 6 Leave
- 7 Fountain pen
- 9 Painting
- 11 Egg cell
- 13 Atop
- 14 Mams
- 16 Continent
- 17 Terrible
- 18 Minor
- 19 Make
- 22 Offer
- 23 60 minutes
- 24 Pronoun
- 25 Make
- 27 emblem
- 31 Brand new
- 33 Organization
- 34 Prohibit
- 35 Caution
- 36 rhythm music pattern

Previous Answer



U.S. reportedly weighs Somaliland recognition in exchange for military base



The United States and Somaliland have engaged in discussions over a potential agreement that could see Washington recognize Somaliland in exchange for a U.S. military base in the strategic port city of Berbera, according to *Financial Times*.

A senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told *the Financial Times* that the Trump administration has initiated negotiations with Somaliland's leadership regarding formal recognition. However, the talks remain highly sensitive, as President Donald Trump has yet to appoint key officials overseeing African affairs.

The reported discussions center around Washington's interest in securing a long-term military presence in Berbera, a deep-water port along the Gulf of Aden that has become a focal point of geopolitical competition in the Horn of Africa. The U.S. has been increasingly concerned about China's growing influence in the region, notably after Beijing secured a military base in neighbouring Djibouti.

While details of the negotiations remain unclear, *the Financial Times* reports that the proposal could involve the United States formally recognizing Somaliland's independence in exchange for exclusive basing rights in Berbera. The report also revealed that the U.S. had raised the idea of relocating displaced Palestinians from Gaza to Somaliland, though it was not a central component of the talks. The proposal comes as international condemnation of a separate U.S.-Israeli initiative to resettle Palestinians in African nations, an idea that governments in the region have widely rejected.

On Friday, Somalia's Foreign Minister Ahmed Moalim Fiqi categorically denied that Mogadishu had been approached or engaged in any discussions regarding the resettlement of Gazan refugees.

"The Federal Government of Somalia stands firmly with our Palestinian brothers and sisters in their just struggle for sovereignty and self-determination. Any plan that seeks to forcibly remove Palestinians from their land is unacceptable," Somali Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre stated at an Arab League summit in Cairo earlier this month. Somaliland's Foreign Minister Abdurahman Dahir Adan also denied any such discussions, telling *Reuters* that "there are no talks with anyone regarding Palestinians."

The Somali federal government, which considers Somaliland part of its sovereign territory, has vehemently opposed any U.S. recognition of the breakaway region. Officials in Mogadishu argue that such a move would violate Somalia's territorial integrity and undermine diplomatic relations with the United States.

The Trump administration's interest in recognizing Somaliland aligns with growing Republican support for the breakaway region. Somaliland has built strong ties with the GOP, and several congressional bills advocating for its recognition have been introduced in recent years, though none have passed into law.

In response to growing Republican support for Somaliland's recognition, Somalia has intensified lobbying efforts in Washington, urging lawmakers to uphold the U.S. commitment to Somalia's sovereignty. Somali diplomats have engaged with key figures in the State Department and Congress to counter Somaliland's push for international legitimacy.

Unlike Somalia, which has been battling an Islamist insurgency for over 17 years, Somaliland has remained relatively stable since declaring independence in 1991. However, no country has formally recognized it as a sovereign state. The White House and the U.S. State Department have not publicly commented on the reported negotiations with Somaliland.

U.S. to reinstate travel ban on Somalia and 42 other nations



Invitation for Bids [IFB] Goods (One-Envelope Bidding Process)

IFB Number: RFB001/2025
Purchaser: Ministry of Finance, Somaliland Government
Project: Institutional Support for Economic Governance Project
Contract title: Purchase of Heavy-duty Cargo Scanner
Country: Government of Somaliland
Loan No. / Grant No.: 5900155018607
Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding (International) (OCBI)/(LCB)
OCBI No: N/A
Issued on: 15th February, 2025

1. The Government of Somaliland has received financing from the African Development Fund hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Institutional Support for Economic Governance Project (ISEGP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Supply and Installation of Heavy-Duty Scanners (Cargo Scanners, Mobile Hand Held Scanners and Barcode Scanners).
2. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for one heavy duty scanner, and 10 mobile hand-held scanners, at Hargeisa, Somaliland.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (International), (OCBI) method as specified in the Bank's Procurement Framework dated 1st January, 2016, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Finance, PFM Department, email: procurement@somalilandpfm.org, CC to hassan@somalilandpfm.org, and inspect the bidding document during office hours from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the address given below PFM Department, Opposite of Ministry of Education and Science.
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below PFM Department, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Hargeisa, and Somaliland on or before 29th March 2025. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked "ORIGINAL BID", and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL PART" will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below PFM Department, Ministry of Finance on 29th March 2025 at 2:00 pm. All envelopes marked "SECOND ENVELOPE: FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Purchaser until the second public opening.
 - i) The Purchaser shall publish a notice of the public opening of the Financial Parts on its website number <https://slmof.org/>
 - ii) Any interested party who wishes to attend the public opening of the Financial Parts may contact the officer named under paragraph 4 above and at the address given under paragraph 9 below and may request to be notified of the location, date and time of the public opening of Financial Parts. The interested party(ies) will be notified by the Purchaser of the date, time and place of opening of Financial Parts provided the request is received within 10 Business days before the deadline for submission of Bids containing Technical and Financial Parts, as stated in paragraph 6 above or any extension thereto.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a "Bid-Securing Declaration".
8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
9. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

PFM Office, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

Ubah Hussein, Procurement Officer

Email: Procurement@somalilandpfm.org, CC to: hassan@somalilandpfm.org

Tel: 00-252-63-4194081, or 00-252-63-4475005, Hargeisa, Somaliland

The United States is preparing to enforce sweeping travel restrictions on citizens from 43 countries, including Somalia, as part of a revived Trump-era policy aimed at tightening immigration controls, The New York Times has reported.

A draft of the policy, circulating among U.S. diplomatic and security officials, categorizes affected nations into three groups:

Total Travel Ban: Citizens from Yemen, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Venezuela, Iran, North Korea, and Cuba will be completely barred from entering the United States.

Severe Travel Restrictions: Nationals from Russia, Belarus, Haiti, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Turkmenistan, Eritrea, and South Sudan will face heightened visa scrutiny, including mandatory in-person interviews.

Indefinite Entry Ban or Heavy Restrictions: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Burkina Faso, Vanuatu, Gambia, the Dominican Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Congo, Liberia, Mauritania, Malawi, Mali, São Tomé and Príncipe, Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Chad face bans or

indefinite restrictions. The draft proposal is undergoing review at the U.S. State Department, where officials are evaluating whether including certain countries—such as Somalia—could hinder diplomatic ties or counterterrorism cooperation. The proposal follows an executive order signed by President Trump in January, directing officials to identify nations with "deficient vetting and screening standards" for incoming travellers.

The new restrictions closely mirror Trump's first-term travel ban, which included Somalia but was later revoked by the Biden administration in 2021. While the previous bans were challenged in court, the Supreme Court ultimately upheld a revised version. If finalized, the latest restrictions could reignite legal battles, particularly over whether green card holders and existing visa holders from Somalia and other affected nations would be exempted.

The U.S. government has not confirmed when the policy will take effect or whether modifications will be made before implementation. However, officials familiar with the matter indicate that any changes will be finalized within weeks.