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President inaugurates the upgraded Berbera-Sheikh highway

*He likewise inaugurates Mija'aseye Juvenile Rehabilitation Center
He also launches recruits training for absorbed servicemen to the national army*



By M.A. Egge
The President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro and a large delegation he led on a working trip to Saahil region on Saturday inaugurated the reconstruction and major renovation

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President launches crucial biometrics registration of all security arms service personnel



By M.A. Egge
The President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, attended on Wednesday the commencement of the crucial modern biometrics registration exercise of all the

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13th Cabinet Session Ponders on Progress Made



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Taiwan FM Meets Somaliland Representative to Strengthen Bilateral Ties



The Republic of Somaliland and the Republic of China (Taiwan) reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations during a high-level

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Somaliland has not engaged in any discussions or agreements regarding Palestinians- FM



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Somaliland, Hon. Abdirahman Dahir Adan, has denied speculative reports broadcast by Al Jazeera television. The Somaliland Foreign Minister

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We will work with democratic Somaliland to tackle threats from Al-Shabaab- UK Secretary of State



UK Secretary of State David Lammy states will work with democratic Somaliland to tackle threats from Al-Shabaab. MP Gavin Williamson, who raised a question regarding relations with Somaliland during a debate in the British Parliament on Monday, said:

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President inaugurates the upgraded Berbera-Sheikh highway



made of the road connecting the cities of Berbera and Sheikh that passes through the famous Sheikh escarpment.

The escarpment section of the road is 12km, part of the 69km highway. Earlier on in Berbera, the President inaugurated the Mija'aseeye Rehabilitation Center for Juveniles, which is a prison exclusively for juveniles and is equipped to a high standard.

The President was joined by Justice Minister Yonis Ahmed Yonis and members of the cabinet, military commanders, politicians, dignitaries and other dignitaries at the ceremony, and speeches were made based on the importance of Mija'aseeye and the need for it.

The Minister of Justice, Hon. Yonis Ahmed Yonis, underlined the fact that the government is continuously and actively giving special

consideration to the care and safety of the prisoners, and that Mija'aseeye prison is one such institution that would meet the welfare needs of young people placed in such facilities.

The Head of State praised the justice sector, noting that the need for the Mija'aseeye facility was direly needed in the country and was long overdue.

He noted that the center would accord the juveniles being rehabilitated with comprehensive education

The President was welcomed and received deafening ululations from the hundreds of enthusiastic residents who thronged along the roads of all the centers and towns along the Hargeisa Berbera highway, most notably at Lafarug and Berbera amongst other towns as he left Hargeisa early in the

morning on Saturday.

The brief inaugural ceremony was held on the top of Sheikh Mountain.

The Minister of Roads and the Head of the National Roads Authority thanked the workers who carried out the huge task in that short period of time, working day and night, without rest.

The President of the Republic of Somaliland officially cut the ribbon denoting the launching of the road that also saw the twenty bridges along it having been rehabilitated and repaired. He noted that the upgraded highway would facilitate and ease the movement of transportation between the regions of the country.

The President also launched the training at the Sheikh National Army Training School for the first batch of the civilian militia who has been absorbed into the national armed forces.

"Yesterday, you were known as local civilian militia, but today, I am proud that you are part of the National Armed Forces", said the Head of State as he addressed the recruits at the venue.

This is the first time the President is visiting the eastern part of the country since he was sworn into office, culminating the first 100 days of the WADDANI administration.

President launches crucial biometrics registration of all security arms service personnel



servicemen and servicewomen personnel of various arms of the security forces across the nation.

It is worth noting that the commitments made by the new WADDANI administration government of "Togetherness and Action" pledges made before to the people of Somaliland included the registration, qualification, modernization and accreditation of the various branches of the national forces of the Republic of Somaliland.

The President, who delivered a very valuable speech at the event, said that it was a greatly special occasion

with a sense of responsibility for him to announce the beginning of the historical modern registration of the various forces of the nation, the 50Ü50"Ü50(Ü50&Ü50Ü50-Ü50+Ü50"Ü50"Ü 50Ü50Ü50 Ü50"Ü50,Ü50-Ü50+Ü50Ü50-Ü50"Ü50(Ü50"Ü, which is the first step in implementing the desired reform and modernization of sector.

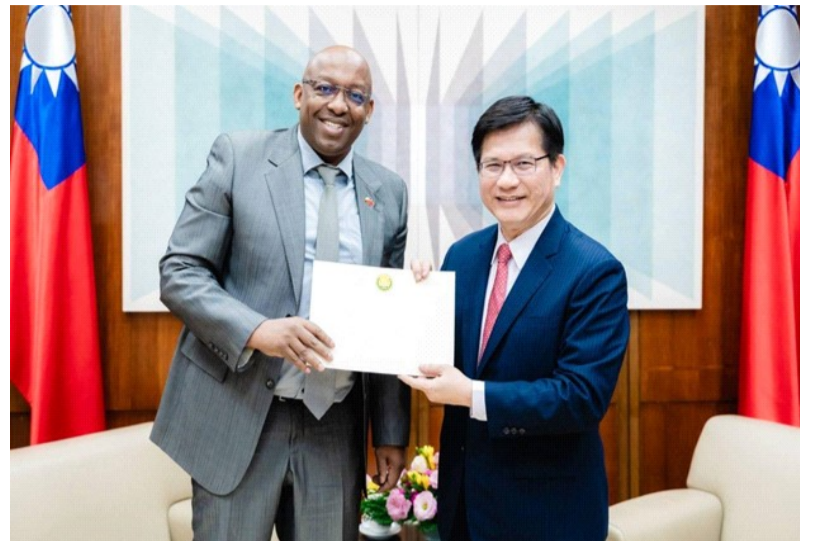
The Head of State further noted that the various arms of the national forces are "indeed the pride and the core of the security and stability of the nation hence the shield that protects our sovereignty, defends our borders and ensures the safety of

the citizenry".

He pointed out that it was "constitutionally incumbent upon the security services sector to defend the independence of the country, on land, at sea and in the air, and generally protect the interests of the Somaliland nation".

Present at the occasion were several members of the cabinet ministers, the task force charged with the exercise in progress as assigned by the President to register and modernize the various branches of the national forces, service commanders and numerous notable personalities.

Taiwan FM Meets Somaliland Representative to Strengthen Bilateral Ties



meeting between Somaliland's Representative to Taiwan Amb Mahmoud Adam Jama "Galaal" and Taiwan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Lin Chia-Lung.

The discussions, held in Taipei, focused on expanding cooperation across various sectors, including trade, technology, education, and healthcare. Both sides underscored their dedication to deepening their strategic alliance and fostering new opportunities for mutual growth and development.

"for an in-depth and constructive discussion on enhancing bilateral cooperation. Our dialogue covered a range of areas where the Republic of Somaliland (RSL) and the Republic of China (Taiwan) can work closely together to advance our shared goals and mutual interests." Said Amb Galaal highlighted Somaliland's appreciation for Taiwan's unwavering support and contributions, particularly in capacity building and economic development initiatives. He emphasized the significance of maintaining a strong partnership that benefits both nations and their citizens.

A key highlight of the meeting was Ambassador Galaal's hand-delivery of a letter from President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi

"Irro" of the Republic of Somaliland to Lai Ching-te, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan). This gesture further reinforced the enduring friendship and cooperation between the two governments.

"During the meeting, I also had the privilege of hand-delivering a letter from H.E. President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi "Irro" of the Republic of Somaliland to H.E. Lai Ching-te, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan), further underscoring the enduring friendship and cooperation between our governments." Amb Galaal Added Minister Lin Chia-Lung expressed Taiwan's continued commitment to working closely with Somaliland, acknowledging the mutual respect and shared democratic values that form the foundation of their partnership. He reiterated Taiwan's willingness to explore further collaborations that will drive sustainable development and regional stability.

The meeting marks another milestone in the growing Somaliland-Taiwan relationship, which has been steadily advancing since the establishment of official diplomatic ties in 2020. As both nations navigate global challenges, their strengthened cooperation signals a shared vision for prosperity and progress.

Somaliland has not engaged in any discussions or agreements regarding Palestinians- FM



stated this in a message posted on social media.

He described Al Jazeera's report as baseless and falsely representing Somaliland's clear stance on international cooperation and relations.

Minister abdirahman emphasized

that Somaliland has not yet discussed matters concerning the Palestinian people with anyone.

The minister's statement, shared via social media and reported by the SOLNA news agency, emphasizes that Somaliland views the report as lacking foundation and distorting its clear stance on global engagement.

We will work with democratic Somaliland to tackle threats from Al-Shabaab- UK Secretary of State



I draw the House's attention to my entry in the Register of Members' Financial Interests. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs rightly set out, very well and in detail, the broad range of challenges that were discussed at the G7. One area he touched on was the threat of the Houthis, who of course are being supported by al-Shabaab in Somalia. The Republic of

Somaliland is the only democratic country in the area that is valiantly trying to fight the terrorist threats. Will he commit to his Department working with the Government of the Republic of Somaliland to deal with the threats it faces, and which we also face?

The response from the UK Secretary of State David Lammy was as follows;

I can reassure the right hon. Gentleman that that, too, was raised in discussions with G7 colleagues. He is absolutely right: al-Shabaab is a deep concern, and the terrorism that emanates from its activities is something that we closely monitor and work on with partners. Yes, of course I can give him that assurance.

VP KICK-STARTS EL-AFWEYN PEACE CONFERENCE



By M.A. Egge
The much awaited assembly conference that was to pacify the El Afweyn district aimed at bringing tangible and lasting peace in the area has been initiated at last, on Wednesday.

An arbitration committee has since been set up ready to delve into the matters, starting Saturday 22nd March.

It was officially opened and kick-started by the VP himself, H.E. Mohamed Ali aw Abdi hence in attendance were cabinet members the Commander of the National Armed Forces, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, several MPs, and members of the clergy and traditional leaders of the brotherly clans who had been indulged in spate of skirmishes. The speakers at the opening forum of the El-afweyn peace conference highly underscored the importance of a peaceful and harmoniously cohesive setting for the community. They called for the need to commit to establishing lasting peace in the area and to avoid anything that undermines the peace, unity and brotherhood of the resident communities.

The VP vouched for the fact that the

government is committed to ending the recurring violence in the area and pointed out that it is ready to

implement projects in the district that will benefit the local community. He underpinned the need and usefulness of living in harmony and establishing lasting peaceful aura such that development and progress may set in for prosperity. He similarly impressed upon the assembly the need to bolster peaceful security, solidarity unity hence consult each other and concertedly exert efforts in togetherness for progress to fledge. The VP tentatively announced water and food relief supplies that would be delivered to the residents of El-afweyn District.

Ethiopia and Somaliland discuss trade and economic cooperation



By M.A. Egge
The Minister of Trade and Transport of the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia, Mr. Abdihakin Sheikh Hassan, received a delegation led by the Minister of Trade and Tourism of Somaliland, Hon. Abdirahman Hassan Nur, at his office.

The delegation first visited the minister's office where they held a wide-range meeting to discuss in-depth on trade cooperation between the two sides.

The minister, who elaborated on the

importance of the visit to the region, stated that both sides should work together to create trade openness and social integration on both sides to remove unnecessary obstacles to trade.

After that, the delegation visited the various departments of the office, observed the service delivery model of the DDS Trade and Transport Office to share any experiences. In conclusion, the delegation appreciated the service delivery model, especially the use of modern equipment and the quality of the service.

Berbera's Tuna Industry Expands to Meet Ethiopia's Growing Fish Demand



Berbera, a historic port city on Somaliland's Gulf of Aden coastline, is emerging as a significant hub in the regional seafood industry. Home to some of the finest tuna stocks in the world, the city is positioning itself as a key supplier to both regional and global markets.

At the forefront of this development is Somtuna Fishing Company, a subsidiary of the Dahabshil Group. Founded by entrepreneurs with deep knowledge of both Somali and international markets, the company has established itself as a leader in canned tuna production, fish processing, and seafood exports. Its operations adhere to international food safety standards, ensuring high-quality products at every stage of the value chain.

Somtuna's state-of-the-art processing facility in Berbera is equipped with modern technology to maintain premium quality and efficiency. The factory has also provided employment for hundreds of young people, boosting the local economy and supporting supply chains that include fishermen, logistics providers, and transport networks.

A recent sighting of Berbera Tuna Fish on supermarket shelves in Ethiopia underscores Somaliland's growing role as a seafood supplier to its landlocked neighbor. The

increasing availability of Berbera's canned tuna in Ethiopia is a sign of deepening trade ties between the two economies, as Ethiopian consumers turn to Somaliland for high-quality seafood products.

Berbera's Role in Ethiopia's Expanding Seafood Market

Ethiopia, with a population of over 120 million, is witnessing a growing demand for seafood, driven by a shift towards protein-rich diets. For Somaliland's fishing industry, this represents a lucrative opportunity. Somtuna is well-positioned to meet Ethiopia's seafood needs, supplying hotels, restaurants, and households with a steady flow of high-quality fish. Berbera's proximity to Ethiopia, coupled with efficient logistics and trade agreements, has made it a natural hub for seafood exports.

As global fish consumption continues to rise, Somaliland's fishing industry is poised for further expansion. Investment in sustainable fishing practices, modern techniques, and international trade partnerships will be crucial in strengthening Berbera's position as a major player in the seafood market. With companies like Somtuna leading the way, Somaliland is not only catering to Ethiopia's rising demand for fish but also carving out a place for itself on the global stage. HornDiplomat

CAUTIONARY NOTICE TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND

STARLET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA (also trading as TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION), a corporation organized under the laws of Japan of 1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-shi, Aichi-ken, Japan and is used in connection with: Automobiles and structural parts thereof.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that legal proceedings will be taken against any person or company who uses the said trade mark or any imitations thereof or who otherwise infringes the rights of the said company.

Information Minister Meets Solja on Acceleration of the Implementation of the Somaliland Press Law



By M.A. Egge

The Minister of the Ministry of Information, Culture and National Guidance who was flanked by the ministry's Director met with the Somaliland Journalists Association (Solja) officials on the acceleration of the implementation of the nation's media laws.

During the meeting, general media issues, the arrest of journalists, and how to expedite the Somaliland press law that is pending before the House of Representatives were the

main matters discussed.

The chairman of SOLJA, Shafi Mohamed Ibrahim, presented the arbitrary arrests of 5 journalists at the meeting, without going through a legal process.

The organization expressed concern about the violations against press freedom, noting that the arrest of journalists is an obstacle to press freedom and the development of democracy in Somaliland.

For his part, the Minister of Information underlined the

government's commitment to protecting press rights and developing the media. The Minister pledged that the ministry would work with the media fraternity to strengthen cooperation, protect media independence, and work to complete the Somaliland press law. The meeting concluded with an agreement to expedite the implementation of the press law, work together to resolve journalists' complaints, and strengthen cooperation between SOLJA and the Ministry of Information to develop Somaliland's media.

13th Cabinet Session Ponders on Progress Made



By M.A. Egge

The 13th session of the council of cabinet ministers chaired by the President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi (Irro) held on Wednesday at the Presidency saw the following briefs highlighted which were on agenda.

* A general report on the country's security situation, reported by the Minister of Interior who informed the Council that overall the country's security is secure and calm.

* The smooth running and growth of fiscal revenue and the collection of Goods and Services Tax (GST); the Minister of Finance and Economic Development gave the Council a general report, stating that the activities are progressing well.

* A report on the inspection of the country's prisons and the opening of Mija-Aseye prison: the Minister of Justice gave the Council a general report especially on the living conditions of prisoners and issues that need to be improved such as housing, health and education of prisoners in the country's 14 prisons.

* Report on the status of livestock exports: The Livestock and Rural

Development Minister gave the Council a general report.

* An in-depth report on the activities for which the Ministry of Communications and Technology is responsible for the nation, given by the minister. He also reported on the ongoing projects and the financial assistance it receives and the stages they are going through. He noted that the ministry is engaged in collecting, storing and protecting national data (National Data Centre).

* The Minister of Civil Aviation and Airport Development explained the Ministry's Vision as: Somaliland Connected to the World, Economically Developing, with Airport Infrastructure and Aviation Services that are Safe, Secure and Efficient.

On the other hand, the Minister briefed the Council on the 100-day performance of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and also submitted to the Council the Airport Strategy of the Republic of Somaliland. The Minister elaborated in depth on the 5 Pillars of the Strategy for the next 5 years that will guide the Ministry.

* The process of collecting the 100-day performance report of the

Government and the coordination and compilation of data on the activities that the Ministries are participating in for the 100-day commitment of the government: was reported by the Minister of the Presidency.

* The Minister of Local Government and Urban Development shared with the cabinet the Strategic Plan for the next 5 years that the Ministry will be working on. He also recommended that projects implemented by international organizations and NGOs in electoral districts that have not been approved by the Ministry be closely monitored.

* Finally, the President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, gave the cabinet a general report on the latest efforts to pacify the Erigavo District and the Nationalization of the Civilian Forces and the El-Afweyn Peace Conference that opened on the same Wednesday at El-Afweyn.

The President expressed his gratitude to the members of the government led by the Vice President, praising the peacekeeping activities they are carrying out in Erigavo, which are nearing completion, and that the Vice President and his delegation will continue the nationalization activities in other areas planned by the government.

Somaliland and Taiwan: Standing Their Ground Against Beijing's Bullying

In a blunt rebuke that has reverberated across diplomatic channels, Somaliland's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has issued a pointed message on X, declaring: "China has no right to dictate who we have relationships with, as we have no right to dictate who they have relationships with."

The statement comes as the Taiwan Representative Office in Hargeisa has also fired back at Beijing's increasingly aggressive posturing with a statement that leaves little room for misinterpretation: "Neither Taiwan nor China is subordinate to the other, and China has never governed Taiwan for a second."

This unified front marks the latest chapter in the ongoing diplomatic tug-of-war that has intensified since Somaliland and Taiwan formalized relations in 2020, much to Beijing's consternation.

Rejecting Beijing's Pressure Tactics

Somaliland's firm stance comes after Chinese Ambassador to Somalia, Wang Yu, escalated tensions by stating in an interview with a local Somali news outlet: "I strongly condemn Somaliland for strengthening its ties with Taiwan. Taiwan is not a country; it is a part of China. We have taken countermeasures against Hargeisa. There is significant cooperation between China and Somalia."

The Ambassador's explicit mention of "countermeasures" represents an unusually direct threat from Chinese diplomacy, which typically shrouds punitive actions in more ambiguous language. The statement also underscores Beijing's strategy of leveraging its relationship with Mogadishu as a counterweight to Somaliland's independent foreign policy.

This diplomatic confrontation follows the Chinese Embassy in Mogadishu issuing yet another condemnation in May 2024, labeling Somaliland's ties with Taiwan a "violation" of the increasingly threadbare "One-China Principle."

Sources close to the Somaliland government revealed to Somaliland Chronicle that Chinese officials had attempted to sweeten the deal by dangling the prospect of a liaison office in Hargeisa and vague promises of development assistance—if only Somaliland would abandon Taiwan. The offer was promptly rebuffed.

"The 'One-China Principle' and the 'One-Somalia Principle' are outdated clichés that bear no resemblance to ground realities," a senior official at Somaliland's

Ministry of Foreign Affairs told this newspaper on condition of anonymity. "Neither Taiwan nor Somaliland is subordinate to China or Somalia. That era is finished."

China has intensified its pressure campaign against Somaliland, employing political, economic, and diplomatic tactics. Chinese officials have issued explicit warnings regarding Somaliland's relationship with Taiwan, with Ambassador Wang Yu emphasizing that "there is only one China in the world; Taiwan is an inseparable part of China."

The economic pressure has been equally direct. In response to Somaliland's diplomatic shift towards Taiwan, Chinese businesses that had previously established a presence in Somaliland abruptly withdrew, leaving gaps in various sectors of the economy. This move is perceived as an attempt by Beijing to exert economic pressure on Hargeisa.

China's actions form part of a broader strategy to isolate Taiwan internationally and deter other nations from establishing formal relations with Taipei. The pressure exerted on Somaliland serves as a cautionary example to other countries considering similar diplomatic engagements.

Political Pragmatism and Mutual Benefits

While Somaliland's current government expressed reservations about the choice of Taiwan over China when they were in opposition and during the presidential campaign, it has since fully embraced the bilateral relationship established under former President Muse Bihi Abdi's administration. This pragmatic shift suggests a recognition of the tangible benefits the Taiwan partnership has delivered to Somaliland, overriding any previous political hesitations.

Similarly, political transitions in Taipei have done little to disturb the foundations of the relationship, with Taiwan maintaining consistent support despite its own complex domestic politics. "We appreciated G7 Foreign Ministers recently supported Taiwan by opposing any unilateral attempts to change the status quo of the Taiwan Strait whether by force or by coercion," the Taiwan Representative Office stated, signaling growing international discomfort with Beijing's military posturing.

The relationship, initially endorsed by the Trump White House in 2020, appears positioned for continued support as President Trump returns to office. U.S. Congressman Mike Smith has described China's attempts to isolate Taiwan and

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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

Somaliland and Taiwan: Standing Their Ground Against Beijing's Bullying

pressure Somaliland as "counterproductive and alarming"—diplomatically speak for strong disapproval.

"Under the Trump administration, the White House National Security Council openly acknowledged and praised the new relationship between Somaliland and Taiwan in 2020," the Taiwan Representative Office reminded observers, strategically emphasizing the continuity with the incoming administration.

While the diplomatic gamesmanship captures headlines, the Taiwan-Somaliland partnership has delivered concrete benefits that transcend symbolic gestures. Taiwan's investments in Hargeisa's healthcare infrastructure have significantly improved medical capacity, while educational exchanges have provided Somalilanders with technical training opportunities previously unavailable.

The establishment of a vegetable farm demonstration project in Arabsiyo has introduced advanced agricultural technologies that boost local food production capabilities—practical advantages that underscore why Somaliland continues to resist Beijing's pressure campaign.

For Taiwan, Somaliland's strategic position near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait—one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints—offers significant geopolitical value as China continues its military expansion throughout the Indian

Ocean region.

Looking Ahead: Regional Stability and International Recognition

The Taiwan Representative Office raised particular alarm about what it described as the "weaponization" of humanitarian assistance "to fuel internal conflicts and cognitive warfare to further destabilize the region." The statement concluded with an appeal: "We urge China to cease its provocation and truly uphold the values of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa."

As Somaliland's democratic credentials continue to impress international observers following the 2024 Presidential Election, both Taiwan and Somaliland see their partnership as a potential catalyst for broader international recognition.

"We are glad to see more and more democratic like-minded partners endorsing the values of Taiwan-Somaliland relationship," the Taiwan Representative Office noted. "We believe that Taiwan-Somaliland relationship can catalyze more international support for both nations."

Despite formidable opposition from Beijing and Mogadishu, the Taiwan-Somaliland relationship has evolved into something more significant than a mere diplomatic arrangement between two unrecognized states. It represents a defiant statement that even smaller nations can chart independent courses when fundamental interests are at stake—regardless of how loudly larger powers might protest.

Taiwan Calls on China to Stop Provocations against the Relations between Somaliland

By M.A. Egge

Taiwanese Ambassador to the Republic of Somaliland Allen Lou, said that the relationship between Somaliland and Taiwan is cooperative and based on mutual respect and mutual interests.

The Taiwanese government has called on the Chinese government to stop provocations against the relations between Somaliland and China.

The Taiwanese Ambassador to Somaliland, Ambassador Allen Lou, noted that the relationship between Somaliland and Taiwan, which shares common goals and interests, continues to grow, and he believes that the

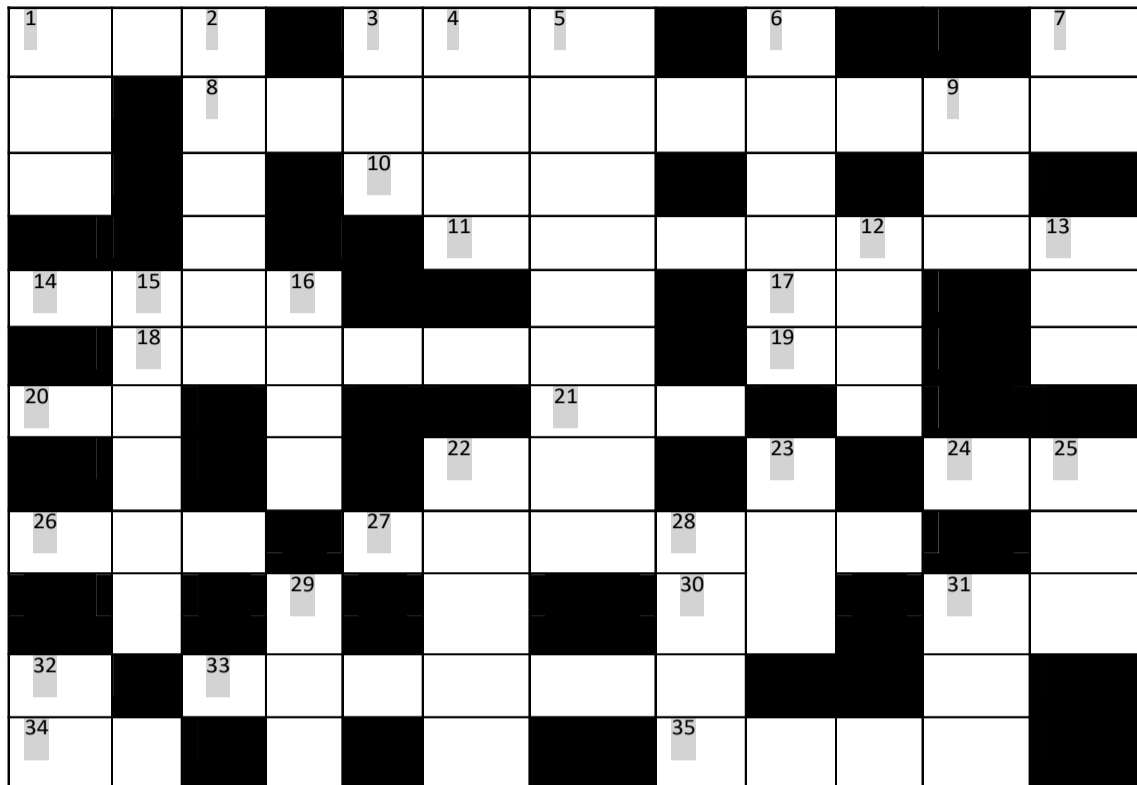
relationship between the two countries will gain international support.

Ambassador Allen Lou urged the Chinese government to stop provocations and sincerely support peace and stability in the Horn of Africa.

The Ambassador said that China has never ruled Taiwan and is lying about what it calls its sovereignty. The Ambassador thanked the Foreign Ministers of the G7 countries who recently supported Taiwan and opposed any unilateral attempts to change the status of the Taiwan Strait by using force.

THT Puzzle

By: Abdilahi Said



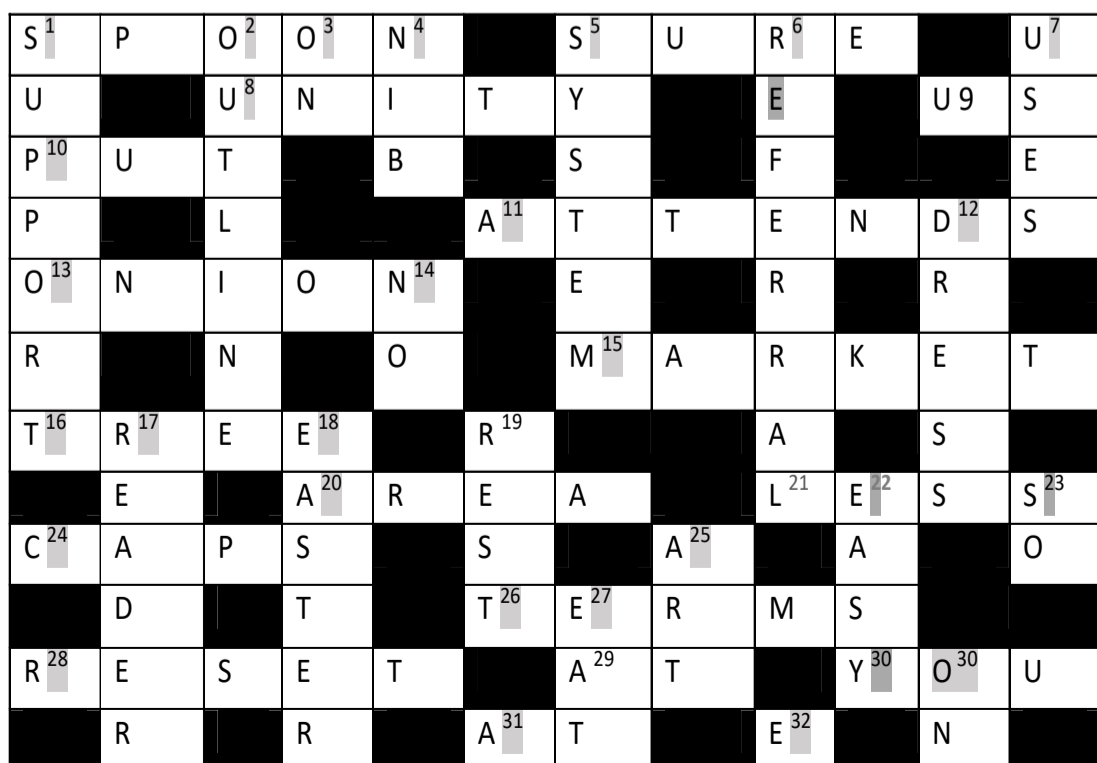
DOWN

- 1 question.
- 2 confirm.
- 3 shed tears
- 4 vicinity
- 5 travelers
- 6 increasing
- 7 U'S
- 9 Have a meal
- 12 Almost immediately
- 13 Sun shine
- 15 Nearby
- 16 Simple
- 22 brain power
- 23 individual
- 25 Perceive or look
- 28 possessive pronoun
- 29 Carpet
- 31 double or single bed
- 32 Negative or nope

ACROSS

- 1 be present.
- 3 crowns head wear
- 8 storylines.
- 10 Yeah
- 11 Support
- 14 Concern assist
- 17 Negative
- 18 Cause
- 19 Travel
- 22 be present
- 24 Remains
- 26 Furthermore
- 27 Symbols
- 30 United Nations in short forms
- 31 Be there
- 34 Atop
- 35 Stated

Previous Answer



Feeding Our Future: Aimee Bock, Salim Said convicted in \$250M Minnesota COVID fraud case



Jurors convicted Aimee Bock and Salim Said on all counts Wednesday for orchestrating a massive \$250 million scheme under the guise of providing meals to Minnesota children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bock, 44, founder and executive director of Feeding Our Future, and Said, 36, co-owner of Safari Restaurant, were immediately arrested following the verdict due to concerns they might flee before sentencing.

U.S. District Judge Nancy Brasel underscored her decision to detain them, citing "patterns of deception" displayed throughout the trial. "Both defendants have shown an absolute inability to comply with authority," Brasel said, adding she feared they would manipulate documents or flee to evade justice.

Bock was convicted of seven counts, including wire fraud, conspiracy to commit wire fraud, and bribery. Said faced 21 counts, including additional money laundering charges and conspiracy to launder money. Prosecutors accused Bock of masterminding the fraud, involving falsely reported meal counts and the disbursement of federal funds for nonexistent or exaggerated food programs during COVID-19.

"This case has come to symbolize the problem of fraud in our state," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Thompson, calling the scheme "brazen" and "the shame of Minnesota."

The jury reached its verdict after approximately five hours of deliberation, concluding a trial that lasted over five weeks and included testimony from FBI agents, forensic accountants, and cooperating witnesses who admitted involvement.

Both defendants took the stand in their own defence during the trial, providing testimony that directly conflicted with the prosecutors' evidence and witness statements. Witnesses painted Bock as influential and seemingly untouchable, with one witness characterizing her as "a god," highlighting her perceived power in orchestrating the scheme. Prosecutors introduced extensive

surveillance evidence, notably video footage that contradicted Said's claims of serving thousands of meals daily at Safari Restaurant. Defence attorneys argued that their clients were misled by associates and lacked full awareness of the scale of the fraud. Emotional reactions were evident during the verdict reading, as Bock was visibly upset and broke down into tears upon being taken into custody.

Throughout the trial, prosecutors provided compelling evidence, including surveillance footage from Said's Safari Restaurant, contradicting his claims of serving thousands of meals daily. Said's restaurant previously generated around \$600,000 annually but reported serving 3.9 million meals between April 2020 and November 2021, funnelling millions in fraudulent federal reimbursements into luxury real estate, vehicles, and international travel.

Defence attorneys argued innocence, alleging their clients were misled or victimized by business partners. Bock's attorney, Kenneth Udoibok, expressed disappointment at the swift verdict and said he planned to appeal.

"At least she told her side of the story," Udoibok said, referencing Bock's contentious testimony where she admitted significant fraud occurred but claimed ignorance of the details.

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz praised the verdict, expressing fury that a program designed to feed hungry children was exploited.

"These are criminals who preyed on a system," Walz stated. "It was organized, and they continued to lie." Of the 70 people charged in the Feeding Our Future case, 44 have been convicted through pleas or trials. Authorities have recovered approximately \$60 million of the stolen funds, and further prosecutions remain ongoing. Sentencing dates for Bock and Said have not yet been scheduled, but prosecutors anticipate significant prison terms.

"Hopefully, today's verdict helps turn the page," Thompson concluded while emphasizing Minnesota's commitment to restoring integrity to public programs.

Second night of protests in Turkiye after Istanbul mayor detained



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

Turkish protesters took to the streets for a second consecutive night following the arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu as part of a separate corruption and terrorism investigation.

Demonstrations were held at Istanbul's City Hall on Thursday, where small groups of protesters scuffled with police as they tried to approach the city's fenced-off Taksim Square – the site of mass demonstrations in 2013.

In Ankara, the Turkish capital, police used water cannon to disperse crowds at Middle East Technical University. Smaller protests were also reported in the city of Izmir, on the Turkish coast, and Adana, in southern Turkiye.

The mayor was arrested in a predawn raid on Wednesday, just days before he was due to announce his run for the presidency in 2028 as an opposition candidate. Also detained were dozens of prominent figures, including journalists, businesspeople and staff members of the Istanbul municipal government.

People light flares in Istanbul, Turkiye, on March 20, 2025, as they protest against the arrest of Istanbul's Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu [Khalil Hamra/AP Photo]

Imamoglu is a member of the secular Republican People's Party (CHP) and is considered one of the top rivals of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

He faces multiple charges, including "bribery, extortion, corruption, aggravated fraud, and illegally obtaining personal data for profit as part of a criminal organisation", along with separate charges for allegedly collaborating with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in municipal elections. The PKK is designated as a "terrorist organisation" in Turkiye and is behind a long-running rebellion aimed at creating an independent Kurdistan.

Earlier this week, a Turkish university nullified Imamoglu's diploma for "irregularities", a move that could see him banned from politics. The charges add to a growing list of legal probes against the mayor, some dating back to 2022.

The protests, triggered by Imamoglu's detention, appear set to continue into the weekend despite a four-day ban imposed by the government.

Addressing a rally outside Istanbul's City Hall on Thursday evening, CHP leader Ozgur Ozel called on supporters to continue demonstrating.

"Yes, I am calling the people to the streets," he said, urging them not to resort to violence.

Some have also taken to social media to air their grievances, sharing 18.6 million posts within 24 hours of Imamoglu's detention, according to Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya. Among them, 261 social media accounts were deemed to be "inciting" public hatred or crime, leading police to detain 37 suspected account users, he said.

People protest against the arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu outside City Hall in Istanbul, Turkiye, on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 [Francisco Seco/AP Photo]

Turkish market trading has also been hit by the surprise arrest. Trading was temporarily halted on Wednesday to prevent panic selling, while the lira fell to a record low.

Advertisement Despite the turmoil, President Erdogan and his ruling Justice and Development Party have continued to defend Imamoglu's detention.

Omer Celik, the party's spokesperson, urged the opposition to respect the legal process.

"What a politician should do is follow the judicial process," Celik told the media. "None of us have any information about the content of the [criminal] file."