

The Horn Tribune

Vol V/ Issue 1599 Sunday 18 May 2025 (www.horntribune.com/info@horntribune.com)

Dhul-Qidah 20/1446 AH

An Independent Weekly Newspaper of Dawan Media Group, Tel: 0634108231/0634424590/0634615145

Republic of Somaliland Celebrating May 18, 2025:

How Students and Communities Marked the Day under the Theme "Together We Can Achieve" and Its Unique Aspects Compared to Previous Years



Students across Somaliland's educational institutions play central role in the May 18, 2025, celebrations

By: Mohamoud Walaaleye

Today, Sunday the 18th May, is a pivotal date in Somaliland, Continue on Page 2



Kenyan and Djibouti dignitaries' jet into the country to celebrate 18th May with Somalilanders



By M.A. Egge

Dignitaries from Kenya and Djibouti jetted into the country on Saturday to join Somalilanders on the occasion the 18th May anniversary of the re-assertion of the nation's sovereign independence which the was Continue on Page 2

Somaliland Environment Minister Meets UK Climate Minister in London to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation



The Minister of Environment and Climate Change of the Republic of Somaliland, Abdillahi Jama Osman (Geeljire), and a high-level delegation have Continue on Page 3

High-Level Security Meeting at JSL Police Force Focuses on Safeguarding Somaliland's National Day Celebrations on May 18th

By: Goth

A crucial meeting was held at the Somaliland National Police headquarters, focusing on the national security and the country's stability. The meeting was attended by the Continue on Page 2

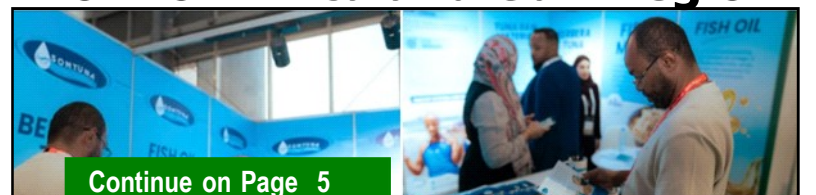


Somaliland Bank Board Approved



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Somaliland in Focus: Push for Recognition Grows Amid U.S. Senate Hearing



Republic of Somaliland finds itself at the center of international attention, with renewed calls for recognition and diplomatic ties following a pivotal Continue on Page 6

Advancing U.S.-Somaliland Relations Through Strategic Engagement



The testimony delivered by Joshua Meservey to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee presents a compelling case for a recalibrated U.S. strategy Continue on Page 4

18th May Somaliland Celebrating again its 34 Anniversary



This week, starting from May 18th, marks the beginning of the celebration of Somaliland's reclamation of independence. The commemoration of this day is Continue on Page 4

The World Cannot Turn a Blind Eye to Somaliland's Rightful Recognition, says FM

By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Somaliland, Hon. Abdirahman Dahir Adan Bakaal, said that the world cannot turn a blind eye anymore to the Continue on Page 3



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Somaliland Media Association and 18th May Commemoration Organizing Committee Unite to Enhance 18th May Celebration

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Republic of Somaliland.....

commemorating its re-assertion in 1991 of the country's independence hence dissolving the ill-fated union with the former Somalia Republic regime. This day embodies national pride, unity, and the collective aspirations of Somalilanders. The 2025 celebration, themed "Together We Can Achieve," underscores the power of unity in driving progress. This report details how students in schools and communities across Somaliland's regions, such as Hargeisa, Burao, Borama, and Berbera, Erigavo, Ainabo and all districts prepared for and celebrated May 18, 2025; and highlights how this year's event differs from previous years, drawing on cultural traditions, historical context, and with, profound inferences which had been going on for the past three weeks. Preparations and Celebrations by Students in Schools

Students across Somaliland's educational institutions played a central role in the May 18, 2025, celebrations, aligning their activities with the theme of unity and collective achievement. Key efforts included: Educational Initiatives Thematic Competitions: Students participated in essay, poetry, and art contests focused on "Together We Can Achieve." For example, in Hargeisa, students created posters with messages like "Unity Is Our Strength," displayed in school halls. Debates and Seminars: Schools hosted debates on topics like "The Role of Unity in Somaliland's Future," encouraging collaboration. The University of Hargeisa and other institutions held seminars with SNM veterans and community leaders to inspire students. Cultural and Artistic Activities Unity-Themed Performances: Students rehearsed traditional dances like Daanto and Jaandeer, choreographed to reflect teamwork. School choirs performed songs celebrating collective achievements, shared at assemblies and public events. Theater and Drama: Drama clubs staged plays reenacting moments of unity, such as the SNM's struggle or post-1991 reconciliation, performed in schools and community venues. Art Exhibitions: Students created murals and artwork featuring Somaliland's flag and symbols of unity, showcased in schools and public spaces like Burao's community centers. Community Engagement Collaborative Projects: Students participated in group initiatives, such as cleaning public spaces and planting trees, reflecting the theme's call for collective action. In Borama, schools organized clean-up drives to prepare for parades. Fundraising for Events: Student councils worked together to raise funds for



decorations and school-based celebrations, fostering teamwork across diverse student groups. Preparations and Celebrations by Communities in the Regions

Communities across Somaliland, particularly in urban centers and rural areas, embraced the theme "Together We Can Achieve" through vibrant celebrations and collective efforts. Key activities included: Community-Wide Events Parades and Rallies: Cities like Hargeisa, Burao, Berbera, Borama, Erigavo hosted large-scale parades, with streets adorned in Somaliland's green, white, and red colors. Hargeisa's Freedom Square was a hub for rallies, featuring speeches by political leaders, elders, and youth on the importance of unity. Cultural Festivals: Communities organized festivals with traditional food stalls, handicraft displays, and performances. In Berbera, celebrations highlighted the port's role in uniting economic efforts, with maritime-themed events. Religious Observances: Mosques held special prayers and sermons focusing on unity and gratitude, aligning with the theme. Community leaders promoted inter-clan collaboration during these gatherings. Business and Media Contributions Business Engagement: Local businesses decorated shops with thematic banners and offered promotions to encourage participation. Markets in Erigavo and Borama saw increased activity as vendors prepared festive goods. Media Campaigns: Somaliland National TV and Radio Hargeisa aired programs on unity, including documentaries and interviews with community leaders. Social media campaigns on platforms like X used hashtags like #TogetherWeCanAchieve to spread the message globally. Diaspora Involvement

The Somaliland diaspora in cities like London, Minneapolis, and Dubai organized events to support the theme, raising funds for community projects such as schools and clinics. Virtual events and social media campaigns

connected diaspora communities with local celebrations, amplifying the theme's global reach. Distinctions of the 2025 Celebration Compared to Previous Years

The 2025 May 18 celebration, guided by the theme "Together We Can Achieve," stands out from previous years due to its focus on unity, technological advancements, and contemporary priorities. Key distinctions include: Focus on Unity

The 2025 theme explicitly emphasizes collective action, with events like inter-school unity festivals and clan reconciliation forums taking center stage. This contrasts with previous years, which focused more on historical commemoration or independence alone. Enhanced Digital Engagement Social Media Presence: The use of platforms like X for campaigns (e.g., #TogetherWeCanAchieve) marks a significant increase in digital engagement compared to past years. Youth-led content, such as videos and virtual tours of sites like the Hargeisa War Memorial, broadened participation. Live-Streaming: Improved internet infrastructure enabled live-streamed events, allowing diaspora communities to join in real-time, unlike the primarily local broadcasts of previous years. Youth and Educational Emphasis

The Somaliland Ministry of Education introduced a "May 18 Education Week" in 2025, with schools dedicating a week to unity-themed activities like collaborative projects and history quizzes, a more structured approach than in past years. Universities launched unity-focused scholarships during the celebrations, targeting students in governance and community development, a new initiative compared to earlier years. Economic and Political Optimism Economic Progress: The 2025 celebrations highlighted achievements like investments in Berbera Port, with speeches emphasizing collective economic goals, unlike the historical focus of previous years.

Kenyan and Djibouti dignitaries..



earned from the colonial British Empire on the 26th of June 2025. They consisted of senators and parliamentarians, amongst other officials. Amongst them is prominent Migori Women Rep Fatuma Mohamed Egge, Fatuma-Zainab, popularly known in Kenyan political circles as Fatuma Network, whose lineage is Somalilander. This year's celebration has been marked in a more profound manner that is quite different for the past years. This time round, the

celebrations has been on for three whole weeks prior to the D-Day hence has been more marked in schools and public squares, gardens and sportsgrounds in all cities and towns across the country. Intensity and extensive nature of the functions held within the country and abroad has been more profound and quite marked. Kenya and Djibouti are amongst nations that have representative consulates in the country.

High-Level Security.....



Commander of the Police Force, leaders of branch commands, and the National Committee responsible for organizing the 18th May celebrations. Discussions centred on matters related to maintaining of security and peaceful stability during the national celebrations. It specifically emphasized on strategies for collaboration to ensure security during the commemoration of Somaliland's National Day on 18th May,

underscoring the importance of stability and order as the cornerstone of the event. Officials speaking at the meeting highlighted the critical role of security forces in safeguarding national security and enabling the public to participate in the celebrations peacefully. They reiterated the necessity of collective efforts to ensure the occasion is marked safely and successfully.

Diplomatic Advances: Ongoing discussions about international recognition, particularly with Ethiopia and the UAE, added a forward-looking tone, making the 2025 event more globally oriented than past celebrations. Conclusion

The May 18, 2025, celebration in Somaliland, under the theme "Together We Can Achieve," showcased the vibrant efforts of students and communities to promote unity and national pride. Schools engaged students through educational programs, cultural performances, and collaborative projects, while communities organized parades, festivals, and

media campaigns. The 2025 celebration distinguished itself through its emphasis on unity, enhanced digital engagement, youth involvement, and alignment with economic, environmental, and inclusive priorities, setting it apart from the more traditional events of previous years. Despite challenges like resource limitations and political sensitivities, the celebration reflected Somaliland's commitment to collective progress, resonating with the theme's vision of unity and achievement.

Somaliland Environment Minister Meets UK

been on a working visit to the United Kingdom this week, focusing on strengthening environmental collaboration and bilateral ties.

During his official visit to London, Minister Geeljire held a significant meeting with his UK counterpart, Climate Minister Mrs. Kerry McCarthy, at her office in the British Parliament at Westminster. The meeting was also attended by a team of technical experts from various UK government departments involved in international environmental cooperation.

Minister Geeljire briefed Minister McCarthy on the progress Somaliland has made in recent years, particularly under the leadership of the new administration headed by President Abdurrahman Mohamed Abdullah. He highlighted the impacts of climate change on Somaliland's communities and ecosystems and emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to address these urgent environmental challenges.

Minister McCarthy welcomed the Somaliland delegation's proposals, expressing strong interest in supporting joint initiatives. She instructed the attending experts to coordinate a timely and practical response to the requests raised



during the meeting. As part of the diplomatic engagement, Minister Geeljire also handed over a formal letter from the President of Somaliland addressed to UK Prime Minister Mr. Keir Starmer. The letter outlines key areas of mutual interest, emphasizing the long-standing historical relationship between Somaliland and the United

Kingdom. The environment minister is expected to continue a series of meetings with UK officials and members of the Somaliland diaspora in the coming days, aiming to strengthen partnerships and raise international support for Somaliland's environmental and developmental goals.

"Awdal Region, Somaliland: No Grounds for Opposition" Traditional Leaders of Awdal and Salal Regions



Traditional leaders and intellectuals from the Awdal & Seel regions held a press conference in Borama to address recent divisive and inflammatory rhetoric on social media, which they deemed unacceptable. They urged Somaliland's security agencies to take firm action against those threatening the stability of Awdal and Somaliland as a whole.

A traditional leader stated, "In recent days, we have seen individuals making unreasonable statements not typical of this

region. No one can undermine Awdal's peace through words or actions while we are here. We urge them to stop, or we will support the government in taking legal measures. Here is Awdal, here is Somaliland, and whoever opposes have no grounds." The leaders emphasized Awdal's historical significance as the birthplace and foundation of Somaliland, underscoring its vital contributions to the nation's development. They vowed to reject any attempts to hinder its progress.

They also called on residents of Awdal and Salal to actively participate in the upcoming May 18 national day celebrations. Additionally, they encouraged the community to prepare a warm welcome for Somaliland's Vice President, Ambassador Mohamed Ali Aw Abdi, who is expected to visit the western regions soon. One leader remarked, "We will receive the Vice President with dignity. We call on every person from Awdal to prepare for his reception."

The World Cannot Turn a.....



recognition that Somaliland rightfully deserves, noting that the time has come for Somaliland to be reckoned with and receive the deserved recognition it has been striving for a long time.

Speaking on the matter, the Somaliland Foreign Minister said, "The time has come for the Republic of Somaliland to receive the recognition and the world cannot anymore turn a blind eye to; this year we will intensify our efforts to obtain the deserved recognition."

Minister Bakaal urged all Somaliland citizens living in countries across the world, the Somaliland diaspora, to participate in the commemoration of May 18 in a spirit of unity and solidarity.

He observed that the people of Somaliland everywhere were

very enthusiastic about the National Day of the Commemoration of May 18, and that the government itself is even more ardent than ever to see to it the D-Day is marked more intensive and extensive this time round.

Hon. Bakaal said that it has reached the time for Somaliland to receive international recognition, since it is something that no one can ignore and the eyes of the world have turned to how Somaliland has worked for its interests and unity.

"Today is the time for Somaliland to receive recognition that no one can ignore and the eyes of the world have turned to how Somaliland has worked for its interests, unity, peace, and democracy," said Minister Abdurahman Adan Dahir Bakaal.

Somaliland Bank Board.....



On May 11, 2025, the House of Representatives of the Republic of Somaliland, during its session, approved the new board of the Somaliland Bank with a majority vote. The session was attended by 58 members, all of whom voted in favor of the Bank's board, while the Speaker of the House did not cast a vote.

Prior to the approval, the Governor of the Somaliland Bank, Mr. Abdinasir Ahmed Hirsi, addressed the House, noting that

during their brief tenure, the Bank had successfully increased the value of the Somaliland Shilling. The House of Representatives expressed full confidence in the Somaliland Bank and concluded the session by approving the Bank's board with a majority vote. Approved Board Members: Governor of the Bank, Mr. Abdinasir Ahmed Hirsi – 57 votes. Deputy Governor of the Bank, Mr. Hamse Abdirahman Khayre – 57 votes.

18th May Somaliland.....

linked to the historic day of June 26. Whilst both days are national days, they hold distinct historical significance. The celebration of 18th May is the day we left the dubious failed merger with Somalia, while 26th June is the day we gained our independence from Britain.

First of all, I extend my heartfelt wishes to all Somalilanders, wherever they are, a happy 34th anniversary, hoping that it will be a wonderful occasion for us and have bigger celebrations in the coming years. The joy and feelings of this occasion are not confined to those in Somaliland alone. I and thousands of Somaliland Diaspora are certainly celebrating. It is a day that is dear to us all.

The celebration event of this year, 2025, is expected to be as spectacular as in the previous years. Celebration events have already started two weeks ago in the cities of Hargeisa, Buroa, Borama, Berbera, Erigavo and Gabliley. The atmosphere in these cities as they prepared for the May 18th celebrations was beautiful and attracted thousands of people waving the Somaliland flag. The people of these cities and towns have shown their support for the Somaliland cause through the power of their unity. This is a direct message to all enemies of Somaliland.

Despite Somaliland not being recognised as an independent country by the international community since 1991, on this occasion, there is much to celebrate. Since 1991, Somaliland has come a long way, having experienced ups and downs in various stages in our journey of nationhood.

This day is marked by the people of Somaliland, both at home and abroad, being fully united in the cause of Somaliland and demonstrating the strength and determination of the people of Somaliland. It is a day to reflect on the struggles that Somaliland has gone through to achieve where it is today in terms of peace and stability, accompanied by a government rooted in transparency and accountability.

In this brief article, the purpose is not to delve into the details the historical past and especially the struggle that finally led Somaliland to regain its freedom. If you need more information about this, you may want to refer, for this, to my article on the 30th Anniversary (Somaliland-30th-anniversary-2021-pdf-news.pdf (horndiplomat.com)).

Why is this day so special for Somaliland and its people?

This significant day marks the end of more than three decades of Somali Government rule (from 1960-1990). It is a day that reminds us of the freedom and

independence that we regained after a painful struggle in which we lost thousands of lives. It is a day to remember and appreciate our patriots and heroes who sacrificed their lives so future generations could live in freedom and security.

On this occasion, we should remember the following:

The Burao Conference held between 27 April and 18 May 1991 is also remembered on this day. It is a day when the representatives and delegates of the different clans of Somaliland, after a lengthy consultation, fully agreed to reclaim the sovereignty of Somaliland to create a broad government based on the representation of all the regions of the country.

This day also reminds us of the reconciliation conference held in the towns of Berbera, Sheikh, Borama and Burao, all of which were organised to bring the Somaliland communities closer and create a peaceful environment. National consultation conferences eventually created a peaceful environment in which a government system based on law and order was established. It is also unforgettable and especially remembered on this day the demobilisation of SNM fighters, who were disarmed to provide them with a system of reintegration and discipline.

This day also reminds us of the resilience of the people of Somaliland and the long journey they have gone through to achieve their nation-building. It is clear that the resilience of the people of Somaliland is strong, and a good example is the burning of the Waaheen market in 2022, which had a devastating impact on the livelihood of thousands of people. It was heart-breaking to see how the fire devastated Waaheen Market.

With the spirit and resilience of the people of Somaliland, the Waaheen Market has been rebuilt and officially opened at the end of 2024. The people of Somaliland have achieved great progress in 34 years with their resilience.

Elaborating on the value of this day, we also remember that on this day, the democratic elections were held in Somaliland. The last good example is the presidential and political organisation elections held on November 13, 2024. The manner and the style in which the power was transferred from the former president, His Excellency Muse Bihi Abdi and the elected president, His Excellency Abdirahman Abdillahi (Irro), showed professionalism. The event of power transfer went well, and it is a testimony to the fact that Somaliland and its people are committed to holding fair and free elections since 2003. Both leaders mentioned in their speeches that it is marking a significant moment in Somaliland's democratic journey. Somalilanders will never forget and will remember for a long time that

the power transfer model between the two leaders was smooth and peaceful.

Since 1991, Somaliland has had six successive presidents, most of whom were elected through direct elections. These presidents all came with a leadership vision based on the stability and maintained the peace and security that Somaliland has enjoyed during the last 34 years.

May 18th is a day we remember the institutions we have established since 1991, such as the executive branch, the legislative branch, the judicial branch, the police and military force, the electoral commission, the central bank, political parties and many more institutions and independent organisations.

The celebration of 18th May reflects on the rebuilding efforts and progress in social and economic aspects that Somaliland has made with little help from the international community. There is hope and optimism for vibrant towns and cities in Somaliland, which every morning see thousands of children and young people going to their schools and colleges with peace and stability.

The role of Somaliland youth in strengthening the existence of Somaliland

With this anniversary, thousands of Somaliland youth took part in the celebrations ahead of May 18th in cities and towns across Somaliland, expressing their pride and happiness for their country. This is a direct message to all enemies of Somaliland.

Somaliland youth have always played a vital role in shaping Somaliland and its future. The youth of yesterday, now elders, were the ones who fought and sacrificed for Somaliland to regain its sovereignty. Throughout history, Somaliland youth have been the backbone of all struggles aimed at restoring Somaliland's sovereignty. Somaliland youth spend much of their time defending the existence and progress of their country. This is evidenced by the fact that young people use various social media platforms to unite their actions to support Somaliland's recognition. It is time for Somaliland youth to shoulder their responsibility on their shoulders to play a positive role in the progress of their country. The 18th May is a key lesson for today's youth, who make up the majority of Somaliland's population, estimated at 6 million. The only flag they know is the Somaliland flag, which combines green, red and white with a black star in the middle. One of the hundreds of songs that young people and children sing while waving the Somaliland flag during the commemoration is as follows: Kani waa calankaan lahaa (This is my flag)



Kaygii weeyaan kani (This is my own)
Aniga kii laygu dhalay (The one that I was born into)
Haddana laygu hoos korshoo (The one that I was raised under).
To value the commemoration of May 18th, the youth of today must be aware that Somaliland can build a better future if they thoroughly study their country's background. To shape a bright future and prosperous life, the youth must learn from the mistakes made by our country in the past. From the point of view of Somaliland's journey, young people need to learn from our history. It is an opportunity for youth to learn more about the struggle Somaliland has endured and the visible achievements it has made. "A nation that forgets its past has no future"-Winston Churchill.

Finally, it is clear that Somaliland Youth cannot aim for a better future if they do not unite their strength. It is vital for them to work together more for the interest of Somaliland.

Somaliland Diaspora

The Somaliland Diaspora is not only celebrating the 18th May, the day of sovereignty was reclaimed, but also reflecting on the significant contributions of the Somaliland

Diaspora to the economic and social progress of Somaliland.

The Somaliland Diaspora has always played an important role in Somaliland's quest for international recognition. They will continue their commitment to promoting their country. Evidence of this is that thousands of Somaliland Diaspora members across the world are preparing events to welcome the celebration of the 18th of May.

The Somaliland people are confident that their Diaspora will effectively and intelligently promote the case of Somaliland. They believe it is time for the international community to recognise the reality on the ground. Somaliland and Somalia have been apart for 34 years. Somaliland Diaspora is committed to continuing its fight until the voice of Somaliland is heard. The Diaspora is part of the hope and aspirations of Somaliland, and it is hoped that they will keep the hopes alive.

Somaliland and neighbouring countries

We are aware that Somaliland has many enemies who do not want to see Somaliland succeed in gaining recognition from the international community. Among those enemies

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in East Africa—one that prioritizes engagement with stable, democratic, and strategically located partners. In this context, Republic of Somaliland emerges not as a peripheral consideration, but as a central opportunity for advancing American interests and values in the Horn of Africa.

At a time when instability grips much of the region—from Ethiopia's internal tensions to the enduring volatility in Somalia and Sudan—Somaliland has distinguished itself through democratic resilience, political stability, and a clear desire for international engagement. Its multiparty elections, peaceful transfers of power, functioning institutions, and relative security stand in sharp contrast to many of its neighbors.

As Meservey highlights, the Horn of Africa is a linchpin for global maritime trade, and Somaliland's Port of Berbera, overlooking the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, is of immense geostrategic value. For the United States, increased access to Berbera could support military logistics, humanitarian operations, and the safeguarding of vital sea lanes—all while providing a

balance to growing Chinese and other adversarial influence in Djibouti and the wider Red Sea corridor.

Furthermore, Somaliland's track record of counterterrorism cooperation and its absence of extremist sanctuaries like al-Shabaab—prevalent in southern Somalia—offer the U.S. a reliable partner in combating transnational threats. A stronger security partnership with Somaliland would not only enhance regional stability but also project American resolve in defending freedom of navigation and countering violent extremism.

A noteworthy demonstration of Somaliland's global alignment is its diplomatic relationship with Taiwan. Both Taiwan and Somaliland are self-governing democracies that have built a mutually beneficial partnership based on shared values of transparency, innovation, and sovereignty. Despite intense pressure from authoritarian regimes, Somaliland chose to stand with a fellow democracy, establishing representative offices and collaborating on health,

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Somtuna Shines at Saudi Food Show.....

RIYADH- Somtuna, the largest tuna factory in the Horn of Africa, based in Berbera, Somaliland, and majority-invested by Dahabshiil, is making waves at the Saudi Food Show in Riyadh. The event, which commenced on May 12 and runs until May 14, 2025, at the Riyadh Convention Exhibition & Conference Center, has provided a platform for Somtuna to showcase its high-quality, halal-certified seafood products, receiving outstanding feedback and promising opportunities for expansion in the Gulf market. Somtuna's presence at the Saudi Food Show underscores the growing economic ties between the Horn of Africa and the Gulf region, particularly Saudi Arabia. The company's exhibition aligns with Saudi Vision 2030, which emphasizes food security, economic diversification, and sustainability. "We are thrilled to be part of this prestigious event, which not only highlights our commitment to quality and innovation but also strengthens our position in the global seafood market," said a Somtuna representative.

The Saudi Food Show, the largest F&B sourcing event in the region, has attracted a diverse array of international exhibitors and industry professionals. Somtuna's participation is part of a broader strategy to tap into the burgeoning demand for premium seafood in Saudi Arabia and beyond. The company's products, including canned tuna and fish meal, are processed using advanced technology, ensuring high standards of quality and nutritional value. Parallel to the food show, the Saudi-US Investment Forum, held on May 13, 2025, at the King Abdulaziz International Conference Center, further highlighted the strategic partnership between Saudi Arabia and the United States. During the forum, former President Donald Trump, attending as a guest, praised Saudi Arabia as "a great place" and reaffirmed the strong bilateral ties with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. This endorsement comes at a time when Saudi Arabia is actively seeking to diversify its economy and attract foreign investment, with the U.S.

playing a significant role as a major investor. Dahabshiil, a prominent Somali funds transfer company and Somtuna's majority investor, has a history of facilitating economic development in the region. Dahabshiil continues to play a pivotal role in fostering trade and investment opportunities. The company's involvement in Somtuna exemplifies its commitment to leveraging its resources for regional growth and international market penetration. The synergy between Somtuna's exhibition and the high-level discussions at the investment forum illustrates the interconnectedness of economic, political, and cultural ties in the region. As Saudi Arabia pushes forward with its Vision 2030 goals, initiatives like Somtuna's expansion into the Gulf market are expected to contribute significantly to the kingdom's food security objectives and economic diversification efforts. Industry experts at the Saudi Food Show have noted the potential for increased collaboration between African and Gulf nations in the



seafood sector. "The demand for high-quality, sustainably sourced seafood is on the rise, and Somtuna's presence here is a testament to the untapped potential of the Horn of Africa in meeting this demand," said an analyst at the event. As the Saudi Food Show continues, Somtuna's participation is not just

a showcase of its products but also a symbol of the evolving economic landscape in the region. With strong backing from Dahabshiil and strategic alignments with global partners, Somtuna is poised to play a key role in shaping the future of seafood trade between the Horn of Africa and the Gulf.

Advancing U.S.–Somaliland Relations.....

education, technology, and development. This courageous step signals a deep commitment to democratic ideals and positions Somaliland squarely within the orbit of like-minded, values-based allies—an alignment the United States should view as a strong indication of Somaliland's readiness for deeper engagement with the free world. Beyond security, there is a tremendous opportunity for the U.S. to bolster economic development and democratic consolidation in Somaliland. Investments in infrastructure, education, digital connectivity, and small business development—through mechanisms such as the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), USAID, or the Development Finance Corporation (DFC)—can accelerate inclusive growth and deepen the U.S.–Somaliland relationship. Somaliland's sophisticated mobile money system, robust diaspora engagement, and openness to global partnerships make it a promising candidate for tailored economic assistance and private sector investment. Diplomatically, the U.S. needs to formally recognize Somaliland and expand its engagement. A pragmatic step forward would also be the establishment of a U.S. office in Somaliland while preparing the ground for recognition, increased congressional and diplomatic visits, and the inclusion of Somaliland in regional forums and training programs. These actions would



reward democratic governance and send a powerful message across Africa: that the United States supports those who chart a peaceful, democratic, and self-determined path. Meservy's testimony reminds us that American foreign policy must not be constrained by outdated frameworks, especially when emerging opportunities align with strategic and moral imperatives. Recognizing and engaging Somaliland is not simply about countering rivals or gaining access—it is about recognizing and supporting a people who have, for over three decades, invested in

peace, democracy, and development. The U.S. now has a chance to lead by example. Strengthening ties with Somaliland would not only benefit American interests but would also affirm that the U.S. stands with African partners who choose governance over chaos, freedom over fear, and sovereignty through self-reliance. Mr. Abdirashid Ibrahim Abdirahman, Former Director-General

18th May Somaliland.....

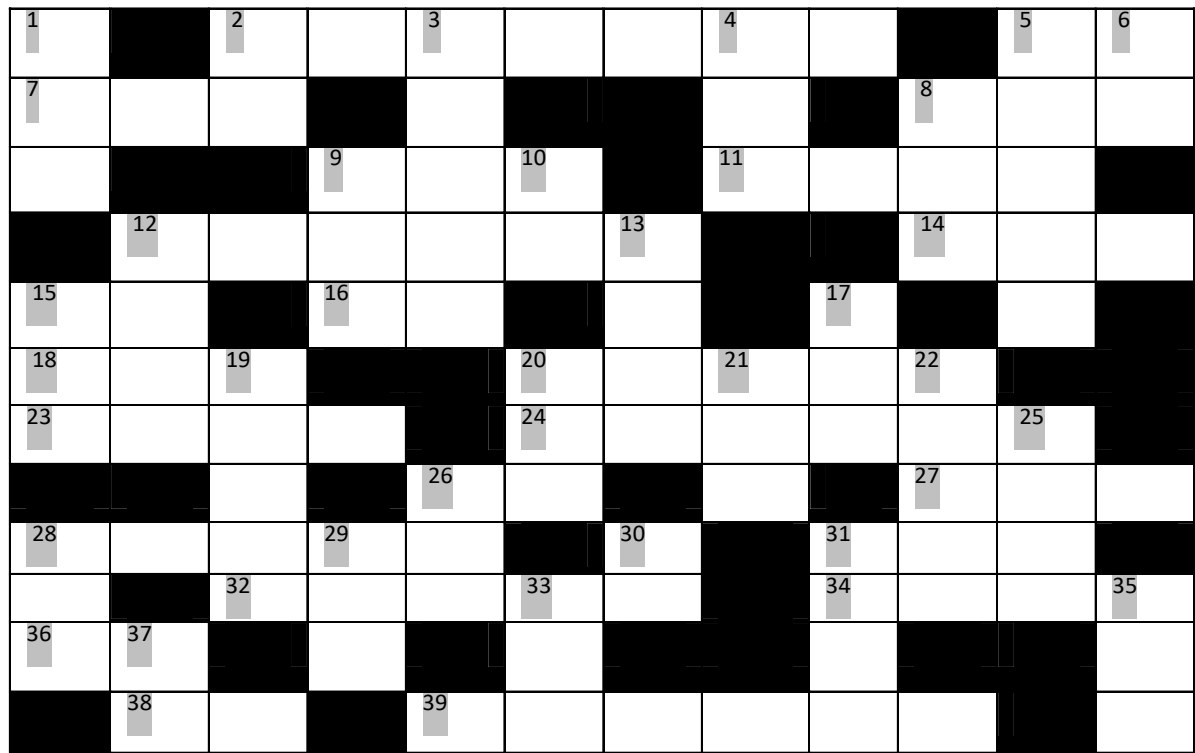


are the leaders of our neighbouring countries, such as Somalia and Djibouti. These leaders openly and directly expressed their opposition to Somaliland gaining any recognition. We have witnessed that these two leaders have dedicated time and resources to weakening the existence of Somaliland. I do not shy away from stating that the regimes in Djibouti and Mogadishu have long opposed Somaliland's case being brought to the platforms of the international community. My aim is not to campaign for a situation where Somaliland will eventually enter into conflict or war with neighbouring countries. Also, my purpose is not to express any hostility or hatred towards other Somali people living in Somalia, Djibouti, Kenya and Ethiopia, but it is important for the international community to know that the Somali Government has crossed all red lines and is attacking the existence of Somaliland. Somalilanders also need to understand their collective responsibility to defend the country together when it comes to sovereignty and the interest of Somaliland.

Our deepening relationships with friendly nations are increasing by the day. We have many supporters in the international community both political and non-political. We must work with our friends to continue advocating for Somaliland's recognition, which is the only viable option for true stability in the Horn of Africa region and beyond. **Conclusion** Somaliland faces challenging yet exciting times as it enters its 34th year. The current President is key to maintaining and strengthening the unity of our nation. This is also true of the opposition parties; despite differences in political ideology what is common is the need to protect our sovereignty and its borders. We face naked aggression from Somalia in our eastern districts resulting in death and displacement. What we must not do is follow them into chaos and anarchy. Somaliland has been a beacon of hope in a sea of despair, a nation where each individual is truly free. **Abdirahman Abdillahi Jibril (Awliyo)** Email: jabdi35@yahoo.com

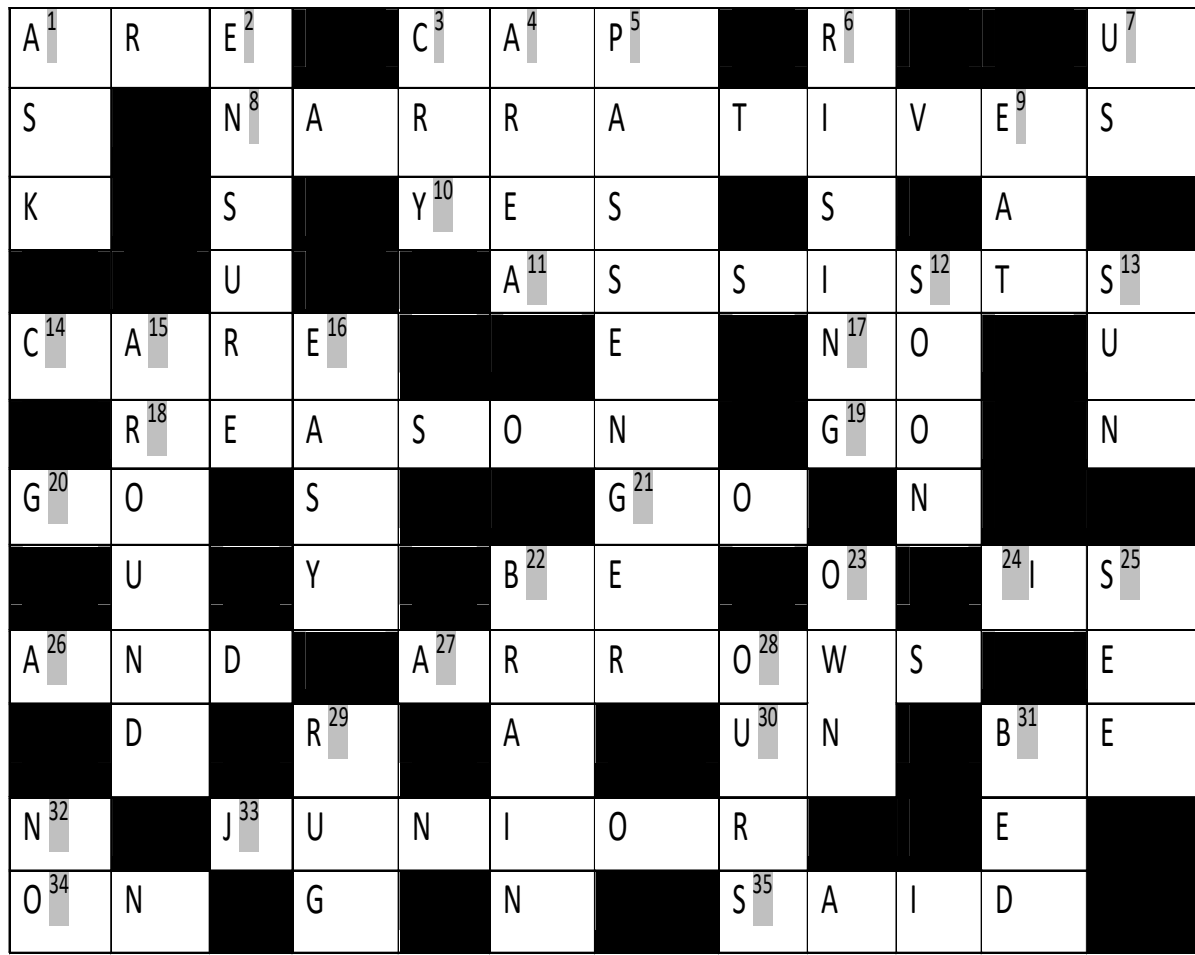
A word to Somaliland friends

THT Puzzle



- ACROSS**
1 immediate
5 toward
7 Child
8 Youngster
9 Unhappy
11 Postponement
12 Look for/ explore
14 knock or touch point
15 By the side of
16 pronoun
18 Rule
20 Assembly
23 Steely
24 Combined
26 Scheduled or preposition place or time
27 Assistance
28 Permit
31 Donkey
32 Disco
34 Time out
36 Perform or ensuring
39 Twelve-monthly
- DOWN**
1 Atmosphere
2 identification
3 Additional
4 Instantly
5 Entire
6 Proceeding
8 Be seated
9 Saying
10 power systems opposite of AC
12 Space
13 Alarm uses cars or lorries
15 A well known Islamic boxer
17 Place something
19 Creation
20 Firearm
21 Lubricant
22 Peacetime
25 Insult
26 Personal or private
28 Increase addition
29 Cereal
30 Remain
31 Zone
33 Container
35 Attempt
37 on time

Previous Answer



Somaliland in Focus: Push..



i24NEWS interview and a U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on East Africa and the Horn of Africa. i24NEWS Interview Sparks Global Discussion

On May 12, 2025, i24NEWS aired an exclusive interview with Somaliland's Foreign Ministry Director-General, Mohamed Abdirahman, titled "The Somaliland Riddle: An Interview with the Director-General of the Foreign Ministry of a State That Has Existed for 30 Years but Has Not Yet Been Recognized by Any Country." Conducted by journalist Amichai Stein, the interview highlighted Somaliland's 30-year struggle for international recognition despite its stable governance, democratic institutions, and strategic location on the Gulf of Aden.

Abdirahman emphasized Somaliland's credentials as a sovereign state, noting its population of over 6 million, a territory spanning 130,000 square kilometers, its own currency (Somaliland shilling), passports, national anthem, and army. "Somaliland has everything required for a state," he said, pointing to its orderly presidential elections and governance stability, a stark contrast to the chaos in neighboring Somalia.

The interview also touched on Somaliland's potential involvement in a controversial U.S. proposal to resettle Palestinians displaced by the 2023-2025 Israel-Hamas War. While Abdirahman avoided direct comments on the Trump plan, he acknowledged ongoing discussions with the U.S., framing Somaliland as a "Sunni Muslim, pro-American, stable element" that could leverage the plan to gain recognition. Somaliland's strategic Berbera port, a key junction for global maritime trade, was highlighted as a major asset, drawing interest from powers like the U.S., Russia, and the UAE.

Economic Opportunities and Challenges Despite these challenges, Somaliland is

positioning itself as an attractive destination for investment and tourism. The i24NEWS interview highlighted opportunities in energy, agriculture, mining, and fisheries, with round-trip flights to Hargeisa starting at \$900 via the UAE or Ethiopia. However, Somaliland's economic reliance on Arab markets for its livestock trade complicates its potential alignment with Israel and the U.S., especially if it engages in the Gazan resettlement plan.

Looking Ahead

Today's developments mark a pivotal moment for Somaliland. The U.S. Senate hearing could influence American policy toward Somaliland, potentially paving the way for recognition if the Trump administration sees strategic value in the partnership. However, Somaliland must navigate regional opposition, external destabilization efforts, and the delicate balance of its economic ties with the Arab world. As calls for Israeli recognition grow, Somaliland's leadership faces a critical decision: whether to leverage its strategic assets for international legitimacy, even at the risk of regional backlash.

For now, Somaliland remains a "riddle" on the global stage—a functioning state with all the trappings of sovereignty, yet unrecognized by the world. Whether 2025 will be the year that changes remain to be seen.



State to form decentralization taskforce on administrative, policies and fiscal matters

By M.A. Egge

The state is to form a taskforce to address the decentralization processes of policies, administrative and fiscal matters such that governance may be bolstered and fledged throughout the country..

The decision was taken at the 20th session of this week's cabinet meeting on Wednesday evening following discussions on the matter for two consecutive sessions.

It was chaired as usual by the President himself, His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro while flanked by the Vice President His Excellency Mohamed Ali Aw Abdi.

The session also largely devoted the session to the preparations of the commemoration and celebration of May 18, the D-day that the nation declared to re-assert its sovereignty.

The celebrations are being observed both intensively and extensively, within the country and internationally.

The Council of Ministers also underpinned the fact that May 18th is markedly observed as the people's exhibition Day of Solidarity and Unity.

The agenda of the 20th session of the Council of Ministers session was generally as follows; –

5018) National Security and stability:

The Council of Ministers heard a general report on the country's security situation from the Minister of Interior and Security, Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab. The Minister told the Council that overall the country's security was stable, except for daily minor criminal occurrences in society and traffic accidents that cause the most deaths and injuries.

50D8. Economic situation:

The Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Hon. Abdillahi Hassan Aden, gave the Council a general report on the country's economic conditions and the progress of tax collection in general, especially as concerns GST taxes. The Minister said that the growth of National Income is increasing day by day.

3) Nationalization of local community forces and El Afweyn pacification

The Minister of Defense, Hon. Mohamed Yusuf Ali (who was part of the delegation led by the



Vice President to the pacification issues in the eastern parts of the country) gave the Somaliland Council of Ministers a detailed report on the various stages of the complex processes on the matter that they had undergone through on the nationalization of the Civilian Forces, the pacification of El-Afweyn and the modern registration of the entire forces; these issues were indeed of particular importance to the Somaliland.

The Minister said that there were significant challenges that faced the team, since the tasks required determination and courage. He said that, in addition to Divine help, the President of Somaliland was always there to support them with firm determination and in everything that they did.

5008) Measles outbreak:

The Minister of Health Development, Dr. Hussein Bashir Hirsi, gave the Cabinet a general report on the measles outbreak in some regions of the country. He said that as a Ministry, they are putting a lot of efforts into controlling the epidemic. He said that the Ministry is starting to raise public awareness and accelerate the vaccination of children under 5 years of age.

UAE trip by IID minister

The Minister of Investment and Industrial Development, H.E. Saeed Mohamoud Buraale, briefed the Cabinet on a working trip that he and his team went to the United Arab Emirates, specifically Dubai, following an official invitation extended by the DP World International Ports Authority Company. The Minister said that they saw lessons and experiences that can be learned related to how a country can develop. **5008) Preparations for 18th May national celebrations:**

The Minister of the Presidency, Hon. Khadar Hussein Abdi, gave the Council a report on the progress of preparations for the celebration of the day of Reestablishment of Nationality and Independence of Somaliland.

The Minister shared with the Council the procedures and protocols planned for this year's National Day. He particularly noted that this year the Ministry of Education role in the preparations for May 18 is more marked especially by raising awareness among students in schools across the country about the May 18 commemoration.

5008) Decentralization processes:

The Council of Ministers of the Somaliland once again discussed the Decentralization System (decentralization) of the Regions and Districts of the country, specifically in:

- 1) Political Decentralization;
- 2) Administrative Decentralization; and
- 3) Fiscal Decentralization.

The discussions of the Council of Ministers all underlined that decentralization empowers decision-making at the local level, while strengthening accountability and monitoring the provision of appropriate social services.

In conclusion, the President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, the discussion of the Council of Ministers in the 19th and 20th sessions, directed the Council that the issue of decentralization should be referred to a Committee consisting of the Council of Ministers and experts knowledgeable in this subject, based on the guidelines of the National Constitution.

Somaliland Media Association and 18th May Commemoration Organizing Committee Unite to Enhance 18th May Celebration

The Organizing Committee for the 18th May Commemoration met with the Somaliland Media Association, agreeing to elevate the 18th May celebration and deliver positive news and reports to the public about the event.

At the meeting, representatives from both the organizing committee and the media spoke, stressing the importance of working together to enhance the commemoration of the Somaliland Republic's independence restoration on 18th May.

Ahmed Abdirahman Heelo, speaking for the media association, pledged, "As journalists, we commit to sharing the patriotic message of the 18th May commemoration globally and reaching far."

Shafi'i Mohamed Artan, Chairman of the Somaliland Journalists Association (SOLJA), stated, "Somaliland journalists have never been criticized for failing to advocate for the Somaliland cause."

Abdisalan Mohamoud Du'ale (Ilka'ase), Director General of the Ministry of Information, Culture,

and Awareness, advised the media, "Ensure your reports align with culture and religion, and avoid publishing content that could negatively affect the country."

Saeed Mohamed Buraale, Minister of Investment, said, "The media and creative community are invited to promote the 18th May commemoration widely and educate the Somaliland public on preserving peace and security."

Kadar Mohamed Abdi, Minister of the Somaliland Presidency, noted, "While politics may spark differing views, the 18th May, a day of national unity, should not be undermined."

Ahmed-Yasin Sh. Ali Ayanle, Minister of Information, affirmed, "The 18th May commemoration is a right and honor for the Somaliland people."

Concluding the meeting, Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab, Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Minister of Internal Affairs, assured the media, "The government pledges to respect the press, and we ask you to adhere to journalistic laws and ethics."

High-Level Delegation from Djibouti and Kenya Arrives in Somaliland for 34th Anniversary Celebration

A high-level delegation from Djibouti and Kenya touched down in Somaliland today to join the nation in commemorating its 34th anniversary of independence, a significant milestone set for May 18. The delegation's arrival underscores Somaliland's ongoing efforts to strengthen regional ties and garner international support for its quest for recognition.

The delegation was warmly welcomed upon arrival, with Director General of Foreign Affairs and Parliamentary members some carrying the Somaliland flag—a symbol of the nation's sovereignty since it reclaimed independence in 1991.

This visit comes at a pivotal time for Somaliland, which has been intensifying its diplomatic outreach. The 34th anniversary marks the historic moment when Somaliland reasserted its independence following the collapse of the Somali Democratic Republic. The presence of Djibouti and Kenya, both members of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), signals a growing regional acknowledgment of Somaliland's de facto statehood, even as formal recognition remains elusive.

The delegation's visit aligns with other celebratory events tied to the anniversary. Just a day earlier, on

May 16, the Somaliland flag was raised at Cardiff Castle in Wales, a symbolic gesture of solidarity from the Somaliland diaspora and its Welsh allies, as reported by Nation Cymru. Additionally, MM Somali TV reported the arrival of a former Nigerian football star, Kanu, in Somaliland for the festivities, further highlighting the cultural and international dimensions of the celebration.

As Somaliland prepares for today's celebrations, the delegation's presence is a boost to its diplomatic aspirations. While formal recognition from bodies like the African Union or the United Nations remains a distant goal—as outlined in a 2024 analysis by Modern Diplomacy—these gestures of goodwill from neighboring states and international communities offer hope. For now, Somaliland continues to leverage such occasions to showcase its stability, culture, and determination to secure its place on the global stage. The 34th anniversary festivities are expected to include speeches, cultural performances, and official ceremonies, with the delegation from Djibouti and Kenya playing a prominent role in the proceedings. As the sun sets on Hargeisa today, the mood is one of cautious optimism—a nation proud of its past, yet ever-focused on a future where