

# The Horn Tribune

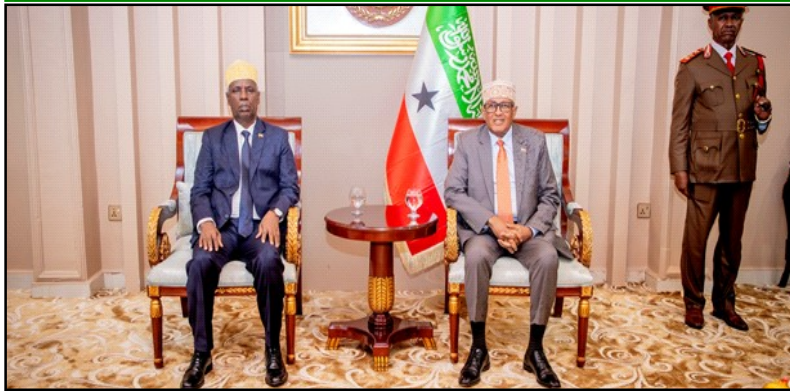
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## President back from Djibouti visit that rekindles bilateral relations

*In solidarity with his people, he braves heavy downpour and declines umbrella*



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland jetted back into the country on Friday evening from a three-day visit to the neighbouring country of Djibouti, in a visit that rekindled regional cooperation and stability.

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### Somaliland Minister Advocates for Peace and Cooperation with Djibouti



Mohamoud Walaaleye

In a powerful address to the Somaliland diaspora in Djibouti, Somaliland's Minister of Information, Culture, and Awareness, Hon. Ahmed Yassin Sheikh Ali Ayanle, emphasized the

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### Somaliland Foreign Minister Holds High-Level Consultations in Washington to Strengthen U.S. Relations



The Republic of Somaliland's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, H.E. Abdirahman Dahir Adan, led a

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### Somaliland and Philippines Strengthen Naval Ties in Manila Meeting

Mohamoud Walaaleye

In a significant step toward enhancing maritime security in the Horn of Africa, Col. Khadar Mohamed, Deputy Commander of the Somaliland Coast Guard, met with Admiral Roy A. Echeverri, Commander of the Philippine Navy,



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### British MPs Pledge Support for Somaliland's International Recognition at Westminster



Mohamoud Walaaleye

In a powerful show of support, British Members of Parliament gathered at a significant meeting in Westminster to advocate for the international

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### Somaliland and Ethiopian Senior Military Leaders Meet to Strengthen Bilateral Security and Defense Cooperation

A high-level security cooperation meeting convened between Ethiopian and Somaliland officials in Gabilay, Somaliland, to bolster regional stability. Senior representatives from the Ethiopian



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### Cranfield University Launches £5,000 Scholarship in Memory of Slain Somaliland Aviation Expert

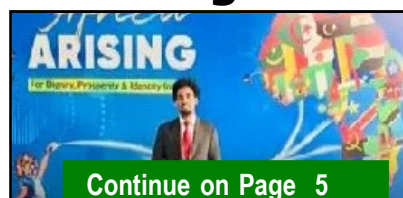
Mohamoud Walaaleye

Cranfield University, a leading UK institution renowned for its aviation

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### Somaliland NEC Joins Global Leaders at ID4Africa 2025 to Advance Digital Electoral Systems



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### Somaliland-Born Safiya Saeed Makes History as Sheffield's First Black, Hijab-Wearing Lord Mayor



Sheffield-In a historic milestone, Safiya Saeed, a Somaliland-born British citizen, has been elected as the

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### DahabPlus Launches Campaign to Keep Hajj 2025 Pilgrims Connected with Seamless Global Airtime Top-Upso



Available on Google Play, App Store, and Live Chat Support

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### Inside

Somaliland Diaspora Celebrates 34th Independence Day with Global Vibrancy in 2025

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President back from.....

Upon arrival at Egal International Airport to a heavy downpour, the Head of State braved the rains, walking into it as he disembarked the plane, hence to the surprise of dignitaries and the servicemen who mounted the reception guard of honour, refused the solace of an umbrella extended to him in a rare show of solidarity, depicting epitome of humbleness. According to the Minister of Information, Culture and National Guidance Hon. Ahmed-yasin Sh. Ali Ayaanle who was part of the Presidential entourage, the visit was one that open a new page in the bilateral relations with Djibouti. It had thawed in the last year of the past administration. The minister noted that focus on the visit rekindles and solidifies bilateral relations crucial to the development of the region such as security, commercial social and associated affairs. As he briefed the press at the Presidency, he reminded the nation that the two countries shared not only religion, culture and language, but almost all families in both nations had their kin or extended families across both borders. He noted that an



indispensable highway to connect the countries is not only in the offing but is to be constructed, courtesy of the Africa Development Bank. This was the first visit by President Abdirahman Irro since taking over the helm of the country's leadership six months ago, hence what stark out quite distinctly different from his predecessors' visits is the fact that he was joined by foreign ambassadors of partner nations for breakfast, a meeting that was engaging an eventful. The President lauded the bilateral relations with Ethiopia, UK and the French as he had breakfast

with their Djibouti based ambassadors. They talked of ways and means of strengthening diplomatic and economic relations. Similarly, the President addressed the Somaliland diaspora in Djibouti in a heartwarming speech. Somaliland and Djibouti hold high stakes in the Red Sea region, with the countries positioned at a most strategic point. In a changing geo-political economical world, stability is the main core of development and progress hence a core foundation and focus for H.E. Abdirahman Irro's administration.

Somaliland and Philippines.....

in Manila on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2025. The high-level meeting focused on fostering maritime cooperation and establishing a naval partnership between the two nations. The discussions come at a critical time for Somaliland seeking to bolster its maritime defenses amid ongoing regional challenges, including piracy threats in the strategic waters of the Horn of Africa. The region, encompassing key trade routes like the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Aden, has historically been a hotspot for maritime piracy, though incidents have decreased since their peak in the late 2000s due to international efforts. Somaliland's Coast Guard, established in 1995, has been modernizing its capabilities, recently acquiring Defender-class boats from Italy and Sweden. The Somaliland Maritime Security Coordination Office, set up in 2023, plays a key role in coordinating such international collaborations. Admiral Mohamed emphasized the importance of partnerships to enhance maritime safety, security, and emergency response in Somaliland's waters. Admiral Echeverri, a seasoned officer from the Philippine Military Academy's "SAMBISIG" Class of 1991, brings extensive expertise in naval operations, including surface and special warfare. The Philippine Navy, aiming to be a modern and



multi-capable force by 2028, is well-positioned to share technical and strategic knowledge with Somaliland, potentially aiding in the development of its maritime defense plans. This meeting underscores Somaliland's growing efforts to secure international support for its maritime security initiatives, despite its lack of formal recognition as a sovereign state. For the Philippines, the partnership aligns with broader

regional interests in ensuring safe and secure maritime corridors vital for global trade. The collaboration is expected to pave the way for joint training, information sharing, and coordinated efforts to address maritime challenges in the Horn of Africa, a region critical to international shipping and geopolitical stability.

Somaliland Minister.....



importance of unity and collaboration between Somaliland and Djibouti. Speaking as the government's spokesperson, the Minister underscored President Abdirahman Irro's commitment to fostering peace and societal harmony as the cornerstone of his administration's policy. Highlighting the deep and unbreakable bond between Somaliland and Djibouti, Minister Ayanle described the two nations as inseparable brothers, bound by shared history and mutual interests. "The relationship between Somaliland and Djibouti is one that cannot be severed," he stated, noting the strong ties that continue to define their partnership. The Minister elaborated on President Irro's vision, which focuses on reinforcing shared values and resolving differences through skillful diplomacy. "The President's policy is to strengthen what unites us. Differences of opinion are natural, but managing

them with wisdom and professionalism is at the heart of his leadership," Ayanle remarked. He further expressed optimism about the future of Somaliland-Djibouti relations, emphasizing the shared commitment of both nations' leaders to reduce conflict and enhance cooperation. "We hope for a future where disputes are minimized, and collaboration thrives. The forward-thinking leadership of both Presidents ensures that our nations remain united and inseparable," he said, adding, "With Allah's guidance, we will succeed in this shared endeavor." The Minister's remarks come at a time when both nations are working to deepen their partnership, focusing on regional stability and mutual prosperity. The Somaliland government continues to prioritize diplomatic efforts to strengthen ties with its neighbors, with Djibouti remaining a key ally in the Horn of Africa.

Cranfield University Launches .....

programs, has announced the Abdinasir Abdirahman Aviation in Africa Scholarship, a £5,000 award aimed at supporting African students pursuing an MSc in aviation-related fields. The scholarship, offered by the Cranfield Centre for Air Transport Management, honors the legacy of Abdinasir Muse Dahable, a Somaliland aviation expert and Cranfield alumnus who was tragically killed in Mogadishu, Somalia, in November 2024. Abdinasir, a passionate advocate for aviation development in Africa, was brutally murdered in what Somaliland officials have described as a retaliatory act amid ongoing airspace disputes with Somalia. His death sparked outrage, with Somaliland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs calling for a thorough investigation and urging Somalilanders in Mogadishu to remain vigilant. The incident underscored the fragile regional dynamics between the breakaway

Somaliland Republic and Somalia, as Somaliland continues its decades-long pursuit of international recognition—a hope bolstered by recent elections and potential shifts in U.S. foreign policy under the incoming Trump administration, as reported by Reuters in November 2024. The scholarship, open for applications until May 30, 2025, targets African students accepted into Cranfield's full-time MSc programs, such as Air Transport Management, starting in October 2025. Applicants must submit a personal statement and may be required to participate in a virtual interview with the Course Director. The £5,000 award will be applied as a tuition fee reduction for overseas students, fostering the next generation of aviation leaders in Africa—a mission Abdinasir championed during his lifetime. Abdi Cirro, a Somaliland advocate who shared the announcement on X, expressed gratitude for the tribute, stating,

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Somaliland Foreign Minister Holds High-Level.....

high-level delegation to Washington, D.C., this week, where they held strategic consultations with senior U.S. government officials, lawmakers, and policy experts. The visit focused on advancing shared priorities under the new administrations of President H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi and President Donald J. Trump, with particular emphasis on strengthening bilateral cooperation in regional security, democratic governance, and international engagement. The delegation met with officials from key U.S. agencies, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and members of Congress, including Senator Ted Cruz and Representatives Tim Burchett, Tom Tiffany, Pat Harrigan, Scott Perry, Ronny Jackson, and John Moolenaar. The delegation also participated in a closed-door roundtable hosted by the Hudson Institute, attended by former U.S. officials, diplomats, and Africa policy experts. In addition, the delegation joined the Somaliland diaspora in Washington to commemorate the 18 May National Day. The event



celebrated Somaliland's democratic progress and national resilience, including the peaceful transfer of power in 2024. Minister Adan emphasised Somaliland's enduring commitment to peace, democracy, and responsible international cooperation, reinforcing the country's distinct identity and achievements as a stable and self-governing democracy in the Horn of Africa. The visit marked a strategic milestone in Somaliland-U.S. relations, reflecting the United

States' growing acknowledgement of Somaliland as a reliable and strategic partner. The momentum generated through these engagements has laid a solid foundation for future cooperation, grounded in shared values, mutual respect, and long-term interests. Somaliland remains committed to building a transformative partnership with the United States that contributes to regional stability and democratic advancement.

Cranfield University Launches.....

"Abdinasir Muse Dahable, who was brutally killed by Somalia's failed state a year ago, is now being honored by a British university with an educational scholarship dedicated to aspiring pilots & future aviation leaders in Africa. May Allah have mercy on him."

Cranfield University, a top postgraduate institution in the UK, is known for its world-class aviation facilities and programs addressing digital, technical, and sustainability challenges in the industry. The scholarship aligns with broader initiatives like the ISTAT Foundation Scholarships, which also support young aviation professionals globally.

As Somaliland navigates its quest for recognition and regional stability, the Abdinasir Abdirahman Aviation in Africa Scholarship stands as a beacon of hope, ensuring that Abdinasir's vision for a thriving African aviation sector endures. Interested students can apply online through Cranfield's official website.

For more information on the scholarship and application process, visit [www.cranfield.ac.uk](http://www.cranfield.ac.uk).



Somaliland and Ethiopian Senior.....



National Defense Force (ENDF), the DDS Police, and the Somaliland Armed Forces engaged in discussions aimed at enhancing joint security efforts.

Attendees included:

From Ethiopia  
:- General Tasfaye Ayelaw, Commander of the Ethiopian National Defense Force,  
- General Abdilahi Ali Siad, General Commander of the DDS Police,  
- Brigade General Fiqadu Sagaye, Deputy Commander of Eastern Ethiopian Forces,  
- Colonel Fayisa Ayale, Commander of the 305th Division, and additional Ethiopian delegates.

From Somaliland:

- Brigade General Nimaan Yusuf Gaaxnuug, Commander of the Somaliland Armed Forces,  
- Brigade General Abdirahman Abdullahi Hassan, Commander of the Somaliland Police, alongside other senior Somaliland security officials.

Key Agendas and Outcomes:

The dialogue emphasized reinforcing security collaboration through actionable measures, including:

1. Institutional Coordination: Restructuring joint security committees and deepening operational synergy between military and police forces.
  2. Counterterrorism Strategy: Joint operations to combat threats posed by Al-Shabaab, ISIS (Daesh), and affiliated groups.
  3. Intelligence Sharing: Establishing frameworks for real-time security intelligence exchange to preempt threats.
  4. Border Security Curbing illegal arms trafficking and human smuggling networks.
  5. Community Stability: Proactive measures to resolve social conflicts, counter destabilizing misinformation, and address grievances through dialogue.
- Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to mutual understanding and long-term peacebuilding. The meeting concluded with an agreement to formalize integrated security protocols, underscoring their shared responsibility to safeguard regional stability.

Somaliland President Irro Meets Football Legend Nwankwo Kanu to Boost Global Image



Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, popularly known as Irro, welcomed Nigerian football icon Nwankwo Kanu to Hargeisa on Monday, marking a symbolic step in the nation's ongoing quest for international recognition. The meeting, held in the presidential palace, highlighted Somaliland's strategy to leverage cultural diplomacy as a tool to amplify its global presence. President Irro, who secured a landslide victory in the 2024 election with 64% of the vote, commended Kanu for "amplifying the nation's positive image on the global stage." In a statement shared via X, Irro emphasized that Kanu's visit served as a "cultural bridge and symbol of Somaliland's openness and growing international stature." The Nigerian star, a UEFA Champions League winner and two-time African Player of the Year, is widely

regarded as one of Africa's greatest footballers. Beyond sports, Kanu is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and the founder of the Kanu Heart Foundation, which has funded hospitals across Africa to treat children with heart conditions. The high-profile visit comes at a pivotal moment for Somaliland that has yet to gain formal recognition from any country since breaking away from Somalia in 1991. Despite its lack of international status, Somaliland has made strides in governance and stability, attracting foreign investment, particularly through its strategic Berbera port. Analysts see the meeting with Kanu as part of Somaliland's broader diplomatic outreach, "Somaliland is increasingly turning to soft power to build its case for recognition," said political analyst Amina Hassan. "Figures like Kanu, with their global appeal, help project an image of stability and openness that resonates internationally."





recognition of Somaliland as a sovereign state. Organized by Somaliland’s Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Abdi Abdillahi Dayah-Weerar, the event highlighted Somaliland’s democratic achievements and its quest for self-determination. The gathering was attended by British government officials, MPs, the National Commission Chairman, distinguished guests, and members of the Somaliland diaspora. Leading the charge was MP Hon. Gavin Williamson, a long-standing advocate for Somaliland’s independence, who delivered a compelling speech criticizing the international community’s failure to acknowledge Somaliland’s stability and democratic progress. Williamson contrasted Somaliland’s peaceful governance with Somalia’s ongoing challenges, stating, “Somaliland gained independence on June 26, 1960, but entered a union with Somalia, where its people faced genocide. Somalia took every step to oppress the people of Somaliland. Yet, Somaliland emerged as a nation that fosters peace, without seeking revenge.”

He emphasized Somaliland’s democratic credentials, noting its peaceful transitions of presidential power and functioning governance system. “Somaliland has established a democratic process with peaceful transitions of presidential power. I see this as the hallmark of a true nation-state, unlike Somalia, which has been plagued by corruption and destruction,” Williamson declared. He urged global powers, including the UK, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, and Ethiopia, to recognize Somaliland based on “the reality on the ground.” Williamson announced that he and his colleagues are preparing a report to promote Somaliland’s cause and outline a path toward recognition. “My fellow MPs and I, as friends of Somaliland, will always advocate for its cause, as we have done before, and we firmly believe in this objective,” he affirmed, predicting that 2025 could mark a turning point for Somaliland’s recognition if efforts are intensified. Ambassador Dayah-Weerar echoed these sentiments, stating, “The time has come for the international community to acknowledge Somaliland’s progress and accept its right to

self-determination.” Other officials at the event reinforced this message, agreeing that Somaliland’s achievements—such as its stable government, democratic elections, and strategic importance in the Horn of Africa—deserve recognition. They called for the international community to reward Somaliland’s self-reliance and set a precedent for supporting nations that achieve stability independently. The event underscored growing bipartisan support in the UK Parliament for Somaliland, building on previous efforts like Williamson’s 2023 Republic of Somaliland (Recognition) Bill and a 2022 parliamentary debate where MPs praised Somaliland’s democratic stability. Recent developments, such as Somaliland’s 2024 election, which saw a peaceful transfer of power to the opposition Waddani Party, further bolster its case for recognition. As Somaliland continues to engage global partners and leverage its strategic position along the Gulf of Aden, the Westminster event marks a pivotal moment in its 34-year quest for international legitimacy.

### DahabPlus Launches Campaign to Keep Hajj 2025 Pilgrims Connected with Seamless Global Airtime Top-Upso

As millions of Muslims prepare for the Hajj pilgrimage in 2025, DahabPlus, a leading digital wallet platform, has rolled out a timely campaign to ensure pilgrims stay connected with their loved ones. The fintech app, known for its remittance and mobile top-up services, is offering seamless global airtime top-ups for Saudi Arabia’s major telecom networks—STC, Zain, and Mobily—directly through its platform, addressing a critical need for the over 2 million

pilgrims expected to attend Hajj this year, according to Saudi Arabia’s General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) 2024 report. The campaign, launched on May 15, 2025, via a post on X , features a step-by-step guide in Somali, showcasing DahabPlus’s commitment to accessibility for East African diaspora communities. The guide instructs users to download the app, select a Saudi number to top up, and complete the transaction using their eDahab PIN. This focus on Somali-speaking users

reflects the app’s strategic targeting of East African pilgrims, a significant demographic during Hajj. A 2023 *Reloadly* report noted a 30% global increase in mobile airtime top-ups as a remittance tool, underscoring the relevance of this service for diaspora communities. DahabPlus’s promotional imagery prominently features the iconic Abraj Al Bait Towers in Mecca, tying the campaign to the spiritual and cultural significance of Hajj. The app’s interface,

displayed in the campaign visuals, highlights its user-friendly design, allowing pilgrims to top up airtime for as little as \$9.30 for a 28.75 SAR STC package. This affordability aligns with the growing demand for cost-effective communication solutions during Hajj, as noted in a 2025 *Airlink* Hajj and Umrah article, which emphasized the importance of reliable SIM cards and connectivity for pilgrims in Mecca and Madinah. The initiative also taps into Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 goal of achieving 70% non-cash transactions by 2030. According to the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA), digital payments in the Kingdom surged by 75% between 2020 and 2024, driven by government-backed fintech initiatives like FinTech Saudi. DahabPlus’s digital wallet and airtime top-up features position it as a key player in this cashless transformation, offering pilgrims a modern solution to manage their financial needs during the sacred journey. “DahabPlus is more than just a digital wallet—it’s a lifeline for pilgrims,” said a spokesperson for the company. “Whether you’re

performing Hajj or Umrah, staying connected with family is essential. Our app ensures that pilgrims can easily top up their Saudi numbers and focus on their spiritual journey without worrying about communication barriers.” The campaign also includes a follow-up post on May 17, 2025, emphasizing DahabPlus as a “modern wallet” for managing financial services during Hajj and Umrah. With links to download the app on Google Play and the App Store, and a live chat support number (065-800-000), DahabPlus is positioning itself as a comprehensive financial companion for pilgrims. As Hajj 2025 approaches, expected to begin around June 4 based on the Islamic lunar calendar, DahabPlus’s campaign highlights the intersection of technology, spirituality, and diaspora support. With East Africa leading in mobile money adoption—Kenya scored 97 on *Remitscope*’s 2024 digital remittance index—the app’s focus on mobile top-ups is a strategic move to capture this tech-savvy market while supporting pilgrims in one of their most sacred journeys.

RAAC  
HABKAN

Si aad ugu shubato, ku hadal & Internet lambaradaada shirkadaha dalka sucuudiga!

stc

زین

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Mobily

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زین

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zain

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## Somaliland NEC Joins Global Leaders at ID4Africa 2025 to Advance Digital Electoral Systems



The Somaliland National Electoral Commission (SLNEC) made a significant appearance at the ID4Africa 2025 Annual General Meeting in Addis Ababa Tuesday, 20th March, as global leaders to explore the future of digital identity and electoral technology. The conference, opened by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, runs from May 20-23 and has drawn thousands of stakeholders under the theme “Digital Identity at Scale: Prioritizing Use, Accelerating Impact.” Led by Commissioner Hussein Abdi, the SLNEC delegation is focusing on cutting-edge technologies like IRIS recognition to enhance Somaliland’s electoral processes. This aligns with Somaliland’s pioneering history in biometric voting systems—having conducted the world’s first iris-based voter registration for its 2017 presidential election, as reported by Iris ID. That election

achieved an 80 percent turnout, setting a benchmark for secure and inclusive voting in Africa. The ID4Africa 2025 conference, hosted in Ethiopia’s capital, is a landmark event for the continent’s digital transformation. Ethiopia is showcasing its Fayda digital ID system, which, according to the World Bank, is revolutionizing access to services by empowering marginalized groups, including over a million refugees, to access healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. However, challenges remain, as a 2019 UNECA survey highlighted persistent digital inclusivity gaps across Africa, with cybersecurity threats and AI-driven disparities posing risks to equitable progress. SLNEC’s participation underscores Somaliland’s ambition to remain a regional leader in electoral innovation. “Engaging with Africa’s digital ID transformation at ID4Africa2025 is

a vital step for Somaliland as we prepare for future-ready elections,” SLNEC posted on X, emphasizing their commitment to leveraging technology for transparent and efficient voting systems. The conference also addressed broader continental goals, such as the African Union’s Digital Transformation Strategy 2020-2030, which aims to bolster digital infrastructure and interoperability across member states. Yet, discussions revealed hurdles, including a cyberattack on ID4Africa’s systems just a day before the event, underscoring the urgency of robust cybersecurity measures. As the event continues through May 23, Somaliland’s NEC is poised to bring back insights that could further solidify its role as a trailblazer in Africa’s digital electoral landscape, potentially influencing other nations to adopt similar technologies.

## Republic of Somaliland President Abdirahman Irro Hosts High-Level Diplomatic Meeting in Djibouti

His Excellency Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi (Irro), President of the Republic of Somaliland, held a significant diplomatic breakfast meeting in Djibouti with the Ambassadors of France, Ethiopia, and the United Kingdom. The gathering, part of President Irro’s official working visit to Djibouti, served as a platform to discuss critical regional issues and strengthen bilateral and multilateral ties. President Irro opened the meeting by reaffirming Somaliland’s steadfast commitment to fostering peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. The discussions focused on key priorities, including: Peace and Security Cooperation: Strategies to enhance collaborative frameworks to address emerging threats in the region. Inclusive Conflict Resolution: Promoting dialogue-based approaches to achieve sustainable peace and

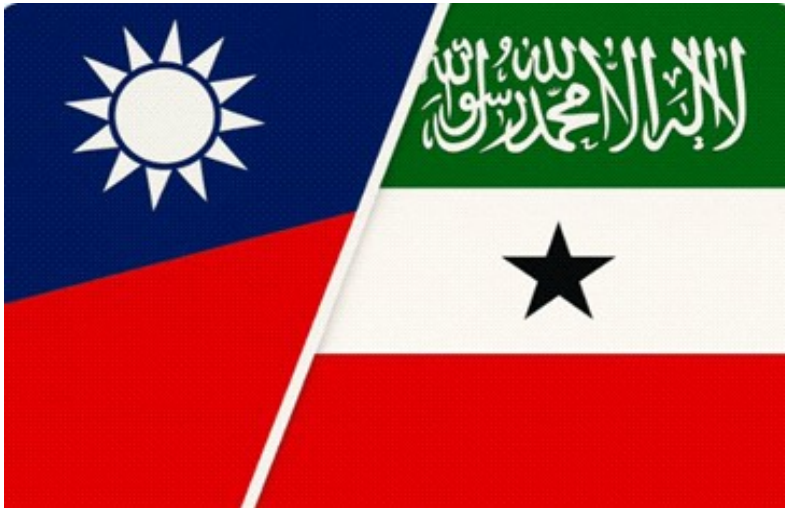


reconciliation. Maritime Security: Strengthening coordination to protect vital shipping routes in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The talks also explored opportunities for economic growth and humanitarian support, with emphasis on boosting investment, regional trade, infrastructure development, and humanitarian aid. President Irro highlighted the longstanding partnerships with Ethiopia and the United Kingdom, both of which maintain diplomatic missions in Hargeisa, and extended an invitation to France to establish a formal diplomatic presence in



Somaliland. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to ongoing dialogue and collaboration to promote prosperity and stability in the region. Hussein Aden Igeh (Deyr), Spokesman for the President of Somaliland, emphasized the significance of the discussions, noting their role in advancing Somaliland’s diplomatic outreach and regional cooperation. This high-level engagement underscores Somaliland’s proactive approach to regional diplomacy and its strategic efforts to deepen ties with key international partners.

## Taiwan Celebrates Somaliland’s 34th National Day, Signals Deepening Ties Amid Global Recognition Push



In a significant diplomatic gesture, Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) publicly congratulated Somaliland on its 34th National Day, marking the self-declared republic’s independence from Somalia on May 18, 1991. The statement, posted on X at 03:14 UTC by MOFA message underscores the growing partnership between the two unrecognized states, both of which face significant hurdles in gaining international legitimacy. The post, which included an image of the Taiwanese and Somaliland flags side by side, praised Somaliland for its “democratic achievements” and “steadfast commitment to regional peace and stability in the Horn of Africa.” Taiwan’s message concluded with a hopeful note: “Our cooperation shall go from strength to strength. A friend in need is a friend indeed,” accompanied by a link to further details on the partnership.

### A Shared Struggle for Recognition

Taiwan and Somaliland, though geographically distant, share a unique bond rooted in their mutual lack of formal international recognition. Taiwan, officially the Republic of China (ROC), has been diplomatically isolated by the People’s Republic of China’s One-China policy, which pressures countries to sever ties with Taipei. Somaliland, despite maintaining a stable democratic government since declaring independence, is still considered part of Somalia by the international community, including the United Nations and African Union. The two nations formalized relations in 2020, establishing representative offices in each other’s capitals—Hargeisa and Taipei. Since then, their partnership has grown, focusing on agriculture, healthcare, education, and technology. A 2024 report by the Global Taiwan

Institute highlighted the “flourishing” relationship, noting that both countries see their alliance as a way to amplify their voices on the global stage, particularly in appealing to Western democracies like the United States for support.

### Strategic Implications in a Tense Geopolitical Landscape

The timing of Taiwan’s message coincides with Somaliland’s ongoing push for international recognition, a cause bolstered by its adoption of iris biometric voting technology—the first in Africa—seen as a marker of its democratic progress. The Horn Tribune reported that Somaliland communities worldwide, including in Finland, are organizing events to mark the 34th anniversary, using the occasion to call for formal recognition from governments like Finland’s.

For Taiwan, the partnership with Somaliland is part of a broader strategy to expand its diplomatic footprint, especially in Africa, where China has significant influence. China has actively opposed the Taiwan-Somaliland relationship, reportedly pressuring Somaliland by withdrawing business interests, according to the Global Taiwan Institute. Yet, Taiwan’s persistence signals its determination to counter Beijing’s isolation tactics by fostering ties with like-minded nations.

The relationship also aligns with U.S. interests, as seen in the 2020 TAIPEI Act, which encourages countries to strengthen ties with Taiwan.

For now, Taiwan and Somaliland appear committed to their partnership, finding strength in their shared struggle. As the sun set over Hargeisa on May 18, 2025, the Taiwanese flag flew alongside Somaliland’s at celebrations—a small but symbolic act of defiance against the geopolitical odds.



THT Puzzle

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- DOWN**

  - 1 Go away
  - 2 Okay
  - 3 daily bread
  - 4 Deleted
  - 5 breaks
  - 6 No way
  - 9 of
  - 10 brain
  - 12 names
  - 13 fascinated
  - 14 highway
  - 16 newscast
  - 21 Reddish
  - 22 European Union
  - 26 Deposit
  - 28 Carpets
  - 30 Reality
  - 32 Stupid
  - 34 Speedy
  - 35 Plant seeds
  - 36 Negative
  - 37 Off
  - 40 Load
- ACROSS**

  - 1 Excellent
  - 5 Sun shine
  - 7 detention
  - 11 lunar month
  - 13 Africa continent
  - 15 Slate
  - 18 Diving the ocean/ pool
  - 19 Myself
  - 20 Exchange
  - 23 Not many
  - 24 Reddish
  - 25 upward
  - 27 doctor
  - 29 Want ad
  - 31 U’S
  - 33 Usage
  - 34 Not eat
  - 38 Locate
  - 39 Missed
  - 41 Harden
  - 42 Juvenile

Previous Answer

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Somaliland-Born Safiya Saeed Makes History as Sheffield’s First Black, Hijab-Wearing Lord Mayor



128th Lord Mayor of Sheffield, becoming the first Black Muslim woman wearing a hijab to hold this prestigious position. The inauguration took place at Sheffield City Council’s Annual General Meeting at Sheffield Town Hall, attended by proud family members from Somaliland and members of the local community. Councillor Safiya Saeed, a member of the Labour Party and a single mother of five, has been a dedicated member of the Sheffield City Council since 2021 and previously served as Deputy Lord Mayor and Chair of the North East Local Area Committee. “I am incredibly proud to step into the role of Lord Mayor, making history as the first Black woman wearing a hijab to hold this position in Sheffield,” Saeed said. “This city has truly become my home, a place where I have always felt I belong.” Saeed, who is also the founder of Reach Up Youth, an initiative empowering young people, aims to transform Sheffield into a thriving hub for investors, entrepreneurs, charities, and residents to build partnerships and amplify the city’s diverse voices. Her election has been celebrated widely, particularly by the Somaliland diaspora, one of the oldest and most active diaspora communities in the UK, known for its significant contributions to both Sheffield and Somaliland. The Somaliland community in Sheffield has long been a driving force in advocating for the

recognition of Somaliland’s independence. Notably, Sheffield City Council was the first UK local council to recognize Somaliland’s independence on April 2, 2014, a move that inspired other councils, including Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool, Birmingham, and Tower Hamlets in London, to follow suit between 2014 and 2019. These efforts highlight the diaspora’s commitment to their homeland’s sovereignty, which Somaliland declared in 1991 following the collapse of Somalia’s central government. The Diaspora Agency of Somaliland’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation extended heartfelt congratulations to Saeed, noting that her achievement marks a significant moment for the Somaliland diaspora and their contributions to global civic leadership. Saeed’s election comes at a time when Somaliland continues to seek international recognition as a sovereign state, having maintained relative stability and democratic governance for over three decades despite lacking formal acknowledgment from foreign governments. Her role as Lord Mayor is expected to further spotlight the Somaliland diaspora’s influence and the ongoing push for recognition. As Sheffield’s new Lord Mayor, Safiya Saeed stands as a symbol of inclusivity, resilience, and community leadership, inspiring not only the people of Sheffield but also the global Somaliland diaspora.



Somaliland Diaspora Celebrates 34th Independence Day with Global Vibrancy in 2025

The Somaliland diaspora marked the 34th anniversary of Somaliland's reclamation of its independence on May 18, 1991, with vibrant celebrations across North America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Australia. These events showcased cultural pride, unity, and the ongoing push for international recognition, highlighting the diaspora's significant contributions to Somaliland's development and global advocacy.

Some of the Global Celebrations and Contributions

**Canada (Edmonton):** KULAN, a non-profit, hosted a cultural festival in a local park with over 200 attendees, featuring traditional dances, flag displays, and a children's art competition envisioning a recognized Somaliland. Canada's Shadow Minister for Public Safety, Shadow Minister for Public Safety & Emergency Services Hon David Shepherd, was honored for supporting Black communities, reinforcing diaspora ties with local leaders. **United Kingdom (London):** The Somaliland Community Association UK organized a rally in Trafalgar Square, with hundreds marching for recognition, followed by a petition submission to the UK government. A cultural evening included Somali poetry, music, and a documentary screening, emphasizing advocacy and heritage.

**Australia (Melbourne):** The "Somaliland Unity Cup" soccer tournament and family picnic brought the community together, with traditional dishes and storytelling sessions for youth. A video message from Somaliland's Foreign Minister thanked the diaspora for their advocacy.

**Sweden (Stockholm):** An academic symposium, "Somaliland at 34: Achievements and Aspirations," discussed Somaliland's democratic progress and diaspora advocacy, followed by a cultural showcase with dhaanto dances and Somali tea, educating attendees about Somaliland's stability.

**United States (Minneapolis):** A hybrid event featured a virtual celebration with speeches and poetry, paired with an in-person fundraising gala raising funds for educational projects. Attendees



in traditional attire danced to Somali music, emphasizing development support.

**Ethiopia (Addis Ababa):** A diplomatic forum, "Somaliland-Ethiopia Partnership: A Path to Recognition," focused on economic ties via Berbera Port, followed by a cultural exchange with music and cuisine, strengthening Somaliland-Ethiopia bonds.

**Yemen (Sana'a):** Despite regional challenges, a modest gathering featured prayers, poetry, and a donation drive for Somaliland students, reflecting resilience and solidarity across the Gulf of Aden.

**Germany (Berlin):** An art exhibition, "Visions of Somaliland," showcased works on independence and heritage, drawing diverse crowds. A youth session encouraged social media advocacy, paired with traditional music performances.

**South Africa (Johannesburg):** A business forum highlighted Somaliland's economic potential, focusing on trade and Berbera Port, followed by a networking event with live music and cultural displays, fostering African diaspora connections.

Diaspora Contributions

**Economic Impact:** 1.3bn remittances since last four years according to the central bank and this estimate is also mentioned in the NDP III among others fund education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Fundraising during 2025 events supported schools and clinics, while diaspora investments bolstered

Hargeisa's tech sector, enabling live-streamed celebrations.

**Cultural Preservation:** Events featured traditional dances, poetry, and cuisine, reinforcing identity for diaspora youth. The UK's Somali GCSE campaign ensures linguistic continuity.

**Political Advocacy:** Rallies, petitions, and social media campaigns amplified calls for recognition, targeting governments like the US (via the Somaliland Partnership Act) and the African Union. Diaspora professionals advise Somaliland's government on policy.

**Community Building:** Events fostered unity and integration, with initiatives like Cardiff's flag-raising and Helsinki's cultural showcase strengthening ties with host nations.

The 2025 Independence Day celebrations underscored the Somaliland diaspora's role as a global voice for their homeland. Through cultural festivals, diplomatic forums, and fundraising, they showcased Somaliland's stability, democratic achievements, and economic potential while advocating for recognition. Despite challenges like non-recognition and brain drain, their economic contributions, cultural preservation, and political advocacy—amplified by events in 2025—demonstrate a resilient commitment to Somaliland's future. The Somaliland Diaspora Agency praised these efforts, noting their critical role in raising global awareness.

Somaliland

TRADEMARK-CAUTIONARY NOTICE



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN This is to certify that PICAASO WALK SMART (logo + device) is a trademark application filed under Class 25 by Nexgen Footwears Pvt. Ltd, located at H-42, Udyog Nagar Industrial Area, Delhi – 110041, India.

This mark covers the following goods/services:

Footwear, Slippers, Shoes, and Sandals

Priority Filing Date: 15 April 2025

Jurisdiction: Somaliland

Color Claim: None

Trademark Type: Word + Device (Logo)

Please be advised that the applicant may consider disclaiming the words "Walk" and "Smart" to avoid potential objections or official actions based on descriptiveness or lack of distinctiveness.

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The Vice President Officially Inaugurates a Cutting-Edge Medical Facility in Borama

The Vice President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency, Mohamed Ali Aw Abdi, today officiated the grand opening of the Heegan Multi Specialist and Teaching Hospital, a pioneering medical institution established in the heart of Borama. Spearheaded by a consortium of highly trained Somaliland doctors, the hospital represents a landmark achievement in the advancement of specialized healthcare services within the nation. It is designed not only to deliver world-class medical treatment but also to serve as a hub for medical education and professional development. Upon arrival, the Vice President was welcomed by hospital leadership and conducted an extensive tour of the facility. He received detailed briefings on the hospital's various departments, advanced capabilities, and its long-term vision to serve as a model of excellence in healthcare delivery. In his address to attendees, His Excellency commended the vision, patriotism, and professionalism of the medical practitioners who brought the project to fruition. He urged the staff to carry forward their mission with



unwavering integrity, compassion, and dedication to public service. "This institution stands as a beacon of hope and progress — a testament to what is possible when knowledge, commitment, and a love for one's country are brought together in service of the people," said the Vice President. "Let this hospital embody not only healing but the spirit of national advancement." The inauguration of Heegan Hospital aligns with the Government of Somaliland's broader national development agenda, which places strategic emphasis on strengthening healthcare infrastructure, fostering local expertise, and expanding access to essential services. Hussein Adan Igeh (Deyr), Spokesman for the President of the Republic of Somaliland

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