

The Horn Tribune

Vol VI/ Issue 1658 Sunday 19 July 2026 (www.horntribune.com/info@horntribune.com) Safar 5, 1448 AH

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

University of Hargeisa Advances National Development Agenda Through Research as Students Showcase 52 Innovative Projects

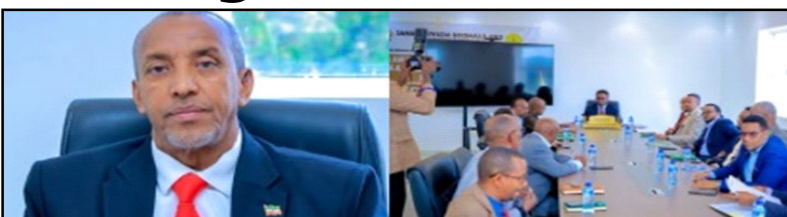


University Aligns Student Research with NDP III to Support National Development Priorities

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Somaliland Finance Ministry Unveils 2027 Budget Priorities in High-Level Meeting with Parliamentary Committee



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Education Minister meets Save the Children to advance Climate-Resilient Education



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The Minister of Education and Science Hon. Ismail Duale Yusuf, met with a delegation from Save the Children Australia and the leadership of Save the Children

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Salma Sheikh Discusses Somaliland's Security Priorities and International Alliances



Somaliland shares the same stretch of sea as Yemen. It is opposite the coasts where pirates launch their attacks and where the Houthis fire on Israeli ships. This African country, recently independent (1991) and equally unrecognized, enjoys a strategic

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Somaliland at a Defining Moment: Deputy Speaker Calls for National Unity



Mohamoud Walaaleye
Somaliland's Second Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Ali Hamud Jibril, has called for national unity and collective action,

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Republic of Somaliland's Ambassador to France, Amb. Abdirahman

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Somaliland's Sovereignty Is Not for Sale- Edna Adan



Since 1991, when Somaliland withdrew from the failed union with Somalia, every President of Somaliland has been approached with offers of money,

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University of Hargeisa.....



By M.A. Egge

The University of Hargeisa has strengthened its role in driving innovation and national development by transforming student graduation projects into research-based studies aligned with Somaliland's Third National Development Plan (NDP III); while students from the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science showcased 52 innovative research projects during the university's Research Week 2026. The exhibition, held on the second day of Research Week, highlighted students' efforts to apply academic knowledge to real-world challenges through technology, creativity, and practical solutions designed to address community needs. The displayed projects demonstrated the growing capacity of university students to develop research-driven solutions in areas that support social progress, technological advancement, and national development. The initiative reflects the university's broader commitment to building a culture of research and innovation within higher education.

As part of its academic reform, the University of Hargeisa has replaced traditional graduation projects with research studies focused on priority areas identified under Somaliland's NDP III. The new approach aims to ensure that graduating students produce research that contributes directly to solving societal, economic, and institutional challenges. Speaking about the reform, the University's chief of Administration and Development, Dr. Abdirashid Ismail Mohamed, said the initiative demonstrates the institution's belief that research is the foundation of sustainable development. "Development is built on research," Dr. Abdirashid said, explaining that the university has modernized its graduation program to encourage students to conduct studies that respond to national priorities and generate meaningful solutions for communities. He praised the graduating students for their innovative work, noting that the new research-based system gives them an opportunity to move beyond academic requirements

and ensure their findings contribute to Somaliland's development efforts. University officials said aligning student research with NDP III will strengthen the connection between academia and national policymaking by encouraging evidence-based studies in key development sectors. They added that the approach will help nurture critical thinking, innovation, and problem-solving skills among future graduates. The university emphasized that Research Week provides students with a platform to present their work, exchange knowledge, and demonstrate how academic research can be transformed into practical initiatives that benefit society. Through these reforms and research initiatives, the university aims to position higher education as a key driver of sustainable development, ensuring that student research contributes not only to graduation achievements but also to the long-term progress and advancement of the nation.

Salma Sheikh Discusses Somaliland's.....

position on a global level. We spoke about it with **Salma Sheikh**, director of the Somaliland Review. **Given their proximity, how is the Houthi threat perceived?** "Somaliland and Yemen have shared deep historical, cultural, and economic ties for centuries. However, the instability that has affected Yemen in recent decades has created significant security challenges in the Bab el-Mandeb area, which is of direct concern to us. However, we do not consider ourselves a direct target." **What measures are you taking to prevent regional tensions from spilling over into the Horn of Africa?** "Despite limited international support, Somaliland has established itself as a reliable security partner in the Horn. Through effective governance and cooperation with international partners, we have played an important role in combating piracy and protecting our coasts. Somaliland poses no threat to anyone and wishes to maintain peaceful relations with all. We continue to invest in maritime security and work with partners who ensure stability and freedom of navigation in the Gulf of Aden." **Somalia is often described as a fragile state. How do you address the challenges arising from its proximity to Mogadishu?** "Somaliland and Somalia have followed different paths since 1991. Somaliland has rebuilt its institutions

through reconciliation processes, community-led initiatives, and a functioning democratic system. Somalia, on the other hand, continues to face serious challenges in stability and the rule of law. For us, peace, democracy, and self-governance are fundamental values. This is why a significant portion of the national budget is allocated to security and border protection. We have maintained a dialogue on these issues with Mogadishu for many years. However, the level of corruption and governance difficulties on the other side have made it increasingly difficult to continue that path." **That said, Somaliland remains unrecognized by most of the international community. Why?** "Many countries appreciate the achievements made in building peace, stability, and democracy, but remain cautious for reasons related to regional and international balances. We believe we have demonstrated, over more than thirty years, that we possess all the practical requirements of a state. Recognition now falls to others. We are, however, encouraged by the growing level of involvement of some governments. I am thinking of Israel, Taiwan, and Ethiopia, our key allies. We trust in the objectivity of other countries, in Africa, Asia, and the West." **The competition for influence in the Horn of Africa currently involves players such as China, Turkey, the United States, and the**

Gulf countries. How does Somaliland navigate this landscape? "Somaliland's foreign policy pursues the principle of advancing the interests of the Somaliland people. We seek constructive and mutually beneficial partnerships with anyone who respects our aspirations, supports regional stability, and contributes to our economic development. More than a competition between powers, international engagement remains an opportunity to build concrete relationships in the areas of trade, investment, infrastructure, security, education, and technology." **What challenges will Somaliland face in the next decade: security, economic development, climate change, or international recognition?** "All these aspects are interconnected. Security is essential for stability, economic development is indispensable for prosperity, climate change represents a concrete threat to a country that relies heavily on livestock and agriculture, while international recognition would open new opportunities for investment and cooperation. A strong economy creates jobs, attracts investment, strengthens institutions, and increases resilience to security and climate challenges. That said, full international recognition remains a crucial objective, as it would help accelerate progress in all other sectors."

Somaliland Finance.....

Hon. **Abdilaahi Hassan**, accompanied by the Ministry's Director General Mr. Mohamed and senior officials responsible for Budget, Economic Affairs, and Legal Affairs, held a high-level working session with the Parliamentary Committee on Economy, Finance, and Trade to discuss the country's economic outlook and preparations for the 2027 National Budget. The meeting, held at the House of Representatives headquarters, underscored the government's commitment to strengthening cooperation with Parliament as it advances reforms in public financial management and national budget planning. Opening the session, the Minister expressed appreciation to the committee's chairperson and members for their continued collaboration, describing the partnership between the Ministry and the parliamentary committee as vital to improving fiscal governance and ensuring a transparent budget process. During the meeting, the Minister presented a comprehensive overview of Somaliland's economic landscape, outlining the country's overall economic structure, the framework and stages of the national budget preparation process, and the government's revenue and expenditure policies. A major focus of the discussions was the government's priorities for the **2027 National Budget**, which are expected to center on:

- Driving economic growth and expanding development opportunities.
- Strengthening national security and defense capabilities.
- Improving public administration and promoting good governance.
- Expanding and enhancing

social services for citizens. The Minister and the Director General also informed lawmakers that preparations for the 2027 budget are progressing in accordance with the provisions of **Public Financial Management Law No. 75/2025**. They noted that the budget timetable remains on schedule and is being implemented in line with legal requirements and the principles of transparency, accountability, and continuous consultation with key stakeholders. Special emphasis was placed on the Ministry's ongoing engagement with the Parliamentary Committee on Economy, Finance, and Trade, which officials described as an essential component of an inclusive and accountable budgeting process. For its part, the parliamentary committee commended the Ministry of Finance for maintaining close cooperation with lawmakers and adhering to the statutory timetable governing the preparation of the National Budget. Committee members acknowledged the Ministry's commitment to following the provisions of Somaliland's Public Financial Management Law. The meeting concluded with an interactive discussion in which committee members raised questions and offered recommendations on the issues presented. Ministry officials provided detailed responses, and both sides agreed to further strengthen their cooperation and maintain regular consultations as work continues on the preparation of Somaliland's **2027 National Budget**. The discussions reflect the government's broader effort to reinforce fiscal discipline, improve public financial management, and ensure that the 2027 budget aligns with the country's economic development goals, governance reforms, and national priorities.

Education Minister meets.....



Somaliland. He was accompanied by the Ministry's Director of Planning, **Amin Mohamed Ahmed**, and the Minister's Adviser, **Mohamed Jama Yusuf**. The meeting focused on progress made under the Climate Smart Education Systems Initiative (CSESI), a global programme being implemented in 35 countries including Somaliland, to strengthen education systems against the impacts of climate change.

The minister stressed the importance of building a more resilient education system to reduce the effects of climate change, particularly the challenges posed by recurring droughts and other factors that disrupt access to education. He also praised the strong partnership between the Ministry of Education and the project's development partners in advancing climate-smart education.

Somaliland at a Defining Moment:

describing the country as being at a critical stage in its political journey and urging all stakeholders to work together to achieve Somaliland's long-standing national aspirations. Speaking in an interview with Somaliland National Television during a visit to London, United Kingdom, MP Ali Hamud said Somaliland's international reputation and diplomatic standing have improved markedly in recent years, arguing that the country's aspirations are moving closer to realization.

"Our country is going through a critical period. The aspirations we have long pursued are gradually becoming a reality, and today the world views us very differently from how it did ten years ago," he said. The Deputy Speaker credited Somaliland's democratic progress and growing international attention as key opportunities that should be embraced through unity and cooperation. He emphasized that the current political climate



presents a significant moment for the nation to strengthen its position on the global stage. Ali Hamud appealed to all political actors, particularly opposition parties, to put national interests above political differences and work alongside the government in pursuing Somaliland's strategic objectives.

"I especially urge the opposition parties to work together and support the government in achieving our national goals," he said. He stressed that bringing together the country's resources, expertise, and the collective energy of its people would strengthen Somaliland's ability to achieve its ultimate objective of securing international recognition and taking its place among the world's sovereign nations.

The Deputy Speaker concluded by emphasizing that national unity remains the foundation for realizing Somaliland's long-term aspirations, saying that cooperation among political leaders and citizens alike is essential at this pivotal moment in the country's history.

Somaliland Ambassador Joins Israel's.....

Yasin, attended the celebration marking the 78th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, joining members of the diplomatic community and invited guests at a reception held in Paris.

In a statement published by the Somaliland Mission in Paris, Ambassador Yasin expressed his appreciation for being invited to the event and extended his congratulations to the people of Israel on the occasion of their national day.

"I am very pleased to have been invited to attend the celebration of the 78th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, held in Paris," the ambassador said.

The Somaliland Mission also shared a message reflecting on the occasion, describing the event as an opportunity to engage with members of the diplomatic corps and other distinguished guests.



"A big thank you to Ambassador Joshua Laurent Zarka and his wife, Esther Zarka, for their exemplary welcome. It was a real pleasure to share this solemn moment with the diplomatic corps and other guests. I wish the people of Israel a wonderful national holiday, marked by peace and prosperity," the statement read.

The reception brought together diplomats and representatives from various countries to commemorate Israel's national day, highlighting the role of diplomatic engagement and international dialogue in fostering bilateral and multilateral relations.

Somaliland Health Minister Receives High-Level.....

By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Health Development, Hon. Hussein Bashir Hirsi, received on Thursday a high-level delegation from Israel at the Ministry's headquarters to discuss expanding cooperation in the health sector.

The Minister was joined by the Ministry's Directors of Planning and Policy Development, Public Health, and the Head of Regional Coordination.

In-depth discussions on strengthening healthcare cooperation, improving Somaliland's health services, and expanding partnerships aimed at enhancing the country's healthcare system was held by both sides.

The Minister warmly welcomed the delegation to Somaliland and reaffirmed his Ministry's



commitment to implementing practical joint initiatives that will improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare services.

The Israeli delegation expressed its appreciation for the visit, stating its readiness to build a productive partnership that will contribute to the development and modernization of Somaliland's healthcare sector.

The delegation then toured Hargeisa General Hospital, Mohamed Adan Sheikh (MAS) Children's Hospital, and Gargaar Hospital, where they observed the medical services being provided, visited key departments, and assessed areas that could benefit from future cooperation and support to strengthen healthcare delivery across Somaliland.

Somaliland's Sovereignty Is Not for Sale- Edna Adan

political leverage, or diplomatic incentives to reconsider reunification with Somalia. The first to try was Muammar Gaddafi, who attempted to convince President Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal. Similar overtures were made to Presidents Dahir Rayale Kahin, Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud "Silanyo," Muse Bihi Abdi, and now even to President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdirahman "Cirro."

Each of these leaders responded with the same unwavering message: they were elected to protect the territorial integrity of Somaliland, and Somaliland's independence, dignity, and nationhood are not for sale at any cost.

Yet what remains astonishing—almost predictable—is that every new diplomat posted to the region arrives believing he has discovered a "new solution" that no one else has ever imagined. They advise that Somaliland and Somalia "sit together and resolve their differences," unaware that since 2012, more than ten rounds of formal talks have already taken place in world capitals, witnessed by international media, and concluded with signed agreements which Somalia failed to honour even one of those agreements.

This repetition exposes a deeper systemic failure: diplomats assigned to the Horn of Africa are rarely briefed on the history, cultures, languages, or political realities of the countries they are sent to engage. They do not understand the trauma of the former union, the reasons for its collapse, or the profound differences between the two nations. Instead, they rely on incomplete briefing notes written by predecessors who were themselves inadequately informed. They do not know that other sovereign nations that had attempted a union with another sovereign nation had withdrawn from these unions within months of the union when in the case of Somaliland and Somalia, it took 31 years to dissolve their failed union.

They also fail to grasp the most fundamental fact: Somaliland is stable because its people built that stability and wish it to remain so. On the other hand, Somalia remains unstable because its leaders profit from instability and wish it to remain that way.

For the past 35 years that Somaliland had been separated from Somalia, Somaliland has maintained peace, democracy, and rule of law without foreign troops, without international subsidies, and without foreign forces to keep the peace. In Somaliland, women sell 21 carat gold openly in the markets. Money changers operate without fear. Security is upheld by the people themselves through collective civic responsibility.

Somalia, by contrast, has 40, 000 African Peace-keeping forces, relies on external funding to pay its parliament, ministries, and security forces. Lawlessness has become its most profitable industry. Somalia

depends on foreign peacekeepers to sustain a system that has little incentive to reform and which has placed Somalia in a far worse position today than it was three decades ago.

Given these realities, the question is not why Somaliland refuses reunification with Somalia. The real question is:

Why do outsiders continue proposing a union that has already failed, already collapsed, and already proven impossible?

And more importantly: Who, in their right mind, would abandon peace, democracy, and self reliance to merge with Somalia—a state that has failed to secure peace even within its own capital?

Somaliland's position is not emotional, nor is it negotiable. It is grounded in history, experience, and the lived reality of its people. Sovereignty is not a bargaining chip. It is the foundation of the stability, progress, and democratic governance that Somaliland has built over 35 years—without external armies, without donor dependency, and without the chaos that continues to engulf its neighbour.

The world may continue to misunderstand this. Diplomats may continue to arrive with recycled ideas dressed as new insights. But Somaliland's answer remains unchanged: our nationhood is not for sale, and our future will not be dictated by those who do not understand our past.

About the Author

Edna Adan Ismail is a former Foreign Minister of Somaliland, founder of the Edna Adan University and Hospital, and a long time advocate for peace, stability, and the health of women and children in the Horn of Africa.

About the Author

Edna Adan Ismail is one of the most influential women in Africa today. A talismanic figure whose life and work have inspired people all around the world. Her long career in public life, which has seen her making lasting contributions in the fields of health, peace building and foreign affairs, has been marked by an exceptional devotion to advancing the cause of women and children. Awarded French Légion d'honneur (2011). From Djibouti 'Commandeur Dans l'Ordre National du 27 Juin', (1997). Renfield Foundation Award for Global Women's Health by the University of Pennsylvania. Between 2000 to 2025. Honorary Doctoral Degrees in the USA from Clark University and also Pennsylvania University. In the UK from London South Bank University and Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians, In Africa, awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal, Pretoria University, for my work on Human Rights, and an Honorary Doctoral Degree from Ahfad University for Women in the Sudan. Templeton Prize awardee of 2023, Gusi Peace Prize in 2025. Mother Teresa Guardians of Humanity Award also in 2025.

Ministry of Finance Clarifies GST Rollout Ahead of August 1 Launch; says Tax is a Modernization—Not a New Levy



Mohamoud Walaaleye

As public debate intensifies over the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of Somaliland has moved to reassure citizens that the tax is not a new burden but a modernization of an existing tax system that has been in place for nearly three decades.

The ministry has confirmed that the revised GST framework will officially take effect on August 1, prompting widespread discussion among businesses, lawmakers, and the public over its implementation and impact.

In a televised discussion broadcast by MM Somali TV, Ahmed Abdi Ali Toor, Deputy Director of the Inland Revenue Department, and Abdirahman Mohamed Ibrahim, an official from the Financial Management Reform Department, responded to questions from members of parliament, academics, and other participants seeking clarification on the new system.

Addressing concerns that GST represents a newly introduced tax, Ahmed Abdi Ali Toor explained that the tax has existed in Somaliland since 1996, when it operated as the Sales Tax under Law No. 84/1996. At that time, a 3 percent tax was imposed only on imported goods. According to Toor, the key distinction between the former Sales Tax and the current GST lies in how the tax is structured. While the Sales Tax was collected only once, GST is legally designed as a multi-stage tax, allowing it to be imposed at different points throughout the commercial supply chain. However, he noted that the stages at which it is collected depend on the government's administrative capacity and can be implemented gradually as permitted by law.

He further explained that

Somaliland undertook a comprehensive overhaul of its financial legislation in 2016, introducing Revenue Law No. 72, which formally replaced the Sales Tax with the Goods and Services Tax. The reform was followed in 2021 by implementing regulations that modernized the tax system and enabled service providers—including hotels, electricity companies, and water utilities—to begin incorporating GST into the prices charged to consumers.

Toor said the latest public concerns stem primarily from amendments made under Revenue Law No. 72/2025, which expanded the range of services subject to GST by removing certain exemptions. He argued that misconceptions surrounding the reform have led some members of the public to mistakenly view it as an entirely new tax, whereas the ministry's objective is to improve understanding of an existing system.

Explaining the principles underpinning GST, Toor said the tax is built on two core foundations. The first is transparency in identifying who pays the tax, who collects it, and who ultimately receives it. Under the system, the final consumer purchasing goods or services bears the tax, businesses merely collect it on behalf of the government, and the Ministry of Finance is the only authority legally empowered to administer and receive the revenue.

The second principle, he said, is modernization. Businesses will be able to remit GST electronically from their offices or homes through a digital payment system, with funds transferred directly to the Inland Revenue Department before being deposited into the Central Bank of Somaliland.

Speaking during the same programme, Abdirahman Mohamed Ibrahim described GST

as a multiple-stage consumption tax, noting that this principle is clearly established in Revenue Law No. 72/2025 and its implementing regulations. He cautioned that interpretations lacking legal or technical expertise risk misleading the public about how the law operates.

Abdirahman also explained that if GST were fully applied at every stage of the commercial supply chain, businesses would need to be reimbursed through a tax refund mechanism to prevent the tax burden from accumulating and ultimately increasing costs for consumers.

To simplify implementation and reduce pressure on households and businesses, he said, the President and senior officials at the Ministry of Finance agreed to reduce the applicable GST rate from the 5 percent provided for in law to 2.5 percent during the current phase of implementation.

He further clarified that, as a consumption tax, GST does not apply when an importer sells goods to a wholesaler or when a wholesaler sells to a retailer, since those transactions are made for commercial purposes rather than final consumption. Instead, the tax is collected only when the product or service is purchased by the end consumer for personal use.

Concluding the discussion, officials from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development urged citizens to rely on official legal sources when seeking information about the tax reforms. They emphasized that GST should not be viewed as a newly introduced tax but as the modernization of a long-standing taxation system intended to create a more transparent, efficient, and equitable method of revenue collection while ensuring that the tax burden rests with the final consumer.

Bank of Somaliland Unveils Risk-Based Banking Oversight to Strengthen Financial Stability



Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Bank of the Republic of Somaliland has brought together senior banking leaders in Hargeisa to launch a major regulatory reform aimed at strengthening oversight of the country's financial sector through the adoption of a Risk-Based Supervision (RBS) framework and new prudential standards.

The initiative marks a significant shift in the way banks will be supervised, moving beyond traditional compliance-focused inspections towards a forward-looking approach that identifies and addresses potential risks before they threaten financial stability.

Under the new framework, supervisors will place greater emphasis on assessing banks' capital adequacy, liquidity, credit quality, corporate governance and large exposure risks, enabling earlier intervention where vulnerabilities emerge.

Opening the meeting, Governor Abdinasir Ahmed Hersi described the reforms as a cornerstone of the Bank's broader agenda to modernize Somaliland's financial system.

"A resilient banking sector requires strong institutions, credible supervision and clear accountability," he said. "These reforms are designed to strengthen public confidence and support sustainable economic growth."

The meeting brought together chairpersons of licensed banks, members of the Central Bank's Board of Directors, banking executives and senior regulatory officials to discuss the implementation roadmap and the responsibilities of financial institutions under the new supervisory regime.

Officials from the Financial Institutions Supervision and Regulation Department presented the proposed supervisory framework, updated risk management procedures and draft prudential guidelines, outlining how banks will be expected to integrate

stronger risk management practices into their operations.

Deputy Governor Hamse Abdirahman Khaire stressed that the transition would be implemented through close collaboration between the regulator and the banking industry.

"The Bank of Somaliland is not asking institutions to make this transition alone," he said. "Consultation, training and technical support will be central to the process."

Representing the banking industry, Mr. Khalif, Chairman of the Somaliland Banking Association, welcomed the reforms and underscored the importance of continued dialogue.

"Banks support reforms that strengthen stability and protect depositors," he said. "The key will be practical implementation, realistic timelines and continued engagement between the regulator and the industry."

Fuad Bashir, Deputy Director of Financial Institutions Supervision and Regulation, said the risk-based approach would allow supervisors to focus their resources on the areas posing the greatest threat to financial soundness.

"Data collection is only the starting point," he said. "Supervisors must understand the trends, identify the root causes and act before weaknesses become crises."

The Bank of Somaliland said licensed banks will have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft supervisory guidelines before they are formally adopted. The reform program will also include technical training, capacity building and a phased implementation process to ensure a smooth transition.

The reforms are intended to build a stronger and more resilient banking sector, enhance depositor protection, improve regulatory effectiveness and reinforce confidence in Somaliland's financial system as it continues to evolve.

Ministry of Information Deepens Partnership with TV Broadcasters, Unveils New Media Registration Plan

Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Republic of Somaliland's Ministry of Information, Culture and Awareness has strengthened its engagement with the country's leading private television broadcasters following a high-level meeting focused on enhancing media cooperation, improving the dissemination of official information, and advancing reforms in the media sector.

The meeting, chaired by the Ministry's Director General, brought together senior representatives from Horn Cable TV, CBA TV, Horyaal TV, Bulsho TV, and Sky Cable TV.

Discussions centered on expanding collaboration between the government and media institutions to ensure the timely delivery of accurate official information and improve the quality of media services across Somaliland.

A key item on the agenda was the Ministry's newly introduced media



registration framework, which aims to streamline the registration process for media organizations and strengthen institutional standards within the broadcasting sector.

Officials provided a detailed briefing on the objectives and implementation of the new registration system, emphasizing its role in supporting a more organized, professional, and accountable media environment.

Representatives of the participating television stations welcomed the initiative and expressed their support for the implementation of the new registration framework, reaffirming their commitment to working closely with the Ministry to promote responsible journalism and further develop Somaliland's media industry.

Somaliland and Ethiopia to Launch Railway Project Linking the Two Countries



Mohamoud Walaaleye

International reports published by several global media outlets, including **Ethiopian Daily News**, **Feta Daily World**, and **AfriNews 24**, state that a major project to construct a modern electric railway connecting Ethiopia to Somaliland's Port of Berbera is expected to be officially launched soon. According to the reports, the project is estimated to cost **US\$3.47 billion** and is described as part of broader efforts to strengthen transport connectivity, trade, and economic infrastructure across the Horn of Africa.

The international reports, cited by Somaliland's **Dawan** newspaper, also state that the project will be jointly financed by the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and **Ethiopia**. Its objective is to enhance regional connectivity, facilitate trade, improve transportation and logistics, and provide Ethiopia with faster access to the Port of Berbera. **AfriNews 24** reported: "The UAE is providing financial investment and technical expertise to implement these major projects, as it is one of the largest investors in the Horn of Africa."

According to the report, the second-phase expansion of the Port of Berbera, the strengthening of the Berbera Economic Zone, and the development of the Berbera Corridor reflect growing confidence in the port and the vision of transforming it into a world-class trade and logistics hub. It also states that once the railway project is completed, Berbera is expected to have modern infrastructure capable of serving as a regional center for port services, industry, and transportation, significantly facilitating trade and the movement of goods between Ethiopia and international markets.

AfriNews 24 further stated: "In recent years, the Port of Berbera has become one of the most significant infrastructure development projects in the Horn of Africa. Plans are now underway to expand the port's second phase while strengthening connections with the Berbera

Economic Zone, the Berbera Corridor, and a railway extending into Ethiopia."

The report also described the project as a historic milestone that the people of Somaliland would take pride in. It added that the continued development of the port and its associated infrastructure would boost regional trade, attract new investment, and further strengthen Berbera's role as a key commercial gateway in the Horn of Africa. The report further noted: "The Ethiopian government is continuing to strengthen its strategic partnership with Somaliland and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to advance trade infrastructure across the Horn of Africa."

Meanwhile, a report published by **Ethiopian Daily News** stated that construction of a modern electric railway linking Ethiopia with the Port of Berbera in the Republic of Somaliland is expected to begin soon. According to the report, the project is valued at approximately **US\$3.47 billion**, with financing to be shared between Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates.

The report added that the railway would form part of wider regional initiatives aimed at improving transportation and trade connectivity while providing Ethiopia with an additional route to access the Port of Berbera. It further stated that the project is expected to stimulate trade, transportation, and economic integration throughout the Horn of Africa. The report concluded with the Amharic slogan: "«ፍቅፍት-ፍፁም ፍፁም» ፡፡፡", meaning: "Ethiopia's era of victory lies ahead."

Similarly, **Feta Daily World** reported: "Construction of a modern high-speed electric railway linking Ethiopia with the Port of Berbera in the Republic of Somaliland will begin soon. The total construction cost is estimated at US\$3.47 billion, with funding to be provided by Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates."

OGF University Congratulates 2025/2026 Graduates, Advances STEM Vision in Somaliland

Mohamoud Walaaleye

OGF University has extended its warmest congratulations to students who successfully completed the 2025/2026 Somaliland Secondary School National Examinations, while reaffirming its commitment to developing the country's future leaders through world-class Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.

In a congratulatory message, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Omer Osman Guudle, President of OGF University, praised students for their dedication and perseverance in reaching one of the most significant milestones of their academic journey.

"Completing secondary education is a remarkable achievement and the beginning of a new chapter," the President said. "We encourage students to pursue higher education at an institution that combines academic excellence with practical skills, innovation, and industry engagement."

The President emphasized that OGF University is the only private university in Somaliland with a strategic mission to bridge higher education and industry through a strong focus on STEM disciplines. He noted that the university is committed to producing graduates equipped with the technical expertise, entrepreneurial mindset, and critical thinking skills required to meet the demands of the modern workforce.



According to the Office of the President, OGF University is building a dynamic learning environment through continuous curriculum development, partnerships with industry, and modern teaching methods that transform knowledge into practical impact. The university's vision is to become a leading center of academic excellence, innovation, and applied learning that directly contributes to Somaliland's social and economic development.

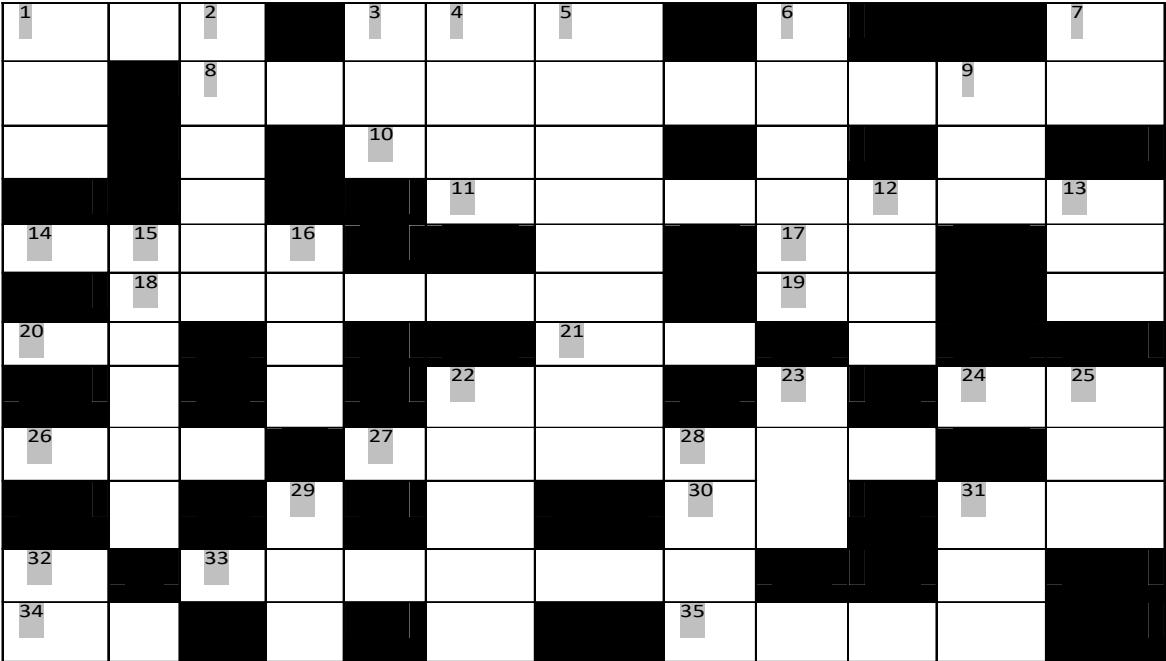
"We believe that the future of Somaliland depends on a generation that is well educated, technologically skilled, and globally competitive," Prof. Dr. Guudle stated. "At OGF University, we are not only educating students—we are empowering leaders, innovators, and change-makers who will shape the future of our nation and beyond." The university has invited this year's secondary school graduates to apply for admission and become

part of an academic community dedicated to excellence, research, innovation, and national development.



THT Puzzle

Prepared by: Abdillahi Said Muhummed



- DOWN
- 1 question.
- 2 confirm.
- 3 shed tears
- 4 vicinity
- 5 travelers
- 6 increasing
- 7 U'S
- 9 Have a meal
- 12 Almost immediately
- 13 Sun shine
- 15 Nearby
- 16 Simple
- 22 brain power
- 23 individual
- 25 Perceive or look
- 28 possessive pronoun
- 29 Carpet
- 31 double or single bed
- 32 Negative or nope
- ACROSS
- 1be present.
- 3 crowns head wear
- 8 storylines.
- 10 Yeah
- 11 Support
- 14 Concern assist
- 17 Negative
- 18 Cause
- 19 Travel
- 22 be present
- 24 Remains
- 26 Furthermore
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Previous Answer

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Somaliland, UK Deepen Security Partnership as Interior Minister Unveils Ambitious Reform Agenda



Mohamoud Walaaleye

Republic of Somaliland's Minister of Interior and Security, Hon. Abdale Mohamed Arab, on Monday held high-level discussions with a senior United Kingdom government delegation aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation on security, counterterrorism, and institutional reform.

The UK delegation included officials from the UK Office in Somaliland, the British Ambassador Charles Nicholas King, and a representative from the UK Ministry of Defense, reflecting London's continued engagement with Somaliland on regional security and stability.

During the meeting, the two sides explored ways to expand cooperation in addressing evolving security threats, with particular emphasis on counterterrorism, regional security challenges, intelligence collaboration, and enhancing the operational capacity of Somaliland's security institutions. Minister Abdale outlined the Ministry's vision for a modern, integrated security architecture, highlighting ongoing efforts to reform the country's security sector through stronger institutional coordination, advanced technology, intelligence sharing, and improved operational capabilities.

A key focus of the discussions was the proposed Somaliland National Operations Command Centre (SL-NOCC), a flagship national initiative designed to strengthen coordination among security agencies, improve intelligence exchange, enhance emergency response mechanisms, and bolster Somaliland's ability to respond swiftly and effectively to emerging security challenges.

The minister described the proposed command center as a strategic step toward building a more resilient and efficient national security system capable of addressing both domestic and regional threats.

The UK delegation welcomed Somaliland's security reform agenda and expressed support for the Ministry's modernization efforts. The delegation reaffirmed the United Kingdom's commitment to continued cooperation with Somaliland in advancing peace, security, institutional development, and long-term strategic partnership. The meeting underscored the growing security relationship between Somaliland and the United Kingdom as both sides seek to deepen collaboration in tackling shared security challenges and promoting stability across the Horn of Africa.

Somaliland Welcomes Citizens Returning from Sudan, Urges Youth to Shun Irregular Migration

Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Somaliland Ministry of Resettlement and Humanitarian Affairs, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), has welcomed a new group of Somaliland citizens who voluntarily returned from Sudan, reaffirming its commitment to supporting returning nationals and promoting safe migration.

The returnees arrived at Egal International Airport, where they were received by officials from the ministry and IOM. Upon arrival, they were provided with registration services, a warm welcome, and psychosocial support aimed at helping them reintegrate into their communities and rebuild their lives. The reception forms part of ongoing efforts to ensure that citizens returning from difficult circumstances abroad receive the assistance they need to transition smoothly back into society.



The Ministry also used the occasion to renew its appeal to the public—particularly young people—to avoid the risks associated with irregular migration and unlawful travel. Officials stressed that unsafe migration routes often expose individuals to exploitation, insecurity, and other serious dangers. Reaffirming its humanitarian mandate, the Ministry pledged to continue working with international partners to facilitate the voluntary return of Somaliland citizens and provide the care and support necessary for their successful reintegration.

The Somaliland Test: Recognition, Political Reality, and International Order

The difficulty arises when the gap between political reality and diplomatic acknowledgement becomes so prolonged that the original justification for withholding recognition becomes increasingly difficult to sustain.

Immediately after conflict, caution is often both prudent and necessary. Political settlements may collapse, institutions may fail, territorial control may shift, and negotiated agreements may fundamentally alter constitutional arrangements. Under such conditions, withholding recognition reflects uncertainty rather than inconsistency.

The Somaliland case, however, has gradually moved beyond that phase. Since 1991, Somaliland has maintained functioning institutions through successive political transitions. Governments have changed peacefully. Elections have been held repeatedly. Administrative structures have matured. Public authority has been exercised continuously across the territory under its control. What initially appeared to many observers as a provisional political arrangement has gradually evolved into a durable political order.

Time changes the character of political reality. A political entity that survives for only a few years may reasonably be regarded as temporary. One that demonstrates institutional continuity over more than three decades presents a fundamentally different proposition. Entire generations have lived exclusively under Somaliland's institutions, while commercial relationships, legal expectations, administrative routines, and systems of governance have become firmly embedded within everyday political life.

The issue is therefore no longer whether Somaliland has demonstrated political durability. Few observers would now dispute that it has.

The more difficult question is whether indefinite diplomatic non-recognition remains a coherent response to that durability. The implications extend well beyond Somaliland itself. When diplomatic recognition persistently lags behind long-established political reality, the consequences become increasingly tangible. Legal uncertainty discourages long-term investment, restricts access to international financial institutions, complicates formal security cooperation, and obliges regional organizations to engage pragmatically with functioning authorities while withholding formal diplomatic recognition.

The costs of prolonged ambiguity are therefore not borne solely by the unrecognized entity. They increasingly affect the wider regional order.



Somaliland is therefore significant not simply because it seeks recognition, but because it exposes a broader question about the contemporary international system itself.

Can an international order that claims to recognize political reality indefinitely postpone acknowledging one that has demonstrated durability, institutional effectiveness, and governmental continuity for more than three decades?

That question becomes even more compelling when Somaliland is examined within the changing geopolitical landscape of the Horn of Africa.

Over the past two decades, the Horn of Africa has undergone a profound strategic transformation. Regional influence is increasingly determined not simply by military capability or formal sovereignty, but by the ability to organize systems of trade, connectivity, infrastructure, and security. Ports, transport corridors, logistics networks, customs administration, energy interdependence, and institutional reliability have become central instruments of geopolitical influence.

Within this evolving regional environment, Somaliland has assumed growing strategic importance.

Its significance cannot be explained by diplomatic recognition, because widespread recognition has not occurred. Nor can it be understood solely through the historical debate surrounding the 1960 union with Somalia. Increasingly, it derives from the practical functions Somaliland performs within the wider regional system.

This distinction is fundamental. Geography alone rarely produces geopolitical influence. Location becomes strategically valuable only when it is transformed into infrastructure, institutions, and networks upon which other actors increasingly depend. Strategic geography, in other words, is created not by location itself but by the functions that location enables.

Berbera provides perhaps the clearest illustration of this transformation. Situated on the Gulf of Aden,

adjacent to one of the world's busiest maritime corridors, Berbera has evolved from a national port into an increasingly important regional logistics hub. Investment in port infrastructure, road connectivity, customs modernisation, and commercial facilities has expanded its role well beyond Somaliland's domestic economy. The Berbera Corridor has similarly strengthened connections with Ethiopia, integrating Somaliland into a wider regional transport network.

Its importance lies not in replacing existing ports. It lies in expanding regional choice. Rapidly growing economies rarely rely indefinitely upon a single maritime gateway. Instead, they seek resilience through diversification, competition, redundancy, and flexibility. Multiple transport corridors reduce strategic vulnerability, improve commercial efficiency, and provide alternatives during periods of political or logistical disruption. This logic is particularly relevant to Ethiopia, whose long-term economic strategy increasingly depends upon diversified and reliable access to international markets. From this perspective, Berbera should not be understood as a substitute for existing corridors but as an additional component of a broader regional logistics architecture capable of strengthening resilience and expanding strategic options.

Somaliland's strategic importance therefore derives less from controlling regional trade than from increasing the adaptability and resilience of the wider regional system.

The same functional logic applies to maritime security. The Gulf of Aden remains one of the world's most strategically significant waterways, linking the Red Sea with the Indian Ocean and carrying a substantial share of global maritime commerce. Safeguarding this route requires more than international naval deployments. It also depends upon capable local institutions able to administer ports, regulate maritime activity, cooperate with external partners, and provide predictable governance along strategically important coastlines. Over time, Somaliland has demonstrated an increasing

Somaliland's Food Security Drive Gains Momentum as FSRP Ministerial Committee Reviews Project Progress

Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Ministerial Committee overseeing the Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP) has conducted a high-level review of the project's implementation, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening food security, agricultural production, and community livelihoods across Somaliland.

The committee held its quarterly meeting at the office of the Minister of Agriculture Development of the Republic of Somaliland, where officials assessed the progress of the World Bank-funded initiative and discussed ways to accelerate ongoing activities.

Chaired by the Minister of Agriculture Development, Hon. Adan Geedi Qayaad, the meeting brought together key stakeholders involved in the FSRP project to evaluate

achievements, address challenges, and enhance collaboration among participating institutions.

Discussions focused on speeding up project implementation, improving coordination between government agencies, strengthening food systems, increasing agricultural productivity, and supporting sustainable livelihoods for communities.

The committee members agreed to intensify cooperation and establish stronger follow-up mechanisms to ensure the effective delivery of the project's planned activities and objectives.

The FSRP initiative is expected to play a significant role in building resilient food systems, supporting farmers, and improving agricultural development through coordinated efforts and strategic investments.

capacity to perform precisely these functions.

International actors have repeatedly engaged with Somaliland's authorities on maritime security, counter-piracy, humanitarian coordination, commercial investment, and regional stability. Such engagement reflects a practical acknowledgement that Somaliland possesses institutions capable of contributing to the effective functioning of the wider regional order.

Yet this practical engagement has not been accompanied by corresponding diplomatic recognition.

Here lies the central paradox.

In practice, Somaliland is increasingly treated as a functional political actor. In law, however, it remains largely excluded from the diplomatic framework normally associated with sustained governmental effectiveness.

Three decades ago, international caution reflected genuine uncertainty. Today, the defining characteristics of Somaliland are no longer uncertainty but continuity. Its institutions have endured, its administrative capacity has expanded, its economy has become more closely integrated into regional markets, and its strategic relevance has grown alongside intensifying competition across the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa.

This does not mean that effective governance or strategic importance automatically justify recognition. Recognition remains one of the most consequential acts available to sovereign states and must always take broader legal, political, and regional considerations into account.

It does suggest, however, that the justification for continued non-recognition becomes progressively more demanding as political reality

becomes more firmly established.

Immediately after conflict, governments may reasonably explain why recognition would be premature.

After more than three decades of uninterrupted governance, the more difficult question becomes whether continued non-recognition still reflects prudence—or whether it has become an increasingly difficult position to justify.

Answering that question requires examining the arguments that have sustained international caution for so long.

The persistence of Somaliland's diplomatic isolation cannot be explained by a single factor. It reflects the interaction of legal caution, regional politics, and strategic calculation. Any serious argument in favour of recognition must therefore engage directly with the reasons why recognition has been withheld for so long.

The most frequently cited concern is the territorial integrity of Somalia. Since the collapse of the Somali state in 1991, successive governments and international organizations have invested substantial political, financial, and diplomatic resources in rebuilding Somalia as a unified sovereign state. Throughout this period, preserving Somalia's internationally recognized borders has remained a central objective. From this perspective, recognizing Somaliland could appear to undermine decades of state-building efforts before they have reached their intended conclusion.

This concern is neither superficial nor unreasonable.

Territorial integrity remains one of the foundational principles of the contemporary international legal order. It discourages unilateral

To be continue next week