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## 'Continuity' Must Shape the Future, Says Information Minister at Hargeysa International Book Fair Opening Ceremony



**Hon. Batuun Calls for Preserving Knowledge and Empowering Future Generations**

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### Dr. Jama Marks 19th HIBF with a Call to Preserve Culture Across Generations: "Continuity Is Our Living Legacy"

The 19th Hargeysa International Book Fair opened with a powerful message of continuity, cultural preservation, and inter-African connection as Dr. Jama Musse Jama, the founder and director of the festival, declared that



the passing of knowledge, vision, and values from one generation to another remains the foundation of the annual cultural gathering. Addressing ministers, government

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Eswatini Brings African Heritage to the Forefront as Guest Country Panel Celebrates the Power of Indigenous Knowledge at HIBF



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### Edna Adan Celebrates Books as Bridges Between Cultures at Hargeisa Book Fair



**Mohamoud Walaaleye**

The 19th Hargeisa International Book Fair opened with a powerful call to embrace continuity as the foundation for cultural growth, education, and peaceful societies, as Honorary

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### Louise Hancock Highlights the Power of Reading at Hargeisa Book Fair

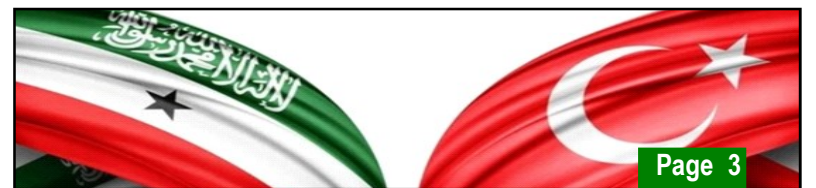


**Mohamoud Walaaleye**

The 19th Hargeisa International Book Fair opened with a message that captured the spirit of literature and lifelong learning. Head of the British Office, Ms. Louise Hancock,

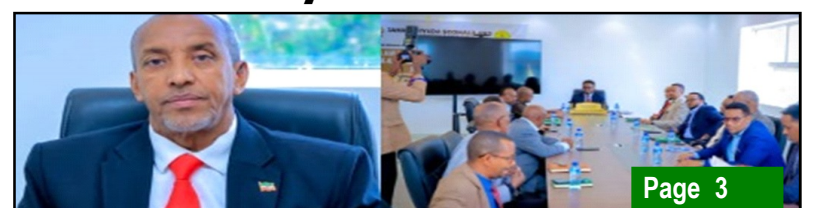
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### Turkish Disguised Diplomacy Meets Somaliland's Wall of Public Resistance



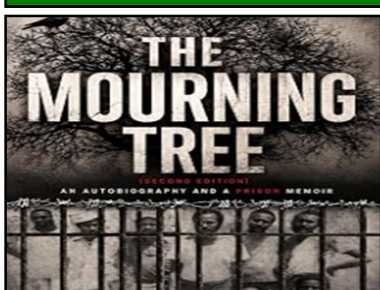
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### Finance Minister Unveils 2027 Budget Priorities in High-Level Meeting with Parliamentary Committee



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### New Release Shines Light on Somaliland's Past: *The Mourning Tree* Returns in a Powerful Second Edition



**Mohamoud Walaaleye**

A compelling new edition of *The Mourning Tree: A Prison Memoir about Confinement and Courage* by Mohamed Barud Ali has been released, offering readers a deeply moving account of resilience, political oppression,

and the enduring spirit of the Somali people. Now available in Kindle Edition for \$9.98, the revised and updated second edition brings fresh clarity to an already acclaimed memoir.

Opening with the striking words, Continue on Page 3

### "If You Don't Pay Taxes, How Can You Hold the Government Accountable?" – Gaboobe Defends GST



**Mohamoud Walaaleye**

Yusuf Abdi Gaboobe has underscored the importance of the Goods and Services Tax (GST),

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'Continuity' Must Shape the.....

Dr. Jama Marks 19th HIBF.....



M.A. Egge. Republic of Somaliland's Minister of Information, **Hon. Barkhad Jama Batuun**, opened the 19th Hargeisa International Book Fair with a message emphasizing that lasting progress depends on preserving history while empowering future generations. Addressing participants at the opening ceremony, the minister reflected on this year's theme, **"Continuity,"** describing it as a reminder that meaningful progress must remain rooted in a nation's history and shared values. "This year's theme, *Continuity*, reminds us that progress is only meaningful when it is rooted in our history and our shared values," he said. The minister stressed that safeguarding knowledge, creativity, and dialogue is a collective national responsibility. He said these pillars

are essential to ensuring that future generations inherit not only the stories of the past but also the confidence to create new ones. "As a nation, we have a responsibility to ensure that knowledge, creativity, and dialogue continue to flourish, so that the next generation inherits not only our stories but also the confidence to

write new ones," he stated. His remarks underscored the central message of this year's Hargeisa International Book Fair: that literature, culture, and education serve as enduring bridges between generations, preserving heritage while inspiring innovation and shaping the future.



officials, diplomats, writers, scholars, poets, students, cultural leaders, and international guests at the opening ceremony, Dr. Jama welcomed participants from across the world and highlighted the festival's role as a bridge connecting communities through literature and storytelling. Among the honored guests was the delegation from Eswatini, this year's guest country, led by Dr. Dlamini and Judith Mthupha. Dr. Jama described their presence as an opportunity to deepen cultural ties between the Horn of Africa and Southern Africa. "Literature and storytelling know no borders across our continent," he said, emphasizing that the partnership with Eswatini represents more than official relations—it is a human connection built through shared traditions, poetry, history, and artistic expression. The opening ceremony also paid tribute to two respected figures in Somaliland's cultural landscape who passed away recently: veteran journalist and producer Mahamud Abdi Ali "Duale" and renowned poet Adan Tarabbi Jama, a member of the Mus-danbeed poets and journalists' council. Dr. Jama called on attendees to remember their contributions and prayed for peace and blessings upon them. Reflecting on the history of the Hargeisa International Book Fair, Dr. Jama noted that the festival has grown over 19 years into an institution sustained by generations of cultural leaders. He said many of today's young organizers first attended the festival as children and are now managing the event themselves.

"This is what we mean by continuity," he said, explaining that continuity is not merely the passage of time but the deliberate transfer of memory, purpose, and responsibility from one generation to the next. Dr. Jama expressed appreciation to the Somaliland government institutions that supported the festival, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, immigration authorities, and security forces. He praised Somaliland's security environment as a foundation that allows cultural events and international exchanges to flourish.

He also highlighted cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, saying culture remains central to education and announcing plans for future collaboration in areas including language, culture, and learning. The Ministry of Trade and Tourism was also recognized for its role in promoting Somaliland's economic and cultural heritage, including attractions such as the Laas Geel caves and the historic frankincense trade. Special appreciation was extended to the Ministry of Information, National Guidance, and Culture for its long-standing partnership with the book fair. Dr. Jama welcomed Minister Hon. Barkhad Batun, describing his involvement in cultural initiatives, including the "Qabyaalad Diid" campaign launched at the Hargeysa Cultural Centre alongside former Mayor Abdikarim Ahmed Moge and other partners. Dr. Jama also acknowledged the contributions of international partners, including the British Office, Danish Office, and Taiwan Representative Office, describing their relationships as partnerships built on consistency and mutual commitment. He invited participants to attend the "Culinary Diplomacy" session, a project recently completed with Danish support, focusing on food, culture, and cultural exchange. The festival, he said, continues to rely on the support of Somaliland's people, volunteers, and sponsors. He welcomed new sponsor Omaar Company, thanked Dahabshiil for its continued support, and praised volunteers whose dedication makes the event possible. This year's program features six days of activities, including more than 44 book launches, 22 academic and social discussion panels, art exhibitions, music performances, traditional dances, and children's programs. Closing his remarks, Dr. Jama invited attendees to experience the festival in the spirit of its central theme: **Continuity — a celebration of memory, identity, and the future carried forward by new generations.**

Louise Hancock Highlights the Power of.....

addressing the audience on behalf of the international diplomatic community present in Somaliland, reflected on the transformative role of books in shaping minds, cultures, and societies. She began with a personal quotation that resonated throughout her address: "I never went anywhere without a book. It taught me how to think, not what to think." Greeting the audience with "Subax Wanaagsan" and "Good morning," Hancock welcomed distinguished guests, book lovers, international scholars, authors, and artists, while extending a special welcome to participants from **Eswatini**, the guest country for this year's festival. Calling it a great honor to attend the Hargeisa International Book Fair for the second consecutive year, she paid tribute to **Dr. Jama M. Jama**, the **Red Sea Cultural Foundation**, and the **Hargeisa Cultural Centre** for their unwavering dedication to sustaining the festival for nearly two decades. She described the celebration of the fair's nineteenth edition as a remarkable achievement and evidence of its lasting influence as one of the region's longest-running literary and cultural festivals. Reflecting on this year's theme,

**"Continuity,"** Hancock said it serves as a reminder of the enduring power of books to connect the past, present, and future. According to her, books carry knowledge, ideas, and stories across generations, preserving history, strengthening culture, and inspiring new ways of thinking. She emphasized that reading enables people to learn from those who came before them while equipping future generations to build a better tomorrow. Continuity, she noted, is not only about preserving inherited knowledge but also about ensuring it is passed on. Sharing a personal reflection, Hancock described herself as a childhood "bookworm," recalling that she rarely went anywhere without a book. She credited reading with teaching her how to think independently rather than telling her what to think, underscoring the role of literature in fostering critical thinking and intellectual curiosity. As the fair officially opened, Hancock encouraged readers, writers, educators, and young people to renew their commitment to reading, lifelong learning, and supporting literature in all its forms. She expressed hope that this year's festival would spark fresh ideas,

meaningful conversations, and inspire a lasting love of books among all who attend. Her remarks reinforced the Hargeisa International Book Fair's enduring mission: to celebrate literature as a bridge between generations, cultures, and ideas, ensuring that knowledge continues to inspire both present and future generations.

Edna Adan Celebrates.....

Patron **Edna Adan Ismail** welcomed writers, scholars, diplomats, and guests from around the world to this year's festival. Opening the event, Edna Adan described the book fair as more than a literary gathering, saying it is a celebration of the cultural connections and lasting friendships that books make possible. She extended a special welcome to **Eswatini**, this year's guest country, saying its participation enriches the festival and further strengthens the cultural ties between the two nations. She added that the presence of the Eswatini delegation reflects the enduring friendship and solidarity shared by their peoples. Reflecting on this year's theme, **"Continuity,"** Edna Adan said that while every journey begins with a first step, it is the determination to continue that ultimately shapes nations. She noted that the Hargeisa International Book Fair started as a modest initiative but, through

perseverance and commitment, has grown into one of the region's most respected cultural festivals. She said the fair's success has inspired other towns across Somaliland and neighboring countries to establish their own book fairs, describing this expansion as a living example of continuity in action. Highlighting the wider role of literature, Edna Adan said books build bridges between cultures, generations, and nations, fostering understanding, strengthening cooperation, and promoting peace and confidence among communities. Addressing young people, she encouraged them to make reading the foundation of their lives, writing their voice, and knowledge their contribution to the peace and development of Somaliland. The Honorary Patron also invited international guests to experience Somaliland beyond the book fair by

enjoying the country's hospitality, traditional cuisine, and visible development over the past decade. She encouraged visitors to explore **Laas Geel**, one of Africa's most remarkable prehistoric rock art sites, estimated to be more than 7,000 years old, and to visit the coastal city of **Berbera** to enjoy the warm waters of the Gulf of Aden. She further encouraged guests to explore local markets, shopping centers, and cultural attractions, while experiencing everyday Somaliland life, from traditional camel husbandry to the warmth of local communities. Concluding her address, Edna Adan called on participants to celebrate continuity as both the courage to begin and the commitment to persevere. She urged everyone to honor the enduring power of books to unite cultures, strengthen friendships, and build peaceful societies before warmly welcoming participants to the 19th Hargeisa International Book Fair.



## New Release Shines Light on .....

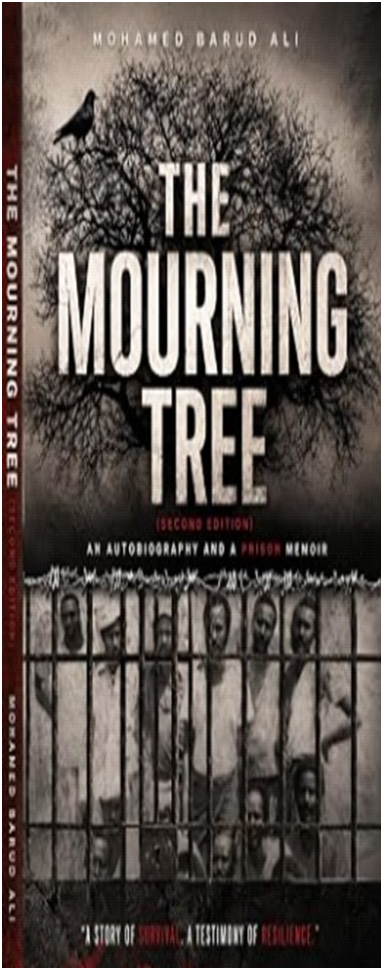
“Some prisons are built with walls. Others are built with fear, silence, and injustice,” the memoir chronicles Mohamed Barud Ali’s remarkable journey from his childhood in British Somaliland to the harsh realities of dictatorship, imprisonment, and exile.

Named after the Weerane, the “Mourning Tree” beneath which the author was born, the book captures far more than one man’s imprisonment. It paints a vivid portrait of Somali traditions, family life, faith, humour, and resilience while documenting the political transformations that shaped Somaliland’s modern history. Through powerful storytelling, Ali reflects on growing up in Hargeisa, the influence of his family and community, the rise of authoritarian rule, and the devastating impact of arbitrary detention. His memoir stands as both a personal testimony and a historical record, preserving memories of injustice while celebrating the strength and dignity

of the Somali people. The newly revised second edition enhances the narrative with updated content and improved clarity, making this powerful memoir even more accessible to today’s readers. *The Mourning Tree* will appeal to readers interested in Somali history and culture, African history, political imprisonment, human rights, memoirs, biographies, East African history, and stories of survival and resilience.

**Book Details**  
· **Title:** *The Mourning Tree: A Prison Memoir about Confinement and Courage* (Second Edition)  
· **Author:** Mohamed Barud Ali  
· **Format:** Kindle Edition  
· **Price:** \$9.98

With its blend of personal courage, historical insight, and cultural richness, *The Mourning Tree* stands as an unforgettable testament to the power of memory, hope, and the human spirit in the face of injustice.



## Turkish Disguised Diplomacy Meets.....



**Mohamoud Walaaleye**

Intelligence circulating among political observers suggests that Turkey has quietly shifted part of its Somaliland strategy from official diplomacy to behind-the-scenes public engagement after recognizing that large segments of Somaliland’s population remain deeply skeptical of Ankara’s role in the Horn of Africa.

According to information partly published by journalist Abdi Bidhaan, Turkish-linked outreach has been suspected of increasingly targeting opposition figures, civil society organizations, academics, and influential community leaders in what appears to be an effort to soften public opinion. However, the initiative is believed to have produced little or only limited success, with many Somaliland stakeholders continuing to view Turkey through the lens of its longstanding partnership with Somalia’s Federal Government.

For years, Turkey has been one of Somalia’s closest international

allies, investing heavily in Mogadishu through infrastructure projects, military cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and diplomatic backing. While Ankara has repeatedly presented itself as a neutral facilitator in past failed attempts at dialogue between Somaliland and Somalia, many Somalilanders believe Turkey’s strategic interests remain firmly aligned with Mogadishu.

Political analysts argue that this perception has become one of the biggest obstacles facing any Turkish attempt to rebuild trust inside Somaliland.

“The challenge is not simply diplomatic,” one regional observer noted. “It is a matter of credibility. Somalilanders judge countries largely by their actions rather than their statements.”

The reported outreach campaign comes at a time when Somaliland is broadening its international partnerships with countries and institutions viewed domestically as

more receptive to its aspirations for international recognition and strategic cooperation.

Civil society voices in Somaliland have consistently emphasized that any external engagement must begin with respect for Somaliland’s political realities, democratic institutions, and the will of its people.

Despite reports of expanded engagement, there is little evidence that Turkish outreach has significantly altered public sentiment. Instead, many observers believe Somaliland’s population continues to prioritize partnerships with nations perceived to acknowledge its distinct political trajectory and strategic importance in the Horn of Africa.

Whether Ankara adjusts its broader regional policy or continues its current approach may determine whether future efforts can bridge the trust deficit that has long characterized its relationship with Somaliland.

## “If You Don’t Pay Taxes.....



describing taxation as the backbone of effective governance and a vital source of funding for essential public services.

Speaking on the role of taxation in state-building, Gaboobe said the GST on sales is a widely used system across neighboring countries and provides a transparent way of determining how much each citizen contributes to government revenue.

“The GST on sales is a tax that is already paid in neighboring countries. It is the most effective way to determine what each citizen contributes, enabling them to hold the government accountable for the services it provides,” Gaboobe said. He stressed that tax revenue is critical for financing public services such as healthcare, education, road infrastructure, and national security, arguing that sustainable development depends on a functioning tax system.

Gaboobe also highlighted the relationship between taxation and public accountability, saying citizens

who contribute to government revenue are better positioned to demand quality public services.

“If you do not pay taxes, on what basis can you hold the government accountable?” he asked.

Addressing public trust in government, Gaboobe emphasized that authorities have a responsibility to ensure transparency in the management of public funds. He said governments must clearly communicate how taxpayers’ money is spent to strengthen confidence and improve accountability.

“It is the government’s duty to openly and transparently inform the public about how the taxes they pay are being used,” he concluded.

His remarks come amid ongoing discussions about tax reforms and the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), with supporters arguing that a transparent tax system can strengthen governance, improve public service delivery, and reinforce accountability between citizens and the state.

## Somaliland Launches Xoolo-Jire :



**M.A. Egge**

A financing initiative designed to support the development of the livestock business and strengthen the economy that depends on livestock production, the **Xoolo-Jire Program**, has been officially launched by the Minister of Livestock Development Hon. Omar Shu’ayb Mohamed, on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2026.

The program aims to provide financial support to entrepreneurs and stakeholders involved in the livestock value chain by encouraging investment, increasing productivity, and creating new economic opportunities. The initiative through Micro-dahab will aid in modernizing livestock services, improve financial inclusion for livestock owners, and strengthen one of Somaliland’s most important economic sectors.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Omar Shuayb emphasized that livestock remains the backbone of Somaliland’s economy and the livelihoods of its people. He

disclosed that more than three million head of livestock have already been exported through Berbera Port during 2026, despite the year not yet being over.

“In 2026, our country’s livestock exports have already exceeded three million head mark,” the minister said.

Addressing participants at the launch of the Xoolo-Jire livestock financing program, he stressed that livestock farming is a highly rewarding sector with minimal risk when properly managed.

He encouraged the public to strengthen livestock husbandry and invest in the development of the sector so that Somaliland can maximize both its economic benefits and the value generated by its livestock industry.

As noted at the launch, microfinance institutions invested a total of US\$25 million across Somaliland during 2025, an investment that generated US\$40 million in assets, representing a 66 percent return on the capital invested.



## Finance Minister Unveils 2027 Budget Priorities in High-Level Meeting with Parliamentary Committee



Mohamoud Walaaleye  
Republic of Somaliland's Minister of Finance and Economic Development Hon. Abdilahi 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.

## Water Minister Launches New Borehole Project in Bali-kaliil

**By M.A. Egge**  
Somaliland's Minister of Water Development, Hon. Mohamed Abdimalik Ahmed, officially laid the foundation stone for a new borehole project in the town of Bali-kaliil, Sabawanaag District. The Minister was accompanied by his Director General Abdishakur Ismail, the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, several members of parliament, senior government officials, traditional elders, and local community representatives. All speakers at the function highlighted the importance of the project for improving water services to the people of the area.

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.

## Eswatini Brings African Heritage to the Forefront as Guest Country Panel Celebrates the Power of Indigenous Knowledge at HIBF



Mohamoud Walaaleye  
The Hargeysa International Book Fair's Guest Country panel brought together voices from the Kingdom of Eswatini to explore how indigenous knowledge, cultural preservation, and intergenerational learning continue to shape resilient societies across Africa. Moderated by **Fatima Ahmed Omer**, the session featured **Dr. Boyie Sabelo Dlamini**, an academic and multidisciplinary researcher from Eswatini, alongside **Judith Mthupha**, a librarian, researcher, and cultural documentation officer whose work focuses on preserving Eswatini's rich cultural heritage. Presenting his paper, **"The Power of Hybrid Indigenous Knowledge and Contribution,"** Dr. Dlamini argued that indigenous knowledge remains a vital force for sustainable social development. He explained that hybrid indigenous knowledge represents the blending of different systems of knowledge rooted in local communities and their environments. According to Dr. Dlamini, knowledge developed through generations of interaction with particular places provides communities with practical and cultural tools to address contemporary challenges while maintaining their identity. When combined with other forms of knowledge, he said, indigenous wisdom becomes a powerful instrument for transforming society without losing its cultural foundations.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of safeguarding traditions for future generations. Drawing on more than two decades of experience in information management and heritage preservation, Judith Mthupha shared her work documenting Swazi clan histories, oral traditions, and cultural practices that risk disappearing. Since joining the Eswatini National Trust Commission in 2022, she has played a leading role in protecting both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Responding to a question on how young people can actively keep culture alive, Mthupha stressed the

importance of involving youth in traditional national events. She pointed to Eswatini's renowned **Umhlanga Reed Dance**, explaining that the celebration is far more than a cultural performance. While participants spend days gathering reeds and preparing for the ceremony, they also receive instruction in cultural values, principles, and community responsibilities. "The youth are encouraged to attend such events," she said, noting that these gatherings provide an opportunity to pass cultural knowledge directly from one generation to the next. The panel reflected the broader theme of the 2026 Hargeysa International Book Fair—**Continuity**—by demonstrating how living traditions can remain relevant in modern societies. As this year's Guest Country, the Kingdom of Eswatini was presented as a nation where centuries-old customs, indigenous governance, and cultural institutions continue to coexist with contemporary life. The discussion highlighted striking parallels between Eswatini and Somaliland, noting that both societies have drawn resilience, stability, and social cohesion from deeply rooted local traditions rather than externally imposed systems. Speakers described the partnership as an opportunity for mutual learning, bringing together two African societies with shared experiences of protecting identity, preserving heritage, and strengthening communities through culture. Through literature, oral history, research, and the performing arts, the Guest Country program showcased how indigenous knowledge remains a living resource rather than a relic of the past. The panel concluded with a shared message that preserving cultural roots is not about resisting change but about ensuring that future generations inherit the knowledge, identity, and confidence needed to shape Africa's future while remaining firmly connected to its past.



## In Memory of a Legend: The Life and Legacy of Abwân Adan Tarabi Jamac- Ahmed Quick



a brilliant playwright and a resident composer for the legendary **Waaberi Band**. He authored deeply philosophical plays like *Good iyo Guuleed*, *Sabool-diid*, and *Dhilan*. His lyrical catalog includes some of the most celebrated and timeless love and social commentaries in Somali history:

· **Goor iyo Ayaan** (1969): His debut theatrical song, beautifully performed by **Shankaroon Axmed Yuusuf (Sagal)**.

· **Yufloo**: A defiant and witty song born out of a legal dispute brought against the poet, immortalized by the powerful vocals of **Kinsi Xaaji Aadan**.

· **Dar Allaad u Hurudaa**: A soul-stirring masterpiece performed by the legendary king of Somali music, **Maxamed Mooge Liibaan**.

· **Bal Dawooy**: A classic duet that remains a staple of Somali romance, performed by **Cabdiraxmaan Xasan Rooraaye** and **Aamina Cabdilaahi Xirsi**.

· **Gacan Saydh**: A deeply philosophical track performed by **Gaasira Maxamed Cabdi**.

An Irreplaceable Loss  
Abwân Adan Tarabi Jamac was more than a poet; he was a historian, a revolutionary, and a custodian of the Somali language. His ability to weave complex political truths into beautiful, rhythmic verses ensured that his work resonated with both guerrilla fighters in the mountains and citizens in the cities.

Though he has passed, his massive archive of plays, songs, and poems will continue to educate, entertain, and inspire generations to come. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Beyond political poetry, Tarabi was

poetry).  
The Poet as a Freedom Fighter and Activist

Adan Tarabi was never a passive observer of history. He weaponized his verses against oppression and played an indispensable role in the modern history of the Horn of Africa.

· **The SNM Liberation Movement**: As a veteran fighter and intellectual of the **Somali National Movement (SNM)**, Tarabi used his poetry to mobilize, boost morale, and articulate the collective pain and aspirations of the people during the liberation struggle and the subsequent state-building of Somaliland.

· **The Deelleey Chain**: He was a prominent voice in the famous **Silsiladdii Deelleey** (The Deelleey Poetic Chain). This historic, multi-poet intellectual duel was a sophisticated, coded form of literary resistance used by prominent Somali poets to critique the injustices and authoritarianism of the military regime.

A Master of Theater and Songwriting  
Beyond political poetry, Tarabi was

The Somali literary world is in deep mourning following the passing of **Abwân Adan Tarabi Jamac**, one of the most towering cultural icons and poets of the 20th and 21st centuries. Following his death, he was honored with a state funeral in Hargeisa, Somaliland, on July 22, 2026, marking the end of an era for Somali oral literature, theater, and political activism.

**Early Life and Cultural Roots**  
Born in **1948** in the rural landscapes of **Caynaba**, Adan Tarabi was raised in a region deeply steeped in the nomadic traditions of storytelling and poetry. His childhood spanned across the Sanaag, Sool, and Sahil (Berbera) regions, before he moved to the bustling city of **Burao** to pursue his Quranic and foundational education.

Tarabi's poetic genius was both a natural gift and a family inheritance:

· **Maternal Influence**: His mother, **Saaqa Yuusuf**, was a highly respected poet in her own right.

· **Paternal Legacy**: His uncle, **Maxamuud Jaamac (Maxamuud Daalin)**, was a master of the traditional Somali *gabay* (epic

## President Abdirahman Irro reiterates Somaliland unity and solidarity

*The upholding of reconciliatory peaceful coexistence is imperative, he urges*



By M.A. Egge  
The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro has reiterated once again that any grievances by any particular region and its people are to be ironed out peacefully and through dialogue and reconciliatory means, mutual understanding, brotherhood, and with solid national unity.

While speaking on the imperativeness of peaceful coexistence, he noted that the Sool region was an integral part and parcel of Somaliland hence should be welcomed back into the fold with open arms since its people are indeed fellow Somalilander citizens. The Head of State gave the facts as he chaired the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the council of cabinet weekly meeting on Wednesday, while flanked by his deputy H.E. Mohamed Ali aw Abdi. The session which focused on a range of national issues, including livestock legislation, national security, government vehicle regulations, peace, education, and water development, saw the National Livestock Holding Pens bill approved.

The cabinet held an extensive discussion on the strategic importance of the National Quarantine Bill, emphasizing its role in safeguarding animal health and welfare, strengthening livestock export systems, ensuring compliance with international veterinary standards, and enhancing the reputation of Somaliland livestock in global markets.

Ministers noted that the legislation is a key pillar for boosting the national economy and maintaining the confidence of international livestock markets.

Following deliberations, the Cabinet unanimously approved the National Livestock Holding Pens Bill by a show of hands, with no votes against or abstentions.

Other issues discussed included; -

**Security situation**  
Minister of Interior and National Security Abdalle Mohamed Arab briefed the Cabinet on the country's security situation, stating that Somaliland remains peaceful and secure, with no reports of unrest or instability across its regions.

He added that the country's security agencies continue to strengthen measures aimed at preserving national peace and stability.

**New Regulations for Government Vehicle Registration**

Minister of Transport and Road Development Hon. Osman Ibrahim Noor (Afgaab) presented new procedures regulating the use of official government vehicle registration plates.

He pointed out that government vehicles will no longer be permitted to remove their official GT registration plates, temporarily or not, and replace them with private vehicle number plates.

According to the Minister, the new regulations are intended to enhance the security and accountability of government vehicles, improve transparency in their use, and ensure that state-owned vehicles are used responsibly in carrying out official duties, recognizing them as national assets requiring proper protection and management.

**President Reaffirms Peace and National Unity**

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Cirro stressed that peace, unity, and national cohesion remain the Somaliland government's highest priorities.

The President reaffirmed that the Sool region is an integral part of the Republic of Somaliland and described its residents as fellow Somaliland citizens. He called for them to be welcomed with open arms and urged that any grievances be resolved through dialogue, mutual understanding, brotherhood, and national unity.

increase citizens' incomes, and strengthen the productive capacity of our country," said Deputy Governor Khaire.

The launch of the Xoolo-jire Program reflects growing collaboration between Somaliland's financial sector and

the livestock industry, with stakeholders seeking innovative financial solutions to support pastoralists, improve livestock services, and further strengthen a sector that remains the cornerstone of the national economy.

## Central Bank Deputy Governor: Livestock Remains Somaliland's Economic Backbone



Mohamoud Walaaleye  
The Deputy Governor of the Central Bank, Mr. Hamse Abdirahman Khaire, has described livestock as the backbone of Somaliland's economy, emphasizing its critical role in generating national income, creating jobs, and earning foreign exchange for the country. Speaking at the official launch of the Xoolo-jire Program, an initiative introduced by Micro-Dahab, Mr. Khaire said the livestock sector remains one of Somaliland's greatest economic assets and continues to make a significant contribution to the country's development. "Livestock is a major source of

income for the country. It creates employment opportunities and is one of Somaliland's primary sources of foreign currency earnings," he said.

The Deputy Governor praised Micro-Dahab for introducing the Xoolo-jire Program, describing it as a timely initiative that will help modernize livestock services, improve financial inclusion for livestock owners, and strengthen one of Somaliland's most important economic sectors.

**Microfinance Driving Economic Growth**

Mr. Khaire also highlighted the growing contribution of Somaliland's microfinance institutions, noting that they have become key drivers of economic expansion by providing access to finance for businesses and entrepreneurs.

According to the Deputy Governor, microfinance institutions invested a total of US\$25 million across Somaliland during 2025, an investment that generated US\$40 million in assets, representing a 66

percent return on the capital invested.

He said the figures demonstrate the positive impact of microfinance on the country's economic development and wealth creation. Call for More Investment in Productive Sectors

While describing the performance of the sector as encouraging, Mr. Khaire urged financial institutions to increase investment in productive industries capable of creating sustainable employment and boosting national production.

He stressed that financing should prioritize projects that generate jobs, raise household incomes, and strengthen Somaliland's productive capacity.

"Microfinance institutions invested US\$25 million in the country during 2025. That investment generated assets worth US\$40 million, representing a 66 percent return. This is an encouraging achievement, but we must continue expanding investment directed toward productive sectors—investments that create jobs,

# THT Puzzle

Prepared by: Abdillahi Said Muhummed

|    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
|----|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|
|    |  | 1  |    | 2  |    | 3  |    | 4  |    |    | 5  |  |
| 6  |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 7  |    | 8  |  |
|    |  |    | 9  |    |    |    |    |    |    | 10 |    |  |
| 11 |  |    |    |    |    |    | 12 | 13 | 14 |    |    |  |
|    |  |    | 15 |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    | 17 |  |
| 18 |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |  |
|    |  |    |    |    | 20 | 21 |    | 22 |    |    |    |  |
| 23 |  | 24 |    |    |    | 25 |    |    |    |    |    |  |
|    |  |    |    | 26 |    |    |    |    |    | 27 |    |  |
| 28 |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 29 |    | 30 |  |
| 31 |  |    |    |    |    | 32 | 33 |    |    |    |    |  |
|    |  |    |    | 34 |    |    |    |    | 35 |    |    |  |

| Across                | Down                   |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. publish/ broadcast | 1 wing chair           |
| 6. otherwise          | 2 right now            |
| 7. father             | 3 confederation        |
| 9. in which one       | 4 consistency          |
| 10. Negative          | 5 countless            |
| 11. snows             | 8 make                 |
| 12. simple            | 31 by the side of      |
| 16. northern          | 14 that girl (pronoun) |
| 18. chocolates        | 15 brainstorm          |
| 19. swallow/ dinner   | 17 continues           |
| 20. pop group         | 21 belongings          |
| 23. vicinity          | 22 father              |
| 25. CT scan           | 24 occurrence          |
| 26. established       | 26 chosen              |
| 29. network           | 27 Pronoun             |
| 31. jeans             | 28 secret agent        |
| 32. period            | 29 latest              |
| 34. exams             | 30 at most             |
| 35. wetness           |                        |

## Previous Answer

|                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |  |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| A <sup>1</sup>  | R               | E <sup>2</sup>  |                 | C <sup>3</sup>  | A <sup>4</sup>  | P <sup>5</sup>  |                 | R <sup>6</sup>  |                 |                 | U <sup>7</sup>  |  |
| S               |                 | N <sup>8</sup>  | A               | R               | R               | A               | T               | I               | V               | E <sup>9</sup>  | S               |  |
| K               |                 | S               |                 | Y <sup>10</sup> | E               | S               |                 | S               |                 | A               |                 |  |
|                 |                 | U               |                 |                 | A <sup>11</sup> | S               | S               | I               | S <sup>12</sup> | T               | S <sup>13</sup> |  |
| C <sup>14</sup> | A <sup>15</sup> | R               | E <sup>16</sup> |                 |                 | E               |                 | N <sup>17</sup> | O               |                 | U               |  |
|                 | R <sup>18</sup> | E               | A               | S               | O               | N               |                 | G <sup>19</sup> | O               |                 | N               |  |
| G <sup>20</sup> | O               |                 | S               |                 |                 | G <sup>21</sup> | O               |                 | N               |                 |                 |  |
|                 | U               |                 | Y               |                 | B <sup>22</sup> | E               |                 | O <sup>23</sup> |                 | I <sup>24</sup> | S <sup>25</sup> |  |
| A <sup>26</sup> | N               | D               |                 | A <sup>27</sup> | R               | R               | O <sup>28</sup> | W               | S               |                 | E               |  |
|                 | D               |                 | R <sup>29</sup> |                 | A               |                 | U <sup>30</sup> | N               |                 | B <sup>31</sup> | E               |  |
| N <sup>32</sup> |                 | J <sup>33</sup> | U               | N               | I               | O               | R               |                 |                 | E               |                 |  |
| O <sup>34</sup> | N               |                 | G               |                 | N               |                 | S <sup>35</sup> | A               | I               | D               |                 |  |

## Kulmiye Party Congratulates New UK Prime Minister, Seeks Stronger Somaliland–Britain Partnership

Mohamoud Walaaleye

Republic of Somaliland's opposition Kulmiye Party has extended its congratulations to the United Kingdom's newly appointed Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Andy Burnham, expressing optimism that his leadership will usher in a new chapter in the historic relationship between Somaliland and Britain. In a formal congratulatory letter signed by Kulmiye Party Chairman Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed, the party congratulated Burnham on his election as Leader of the Labour Party and his appointment as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, wishing him success in leading the British government.

“On behalf of the Kulmiye Party and the people of the Republic of Somaliland, I extend our warmest congratulations on your election as Leader of the Labour Party and your appointment as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom,” the letter stated.

The party highlighted Kulmiye's longstanding commitment to democratic governance, noting that since its establishment in 2002, it has consistently championed constitutional rule, democratic pluralism, peaceful transfers of power, the rule of law, and the strengthening of democratic institutions. According to the letter, these democratic principles have been

central to Somaliland's political development and continue to form the foundation of its enduring relationship with the United Kingdom.

Kulmiye also emphasized that Burnham's appointment comes at a pivotal moment in Somaliland's democratic journey, particularly following what it described as the Republic of Somaliland's historic recognition by the State of Israel. The party expressed confidence that the United Kingdom—recognized in the letter as the first country to acknowledge Somaliland's independence on 26 June 1960—would continue to deepen its historic ties with Somaliland based on shared democratic values, longstanding relations, and mutual commitments to peace, stability, and international cooperation.

Looking ahead, Kulmiye said it hopes to see closer collaboration between Somaliland and the United Kingdom across areas of common interest, emphasizing that stronger bilateral engagement would benefit both peoples.

The letter concluded with assurances of the party's highest consideration and its desire to further strengthen the longstanding partnership between Somaliland and the United Kingdom under Prime Minister Burnham's leadership.

## Somaliland, TaiwanICDF Deepen Strategic Development Partnership Following High-Level Talks in Taipei

Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Representative Office of the Republic of Somaliland in Taiwan has hosted a high-level delegation from the Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF), reaffirming the growing partnership between Somaliland and Taiwan and paving the way for expanded development cooperation.

The delegation was led by TaiwanICDF Secretary General Dr. Huang Yu-Lin, who held talks with the Republic of Somaliland's Representative to Taiwan, Ambassador Mahmoud Adam Jama Galaal, at the Somaliland Representative Office in Taipei. Ambassador Galaal welcomed the visiting delegation and praised TaiwanICDF for its unwavering support of Somaliland's development agenda. He expressed appreciation for the organization's continued investment in projects that have contributed to strengthening key sectors across the country.

During the meeting, Dr. Huang Yu-Lin reiterated TaiwanICDF's commitment to its partnership with Somaliland, highlighting the fund's ongoing and completed development initiatives. He emphasized the organization's readiness to continue supporting projects that promote sustainable

development and improve the lives of Somaliland's people.

The discussions reviewed the progress of completed projects, assessed ongoing initiatives, and explored future opportunities to expand cooperation between TaiwanICDF and Somaliland's government institutions. Both sides underscored that their partnership—built on mutual trust, shared democratic values, and a common vision for development—continues to grow stronger.

The meeting also reflected the deepening diplomatic and development ties between Somaliland and Taiwan, with both parties expressing confidence that enhanced collaboration will lead to new initiatives in areas of mutual interest.

Concluding the visit, the Somaliland Representative Galaal commended Dr. Huang Yu-Lin and his delegation for their leadership and dedication to advancing bilateral cooperation. He voiced optimism that the strengthened partnership will accelerate impactful development projects and deliver lasting benefits to the people of Somaliland.

The high-level engagement marks another milestone in the expanding Somaliland–Taiwan relationship, reinforcing both sides' commitment to fostering sustainable development through close international cooperation.



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

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 border revision, reduces the risk of interstate conflict, and provides the legal certainty upon which international stability depends. The issue, however, is not whether territorial integrity matters. It unquestionably does. The more difficult question is whether maintaining a legal position that has diverged from political reality for more than three decades continues to strengthen that principle—or whether, over time, it begins to weaken the credibility of the recognition process itself. Somaliland presents an unusual challenge because its legal claim does not fit comfortably within the conventional framework of secession. Supporters of recognition argue that Somaliland emerged as an internationally recognized independent state on 26 June 1960, before voluntarily entering into union with the former Trust Territory of Somalia five days later. They therefore contend that the events of 1991 represented the restoration of an earlier sovereignty rather than the creation of a new state. Critics reject this interpretation and continue to regard Somaliland as an integral part of Somalia's sovereign territory. The purpose of this article is not to resolve that legal disagreement. Rather, it is to observe that the existence of such a disagreement reinforces the need for careful legal analysis rather than political simplification. Somaliland is sufficiently distinctive that it cannot easily be treated as merely another contemporary separatist movement. A second concern relates to precedent. Many governments, particularly across Africa, fear that recognising Somaliland could encourage other territorial movements to pursue independence. Given the continent's history, such caution is understandable. Since the adoption



of the principle of uti possidetis juris, preserving inherited colonial boundaries has been regarded as one of the principal safeguards against widespread territorial conflict. Yet precedent has value only when comparable cases are genuinely comparable. International law does not require fundamentally different situations to be treated identically. Courts distinguish cases. Governments distinguish cases. International organizations distinguish cases. The identification of exceptional circumstances is therefore not a departure from legal reasoning but an essential feature of it. Whether Somaliland ultimately satisfies that threshold remains open to legitimate debate. What is increasingly difficult to sustain, however, is the assumption that its historical circumstances, institutional trajectory, and legal claims are indistinguishable from every other movement seeking independence. The third concern is geopolitical caution. Recognition is never a purely legal act. Governments must also weigh their relations with Somalia, the positions of regional organisations, the interests of external powers, and the broader balance of stability in the Horn of Africa. Even governments that maintain constructive relations with Somaliland have frequently concluded that the political costs of recognition outweigh its immediate benefits. From the perspective of individual governments, such caution is understandable. Collectively, however, it produces an unintended consequence. When every state postpones recognition because it expects another to bear the diplomatic costs of acting first, caution gradually becomes inertia. Recognition ceases to evolve alongside developments on the ground and instead becomes increasingly detached from them. This raises a question that has received remarkably little attention. What are the costs of continued non-recognition? For much of the past three decades, policymakers have concentrated on

the potential consequences of recognising Somaliland. Considerably less attention has been devoted to the consequences of maintaining indefinite ambiguity. Those consequences are becoming progressively more apparent. Legal uncertainty discourages long-term investment. Access to international financial institutions remains constrained. Formal security cooperation becomes unnecessarily complex. Regional infrastructure initiatives continue to operate within a constitutional ambiguity that bears progressively less resemblance to the political realities through which they function. These costs are not borne by Somaliland alone. They increasingly affect the wider Horn of Africa by reducing institutional predictability, complicating regional cooperation, and limiting the effectiveness of long-term economic integration. Recognition should therefore be evaluated not only in terms of the risks associated with changing the status quo, but also in terms of the costs associated with preserving it indefinitely. After more than three decades, that balance deserves to be reconsidered. The debate is no longer simply whether recognition carries risks. It is whether continued non-recognition now carries greater ones. Conclusion For more than three decades, the international debate surrounding Somaliland has revolved around a single question: should it be recognized? This article has argued that this is no longer the most important question. The more fundamental issue is whether the contemporary international order possesses a coherent standard for determining when enduring political reality should ultimately be reflected in diplomatic recognition. Somaliland does not merely challenge the territorial settlement of the Horn of Africa; it challenges the consistency of the international system's own approach to recognition. Recognition was never intended to

Somaliland Police Defend Law Enforcement Role, Stress Respectful Arrest Procedures

Mohamoud Walaaleye The Republic of Somaliland Police Force has reaffirmed its commitment to upholding the rule of law, maintaining public order, and safeguarding national security, while emphasizing that all arrests must be carried out in accordance with legal procedures and with respect for human dignity. Speaking in an interview with Rakaal TV, Somaliland Police Spokesperson Colonel Abdiaziz Sheikh Ismail said the force's core mandate is to enforce the country's laws and ensure peace and order across the nation. He stated that anyone found violating the law would face appropriate legal action. His remarks came in response to questions over recurring public criticism that police officers have, at times, failed to uphold the law. The spokesperson rejected the assertion, insisting that the police remain dedicated to implementing national legislation and protecting the rule of law. "The police were established to protect the law, maintain order, and preserve public security," Colonel Abdiaziz said. "Anyone who breaks

the law will be dealt with through legal measures." Addressing arrest procedures, the police spokesperson clarified that Somaliland's legal framework permits arrests to be made both with and, under specific circumstances, without a warrant. However, he stressed that every arrest must be conducted professionally and respectfully. He underscored that individuals in police custody must not be subjected to abuse or mistreatment, regardless of the allegations against them. "A person may be arrested with or without a warrant where the law allows, but they must always be treated with dignity and respect," he said. "Once someone is in police custody and under the authority of the law, they should never be harmed. The Somaliland Police take this responsibility very seriously." The remarks come amid ongoing public debate over policing standards and the balance between effective law enforcement and the protection of citizens' legal rights in Somaliland. and its growing regional significance together distinguish it from most contemporary territorial disputes. To treat Somaliland simply as another secessionist movement is to overlook the historical and legal characteristics that make its case unusually distinctive. Ultimately, the question is not whether international law should abandon its principles. It is whether those principles are being applied consistently. An international order that values effective governance, institutional resilience, regional stability, and the rule of law cannot indefinitely separate those principles from the political realities they were designed to regulate. To do so is not to preserve international order; it is to weaken the credibility upon which that order ultimately depends. The significance of Somaliland therefore extends beyond one territory on the southern coast of the Gulf of Aden. It raises a broader question about the future of international recognition itself. If diplomatic recognition exists to acknowledge enduring political realities rather than indefinitely postpone them, then prolonged non-recognition requires a justification at least as persuasive as recognition itself. After more than three decades of institutional continuity, effective governance, historical distinctiveness, and increasing

To be continue next week