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KULMIYE, Kaah and WADDANI Simultaneously Defend Israel's Recognition of Somaliland, Scoffs at Somalia PM's Insinuations on recognition

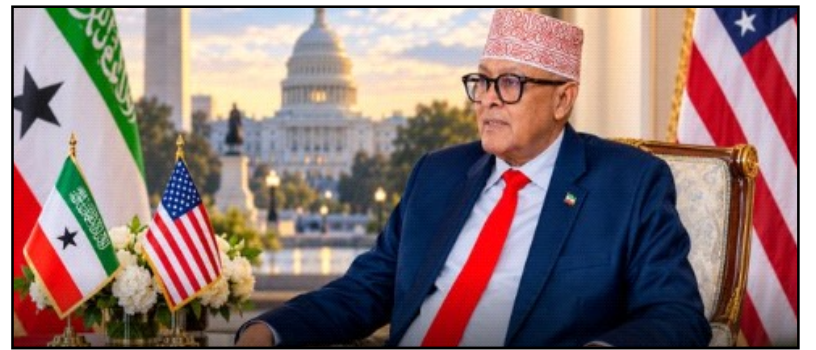


The people of Somaliland, their clerics, scholars, traditional elders and political parties share a fundamental position on Somaliland as a nation and their right to self-determination, asserts Farah

By M.A. Egge

Somaliland's ruling WADDANI Party and opposition parties KULMIYE and Kaah have separately defended Somaliland's position on Israel's recognition of the Republic of Somaliland, and scoffed at insinuations by Somalia's

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HORSEED Leaders and Officials Formally Join Somaliland's Ruling WADDANI Party



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Somaliland Expands Digital Finance System to Hargeisa General Hospital in Major Public Sector Reform



Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of the Republic of Somaliland has expanded its public financial management reform agenda with

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Somaliland, Netherlands and UNICEF Step Up Cooperation on Water and Sanitation Under ASWA Phase III



Mohamoud Walaaleye

Somaliland's Minister of Water Development, Hon. Mohamed Abdi Malik Ahmed, has participated in a high-level meeting focused on Phase III

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Somaliland Livestock Minister Warns of Deadly Rabies Threat, Urges Public to Take Precautions



Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Minister of Livestock and Rural Development of the Republic of Somaliland, Hon. Omar Shu'ayb, has warned the public about the dangers of rabies, describing it as a serious and potentially fatal disease that can spread between animals and humans.

Speaking on the occasion of World Rabies Day, Minister Shu'ayb said rabies is among the dangerous diseases that can cause death once it develops, stressing that while there is no treatment once the disease

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KULMIYE, Kaah and.....



Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre concerning the response of Somaliland's political and traditional institutions. KULMIYE Secretary-General Faisal Abdirahman Madar, speaking at a press conference in Hargeisa, said his party supports Israel's recognition of Somaliland and considers the issue of Somaliland's statehood to be beyond political negotiation. "The KULMIYE Party once again makes clear that the recognition Somaliland received from Israel is not subject to negotiation, and we support it. The decision concerning Somaliland's existence is irreversible, and no one can change it," Madar said. He called on Somalia's federal government to recognize the Republic of Somaliland, saying Mogadishu still had an opportunity to take such a step. He also urged neighbouring countries to support Somaliland's bid for wider international recognition. Israel formally recognized Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state on December 26, 2025, according to the statement, with the two sides subsequently signing a joint declaration establishing diplomatic relations. Similarly, Kaah Party leader Abdikarim Mohamed rejected remarks by Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre, who said Somaliland's religious scholars, traditional elders and political parties did not support Israel's recognition of Somaliland. Hamza made the remarks during an interview with a Somali TV podcast, saying: "We were pleased that the people of Somaliland, the religious scholars, traditional elders and all the political parties are not in agreement with this, and the Somali people do not accept it." He disputed that characterization, saying Somaliland's political parties, religious scholars and traditional elders share what he described as a fundamental position concerning Somaliland's existence and right to self-determination, despite disagreements over other political issues. "I am telling you that the people of Somaliland, their religious scholars, traditional elders and political parties share one 'fundamental' position based on the existence of Somaliland as a nation and their

right to self-determination," he said. He accused the Somali prime minister of misreading political debates within Somaliland and said disagreements among Somaliland's political actors should not be interpreted as opposition to Somaliland's statehood. "Your statement appears to show that you have become confused and lost in the debates and views within Somaliland's political parties and society," Madar said. He concluded his response with a Somali chiding phrase denoting a browbeaten hypocrite, saying, "Let me cry, shut the door so that I hide,"

which he used to characterize what he portrayed as the Somali government's response to developments concerning Somaliland. The conservative WADDANI Party has, on several occasions, strongly and steadfastly defended Israel's recognition of Somaliland, while consistently standing up for the interests of the Republic of Somaliland, whether on the issue of recognition or in support of the government and the President's efforts to secure formal recognition from other countries around the world.

Somaliland Expands.....

the launch of the Somaliland Financial Management Information System (SLFMIS) at Hargeisa General Hospital. The rollout marks another step in the ministry's efforts to modernize financial administration across government institutions by introducing an integrated system designed to improve efficiency, accountability and the management of financial information. Rather than serving solely as a technological upgrade, the implementation of SLFMIS at the hospital forms part of a broader reform programme aimed at establishing standardized and more transparent financial management procedures across Somaliland's public sector. The system will enable Hargeisa General Hospital to manage key financial and administrative functions through an integrated platform, including budgeting, revenue collection, expenditure, payments, procurement and contracts, employee payroll, assets, inventory and financial reporting. The Ministry of Finance is also extending SLFMIS to government hospitals across Somaliland's six main regions, reflecting the broader scope of the programme and the ministry's objective of establishing a unified approach to public financial management throughout government institutions. The implementation has been supported by a series of preparatory measures, including Business Process Re-engineering (BPR), the organization and preparation of financial data, staff training and alignment of the system with Public



Financial Management (PFM) requirements. According to the ministry, the preparation and implementation process at Hargeisa General Hospital was completed over a 25-day period, bringing together technology, institutional reform and workforce training. The ministry says the system is expected to strengthen the accuracy and timeliness of financial reporting while improving the way government institutions manage public resources and make financial decisions. The expansion of SLFMIS to the health sector represents part of a wider effort by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to modernize Somaliland's financial administration. By integrating financial processes and data into a unified system, the ministry aims to strengthen accountability, improve oversight and support more effective public service delivery. The rollout at Hargeisa General Hospital therefore represents a significant stage in Somaliland's ongoing public financial management reforms, as the Ministry of Finance continues to expand digital financial systems across government institutions.

Somaliland, Netherlands.....

of the ASWA Project, a programme supported by the Government of the Netherlands through UNICEF. The meeting brought together officials from Somaliland's Ministries of Water Development, Environment and Climate Change, and Health, alongside representatives from UNICEF and the Netherlands. Discussions centered on strengthening cooperation in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), as well as improving climate-change adaptation efforts and coordination among institutions working in the sector. Participants also discussed ways to strengthen collaboration between government institutions and development partners to improve the delivery of essential social



services. The meeting highlighted ongoing efforts to expand access to safe water and improved sanitation, while strengthening coordination to address challenges linked to water security, public health and climate change. The ASWA Phase III initiative is supported by the Netherlands through UNICEF as part of broader efforts to improve WASH services and strengthen resilience among communities.

Somaliland Livestock...



reaches its advanced stage, it can be prevented. The minister urged Somaliland's citizens to exercise greater caution and remain vigilant against the disease, particularly because of its ability to spread between people, livestock and animals. "Rabies is one of the dangerous and deadly diseases. Once it develops, there is no treatment, but it can be prevented, and it can put a person in a life-threatening condition," Minister Shu'ayb said. He added that the disease can be

transmitted between humans, animals and livestock, making public awareness and preventive measures essential. "The disease can spread between people, animals and livestock, so precautions must be taken and people need to exercise extra vigilance," he said. His warning comes as Somaliland joins international efforts to raise awareness about rabies and encourage communities to take preventive measures against the disease.

HORSEED Leaders and.....



Mohamoud Walaaleye Most of the leaders and senior officials of the HORSEED Political Association have formally joined the ruling WADDANI Party following the conclusion of prolonged talks between the two sides. The two parties finalized their discussions Saturday 3rd October 2026, by signing a formal agreement that paved the way for the HORSEED officials and members to join WADDANI. The HORSEED delegation was

welcomed at the WADDANI Party headquarters by Chairman Hirsi Ali Haji Hassan, who was accompanied by the party's deputy chairmen, Mohamed Haji Yusuf Waabeye, Abubakar Abdirahman Good and Abdirashid Mohamed Haji Yusuf. Former Minister of Information, Culture and National Guidance Osman Abdullahi Sahardiid (Adani), who is also a senior WADDANI Party figure, was among those who received the HORSEED officials. The signing ceremony was attended by several officials from the administration, alongside senior officials and representatives of the WADDANI Party. The agreement marks a significant political realignment involving HORSEED and the ruling party, following talks aimed at bringing the two sides together under WADDANI.

Beyond the Headline: What President Irro Actually Achieved in Washington

President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi "Irro" and his 14 September appearance at the Hudson Institute should be assessed first on its own terms. Hudson presented the event as Irro's first U.S. visit since winning the November 2024 presidential election, with a keynote followed by a fireside discussion with Senior Fellow Joshua Meserve. The institute framed Somaliland's importance around the Houthis, China's influence in Africa, and wider great-power competition. The event itself was titled "Somaliland as a Strategic Partner in the Horn of Africa" (Hudson Institute, 14 September 2026). Irro therefore arrived in Washington with a strategic message rather than presenting Somaliland solely as a recognition case. He connected that geography to maritime security, Berbera, investment, counterterrorism, and the Houthi, China, and Taiwan dimensions — the full chain his audience would see again in his presentation. Contemporary reporting on his Washington visit likewise identified diplomatic, security, economic, investment, and recognition objectives. The significance of the Hudson appearance is therefore not simply what happened during particular exchanges. It is that Somaliland's strategic case was placed directly before a U.S. policy audience. From recognition to strategic partnership To understand the questions raised during the Hudson discussion, Meserve's previous record is essential. His engagement with Somaliland stretches back to 2021. In "The U.S. Should Recognize Somaliland", published by the Heritage Foundation on 19 October 2021, Meserve argued that Washington should recognize Somaliland and linked that position to U.S. strategic interests, including China's growing influence in Djibouti, Somaliland's political institutions, and the possibility of a stable American partner in the Horn. His November 2021 publication, "Missing Opportunities in Somaliland", continued that argument by examining opportunities Washington was overlooking. In 2022, "Somalilanders' Quest for Independence Isn't 'Neocolonial' Plot. It's Self-Determination" added the historical and political dimension: Somaliland's political project, in Meserve's analysis, was rooted in Somalilanders' own history and political development rather than being a foreign-created geopolitical project. The Ethiopia–Somaliland relationship subsequently expanded the strategic framework. In his 5 January 2024 "Public statement on the Ethiopia–Somaliland MoU" and his March 2024 article, "An East African Port Deal the World Should Applaud", Meserve brought Ethiopia and Berbera more directly into the strategic equation. The logic became: Somaliland '! Berbera '! Ethiopia '! maritime access '! regional trade '! Red Sea security. Berbera provides a concrete economic and maritime



component to this argument. DP World describes the port as a gateway to East Africa, with a 17-metre draft and 400-metre quay; its Phase 1 expansion raised container capacity to 500,000 TEUs annually. The Berbera Economic Zone is designed as a port-linked logistics and investment platform. In January 2025, Meserve published "Seven Inaccuracies about US Support for Somaliland", continuing his challenge to assumptions surrounding Washington's existing approach. Then, at the 13 May 2025 U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing, "East Africa & the Horn: At a Turning Point or Breaking Point?", his proposed areas of deeper engagement included trade and investment, technical assistance, natural-resource mapping, security cooperation, support for the Somaliland Coast Guard, a National Guard State Partnership Program, a U.S. consulate in Hargeisa, and consideration of a U.S. facility at Berbera. The argument was consequently moving beyond recognition alone toward a broader policy architecture: engagement '! trade '! investment '! security '! maritime cooperation '! diplomatic presence '! strategic partnership. The argument enters the Red Sea and great-power competition By 2026, Meserve's work increasingly placed Somaliland within the wider Red Sea and great-power environment. His 12 January 2026 *Washington Post* article was correctly titled "Why should Trump recognize Somaliland? Because it works." It connected Somaliland's geography, Berbera, Ethiopia, the Bab el-Mandeb, China, Taiwan, counterterrorism, and U.S. strategic interests. His April 2026 participation in the Foreign Policy Research Institute event, "Israel's Recognition of Somaliland: What Are the Implications for US Foreign Policy?", placed the recognition question within the changing regional diplomatic environment following Israel's recognition. FPRI lists Meserve among the speakers alongside Bashir Goth and Michael Walsh. Then came the September 2026 Hudson event itself: "Somaliland as a Strategic Partner in the Horn of Africa." Its title captures how far the argument had developed—from recognition to the concept of a strategic partnership. What, then, was Meserve

challenging?

This context is essential for interpreting Meserve's latest intervention, "Why Somaliland Wants US Recognition", published by Hudson in connection with the September event and Irro's Washington visit. Hudson describes the appearance as Meserve discussing the September event and Somaliland's case to Washington. His questions should therefore not automatically be interpreted as a reversal of his previous position. After all, his published record contains repeated arguments for recognition and deeper U.S.–Somaliland engagement. The more precise question is within the recognition argument itself: Why should the United States formally recognize Somaliland rather than simply cooperate with it without recognition? That is different from asking whether Somaliland is strategically important. Strategic, commercial, and maritime-security cooperation can all exist without formal recognition. The recognition case therefore needs to identify what formal recognition adds. That may include:

- formal diplomatic relations;
- greater legal certainty for bilateral agreements and investment;
- deeper security cooperation;
- stronger maritime cooperation;
- expanded trade and investment arrangements; and
- greater strategic flexibility for Washington.

The distinction can therefore be expressed as: Somaliland is strategically important '! Somaliland can be a strategic partner '! formal recognition provides additional diplomatic, legal, economic, and security possibilities. Meserve's intervention is most useful when understood at that third level. The legal case and the strategic case There are consequently two related but distinct arguments Somaliland presents in Washington. The legal and historical case explains why Somaliland considers itself entitled to recognition. The strategic case explains why recognition can serve American interests. Irro's Hudson appearance placed substantial emphasis on the second argument. Meserve's questioning

points toward the need to connect the two more explicitly: legal legitimacy '! strategic importance '! strategic utility of recognition.

The challenge is therefore not simply to demonstrate that Somaliland matters. It is to explain why formal recognition changes the strategic relationship.

The Middle East Eye interpretation The coverage by Middle East Eye, which described the appearance as a "disastrous US interview" and used the label "African Biden," offers a substantially different interpretation of the event.

That framing should be distinguished from the underlying record.

The article focuses on difficult exchanges and selected moments from the interview. But when Meserve's questions are separated from his wider publication record, readers can lose sight of what that record actually shows.

The relevant distinction is therefore between:

challenging the formulation of Somaliland's strategic argument and rejecting Somaliland's strategic or recognition case.

Those are not the same proposition. Meserve's record, traced in detail above, shows a sustained engagement with Somaliland as a potential U.S. strategic partner.

The wider geopolitical context Finally, the controversy also sits within a larger regional dispute.

Turkey and Qatar have maintained close relations with Somalia and have supported Somalia's territorial-integrity position, while opposing developments that strengthen Somaliland's international recognition. Reporting on Israel's recognition of Somaliland has documented opposition from Somalia and several regional governments.

Middle East Eye's editorial position should likewise be assessed on the basis of its reporting rather than assumptions about its motives.

There have been longstanding allegations of Qatari backing for MEE, which the outlet has denied. In a 2017 interview, editor-in-chief David Hearst explicitly denied Qatari funding and said the publication financed itself through private subscriptions.

Those competing claims do not establish that Qatar or Turkey directs MEE's editorial decisions. They do, however, form part of the broader media and geopolitical context in which Somaliland is being debated.

The appropriate approach is therefore scrutiny rather than speculation: distinguish what Irro actually said, what Meserve actually argued, what MEE reported, and what regional governments officially maintain.

What Irro actually achieved President Irro's Washington visit therefore produced a significant diplomatic outcome in one clear sense: that strategic argument was delivered in a forum explicitly organized around Somaliland's role as a potential strategic partner. Hudson's own event description connected that role to the Houthis, China, Iran, Russia, and wider

strategic competition.

His presentation connected: Somaliland '! Gulf of Aden '! Bab el-Mandeb '! Berbera '! Ethiopia '! maritime security '! investment '! counterterrorism '! regional connectivity '! U.S. strategic interests.

That is the strategic case.

The next stage, therefore, is to make the recognition component equally concrete by asking:

Why recognition rather than cooperation alone?

What legal arrangements become possible?

What diplomatic channels become available?

What security cooperation can be institutionalized?

What investment protections can be strengthened?

What maritime-security capabilities can be developed?

What strategic flexibility does Washington gain?

Those questions provide a practical framework for the next phase of Somaliland's diplomacy.

Conclusion: Beyond the headline

The most useful reading of Irro's Hudson appearance is therefore neither that it was a complete diplomatic breakthrough nor that it was a failure defined by difficult interview moments.

The documented record shows something more specific.

Irro succeeded in presenting Somaliland before a Washington policy audience as a strategic actor and potential partner, linking its geography and institutions to Berbera, Ethiopia, the Red Sea, Bab el-Mandeb, maritime security, investment, counterterrorism, China, Taiwan, and wider regional competition. Hudson itself framed the event in precisely those strategic terms.

Meserve's questions then exposed the next layer of the argument.

The issue is no longer only: Why does Somaliland matter?

It is also:

Why does formal U.S. recognition create strategic value that cooperation without recognition cannot fully provide?

That is a more precise diplomatic question.

Middle East Eye's "disastrous" characterization represents one interpretation of the exchange, but it should not be confused with Meserve's longer record of supporting Somaliland's recognition and deeper U.S. engagement.

The strategic lesson from Washington is therefore straightforward: Somaliland has increasingly moved the debate from explaining why it deserves recognition toward explaining why recognition serves identifiable American interests. The next task is to make the distinction between strategic partnership and formal recognition even more concrete.

That is where the Washington discussion leaves the recognition debate.

Author Note

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Steven Cook: Somaliland’s Strategic Location Could Put It at the Heart of U.S. Red Sea Strategy



Mohamoud Walaaleye
Somaliland’s location on the Gulf of Aden, its proximity to Yemen and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and its strategic infrastructure could make the territory increasingly relevant to U.S. security interests in the Red Sea region, according to Steven A. Cook, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).
Cook, an expert on Middle Eastern and African affairs and U.S. foreign policy, has recently argued that the United States should recognise Somaliland. CFR identifies him as its Eni Enrico Mattei Senior Fellow for Middle East and Africa Studies and director of its Middle East Program.
His comments come as Somaliland’s international recognition campaign gains greater attention in Washington and as the security environment around the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb continues to evolve.
A strategic position across from Yemen
Speaking about Somaliland’s significance to the United States, Cook drew attention to its position on the southern side of the Gulf of Aden, directly opposite Yemen.
The geography places Somaliland close to the Bab el-Mandeb, one of the world’s strategically important maritime chokepoints. The waterway connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and provides a major route for international shipping between Europe, the Middle East and Asia.
For Washington, Cook suggested, Somaliland’s location could therefore have implications extending well beyond the Horn of Africa.
“Here is why Somaliland independence matters to the United States,” Cook said, pointing to its position across the Gulf of Aden from Yemen.
He highlighted two pieces of infrastructure in particular: the deep-water Port of Berbera and the long runway at Berbera International Airport.
According to Cook, those facilities could potentially provide useful infrastructure for U.S. security operations in the region if

Washington required additional access or logistical options.
Recognition and U.S. strategic interests
Cook’s argument comes amid growing discussion in Washington over whether the United States should change its longstanding position on Somaliland.
CFR itself recently hosted Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi “Irro” in New York, where he discussed Somaliland’s campaign for international recognition and the regional security environment.
CFR has also published Cook’s September 4, 2026, article, “**Why the United States Should Recognize Somaliland,**” reflecting his public argument for U.S. recognition.
Cook noted that President Irro’s visit to Washington, D.C., and New York included meetings with U.S. officials, members of Congress and other figures involved in American policymaking.
He described the Somaliland president’s diplomatic campaign as an effort to persuade Washington to become the next country to formally recognise Somaliland.
A new focus on Berbera
At the centre of Cook’s strategic argument is Berbera.
The port sits on the Gulf of Aden and has developed into an important commercial gateway for the Horn of Africa. CFR has previously highlighted the development of Berbera Port through a deal involving DP World and Somaliland, as well as Ethiopia’s interest in expanding access to the port.
Cook’s remarks add a security dimension to the significance of the port and surrounding infrastructure.
The combination of a deep-water port, an extended airport runway and Somaliland’s position close to Yemen could, in his assessment, give the United States additional strategic options at a time when security threats and shipping disruptions have increased around the Red Sea.
CFR has separately described the wider Red Sea region as experiencing interconnected conflicts and heightened security

pressures, including developments involving Yemen’s Houthis and instability across the Horn of Africa. Somaliland’s long-running bid for recognition
Cook also placed the current debate within the historical context of Somaliland’s political status. Somaliland declared that it was restoring its independence in 1991 following the collapse of Somalia’s central government and has since operated with its own government, security institutions and political system while seeking international recognition.
CFR has previously documented Somaliland’s history of self-government and its efforts to establish democratic institutions, while also noting the continuing dispute between Hargeisa and Mogadishu over Somaliland’s status.
The recognition question has gained renewed attention in Washington during 2026, with Somaliland officials seeking stronger political, economic and security ties with the United States.
Why Washington is watching the Horn of Africa
For the United States, the strategic calculation extends beyond Somaliland itself.
The Horn of Africa sits alongside some of the world’s most important maritime routes, while the Gulf of Aden provides a gateway between the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. Developments in Yemen, the activities of the Houthis and continuing instability in parts of the Horn have increased the strategic importance of the wider region.
That environment has placed greater attention on locations that could provide access, logistics and partnerships along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
Cook’s assessment therefore places Somaliland’s recognition campaign within a much broader geopolitical question: whether Washington sees Somaliland not only through the lens of its disputed political status, but also as a potential strategic partner in one of the world’s most sensitive maritime regions.
For Somaliland, the argument represents a shift in how its recognition campaign is being discussed in influential U.S. foreign-policy circles—from a question centred primarily on history and political self-determination to one increasingly linked to maritime security, regional stability and American strategic interests.
CFR’s recent engagement with President Irro, together with Cook’s public advocacy for U.S. recognition, underscores the growing visibility of Somaliland within Washington’s foreign-policy debate.
Here is a polished news-style version with a vivid headline and a tighter, more engaging flow:

Somaliland Warns Traders Against Unilateral Price Hikes, Vows Legal Action



Mohamoud Walaaleye
The Somaliland Ministry of Trade and Tourism has issued a stern warning to traders and business associations against jointly setting or increasing the prices of goods and services without government authorization, saying such actions could lead to legal proceedings.
Mr. Duuh Abdillahi Abdi, Director of the Ministry’s Department for Combating Illicit Commerce, said at a press conference that business associations do not have the legal authority to independently determine market prices.
The ministry, he said, is monitoring the impact of global developments, particularly tensions in the Middle East, on the movement of goods and rising maritime transport costs. However, he stressed that these pressures do not give traders’ associations the authority to impose new prices on the market.
He said some business associations had already issued decisions concerning price hikes, citing the Bread Manufacturers

Association and fuel station associations as examples.
“The authority responsible for regulating the market, monitoring commodity prices and protecting the public interest is the Somaliland Ministry of Trade and Tourism. Different business associations do not have the authority to collectively and suddenly impose huge price increases at arbitrarily,” he said.
He urged traders and their associations to refrain from any coordinated efforts to raise or fix the prices of goods and services, warning that those who violate the directive would face legal action.
“We warn all traders and their associations to refrain from this practice and ensure that it does not happen again. If it happens, they will be brought before the law,” he warned.
The ministry’s warning comes amid concerns over rising transportation and imports costs linked to disruptions and tensions affecting regional maritime trade routes.

Somaliland Planning Minister, UN Adviser Review HDP Nexus Workshop Outcomes and Next Steps



Mohamoud Walaaleye
Somaliland’s Minister of National Planning and Development, Hon. Kaltuun Sheikh Hassan, held a meeting with Hugh Colin Garnet Macleman, Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding (HDP) Nexus Coordination Adviser at the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator.
The meeting reviewed the outcomes of the HDP Nexus workshop recently held in Hargeisa, with discussions focusing on upcoming work plans and efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination among the technical committees.
Minister Kaltuun thanked

Macleman for his role in facilitating the workshop and supporting the leadership of the technical committees, saying his contribution helped advance the objectives of the gathering.
The meeting, also attended by a Mustafe Khayre and Mohamed M. Awale, further examined the next steps and ways to implement recommendations emerging from the workshop.
The discussions form part of ongoing efforts to improve coordination among stakeholders working on humanitarian assistance, development and peacebuilding in Somaliland.

Geography By Geoff Highlights Somaliland’s Strategic Value, Berbera Port and Growing Ties with Ethiopia



A new report published by the U.S.-based **Geography By Geoff** channel has highlighted the growing strategic importance of the Republic of Somaliland, focusing on its geographic position, economic potential and relationship with neighbouring Ethiopia.

The report places particular emphasis on Somaliland’s coastline and the Port of Berbera, describing the territory’s location along the Gulf of Aden as strategically significant for trade, maritime transportation and security in the Horn of Africa.

It also examines the interests shared by Somaliland and Ethiopia, arguing that closer economic and political ties between the two sides could create opportunities for both countries. The report further discusses the possibility of Ethiopia formally recognising Somaliland in the future, saying such a development could represent a significant diplomatic step in Somaliland’s pursuit of wider international recognition.

A Strategic Location at the Crossroads of Continents

According to the report, Somaliland and the wider Horn of Africa occupy a strategically important position connecting Africa with the Middle East, Europe and Asia.

The region lies close to some of the world’s most important maritime routes, including the Gulf of Aden, which links the Red Sea with the Indian Ocean, and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a critical passage for international shipping and global trade.

Geography By Geoff argues that Somaliland’s position along these routes gives it significance beyond its immediate borders, particularly as global attention increasingly focuses on maritime security, trade corridors and connectivity across the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The report also points to Somaliland’s long coastline along the Gulf of Aden and the strategic location of Berbera as important assets for regional commerce and maritime transportation.

Berbera’s Importance to Landlocked Ethiopia

A central focus of the report is the potential importance of Berbera to Ethiopia, Africa’s second-most populous country, which is landlocked and relies on neighbouring countries for access to international maritime trade.

The report says Berbera could provide Ethiopia with an additional commercial route and potentially reduce its dependence on existing maritime corridors, particularly those through Djibouti.

It identifies several potential advantages for Ethiopia, including an alternative route for imports and exports, greater diversification of trade corridors, and stronger maritime connectivity with Somaliland.

The report states: “Somaliland has a long coastline along the Gulf of Aden and is home to the Port of Berbera, which has geographic and commercial significance.”

It adds that Berbera could give Ethiopia another route for international trade while strengthening commercial links between Ethiopia and Somaliland.

Shared Economic Interests

The report suggests that the economic interests of Somaliland and Ethiopia increasingly overlap, particularly around trade, infrastructure and transportation.

For Somaliland, greater Ethiopian use of Berbera could generate increased port activity, attract new investment and contribute to job creation and infrastructure development.

It also highlights the potential for expanded regional trade and improved road and transport links connecting Somaliland with Ethiopia.

For Ethiopia, the report identifies Berbera as a potential component of a broader strategy to diversify access to maritime trade and strengthen its economic links with the Gulf of Aden and international markets.

“As a result, the interests of Ethiopia and Somaliland are closely aligned in several areas,” the report says.

Recognition and Diplomatic Significance

Beyond economics and trade, Geography By Geoff also examines the political dimension of Somaliland-Ethiopia relations. The report suggests that formal recognition of Somaliland by Ethiopia could have broader diplomatic implications for Somaliland’s longstanding campaign for international recognition.

“Politically, formal support from Ethiopia could be an important factor for Somaliland in its efforts to secure international recognition,” the report states.

Such a development, if it were to occur, could represent a significant change in the diplomatic landscape surrounding Somaliland and potentially influence discussions about its status in the wider Horn of Africa.

Berbera and the Wider Horn of Africa

The report ultimately presents Somaliland’s geography as one of its most significant strategic assets. Its location along the Gulf of Aden, proximity to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and access to the Port of Berbera place it near major international trade and maritime routes.

For Ethiopia, Berbera offers the possibility of an additional gateway to global markets. For Somaliland, deeper economic and strategic cooperation with Ethiopia could provide opportunities for investment, infrastructure development, trade expansion and diplomatic engagement.

The report therefore portrays the relationship between Somaliland and Ethiopia as extending beyond bilateral economic cooperation, placing it within the broader strategic dynamics of the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea and the international maritime trade system.

Somaliland Finance Ministry Trains Government Planning Directors to Strengthen National Development Monitoring

The Director General of the Somaliland Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Mohamed Hassan Suleiman, has opened a training programme aimed at strengthening monitoring and evaluation skills among Directors of Planning Departments from 11 government institutions.

The training, held at the conference hall of the Ministry’s headquarters, focuses on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Skills, with particular emphasis on improving officials’ ability to monitor and assess plans and activities linked to the Third National Development Plan (NDPIII).

The programme is designed to enhance the capacity of government institutions to carry out effective, systematic and professional monitoring and evaluation of development programmes.

Officials participating in the training are expected to strengthen their ability to track projects and activities under

NDPIII, assess their results and generate reliable data to support government decision-making and future development planning.

The initiative also seeks to establish stronger monitoring mechanisms across government institutions, ensuring that implementation of national development priorities is regularly reviewed and that progress and results are properly documented.

Opening the training, the DG urged participants to make full use of the programme and apply the knowledge and skills gained within their respective institutions.

He said strengthening monitoring and evaluation capabilities would help government institutions improve the implementation and oversight of national development plans.

The training forms part of broader efforts to build institutional capacity and establish a more effective and evidence-based system for tracking Somaliland’s development programmes under NDPIII.

Training session for museum staffers

By M.A. Egge

The Director of the Somaliland National Museum, Mr. Abdirisak Mohamed Farah launched a training session for staff from the Museum’s Conservation and Research Department.

The course if facilitated by experts from the organization Expertise France, hence focuses on enhancing the knowledge and skills of the department’s staff, specifically in conservation and research, to effectively manage and prepare historical data and

cultural heritage.

Mr. Farah urged the staffers to make the most of the training and apply the knowledge and experience gained during the course towards advancing the operations of the Somaliland National Museum.

This training is part of the close partnership and cooperation between the Somaliland National Museum and Expertise France, aimed at building staff capacity and safeguarding Somaliland’s historical and cultural heritage

Education ministry facilitate workshop for aid in adaptation to climate change impacts

By M.A. Egge

The Education ministry has launched a two-day workshop in Hargeisa aimed at securing funding to help the education sector adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The session which is part of the CSESI project, brought together officials from various ministries and partner

agencies to focus on funding opportunities, existing challenges, and strengthening inter-agency cooperation.

The objective is to establish an education system capable of withstanding the impacts of climate change while ensuring the continuity of educational services during times of crisis.

THT Puzzle

Prepared by: Abdillahi Said Muhummed

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33						34				35	

- ACROSS
- 1 Therefore
- 3 have enough money.
- 6 Wait for
- 8 Being as
- 9 Escaping
- 10 Quantity used on papers
- 11 Eye or lookout
- 13 damaging/opposite of good
- 15 Municipal
- 19 Towards
- 20 Speech
- 23 Go off
- 24 Ocean
- 25 Change or control
- 26 Upon
- 29 Shouts or cracks
- 30 Ticket or meal
- 32 Salaries
- 33 Crash
- 34 Reddish
- 35 Remain
- DOWN
- 1 Secure
- 2 not available in short forms
- 3 breakfasted
- 4 Stand facing
- 5 Repetition
- 7 Calendar week
- 10 Rootle
- 12 amount in cash
- 14 Puppy
- 15 Stairs
- 16 Drink
- 17 Juvenile
- 18 Ending
- 20 Shortly
- 21 BEING AS
- 22 Occasions
- 27 Surname
- 28 Family tree
- 29 Witnessed
- 30 Far away
- 31 Reddish

Previous Answer

S ¹	O			N ²		A ³	F	F ⁴	O	R ⁵	D
T		A ⁶	W ⁷	A	I	T		A		E	
A ⁸	S		E			E ⁹	S	C	A	P	E
B		R ¹⁰	E	A	M			E		E	
L ¹¹	O	O	K			S ¹²			B ¹³	A	D ¹⁴
E		O		S ¹⁵	T ¹⁶	A	T ¹⁷	E ¹⁸		T ¹⁹	O
	S ²⁰	T	A ²¹	T	E	M	E	N	T ²²		G
G ²³	O		S ²⁴	E	A		E ²⁵	D	I	T	
	O ²⁶	N ²⁷		P			N		M		T ²⁸
S ²⁹	N	A	P	S		F ³⁰	A	R ³¹	E		R
A		M			W ³²	A	G	E	S		E
W ³³	R	E	C	K		R ³⁴	E	D		B ³⁵	E

Interior minister appreciates Taiwanese government support at weekly cabinet session

By M.A. Egge

The minister of Interior Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab has praised the Taiwanese government for its support, cooperation and development projects in Somaliland hence called for the continued further expansion of initiatives that directly benefit the lives of Somaliland's people.

He just attended the just established maiden international conference on disaster risk reduction and disaster management held in Taiwan, which brought together representatives from more than 130 countries.

He was speaking at the 76th session of the Somaliland Council of Cabinet Ministers over the week chaired by Vice President H.E. Mohamed Ali aw Abdi, who is currently acting as the President.

Similarly the state has sent stern warning to business fraternity groups who unilaterally and suddenly announce huge spikes in basic commodities without due process to desist from it.

These and more were part of the main focus of the weekly cabinet sessions which discussed several key national issues, including the country's security and stability, public revenue and economic management, rising commodity prices, the Somaliland Half Marathon, and the development of the livestock sector.

According to press release from the Presidency the meeting generally went as follows: -

1. National Security and Stability

The Minister of Interior and National Security, Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab, briefed the Cabinet on the overall security situation, saying that security across the country remains stable.

.The minister briefed the Cabinet on Somaliland's participation in an international conference on disaster risk reduction and disaster management held in Taiwan, which brought together representatives from more than 130 countries.

He said Somaliland received a high-level reception at the conference, adding that he and his delegation held meetings with the President of Taiwan and senior officials, including the ministers of Interior and Foreign Affairs, the Commander of the Coast Guard, the head of the Fire and Rescue Service, and representatives of other institutions.

Minister Abdalle expressed his appreciation to the Government of Taiwan for its support, cooperation and development projects in Somaliland, and called for the continued expansion of initiatives that directly benefit the lives of Somaliland's people.

The minister also highlighted the peaceful and orderly manner in which the annual Hargeisa International Islamic Gathering was held, attracting more than 150,000 people from around the world. He said the successful organization of the event demonstrated the stability and security prevailing in Somaliland

2. Public Revenue and the National Economy

The state minister for Finance and Economic Development, Hon. Dr. Ismail Mawliid Abdullahi, presented a report on reforms to public financial management laws, particularly the General Revenue Law and the Public Financial Management Law.

He emphasized the importance of preparing regulations that clearly set out the procedures and mechanisms required to implement the two laws.

The State Minister also briefed the Cabinet on the ministry's efforts and priorities to accelerate the collection of projected revenues from government ministries and institutions, describing this as an important component of strengthening public financial management and increasing national revenue.

He further outlined the overall state of the national economy

SOMALILAND

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3. RADISSON BLU

4. Radisson

5. راديسون بلو

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Interior minister appreciates Taiwanese government support at weekly cabinet session

and the significant impact that tensions in the Middle East have had on national revenue and the livelihoods of Somaliland's population. Regarding preparations for the 2027 National Budget, the minister told the Cabinet that the process was proceeding according to the timetable and procedures established for its preparation.

3. Commodity Prices and Rising Cost of Living

The Minister of Trade and Tourism, Hon. Abdirahman Hassan Nour, presented a report on the country's cost of living and commodity prices. He said there had been no significant change in commodity prices over the past week, except for the price of bread, which electricity-producing factories had jointly increased. The ministry, however, intervened and halted the proposed increase. The minister said instability in the foreign-exchange market continued to affect commodity prices, with the impact being particularly severe on low-income households whose purchasing power was already limited.

He added that the Ministries of Trade and Tourism and Finance and Economic Development, together with the Central Bank, were holding consultations and taking measures aimed at addressing the issue.

4. Somaliland Half Marathon Scheduled for October 2, 2026

The Minister of Youth and Sports, Ahmed-Yasin Mohamed Farah, briefed the Cabinet on preparations for the Somaliland Half Marathon, which is scheduled to take place in Hargeisa on Friday, October 2, 2026. Athletes from nine countries are expected to participate in the event. The minister highlighted the importance of the competition in raising Somaliland's profile and visibility, strengthening interaction between local and international athletes and young people, and creating opportunities for Somaliland runners to gain international experience.

He said events of this nature also encourage local athletes and help prepare them to participate more actively in regional and international athletics competitions, contributing to the development of sports and the advancement of young people's skills in Somaliland.

(By the time of going to press the event has since been held and finished smoothly and triumphantly for the nation, with a Somaliland win).

5. Livestock Development, Exports and Animal Health

The Minister of Livestock Development and Rural Development, Hon. Dr. Omar Shu'ayb Mohamed, presented the Cabinet with an in-depth report on the significant increase in livestock exports. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive National Livestock Development Plan focused on improving livestock production, animal health, husbandry and welfare. The minister said his ministry had significantly expanded veterinary treatment and vaccination programs for livestock, particularly against endemic diseases. He stressed that the livestock sector is a major pillar of Somaliland's economy and directly affects the livelihoods of large sections of the population. He therefore called for a new approach to livestock production that moves beyond traditional methods. The minister also underlined the importance of Somaliland strategically preparing for growing competition in international livestock markets and exports. He reiterated his call for the urgent construction and equipping of a dedicated livestock export terminal at Berbera, saying such a facility could improve the quality and competitiveness of Somaliland's livestock exports.