



Federal Republic of Somalia

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM



WEEKLY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION NEWSLETTER: THURSDAY 29 AUGUST 2019 VOL 14, NO 14

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PRESIDENT FARMAJO CONGRATULATES THE SOVEREIGN COUNCIL OF SUDAN



The president of the Federal Government of Somalia H.E Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo has hailed the leaders of the Sovereign ruling council of Sudan, political parties, civil society groups and other stakeholders for their historic agreement in the formation of the transition government.

The President commended the high level of responsibility demonstrated by all parties in Sudan during the talks to rescue their country, stating that this encourages the conflict resolution endeavours of such nature in Africa.

H.E President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo has especially congratulated the President of the Sovereign Council General Abdifatah Abdirahman Alburhan and its members.

Additionally, the President lauded Abdalla Hamduuk the new Prime Minister of Sudan on his appointment and thanked him for his role in the economic development of our country as a former key member of the National Economic Council of Somalia.

H.E President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo reiterated the significance of Sudan's stability in the content terming it as a strategic partner for the region.

President Farmajo wished the people and the leadership of Sudan a lasting political stability, development and unity over all obstacles adjacent to their route to peace and progress.

He also commended the African Union (AU), and the Ethiopian government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for their unrelenting efforts and critical role in brokering a deal between Sudan's key stakeholders.

President Farmajo attended the Opening Ceremony of Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7)



The President of the Federal Republic of Somalia H.E Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo, joined other heads of states in the opening ceremony of the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) being held in Yokohama, Japan from 28 to 30 August 2019.

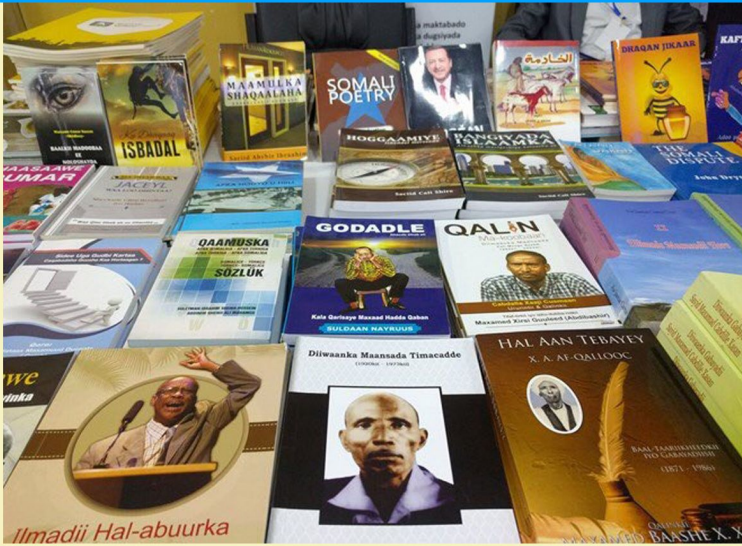
In the opening ceremony co-chaired by Japanese Prime minister H.E Shinzo Abe, honorary president of the African Union (AU) H.E Abdifatah Al-sisi and chairperson of the African Union H.E Muse Faqi have all acknowledged the momentous importance of the summit on partnerships and economic development in Africa. This year's conference is focused around the theme; Advancing Africa's Development through People, Technology and Innovation.

In the coming days, the summit will focus on youth employment, women's empowerment, technology innovation, as well as measuring the successes of joint Japan and UN development projects in Africa and the acceleration of economic transformation through innovation and engagement with private sector.

The President's delegation representing Somalia include Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ambassador Ahmed Isse Awad, Minister of Finance Abdirahman Duale Bayle and chief of staff of presidency Nur Dirie Hersi (Fuursade).

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MOGADISHU BOOK FAIR 2019



The three-day event, held from August 21-23 at the Sahal terminal, attracted thousands of participants each day.

Somali talent, both local and diaspora, awed the audience with readings and discussions. Highlighting these sessions included Somali-American Yasmin Mohamud (author of 'Nomad Diaries'); Canadian-Somali Hassan Santur (author of 'Youth of God'); and children's storybook writer British-Somali Zainab Dahir (author of 'Ma Dherгаа Dhurwaa,' roughly translated to 'a hyena is never satisfied'). USAID mounted a storytelling tent where children watched traditional Somalia stories come to life.

In a closing reception on Saturday, August 24, the United States Mission through USAID, UNICEF, and high-level officials celebrated the Fair's successes and heard authentic Somali voices.

Two youth writers, Bilal Qasim Fiqi and Shams A. Warsame received awards as part of the 2019 MBF Somali Youth Writers Competition.

Brian Neubert, Chargé d'Affaires for the U.S. Mission to Somalia, said, "What is striking about the MBF is that the MBF audience is young and part of a generation that has never known anything but conflict.

The United States Government supports Somali-led initiatives, like the MBF, launched by and for this generation to define themselves beyond conflict – to debate, collaborate and sustain Somalia's new narrative and identity."

The United States Government recognizes that Somalia's peace and prosperity depends on a literate and engaged citizenry.

The Mogadishu Book Fair is helping to create a culture of reading in Somalia by inspiring the next generation of readers, writers and storytellers.

Later this year, USAID will launch a new \$50 million education project to support the Federal Government of Somalia to extend quality learning to out-of-school children and youth who have been persistently left behind.

The 2019 Mogadishu Book Fair is dedicated to Hodan Nalayeh and Mayor Abdirahman Omar Osman "Engineer" Yarisow, the late Mayor of Mogadishu, who advocated for Somali culture, arts and literacy.

BIOGRAPHY OF SOMALIA'S NEW COMMISSIONER OF POLICE



The president of the federal republic of Somalia Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo has appointed Maj Gen Abdi Hassan Hijaar as the new commissioner of police.

This came after the president made major changes to the security sector. In a circular read by the information minister early this week the president replaced heads of the armed forces while appointing Fahad Yassin as the head of intelligence, a post that remained vacant for months since his predecessor resigned to take vie for presidency in South west state of Somalia.

The new police boss Maj Gen Abdi Hassan Hijaar was born in Sool in the year 1953. He attended his early schooling in Banaadir region and he later graduated for Somalia national University In the year 1975.

After graduation he showed interest in joining the army and serving his country. Two years after his graduation he decided to enlist as military officer for the government of Somalia which was facing challenges at the time.

Maj Gen Abdi Hassan Hijaar joined the army in 1977 where got his training at general Daud barracks.

He later went to Germany And the United states for further training. He become a trainer at Daganleey military facility in Somalia where he trained a number of new recruits and prepared them to serve their nation.

After the collapse of the central government he become the director of immigration. In 1989 he was named as Somalia's ambassador to Djibouti. 2007-2008 he appointed as the brigadier of the Somali national army.

From 2008 to 2019 he served as the Somalia's military attaché to Saudi Arabia he coordinated Saudi Arabia and Somalia Military Partnership, he also facilitated the medical evacuation for military casualties to Saudi Health centers.

In April this year he was appointed as the deputy army general. And on 22nd August 2019 he was appointed as the commissioner of police by the president of Somalia Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo.



OPINION: SOMALIA READY FOR CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE



Having strategic importance in terms of location, potential trade hub, and rich agriculture with the longest coast in the Africa, Somalia is optimistic to be one of the beneficiary countries of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

BRI is the People's Republic of China's strategy in which it invests mainly in improving infrastructure of countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

After Somalia witnessed the fruitfulness of the BRI in many countries like neighboring Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti which are now heavily reaping from these tangible projects, It's also not fragile to these developments!

A good example of the growing China-Africa Cooperation is the Kenyan standard gauge railway which is funded under BRI, has not only reduced the transport fares but also created 50'000 new jobs for Kenyan citizens.

The example is the 756 km electrified rail way project which is connecting the neighboring landlocked country of Ethiopia to our sister-country, Djibouti in the region. These developed infrastructure projects opened new doors of opportunities for the people and governments of these countries in terms creating new jobs, boasting economic and trade exchanges, movement and transporting goods and services. Passengers expend only 20 US dollars for fare which is very cheap and affordable one.

It is also worth mentioning the distance between Nairobi town, the capital of Kenya and the port town of Mombasa which is 478 km, and the rail covers within 4 hours and half only while passengers pay fare of 7 U.S dollars only.

Just like Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti, Somalia which is also a developing country needs such infrastructure to help improve the livelihood of the Somali people.

Currently Somalia Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is \$17bn and the livelihood of the people isn't that better even with the great country's potential for economic development .This is mainly attributed to the collapse of the transport infrastructure caused by civil-war that broke out in the early 1991's.

Somalia has not been able to trade with its neighboring countries because of the poor connectivity in and outside the country. Imagine, it takes me two days to visit my hometown, Jilib which is only 380km south of the capital Mogadishu, and in rainy seasons it can take me a week on the way by car.

It was built in the 1970s, it had low quality asphalt in reference to the other roads in the country before, and it was destroyed in the civil war that erupted in 1991, therefore, the tarmac disappeared totally. Travelers may sometimes doubt whether there has been a tarmac road there forever because it does not take long time only, but it is dangerous.

Due to the poor infrastructure, in particular, lacking roads and rail ways to ease transport system in my country, it is difficult to benefit from such rich region or regions in the country and we cannot grow economically and cannot have trade with neighboring countries because air transport is expensive locally and internationally. We are now incurring much cost on local flights due this challenge.

Jilib town in middle Jubba region is one of the most fertile region in Somalia; it has agricultural land, sea and livestock. There have been government farms of rice and sugar-cane and sugar factory while Faanoole project, another key development was to provide electricity to whole Somalia failed. Some of the main popular fruits in the region like mango, banana and other fruits were also to be taken to other major cities in the north of the country and outside the country.

Remember, we were Africa' largest exporter of high quality bananas to Middle East, and European markets before the collapse of our central government, and loss of infrastructure.

The latest war on terror in the country worsened the conditions of the old infrastructure because Al-Shabaab militants destroyed some key bridges in the south-central Somalia in recent years.

Just like the Chinese proverb which says, if you want to be rich, build a road. Having better infrastructure mainly roads, railways, dams, bridges, and hydro power projects will make the given gift of richness to Somalia into reality, enable smooth movements, and connecting major towns in the country and neighboring countries. This does not only create economic opportunities, but also brings stable environment.



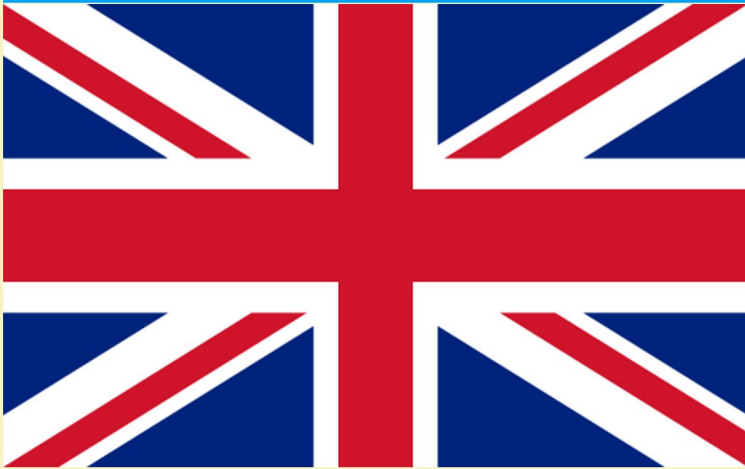
Fortunately Somalia already signed a Memorandum of Understanding to join BRI and an agreement on enhancing economic and technical cooperation during the Forum on Africa-China Cooperation (FOCAC) in August 31st, 2018 at a ceremony held in Beijing.

The President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping also held discussions on bilateral and multilateral cooperation, trade and investment, new goals towards economic cooperation and efforts to further strengthen the earlier hearty China-Somalia relations.

Let's hope that these agreements which are clearly based on mutual respect and win-win cooperation deliver a Somalia that works for all of us and be part of the shared future for mankind as proposed by President Xi.



UK AID TO PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING SUPPORT FOR UP TO ONE MILLION PEOPLE CRIPPLED BY DROUGHT IN SOMALIA



Up to one million people in Somalia will receive lifesaving food and clean water to help stop starvation and malnutrition thanks to new UK funding.

Somalia is one of the world's poorest and most fragile states, compounded by climate shocks that severely affect the lives and livelihoods of millions.

Minister for Africa, Andrew Stephenson, has announced extra food and water for Somalia to help vulnerable families in desperate need.

He also met humanitarian partners to discuss how the international community can help Somalia build resilience to climate change.

Up to one million people in Somalia will receive lifesaving food and clean water to help stop starvation and malnutrition thanks to new UK funding announced today.

Minister for Africa Andrew Stephenson has announced that UK aid will provide extra food, water and medicine to help vulnerable families in Somalia that are desperately suffering from relentless drought.

There are close to 5 million Somalis who are hungry and a further 1.2 million who face the risk of becoming malnourished this year due to successive poor rains and failed harvests. A further 2.6 million people have fled their homes, due to conflict and the dire humanitarian crisis.

During a visit to the country this week, Minister Stephenson announced that as well as providing food and water, UK aid will help build longer-term resilience to climate change and drought. An extra £30 million of UK aid support will also provide vaccines for livestock – which Somali farmers rely on for their livelihoods to stop cattle dying from disease and starvation.

Minister for Africa, Andrew Stephenson said:

“Somalia is being crippled by drought and millions of people are in desperate need of lifesaving food, clean water and treatment for malnutrition.”

“The UK has been at the forefront of the humanitarian response, but more needs to be done. Britain, alongside the international community, is committed to providing immediate assistance and building Somalia’s ability to manage the crisis.”

“Somalia’s security is vital for stability in the region and is firmly in the UK’s national interest.”

Minister Stephenson led a roundtable with humanitarian partners during his visit, where he discussed how the UK and international community can support Somalia to build their resilience to climate change and end their reliance on emergency aid.

Minister Stephenson met Somalia’s Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khayre and reiterated the UK’s commitment to supporting Somalia reform on security, politics and developing Somalia’s economy.

He also travelled to Baidoa in Southwest State where he saw first-hand how the British Military is supporting the training of the Somali National Army at a CSSF-funded training facility.



While there, he met Southwest State President Abdiasisi Laftagareen and discussed the UK’s support for stability and security in the area.

This new £30 million package of UK aid builds on the £38 million in humanitarian and resilience support which the UK is already providing in Somalia. This is expected to benefit over 1 million Somalis in 2019.

The extra support will help deliver vital food, medicine and water to the most vulnerable. DFID will work with UN partners to deliver this aid.

The UK is working on long-term resilience, to improve Somalia’s ability to cope with shocks and avoid repeated cycles of crisis and emergency response.

The UN’s 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan for Somalia aims to help 4.2 million of the most vulnerable Somalis – nearly a third of the population – including 2.6 million internally displaced by conflict, drought, and floods.

Source: Department for international development



FGS CONDEMNS KENYA FORCES FOR ATTACKING HORMUUD TELECOM SITE IN GEDO REGION



Federal Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Technology Abdi Anshur Hassan strongly condemned the attack on Hormuud Telecommunication Company base in Gedo region.

Minister Hassan declared that the attack has seriously destroyed the premises and equipment of the telecom firm in Caws-qurun, damaging business and livelihood of the Somali people in Gedo region.

"We urge AMISOM to engage with the Somali government in the scrutiny of the repeated attacks and take appropriate action against this enemy who has targeted our economy and business in accordance with international law," said the Minister.

The Ministry of Posts has forwarded to Somalia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs a comprehensive report on the loss of lives and property as a result of these attacks on Somali telecommunications premises and sites.

On the other hand, according to the statement issued by Hormuud Telecom aftermath of this attack, it is noted this is 12th time in less than two years that the Kenyan forces have destroyed Hormuud Telecom's sites in Gedo region.

This attack comes amid of Kenya and Somalia maritime dispute which will be settled at ICJ on next Month , where it is expected largely that the Somalia is going to win this case easily.

MINISTER OF INFORMATION MEETS HIS COUNTERPART OF MINISTER OF PLANNING



The minister of information, culture and tourism Hon Mohamed Abdi Hayir Mareeye met with his counterpart in the ministry of planning, investment and economic development Hon Jamaal Mohamed Hassan at ministry of information compound. The ministry of planning led by the Minister Jamaal have conducted consultations with different institutions in order to finalize the National development plan 9 which is at its final stage.

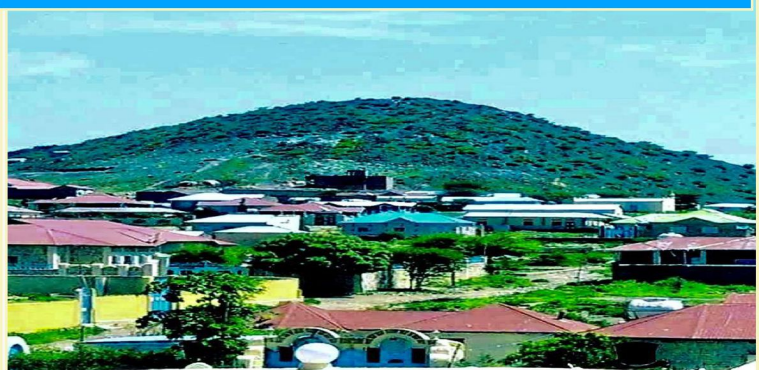
The Minister of information, culture and tourism through its director of planning Mr Abdirahman Ahmed presented its contribution to the national development plan and its proposals on how to improve even further.

The Minister of planning thanked the Minister of Information for dedication and assigned of national plan for competent team and prioritizing the completion of the national development plan 9.

He also thanked the director for planning in the Minister of Information for his effort and the role he played in creating a close working relation between the two ministries.

The meeting was attended by top officials from the two ministries, the ministry of Information was represented by its Minister, the director general Abdirahm Yusuf Al-Adala, SNTV director Libaan Abdi Ali and the director for planning Mr. Abdirahaman Ahmed

BORAMA THE BEAUTIFUL AND SHINING CITY WITH MOUNTAINS



Borama the beautiful and shining city with Mountains.

Department of Tourism

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