



Federal Republic of Somalia

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM



WEEKLY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION NEWSLETTER: THURSDAY 15 AUGUST 2019 VOL 12, NO 12

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MAJOR SOMALIA CITIES CELEBRATE EID AL-ADHAA PEACEFULLY.



Eid Al-Adha is the second of the two annual Eid celebrated by Muslims worldwide, and it marks the end of the Hajj Pilgrimage. In Somalia, the festival of Eid was celebrated across the country.

In Mogadishu: Somali President H.E Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo and Prime Minister Kheyre performed their Eid Al-Adhaa prayers, alongside with top Somali government officials and worshippers in Mogadishu.

During prayers, they extended their best wishes to Somalis all over the world. Following the prayers, the president and PM exchanged Eid greetings with worshippers.

In Jowhar: A statement released by Hirshabelle's Presidential office said that the President of Hirshabelle State of Somalia, HE Mohamed Abdi Ware, on behalf of Hirshabelle, sent his congratulations to the Somali people and Muslims around the world.

In Garowe : The President of Puntland State of Somalia, HE Abdullahi Deni, performed his Eid Al-Adhaa prayer in Garowe, the Capital City of Puntland .



The President of Puntland congratulated the entire Islamic Ummah, the people of Somalia and the people of Puntland

State on the holy occasion of the Eid Al-Adhaa celebrations.

In Baidoa: A statement from the Office of the President of the South-West State of Somalia,

Mr. Abdiiaziz Hassan Mohamed (Lafagareen) extended his best wishes to the people of the South West State, as well as the entire people of Somalia.



CIID MUBARAK!

عيد مبارك

EID Mubarak!

The president also extended his best wishes to Somali National Army and South West Army Forces who bravely defend the country from extremist groups such as Al-Shabaab and its related organizations.

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PM KHAIRE RECEIVES NEW AFRICOM COMMANDER IN MOGADISHU



General Stephen Townsend met with the Prime Minister of Somalia, the U.S. Ambassador to Somalia, Donald Yamamoto, and senior Somali military leadership in Mogadishu. The visit offered an opportunity to assess the situation in Somalia while reinforcing U.S. Africa Command's commitment to mutual security interests in the region.

"I am committed to working together and advancing our partnership with Somalia," said Townsend. "Along with Somalia and other international partners, we will apply continued pressure on violent extremist organizations. This pressure creates conditions and opportunity for further political and economic development." U.S. efforts in Somalia involve coordinated efforts in the areas of diplomacy, development, and defense. Earlier in the week, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale met with the Somali Prime Minister in Mogadishu reinforcing the U.S. commitment to helping Somalia with political reforms and economic development, and stabilization. He also highlighted the value of defense efforts.

"They agreed on the value of security operations to liberate areas from al-Shabaab and preparing Somali forces to take over from the African Union Mission to Somalia," said Morgan Ortagus, U.S. Department of State spokesperson.

Since 2007, an African Union led, United Nations backed regional force in Somalia called AMISOM has assisted with security in the country. Djibouti, Burundi, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Kenya contribute forces. In all, nearly 22,000 Africans serve in AMISOM. In addition, various international participants, such as the European Union, are supporting Somali defense efforts. U.S. defense efforts involve security force assistance, training and mentoring, and fulfilling the Federal Government of Somalia's requests for airstrikes in support of Somali ground operations. "The unique level of cooperation between the multiple international efforts in Somalia has led to more effective Federal Government of Somalia security forces and their abil-

ity to conduct offensive operations," said Col. Charles Bergman, U.S. Africa Command integrator for developing security in Somalia. "This demonstrates to the Somali people that their national Army's capabilities to secure Somalia are growing." The Prime Minister added the partnership with the U.S. is key to reform and sustaining progress. "Through our strategic partnership and support with the U.S. government, Somalia has made tangible progress in security, reconciliation, and debt relief," said the Somali Prime Minister, Hassan Ali Khaire, adding the two nations will continue to partner meaningfully in pursuit of their bilateral interests. An area of focus is U.S. Africa Command's training of the Somali Security Forces, specifically the Danab, a specially trained Somali military force engaged in the fight against al-Shabaab and ISIS-Somalia.

Al-Shabaab remains the largest and deadliest terror organization in East Africa. The extremist group was responsible for a truck bombing in Mogadishu in October 2017 that killed 500 people in one of the deadliest violent extremist attacks since September 11, 2001. More recently, it was responsible for an attack in January on a hotel complex frequented by Westerners in Kenya's capital city that left

more than 20 innocent people dead. Al-Shabaab, a group with allegiance to al-Qaeda, remains the principal security challenge in Somalia and East Africa at large.

Townsend noted the importance of confronting violent extremist organizations in East Africa. He stated that while terror groups in Africa currently lack the capability, they possess the will and desire to attack the U.S. homeland and interests.

"Evil doers are out there," said Townsend. "They are looking for an opening and an opportunity to do harm. If they could attack U.S. interests and the homeland they would. We can't give them an opening. We must deny them that opportunity." While in Somalia, Townsend met with the U.S. units responsible for training the Danab. He remarked on the value of U.S. military training.

"The United States of America offers the best security partnership and training in the world," said Townsend. "We invest in our partners, dedicating the time, energy, and commitment to make sure they are ready for any challenge." Townsend added Somali security forces need to keep pressure on al-Shabaab to liberate the Somali people in remaining al-Shabaab held areas. He also mentioned how degrading the threat supports mutual national interests. "We're in the business of protecting our country from these threats," said Townsend. "Degrading the capability of terrorists who operate here makes the entire region safer and prevents its export to other places. This is important work for our country, the Somalis, and our allies."

The commander of U.S. Africa Command visited Somalia on August 7 as part of his first trip to the African continent since taking command on July 26.

EBOLA DRUGS SHOW PROMISE AMID ONGOING OUTBREAK



Two Ebola drugs have proven so effective in a clinical trial that researchers will make the treatments available to anyone infected with the virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where Ebola has killed nearly 1,900 people over the past year.

Amid unrelenting chaos and violence, scientists and doctors in the Democratic Republic of Congo have been running a clinical trial of new drugs to try to combat a year-long Ebola outbreak.

On Monday, the trial's cosponsors at the World Health Organization and the National Institutes of Health announced that two of the experimental treatments appear to dramatically boost survival rates.

While an experimental vaccine previously had been shown to shield people from catching Ebola, the news marks a first for people who already have been infected.

"From now on, we will no longer say that Ebola is incurable," said Jean-Jacques Muyembe, director general of the Institut National de Recherche Biomedical in the DRC, which has overseen the trial's operations on the ground.

An even better solution, some have posited, would be to mine the serum of Ebola survivors and harvest the DNA from the white blood cells that make antibodies. That would yield a set of genetic instructions for making antibodies with a proven track record against the Ebola virus.

That's what the NIH's mAb114 is—an antibody isolated from the blood of a survivor of a 1995 outbreak in Kikwit, DRC. Scientists discovered it a few years ago—they had been circulating in his body for more than a decade.

With the WHO's announcement a new trial will now kick off, directly comparing Regeneron to mAb114, which is being produced by a Florida-based company called Ridgeback Bio therapeutics. And all Ebola treatment units in the outbreak zone will now only administer the two most effective monoclonal antibody drugs, according to the WHO's director of health emergencies, Mike Ryan.

"Today's news puts us one more step to saving more lives," said Ryan. "The success is clear. But there's also a tragedy linked to the success. The tragedy is that not enough people are being treated. We are still seeing too many people staying away from treatment centers, people not being found in time to benefit from these therapies."

Since the ongoing outbreak began last August in DRC's North Kivu province, more than 2,800 people have become infected, with 1,794 confirmed deaths. It is the second-largest Ebola outbreak ever recorded. On July 17, the WHO declared it a "public health emergency of international concern," after a case showed up in Goma, a large city bordering Rwanda. The risk of transmission across international borders remains high.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS RECEIVES A COPY OF NHA POLICY BOOK



The ministry of public works has today received a complete copy of policy that will guide national highway authority (NHA) in a bid to restructure and develop a proper road system in Somalia.

The meeting was organized by the ministry of public works led by the deputy minister for public works Hon. Jamal Hassan Ismail

those who invited and were part of the handover ceremony include Director of GIZ, Representatives from EU, representatives from office of the president, ministry director general and other directors from the same minister with works related to the road network planning. The director of GIZ Christoph Schmidt and the chairman of National highway authority Abdweli Mohamed jointly presented the draft policy which if adopted will guide the roads development in the country.

The deputy minister of public works thanked the stake holders for putting in much needed effort. He said in depth consultations will follow to lay out the best method to implement the road development initiative. He adjourned the meeting after officially receiving the documents.

The national highway authority was previously under the ministry of public works and now it has been declared an independent institution to fast track the roads restructure and construction throughout the country.

SOMALI MILITARY INTENSIFIES OPERATIONS AGAINST AL-SHABAAB



The Somali military has recently intensified operations against al-Shabaab in lower Shabelle regions in Somalia.

The army has made great advances on enemy territories, they have liberated area that was under al-Shabaab control for long period of time. They met with residents who were worn out and tired of the al-Shabaab rule. They military has initiated basic services to help locals who have deprived of their basic rights.

The commander of the inventory unit of the Somali army General Yussuf Raage Odhawaa in an interview with national broadcast said the current extensive military campaign will continue until the country is free from the grip of the terrorists who have crippled sections of the society.

“we will not rest until we pay visit to every single al-Shabaab hideout in Lower Shabelle and flash them out, he disclosed that there is a bigger national strategy that is being implemented that will see the end of al-Shabaab controlling parts of the country”

The latest al-Shabaab-controlled location to fall was Sham, a small village that lays between Baririre and Awdegle.

The Somali national army conducted an well planned attack on the village that was precise and with pre-determined targets.

The commander of the Somali inventory unit Gen Odhawaa said they induced heavy casualties on the terror group who were less prepared.

Unconfirmed reports coming from the village sham indicate that one of al-Shabaab’s most wanted terrorist Ali Mohamud rage alias Ali Dheere has been injured during the raid.

National intelligence is yet to confirm but is investigating the possibility and severity of the injury.

They operations is being led by the Somali commandos who have completed their training and have sworn not to turn back until they defeat al-Shabaab terror group.

In retaliatory attack al-Shabaab have carried out attack on military posts in Awdegele region. They military who have been anticipating the attack have repulsed the attack from the enemy inflicting major damage.

Gen Odhawaa said that the bodies of the terrorists are currently being displayed at Awdegle. They have lost many of their fighters that carried out the Attack, the general said alshabaab was no match for his commandos.

The commander said they took in al-Shabaab hostages who have been captured during the attack.

The military have re-opened Awdegle hospital which remained closed for many years due to al-Shabaab occupation, the government said they will relaunch basic services such as social amenities.

Locals have thanked the military for the liberating their home area and assured the soldiers that they will work with them, in order not to see the hardships they have seen in the past.

AMISOM WISHES THE PEOPLE OF SOMALIA A HAPPY EID AL-ADHA.



The African Union Mission in Somalia sends its warmest wishes to the people of Somalia, and to all Muslims around the world, who are celebrating the special day of Eid al-Adha.

Today, we are reminded of the honor and commitment of the Prophet Ibrahim who was willing to sacrifice his son out of obedience to Allah, the Almighty. It is in this spirit that our Somali brothers will slaughter animals and share the meat with their neighbors, with the less fortunate and with those in need. This act is a testament to the commitment, love and shared nationhood of the people of Somalia.

As we celebrate this happy occasion, let us also keep in our thoughts and prayers our brothers and sisters who will be spending this important day in fear and insecurity. On this Eid al-Adha, we join them as they confidently strive to build a better, brighter and safer Somalia.

We also pray for the safe return of our brothers and sisters from Somalia who travelled to Mecca for the remarkable Hajj journey of spiritual renewal.

May this spirit of sharing, compassion, togetherness, and generosity cement our resolve to forge ahead together.

Eid Mubarak

SCENES OF EID DAYS IN MOGADISHU - SOMALIA



Scenes Of Eid Days In
Mogadishu - Somalia
Department of Tourism