



### **Somalia: Opposition figure welcomes president's call for talks**

In a statement on March 31, former Jubaland Presidential candidate Abdullahi Ali welcomed President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's call for a national conversation aimed at addressing Somalia's political and security challenges. "This initiative is a commendable and necessary step, demonstrating the President's commitment to fostering dialogue and seeking solutions from a place of strength and wisdom," said Ali. He urged to ensure that the initiative be 'broad-based,' implying the need for inclusion of political leaders, civil society representatives, and other key stakeholders. The Standard.

### **Somalia hit by worsening food insecurity with at least 4.6 million hunger stricken**

Food insecurity is worsening in several regions of Somalia, with 18 areas experiencing an increase in the number of people facing a food crisis, according to a report released on Monday. The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis said that nearly 4.6 million people in Somalia will likely experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between April and June. "This includes about 784,000 people (4 percent of the population analyzed) in IPC Phase 4 (emergency) and nearly 3.8 million people (20 percent of the population analyzed) in IPC Phase 3 (crisis)," the IPC said in its updated report for April to June 2025. Hiiraan.

### **Somalia at a Crossroads: Urgent Call for Inclusive Reconciliation and Stability**

The Somali Civil Society Union, an independent umbrella organization uniting Somali civil society, has been closely monitoring the deteriorating security, political situation, and public freedoms in Somalia. This is further compounded by the growing threat posed by international terrorist groups that are approaching the capital, Mogadishu. The Somali Civil Society Union also commends the international community for recognizing the serious challenges that the Somali people are currently facing and the urgent need for a lasting resolution to the country's prolonged political conflicts. Horn Observer.

### **Somalia: Al-Shabaab's Growing Clan Divide and the Government's Blind Spot**

Somalia, a nation abundantly endowed with natural wealth—untapped oil and mineral reserves, fertile river valleys, strategic maritime positioning, and the longest coastline in mainland Africa—should be a regional powerhouse. Yet, for nearly four decades, the country has been trapped in a cycle of conflict, terrorism, and political dysfunction. The very leaders entrusted with the nation's recovery have, instead, become the architects of its stagnation. With U.S. development aid shrinking, counterterrorism support declining, and European donors showing increasing fatigue, Somalia is becoming dangerously isolated. Horn Observer.

### **Azerbaijan approves education agreement with Somalia**

Azerbaijan formally approved a bilateral agreement with Somalia on Wednesday to extend cooperation in the field of education. President Ilham Aliyev signed a decree ratifying the "Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Education" between the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education of the Federal Republic of Somalia. The

agreement was signed in Baku on Feb. 12, 2025, during an official visit by Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. Hiiraan.

### **Somalia: Fresh Airstrike Targets Isis in Puntland State of Somalia**

The Federal Government of Somalia, in collaboration with U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), has successfully executed an airstrike against ISIS militants. The airstrike conducted today by AFRICOM focused on ISIS members and leaders who were congregating in the southeastern area of Bosasso, Puntland. This operation bolsters the efforts of Puntland Darwish forces to eliminate terrorist groups particularly ISIS in the region. Preliminary evaluations suggest that multiple ISIS fighters were neutralized, with no reported civilian casualties. All Africa.

### **President Mohamud appoints new Somali Navy Commander**

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud on Wednesday appointed Brigadier General Abdiwahab Abdullahi Omar as the new Commander of the Somali Navy, signaling a renewed effort to increase maritime security and reclaim control over the country's vast coastline. In a presidential decree, President Mohamud emphasized the critical importance of a strong naval force for safeguarding Somalia's territorial waters and upholding national sovereignty. "The government is working to strengthen the Somali Navy so that it can take over the security and defense of our maritime borders, which are essential for our nationhood and unity," the President stated. Hiiraan.

### **Somali, Djiboutian Presidents discuss security and economic cooperation**

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud met with Djibouti's President Ismail Omar Guelleh in Djibouti on Wednesday, where the two leaders held high-level talks deepening bilateral relations and enhancing strategic cooperation. The discussions focused on advancing collaboration in key sectors, including security, economic development, trade, and political coordination. Both presidents underscored the historic and fraternal ties between the Somali and Djiboutian peoples and reaffirmed their shared commitment to regional stability. Hiiraan.

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*The Somalia Digest is a project of the Horn of Africa Observatory focusing on diplomacy, Geo Politics and the Media Coverage of Somalia.*

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