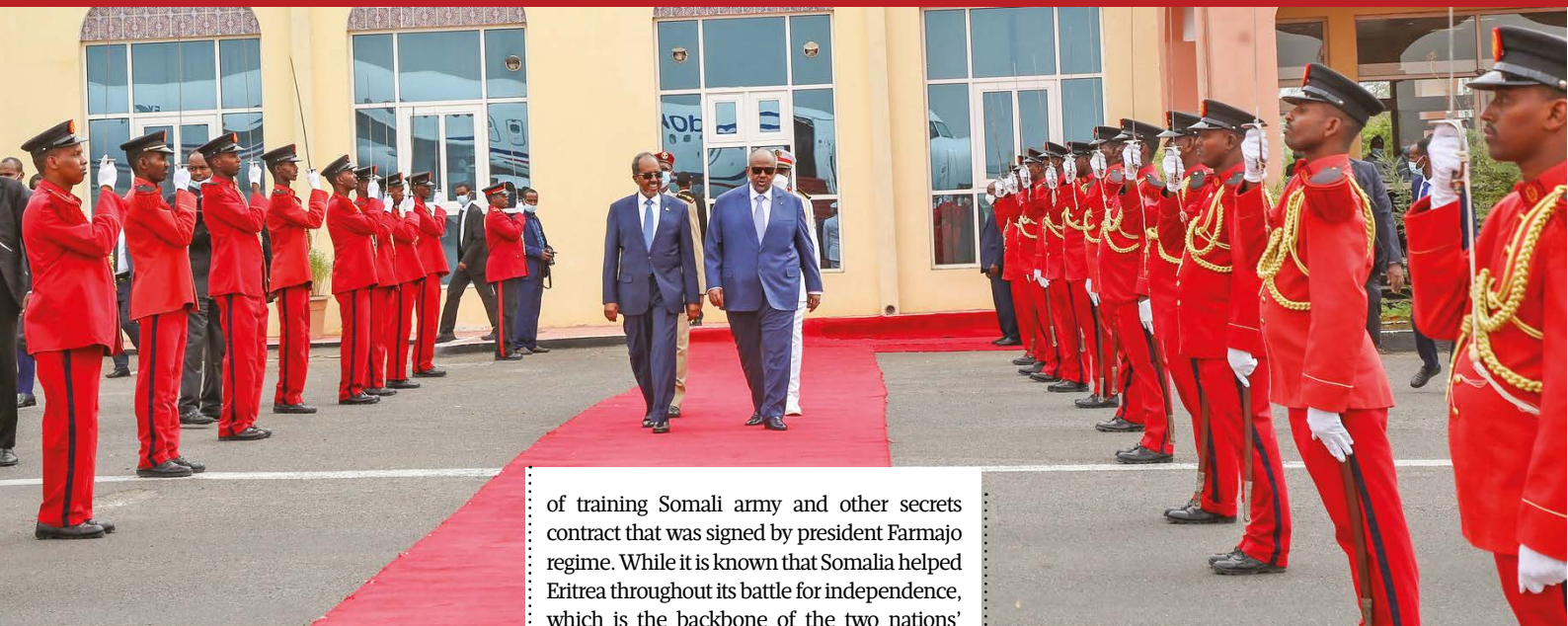


An unexpected ally: Eritrea's path and the new exceptional friendship between Somalia and Eritrea



of training Somali army and other secrets contract that was signed by president Farmajo regime. While it is known that Somalia helped Eritrea throughout its battle for independence, which is the backbone of the two nations' long-term relations, there have also been a lot of controversies that have arisen from the official establishment of relations between Somalia and Eritrea.

Eritrea, on the other hand, has supported Somalia and has lost its membership in IGAD as a result of its support for Somalia, which was at the time being invaded by Ethiopia.

Four months after the signing of a historic peace agreement, Somalia was believed to

have played a significant role in the push to release the sanctions on Eritrea which resulted in Security Council unanimously withdrew a range of international sanctions placed against Eritrea over a decade ago.

During the presidency of Farmajo, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Somalia issued a joint proclamation honoring the strong links of friendship between the people of Eritrea and Somalia and noted that the two nations will establish diplomatic ties and exchange ambassadors, fostering bilateral commerce and investment, as well as educational and cultural interactions. Although the exchange of ambassadors has not yet occurred, it is possible that it may occur in the near future.

And recently, President Hassan Sheikh made a trip to Eritrea just a few months after assuming office. The president's travel was necessitated by what was first believed to be missing Somali soldiers, but resulted in president Sheikh Hassan negotiating an agreement with Eritrea that is most advantageous to Somalia. They also pledged to increase diplomatic and political

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Eritrea is a long-isolated nation, and it was originally considered that it had nothing to offer to Somalia, a nation rebuilding from a 30-year civil war. Recent trips by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and the immediate president of Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo, who previously visited Eritrea and initiated a relationship with Eritrea on many fronts, appear to have altered the situation and made Eritrea a reliable ally. Both Hassan and Farmajo signed a comprehensive memorandum of understanding with Eritrea.

President Mohamed Abdullahi visited Eritrea for the first time in 2017. This was the first visit by a Somali president since Eritrea gained independence in 1993. It was at this time that a bilateral diplomatic relationship was established between the two countries, as well as an agreement for thousands of Somali troops to be trained in Eritrea.

There have been a lot of disputes that have arisen from the formal formation of ties between Somalia and Eritrea, which were mostly surrounding the ambitious program

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cooperation, preserve and develop their national interests, and foster bonds between their two peoples.

The agreement, signed by Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, suggests that the two countries will strengthen the relationship between their peoples, including their expatriates, as well as their political and diplomatic cooperation in order to protect and advance the interests of both nations.

Eritrea and Somalia also committed to cooperate on economic and social concerns, with specific emphasis on commerce, investment, water, agriculture, fishing, health, and education, as well as encouraging collaboration in culture, literature, sports, and science. Enhancing collaboration in environmental protection and development, and mitigating the consequences of natural catastrophes and infectious illnesses.

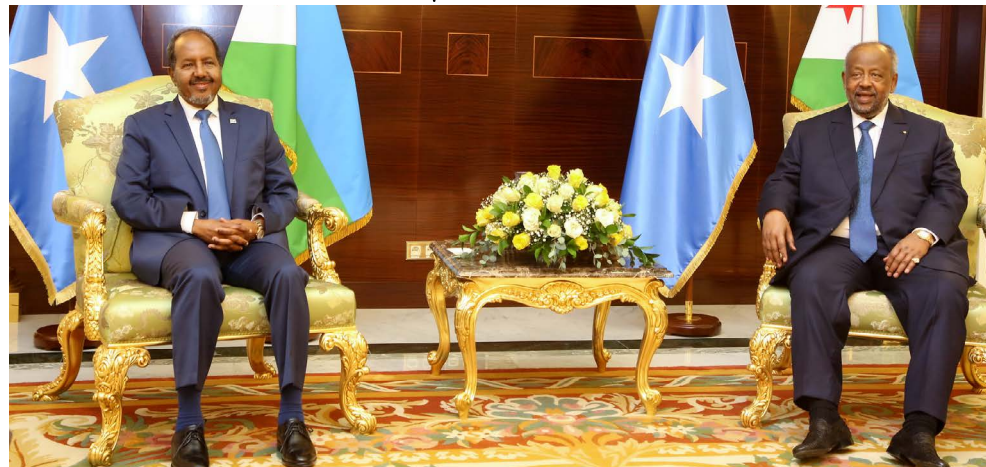
Cooperation on topics of defense and security to maintain peace, stability, and security, and to work together for the growth of cooperation, economic integration, and good relations with the nations of the Horn of Africa, was another crucial aspect.

Somali trained troops in Eritrea

President Farmajo revealed that his administration sent 5,000 recruits - Somalia's largest cohort - to Eritrea for military training during the transfer of power, despite the fact that the issue had previously been a closely guarded secret. In addition, he acknowledged that troops who completed their training in Eritrea last year were supposed to return home, but their departure was delayed to avoid affecting the political climate and elections.

Eritrea has been training thousands of Somali soldiers for over three years, according to the president, and the bulk of the military, including the navy and mechanized divisions, has received regular and specialized training.

The president thanked the Eritrean government when visiting the troops, saying, "The Somali people will be inspired by your presence, and the enemy will be disheartened by your power." According to Ali Said Faqi, the Somali ambassador to the European Union, as reported by VOA, the troops had rigorous



training, with the majority of them receiving special forces training.

According to Ali Said Faqi, the initial idea was for Eritrea to train and arm them, and the agreement stipulated that they may take part in the war against terrorism and the opening of the route between Afgoye and Baidoa. Ali Said Faqi stated in an interview with VOA that the troops may also be utilized to facilitate the opening between Mogadishu and Kismayo and that they are young individuals with the

greatest military training.

"They are welcome to join in the inauguration of the roadway between Mogadishu and Kismayo," he stated. These young adults have received the greatest military training.

If these plans succeed and the army makes appropriate use of them, it will be one of the most significant contributions a regional country has made to Somalia's state-rebuilding efforts.