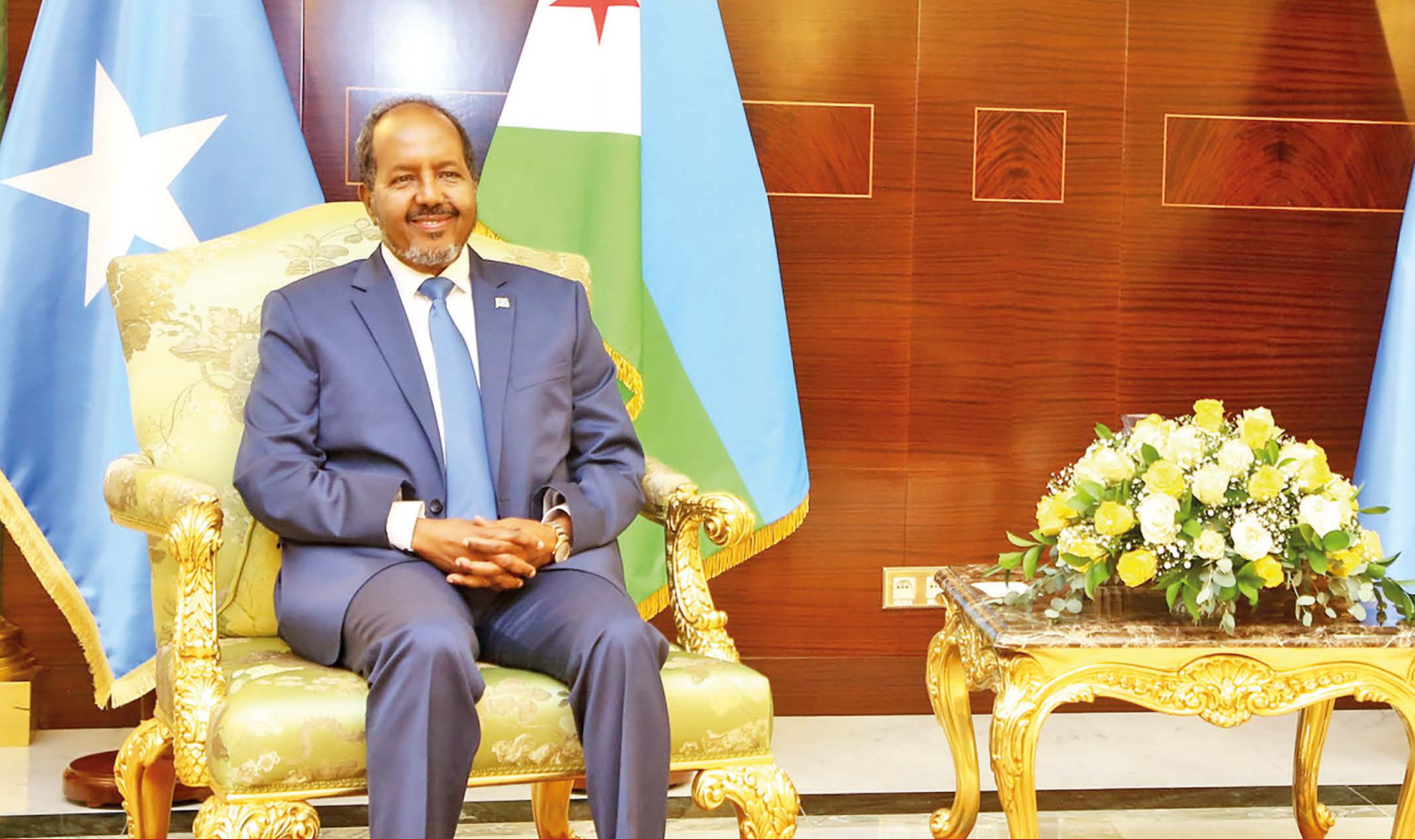




# Djibouti's recent achievements and unique favorable role

BY FU'AD HAJI ABDI WELI, 5 magazine

**D**jibouti is quickly becoming one of the gateways to Africa, as the nation has experienced significant investments in its ports in recent years and has multibillion dollar projects and a huge free trade zone that provides access to landlocked Ethiopia.

Djibouti currently handles almost all of Ethiopia's foreign trade; this will be bolstered by the construction of a free trade zone, the launch of which was attended by the prime minister of Djibouti and a number of other regional leaders; the country is optimistic that the construction will increase trade opportunities in the region.

The first phase of the Djibouti International Free Trade Zone (DIFTZ) was opened in July 2018 under the auspices of the presidents of state of Djibouti, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Somalia, as well as the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and important

shareholders such as China Merchants.

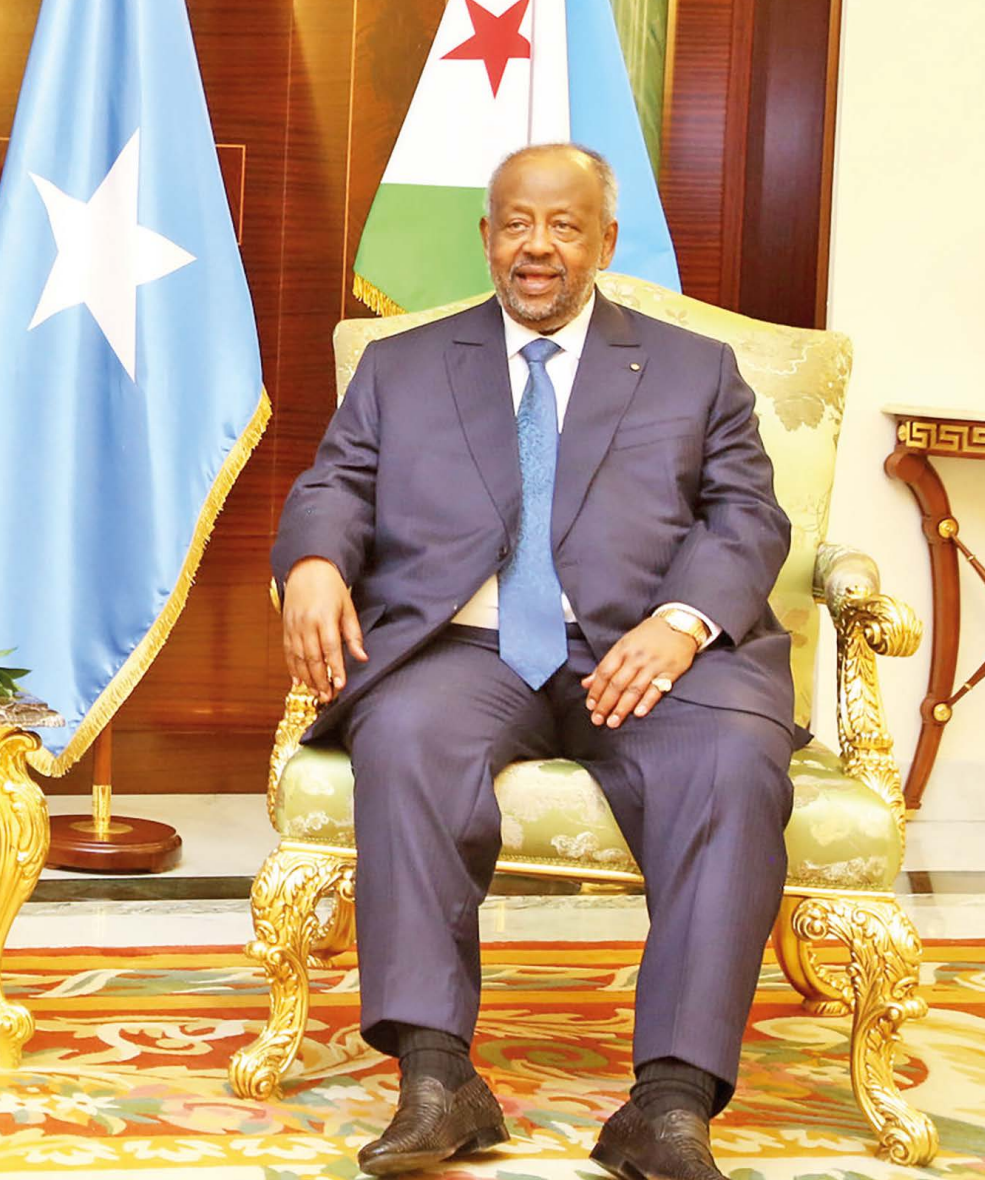
DIFTZ, which, if completed, will be the biggest free trade zone in Africa, offers vibrant new potential for enterprises from across the globe. A worldwide partnership of DPFZA, China Merchants Group, Dalian Port Authority, and IZP

**The Djibouti International Free Trade Zone (DIFTZ), which echoes economic boost for both the country and region at large, will take an approximate of ten years to complete and seeks to strengthen the country's muscle in international trade. It will be funded by the Chinese**

Group is leading the project.

The Djibouti International Free Trade Zone (DIFTZ), which echoes economic boost for both the country and region at large, will take an approximate of ten years to complete and seeks to strengthen the country's muscle in international trade. It will be funded by the Chinese government at a cost of \$3.5 billion and span an area of 4,800 hectares.

To be more specific, the plot phase that encompasses 240 hectares and was initiated in the previous year cost a total of \$370 million. It is comprised of four industrial clusters that will concentrate on trade and logistics, export processing, business and financial support services, as well as manufacturing and the retail sale of duty-free merchandise. The project's advantageous position, which is along the 752 kilometers of electrified train track connecting it to Ethiopia's capital and, as a result, opening it up to the area, ricochets huge prospects in every direction.



It is anticipated that the completion of the project will take a window of 10 years, during which time around 350,000 new employment will be produced. The East African area, whose leaders were prominently present, stands to profit as well, as a result of the expansion of important industries like as food, textiles, packaging, and automobile components.

The launched pilot zone is said to have four industrial clusters focusing on trade, logistics, export processing and distribution. This project is run by China Merchants Group, Dalian Ports Authority and IZP thanks to backing by Chinese government under the global infrastructure network under China's 'Belt and Road' initiative.

The president of Djibouti says that the expansion of the port and the construction of a railway line between Djibouti and Ethiopia will offer transit logistics for Kenya's imports and exports. He also says that the zone will be a hope for thousands of young job seekers in Djibouti. The authorities in Djibouti. The president also

says that the expansion of the port and the construction of a railway line between Djibouti and Ethiopia.

There is also construction of a fuel pipeline running from Djibouti to the central Ethiopia, which is estimated to have a transporting capacity of the of 240,000 barrels. This will make it easier to transport diesel, petrol, and jet fuel to Djibouti, which are currently being transported through fuel tankers, which results in a constriction of the fuel supply.

The success of the port of Djibouti can be partially attributed to the fact that it is located in a strategic location. This makes the port a desirable destination for ships that need to make a pit stop for refueling, and it has attracted international shipping lines because it is situated along one of the busiest shipping routes. Additionally, the port is home to a number of military installations. The establishment of a military installation is a goal for a number of major nations, including the United States, France, and Japan.

## BRIEFLY

### NEW CHIEFS IN TOWN



In the last several weeks, there have been a number of significant appointments that have taken place around the country. The bulk of those who have been appointed to various posts are well-known persons who are either members of the President's party or close acquaintances of the President. This is the case for the vast majority of the appointments.

One appointment in particular that stands out is that of Major General Mubarak Abdiqani Muse to the position of Commander of the Marine and Coast Defense Forces. General Mubarak has been given the responsibility of leading the Somali National Army's Naval and Coastal Defense Forces in his new role as a result of his promotion.

An further appointment that was made not too long ago is that of Mr. Nasa Ige, who is now working as the International Relations Advisor and program coordinator. Mr. Nasa was chosen by the President.

Other appointments that were highly anticipated included those of deputy chairman and secretary general for the Banadir region. The President appointed Isse Mohamud Goure as Deputy Chairman of Administration and Finance, Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Diriye (Yaboo) for Deputy Chairman of Political and Security Affairs, Asis Osman Mohamed for Deputy Chairman of Social Affairs, Mr. Hassan Mohamed Jimale for Deputy Chairman of General Affairs, and Mr. Faisal Arale Afrah was appointed

On the other hand, the cabinet decided to go ahead and approve the proposal made by the Minister of Finance to appoint Dr. Ali Yasin Sheikh Ali to the position of new Deputy Governor of the Central Bank. Dr. Ali Yasin Sheikh Ali is an academic with a great deal of experience relevant to this role, and the cabinet felt confident in his qualifications.