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*Somalia, August 20, 2023*

## **DAILY SITUATION UPDATE**

Somalia, August 20, 2023

At the G20 summit in Mogadishu, Dr. Mohamed Hassan Mohamed Bulaale, the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Welfare, highlighted the progress made by various African nations, including Somalia, emphasising their commitment to global cooperation. Concurrently, Minister Daud Awais Jama inaugurated the Inter-Ministerial Validation Conference for the National Communication Strategy, aimed at fostering effective communication between the Federal Government, Federal Member States, and the Banadir Administration.

However, amidst these positive developments, demonstrations erupted in Mogadishu following the arrest of former military Captain Shegow Ahmed Ali. The use of live ammunition by security forces during these protests drew condemnation from lawmaker Abdirahman Abdishakur Warsame, reflecting concerns regarding the excessive use of force.

The president of Somaliland, Muse Bihi, addressed the opening ceremony of the Kulmiye's central committee convention, displaying his dedication to the upcoming elections and his commitment to adhering to the National Electoral Commission's timelines.

Additionally, the Kenyan government announced its intention to withdraw all foreign forces, including Kenyan troops, from Somalia by December 2024. This decision was based on the belief that Somalia has developed adequate forces to protect and stabilise the country, showcasing a shift in the dynamics of international involvement within Somalia.

Furthermore, the Puntland Post reviewed the Gaalkacyo Agreement, a pact signed 32 years ago to resolve the conflict in the Gaalkacyo district. This review indicates ongoing efforts to evaluate and address the region's longstanding disputes and promote peace.

Tensions with Ethiopia have escalated due to disputed border regions, posing a threat to regional stability. This potential conflict remains a significant concern for Somalia and its neighbours, demanding diplomatic interventions to mitigate the risk of violence.

Negotiations for a ceasefire with the militant group Al-Shabaab have faced obstacles, impeding efforts to restore stability across Somalia. Nevertheless, progress has been seen in the fight against Al-Shabaab, with the Somali National Army, US Africa Command, and the African Union Transition Mission collectively engaging and liberating strategic towns while inflicting casualties on the militants.

The arrest of former military General Sheegow Ahmed Ali sparked protests in Mogadishu, with demonstrators demanding his release and criticising the police for the use of excessive force. These protests highlight the volatile nature of the security environment.

Positive developments include the surrender of a former member of Al-Shabaab, Is'haq Mayow Mohamud, to the Somali National Army. Mohamud's surrender serves as an

encouraging sign and an opportunity for other former militants to follow suit, denouncing violence and extremism.

The Somali government has announced plans to ban TikTok and Telegram due to concerns over the dissemination of harmful content. While this move aims to preserve the moral conduct of the Somali community, it has stirred debate over freedom of expression and the balance between security and individual liberties.

Clashes between armed groups and police forces in Puntland's capital, Garowe, have led to instability and disruptions. These events underline the ongoing security challenges faced by regional authorities within Somalia.

Moreover, the unfortunate death of a high-ranking official in the Puntland Defence Forces, Taliye Maxamed Maxamuud Cumar, resulting from an explosion after a IED was fitted to his vehicle, further highlights the grave security threats and risks faced by security personnel in the country.

The intense fighting in Laascaanood, Sool region, between the SSC forces and Somaliland has continued resulting in significant casualties and has raised international concerns about the humanitarian impact of the conflict. This conflict underscores the complexity of political and territorial disputes within Somalia, emphasising the necessity for inclusive dialogue and peaceful resolutions.

## SUMMARY

**Politics:** Dr. Mohamed Hassan Mohamed Bulaale, the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Welfare, showcased the progress made by African nations, including Somalia, at the G20 summit in Mogadishu and emphasized their commitment to global cooperation. On the same day, Minister Daud Awais Jama inaugurated the Inter-Ministerial Validation Conference for the National Communication Strategy, aiming to establish effective communication between the Federal Government, Federal Member States, and the Banadir Administration. However, demonstrations erupted in Mogadishu following the arrest of former military Captain Shegow Ahmed Ali, leading to condemnation from lawmaker Abdirahman Abdishakur Warsame due to the use of live ammunition by security forces. Meanwhile, Somaliland President Muse Bihi addressed the opening ceremony of the Kulmiye's central committee convention, expressing his dedication to the upcoming elections and adherence to the National Electoral Commission's timelines. In a separate development, the Kenyan government announced the withdrawal of all foreign forces, including Kenyan troops, from Somalia by December 2024, based on the belief that Somalia has generated sufficient forces to protect and stabilize the country. Additionally, the Gaalkacyo Agreement, signed 32 years ago to resolve the conflict in Gaalkacyo district, was reviewed by the Puntland Post. Lastly, President Ali Guudlaawe Xuseen of Hirshabelle chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers to discuss security matters, development projects, countering extremism, and peace restoration in the Cadale District, focusing on maintaining peace, strengthening security measures, and establishing law and order.

**Key Takeaways:**

1. Dr. Mohamed Hassan Mohamed Bulaale, the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Welfare of the Federal Government of Somalia, participated in the G20 summit in Mogadishu. He highlighted the progress made by African nations, including Somalia, in their development efforts and emphasized their commitment to global cooperation.
2. On the same day, the Minister of Information, Culture, and Tourism of Somalia, Daud Awais Jama, inaugurated the Inter-Ministerial Validation Conference for the National Communication Strategy. The conference aimed to establish a unified vision and voice for effective communication among the Federal Government, Federal Member States, and the Banadir Administration.
3. Demonstrations erupted in Mogadishu following the arrest of former military Captain Shegow Ahmed Ali. The use of live ammunition by security forces to disperse the protesters drew condemnation from federal Somali lawmaker Abdirahman Abdishakur Warsame.
4. Somaliland President Muse Bihi addressed the opening ceremony of the Kulmiye's central committee convention. He emphasized his commitment to the upcoming elections and adherence to the election timelines set by the National Electoral Commission.
5. The Kenyan government announced the formal withdrawal of all foreign forces, including Kenyan troops, from Somalia by December 2024. This decision is based on the belief that sufficient forces have been generated to protect and stabilize the country, with Kenya deploying troops to buffer zones along the border.
6. Puntland Post reported the review of the Gaalkacyo Agreement, signed 32 years ago to resolve the conflict in Gaalkacyo district. The agreement aimed to achieve peaceful coexistence, the return of inhabitants, and the recovery of looted assets.
7. President Ali Guudlaawe Xuseen of Hirshabelle chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers in the Cadale District to discuss security matters, development projects, countering extremism, reconciliation efforts, and peace restoration in the region. The meeting focused on maintaining peace, strengthening security measures, and establishing law and order.

**Security:** Tensions have escalated with Ethiopia due to disputed border regions, posing potential conflicts and instability in the region. Meanwhile, negotiations for a ceasefire with the Somali militant group Al-Shabaab have been hindered, impeding efforts to bring stability to the country. However, the Somali National Army, with support from the US Africa Command and African Union Transition Mission, has made significant progress in combating Al-Shabaab, liberating strategic towns and inflicting casualties on the militants. In Mogadishu, protests erupted following the arrest of former military General Sheegow Ahmed

Ali, with demonstrators demanding his release and criticizing the police for excessive force. On a positive note, a former member of Al-Shabaab, Is'haq Mayow Mohamud, has surrendered to the Somali National Army, encouraging his former comrades to follow suit. In a controversial move, the government of Somalia has announced plans to ban TikTok and Telegram, citing concerns over the dissemination of harmful content and aiming to preserve the moral conduct of the Somali community. Additionally, clashes between armed groups and police forces have occurred in Puntland's capital, Garowe, leading to disruption and instability. Unfortunately, the region experienced a loss as a high-ranking official in the Puntland Defence Forces, Taliye Maxamed Maxamuud Cumar, passed away due to injuries sustained from a car explosion. Lastly, intense fighting broke out in Laascaanood in the Sool region between the SSC forces and Somaliland, resulting in significant casualties and raising international concerns regarding the humanitarian impact of the conflict. The situation in Somalia remains complex and volatile, with various challenges and ongoing efforts to establish stability and security in the country.

**Key Takeaways:**

1. Tensions escalated between Somalia and Ethiopia over disputed border regions, raising concerns about potential conflicts and instability in the region.
2. Al-Shabaab, a militant group in Somalia, refused to engage in negotiations for a ceasefire with the Somali government, hindering efforts to bring stability to the country.
3. The Somali National Army, with support from the US Africa Command and African Union Transition Mission, made significant progress in the war against Al-Shabaab, liberating strategic towns and causing significant casualties among militants.
4. Protests erupted in Mogadishu following the arrest of former military General Sheegow Ahmed Ali, with demonstrators demanding his release and accusing the police of excessive force.
5. Is'haq Mayow Mohamud, a former member of Al-Shabaab, surrendered to the Somali National Army and urged his former comrades to do the same.
6. The government of Somalia announced plans to ban TikTok and Telegram in order to safeguard the moral conduct of the Somali community, citing alleged dissemination of harmful content.
7. Clashes between armed groups and police forces occurred in Garowe, the capital of Puntland, resulting in disruption and instability.
8. Taliye Maxamed Maxamuud Cumar, a high-ranking official in the Puntland Defence Forces, died due to injuries sustained from a car explosion.

9. Intense fighting broke out in Laascaanood, located in the Sool region, between the SSC forces and Somaliland, leading to significant casualties and raising international concerns about the humanitarian impact.

## EVENTS LISTED

### Politics

On August 20, 2023, **Dr. Mohamed Hassan Mohamed Bulaale, the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Welfare of the Federal Government of Somalia, participated in the G20 summit held in Mogadishu.** During the event, he had the opportunity to engage with Health Ministers from various countries, including India, Singapore, Brazil, the United States, Germany, South Africa, Russia, Laos, and the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO). Delivering a speech at the summit, Dr. Bulaale highlighted the progress made by African nations, including Somalia, in their development efforts and emphasized their commitment to global cooperation. The invitation extended to the Ministry of Health of Somalia to attend the G20 summit reflected the summit's focus on discussions related to reducing medication prices.

On August 20, 2023, **the Minister of Information, Culture, and Tourism of the Federal Government of Somalia, Daud Awais Jama, inaugurated the Inter-Ministerial Validation Conference for the National Communication Strategy.** The purpose of this conference was to coordinate media relations among the Federal Government, Federal Member States, and the Banadir Administration. The National Strategy had undergone several stages of development over the past few months and was now ready to be adopted by all concerned parties. The objective of this strategy was to establish a unified vision and voice that would effectively reach all Somali communities. Attendees at the conference included Ministers of Information from the Federal Member States, the Director General of the Ministry of Information, the Banadir Administration, various media groups, and members of society. The conference aimed to facilitate coordination and collaboration in the realm of media relations for the betterment of the nation.

On August 20, 2023, **in Mogadishu, Somalia, demonstrations erupted following the arrest of former military Captain Shegow Ahmed Ali by the Somali police.** The use of live ammunition by security forces to disperse the protesters sparked condemnation from federal Somali lawmaker Abdirahman Abdishakur Warsame. Warsame criticized the government's handling of Captain Shegow's arrest and stressed that as a military officer, his detention should have been accompanied by a court order. While denouncing the violence and stone-throwing by protesters, Warsame argued that the use of live ammunition was excessively dangerous. He expressed concern for the well-being of the protesters and called for accountability, highlighting the importance of protecting citizens' rights. The demonstrations were staged by supporters of Captain Shegow, who were contesting his arrest. The police accused Captain Shegow of undermining the security of the capital and engaging in confrontations with security forces. The operation led to the capture of Captain

Shegow and 25 individuals, amidst allegations of stolen mobile phones and counterfeit money being found at his residence. It is worth noting that an earlier incident on February 19, 2021, saw security forces open fire on protesters opposing the previous government, including prominent politicians such as Abdirahman Abdishakur and former Prime Minister Hassan Ali Kheyre. As of now, there have been no reported casualties resulting from the recent demonstrations in Mogadishu.

On August 20, 2023, **Somaliland President Muse Bihi addressed attendees at the opening ceremony of the Kulmiye's central committee convention, emphasizing his commitment to the upcoming elections and stating that they would strictly adhere to the election timelines set by the National Electoral Commission.** President Bihi endorsed the officially promulgated election timelines, which had received strong disapproval from the UCID party. The Waddani party did not explicitly support or reject the timelines. President Bihi also stressed his opposition to armed methods, highlighting their incompatibility with democratic principles. As the expected candidate for the ruling Kulmiye party, President Bihi is poised to be nominated as the party's contender in the forthcoming presidential election.

As of August 20, 2023, **Kenyan Defence Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale announced that all foreign forces, including Kenyan troops, serving under the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) will formally withdraw from Somalia by December 2024.** Duale stated that this decision is based on the belief that the United Nations, African Union, and Somali government have generated sufficient forces to protect and stabilize the country. The Kenyan government plans to deploy troops to forward operating bases (FOBs) in buffer zones along the border to prevent potential infiltration by al-Shabaab, should the extremist group gain strength in the future. Kenya's military involvement in Somalia, known as 'Operation Linda Nchi,' began in October 2011 with the objective of combating al-Shabaab and creating a buffer zone between the two countries. Although the soldiers technically completed their initial mission in March 2012, they later joined AMISOM. The decision to withdraw reflects the belief that the Somali National Army is now ready to independently safeguard its nation.

On August 20, 2023, **Puntland Post reported reviewing the Gaalkacyo Agreement. This agreement was initially signed in Mogadishu, Somalia, 32 years ago, involving the Somali Salvation Democratic Front, Somali National Alliance, and Somali National Democratic Union.** Colonel Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, who later became the Chairman of Emergencies in Northeastern Somalia Authority and the first leader of Puntland State, represented the emerging semi-autonomous administration. The agreement aimed to resolve the conflict in Gaalkacyo, a district that had experienced battles since 1991 between the forces of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front and those loyal to General Mohamed Farah Aideed. The initiative to reach a conclusive agreement about Gaalkacyo was proposed by Abdullahi Yusuf, who emphasised the unconditional return of inhabitants from South Gaalkacyo as a means to achieve peaceful coexistence. The idea was supported by the Chairman of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front, Mohamed Abshir Musse, and became a model for reconciliation efforts, as demonstrated by the Erigavo Agreement in Somaliland in 1995. The Gaalkacyo Agreement also highlighted the commitment to return any looted

assets belonging to citizens of both North and South Gaalkacyo, promoting mutual respect and intra-clan coexistence. It is worth noting that the agreement was signed during the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNISOM) and was held in South Mogadishu, under the control of General Aideed. However, some current Somali political leaders, notably President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and his Damuljadiid clique, perceive Gaalkacyo as a tool for destabilising the North Gaalkacyo region under the governance of Puntland State. This group has been criticised for protecting the illegal privileges of those who have looted properties and occupied public spaces in Mogadishu, despite benefiting from the presence of African peacekeeping forces. The Gaalkacyo Agreement stands as a testament to the potential of committed political leaders to ensure peaceful coexistence and the protection of citizens' rights. It is distinct from the views expressed in the restricted PhD dissertation titled "Examining the Challenges of Clan Politics in Statebuilding: A Case Study of Somalia," written by the incumbent President of Somalia, which may differ in perspective and approach.

On August 20, 2023, **President Ali Guudlaawe Xuseen of Hirshabelle chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers in the Cadale District.** The gathering was attended by Members of the Hirshabelle Parliament representing the Cadale District, as well as the Chief Justice of the Hirshabelle Government. The discussions primarily focused on security matters, the implementation of development projects in Hirshabelle regions, countering extremism, reconciliation efforts, and coordination of efforts to restore peace in the region. The Chairman of the Supreme Court of Hirshabelle, Abdullahi Maxamuud Galal, highlighted the importance of maintaining peace, strengthening security measures, and establishing law and order through collaborative efforts between the Ministry of Defense and the Judiciary. The Council of Ministers expressed their commitment to these objectives and emphasized the significance of the Counter-Extremism Task Force established by the Council of Ministers under the leadership of the President. This meeting represents the ongoing initiatives and progress made by the Hirshabelle Government towards promoting peace, stability, and development in the region.

## Security

On August 20, 2023, **tensions escalated between Somalia and Ethiopia over disputed border regions. The Somali government accused Ethiopia of encroaching on its territory and making aggressive demands without providing any evidence or logical justification.** This unexpected move by Ethiopia has raised concerns about potential conflicts and instability in the region. The historical context between the two countries includes a brief war in 1964 when a small government that was in power for four years and heavily supported by the international community, including Ethiopia, was overthrown. Despite efforts to maintain peace, territorial disputes have persisted, leading to intermittent clashes. The recent escalation has sparked fears of renewed violence and further hampered the already fragile economic and social conditions in the affected border areas.

On August 20, 2023, **Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud revealed that the militant group Al-Shabaab is not willing to engage in negotiations for a ceasefire with the federal government of Somalia.** Despite previous attempts by the government to



initiate talks, the militants have consistently resisted such advances, hindering efforts to bring stability to the Horn of Africa nation. President Mohamud emphasized that his approach involves offering amnesty to Al-Shabaab members as a means of fostering true and honest reconciliation within the country. However, he expressed disappointment that the group remains unwilling to engage in dialogue. President Mohamud believes that negotiating with Al-Shabaab could provide an opportunity to address the longstanding issues plaguing Somalia since the end of Siad Barre's military regime. Notably, the president advocated for integrating defectors from Al-Shabaab into society and assigned a former deputy of the group as his minister for Religious Affairs and Endowment. Despite plans for a second military assault to eradicate the Al-Qaeda-linked group within the next five months, security experts' express scepticism due to the ongoing militant attacks. The upcoming phase of operations will focus on the states of Jubaland and Southwest. Al-Shabaab has been steadily losing territories to the Somali National Army, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), and the US Africa Command, who have played crucial roles on the frontlines.

On August 20, 2023, **the war against Al-Shabaab in Somalia gained momentum as the Somali National Army (SNA) made significant progress in the central and southern parts of the country.** With support from the US Africa Command, African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), and local militia, the SNA has successfully liberated several strategic towns, leading to the reinstatement of civilian administration in these regions. Recent operations resulted in the destruction of Al-Shabaab hideouts in the forest between Barak-Sheik Amir and Hussein-Agey locations in the Galgaduud region. During his visit to Galmadug, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud emphasised the need for collective responsibility in the fight against the militants. The first phase of operations left over 3,000 militants dead and 3,500 critically injured, according to the Ministry of Information. The Somali National Army continues its combing operations in central regions, ensuring the elimination of militants and enhancing security. The US Africa Command has highlighted the regional threat posed by Al-Shabaab, emphasising the significance of the ongoing operations.

On August 20, 2023, **the Federal Government forces conducted a planned offensive against Al-Shabaab militants in the districts of Galcad and Ruunirgood, located in the Galgaduud and Shabeellaha Dhexe regions.** The military operation targeted specific areas where the extremist group maintained a presence. Images released by the government displayed substantial devastation caused by the clashes and revealed confiscated weapons and equipment used by the militants. The commander leading the offensive, General Khalid Bin Walid, provided a statement to the national media, confirming the successful operations in the Ruunirgood and Galcad districts. He emphasized that Al-Shabaab's strongholds in these areas were significantly disrupted, and government forces continue to track the fleeing militants towards the Ceelbuur and Galhareeri districts of Galgaduud region.

On August 20, 2023, **General Ibrahim Sheikh Muhidin, the Commander of the Somali National Army (SNA), arrived in Aden Yabal district of the middle Shabelle region.** Accompanied by Abdullahi Mohamed Nur, the Director General of the counterterrorism agency, General Muhidin was welcomed by Members of Parliament from both Houses of the Somali Parliament. During his visit, the Commander inspected the frontline area, met with

soldiers stationed there, and offered his encouragement in the ongoing fight against terrorist militants. The primary objective of the SNA is to liberate Somalia from Al-Shabaab and restore national pride. The first phase of the operation is nearing completion, and the army is preparing to initiate the second phase by clearing the remaining enemy-controlled areas in the Hishabelle and Galmudug States. The tone of this summary is actively informative and neutral, presenting the facts of the event without bias.

On August 20, 2023, **protests erupted in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, following the arrest of former military General Sheegow Ahmed Ali.** Hundreds of people associated with him took to the streets, demanding his immediate release from detention. The protests began in the Dharkenley District and moved towards Sayid Junction, leading to the Presidential Palace. Security officers deployed near the palace reportedly used live ammunition to disperse the protesters, although no casualties were reported. The demonstrators accused the police of employing excessive force, further eroding public confidence in the government. Aside from Sheegow, the police also arrested at least 24-armed militia members who participated in the violent protests. The police report suggests that Sheegow and his team are facing accusations of violent conduct and destabilizing security in Mogadishu. Mutiny and dissent within the military have been recurrent issues in Somalia, a country that has faced significant instability for several decades. Meanwhile, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has focused on combating the efforts of Al-Shabaab militants who seek to overthrow the government.

On August 20, 2023, **Is'haq Mayow Mohamud, also known as Sayib, surrendered to the Somali National Army of the 69th Brigade in Mogadishu.** Is'haq, who was associated with the extremist group Al-Shabaab, held responsibilities within the militia factions and was actively involved in various clashes across regions such as the lower Shabelle, Hiiraan, and Gedo. However, he chose to leave the terrorist organization due to their infliction of suffering on the people and internal enslavement. Is'haq appealed to his former comrades within Al-Shabaab, urging them to surrender to the Somali National Army to improve their living conditions.

On August 20, 2023, **Somalia's Minister of Communications and Technology, Jama Hassan Khalif, announced plans to ban the popular social media applications TikTok and Telegram in the country.** The decision was made after discussions with telecommunication service providers. Minister Khalif stated that the ban was necessary to safeguard the moral conduct of the Somali community, as TikTok and Telegram were allegedly being used to disseminate harmful content, including blackmail and threats involving children. The proposed ban aligns with the National Telecommunications Law, which prohibits the use of telecommunications services for immoral or illegal purposes. The announcement has garnered both support and criticism, with proponents arguing that it is crucial to shield children from detrimental content while opponents view it as an infringement on freedom of expression. The specific implementation date of the ban remains unclear, as the government is collaborating with telecommunication companies to facilitate its enforcement.

On August 20, 2023, **the Deputy Police Commissioner of Nugaal region, Gaashaanle Maxamuud Muuse Bile (Fardafuul), provided a report on recent security developments in the capital city of Garoowe.** He disclosed that an unexpected incident occurred, involving the convergence of the police force with a group of individuals who identified themselves as members of the renowned Danab forces, under the leadership of General Jimcaale Jaamac Takar. Deputy Commissioner Fardafuul stated that the incident took place at the Israac neighborhood in Garoowe, resulting in the injury of one soldier from General Jimcaale's forces. He further called upon the members associated with General Jimcaale to take responsibility for their actions, specifically referring to their utilization of alcoholic beverages. Additionally, he mentioned that the police intervened by apprehending another individual involved in the incident, followed by their immediate release after the situation was brought under control and better understood.

On August 19, 2023, **Garowe, the capital of Puntland in Somalia, experienced fresh clashes between armed groups and police forces.** The confrontation, which lasted for over an hour, involved the use of various weapons, including machine guns, leading to significant disruption and instability in the city. The deputy commander of the Nugaal police force, Mohamud Bile Fardafuul, accused Colonel Jim'ale Takar's forces from the Danab commando unit of instigating the violence. The clash occurred after the gunmen brought a civilian to the police station, claiming he had hit their vehicle, resulting in torture. The dispute escalated, and the gunmen opened fire on the police soldiers stationed at the station. Despite the police repulsing the attackers and maintaining their position, the deputy police commander of the Nugal region pledged to bring the perpetrators to justice. Garowe has been plagued by incidents of insecurity, including night-time armed robberies, murder, and other crimes.

On August 20, 2023, **a tragic incident occurred in Puntland when Taliye Maxamed Maxamuud Cumar, also known as Gacayte, a high-ranking official in the Puntland Defence Forces, lost his life due to injuries sustained from a car explosion.** Gacayte, who served as the commander of the Daraawiishta Puntland forces in the Towfiiq district, was targeted by the explosion while traveling between Gaalkacyo and Towfiiq. Following the incident, he was swiftly taken to a hospital in Gaalkacyo, Mudug region, where he unfortunately succumbed to his injuries on Sunday. Taliye Gacayte is remembered as a prominent figure who made significant contributions to Puntland's overall security and specifically in the Mudug region.

On August 20, 2023, **intense fighting erupted in the city of Laascaanood, located in the Sool region. Reports indicate that clashes between armed forces and militias have escalated, leading to a high level of violence and instability in the area.** Both sides, identified as the SSC (Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn) forces and Somaliland, are reportedly engaged in heavy fighting with significant casualties. The situation remains volatile, and previous efforts to mediate between the two sides have so far been unsuccessful. The clashes mark a continuation of the longstanding tensions and disputes over control of the Sool region. International actors have expressed concern over the escalation of violence and the humanitarian consequences for the affected population.





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