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SOMALIA: Baidoa falls to Shatigadud rivals

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NAIROBI, 3 Oct 2002 (IRIN) - The southwestern Somali town of Baidoa on Thursday fell to the rivals of the Rahanweyn Resistance Army (RRA) chairman, Col Hasan Muhammad Nur Shatigadud, who has been in control of the town since July, a local business source told IRIN.

Forces loyal to Shatigadud's two deputies and rivals for power - Shaykh Adan Madobe, the RRA first vice-chairman and the second vice-chairman, Muhammad Ibrahim Habsade - seized control of the town at 6:00 am [local time], the source said.

The whereabouts of Shatigadud and his forces are unknown. The source added that there was "minimal fighting" and businesses resumed their activities later in the morning.

Fighting first broke out in Baidoa on 1 July between the rival forces in an apparent power struggle. On 31 July, Shatigadud's forces drove his deputies and their troops out of Baidoa and seized control of the town.

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[\[Back\]](#) [\[Home Page\]](#)

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