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Somaliland clergy greatly welcome national de-jure status granted by Israel and vow to defend sovereignty



They praise the President for prioritizing recognition efforts

By M.A. Egge

The clerical members of the nation of the Republic of Somaliland have expressed their strong stand of support by greatly welcoming the official recognition that the state of Israel, a UN member state, granted the country. They profoundly hailed the de-jure status the nation assumed through Israeli recognition hence vowed to

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President Awards Top Winners of the Ramadan Holy Qur'an Recitation Competition

By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, presented valuable awards to the top-performing



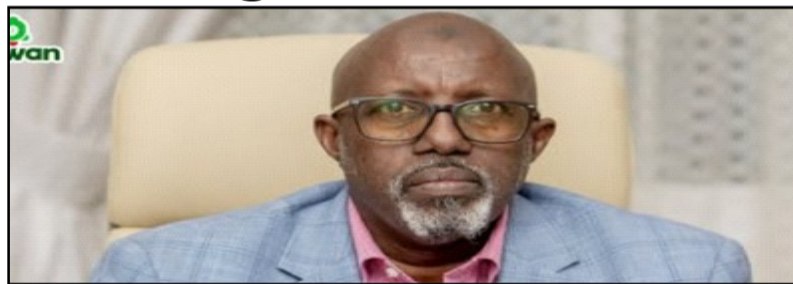
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Somaliland's Diplomatic Breakthrough: Ambassador Goth Joins AIPAC Congressional Summit as Israel's Recognition Opens New Doors



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Somaliland Deputy Information Minister Warns Against Unlicensed Media Operations



Mohamoud Walaaleye

Somaliland's Deputy Minister of Information and Acting Minister, Muuse Askar Guuleed, issued a stern warning to

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Guelleh's Rage Over Somaliland: Envy Masquerading as Concern



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Somaliland's New Ambassador to Israel Pledges to Strengthen Strategic Ties



Mohamoud Walaaleye

Dr. Mohamed Hagi, newly appointed as Somaliland's first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the State of Israel, has issued a heartfelt statement expressing deep

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Dr. Edna Adan Ismail: Somaliland's Iron Lady Who Transformed a Garbage Dump into a Nation's Lifeline

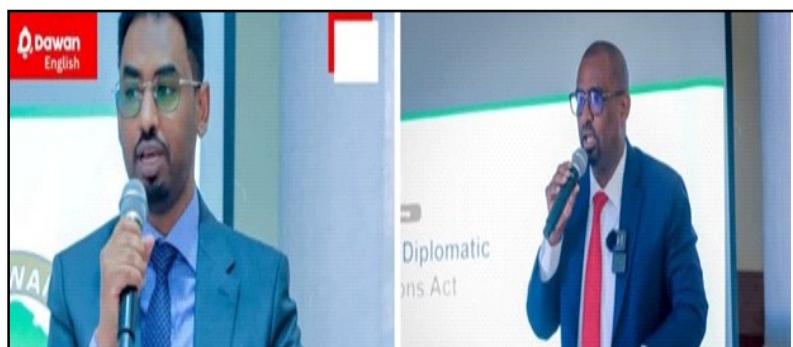


Mohamoud Walaaleye

In a world where power is often measured by armies, borders, and diplomatic seats, one

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Somaliland House Committee Holds High-Level Consultative Meeting to Refine Draft Diplomatic Missions Act



Mohamoud Walaaleye

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Planning, and Investment today convened a high-level consultative meeting to review and strengthen proposed amendments to the Draft Diplomatic Missions Act.

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Finance Minister Abdilahi Presents Positive Economic Update at 55th Council of Ministers Meeting



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Dahabshiil Group Hosts Landmark Simultaneous Community Iftars in Hargeisa and Jigjiga During Ramadan



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President holds crucial consultative meeting with Awdal traditional elders to bolster security

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Somaliland clergy greatly.....



support to the hilt the and defend the nationhood of the country. The sentiments were conveyed during the annual Ramadan Iftar dinner that the Presidency hosted for the prominent clerical members from across the country. The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro hosted on Thursday evening the Iftar and dinner reception at the Presidential Palace for prominent religious

scholars' get together cum consultation from across the country. The gathering also is aimed to honour the scholars, exchange views, and reinforce the important role they play in society, on an annual basis during the month of Ramadan. Several distinguished scholars delivered sermons and advisory remarks, commending the President for consistently prioritizing

and recognizing the role of religious leaders in national affairs. The scholars called upon business leaders and philanthropists to contribute to ongoing humanitarian relief efforts, particularly in response to the severe drought affecting people and livestock across the country. They also reaffirmed their full support for Somaliland's statehood and sovereignty, warmly welcoming the recent recognition granted by the State of Israel. The Minister of Religious Affairs and Endowments, Sheikh Abdillahi-Baashe Dahir Jama, welcomed the scholars and praised their responsible leadership and service to the community. On his part the Head of State President Abdirahman commended the scholars for their role in safeguarding national unity, peace, and stability, and for countering misinformation and hostile narratives related to the recognition extended by Israel to the Republic of Somaliland on 26 December 2025.

Somaliland Deputy Information Minister.....

media outlets on March 1, 2026, declaring that any media entity operating without an official license from the Ministry of Information will not be permitted to function in the country.



In a strongly worded statement, the minister cautioned journalists and media houses against content that could incite division or undermine national unity. He emphasized that strict legal action would be taken against anyone promoting discord or acting contrary to Somaliland's existence and cohesion. Minister Muuse Askar Guuleed stated bluntly. "We will not allow unlicensed media to operate in the country." He further stressed that every media institution active in Somaliland is required to possess a valid license issued by the Ministry of Information, reiterating that no unauthorized outlet—whether institutional or individual—would be tolerated. The deputy minister called on both government-affiliated and

independent journalists to demonstrate heightened responsibility and national vigilance in their reporting. He urged them to prioritize the protection of Somaliland's interests and unity. "Somaliland's aspirations are progressing and will ultimately succeed," he added. "Somalia remains tied to that same destiny. Those attempting to harm us will face a response that is measured,

informed, civilized, and rooted in experience—without resorting to insults or the reckless rhetoric often heard in Mogadishu." The remarks come amid ongoing efforts by the Somaliland government to regulate the media landscape and maintain internal stability as the nation continues its pursuit of international recognition and domestic development.

Somaliland's New Ambassador.....

gratitude to the people and leadership of Somaliland while outlining his firm commitment to advancing bilateral relations. In his message, Ambassador Haji extended "Jumma Mubarak" greetings and offered sincere thanks to the people of the Republic of Somaliland for their trust, support, and warm reception following his appointment to this historic role. He described their backing not only as personal encouragement but as a national obligation that heightens his sense of responsibility to

safeguard Somaliland's interests, dignity, and development. Ambassador Haji reserved special appreciation for Somaliland's President, His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi (Irro), for the profound confidence placed in him to spearhead foreign policy strategy as the President's key advisor on international affairs and for granting him the highest level of plenipotentiary ambassadorial authority. Highlighting the broad scope of his mandate, Ambassador Haji noted

that his ambassadorship will extend beyond a single country, opening new doors and pursuing a forward-looking national vision to expand Somaliland's influence and presence on the global stage. He made a clear and resolute pledge: "I clearly pledge to work with sincerity, competence, and firm determination to achieve the nation's goals, giving first priority to strengthening and deepening the relations between the two countries (Strengthening Somaliland-Israel

President Awards Top.....



students in the annual Presidential Holy Qur'an Recitation Competition held during the blessed month of Ramadan. The award ceremony, which took place at the Presidential Palace, brought together officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowments, religious scholars, and teachers who mentored the participating students. The competition featured young male and female memorizers (Huffaz) representing various regions of the country. In the boys' category: First place was awarded to Abdillahi Jama Salah from Sanaag region, who received a brand-new saloon car from the President. Second place went to Hamza Abdirahman Salah from Maroodi-jeeh region.

Third place was secured by Abdirizaq Ahmed Jama from Togdeer region. The first and second runners-up received various valuable prizes in recognition of their achievements. For the second consecutive year, the President also honoured the top three female participants in the special category of the competition: First place was awarded to Rayaan Hussein Ahmed from Awdal region, who received a gold prize. Second place went to Asha Adan Duale from Maroodi-jeeh region. Third place was secured by Bushra Abdi Ali from Awdal region. All received valuable awards in recognition of their outstanding performances. Additionally, the President awarded a fully sponsored Umrah pilgrimage to the administrators responsible for the first-place winners in both the boys' and girls' categories.

Somaliland House Committee.....

The session was officially inaugurated by Acting Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Saeed Mire Farah (Giire), who underscored the importance of establishing a modern, internationally compliant diplomatic framework for Somaliland. The meeting brought together a distinguished group of participants, including veteran diplomats with extensive experience in Somaliland's foreign relations, prominent legal experts, and academic scholars specializing in international law and diplomacy. Discussions centred on refining the language of the draft legislation, particularly provisions related to the mandates, privileges, immunities, and operational protocols of Somaliland's diplomatic missions abroad. Participants provided detailed technical inputs and recommendations aimed at



ensuring full alignment with established international diplomatic norms and conventions, while reflecting Somaliland's unique context and aspirations. All recommendations and feedback collected during the consultative forum will now be carefully integrated into the revised draft. The updated version is expected to advance to the next legislative stage in the House of Representatives for further debate and approval. This consultative process marks a significant step toward formalising and professionalising Somaliland's diplomatic architecture in line with global best practices.

Relations) so that they become solid, strategic, and sustainable." This partnership, he emphasized, will be rooted in comprehensive cooperation across security, economy, technology, diplomacy, and development sectors—aimed at securing mutual interests, regional stability, prosperity, and enduring security. Concluding his statement, Ambassador Haji prayed to Allah for success in fulfilling this duty.

The appointment of Dr. Haji—previously an advisor to the President and a key figure in advancing Somaliland-Israel ties—follows the formal establishment of diplomatic relations on December 26, 2025, and Israel's recent granting of agreement. Israel has indicated it will soon appoint its own ambassador to Somaliland, signaling further deepening of this emerging alliance.

Somaliland's Diplomatic Breakthrough: Ambassador.....



Mohamoud Walaaleye Ambassador Bashir Goth, Somaliland's Representative to the United States, took part as an invited international guest at the 2026 American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Congressional Summit. He wore the official badge reserved for foreign diplomatic representatives. In a post shared by the Somaliland Mission USA account, Ambassador Goth described the warm and welcoming atmosphere at the summit's reception. He noted meaningful conversations with Americans and Israelis—spanning both Republican and Democratic lines—centered on shared democratic values and converging interests across the Horn of Africa. Somaliland expressed deep appreciation for Israel's historic recognition of its sovereignty in late

2025—the first country to formally acknowledge Somaliland since it reclaimed independence in 1991. The statement reaffirmed Somaliland's strong desire to join the Abraham Accords and to expand cooperation with the United States and Israel in critical areas including security cooperation, bilateral trade, and sustainable economic growth. The post closed with warm multilingual greetings: Salam. Shalom. ÓáÇã. ùiáí. Photos from the event, posted by foreign policy expert Dr. J. Peter Pham, captured Ambassador Goth actively networking among attendees. Dr. Pham underscored the symbolic weight of the occasion, pointing to Israel's trailblazing recognition of Somaliland and expressing

confidence that additional nations would soon follow suit. This high-profile appearance is a clear element of Somaliland's broader, proactive diplomatic campaign. By engaging powerful pro-Israel networks in the United States, Somaliland is capitalizing on the momentum created by Israel's 2025 decision to build wider international support for formal recognition of its de facto statehood. The engagement also spotlights Somaliland's strengths: its functioning democratic system, its role in promoting stability in a volatile region, and its strategic value as a potential partner in counterterrorism, maritime security, and economic development throughout the Horn of Africa and Red Sea corridor. The AIPAC Congressional Summit remains one of the most influential platforms for shaping U.S.-Israel policy and addressing related global challenges, regularly drawing members of Congress, senior officials, and international figures. Somaliland's participation signals a confident, forward-leaning strategy aimed at forging enduring alliances in pursuit of peace, security, and shared prosperity.

Finance Minister Abdilahi.....



During the 55th session of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Somaliland, held last Wednesday at the Presidential Palace and chaired by President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro with Vice President Mohamed Ali Aw Adan in attendance, Hon. Abdillahi Hassan Adan, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, delivered a detailed report on the country's economic situation. Minister Abdilahi, supported by experts from his ministry, informed the Council that over the past year, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has significantly strengthened its oversight and coordination of projects funded by the World Bank and the African Development Bank. This enhanced role has ensured timely implementation of activities, improved utilization of allocated budgetary funds for projects, and reinforced accountability and transparency across all implementing ministries and agencies.

The Minister highlighted several key factors that have driven this progress: Strong ministerial leadership backed by a clear strategy. High-level collaboration and partnership with the World Bank and the African Development Bank. Targeted capacity building programs specifically designed for Directors General in relevant ministries. Regular monitoring and quarterly performance evaluations. Establishment and strengthening of effective coordination mechanisms. The presentation underscores the Ministry's ongoing efforts to build a more resilient and transparent economic framework, contributing to Somaliland's sustained development amid various challenges. The Council received the report positively as part of broader discussions on national priorities.

Guelleh's Rage Over Somaliland: Envy.....



Mohamoud Walaaleye President Ismaïl Omar Guelleh's furious tirade in Jeune Afrique—denouncing Israel's recognition of Somaliland as a “betrayal,” branding the UAE Israel's regional “vanguard,” and spinning dark conspiracies about exploitation—sounds more like the bitter complaint of a leader watching his own model crumble than any genuine concern for Horn of Africa stability. Guelleh insists the move threatens Somali unity and opens the door to nefarious Israeli designs on Somaliland's territory. The reality is

far simpler and far more impressive: Somaliland has spent over three decades proving it is not a breakaway project in need of handouts, but a self-governing, peaceful, democratic entity that actually works. Since restoring it's independence in 1991 following a devastating civil war, Somaliland has held multiple competitive elections, built functioning institutions, maintained its own currency, issued passports recognized by growing numbers of countries, and kept Al-Shabaab, piracy, and endless clan conflict at bay—achievements that remain

elusive across the fence in Somalia proper. Israel's formal recognition in late December 2025 makes it the first UN member state to take that step. Far from a plot for conquest, this is classic realpolitik in a choke-point region. The Bab el-Mandeb Strait and southern Red Sea remain among the world's most strategically vital waterways. With Houthi drones and missiles still disrupting global shipping, reliable, stable partners matter more than ever. Somaliland delivers precisely that: security, predictability, and openness to serious cooperation. At the heart of Guelleh's irritation lies Berbera Port—the project he cannot match and therefore must demonize. DP World's multi-hundred-million-dollar investment, backed by long-term UAE commitment, has transformed Berbera into a modern, high-capacity gateway. It already serves landlocked Ethiopia (bolstered by the landmark 2024 Memorandum of Understanding that traded future recognition for sea access), handles growing cargo volumes, and draws serious international attention. Berbera succeeds because Somaliland provides rule of law, investor protections, and actual governance—fundamentals increasingly diluted in Djibouti's rentier economy. Djibouti's prosperity rests almost entirely on leasing patches of desert to foreign militaries: the United

States, France, China, Japan, Italy, and others all pay handsome rents for strategic footholds. It is a comfortable but brittle model—steady cash flow without broad-based development, diversification, or genuine political competition. Guelleh, in office since 1999 and now pursuing a sixth term with opposition systematically sidelined, presides over a system widely described as kleptocratic, where power and wealth concentrate in narrow family and clan networks. Somaliland's trajectory directly challenges that comfortable stagnation. While Djibouti collects rent checks, Berbera builds real commercial momentum, attracts Gulf capital, secures diplomatic wins, and now opens pathways to Israeli expertise in agriculture, technology, cybersecurity, health, and water management—sectors where Somaliland has repeatedly shown it can absorb and deliver results.

Guelleh's warnings about an Israeli “base” endangering the region ring hollow. Somaliland has hosted international partners for years without igniting proxy wars or invasions. The only real destabilizing force here is envy: envy of a neighbor that chose merit-based progress over perpetual rent-seeking, envy of actual elections instead of scripted succession, envy of rising Gulf and now Israeli ties while Djibouti's model shows its age. The facts are clear. Somaliland isn't begging for legitimacy; it is earning it through results. Israel's recognition is not the problem—it is merely the latest confirmation that the future favors those who govern effectively, invest wisely, and build genuine partnerships. Somaliland keeps winning. The rest is just noise. #SomalilandRising

Dr. Edna Adan Ismail: Somaliland's Iron Lady Who



Her activism extends to combating female genital mutilation (FGM), a practice she has fought since 1976 using her Muslim faith to demonstrate its lack of religious basis, despite facing threats and taboos.

Recent accolades underscore her global impact. In 2023, she received the prestigious Templeton Prize (previously awarded to figures like Mother Teresa and Desmond Tutu) for her humanitarian and health contributions.

In late 2025, she was honored with the Gusi Peace Prize—often called “Asia’s Nobel”—in recognition of her lifelong service in peacebuilding, women’s empowerment, and healthcare. Additional recognitions include the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice in 2025. In early 2026, she continued international engagements, including speaking events highlighting her work.

Dr. Edna also serves as President of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), amplifying voices of unrepresented peoples worldwide.

While the Nobel Peace Prize has been suggested by admirers as a fitting next chapter—given her transformative impact on lives, dignity, and an aspiring nation’s visibility—her legacy already transcends awards. She has built sovereignty not with weapons or treaties, but with scalpels, education, and unbreakable will, forcing the world to confront Somaliland’s reality.

As one observer put it, history may one day record her as the woman who turned global silence into acknowledgment, war into dignity, and a landfill into a beacon of hope. In the Horn of Africa, Dr. Edna Adan Ismail remains the unbreakable force reminding us that true power often emerges from the most unlikely places.

woman stands as a towering figure of resilience and transformation without any of those conventional tools. Dr. Edna Adan Ismail, the pioneering Somali nurse-midwife, humanitarian, and advocate, has been hailed as the true “Iron Lady” of the Horn of Africa—a title evoking the unyielding resolve of historical giants like Margaret Thatcher, Golda Meir, and Indira Gandhi, yet rooted in compassion, competence, and grassroots nation-building.

At 88 years old, Dr. Edna continues her frontline work, conducting ward rounds at the Edna Adan University Hospital she founded, lobbying world leaders, and championing causes from women’s health to the recognition of Somaliland, a republic that last year gained its first recognition from the State of Israel and anticipates more to follow.

Her story begins with pioneering “firsts”: the first Somali woman to study in Britain, the first qualified nurse and midwife in her homeland, and several more firsts. But her defining chapter unfolded amid the devastation of civil war. Rather than retreating to a comfortable life abroad—after serving as a high-ranking WHO official and Somalia’s former First Lady—she returned home in the 1990s.

Facing one of the world’s highest maternal mortality rates, she liquidated her UN pension, sold her jewelry and cars, and secured a plot of land from the government. What they gave her was a garbage dump. Undeterred, she cleared the site herself, lived on-site during construction, and built the Edna Adan Maternity Hospital (now expanded into Edna Adan University Hospital and University).

The facility has delivered tens of thousands of babies, slashed maternal mortality by up to 75% in its catchment area compared to the national averages, and trained over 1,000—and by some accounts thousands—of health professionals in nursing, midwifery, medicine, and related fields.

Beyond healthcare, Dr. Edna has been a diplomatic force. As Somaliland’s first female Foreign Minister (2003–2006), she boldly challenged global powers: “You underestimate our democracy, but embrace the disaster of Somalia.” She has long argued that Somaliland fulfills all criteria for statehood—peace, democratic elections, a stable currency, and controlled territory, though it last year gained an initial recognition from Israel—yet faces persistent international indifference favoring fragile unity with Somalia.

Dahabshiil Group Hosts Landmark.....

In a powerful display of unity and community spirit amid the holy month of Ramadan, Dahabshiil Group organized the largest-ever communal iftar in Hargeisa, Somaliland, while simultaneously holding a major iftar event in Jigjiga, Ethiopia.

The Hargeisa gathering, described as the city’s biggest to date, brought together diverse segments of society under the inspiring theme “United in Heart, Beyond Division” (Somali: “Aan Midayno Quluubtoo, Iska Dayno Qabyaalad”). The event highlighted Dahabshiil’s ongoing commitment to promoting social cohesion, civic responsibility, inclusive growth, and the values of brotherhood and mutual support. Hargeisa Mayor Abdikarim Ahmed Mooge joined Dahabshiil officials in addressing attendees, urging the public to extend help and solidarity to one another—not just during Ramadan but throughout the year—



as a foundation for building resilient and united communities.

A parallel iftar in Jigjiga echoed the same powerful message, uniting various groups within the city and reinforcing themes of togetherness, cooperation, and the enduring importance of ‘walaaltinimo’ (brotherhood) as pillars of societal progress.

These concurrent events underscore Dahabshiil Group’s strategic role as a bridge-builder in the Horn of Africa, fostering cross-border harmony and shared prosperity at a time when unity is especially meaningful.

The initiatives drew widespread appreciation for emphasizing generosity, reflection, and collective strength during this sacred month.

President holds crucial consultative meeting with Awdal traditional elders to bolster security

-Cabinet meeting this week focusses on prolonged drought



By M.A. Egge

The President informed the Cabinet that he held a productive meeting the previous night with traditional leaders from Awdal Region.

He informed the 55th cabinet of ministers’ session that the discussions focused on enhancing mutual understanding, cooperation, and coordination between government institutions and traditional authorities to safeguard security in Awdal and Seel regions and prevent any actions that could undermine peace and social cohesion.

The President told the ministers that he would appoint a fully accredited Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to represent the Republic of Somaliland in Israel; a move that he made a few hours afterwards hence named former Taiwan rep Amb. Mohamed Haji.

The 55th session of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Somaliland, chaired by the Head of State while flanked by his deputy the VP H.E. Mohamed Ali aw Abdi, was held over the week at the Presidential Palace in Hargeisa.

The Cabinet deliberated on the following key issues:

1. Drought Situation Across the Country

The Minister of Religious Affairs and Endowments, Sheikh Abdullahi-Baashe Dahir Jama, presented a comprehensive briefing on the severe drought affecting the country. He highlighted the widespread hardship faced by communities and livestock, particularly among

pastoralists and vulnerable groups such as children, women, and the elderly.

The Minister emphasized that responding to the crisis is both a religious and national duty, calling for a unified national relief effort to assist those affected.

2. National Security Situation

The Minister of Interior and National Security Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab, informed the Cabinet that the overall security situation across all regions remains stable and that there were no imminent threats to national security.

3. National Economic Situation

The Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Hon. Abdillahi Hassan Adan, along with ministry experts, briefed the Cabinet on economic developments.

He stated that during the past year, the Ministry strengthened its oversight and coordination of projects funded by the World Bank and the African Development Bank to ensure timely implementation, improved budget utilization, enhanced accountability, and transparency across implementing institutions. Key factors contributing to this progress include:

Strong and strategic ministerial leadership.

High-level cooperation with the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

Targeted capacity-building for relevant Directors-General.

Regular quarterly performance monitoring and evaluation.

Strengthened coordination mechanisms.

DT Global Signs Strategic MoU with Ministry of Information to Advance Horn of Africa Culture for Peace Project



Heritage (ICH) in alignment with international and UNESCO standards. It will also focus on building the capacity of the Ministry's Culture Department and national archives to preserve and promote Somali cultural heritage. The MoU was formally signed in Hargeisa on February 21, 2026, by Deputy and Acting Minister Hon. Muse Askar Guuleed and DT Global's Somaliland Projects Head, Mukhtar Yusuf Osman, in the presence of senior Ministry officials. This partnership forms part of the broader HoAC4P programme, which seeks to enhance social cohesion, promote peacebuilding, and strengthen cultural identities across the Horn of Africa through the preservation and evolution of shared cultural heritage.

Mohamoud Walaaleye DT Global has entered into a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Information, Culture & Awareness to implement the Horn of Africa Culture for Peace (HoAC4P) project in Somaliland.

The initiative, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by DT Global, aims to support the development of National Guidelines for safeguarding Intangible Cultural

Israel Grants Agrément to Somaliland's First Ambassador to Israel

Mohamoud Walaaleye The State of Israel has formally granted agrément to Dr. Mohamed Hagi as the Republic of Somaliland's first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Israel.

This development follows the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on December 26, 2025, when Israel became the first UN member state to officially recognize Somaliland as a sovereign and independent nation.

The approval aligns with understandings reached during Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar's official visit to Somaliland last month, which focused on deepening bilateral ties in diplomacy, security, trade, and development cooperation.

Dr. Mohamed Hagi, who currently serves as an advisor to Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed

Abdullahi (Irro), played a key role in the inner circle of officials advancing relations with Israel throughout 2025. He previously served as Somaliland's representative to Taiwan.

In a reciprocal step, Israel announced that an Israeli Ambassador to Somaliland will be appointed soon, marking further progress in strengthening ties between the two sides.

Separately this week, Israel's MASHAV International Cooperation Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is conducting a specialized training course for officials from Somaliland's Water Authority and the Director General of the Ministry of Water. The program aims to support the construction, development, and planning of Somaliland's water sector while enhancing professional collaboration between the two countries.

Somaliland Higher Education Commission Director General Meets EU Officials in Nairobi to Discuss Education Support and HESSS Project Relaunch



The Director General of the Somaliland Higher Education Commission (SHEC), Aadan Jama, held a high-level meeting with Sanne Williams, the European Union Team Leader for Public Sector and Social Services, at the EU Delegation headquarters in Nairobi.

During the discussions, Director General Aadan Jama expressed gratitude to the European Union for its longstanding and consistent support to Somaliland's

education sector. He provided a detailed briefing on recent progress achieved in higher education as well as the key challenges currently facing the sector, including infrastructure needs, quality assurance, and institutional capacity.

A central focus of the meeting was the "Higher Education Systems Strengthening in Somaliland (HESSS)" project. Both sides reviewed the status of the initiative and explored ways to address previous implementation hurdles. The

European Union reaffirmed its commitment to the programme, announcing plans to relaunch and revitalise the HESSS project by the end of 2026.

The meeting underscored the continued partnership between Somaliland and the EU in advancing sustainable development of the higher education system, with emphasis on building resilient institutions capable of delivering quality education and contributing to national development goals.

President Inaugurates Major Development Projects in Berbera, as the city makes tangible developmental strides

By M.A Egge

Separately, President Abdiraxmaan Mohamed Abdillaahi Irro conducted a working visit to the port city of Berbera, where he officially inaugurated several major development projects aimed at boosting infrastructure, public services, and economic growth in the city and the wider Sahil region. The President officially launched the Berbera Electricity Expansion Project, consisting of a 5MW PV Solar plant and a 33KV transmission line (11.2 km).

The project is expected to significantly enhance energy supply in Berbera by providing affordable, reliable, and continuous electricity. It is regarded as critical to supporting investment, industrial growth, public services, and job creation in Somaliland's main commercial hub.

The President noted that dependable electricity is the backbone of economic development and emphasized that the project is in line with his administration's pledge to improve essential services in strategic cities. "Energy is the backbone of economic growth and social services," he said, noting that expanding supply would help meet rising demand in Berbera, a strategic commercial hub on the Gulf of Aden.

President Abdirahman Irro also inaugurated newly constructed modern roads developed by the Berbera Municipality. The roads are designed to ease transportation,

improve connectivity between neighborhoods, and stimulate trade and commercial activity.

Also inaugurated was the Egal Park, a modern public recreational space designed to enhance the city's beauty and promote tourism and social gatherings.

He also officially opened the new Berbera Municipal Headquarters, a modern administrative facility aimed at easing, bolstering and fledgeling public service delivery, transparency, and good governance at the local level.

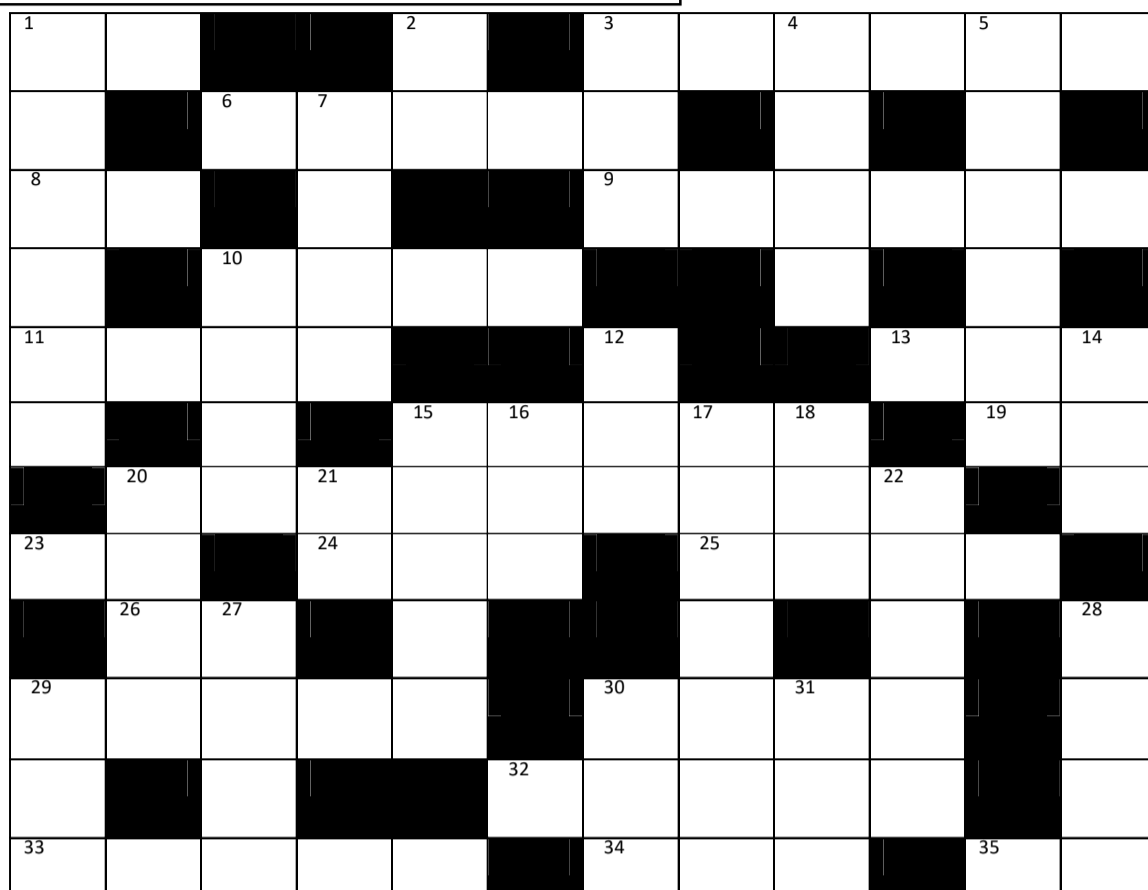
The projects, implemented by the Berbera local government, reflect close cooperation between the central government and municipal authorities and demonstrate a commitment to sustainable urban development.

The Head of State commended the Berbera municipal administration for its efforts in improving education and healthcare services and reaffirmed that the government will continue expanding support for economic infrastructure and social services across all regions of Somaliland.

The city of Berbera has in recent years made quite palpable and tangible development steps that has had the port city hailed within the country and abroad as a modern hub of international commerce and associated centre.

THT Puzzle

Prepared by: Abdillahi Said Muhummed



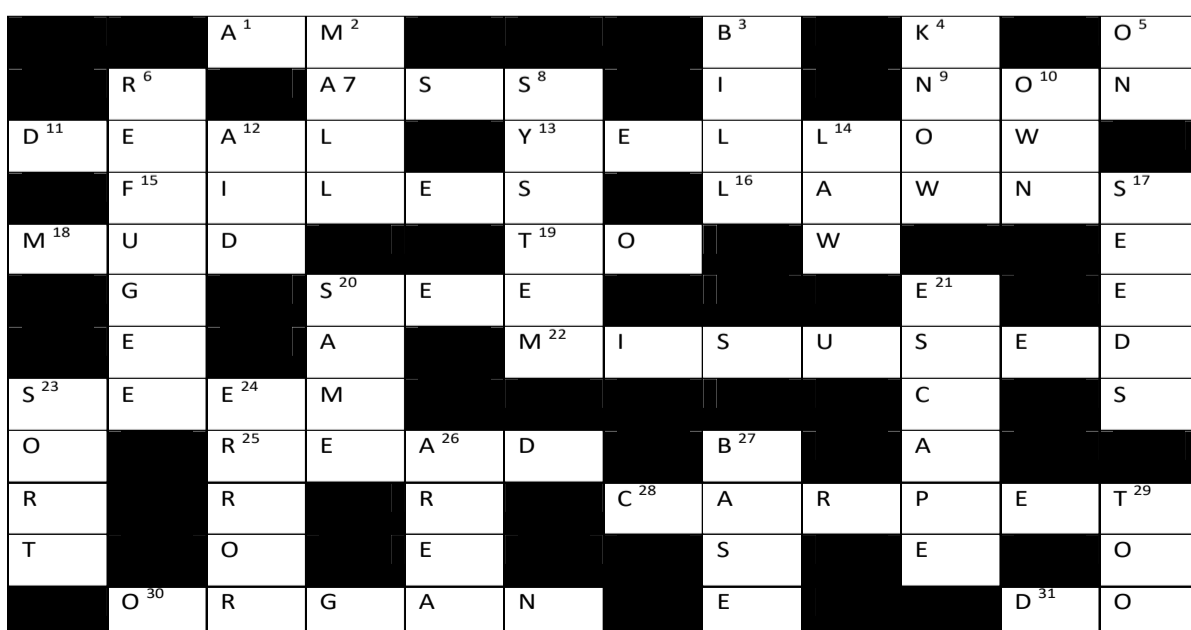
ACROSS

DOWN

- 1 Therefore
- 3 have enough money.
- 6 Wait for
- 8 Being as
- 9 Escaping
- 10 Quantity used on papers
- 11 Eye or lookout
- 13 damaging/opposite of good
- 15 Municipal
- 19 Towards
- 20 Speech
- 23 Go off
- 24 Ocean
- 25 Change or control
- 26 Upon
- 29 Shouts or cracks
- 30 Ticket or meal
- 32 Salaries
- 33 Crash
- 34 Reddish
- 35 Remain

- 1 Secure
- 2 not available in short forms
- 3 breakfasted
- 4 Stand facing
- 5 Repetition
- 7 Calendar week
- 10 Rootle
- 12 amount in cash
- 14 Puppy
- 15 Stairs
- 16 Drink
- 17 Juvenile
- 18 Ending
- 20 Shortly
- 21 BEING AS
- 22 Occasions
- 27 Surname
- 28 Family tree
- 29 Witnessed
- 30 Far away
- 31 Reddish

Previous Answer



National special prayers to be held today as drought, famine grips the nation

By M.A. Egge

A national public special prayer for the rainfall is slated to be held Sunday 22nd February, to seek Divine intervention for respite as per the long practice of the Islamic traditions, the Salat al-Istisqa. The state has earmarked the day following the drastic lack of rainfall that has hitherto prolonged the drought, which has now turned into famine and is rendering thousands of households, and livestock, to languish in distressing and dire plight. The decision was made at the 54th Council of Cabinet meeting this week that was chaired, as usual, by the President H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Iirro, flanked by his deputy the VP H.E. Mohamed Ali aw Abdi.

The situation of the worsening drought has been precipitated by the prolonged lack of rainfall that has gripped not only the nation but the whole region for quite a while. The scale of the drought and its humanitarian impact have heightened profoundly.

The nation of the Republic of Somaliland sounded the warnings on the impending situation as early as last year by appealing for both local and international help to support in containing the dire plight.

The Minister of Religion and Endowments, Sheikh Abdullaahi Daahir Jama, delivered an emotional and detailed briefing on the severe drought affecting the country.

He highlighted the widespread hardship facing communities and livestock, particularly pastoralists, children, women, and the elderly. The Minister called for an immediate and unified national emergency response, stressing that assisting those affected is both a religious and national obligation.

He urged that an official nationwide appeal be made once again to Somalilanders at home and abroad, to contribute to relief efforts. He further called on all relevant national institutions to raise public awareness about the scale of the drought and its humanitarian impact.

The Minister emphasized the importance of unity, prayer, charity, and collective action during the holy month of Ramadan to help overcome the worsening crisis.

The drought and famine situation have become even more

precarious given the endemic flu that has afflicted the populace. The health department which had recently announced that the flu has spiked three-fold has been making efforts to combat the malaise.

The Minister of Health Development Dr. Hussein Bashir Hirsi, presented a comprehensive report to the ministers on a widespread fever outbreak affecting regions across the country from east to west.

To assess the situation firsthand, the Minister and senior medical teams visited Togdeer, Saraar, Sool, and Sanaag regions, inspecting 26 health facilities. These regions are also severely affected by drought.

The Ministry has dispatched medical supplies and deployed health professionals to manage the outbreak. Approximately 5,000 patients have received treatment, essential medicines have been distributed, and public awareness campaigns have been conducted to prevent further spread.

In related matters of priorities on focus during the week had the Minister of Interior and National Security, Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab, inform the Council that the overall security situation remains stable, with no threats to national security.

He reported on a joint working visit he undertook with the Ministers of Défense and Water Resources, along with senior officials, to the Salel and Awdal regions.

The visit focused on assessing security conditions and strengthening community cohesion. He noted that reconciliation and stabilization efforts are progressing positively.

On his part the Minister of Transport and Road Development, Hon. Osman Ibrahim Noor (Afgaab), presented new guidelines for managing government vehicles. He stressed the need for a clear regulatory framework to protect and properly manage state-owned vehicles. The Minister proposed that each ministry appoint a dedicated departmental director responsible for vehicle management to strengthen oversight, maintenance, and proper utilization.

He also emphasized the importance of vehicle tracking, registration, and monitoring to safeguard public assets and ensure lawful use.

Plant in Berbera, Powers 28,000 Homes Under 'Green Berbera' Vision

Abu Dhabi-based Global South Utilities (GSU) has inaugurated a 5 megawatt-peak (MWp) grid-connected solar photovoltaic plant in Berbera, supplying electricity equivalent to nearly 28,000 households annually and launching what it calls the "Green Berbera" renewable transition plan.

The project includes 11.2 kilometres of 33kV transmission lines and associated substations and is designed to generate around 10,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of clean electricity per year, according to the company.

GSU said the plant is expected to displace diesel-based generation and avoid approximately 6,890 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

The initiative forms part of Somaliland's broader electrification and energy strategy aimed at expanding reliable access to power, lowering fuel import

dependence and improving grid resilience.

Ahead of the inauguration, Ali Alshimmari, Chief Executive and Managing Director of GSU, joined a board meeting of Berbera Electricity Company (BEC), where he serves as Vice Chairman, to review the utility's renewable expansion roadmap.

Alshimmari announced the launch of the "Green Berbera Vision," which outlines a phased shift from diesel-reliant generation toward a solar-and battery-backed utility model. Under the plan, solar power will serve as the primary daytime generation source, supported by battery energy storage systems, while diesel units will move to a strategic reserve role.

Through its 45% ownership stake in BEC, the only electricity provider in Berbera, GSU is coordinating the transition with local stakeholders. BEC currently operates 20.38 MW

of solar capacity alongside 2 MWh of battery storage, with renewable capacity expected to double by 2027.

Berbera, a key port city on the Gulf of Aden, plays a central role in Somaliland's trade and logistics sector. Company officials said reliable and cost-stable electricity is critical to strengthening the port's competitiveness and supporting industrial growth.

"Green Berbera positions the city not only as a cleaner power system, but as a more competitive regional port economy in the Horn of Africa," Alshimmari said. "Reliable, cost-stable energy is fundamental to trade, logistics, and industrial growth."

He added that the transition could serve as a model for other East African port cities seeking to modernise energy infrastructure while enhancing economic resilience.

Also attending were Reem Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation, and Yousef Al Otaiba, UAE Ambassador to the United States.

The latest pledge reinforces the UAE's position as one of the leading contributors to humanitarian and reconstruction efforts in Gaza.

Hudson Institute: Why the US and Its Allies Should Follow Israel's Lead and Recognize Somaliland

Somaliland, a small territory on the Gulf of Aden, has long sought independence yet received little international attention. But on December 26, 2025, Israel announced its official recognition of the enclave as a sovereign state. Israel's announcement went largely unnoticed—until it met a wave of international condemnations. Despite this pushback, Jerusalem's recognition of Somaliland could transform the Red Sea and Horn of Africa's geopolitical balance and global trade flows.

Israel's decision is neither hasty nor provocative. It is historically, legally, and strategically coherent. Further, Western nations' hesitancy to follow suit reveals contradictions between their stated moral and strategic aims and their actions.

Context

Somaliland is not an opportunistic, secessionist entity, as some suggest. It has a distinct historical trajectory that predates the collapse of Somalia. The Somali people did not draw the borders of Somalia, but instead European powers merged distinct colonial jurisdictions and political-clan systems under a single state framework, despite the absence of a shared institutional or constitutional foundation. Today's Somaliland was a protectorate of the United Kingdom (British Somaliland), while Italy held the other Somali territory until World War II. After gaining independence in June 1960, Somaliland voluntarily chose to unite with the Somali territory under United Nations and Italian administration. Therefore, Somaliland has existed longer as a separate entity than as part of the subsequent union. The territory's authorities also never properly formalized the union—which was poorly formalized in legal terms—and later Mogadishu unilaterally created the consolidated country, leaving it fundamentally defective under international law. The union ended three decades later in manifest failure. In 1991, following the collapse of the Somali state, Somaliland reclaimed its independence.

Since then, Somaliland has stood in stark contrast to its larger, internationally recognized neighbor. Despite massive institutional and financial support from the UN and other bodies, Somalia has suffered chronic instability—civil war, endemic corruption, piracy, and the entrenched presence of Islamist groups such as al-Shabaab. Somaliland has followed the opposite path. With little international aid, it rebuilt itself

through endogenous mechanisms: clan conferences, local political compromises, and the gradual consolidation of institutions. The result is a largely controlled territory, though there are localized and intermittent challenges in its eastern regions. Still, its government has regular elections, peaceful transfers of power, a currency, security forces, and a functioning state apparatus. Somaliland therefore appears to be a durable, successful state in all but official title.

Israel-Somaliland relations date back to even before the 1991 collapse. In the late 1980s, Israel alerted international bodies, including the UN, about the Siad Barre regime's massive, systemic repression and abuse of the Isaaq people, who comprise most of Somaliland's population. But these warnings were largely ignored. For the last two decades, Israel and Israeli nongovernmental organizations have provided medical aid to Somaliland, a vital diplomatic and humanitarian effort. Strategic Importance

Israel's recognition of Somaliland is not just a matter of history or morality. It is above all a strategic decision that reshapes the regional balance of power. The enclave sits along the Gulf of Aden near the entrance to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a vital passage linking the Indian Ocean to the Red Sea, Suez Canal, and Mediterranean Sea. Stability in this corridor affects a major share of global trade. The Iran-backed Houthis' strikes against maritime traffic in the area underscored both the passageway's vulnerability and its importance. The United States' primary objective for intervening against these strikes was not to defend Israel, but to prevent the Houthis from paralyzing international commerce.

In this context, Somaliland is a major strategic asset. It controls the deep-water port of Berbera, which investments by the United Arab Emirates have modernized. This port could, in time, become an essential foothold for Western-aligned powers in the Horn of Africa, enabling them to counterbalance Iran's influence in Yemen and Qatar's ideological activism.

Israel has therefore taken a major step toward securing a contested, strategic gateway to one of the planet's most sensitive chokepoints. This gives Jerusalem a critical geopolitical vantage that enhances its situational awareness and strategic depth vis-à-vis the Red Sea corridor as the Houthis, who have declared war on Israel, continue to target Israeli cities and maritime traffic. Israel has accomplished this without any ambition of establishing a military base. This decision also fits Israel's broader strategy to counterbalance Turkish expansionism. To that end, Jerusalem has recently worked to strengthen its alliances with the Eastern Mediterranean states of Greece and Cyprus.

Shield Law Firm Founder Receives National Appreciation Award for Landmark Financial Legislation

The Founder and Managing Partner of Shield Law Firm, Lawyer Mubarak Abdi Ismail, has received a prestigious Appreciation Award at a high-level ceremony held at Damal Hotel in Hargeisa over the week.

The award was presented in the presence of the Governor of the Somaliland Central Bank and the Minister of Trade and Tourism, Hon. Abdirahman Hassan Nur, recognizing Lawyer Mubarak's outstanding contribution to the drafting, editing, and finalization of the Collateral Law of Banks and Financial Institutions Law No. 110/2026.

This landmark legislation is widely regarded as a major reform in Somaliland's financial sector. The law strengthens legal protection for banks and financial institutions, minimizes lending risks, and provides structured safeguards against borrower default. It establishes a clearer collateral framework, enhancing confidence in the banking system and supporting economic growth.

During his tenure as Legal Advisor to the Somaliland House of Representatives and Special Counsel to the Budget and Commercial Committee, Lawyer Mubarak played a central role in shaping the bill. His technical expertise and persistent advocacy were instrumental in ensuring the law was thoroughly reviewed, refined, and successfully enacted within one year.

Furthermore, the Speaker of the Somaliland House of Representatives, H.E. Yasin Haji

Mohamoud Faratoon, appointed him as Legal Counsel to the ad-hoc committee responsible for overseeing the bill's legislative process.

Colleagues and officials at the ceremony praised Lawyer Mubarak's dedication, professionalism, and commitment to strengthening Somaliland's legal

and financial framework. His contribution marks a significant milestone in the modernization of financial regulation in Somaliland. Shield Law Firm congratulates its Founder and Managing Partner on this well-deserved national recognition and reaffirms its commitment to excellence, integrity, and leadership in legal reform.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN SHIELD LAW FIRM & GAR-DHAWR LAW FIRM

UAE Leads Gulf Pledges with \$1.2bn for Gaza at Peace Meeting

The United Arab Emirates announced an additional \$1.2 billion in support for Gaza during the first meeting of the Board of Peace chaired by U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington.

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, unveiled the pledge during the high-level gathering of regional leaders and international officials focused on post-war reconstruction and long-term regional stability.

"Mr. President, thank you for gathering us today. I really hope that the beginning of Ramadan will give us all guidance towards peace, coexistence and living in prosperity with each other," Sheikh Abdullah said.

He noted that since the outbreak of war following the October 7 attacks, the UAE has provided nearly \$3 billion in humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people in Gaza.

"Today, Mr. President, the UAE announces a further US\$1.2 billion for supporting Gaza through the Board of Peace," he said.

Sheikh Abdullah credited U.S. leadership for convening the initiative, stating that the Board would not have been assembled without President Trump's efforts to mobilize regional leaders toward ending the war and advancing reconstruction frameworks.

The meeting brought together heads of state, senior officials and international decision-makers as part of coordinated efforts to activate peace mechanisms and establish sustainable pathways for Gaza's recovery.

Sheikh Abdullah's participation marked the beginning of a working visit to the United States, underscoring what officials described as the depth of the strategic partnership between Abu Dhabi and Washington.