

Exercise A. Read carefully the following item, based on a “Financial Times” article of 29/10/18, before replacing (writing in) the 15 words from the list below in the gaps most appropriate in terms of context.

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At the Berbera Container Port in the internationally unrecognised state of Somaliland, employees of Dubai-based *DP World* unload 40-foot crates from a large cargo ship, as more vessels wait on the horizon. The facility on the Gulf of Aden has been operated by *DP World* for about a year, with the company _____ to invest \$442M in an expansion project that would more than quintuple capacity.

That a global port operator is preparing to _____ such a sum in a state that is not recognised by the United Nations or anyone else is a _____ example of the political and commercial battle taking place in the under-developed Horn of Africa – a gateway to lucrative trade routes through the Suez Canal and fast-growing African markets. It is also a testament to the relative stability that Somaliland’s isolated government has been able to achieve since breaking away from Somalia 27 years ago. “More and more cargo is moving from Europe to the Far East ... and every ship passes in front of Berbera”, said Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, *DP World* Chair and CEO, at a colourful _____-breaking ceremony this month in the Somaliland capital, Hargeisa. “Berbera is going to regain its role as a _____, and an important port, on a very important maritime transportation route”.

The Red Sea corridor that separates the African continent from the Arabian Peninsula has long been competed for. Britain established the Protectorate of Somaliland in 1888 to help it control the shipping routes from East Asia through the Red Sea to Suez. Officially, the move was “to _____ a supply market, combat the traffic in slaves, and exclude the interference of foreign powers”. That urgent need for a “supply market” reflected the fact that, while Somaliland was garrisoned from the also-British-run Aden – a port 250km across the Gulf in what is today Yemen, the _____ received virtually all its supply of meat from the latter!

Independence came after nearly a century – in 1960 – and was followed by an ill-fated union with Somalia to the south, as well as by a power-vacuum era that _____ both the US and Russia involved in building sections of quay that continue to _____ Berbera Port.

The new *DP World* investment comes at a time when Middle Eastern states including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar are projecting greater political and economic power in the Horn of Africa region. This year, the UAE pledged \$3bn in _____ and investments for Ethiopia, and played a major role in the negotiation of a historic peace _____ between the country and neighbouring Eritrea. The UAE has also extended its military reach by building a naval base at the Eritrean port of Assab. It has similar plans for Berbera, where it is constructing a base for the Emirati Air Force, and a harbour. The facility is a _____ 5 miles from *DP World*’s port, though the company maintains there is no link between

the military agreement and its commercial investment. Saad Ali Shire, Somaliland’s Foreign Minister, said: “The Red Sea Corridor has always attracted superpowers because of the importance of the sea lane”. He added: “What attracts them is not new — what’s new is the new states that are now more powerful, more wealthy. They want to be seen, they want to _____ their muscles”.

Part of the prize at Berbera is its proximity to a fast-growing economy to the west. The GDP of Ethiopia has risen tenfold in the past 15 years – to more than \$80bn, but the landlocked country relies on a single port in Djibouti to manage more than 90% of its trade. To reduce this dependence, Addis Ababa this year announced it would take a stake in Berbera alongside *DP World* and the Somaliland government. But *DP World*’s Mr Sulayem said Ethiopia and the wider region still needed a further 10 modern ports, if expected economic growth was to be kept pace with.

DP World’s commitment to Somaliland is driven, in part, by the collapse in its relations with Djibouti to the north, where until this year it ran the Dolareh Container Terminal, the only modern port along this _____ of Africa’s coastline. In February, Djibouti seized Doraleh after accusing *DP World* of deliberate under-exploitation done with a view to favouring Berbera and other regional terminals.

Yet the push into Somaliland is not without risk. The government in Somalia to the south was no proponent of the *DP World* deal and – as long as Somaliland’s independence goes unrecognised – Berbera remains part of Somalia under international law.

President Muse Bihi Abdi of Somaliland said Somalia had no power to interfere with his polity’s ports or boundaries, and that *DP World*’s investment would further pave the _____ for international recognition to be obtained. Somaliland declared its independence from Somalia in 1991, but despite achieving relative peace and stability, and holding regular elections, it has struggled to attract investment, given its unclear status.

“*DP World* is a big international company that dared to come to Somaliland; and I hope a lot of other companies from other countries will follow _____”, Mr Abdi told reporters in Hargeisa. The partners plan to establish an economic area next to the port to attract manufacturers – in the mould of the Jebel Ali free zone in the UAE, which hosts 7500 businesses employing more than 150,000. Those who actually walk Berbera’s crumbling streets will inevitably look upon such plans as ambitious. But the Somaliland government is steadfast. “We will continue to build our country in different fields, to attract the other members of the UN to recognise and cooperate with us,” said Mr Abdi. “That is our way”.

Exercise B. In each question, mark the **one** completion of the sentence that best reflects the article content **overall**.

1) **The Horn of Africa is a region that has:**

- been attracting some attention.
- never been of much interest.
- now lost its economic appeal.
- now stopped lagging behind.

2) **Somaliland is:**

- involved in independence negotiations.
- now much closer to neighbour Somalia.
- pursuing its targeted economic policy.
- sure to be recognised as a state very soon.

3) **Under the British, Somaliland:**

4) **Where Ethiopia is concerned, the story is that the country:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lacked commercial or other links with elsewhere. • mattered less than Aden, though helped sustain it. • was not considered to have any strategic value. • was occupied solely to keep other Empires out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has in fact experienced a major boom. • has just a single port on its territory. • is faced with yet another deep crisis. • will build its own new port facilities.
<p>5) <u>Investors in Somaliland are:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deterred by its serious instability. • increasing in number quite quickly. • rarely put off by its legal status. • willing to risk raising their stake. 	<p>6) <u>Basically, the story reveals the UAE's...</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aversion to any risk-taking. • interest in power projection. • inward-looking policy stance. • ongoing economic decline.
<p>7) <u>President Muse Bihi Abdi:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • admits his homeland has poor infrastructure. • is taking a conciliatory approach to Somalia. • wants no foreign influence in Berbera Port. • willingly talks up his country to investors. 	<p>8) <u>In its new activity, DP World:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accepts Berbera's limited future role. • gained the full support of Djibouti. • gave some sort of signal to Somalia. • has not had much trade success so far.

Exercise C. In English, provide short, synonymous forms closely and straightforwardly conveying/explaining the meaning of (**only**) the underlined word(s) or phrases present in the reading text. These are repeated with a partial context below, but for a fuller picture please refer to the whole article as necessary.

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... independence ... was followed by an ill-fated union

... as well as by a power-vacuum era...

...the UAE pledged \$3bn ... for Ethiopia...

...part of the prize at Berbera is its proximity to a fast-growing economy...

... if expected economic growth was to be kept pace with.

... with a view to favouring Berbera and other regional terminals.

...the government in Somalia ... was no proponent of the ... deal

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...to interfere with his polity's ports or boundaries...

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...an economic area ... in the mould of the Jebal Ali free zone in the UAE...

Those who actually walk Berbera's crumbling streets...

The Somaliland government is steadfast.