



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Int'l donors urged to stop TPLF commandeering aid trucks

### • 1,099 aid trucks strained in Mekelle

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA-** Out of 1,485 heavy truck convoys destined to Tigray with humanitarian aid and fuel, only 386 returned, the National Disaster Risk Management

Commission (NDRMC) said, calling for donor community to force TPLF to release the vehicles.

NDRMC Communication and Public Relation Director Debebe Zewde told *The*

*Ethiopian Herald* that so far, only 386 returned out of 1,485 convoy trucks that entered Tigray during the first round of humanitarian delivery. Accordingly, 1,099

See Int'l donors... Page 3



The U.S. Congressman, John Garamendi

## Broadening Ethio-U.S. cooperation builds peace in Horn: Congressman

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA—**The U.S. Congressman John Garamendi stated that Ethiopia and the U.S. do have common concern to work together particularly with regard to ensuring stability, peace, and prosperity in the Horn of Africa.

See Broadening Ethio-U.S. .... Page 3

## Gov't debunks terrorist TPLF's treacherous withdrawal announcement

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

**ADDIS ABABA –** The news circulating by the TPLF-affiliated media and some international media outlets about the withdrawal of terrorist TPLF forces from the Afar state are big lies to deceive the international community, so said Government Communication Service (GCS).

Meanwhile, GCS announced that among the aid trucks that had entered Tigray with relief supplies after the declaration of Humanitarian Truce, 40 trucks have not returned yet.

Speaking to local media, GCS Minister Legesse Tulu (PhD) stated that the terrorist TPLF is spreading fake news that it has left the Afar state in order to deceive the international community and pretend that it is the Ethiopian government that is averting humanitarian aid from entering Tigray state.



As to him, the group recently told international media outlets that it withdrew its fighters from Afar state. However, he added, five woredas and a town administration of Afar state are still under the control of the terrorist group.

See Gov't debunks .... Page 3

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**INSA calls on society to eschew Digital Wayne's fake reports**

•Over 800,000 fake accounts identified

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# News



## Somali state faces worst drought in 40 year: Chief Administrator

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ethiopia's Somali state has faced the worst drought that caused worsening humanitarian situation for millions of people, Chief Administrator of the state said adding that his administration is using all resources to rescue lives.

According to the recently released report from UN, about 3.5 million people in Somali state are waiting for humanitarian assistance due to the already deteriorating drought.

*The Ethiopian Today* has also reported that the chief administrator of Somali state, Mustafa Muhammad has said that the drought is the worst in 40 year.

According to Mustafa, the government has responded on time to the immediate impact of the drought by providing humanitarian assistance. "We will also continue to work assiduously to lessen the effect of the drought on the people, but the situation is dire."

"The local government is using all the resources of the state to the drought response. It will also derail ongoing large-scale development initiatives that have long-term and transformative effects for our communities," he added.

While quoting additional information from the office of Mustafa, *The Ethiopian Today* has stated that an estimated one million livestock have also died across 10 drought affected zones in Somali region. Livestock across the region are in poor health and many more are expected to perish from the upcoming rainy season.

In related news, Ethiopian Ambassador to UN, TayeAtske Selassie has tweeted that United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and European Union have pledged to donate 1.4 billion USD for immediate live saving response to avert loss of life in the Horn of Africa.

"We are grateful to countries who deliver in their promised support. Ethiopia will use all means to save lives and chart a lasting solution," Amb. Taye tweeted.

## Eid Homecoming forum for promoting Ethiopia: Co-chair

BY BILAL DERSO

**ADDIS ABABA-** The Eid-to-Eid program is a good opportunity to promote Ethiopia's religious, historical and social values to the global community and demonstrate the country's special place in the history of Islam, the National Joint Committee co-chair said.

The committee co-chair and Foreign Affairs State Minister Birtukan Ayano made the above remark yesterday while inaugurating the Eid Expo which is part of the grand Eid-to-Eid program.

Noting the Eid Homecoming is the sequel of the Great Ethiopian Homecoming, Birtukan highlighted that the call aims to mobilize the participation of Ethiopians in the Diaspora to support peace and development back home. The coming of Ethiopians and foreigners of Ethiopian origin living abroad in a great number to their home country disproves some interest groups' attempts to portray the country as a place of disorder and dismemberment.

The state minister further stated that Ethiopian Diplomatic missions abroad have been providing seamless services to members of the Ethiopian Diaspora who are responding to the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's EidHomecoming call. Also, the committee has carried out various tasks to the successful conduct of the program and similar events



will be held in various parts of the country shortly.

About the Eid Expo, she indicated the event has a paramount economic importance and called on Diaspora Ethiopians to visit the marketers thereby promoting homegrown products.

Ethiopian Diaspora Agency Deputy Director-General Mohammed Indris (PhD) said for his part that the Diaspora to the EidHomecoming call is overwhelming Diaspora Ethiopians are expected to make active engagement for the successful conduct of the Eid-to-Eid program that will be marked in various parts of the country till the day of Eid-al-Adha.

For the Eid-to-Eid National Joint Committee another Co-Chair Ustaz Abubeker Ahmed, Ethiopian Muslim Diasporas immense

response to the EidHomecoming attests Ethiopia's special place in Islam and its status of being the first country to allow Muslims to practice their religion.

Ethiopian Diasporas ought to make meaningful involvement in the Eid-to-Eid programs and support the national efforts towards ensuring the peace and development of the country, Ustaz Abubeker made a pledge.

Board Chairperson of Halal Promotion, organizer of the Eid Expo FiyeselKemal stated on the occasion that the Expo enhances the selling horizon for merchants and provides a convenient shopping experience for consumers.

This year's Eid Expo is being held for the 10<sup>th</sup> time.

## Ethiopia issues first-ever nat'l spatial biodiversity assessment

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADAMA-** Ethiopia has issued the first-ever national Spatial biodiversity assessment 2021 which took four years of ground breaking work from 2018 to 2021 so disclosed Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI).

Spatial Biodiversity Assessment is a collective effort to synthesize the best available science on biodiversity to inform policy and decision-making in a range of sectors, and contribute to national development priorities.

During the national biodiversity platform establishment and validation workshop of the National Ecosystem Assessment yesterday, EBI Director General Melesse Maryo(PhD) noted that though Ethiopia is endowed with high biodiversity that emanates from a wide range of topographic, climatic, cultural variation among others, the biodiversity and ecosystem services are under critical threat, mainly due to rapid human population growth.

As to him, the livelihood of the population mainly depends on services generated from the natural resources, the demand of which is consistently growing.

This, in return, drives the unbalance between the demand and supply of services which triggers unsustainable utilization of natural resources leading to a rapid decline in biodiversity, he added.



Apart from population growth, agricultural expansion, patchiness of sectoral policies, low awareness and lack of adequate evidences that would be used as an input for policy and decision making process were identified as key drivers of the threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Addressing these challenges requires information on the current status of biodiversity and ecosystem services, he stressed.

Thus, a biodiversity and ecosystem service assessment is crucial tool and needs to be conducted based on proven assessment methodologies and principles, as to him.

By the same token, Representative from

Agriculture Ministry, Tefera Tadesse said the National Ecosystem Assessment Project which the nation has started implementing would enable to engage scientists, practitioners and decision-makers.

Moreover, he indicated that it would enhance the engagement of expertise in undertaking biodiversity policy relevant researches.

The assessment which is said to be critically important tool for mainstreaming biodiversity issues in to national sectoral plans, was led by the Ethiopian biodiversity Institute with the support of the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature conservation, Nuclear safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV).



# News

## INSA calls on society to eschew Digital Weayne's fake reports

•Over 800,000 fake accounts identified

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** - As Digital Weayne Media, TPLF-funded outlet has been hugely engaged in the dissemination of fake news to disrupt the peace of the country, the society should be proactively detect and eschew the misleading reports, the Information Network Security Agency (INSA) said.

INSA Director- General Shumete Yigzaw (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that social media platforms have become a battleground of fake news or information due to the country's geographical location, history and political narratives. The Agency has been working to raise public awareness about its impact and make accountable and take legal actions against those who spread false



information on social media platforms.

The community's low level of awareness on the use of social media platforms has created a good opportunity for the spread of false information. The Digital TPLF is waging a digital war in different ways. For instance, by launching sites or accounts by names of Oromo, Amhara, and others, it has been waging war of misinformation and

ethnic slur, the director-general elaborated.

As the digital TPLF continues to wreak havoc or disrupt the country using social media platforms, the society should be aware of fake news on social media platforms and others.

"Before the start of war, the Digital Weayne had been disseminating its plan of atrocities via social media. Now, it has continued its act by disseminating fake news. Enemies of Ethiopia at home and abroad including TPLF have been constantly trying to attack Ethiopia both through digital and physical means."

As to him, the Agency has sued individuals who created numerous fake links and social media accounts using the names of Ministers and other celebrities as profile names. A number of fraudulent disseminators and

fake users are also reported to be on trial.

Shumete further highlighted that more than 800,000 fake social media accounts have been set up and are working to destabilize the country. The source of the information has been identified. Identification of its source has enabled us to reduce the spread of fake news and its effect.

The community should be aware of the impact of fake news. The government does not intend to challenge the freedom of expression. However, the digital age has its own advantages and disadvantages as fake accounts are for personal gain, political gain, or improper use of social issues. The long term solution is creating awareness on the public about the impact of fake news and links and utilization of social media platforms, the director-general remarked.

## Africa's 20th Int'l conference on private higher education kicks off

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA**- The 20th International Conference on Private Higher Education in Africa kicked off Yesterday here in Addis Ababa under a theme: "Embracing New Realities and Paradigms: Africa's Higher Education Response."

The conference was organized by Saint Mary's University in collaboration with stake holders like Ministry of Education,

the Association of African Universities, the International Network for Higher Education in Africa, University of Kwazulu- Natal, the African Union and MasterCard foundation.

As to the press release of the event, the conference would deliberate on issues pertinent to the enhancement of quality education in African institutions of higher learning.

It is expected to generate policy relevant

recommendations from scientific research papers, panel discussions and reflections under different titles.

Speaking on the occasion Saint Mary's University President Wondwosen Tamrat (Ph.D) said that this year's conference has paved the way for over 30 professors to join the conference to provide their contributions.

He noted that the along with the conference the institutions will also

undertake a symposium with a theme "Academic Collaboration in Africa, Asia and Latin America in the Post Covid-19 World."

He stressed that both the conference and Symposium have managed to bring together experienced and emerging scholars.

It was learnt that the conference and symposium would be undertaken from April 27 to 28.

## Broadening Ethio-U.S....

Briefing Ethiopian delegation led by Finance Minister Ahmed Shide, and the congressman Garamendi recently said that his country and Ethiopia have mutual interest revolving around political stability, peace, and prosperous Horn of Africa.

"The U.S. has to draw important lessons from the mosaic of social strata, courageousness and determination, potential, and the likes from Ethiopia once more."

As to the congressman, there exist trauma and great hope as the new Ethiopian government is striving to establish

true democracy across the country. Unfortunately, the northern conflict is a serious matter obscuring the realization of expected outcome along that line. He, therefore, said helping Ethiopia ensure democracy, economic as well as social development has to be the task of all concerned bodies thereby making stable Ethiopia and the Horn.

He further stated that the U.S. government appreciated the commitment of the federal government to foster humanitarian aid to the needy in all circumstances. In this regard, the U.S. has held many discussions on how

to move strong humanitarian for addressing war victims in Ethiopia. Besides, the USAID has contributed some 300 million USD humanitarian reliefs to help support humanitarian aid, and the U.S. Congress should help the duly elected government of Ethiopia establish democracy and build a peaceful nation.

It is to be recalled that the Ministry of Finance delegation held talks with World Bank Country Director and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials in addressing the current challenges and the way to strengthen economic development.

## Int'l donors urged...

aid trucks have not returned from Mekelle.

"Since there are several aid trucks that have not been returned from Tigray, donors are sending additional trucks without controlling the meeting of their mission. This has been affecting the flow of aid and endangering Tigray people. The efforts would be made with stakeholders for the return of all remaining trucks that entered Mekelle with humanitarian aid."

As to him, donors and the commission are committed to exert efforts for the return of aid trucks. So far, only 386 returned out of

1,485 convoy trucks that entered Tigray during the first round of humanitarian delivery. Some 1,099 aid trucks have not returned from Mekelle, too.

Recently, 50 trucks carrying essential humanitarian supplies arrived in Mekelle, according to the World Food Program. However, only 21 trucks have returned. Noting some 74 trucks carrying humanitarian assistance reached Tigray recently, NDRMC expressed optimism that these and other heavy trucks would return from Mekelle and efforts would be made to

make it successful.

Accordingly, the commission called on donors and the international community to pressurize the responsible bodies for the return of heavy truck convoys. "The return of these convoys would help them meet their mission and facilitate effective delivery of humanitarian aid in the Tigray State."

It is to be recalled that the Government Communication Service accused TPLF of employing the aid trucks to transport its combatants.

## Gov't debunks...

He also stressed that if the international community is truly concerned about the human rights of fellow citizens, it must press for the immediate withdrawal of the terrorist group from the areas where it invaded.

Legesse further indicated that 40 trucks out of the trucks that entered Tigray state with humanitarian supplies since the declaration of humanitarian truce by the federal government are detained by the group.

The group has been using these trucks to transport its soldiers and the looted property from Amhara and Afar states, according to Legesse.

The Minister also explained that the federal government has showed commitment towards the delivery of relief supplies into Tigray without any trouble, but the terrorist TPLF is disturbing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Tigray invading some woredas of Afar state.

# Opinion

## Remember, remember 24 May 2022: Georgia republican party US senate primary election (T-30 days)

BY ALMARIAM

On May 24, 2022, the Georgia Republican Party will hold its primary to determine which Republican candidate will run in the state's general election on November 8, 2022.

A primary election is an election in which registered voters select a candidate they believe should be their political party's candidate for elected office to run in the general election (finally elected to office.) The general election will be held on November 8, 2022.

Georgia utilizes an open primary system. A registered voter can vote in a particular party's primary without being a registered member of that party. Seven Republicans are running in the primary to challenge democrat Raphael Warnock for the Georgia US senate seat.

Leading the pack is Herschel Walker, one of the greatest college and National Football League players of all time and a businessman.

President Donald Trump has given Herschel Walker his "Complete and Total Endorsement" and praised him as "a friend, a Patriot and an outstanding American who is going to be a GREAT United States Senator."

The Republican establishment nationally and in Georgia is behind him including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. He has high favorability ratings and support from self-identified moderate Republicans. Polls show he has a sizable lead over the other Republican candidates in securing his party's nomination.

The other candidates include: Gary Black, the Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture. Josh Clark was a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, Kelvin King, and an African American, who served 5 years in the Air Force and owns a construction firm.

Jonathan McCollum, an African American, who served in the U.S. Army for 35 years, and Latham Saddler, a former Navy SEAL officer and served as Director of Intelligence Programs on the National Security Council in the Trump administration.

### Special call to Ethiopian American and other first- and second-generation immigrant voters in Georgia

In the U.S., immigrants now represent nearly 10 percent of all eligible voters. In California, immigrants representing 21 percent of eligible voters! In Georgia, 6.2 percent of all voters are immigrants.

The immigrant vote in Georgia is increasingly becoming decisive in the outcome of elections. In 2016, President Trump won or lost 13 battleground states

by five percentage points. In the November 2022 midterm elections, immigrant voters in Georgia could decide the outcome of the election for the seat currently held by democrat Warnock.

Voter registration in Georgia shows fascinating trends. In 2020, democrat Raphael Warnock won the senate seat by 51 percent (2,288,923) against republican Kelly Loeffler 49 percent (2,195,373).

The number of Black registered voters in Georgia is increased by about 130,000 between Oct. 11, 2016, and Oct. 5, 2020, the largest increase among all major racial and ethnic groups.

The number of Latino and White registered voters increased by roughly the same amount, each by 95,000, despite there being far fewer Latino than White existing registered voters (260,000 vs. 3.8 million). The number of Asian registered voters increased by 63,000, a substantial amount relative to the group's Oct. 5, 2020, total (188,000).

A January 2022 Atlanta Constitution report asserted, "Since 2010, the Black immigrant community in Atlanta grew by 165 percent."

That report concluded: Out of all U.S. metro areas, Atlanta holds the fourth largest Black immigrant population, with roughly 190,000 Black immigrants in 2019. That puts metro Atlanta ahead of Boston (180,000 Black immigrants) and behind Washington, D.C. (260,000).

The largest number of African immigrants to the U.S. has historically come from Nigeria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ghana and Kenya.

Accurate census data is hard to come by, but various estimates suggest there are between 25 and 40 thousand persons of Ethiopian ancestry in the state of Georgia. They have more than a dozen churches and other civic organizations. The question is how Black, Latino, Asian, Ethiopian and other immigrant voters will vote in the 2022 midterm election.

In 2020, democrat Warnock benefitted from a high turnout of Black voters amidst the chaos of COVID-19 and the controversy surrounding Trump. In 2022, it highly likely a Black democrat and a Black republican will face off in the general election.

I believe the vast majority of democratic African American voters will likely yawn and let the election pass by. It must never be forgotten that African Americans made Biden president. Biden's big win in South Carolina was revived and powered by strong black support.

"Biden solidified his place as the front-runner through a series of wins in Southern states on Super Tuesday, with (mostly older) African Americans in those



states backing him in larger numbers."

Biden forgot (dementia?) about his black supporters as he always has. Joe Biden has been running a scam on Black people for decades. It should never be forgotten that Biden is the proud author of the USD 30 billion Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 ["Crime Act"], the largest crime law in American history!

The Crime Act expanded application of the federal death penalty, imposed harsher sentencing laws, mandatory life sentence for conviction of three felonies (i.e., those with prior prison sentences of one year or more, including drug use), granted billions to states to build prison industrial complexes provide; they also implemented harsh sentencing laws including state three-strikes laws with mandatory minimums, among many other oppressive provisions. The Crime Act was the principal reason for the mass incarceration of African Americans.

### Vote for Herschel Walker!

**It is of the utmost importance for first and second generation immigrants and others to register and vote for Herschel Walker on May 24, 2022.**

I have set my reasons why Georgia voters should send Herschel Walker to the US Senate in my April 17, 2022 commentary. Suffice it to say, Georgia (and the rest of America) needs a senator who puts "America First" and opposes the New

World Order of the Obama/Biden Democratic Party.

### How to register to vote on May 24 and November 8, 2022

You gotta register to vote in the May 24 primary and November 8, 2022, general election in Georgia. There are 3 requirements for voter registration: 1) US citizenship, 2) legal residence in Georgia and of the county in which you wish to vote; and 3) you must be at least 17 1/2 years of age to register and 18 to vote.

First, check to see if you are registered to vote on My Voter Page (MVP). Registration can be done online easily with a valid Georgia driver's license or identification card issued by the Georgia Department of Driver Services.

One can also complete an application for voter registration form and mail it to the Georgia Secretary of State. A complete how-to guide for registering to vote in the state of Georgia is available here.

**Remember, remember May 24, 2022, pre-DD Day — Drive DemocrATs and democraTICK party outta Congress day.**

Join @TEAMHERSCHEL

**Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald**



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## Editorial

### Trucks are meant to ship meals not militants!

Since the declaration of the government-initiated humanitarian truce, WFP, and other relief agencies have been sending aid to Tigray state via road and air transportation. Strings of convoys of trucks have been arriving at Mekelle, Tigray regional capital carrying the much-needed food and life-saving medical equipment. The incumbent has significantly reduced check-points and eased bureaucratic hurdles for the smooth movements of trucks.

The truce is clearly expediting the supply of relief though the TPLF criminal enterprise continues to put grave obstacles and cry foul. Dejectedly, the callous clique also kept on gambling on the humanitarian card for political gains at the expense of the needy population of Tigray.

In spite of its sham outcry, the clique is trying to obstruct the security of the humanitarian corridor into Tigray. TPLF is bent on wreaking havoc contrary to the spirit of the truce declared by the Federal Government.

For quite a while now, the Ethiopian government has been urging the international community to place pressure on the disgruntled group to return trucks. But, perplexingly, other than echoing the propaganda of the criminal clique, it has thus far failed to at least condemn the crimes.

The silence of the intl community is enraging the group to unashamedly lay the blame at the doorsteps of the Ethiopian government for obstructive aid to Tigray. So far, the relief agencies have neither given confirmation regarding the dispatch of the aid to those in need nor have uttered a word on the whereabouts of the trucks.

Humanitarian agencies that are pressing the incumbent for an unfettered humanitarian corridor have largely been loose on openly denouncing the evil act of the rogue element.

It is being reported that over several hundreds aid trucks that should have been on the road delivering much-needed humanitarian support have been hijacked. The UN and other agencies have been complaining about stranded trucks but shied away from calling TPLF and its acts by their names.

There has been mounting evidence that TPLF is using the trucks to transport its militants. Sadly, the ragtag group has also been diverting food aid to its killer military squad while starving the people of Tigray.

The government is ramping up the provision of aid to Tigray as the hypocrite TPLF leaders perpetuate to misuse the unhindered access for advancing their political intrigue.

Ironically, so-called media outlets, activists and rights groups have been mute, condoning the destructive acts of the group. One thing is clear though, no trucks mean no food. And, the blame is undisputedly on TPLF. The ostracized group is die-hard when it comes to using civilians as a political tool.

Diverting food aid and blaming the third party has long been the modus operandi of the terrorist group. The international community must say enough is enough. It should not allow the criminal clique to use humanitarian aid as a political card. The question remaining though is how long the international community should be soft on the old tricks which TPLF has mastered on.

## Opinion

### African Economic Integration: A viable path for economic independence

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

PART II

The integration process is set to cover a period of 34 years from 1994 to 2028. Following the signing of the Abuja Treaty, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government directed the Committee on the Review of the Charter (established in 1979) to meet and re-examine the OAU Charter with a view to aligning it with the Abuja Treaty.

The establishment and the transformation of OAU into AU in Sirté, Libya on 9 September 1999, the inaugural launch of AU in Durban, South Africa on 9 July 2002 paved the way for further initiatives in promoting economic integration in Africa.

During the thirty-seventh session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, African leaders adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It was ratified by the African Union in 2002 in Durban, to deal with Africa's development problems in a new paradigm.

The main objectives of NEPAD have been to reduce poverty, put Africa on a sustainable development path, halt the marginalization of Africa, and empower women. The late Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi played a key role in the establishment of NEPAD.

NEPAD was expected to provide a comprehensive, integrated development plan that tackles key social, economic and political principles for the continent. A practical example is the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa, which is an initiative that comprises several cross-border infrastructure projects in the sectors of: transport, energy, water, and

information and communications technology.

Moreover, the Durban Summit also approved the creation of the NEPAD African Peer Review Mechanism, which became operational in 2003, for further promotion and monitoring of good governance practices in and among member States in Africa.

The fourth Conference of African Ministers of Integration adopted the Minimum Integration Program in 9 May 2009. The program contained an action plan to accelerate coordination, convergence and collaboration among the regional economic communities to achieve the ultimate objective of the African Economic Community. It also identified financing and structural impediments hindering the implementation of the Abuja Treaty and offers a roadmap for how to overcome the challenges.

Eight regional economic communities were so far established in Africa with the principal agenda of economic integration. They included, Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC).

These economic communities focused on trade and market integration, macroeconomic policy convergence, free movement of persons, peace, security, stability and governance and harmonization of sector policies. (African Union, AU in a nutshell)

Further on, COMESA, EAC and SADC agreed to negotiate a Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement (TFTA) as a building block of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) on 22 October 2008 Concurrent to the TFTA negotiations was the eighteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union held in January 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which was organized under the theme: "Boosting Intra-African Trade".

In May 2013, African leaders marked the golden jubilee of the OAU and formulated the wide range of pan African vision which focused on "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena." The long term plan known as Agenda 2063.

The Agenda is based on a set of aspirations that include: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development; an integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's renaissance; an Africa of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law, a peaceful and secure Africa; an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children; and Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner.

Despite the formation of a number of regional economic entities, Intra-regional trade in Africa as a share of total foreign trade has traditionally been low compared to other regions. Most African states have suffered from severe macroeconomic imbalance,

foreign debt service burdens, over-valued currencies, lack of trade finance, and a narrow tax base, with customs duties a substantial source of revenue.

Given the apparent formation of a new global socio-economic order and the negative impact it could have on Africa, the leaders of these countries need to exhibit and implement economic integration. A number of African countries have minerals and fossil fuel resources while countries like Ethiopia have already launched national and regional hydroelectric networks in railway, road transport and the aviation sector that could be put to use by African countries. Africa has to develop its human resource potentials so that high technologies used across the world could be utilized for the development of African economies.

However, the efforts towards African economic integration is being challenged by sporadic conflicts and proliferation of terrorism across the continent, natural and manmade calamities like drought, higher level of foreign debt, lack of political commitment by a number of African leaders. Indeed, African countries need to integrate their economies if they wish to survive the global economic crisis that would hit them the most. Africa may travel a long way before it integrates its national economies. The road to integration could be torturous but it is the only viable strategy for united Africa.

**Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald**



# Business & Economy

## Apiculture: Stress-free life-changing business creating dignified jobs for young people

BY MULATU BELACHEW

Generating income from decent jobs for the young people in Ethiopia is a challenging matter besides the overall difficulty of creating jobs. Actually, Ethiopia is a country with severe unemployment problem that particularly affects young people.

To address the problem, the government has been working in collaboration with various domestic and international actors.

Among these actors, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) is the one that is working in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, the Ethiopian government and several other public and private sectors embarked on a program with the title “MOre Young Entrepreneurs in Silk and Honey (MOYESH)” to contribute to government efforts geared toward reducing youth unemployment in the country.

The goal of the program is to “secure dignified and fulfilling direct employment and income for 100,000 unemployed youth of which 60 percent are women” through providing youth with appropriate knowledge and skills and enabling them to establish beekeeping and sericulture business enterprises.

In a recently held honey festival at Bedele town, The Ethiopian Herald exclusively approached Tariku Tollessa a model farmer came from Illubabor Zone, Yayu Woreda, Gare Kebele to share his experience in beekeeping business. He said that it has been 15 years since he engaged in beekeeping business.

He commenced the business with traditional hives and then continued doing beekeeping business in transformational hives. Currently, he is running the business in the three stages with traditional, transformational and modern hives operating nearly on 200 hives all together.

He has been harvesting honey 3 times per year the amount of 2500 kg from modern, 250 kg from transformational, and 150 kg from traditional hives. His business has been going productive because of the knowledge and skill support he gained from the government and MOYESH program implemented by icipe.

Honey exhibition and festival held are raising market linkage for honey products, he said adding that he is planning to export honey product together with other farmers besides selling in domestic market. He said: “I am actually a farmer and coffee producer besides beekeeping business. Apiculture is not hard business to undertake. I bought land and built house in city with the income I earned from this business. My total capital is estimated 2 million Birr in aggregate.”

Tigist Mesfin, who comes from Gore town and a BA degree graduate in accounting, is also engaged in the beekeeping business. She and her enterprise member were unemployed before starting this business. Acknowledging the effort and guidance



Honey producers are reaping fruit of their effort

**“No enough honey products in the market. Hence, domestic price is also higher than export price and the business requires undertaking activities that increase honey production and productivity with the aim of stabilizing domestic price.”**

icipe provided for them, she said this business is a profitable one that enables them to produce 200 up to 300 kg honey per year.

Currently, they registered 200 thousand Birr capital; she said adding that she is a finance officer in the enterprises. As a married woman, she is helping her family by the income she earns from the beekeeping business and undertaking other side business.

Jony Girma, Owner and General Manager of Green Face Trading PLC who participated in the festival, on his part shared his point of view and experiences to The Ethiopian Herald regarding beekeeping business in the area.

His company is working in Illubabor Zone, Oromia regional state and exporting organic honey and wax. There are youth enterprises working on honey production under the MOYESH project, he said adding that he participated in the honey festival with the aim to create market linkage with honey producing enterprises under MOYESH program and to buy their export standard products.

“Our company was established four years ago and has been working in Metu town Illubabor zone, Ali Woreda, and providing guidance for engaged farmers and enterprises on apiculture development in order to boost the production range besides buying their products. It has accumulated some 6 million capitals this time. The company has exported some 180 thousand tons of honey and attracted over one million USD since its establishment,” he said.

The company started exporting organic certified honey since 2018 to European market but the company is planning to boost honey production and productivity in a bid to expand its market destinations, he said adding that changing beekeepers’ lives; attracting foreign currency and creating job opportunity for the people are

the major goals of the company.

Conserving the forest is a key matter to keep and boost honey production. The company has been working with 300 beekeeping farms in general but it also plans to create more jobs for the people that translated in increasing productivity of the existing quality honey to make massive export and attract more foreign currency.

“No enough honey products in the market. Hence, domestic price is also higher than export price and the business requires undertaking activities that increase honey production and productivity with the aim of stabilizing domestic price.”

There is honey potential in the region but it needs action linked with skill and knowledge of modern beekeeping business which is what MOYESH program is doing here. On the festival, icipe’s MOYESH program outputs successfully introduced and promoted the honey products.

The festival has also played significant role to mobilize community and youth enterprises on the honey and its production business as well as to link honey producers with potential buyers and financial sectors.

It also learned that the festival has significant role in helping youth enterprises engaged in input supplying like hive, protective clothes and wax along with promoting their products and contribution of the program in their life and business.

Since its implementation MOYESH has created decent and dignified job opportunities in the program implemented area with appropriate market linkages for the enterprises and individuals. The program further will have positive impacts on 14.6 million people along with the honey and silk value chains through multiplier effects, it was learned.

MOYESH is a five year program (October 2019- October 2024) implemented by icipe in partnership with private, and public sector actors in four regions of Ethiopia.



# Art & Culture

## Shame On Us It Dupes Us Twice

BY AlemHailu G/K

(Short Story)

Sitting inside a wide stone hut the one-eyed Hagos and Moges with a broken leg, both on the wrong side of fifty, were tuning to the DemetseWeyane channel. The old Philips radio feeds on three big batteries. The uncle and cousin respectively narrowly escaped death after forcefully conscripted and dragged to war to fight the National Defense Force.

It was without any form of military training even without any knowledge of how to handle a gun they were rushed to confrontations. When they voiced complaint, "How could we make it with no knack of arms?"

"You will pick up the skill on the process!" they were intimidated into silence.

As such, in an engagement before they knew it, they were held captives suffering mayhem. Happily, however their captors nursed them back to health according to them all due care in sharp contrast to the brutality of the former they have been told about.

When the Ethiopian government declared a unilateral ceasefire, seizing the opportunity, they returned back home. But they still harbor fear of another round of conscription for they know the bellicose mind set of Terrorist TPLF leaders, who fan the fire and enjoy the feeling when the hot air warms them.

"No more talk. Please no more talk," supported by hand signs Hagoes and Moges in a synchronized manner hushed down the remaining inhabitants of the hut an older woman and her granddaughter.

Getachew Reda, virtually the spokesperson of terrorist TPLF, was blurting out every



sort of inane and self-contradicting analysis like a goat that consumed the residue of ale.

"In our march to Addis we lost the battle as there were some among our army that were not disciplined. The presence of even 40 soldiers among an army creates a deficit of trust. Some of our soldiers were raping and looting. That is why we were defeated."

"What does he mean? It was because our soldiers were untrained we lost the battle. It was because we used a human wave, an outmoded tactic, we were chased out with our tails between our legs," Hagoes shook his head in dismay.

"Right you are! This shameless man tries to bluff. It was his likes that were promoting rape and looting as instruments of war," Moges patted Hagoes by way of expressing his consent

"I did hear rape is replete in the track record of TPLF. It suffices to see what Getachew did when he was a lecturer at Mekle University. He was a molester. How could he like a wolf in a sheep's skin project an innocent face?" got worked up the older woman Letaye.

"Unknowingly headmitted TPLF's soldiers are reapers and looters," the young

girl Tirhase chuckled, and added "as a politician he must avoid a slip of the tongue!"

Letaye angrily said "Creating a pretext unwilling to believe one's defeat is tantamount to preparing for another round of invasion to cannon fodder the feeble, toddlers and the workforce of Tigray!"

"Grand ma you and me too will not be spared this time," Tirhase once more chuckled pointing her fingers at Letaye.

"Tirhase this is not a joking matter. You may lose your hands or worse still life," Hagoes got vexed.

Moges said "They are Hijacking UNDF's Aid Trucks. Who knows they may haul us to the warfront not waiting the rainy season, which they believe is favorable for their intended invasion and expansion."

"They have got fuels too, which they are storing for their diabolic ends," Hagoes said.

"They do not have an iota of care to the people they claim to protect and on whose name they collect aid to line up their pockets," Tirhase could not help chuckling.

"There are gluttonous TPLF leaders

that opened new pharmacies to oversell medicinal aids," Moges punched his left palm.

"Many are on their deathbed but these so-called liberators are enslaving our people. What a moral decadence," Tears Trickled down Letaye's face. Experiencing a mood swing Tirhase began to weep. Hagoes and Moges followed suit.

After five minutes wailing calm fell on the room.

"There is a saying if you fool me once shame on you and if you fool me twice shame on me. We must put our feet down not to fall a prey to Weyane's (TPLF's) booby-trap," said Hagoes projecting a worried face.

"Yes I second you!" Moges added.

"This time we must tell lords of clashes boldly that they themselves could march to prove their military prowess. Field Marshal Birhanu has made clear if TPLF tries another wave of clashes the consequence will be harrowing to it," Tirhase's face lit up with a smile.

"Yes this time it is their turn. They must walk their talk in order to understand the real meaning of provoked war, unbaked by a just cause. They could not remain on the back seat at the cost of those on the front seat."

"What makes me split my side laughing is showing a bellicose bent in all directions Weryane clamors it is encircled by enemies all-out to squash it," Tirhase bubbled up with laughter, which has a contagious effect.

"It is the international community that must be held accountable. As if color blind it can't tell the sheep from the fox," Like Tirhas Hagoes chuckled.



## An Ape's Bald Butts

BY Alem Hailu G/Kristos

It is when  
It climbs up a tree  
An ape's bald butts  
Nitpickers can see.  
Before having  
The talent on hand  
An upstart, one mustn't  
Forge forward!

One night I heard a knock on my door;  
Who can it be, I wasn't quite sure.  
I open the door and am filled with glee;  
The visitor ahead is no stranger to me.

I welcome the guest with utmost delight;  
For I know it has come to give me respite.  
An air of happiness fills the space;  
My home now seems, a better place!

Have you any clue who this visitor could be?  
Yes! It's Ramadhan, the month of mercy.  
The pious and righteous can't await its arrival;  
Others seem to greet it, with waves of denial.

For Allah (SWT) we fast from dawn to dusk;  
For Him our breath is the fragrance of musk.  
The Muslims who pray and fast with zest;  
Are aware of the rewards of this month manifest.

Throughout this month we weep and repent;  
Now is the time to strongly lament.  
And those who shun this sacred month;  
on the Day of Reckoning will face the brunt.

In the last ten nights, hides the Night of Decree;  
Allah (SWT) then awaits for his slaves to plea.  
The angels descend with Gabriel (AS) in the lead;  
To check on the steadfast and record every deed.

A feeling of grief now fills my heart;  
As the month of Ramadhan will soon depart.  
So let's make a start and worship Him alone;  
Now that the worth of this month is known.

Islamic Reflections  
Facebook Page - IeVa Yosmin

RAMADAN IS HERE,  
BY ASMA SAEED



## The merging of the Ethiopian & Pakistani activist movements could change the Global South

This organic development would be mutually beneficial and represent a game-changer for the Global South's activist movements. By sharing experiences, educating one another, and pooling their protest potential, they could change the world.

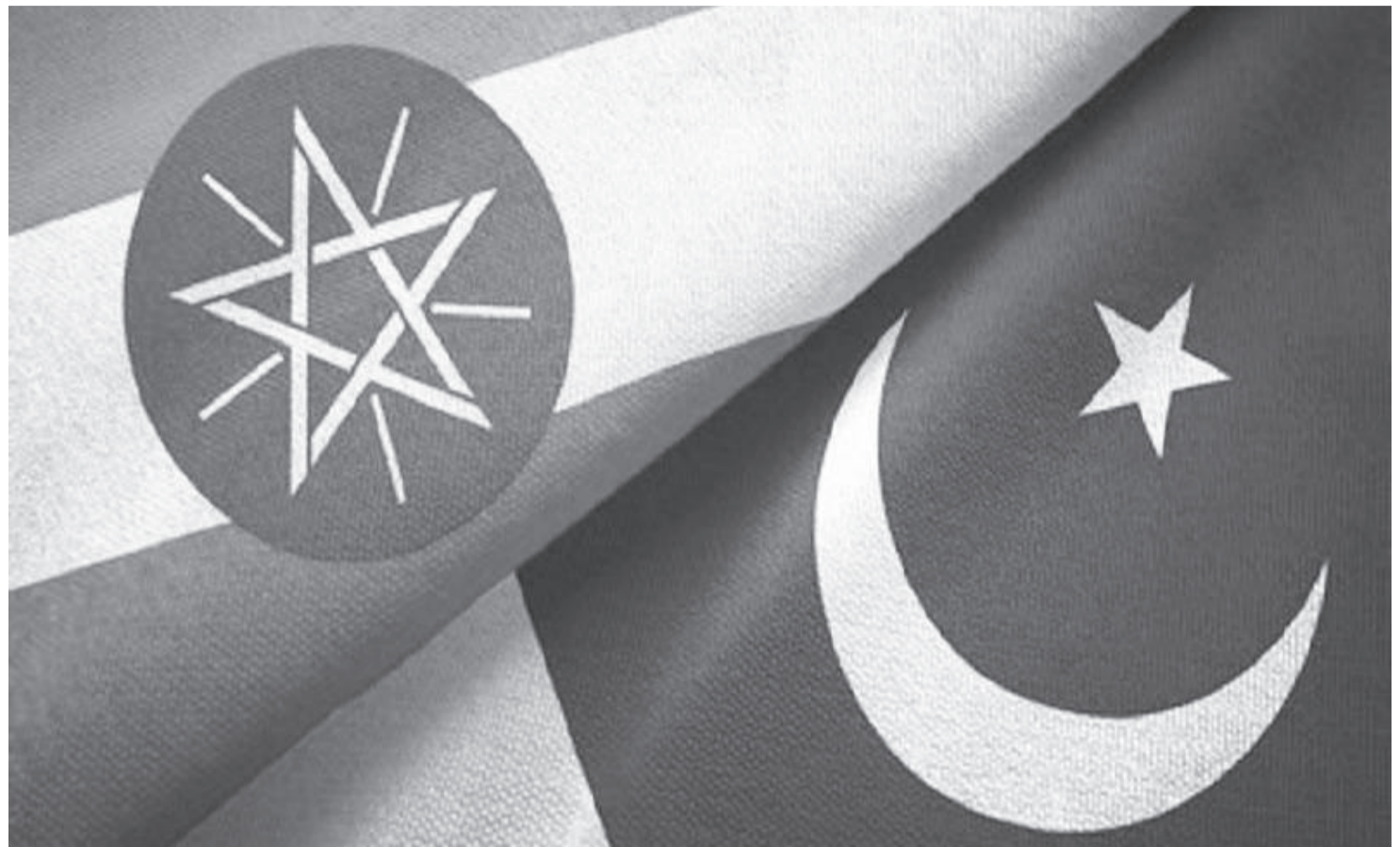
The Global South knows better than any place on earth what it's like to be subjugated under the US' hegemony after suffering from such for decades. The so-called "beacon of democracy" has supported a multitude of anti-democratic developments in this part of the world ever since the end of World War II, ranging from increasingly creative coups to conventional and even Hybrid Wars, not to mention the waging of economic and information warfare. That's why activists from the Global South have always been at the forefront of anti-imperialist movements, which are once again experiencing revival across the world in light of two recent events.

The US-led West's TPLF-driven Hybrid War of Terror on Ethiopia that was launched in November 2020 as punishment for Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's independent foreign policy prompted people from that diverse civilization-state and their diaspora to come together in launching the #NoMore movement. This has taken the form of anti-imperialist rallies across the world that has served to advance the extremely active online awareness campaign that aims to inform everyone about the nature of modern-day neo-imperialism. The movement is completely inclusive since anyone who's interested in this issue can participate in it, especially those in the Global South who has first-hand experience with this.

In recent weeks, another huge anti-imperialist movement has sprung up among a different major Global South country's people and diaspora. It doesn't yet have an agreed-upon name but its latest hashtag is #MarchAgainstImportedGovt and was inspired by former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's claims that his recent ouster was the result of a US-orchestrated regime change to punish him for his independent foreign policy, especially its Russian dimension. His opponents insist that the ultimately successful no-confidence motion against him was constitutional and therefore purely legal, but millions of Pakistanis disagree and have since participated in some of the largest rallies in their country's history.

These two anti-imperialist movements are led by some of the most well-informed and passionate people in the Global South, Ethiopians and Pakistanis, who also have large diaspora communities across the West. They're on the verge of merging too after Hermela Aregawi, one of #NoMore's founders, retweeted former Prime Minister Khan's praise of his movement's social media activists on Sunday to propose that they unite due to their similar struggles. This organic development would be mutually beneficial and represent a game-changer for the Global South's activist movements. By sharing experiences, educating one another, and pooling their protest potential, they could change the world.

This optimistic prediction is predicated on the fact that both movements have already



*Ethiopians and Pakistanis can do so much more if they work together in pursuit of their common cause of defending their countries from neo-imperialism*

had a major impact on shaping the global discourse about their countries' respective relationships to the US. Ethiopia, just like Pakistan, had been taken advantage of by America as its so-called "regional enforcer" only to be ruthlessly discarded and arguably even betrayed after it did everything that its foreign patron wanted in their part of the world. Washington has zero tolerance for them flexing their strategic autonomy as proven by the Hybrid War of Terror that it launched against Prime Minister Abiy and its speculative role in overthrowing former Prime Minister Khan after they both attempted to do just that.

Whereas Ethiopia successfully thwarted this attack against its state sovereignty, albeit after suffering enormous costs, Pakistan wasn't so lucky since its former premier was ultimately ousted. He hasn't, however, given up on trying returning to office through his popular demand for immediate, free, and fair elections. Both developments, the undeniable role that the US played in pressuring Ethiopia throughout the course

of its Hybrid War and the speculative role that it played in Pakistan's recent change of government, served to inspire both countries' people at home and abroad to protest against American meddling. The US itself was thus responsible for inspiring these Global South activist movements.

Up until this point, the only truly global activist movement anywhere in the world in recent decades was the Palestinian one, but it's divided by a lot of internal bickering and has mostly fizzled out over the years. It also focuses exclusively on one particularly sensitive issue. While #MarchAgainstImportedGovt also admittedly concentrates solely on recent events in Pakistan, it has the potential to expand into something much broader and more ambitious due to the commonality of interests that it shares with the #NoMore movement exactly as Ms. Aregawi noted. Their struggles are truly similar, they're saying many of the same things, and there's thus no reason for their movements not to unite.

Ethiopians and Pakistanis can do so much more if they work together in pursuit of their common cause of defending their countries from neo-imperialism. They're also very populous countries with large diaspora communities in the West so they could have a serious impact on shaping discourse in that second-mentioned part of the world if their diasporas share experiences, educate one another more about their people's particular relationship to American hegemony throughout the decades, and cooperate in organizing even larger rallies to generate even more media attention to their cause. The entire global activist movement would be revolutionized if this happens.

Ethiopians and Pakistanis aren't the only people who've recently suffered from American hegemony, but they represent some of the most populous countries in the world and are located in Afro-Asia where

the complex processes associated with the ongoing global systemic transition to multipolarity are rapidly unfolding. By coming together, they can form a bridge that could function as the stepping stone for further uniting their two continents' people in the 21st century, especially through the sphere of online activism that makes it so easy for everyone to network with one another nowadays. Their example could inspire others across Afro-Asia to join their truly global anti-imperialist movement.

The US would have nobody to blame but itself if this happens since it was its Hybrid War aggression against Ethiopia and speculative "lawfare" intrigue against Pakistan that drove those two people to independently create their own anti-imperialist movements that are now on the verge of organically uniting due to their common anti-imperialist causes. By sharing experiences, educating one another, and pooling their protest potential, they can raise their members' awareness about the nature of modern-day neo-imperialism across the Global South, expand their movement into similarly victimized societies, and ensure that their causes receive more attention than ever once they launch larger protests.

As someone who's closely studied both societies and their states' relations with America, the author is certain that this development would be mutually beneficial and game-changing. There's no cost connected to uniting since everyone from these two movements would benefit by networking with their counterparts. They'd learn more about their shared interests in anti-imperialism, multipolarity, and organizing the most effective protests. Furthermore, they'd also have the chance to position their countries as leaders of this new Global South activist movement. Hopefully Ethiopian and Pakistani activists will heed Ms. Aregawi's visionary call to unite and work on changing the world for the better.

Source: (ZubuBrothers)



# Law & Politics

## TPLF's evil gamble on humanitarian aid

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

As the treacherous deeds of the ragtag terrorist TPLF group have no limits in pouring oil on flames discontinuously, noncombatants residing in the northern part of Ethiopia have been battling a vast number of life challenges that demands a lot of time to put the whole thing back on track. On the heels of the group's evil deeds, the lives of civilians in Afar and Amhara states have been turning upside down and going from the frying pan into the fire.

It should be borne in mind that the terrorist TPLF group that has been upending the northern part of Ethiopia has played a part in looting, summary killings, gang rape, and other villainous deeds. On the basis thereof, its heinous deeds will be written in inedible ink and remembered in history.

Notwithstanding that the federal government has been allowing unfettered access to humanitarian assistance taking the severity of the situation into account, the terrorist TPLF group, which is in the dustbin of history, has been repeatedly obstructing humanitarian corridors making use of humanitarian politics for profit. Pessimistically, following the group's nefarious deeds, the noncombatants have been living above the dead and below the living.

As the group has been ostracized from the community in the aftermath of its criminal deeds, it has been doubling down on its destructive acts that can move the country into uncharted territory and mystify the international community with counter-information. Despondently, the group has been throwing the people of Afar, and Amhara states under the bus for the love of putting its wicked deeds into effect.

Similarly, with a focus on bringing into question the incumbent, the terrorist TPLF group has been playing a part in impeding humanitarian corridors from quite a lot of corners despite all its endeavors going for nothing at the earliest possible time.

Despite the fact that the incumbent moved heaven and earth to make certain unconstrained right of entry to the much-needed humanitarian access, the terrorist TPLF group has been pulling out all the stops to impede humanitarian corridors.

In point of fact, this is not a new thing. Since the start of the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia, the group has been sparing no efforts to impede humanitarian access to civilians under the pretense of manifold shallow reasons. Instead of leaning over backward to speed up humanitarian assistance, the group has been accelerating crises. Apart from ratcheting up the humanitarian crisis on purpose, the TPLF group has been puzzling the international community with fake news.



Albeit the group takes part in blocking humanitarian corridors, it perplexes the international community as if the federal government has been impeding humanitarian access to civilians.

In the present climate, through the determination and hard work of the federal government, the people of Tigray have access to the much needed humanitarian assistance despite the terrorist TPLF group has been using the aid for other missions.

Lately, ex-TPLF fighter exposed that the terrorist clique is using the humanitarian aid that the federal government destined to the needy people in Tigray to feed its combatants.

The soldier, who peacefully surrendered to Ethiopian forces, revealed that the TPLF is hijacking the food and non-food supply and deliberately starving the people of Tigray. Due to the blockade of aid by the TPLF the people of Tigray are facing misery and leading difficult lives.

On the other hand the young people are forced to join the army because of the blockade of aid by the TPLF. According to him the blockade is aimed at tarnishing the image of the federal government as the federal government is deliberately starving the people of Tigray and most of my partners in the army and civilians are exposed to severe problems. TPLF shifted the aid to soldiers rather than delivering aid to the needy people, he indicated.

He said that, TPLF is working to deny the fact that the government of Ethiopia has done a number of efforts to reach the needy people by blocking and diverting aid from reaching the people. "The peoples are forced to contribute for the soldiers from the aid they received, unless the leaders take what they have at all. To be frank the aid which is intended to be delivered to the needy people is diverted to the fighters

and the possibility of reaching the people is very low and people are facing severe problem", he noted.

TPLF told the people of Tigray as the federal government blocked the aid and if the aid reached the people passing through difficulties they told them the federal government deeds it by the force of the international community.

It is to be recalled that out of the 1,111 trucks that were loaded with humanitarian supplies and entered Tigray seven months ago, only 242 trucks had been returned and the remaining 869 trucks were hijacked. The government is delivering lifesaving food and non-food aid to Tigray however; the terrorist TPLF group keeps hijacking aids and trucks to transport combatants.

Moreover, Tigray communities who have fled to Amhara state said that the terrorist TPLF has been diverting the humanitarian aid from the needy people of Tigray to feed its combatants so as to enhance the war efforts.

Dozens of Tigray people who rejected the rebellious group have been fleeing to Amhara State to get humanitarian support.

Approached by local media, one of the IDPs said: "I have fled to Amhara State to save my life from the chronic starvation caused by the TPLF and the faction has been diverting the aid to its soldiers."

Applauding the support that the Federal government and Amhara people provided for them, he called on TPLF to end hostility against Ethiopian people especially against the people of Amhara.

The other escapee said on his part that currently the terrorist TPLF has been intentionally blocking humanitarian aid to enforce the starved ethnic Tigray youths to join its military without their interest. "Tough TPLF has been working to expand hostility between Tigray and Amhara

people; the latter welcomed and have been serving us without any discrimination."

TPLF's ex-soldier who peacefully surrendered to federal forces also said the TPLF is hijacking the food and non-food supply and is deliberately starving the people of Tigray.

Also, the Tigray youth were forced to join the army because of the blockade of aid by the TPLF. The blockade is aimed at tarnishing the image of the federal government and accusing the latter of deliberately starving the people of Tigray.

As to the ex-soldier, TPLF is working to undermine the Ethiopian government and its number of efforts to reach the needy people by blocking and diverting aid from reaching the people. "The people are forced to share the aid they receive to TPLF soldiers otherwise they will face severe consequences."

It is to be recalled that federal government has been undertaking a lot of measures to facilitate the state of humanitarian delivery to Tigray state through opening the way for international donors and allowing them to use air transport to speed up the flow of the aid. However, terrorist TPLF has been hijacking the aid trucks and use them as war logistic.

While crying foul on humanitarian aid, the criminal enterprises have long been playing the victim laying the blame on the doorsteps of the Ethiopian government. The diversion of humanitarian aid for militants is the group's continued betrayal of the innocent Tigray population. It is indeed an evil gamble at the expense of the starved Tigray population. In this regard, the international community who has been calling for unfettered access to humanitarian aid should pressure the group to deliver the relief to those who need it and its crimes should be met with serious punitive actions.



# Women in Focus

## Women forerunners leading the fight against misinformation

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

War and conflicts bring what many commonly call unfortunate consequences to communities living around conflict-ridden areas and beyond. The human cost of war is staggering. But sometimes the human casualties and suffering deliberately caused by warring parties go deep down and unnoticed most of the time.

Surely and usually, women find themselves caught up in devastating crises and conflicts. Best by myriads and pressing socio-economic challenges and targeted by warring parties, women appear to be the number one victims of war bearing unbearable trauma that would last for a long time. Past conflicts showcase women being the target of aggressors as the latter used rape, abduction, and exploitation as a weapon of war in many instances.

Though having a limited role in instigating conflicts, women are the most to suffer in wars. The mayhem and the plight African women have to endure appear to be more severe during war times. African women have agonizing burdens at normal times even. From Boko-Haram to the TPLF criminal enterprise, many violent and extremist groups instigate horrific physical and mental injury against women including underage girls.

In Ethiopia, women have been going through the same horrors due to the immoral and inhumane acts of the terrorist TPLF group. The atrocities committed by the group on women and girls are largely undocumented, but few stories have shed light on the physical and mental abuses TPLF caused against women in Afar and Amhara states.

Just to mention a few, Amnesty International's (AI) previous report laid bare the horrendous crimes perpetrated against girls and women by the TPLF rogue element.

According to AI survivors described being raped at gunpoint, robbed, and subjected to physical and verbal assaults by TPLF fighters, who also destroyed and looted medical facilities in the town. Fourteen of the 16 women Amnesty International interviewed said they were gang-raped.

The TPLF took control of Nifas Mewcha, in Amhara's Gaint District, for nine days between 12 and 21 August 2021, as part of an ongoing offensive into parts of

the Amhara and Afar regions. Regional government officials told Amnesty that more than 70 women reported to authorities that they were raped in Nifas Mewcha during this period.

The testimonies we heard from survivors describe despicable acts by TPLF fighters that amount to war crimes, and potentially crimes against humanity. They defy morality or any iota of humanity, said Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary-General.

TPLF fighters must immediately stop all human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including sexual and gender-based violence. The leadership must make clear that such abuses will not be tolerated and remove suspected perpetrators from their ranks.

Amnesty International used secure video call applications to individually interview 16 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Nifas Mewcha.

The organization also interviewed the head of Nifas Mewcha hospital, as well as local and regional government officials with knowledge of the assault and its aftermath.

According to a local government desk officer for Women, Children, and Youth Affairs, 71 women reported that they were raped by TPLF fighters during the period in question; the Federal Ministry of Justice puts the number at 73.

Survivors told Amnesty International that the attack began as soon as the TPLF took control of the town on 12 August 2021. The women all identified the perpetrators as TPLF fighters based on their accents and the ethnic slurs they used against victims, as well as their overt announcements that they were TPLF.

TPLF fighters also subjected the women to degrading ethnic slurs, such as donkey Amhara, and greedy Amhara. In some cases, the TPLF forces told women they were raping them in revenge for the raped Tigrayan women by Federal forces. Amnesty International previously documented widespread rape and sexual violence by government-allied troops and militias in Tigray.

Amnesty International heard that, after raping the women, TPLF fighters then looted their homes. Survivors, many of whom live hand-to-mouth by working in low-paid and informal jobs, running small businesses, or engaging in sex work, described fighters stealing food, jewelry, cash, and mobile phones.

Amnesty's testimony is only the tip of the iceberg. TPLF and its henchmen have

been causing excruciating pain to girls and women. Millions of women have continued to suffer at the hands of the ragtag group. The actions have gone largely unpunished, even worse unnoticed.

Despite the gruesome tragedies though, the tsunami of misinformation and media propaganda has been adding an insult to the injuries of women victims. The trend has been exonerating the criminals and criminalizing the innocents making the path to accountability rocky.

But again, in spite of the harrowing stories, courageous women are standing up against the abusers fighting disinformation and injustice waged on Ethiopia. Hermela Aregawi, Blen Mamo, Bethlehem Tekeste and foreigners like Ann Garrison have been at the forefront in combating misinformation.

These brave women have been leading campaigns and providing unvarnished truth to the international communities who have largely been either mystified or mute on the criminal activities of the TPLF clique. From staging street campaigns to starting social media campaigns, Ethiopian women at home and abroad have been fighting injustice using whatever means they have.

Nowadays many more girls are joining these women and standing up for common cause despite having different backgrounds.

Most importantly, these women have been lifting the lead on the atrocities TPLF committed against girls and women while battling the hybrid war waged on Ethiopia. Their efforts have brought people together and awakened communities though most of the voices fell on the deaf ears of the international community.

Losing the fighting on the ground, remnants of the TPLF clique has taken the battle to the media frontiers unleashing information war. The war is meant to besmirch the successful law enforcement operation. They are furious that their paymasters have been brought to demise.

The information wars both waged in and outside by internal and external forces are meant to beg sympathy from the international communities and blacken the decisive victory Ethiopians triumphed over the divisive and hate mongering force.

In fact, fighting misinformation and disinformation does not rest on the government only, the Ethiopian people particularly those residing overseas should give the true picture of the law enforcement operation to the international communities. Availing rightful information timely and through all channels should receive due attention to counter fight the proliferation of fake news.

In general, girls and women are rarely mere passive victims of conflict, yet they have been at the heart of peace movements ending conflicts and healing communities. In this regard, other women regardless of their status and profession should join the forerunners to turn the tide on information warfare and champion the truth.

**Losing the fighting on the ground, remnants of the TPLF clique has taken the battle to the media frontiers unleashing information war. The war is meant to besmirch the successful law enforcement operation. They are furious that their paymasters have been brought to demise**





# Society

## A trust that surpass one's interest

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

A little girl and her father were crossing a bridge. The father was kind of scared so he asked his little daughter, 'Sweetheart, please hold my hand so that you don't fall into the river.' The little girl said, 'No, Dad. You hold my hand.' 'What's the difference?' Asked the puzzled father; 'There's a big difference,' replied the little girl. 'If I hold your hand and something happens to me, chances are that I may let your hand go. But if you hold my hand, I know for sure that no matter what happens, you will never let my hand go.' In any relationship-be it at individual level or at national level the essence of trust is not an option, it is a must thing.

There is no question that trust among citizens has a key role in building the nation. Whenever there is lack of trust and concession among them, the probability of conflict, unrest and chaos is obvious. Having a trust like that little girl over her father is a kind of trust that Ethiopians need.

In a traditional society, there are unwritten rules and regulations that guide the social and political interaction of the society. These unwritten rules, regulations and customs are bridges that help a particular society to cross the river without any doubt. This trust includes giving one's life to the community or the rulers. As it was witnessed repeatedly in Ethiopian history, it was the trust of the people among each other that led them to scarify their priceless life and safeguard their country from invaders. Whenever rulers or chiefs order the people for battle or to perform a certain task, they have followed that path with full heart because of the trust they put in them.

Motion Consultancy and Training Center, Deputy CEO, Birhanu Rabo, said, trust is the binding force for every move. This is specially in building a strong nation.

Every society has its own value system, says Birhanu. He/she inherits this value system from families, neighbors, friends or school. It is obvious that people tend to adopt the character of their families, neighbors or relatives. Depending on the nature of their environment there is always a probability of reflecting similar characteristics. This affects the nature of social and political interaction of the nation. For instance, people who live in violent neighborhoods tend to believe that violence is the best way to achieve goals. In the same token, those people who lived or grew up in an environment where discussion is the only way towards peaceful coexistence, violence has no place in their heart. In most cases, children are victims of this pattern. They prefer to copy, adopt and live what they observe around them.

According to Birhanu, conflict and intolerance among citizens may result from the aforementioned reasons. In addition, absence of interest to respect the value systems of others has also an adverse effect in the peaceful co-existence of any community or country. "Life is not all



about respecting or adhering to one's value system by undermining the values of others. It goes beyond that. The moment an individual gives value to his/her culture or identity, he/ she must also learn to respect others' value as well. This is what selflessness means. When an individual learns to respect others' value systems, he/ she will also earn the same respect.

Respecting the value system of others includes those minor elements which seem invisible or worthless to others. When people value the strength and the weakness of others' there will be harmonious coexistence between them. This give and take principle is not only confined to at the individual level. It goes beyond that. The more people learn to value others' identity, the more they will develop trust among each other. This in turn cements tolerance among citizens.

The reverse is also true. People who undermine the socio-cultural values of others will always end up with conflict. Giving oneself a higher place at the expense of others will cost a society or a country a lot. Things that are considered minor have always a devastating impact in

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Failure to respect the value of others does not only have social or political impact. It also has a serious economic impact on the nation. The more people tend to lose trust among each other, the more they weaken the economic progress of the nation. Suspicion will dominate the system and it will totally cripple social integration of that particular society or nation.

Trust has more power than coercion to have a stable environment. Force is not always a solution to rule people. It may have a temporary effect to earn respect or to be feared. The problem is it will not be sustainable. People who were once subdued by force will wait for their turn for revenge. Sustainable peace and development comes through respect, love and trust.

When there is trust among citizens or between citizens and the government the path towards peace and stability would become very smooth. Trust surpasses hatred or revenge. The more people develop a sense of trust among each other the more they will develop positive energy within their heart. This enables them to live in harmony and tolerance. The more people tend to trust each other, the more they will bear fruits of tolerance and forgiveness which is capable of overcoming hard times. Which means, they will transfer a nation to the coming generation whose heart is pure and committed to the interest of others.



# International

## Somalia allows AU troops to take charge of security ahead of elections

Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Roble said Tuesday he has authorized the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) to take over the security of the hangar (tent) where the election of Lower House leadership is to take place Wednesday.

Roble said the directive is due to security challenges on the impending elections of the speaker and two deputies of the Lower House.

"In light of the severity of the security challenges impeding the completion of the elections, I have authorized ATMIS peacekeepers to immediately take over the security of the air force hangar as we complete the election of parliamentary leadership and prepare for the presidential election next month," he said in a statement issued in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

Key events are being held under tight security



— Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble.

measures in a hangar belonging to the Somali Air Force at Mogadishu's international airport.

Roble said the ATMIS leadership will closely coordinate with the prime minister's office, ministries of security and defense as well as

parliamentary leadership to ensure peaceful elections.

He said the list of lawmakers to access the hangar will be prepared by the interim Speaker of the Lower House, compiled by the prime minister's office and sent to ATMIS leadership accordingly.

The election of the speaker of the Upper House or the Senate was held Tuesday and analysts say the election of the Lower House could give direction in regard to who among the candidates is likely to win the presidential elections in May.

The 54-member Senate and the 275 members of parliament from the Lower House are expected to jointly elect a new president in an indirect vote in Mogadishu but no date has been set so far.

Source: CGTN Africa



## Climate change landscape of drought land

A donor conference organized in Geneva has raised 1.39 billion U.S. dollars for the Horn of Africa, where an ongoing drought threatens millions of people with severe food insecurity, the UN announced Tuesday.

The money raised will go towards humanitarian and development projects in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, as the region experiences its "worst drought in 40 years," a statement by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said.

"The situation is particularly stark in six areas of Somalia, where famine is likely if rains fail this season, if food prices continue to rise and if humanitarian assistance is not scaled up to reach the most vulnerable populations," the statement added.

The Horn of Africa is experiencing its fourth consecutive poor rainy season, the UN statement said, noting that "one million people have left their homes due to a lack of water or pasture, and at least three million livestock have died."

The UN said Tuesday that more than six million people in Somalia are "acutely food insecure," as well as 3.5 million in Kenya and 6.5 million in Ethiopia.

Source: CGTN

## British car Grenadier enters Kenya market

British billionaire Sir James Ratcliffe has entered the Kenyan car market with the appointment of a dealer that will distribute a 4x4 utility vehicle Grenadier which resembles the classic Land Rover Defender.

INEOS Automotive, owned by the businessman who funded Eliud Kipchoge's 2019 special marathon, has appointed Wooton Automotive to sell the newly developed vehicles in the local market on an exclusive basis.

"We have worked tirelessly for over a year to find retail partners that share our enthusiasm and excitement for the Grenadier," Tim Abbott, the head of South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa at INEOS Automotive, said in a statement.

"They understand 4X4 users and their requirements and have a proven track record for exceptional customer service. Together with our regional partners, we look forward to providing Grenadier customers with the advice, guidance and support they need."

The company said technical specifications and indicative pricing for the INEOS Grenadier in Kenya will be confirmed by the end of April, with order books opening in May.

The INEOS Grenadier will have automatic transmission and will be powered by three-litre diesel or petrol engines manufactured by German automaker BMW.

UK media say a five-seater version of the car could be priced from £55,000 (Sh8 million). The price is expected to be higher in Kenya due to import duty, at 25 percent, and other taxes.

Prices of the new Land Rover Defender, sold by Inchcape Kenya, can top the Sh20



Sir James Arthur Ratcliffe, the British billionaire who owns INEOS Automotive that funded Eliud Kipchoge's 2019 special marathon

million mark.

Data from the Kenya Motor Industry Association shows that a total of 17 Land Rover Defenders were sold last year.

The new generation of the British car brand has more technology and luxury features compared to its predecessor whose production ended in 2016 partly due to stricter emissions standards in Europe.

Sir Ratcliffe, who has a \$16 billion net worth, according to Forbes, started the process of bringing the INEOS Grenadier to the market in 2017. He said the car will fill a gap left by other car manufacturers.

INEOS Automotive describes the vehicle

as a reliable 4x4 suitable for tackling off-road conditions.

The appointment of Wooton Automotive is part of INEOS Automotive's plan to have a network of 200 sales and service sites for the Grenadier spanning over 50 countries, including established dealer groups, 4X4 specialists and agricultural equipment dealers.

INEOS Automotive is a subsidiary of INEOS Group, a leading manufacturer of petrochemicals, specialty chemicals, and oil products. In 2019, INEOS had sales of about \$61 billion.

Source: BUSINESS DAILY