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Stock exchange entitles unique capital markets to Ethiopian businesses

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA- The government takes a big step to establish the Ethiopian

Securities Exchange (ESX) that would have a paramount importance in helping both public and private owned companies to have unique access to capital markets, noted economists said.

Recently, the Ministry of Finance, the Ethiopian Investment Holdings (EIH), and FSD Africa recently signed a cooperation agreement to establish the ESX. It is said

See Stock exchange... page 3

Ethiopian coffee penetrates Asian markets

• China becomes 8th largest importer

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The Asian market has been demonstrating a growing demand for Ethiopian coffee and China imported high volume of the commodity capitalized on the two countries' thriving diplomatic relations, the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority said.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Authority Market Development and Promotion Director Tatek Girma stated that Asian

See Ethiopian coffee.. page 3



Wondwossen Girma

Diaspora seizing investment opportunities: Agency

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- Members of the Ethiopian Diaspora who have come to their home country in response to the Great Homecoming Challenge demonstrated

See Diaspora seizing.. page 3

Terrorist mouthpiece admits forcible conscription

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA- In a rare gesture, the terrorist TPLF publicly admitted that the group uses the forced conscription of the Tigray youth and children for war in a clear indication of the faction's disregard to the plight of innocent civilians.

Speaking to Tigray Media House (TMH) recently, T-TPLF mouthpiece Getachew

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 4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Reda stated that they have been forcibly recruiting underage soldiers, the elderly and others who have refused the faction's warmongering plan. It is to be recalled that big international media outlets notably Reuters and BBC repeatedly reported about the faction's callous character. It is to be noted that Ethiopians at home and in the diaspora have been urging the global community and in particular those claiming

See Terrorist mouthpiece.. page 3

News

Terror syndicate performing another episode of drama

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA- The terrorist TPLF's recent claim about the release of over 4,000 'prisoners-of-war' is a sheer lie that intends to deceive the international community and make the latter to consider the faction takes a 'humanistic' and 'peaceful' gesture, the Government Communication Service (GCS) said.

Following the international community's understanding of the true nature of the T-TPLF and the declining of the former's support, the faction is trying to grab global attention by declaring the release of war captives, GCS stated in its recent statement. "Efforts to catch the international community's attention through false information and propaganda have no place"

The statement further noted that the T-TPLF's rhetoric is also aimed to cover up its aggressive behavior and present itself as ready to resolve the problem in a



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FDRE Government Communication Service

peaceful and amicable manner. The radical clique is infamous for disseminating false and deceptive information with the support of its lobbyists in the Diaspora to

confuse the international community.

According to government's investigation, most of the detainees released by the terrorist group were civilians taken forcefully from Amhara and Afar states, and members of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF), who were detained by the group after ENDF left the Tigray State. T-TPLF also captured many civilians who had been working and living in Tigray, and is now making a drama by letting the detainees wear ENDF and other security forces' uniforms.

The terror syndicate's junior partner in crime *Shene* is working in tandem with other extremist groups to make the former's drama a widespread acceptance. T-TPLF is working to recruit and train members of these extremist groups and to send them in the name of captives in order to carry out its mission, the statement elaborated.

The government also urged the international community to realize the real character of T-TPLF and not to assist its destructive attempts.

Gov't expedites efforts to dignified repatriation of citizens

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- The government has made every attempt to avail a dignified repatriation of citizens that have been in difficult situations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ethiopian Ambassador to that country said.

Speaking to local media, Ethiopian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Lencho Bati stated that the government has given due attention to ensure the rights of citizens that have been repatriated from the Kingdom. A sizable number of Ethiopians have been living in Saudi Arabia in search of better living conditions thereby supporting families and relatives.

The ambassador further noted that Ethiopian diplomatic missions have been working closely with relevant institutions of Saudi Arabia and contacting high level officials to facilitate the repatriation.

Noting the outbreak of the northern conflict was the main hindrance to the repatriation process, Lencho highlighted that it has managed to repatriate 44, 000 citizens from Saudi Arabia up to now.

Various agencies, ministries, and the likes have been teamed up to undertake



wide ranging activities that can make repatriates work and prosper in their country. Furthermore, the Saudi Arabia

government expressed desire to receive a large number of Ethiopian legal job seekers in various fields and due

attention has been given to send trained and qualified labor force to the Kingdom, Ambassador Lencho emphasized.

News

Homegrown reform hinges on agricultural modernization

BY HIZKEL HAILU

ADDIS ABABA- The homegrown economic reform aims at addressing challenges of the agricultural sector to make it the engine of Ethiopia's economic growth, the Ministry of Plan and Development said.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Plan and Development Minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) said the reform has attached due consideration to modernize farming practices and increasing productivity that is largely hampered by poor technology and lack of capital. "Ensuring food self-sufficiency via import substitution and making the agriculture sector a reliable foreign currency source has been highlighted in the economic reform."

"One of the challenges of sector is the collateral that is required by lenders. Even a farmer with a large-scale farm in the city could not obtain a loan due to the absence of policy support," the minister added.

As to her, the pastoralists could not afford to access bank loans and expand their business. In bits and pieces, policy makers began to realize the situation and this has led to significant improvements

in financing agriculture, with a prime focus on the reform framework and the ability to lend with mortgages. Accordingly, the introduction of tax-free agricultural technologies and inputs is also amongst the main supports by the government. The huge tax-free access to agricultural inputs is also of great significance.

The Minister further noted that the reform has also enabled the industry sector to generate over 400 million USD in the past nine months of the current fiscal year that equates over 80 percent of the target set to the reported period. New industry policy tabled to the Council of Minister's approval and is expected to create a favorable climate in the sector.

"It is believed that the manufacturing industry should not be developed in isolation hence has to be integrated with other sectors. If the agriculture sector does not provide inputs to the industry, the agro-processing activities and other industries will not be able to develop. If the mining sector does not provide inputs, the industry will not function properly and thus we need to put in place a comprehensive approach that will harmonize the different pillars of the economy."

The government wants to capitalize



Photo: Gebabo Gebre

on the industrial parks to enhance the horizontal and vertical integration of economic sectors and garner the

participation of the Diaspora and other relevant actors to sustain the economic growth, she remarked.

Ethiopian coffee penetrates...

businesses have shown a growing desire to acquire Ethiopian coffee. The improving livelihoods of Asians and strong diplomatic activities between Ethiopia and destination countries have a huge impact on the progress.

"Asians are now developing a habit of drinking Ethiopian Coffee since our coffee is known for its high quality and aroma. Our produce has won the confidence of a number of consumers in many destinations."

Tatek further noted that the government of China has given a conducive environment to Ethiopian coffee to have a significant market share in that country. "They have invited us to promote our coffee using events. So, it has really played an indispensable role in making more trade in China. Ethiopian coffee exporters are being invited to have opportunities to participate

in such promotional events. Moreover, the warm diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and China have given impetus to coffee export."

"We need to have promotional branches in destination countries to easily penetrate their market. We have no sufficient agents to make adverts in most countries. But, the authority is cooperating with Ethiopian diplomatic missions to promote our products."

Commenting on the Chinese state media, Xinhua, Authority's Director General Adugna Debela (PhD) said Ethiopia's coffee export to the Asian country has registered amazing progress in the current year. "Last year, China ranked 33rd in terms of importing Ethiopian coffee, but currently it has the 8th largest destination of the commodity."

Diaspora seizing investment...

huge interest in exploring the business and investment opportunities here, the Ethiopian Diaspora Agency said.

Accordingly, 450 Diaspora Ethiopians who have come to their home country to mark religious festivities in response to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's initiative are ready to do business, Agency Public Relation Director Wondwossen Girma told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA).

A lot has been done to create a favorable environment for Ethiopians in the Diaspora

to engage them in various business and investment areas, he said.

"The investment atmosphere in Ethiopia for the Diaspora is encouraging and the government would provide those who would like to do business in the country with various support and encouraging conditions."

Also, Diaspora Ethiopians have been demonstrating strong interest in rehabilitating people affected by drought and the recent unrest in parts of the country, he remarked.

Stock exchange entitles...

the ESX is on the right track to implementation and it comprises 50 state-owned and private companies as well as banks and insurances among others.

Commenting on the issue, an economist and Global Chairman of Fairfax Africa Fund Zemedeneh Negatu said that the establishment of ESX is timely, and crucial to streamline the overall economic reform that the government has put in place over the last three years and plus time.

"The establishment of ESX is timely as the Ethiopian economy continues to grow and the IMF recently predicted that Ethiopia will be one of five largest economies in sub-Saharan Africa by 2023. According to the IMF report, Ethiopia will register a 5.7 percent annual economic growth and the establishment of a capital market will enable state and government owned companies to expand their capital."

For Ethiopian Investment Holding (EIH) CEO Mamo Mihretu, the ESX will provide issuers and investors with unique and unseen access to capital markets, promote efficient

capital allocation and utilization. In support of Ethiopia's ambitious economic development agenda, the exchange will ensure that much-needed capital is available to businesses, entrepreneurs, and young innovators across Ethiopia.

"For the first time in the history of Ethiopia, the business sector will have access to long-term finance to build sustainable businesses, create much-needed jobs, and be a part of the country's economic progress. A fast-growing economy demands a significant amount of capital and more long-term sources of funds for investment. A capital market is therefore crucially important for Ethiopia's economy to connect the financial sector to the real and social sectors."

Ethiopia's Former Ambassador to the U.S. Fitsum Arega said for his part that the establishment of ESX is an important milestone for the development of the capital market in the country. ESX enables domestic and FDI private sector participation and helps them address the long-term financing, employment, and other related challenges, he remarked.

Terrorist mouthpiece admits...

to stand for child rights to mount pressure on the TPLF. Getachew also affirmed in the interview that TPLF continues to believe in a military solution and vow to dismember Ethiopia so as to secure its ill-conceived goal.

Also, the Reuters on May 16, 2022 said, "authorities in Ethiopia's war-shattered Tigray region are forcing young people to join their army's fight against the central government by threatening and jailing relative."

Opinion

The Evil within us nurtured, protected: **The potential danger for the nation**

BY DEJEN RAS & HIBONGO DESTA

Humans have lived on earth for many thousands of years showing kindness, solidarity, and respect to one other showing the good side of their human nature. But at times they have also devoured and destroyed each other revealing the huge potential of evil-type nature within humanity. In this piece, we wanted to reflect on how this dark side of humans is nurtured and protected in our generation creating a huge obstacle for our co-existence as nation of around 90 cultural and linguistic groups (What is commonly called ethnic group).

Note that we do not go deep into the philosophical position that are humans created with good or evil nature and so on. We better think that if good is nurtured in humans, then the result is good. On the contrary, if evil or bad things are cultivated and nurtured, then the human character can be infected with evil nature and act wildly as we saw in recent months in our country. Our goal is to address the elephant in the room so that we all learn to control it and show more compassion and solidarity among one other.

Nurturing is a process

The word nurture is defined as “training or upbringing.” This **shows** the fact that it takes time and commitment for something to be nurtured. Something we nurture is something we hold dear to us. Webster dictionary defines that nurture is «*the sum of the environmental factors influencing the behavior and traits expressed by an organism*».

This definition is something that catches the essence of the idea we want to raise in this piece. What kind of behavior are we all showing right now as a nation? Why are we behaving like this? Why are we aspiring and desiring to crush and destroy another human fellow since he/she is not speaking the language we speak or does not exhibit the identify markers of ours? Could it be that this was the result of the nurtured bad **character** for too long? The sum of every bit of information we share among one other, the sum of every intention and aspiration to control and dominate others who are not in our club of ethnicity, ideology, or party, even at times religion proves that something has gone wrong.

Why is **this voice of evil** side so loud and dominating? One factor is the fact that we live in the age of social media where each individual person is empowered to share his/her truth, lie or twist in the blink of an eye. Through it, not only the good side but also the evil natures of humans have got the opportunity to be multiplied and magnified at the speed of light. Little by little, the conspiracies, prejudices, and hate spread to the justifications to kill and devour. This nurturing process of evil thoughts and divisions is facilitated day by day by many individuals and groups.

We have considered the wrongdoings of TPLF as an example. But it seems there are many such evil-intents that follow the same path. No doubt, any group who is aspiring to do something like TPLF will repeat the same mistakes again

A very good example of the nurturing of the evil side of humans was done by TPLF. Of course, in the beginning, that was not the intention. The call to REBEL (*ወይን*) was romantic at first, for it was associated with the idea of freedom and liberation of the people from “**oppression**”. Simple music was enough to recruit you to join the cause. If you dance you showed that you have decided. That was it! Healthy human nature includes aspiring for freedom. So that movement was not problematic by itself.

But it becomes a problem when it delineates a group of people (of one linguistic and cultural group) as an enemy by default in its manifesto. When they get the victory, even if many have participated in overthrowing the Derg regime, they attribute it to their own group only. That was selfishness! They portray their group as a powerful one. That wrongly fed their soul that they are exceptional. It became more problematic when they used the divide and rule principle to cause more friction among the different ethnic groups just to tame the country and stay in power in the country. They nurtured division and enmity among fellow citizens.

After they lost the central power in the country, they used fear as a weapon on the Tigray people. If they only do what the war-mongering people told them, they will get what they want again. They brainwashed them. The young generation of Tigrayans is being **used as weapon** to destroy their fellow citizens in other parts of the country: especially Amhara and Afar regions. Even now, they continue to invoke fear with groundless claims of the people of Tigray being surrounded by enemies. And they should arise and begin a war on all fronts to break out from such a situation. This is a good example of nurturing the evil side of human beings on a continuous basis for over four decades. **The overall consequence is a disaster for the same group.**

We have considered the wrongdoings of TPLF as an example. But it seems there are many **such evil-intents** that follow the same path. No doubt, any group who is aspiring to do something like TPLF will repeat the same mistakes again. You cannot expect a different result by doing the same nurturing of the evil side of humans.

Protecting “the evil aspect” Collectively

Now, what is nurtured and built through decades is being protected via different means. Every culture and linguistic group member is forced to think the same. Everyone should stay together, even if they are on the wrong trajectory. This way the evil mindset is being preserved, protected and promoted. The very thought entertained in a group could be wrong, and you may try to voice your concern. For example, you may voice that ethnonationalism is a weaker model of governance. You express your concern that the model being implemented is the wrong one, and its consequence is

disastrous. Then you will be labeled as a betrayer, as a traitor, an enemy of that ethnic group you belong to by default. Let us raise other three cases that can address different groups.

1. For example, you belong to one ethnic group, and out of passion and concern, you told your fellow citizen that it is wrong to create enemies around you. Then you are categorized as a traitor by that group. But your point is correct. Anyone, with a sound mind, cannot create enemies all around him/herself.
2. Or you may say, we do need to respect the officially elected government and we need to be constructive. In such case as well, this group will urge to you that if you are one of them, you have to hate the government by default. Hmm, was it not via election the government came to power? Why not use your voting right to change the government at the right time. Mr. Trump was elected democratically. Those who were disappointed with him, they had to wait four years for him to go. If the majority wants him again, he may come back to power. Change comes via election. Wait and elect the government that you wanted to stay in power. Even better than that, if you have the ambition and passion of providing a different political party, then organize lawfully in a civilized way and work tirelessly to bring real change in a civilized way.
3. Or you may say to people in power that the best way to lead is the fairway. That is sustainable. But those who think their group has power and should take advantage of it, as TPLF did will see you as their enemy. TPLF had a machinery system called EPDRF that helped it dominate the political system for three decades. It used to crash everyone, and anyone who speaks the truth. They protect that together. If you voice your concerns, then you are labeled as an enemy of the state.

We should not bow down to their nurturing work of the evil side of humans. We should not try to protect evil together. Our generation has to wake up to say no to such collusion. Instead, we need to be truthful to our conscience. We need to treat fellow human beings fairly.

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

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General Manager

Tel. 011-126-42-22
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Advertisement and Dist.
Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew
email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city
Woreda - 05, House No----
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama
Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu
Elizabeth Mengistu
Zekarias Woldemariam
Desta Geberehiwot
Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et
email: ethiopianherald@press.et
Fb/ /Ethiopian Press Agency/
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Editorial

Wolf in sheep's skin!

The Terrorist TPLF enterprise has continued fabricating and peddling false narrations to cover up its roguish acts, to appear as if it is peace-loving and grab the attention of the global community, thereby gain positive recognition.

As part of this strategy, the faction in its recent announcement pronounced that it has released thousands of "Ethiopian soldiers" whom it said were seized in the military campaigns which had carried out at Afar and Amhara states and; they had been confined in Mekelle prison centers for months.

It is an open secret that the faction, in its entire history, has been a callous one which never has an iota of moral principles; rather known for promoting its own interest and taking advantage of others.

Each and every of its move also testify this reality. Detaining several innocent Ethiopians, including family members of the Ethiopian Defense Forces who were residing in Tigray State for long, the terrorist group branded them as Prisoners of Wars (POWs). This portrays the level of the group's wickedness and evilness.

And currently by releasing those innocent civilians who had no any role in the conflict; but hijacked by the rebels and detained in Mekelle jails without their sins, it is attempting to appear as if it is peace loving. It is trying, though in vein, to attract global attention and gain political benefit.

Had the TPLF group been peace loving and worried about the people of Tigray, it would have not rejected the humanitarian truce that the government has declared to allow unhindered movement of relief items to the people

who are in need; and withdrew from areas which it has occupied forcefully. However, if truth be told, its real identity and anti-Ethiopia sentiments is contrary to this.

As Government Communication Service has disclosed in its recent statement, the false narration of releasing POWs by the terrorist TPLF faction is one of the characteristics that clearly demonstrate group's attempt to cover up its aggressor and destructive identity and to be seen as if it is peace-loving.

The government has found out in its investigation that the terrorist TPLF is working to recruit and train extremist groups in collaboration with the Shene terrorist group in order to carry out its ill mission by organizing and deploying them in the name of war captives.

It is a known matter that currently the faction is readying itself to incite fresh military attack against the Ethiopian forces. It is also recruiting youths forcibly in Tigray and is offering trainings to launch another round of attack.

As it is witnessed from past experiences and can be deduced from faction's evil-hearted nature, TPLF would attempt every possible course of action in order to realize its malicious plans.

The thing is, the evil group has demonstrated its true identity when it violets the truce that the government declared time and time again. It is peace allergic. And its paymasters as well never wish to see peaceful and prosperous Ethiopia. The good thing is on the other hand, Ethiopians have a number of friends in all parts of the world. Over and beyond, Ethiopia never succumb to the already defeated group.

Opinion

Unabated western, terrorist TPLF's conspiracy against Ethiopia, Eretria

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

With all rounded support from the US led western powers, Egypt, Sudan and some hostile Arab countries, terrorist TPLF has started the third round of total war against the peoples and governments of Ethiopia and Eretria with the objective of destroying the entire political order in the two countries. Backed by western intelligence agencies, terrorist and fascist TPLF has already started what it called a prolonged war of liberation which received a lukewarm response from the population in the region.

Every day and out, terrorist TPLF is killing, mutilating, raping and starving its own people. The people of Tigray are being forced to get food rations either by enlisting among the fighters of TPLF or supporting the deadly propaganda it is broadcasting to lure innocent civilians into a war as if this is a recreational excursion. Families in Tigray have already lost hundreds of their children which they raised in hardship. Today, they do not even have the right to respectfully bury the remains of their children.

While Tigray is an alienable part of Ethiopia and in spite of the fact that the region is the center of Ethiopian history and civilization, months have elapsed since the terrorist group started to refer to Tigray as "The State of Tigray" and the regional government as "The government of Tigray" also referring to the regional special force as "TDF or Tigray Defense Forces." This system of

naming was also endorsed by western media companies.

On the other hand, terrorist TPLF which considers itself as a ruler of a state demands the restoration of power and communication services from the federal government while officially denying that Tigray is part of Ethiopia.

Amidst this total idiosyncratic politicking this terrorist organization has been conspiring with some western powers, Egypt, Sudan and a number of Arab countries to alter the entire political order in the Horn of Africa to ensure western hegemony on the sub-region.

Terrorist TPLF has been conspiring with forces opposing the Eritrean government for a regime change in Eretria which is also diplomatically supported by the west as part of its day dream to incorporate half of Eretria into what it called Greater Tigray by destroying the political integrity of the country. Sources close to the situation say that terrorist TPLF has also been working on even changing the name Eretria into what it called "State of Agazi." As noted above, this is part of the international conspiracy to ensure that the west would dominate the Horn of Africa in due competition with Russia and China.

On the other hand, with the coordination from Egypt, terrorist TPLF is also attempting to regionalize the war so that the Arab

countries that have greater interest to control the source of the water of the Blue Nile will support its irredentist policies. Moreover, terrorist TPLF which falsely misinformed the world that GERD was sold away is now conspiring with Egypt and Sudan in return for their support for its futile attempt to reoccupy parts of the Amhara region to get an outlet to Sudan through Wolkayit which it attempted for more than 30 times.

In preparation for its war against Ethiopia and Eretria, terrorist TPLF is committing visible violations and crimes against its own people while the western countries and their media are deliberately silent on this as if the lives of our citizens in Tigray would not matter. The entire population in Tigray is suffering simply to keep some 30 TPLF officials on power and the western so called human rights organizations are well aware of this but never utter a word but are busy communicating misinformation prepared for them by the terrorist organization.

A couple of days back, Sudan Post reported that women who fled forced recruitment by the terrorist organization at Kobo, North Wollo Zone said that rape is rampant in almost all training camps in which terrorist TPLF is forcefully conscripting fighters. Women reported that more than 500 women were raped and are now pregnant with three month babies. It is now well known that all the Universities, colleges and high schools are being used as

concentration camps in which young men and women are suffering.

While remaining fully aware of the fact that terrorist TPLF can never win any war with human wave army, it is committing a systematic extermination of a whole generation of Tigrayan youth. If this is not considered as a crime against humanity what is the essence of this concept?

The whole current objectives of terrorist TPLF could be summarized into three categories. The first is a futile attempt to destroy the statehood of Ethiopia through armed superiority and invasion of the whole country through its puppet armed groups. The second is organizing a coup d'etat in Asmara and destroying Eretria and annexing the Port of Assab as a port for Greater Tigray. The third is to conduct a propaganda war in an attempt to move the headquarters of the AU to Kenya. These three objectives are reportedly owned by the international coalition to destabilize the entire Horn of Africa.

In his recent press releases and tweets

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

Business & Economy

Ethiopia's effort to booming coffee export bearing fruit earning over one billion USD in ten months

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

To achieve what is expected from any sector, plenty of hard work and commitments are needed. In the path of upgrading the Ethiopian economy, the government, along with responsible stakeholders, has been doing its level best.

Time is the witness how the government of Ethiopia has strived to get the best out of country's untapped resources. Taking the leading role out of the many resources in which the country is blessed with, coffee registered its ever high record by generating remarkable amount of hard currency. In addition to its origination from Ethiopia, coffee that is known as a Green Gold locally has become one of the most valuable commodities in the world market. Thus, the country, aiming to exploit the resource properly, has exerted concerted effort on modernized coffee production.

To put the matter in clear words, it is understood that Ethiopia has not generated what was expected from the sector in the past many years. Though the country has been producing and exporting tons of coffee, the income was very low in the return. Instead of flowing in the pipeline of the previous history in coffee production and to achieve better result, stakeholders have worked tirelessly teaming up with the government to upscale its yield qualitatively and quantitatively.

For Ethiopians, coffee is everything. The people of Ethiopia praise the coffee ceremony because it has tremendous advantages for them. In many occasions, coffee ceremony is expressed as the living newspaper for most households and neighborhoods. During the ceremony of 'Let's Have Coffee' or locally 'Bunna Tetu', people gather and discuss the economic, political and social issues of the country. They even use it to talk about their own problems. In addition to its social advantages, coffee is the backbone of the country's economy.

Comparing to other products, Ethiopian coffee has variety of tastes so that many countries get used to those varieties. In many countries including the US and Europeans, Ethiopian coffee products are highly needed.

The best way to change the production system of the crop is to create an environment that can give broader opportunity for participants to work with their full capacity. One inspiring measure that the government of Ethiopia has taken was designing and implementing a reform that can provide a suitable atmosphere.

In recent times, reports have been started popping up from different directions telling that Ethiopian coffee farmers are reaping what they sowed. Not only that, the government is generating better income from the world's largest circulated commodity.

According to a report from Coffee



Coffee farmers should get the right benefit from their products

Geography Magazine, Ethiopia's income from coffee products registered 113 percent increase in the last nine months. The report also added that main reason to score such figure is the reform that the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority has implemented.

The report indicated that the authority has created a way to transform the capacity of coffee farmers and paved ways for foreign coffee companies to directly engage in international markets. The magazine highlighted that the government created a system that international coffee traders can build their relations with small coffee farmers and cooperatives without contacting the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange system. Such bonds have secured long term supply with better quality.

By acquainting such system, coffee farmers have begun earning much better incomes in the past three years. Besides, the path that the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority used to transform the entire system brought better results, the report noted.

The magazine's report further stated, "During the previous government from 1990 – 2019, farmers were ill-treated due to lack of transparency with corrupt practices of the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange. Since ECTA is restructured with new administration headed by Adugna Debela, the coffee agency has been able to formulate the system to keep the interest of the farmers as well as the foreign buyers who deserve the quality products from the source."

On the other hand, the government of Ethiopian along with responsible institutions has organized various forums and events to promote the Ethiopian coffee products. A simple illustration is Ethiopian embassies around the world have been organizing forums with the objective of

promoting and tying up business relations.

Days before, it was reported that the Ethiopian Embassy in Beijing has organized Ethiopian coffee promotion virtual discussion dubbed 'Coffee from the Land of Origins'. In the virtual discussion, more than 92 coffee enterprises both from Ethiopia and China have attended the event.

In addition to the representatives of enterprises, delegates from Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration, Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority and from the Chinese side, Chinese Coffee Association, Beijing Coffee Association and Ethiopian Coffee Culture Center also participated on the discussion.

Director General of Middle East and Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Gebeyehu Ganga on his opening speech said that the two countries have built deep-rooted strategic partnership that will continue in all sectors under the framework of Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Moreover, Secretary General of the Chinese Coffee Association, Lucy Fujingya disclosed that the Ethiopian coffee products are very much liked by Chinese coffee consumers. She also mentioned about further economic relationship with the whole Africa through 'green lanes' initiative.

With all these efforts to modernize the whole system and maximize the quality and quantity of Ethiopian coffee products, the government and the coffee farmers have reaped what they sowed. According to the report of Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority, for the first time, Ethiopia generated over one billion USD from the commodity exports in the past ten months of the current fiscal year.

Having stayed with the Ethiopian Press

Agency, the Authority's Deputy Director, Shafi Umer said that after the authority started transformation to minimize the coffee trade chain and creating favorable environment to the trade system, around 1500 farmers got their export licenses.

The director recalled that the previous coffee trade system halted the fair and equal beneficiary of coffee farmers. He added that currently, coffee farmers are getting 92 percent from the trade.

Regarding to exporting value added coffee products; the director noted that in the trade chain, there were numerous greedy traders who failed to add the expected value on the products. Due to this, farmers did not have the chance to get what they were expecting. The director also added that the export system was not attractive enough for traders. It was because of its long procedures. In order to alleviate those challenges, the authority has conducted a study that paves the way to better achievements.

He added, "The conducted study brought about an opportunity that allows farmers to directly export their products to foreign markets. Similarly, it has given green light to the farmers to export other items. Apart from exporting directly, the farmers are enabled to supply to commodity exchange, to be organized in trade associations as well as to equally share benefits with others in the market chain."

To wrap up the ideas, with the untapped natural resources that Ethiopia blessed, the country has not been benefited as expected. As the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority has experienced, various researches have to be done in order to develop a system that can benefit the entire country. Better ways and scientific procedures are the key to change a bottle-neck system that holds the country back. This kind of achievements can be an example for other institutions and to achieve the set goals as a country.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Promising boons towards a peaceful Horn

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

Militarization and cold era-like confrontations among the world's powerful nations are putting the already volatile region of Horn Africa under the cloud of uncertainty. Mainly, the strategic importance of the region is making it increasingly a hotbed of terrorism, human trafficking, piracy, and other imminent threats. External interests together with regional problems have been putting the region in a state of flux posing a domino effect to all members of this strategic location.

Though the interests of superpowers are further upping the ante, the Horn has already been seeing its fair share of setbacks emanating from the internal situations of the member countries. The failed transition in Sudan, the doldrums in South Sudan, the decade-long instability in Somalia, and conflicts between the countries have placed the entire region in make or break situation.

In fact, the tiny countries face mammoth security challenges behoving the nations to find a collective approach to their common problems. Separatism is not an option for Horn countries as it will lead the countries to perish together. Collectivism and amicability are the best prescriptions to turn the tide and most importantly to fight foreign adversaries. Surely, cooperation is the detrimental prerequisite towards a secured and prosperous Horn.

The geographic, historical, and cultural ties among the nation in this regard are vital ingredients to bolster cooperation in the region; these asses would yield nothing without proper diplomatic, economic and political maps though.

Lately, there have been promising moves between nations. Countries have agreed to sign security pacts and secure porous borders as well as ensure stability. And, last week, the region also saw a millstone with Somalia staging a democratic election.

At the heart of Horn's peace is Ethiopia. The country has been both serving as a peacemaker and peacebuilder in the region for quite a while now. From mediating Sudan's conflicting factions to the leading peacekeeping mission in Somalia, Ethiopia has been a linchpin in the security and stability of the entire region.

Lately, the country reaffirmed its commitments to further cement its cooperation with the neighboring country in its fight against religious extremists and terrorist groups that pose a direct danger to all.

Commenting on Ethio-Somalia relations, Ambassador Dina Mufti, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), said that Ethiopia has paid a huge sacrifice for the peace of Somalia and reaffirms its commitment to continue standing with Somalia for lasting peace. Ethiopia will strengthen its cooperation and support to Somalia mainly with regard to annihilating Al-Shabaab. This cooperation relies on fighting terrorism which is the mutual



security threat between the two nations.

For more than a decade now, Addis Ababa and Mogadishu have been fighting Al-Shabaab and its minions who have been putting the security of both countries and beyond.

The government is also strengthening its cooperation with neighboring countries to fight terrorism and solve border disputes. **Recently**, the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) Chief of Staff Field Marshal Birhanu Jula and Uganda Minister of Defense Vincent Bamulangaki held talks about current affairs in the two countries.

At the meeting, the two sides reviewed the status of signed agreements between Ethiopia and Uganda in security areas. The discussion noted the need to renew the agreements between the two countries and MoFA was assigned to make follow-ups.

According to MoFA, the two sides also discussed the recent story circulating over social media about the TPLF connections with Uganda. Uganda Defense Minister Vincent Bamulangaki downplayed the allegations that the terrorist group was receiving training in Uganda with the support of the United States, Egypt, and South Sudan. He further reaffirmed Uganda's perception of Ethiopia as the mother of Africa and that any anti-Ethiopian force will never be allowed to operate in Uganda.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia and Kenya have reiterated strong security cooperation to fight cross-border terrorism thereby ensuring peace and stability in the area.

The two countries have agreed to ensure peace and security along their common borders as they are crucial for the economic integration of the two countries.

Ethiopian Federal Police Commissioner General Demelash Gebremichael and his Kenyan counterpart Hillary Nzioki Mutyambai held talks On 15 February 2022 about ways of working together to combat terrorism along with the border areas, the Ethiopian News Agency reported.

The Kenyan Inspector General Mutyambai said the officials have agreed to cooperate in ensuring peace and security along with the border areas through information sharing, training, and capacity building between the two police institutions. A memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would be signed for the effectiveness of the agreement.

Commissioner General Demelash said on his part the countries have agreed to take joint operations against the terrorist groups of OLF Shene and Al-Shabbab which cause damage along the Ethio-Kenya border. An agreement would therefore enable to take joint operations against the terrorist groups with the view to ensuring peace in the area. The two police institutions in the two countries will work in cooperation to make sure that the trade and development cooperation are conducted peacefully and legally.

Meanwhile, it is remembered that Ethiopia and Djibouti have been working on fighting crimes and solving conflicts based on the legal agreement signed between the police forces of the two countries. Djiboutian Army General Zakaria Cheikh

Ibrahim recently said that the previous agreements signed between the two countries' federal police institutions were playing vital roles to prevent various cross-border crimes, he said while inking a new agreement on peace and security at the defense level with his Ethiopian counterpart ENDF Chiefs of Staff Field Marsha Birhanu Jula.

The defense agreement that was signed on 7 March 2022 between the Joint Defense Committee of the two countries aimed at forging cooperation in strategic and technical spheres. It will also play an important role to ensure peace and security in the region, it was mentioned.

According to Field Marshal Berhanu Jula, the agreement reached between the two countries' Joint Defense Committee on strategic and technical cooperation has significance for regional

peace and security.

The ministry of foreign affairs is also working with security bodies, and regional administrations to solve border conflicts between nomads on the borders with South Sudan and Kenya. Meanwhile, the country is also working to solve the conflict with Sudan through diplomatic mechanisms.

Presenting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' nine-month report to lawmakers lately, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen said: "We are also in good diplomatic status with Eritrea in entertaining our mutual benefits. We are attentively working to improve this relation into strong economic cooperation through preparing cooperation frameworks to expand infrastructures that help to enhance trade, and people's movement, port usage and trade exchange, custom and immigration, and so on,"

The major diplomatic targets of Ethiopia are strengthening cooperation with neighboring countries. In this regard, the country has been working with neighboring countries in facilitating infrastructure, conflict prevention, and economic cooperation aimed at achieving lasting peace in the horn, and improving mutual connection in economic and social affairs, according to Demeke.

With the stakes appearing high and the pitfalls becoming too many in the region, the Horn African countries have no choice but to swim together or perish together. In this regard, the countries should come up with joint mechanisms to curb the challenges and capitalize on the progress.

Law & Politics

TPLF's paradox: Ringing the bell of peace, beating the drum of war

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Paradoxically, the criminal enterprise TPLF group has been playing the victim and the aggressor at the same time. The clique has been deploying this tactic to bewilder the international community and advance its narrow interests.

As the stance of the criminal group is as changeable as a chameleon, the path to a lasting path is becoming rocky despite the goodwill of the incumbent.

In the same manner, as saber-rattling is in the DNA of the terrorist TPLF group, the criminal enterprise has been putting the lives of noncombatants at considerable risk. And, laying the blames on the doorsteps of the federal government, the rogue group is preparing for another round of full-scale war.

While forcefully mobilizing newly recruited army, the clique is preventing the movement of humanitarian aid to Tigray state. In fact, the group is sounding the bell of peace and beating the drum of war at a time.

Notwithstanding that the terrorist TPLF group has been turning the lives of hostages into a living hell; the group has set in motion bewildering the international community by saying it has been releasing war hostages.

As things stand at present, as the wished-for target of the terrorist TPLF group is pulling out all the stops to catch the attention of the international community, it has continued scheming untrustworthy information merely for putting its hidden motives into effect and winning the hearts and minds of the international community.

The terrorist group has been making use of a new fictitious narrative of emancipating prisoners of the war to cover up its assailant and disparaging selfhood. For the sake of truth, the lives of the prisoners of war have been under a big question mark on the heels of the ill-treatment of the criminal enterprise.

Be that as it may, the criminal enterprise has been engaged in psychological warfare to launch a fresh attack in Welkait-Tegede which is inundated with rich natural resources. By the same token, the criminal enterprise has been escalating tensions in the Afar and Amhara states to bring its hidden agenda into being. As if its former crimes are not enough, the criminal enterprise has been preoccupied with upending the lives of noncombatants residing in the northern part of Ethiopia.

In the face of a continued attempt to get to the bottom of the quandary in an atmosphere of calm by the incumbent government, the terrorist TPLF group has been persistently pouring cold water intending to turn the tables on the government.

Lately, the war-mongering group is taking measures that would initiate a war against Ethiopia.

It is to be recalled that in his recent televised address, one of the top leaders of the criminal faction Alem Gebrewahid ordered the people of Tigray to send their children



The civic associations have also denounced the political pressures of the U.S. and some other western countries that have purely worked to reinstate T-TPLF by imposing unjust sanctions on the legitimate government

to the warfront and made the appeal to the latter to build the capacity to fight for longer. "Fighting will never stop. And for those who didn't partake in the war, there will not be a better day to combat."

Commenting on the issue to local media, leaders of the Ethiopian Democratic Union and Freedom and Equality parties stated that TPLF continues to believe in a military solution, fully disregarding the plight of innocent civilians which it claims to represent and defend. Citing the international media outlets' reporting of TPLF's forceful mobilization of the youth for war, they have condemned the faction's irresponsible act.

Accordingly, the Ethiopian Democratic Union Party Chairperson Gebru Berhe said

TPLF has forced the Tigray youth to die in the war and that the latter does not believe in the importance of fighting with the rest of Ethiopians. It is unfortunate to see the radical element does not learn from its mistakes and prepares for another round of all-out war.

Sharing the above rationale, the Freedom and Equality Party Deputy Chairperson Zenur Abdulwehab reiterated that TPLF's failure to learn from failure and its callous behavior is duly unacceptable. The deputy chairperson further called on conflict parties to cease hostilities and uphold their responsibilities to protect civilians.

Disputed factions should seek ways to resolve differences in a peaceful and civilized manner and refrain from a further provocation that could lead the country to another round of devastating war, the politicians made the appeal.

In another deceptive move, the terrorist TPLF is attempting to seize the attention of the international community saying that it is releasing war captives, according to the Government Communication Service.

Government Communication Service said in a statement today that the false narration of releasing war prisoners is one of the characteristics that clearly demonstrate TPLF's attempt to cover up its aggressor and destructive identity as well as to appear as if it is peace-loving.

It is to be recalled that the terrorist and its collaborators had been organizing false information in an attempt to confuse the international community.

TPLF, releasing those that it had forcefully captured from Amhara and Afar regions during its incursion and did inhuman acts, is attempting to scam Ethiopians and the international community saying that it is releasing war prisoners, the statement indicated.

According to the investigation being conducted by the government, most of the released citizens, who were said to be war

captives by the terrorist TPLF, are families of the members of the national defense force that had been abducted during the withdrawal of the Ethiopian National Defense Force from Tigray region.

In addition to that the terrorist TPLF had held hostage civilians from across the country that had been living in Tigray engaged in various works and the group is attempting to gain political benefit by letting these civilians put on uniforms of the Ethiopian Defense Forces and other security forces, the statement added.

Recalling the recent drum of war by the terrorist TPLF, the statement noted that this is a clear indication that the TPLF is now preparing for another war by diverting its meager resources to the war front to bring additional catastrophe.

The terrorist Shene and other armed extremist groups that have been operating in various areas are also collaborators of this propaganda, the statement added.

The government has found out in its investigation that the terrorist TPLF is working to recruit and train members of these extremist groups in collaboration with the Shene terrorist group in order to carry out its ill mission by organizing and deploying them in the name of war captives.

The general public, like before, should be cautious of the destructive propaganda of TPLF, the statement urged.

The statement stressed the need for entire people to recall the usual ill intentions and purpose of the false narratives spread by the terrorist TPLF in the past urging the people to be aware of the fact that the fake information is currently disseminated by this group aims at realizing its destructive mission.

While trying to portray itself as a peace-loving element, TPLF is preparing to assault the ethnic Amhara community of the Welkait-Tegede areas with a view to retaking the fertile lands by force, the Ethio-American civic organizations announced.

In a joint press statement they issued recently, the Ethio-American Civic Council, Ethiopian Advocacy Network, and Unity for Ethiopia said the criminal faction is now preparing to commit another round of war that aims to retake the land of Welkait-Tegede, where countless ethnic Amharas were executed by T-TPLF forces. The radical clique has killed and oppressed the community of Welkait Tegede for more than three decades.

"Following the reform in Ethiopia, the community of Welkait Tegede has regained its initial identity though TPLF is now restructuring its military force to retake the land through an offensive campaign against local civilians. The civic associations have also denounced the political pressures of the U.S. and some other western countries that have purely worked to reinstate T-TPLF by imposing unjust sanctions on the legitimate government. The U.S. administration is still unsatisfyingly accusing the Ethiopian government knowing the fact that TPLF was the one that triggered the conflict.

Society

Making Afar preferable tourist destination

BY TEWODROS KASSA

The 10th National Tourism Conference was recently held in Semera town, Afar State. During the occasion, Afar Regional State Culture and Tourism Bureau announced that various works are on the move to make the State, Afar, a major tourist destination in Ethiopia in the next ten years.

Afar Regional State Culture and Tourism Bureau Head Ahmed Abdulkadir said that Afar is the home to all kinds of tourist attractions. However, the State could not tap its untapped tourism potentials due to lack of attention to the sector in the past. As to him, the lack of infrastructure development and promotion of tourism resources said the major, bottlenecks behind the State's poor tourism sector achievement.

However, the State has now come up with a new plan to make the State one of the country's tourist destinations in the next 10 years.

According to him, it is planned to increase the number of foreign tourists visiting the State from 12,000 in 2019 to 80,000. To achieve this; various activities are carried out and preparations have been finalized to develop selected major tourist destinations that will be implemented in collaboration with federal and state stakeholders.

More importantly, work is underway with



Hot springs and sulphur ponds, Dallol Depressions, Afar

the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism to complete the design work to build the Lucy Museum in Afar, where Lucy Museum is located.

The State has launched a project called "Fentale to Erta Ale" to make the area more attractive to visitors in collaboration with the federal government. Efforts are being

made to involve the Diaspora community in the development of the sector and a helicopter landing site has recently been set up in the area.

In addition, it is planned to use the Gomere, Boha and Abi lakes, which are home to various aquatic animals including crocodiles and other biodiversity in Afambo Woreda for tourist destination development. Thus,

the State is working actively with pertinent stakeholders to attract investors to build recreation center that reflects the culture and traditions of the Afar community. A 15 km paved road construction has been finalized that connect Semera with Allalobed hot springs to unlock its health tourism potentials.

A comprehensive effort is being made to attract investors to the service sector in the State. He said the State will provide free support to investors who want to invest in the service sector.

Participants of the tourism conference held in Semera visited Lake Gomere and Boha in Afambo woreda.

Afambo Woreda Administrator Hussein Ali said the woreda's youths will engage in traditional handicrafts, tourism and related fields to benefit from the potential tourism resources of the woreda.

Semera University President Dr. Mohammed Osman for his part said that the University would support efforts to make the State become a leading a tourist destination. "The University will provide short and medium-term planning training to youths found in the tourist destinations surrounding. The University will also support the society in a way that can benefit them by providing Afar's traditional food in a modern way", he said.

The State is working actively with pertinent stakeholders to attract investors to build recreation center that reflects the culture and traditions of the Afar community



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Teaching sincerity for better nation: Tolossa Guddina (PhD)

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Part I

The history of malice, hatred, pressure, contempt, oppression, hurt and racism is caused by the lack of genuine thinking. And the young generation throughout the globe does not have to go through the same ordeal.

To enhance this, the Ministry of Education held an annual event "A day of praise and admiration" in collaboration with a non-governmental organization 'Ken Ethiopia' on May 20. Students, teachers and parents praised and admired one another.

In his opening remarks, Tolossa Guddina (PhD) *Ken Ethiopia* Chairperson said: "In our day, let us work hard to let the winds of concern, connection, peace, acquaintance, openness, respect, admiration, and love blow from one end of the earth to the other. Today, we invite all and we truly believe that we will make a great contribution to our country and to the younger generation. For the rest of my life, I will focus on our precious children who are the hope of the future."

School is a place where one prepares for one's future, progress, responsibilities, life;



Tolossa Guddina (PhD), Chairperson of Ken Ethiopia

and one learns that gold is tested by fire, he said adding: "Education is not just about getting a diploma or degree. The important thing is to build your morals and ethics during your school years so that you can be shaped and prepared to be competent and accountable citizens for family and country responsibilities."

Education includes many things and many fields; however, a person's education and

reputation are measured by his morals and outlook, he noted.

"Our organization is called 'Sincere Ethiopia'. Ethiopia is a beloved country that can do a lot and rich in natural resources. However, its role in the world history is very limited. The reason is that our culture of indifference and coexistence, co-operation, and co-development has been tainted and our perception of one another is distorted," he pulled the problems out.

Contempt and envy is a disease of the land that is embedded in the psyche of the people, he emphasized supplementing it with: "What is happening in our world today is the result of pressure, displacement, war, greed, contempt, hatred, and evil. In short, it is a lack of sincerity that children should learn in schools."

He further stressed: "Lack of sincerity is a fact that as a people we are being twisted, embarrassed, and torn apart. Therefore, the way we are presenting to our children, the message we are conveying is not constructive and it should be corrected."

Those who are working to inculcate sincerity, like the Ministry of Education need to be acknowledged for their efforts in

improving the curriculum, which will be a guide for good personalities, he appreciated adding: "You, the students in today's world of education, are the ones who are expected to be in charge of tomorrow. Therefore, it is imperative that you should learn, grow, and organize today. It is not easy, for it is a great responsibility and a blessing to grow up and feed others, to teach others, to heal one and to heal others."

Ethiopia is a land blessed by nature. However, without a blessed and industrious generation, it will remain of no use; as it is today with begging, insecurity, war, division and misery, he forecasted insisting the generation to be united and genuine.

The lives of people who have been educated and grown without sincerity are war, its course is twisted, its time is tormented, its work is ruined, its path is dark, its history is horrible, he specified adding: "A dishonest people is a people without understanding, peace, openness, gratitude, appreciation, kindness, and shame. Unscrupulous people are rebellious, resentful, destructive, hypocritical, extremist, greedy, and selfish. Learning and living without sincerity costs money, yields hatred, wickedness, war, security, famine, and suffering."

Planet Earth

Drought mitigation efforts in Borana National Park

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

The Borana Zone of Oromia Regional State in Ethiopia is among the severely affected areas in Ethiopia due to the drought that has hit the Horn of Africa since mid 2021. The drought that hit Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya is affecting the livelihoods of tens of millions of people within the three countries including serious shortage of food security and access to water.

According to a recent report by the regional organization, the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), the drought leftover 40.4 million people food insecure in the region which needs urgent support. In addition to its impacts on the livelihood and food security of the people in the Horn region, the drought badly affected animals, both wildlife and domestic.

The areas that experience the drought are dominantly pastoralist and semi-pastoralist communities which depend on livestock production, cattle, camel, sheep and goats. In addition, there are also national parks in the drought-stricken areas, especially in Ethiopia and in Kenya. The drought perished both the domestic animals and the wildlife. Borana National Park is among the parks found in drought affected areas of the Horn region.

The drought in Ethiopia's Borana zone of Oromia state was not different; it perished both wild and domestic animals and created food insecurity. It perished hundreds of thousands of livestock resources and affected the livelihood of the Borana Community, mostly pastoralists dependent on livestock production for their livelihood. Borana Zone is among the livestock richest areas of the African top livestock producer country, Ethiopia and Borana Zone's cattle resource is unique in its species.

Similarly, Borana Zone is among the richest wildlife lowland areas of the Horn of Africa. Borana National Park, found within Borana, is a home for over 40 mammals, which includes Zebra, Lions, Elephants, Giraffe and others. In addition the park is home for 286 species of birds, four of them endemic birds to Ethiopia found only in the park and different species of reptiles. Established in 2013, the Borana National Park includes the Yabello Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Ethiopian Herald had Approached Borana National Park's Administrator Nuguse Wata to discuss the level and impacts of the drought on the wildlife and measures to be taken in December 2021. During that interview Nuguse said that since it includes the Yabello Wildlife Sanctuary, Borana National Park is among the wildlife species-rich parks found in lowland areas of the Eastern Africa region. During that time, he told *The Ethiopian Herald* that though efforts were underway to minimize the impacts of the drought on the wildlife and their settlements, due to the severity of the drought, the task was tough. Passing this tough time, now Borana National Park is reviving from the drought.



In recent weeks, the Borana Zone has secured rainfall and the area is reviving from the impacts of the severe drought. To discuss the current developments of the Borana National Park and the wildlife situation within and around the park, *The Ethiopian Herald* once again approached park's head, Nuguse and settlers of the community around the park.

For Nuguse though the situation was tough, thanks to the community members who played a crucial role in protecting the park and participating in the wildlife care, it did not decrease the number of wildlife as we were frightened. Though hundreds of thousands of livestock perished due to the drought, due to their resilient nature and additional protections by the park and the community, the impact of the drought on the wildlife was minimized, according to Nuguse.

In the first place, thanks to the community the park remains safe and protected from unmanageable overgrazing and unplanned penetrations by the community. Though the community faced serious fodder and grazing shortages for their livestock, surprisingly the community never penetrated the park rather worked hand-in-hand with the administration of the park to protect the park and to care for the wild animals. Due to the commitment of the community to protect the park from unplanned penetrations and continued support to the park including in providing water access to the wildlife, the joint efforts were successful in minimizing the impacts

though it was hard to control it fully.

Totally, around 20 wild animals were reportedly perished due to the drought, Nuguse said. Shortage of water and grass and capacity limitation to provide enough water and feeding for all areas of the park were among the reasons that make it tough to save all wild animals. The park has five zones within it. Still, Nuguse said, this was unthinkable without the continuous support and participation of the community.

Protecting nature is one pillar of the Gada system of the Oromo people, Nuguse stated, adding that by applying the principles of the Gada System, the Borana Community gives due emphasis to conserving nature. "Due to this developed culture that driven from the Gada system, during this year's drought that many saw it as the severe in the last 50 and 60 years, the people in Borana protects the safety of the park from unnecessary penetrations and cares the wild animals within and around the park," he reiterated.

"Due to water shortage during the drought seasons, the wild animals escaped out of the park in search of water. At this time, the people supported the wild animals by providing water since most water availability is in holes as the surface water dried due to the drought" Nuguse noted. The people in the community, in addition to protecting the park from unnecessary penetration, they support the wild animals that lose their weight due to the drought and provide water from the holes.

Nuguse praised Guracha Gelma Gelgalo's exemplary action during this drought season in protecting wild animals, though caring for the wildlife is a common culture of the community. Guracha found a foal, a baby zebra, which loses its physical weight and is struggling to survive from a difficult topography. She withdraws the foal from that difficult area and provides water and necessary fodder.

The Ethiopian Herald approached Guracha about the drought, its impacts on the community and the community's role in protecting nature. Guracha's family, living in Sabi area of Borana, is among the community affected by the drought. Her family lost tens of cattle and her neighbors and relatives too. But, the impact of the drought on their livestock has never forced them to penetrate the protected national park of Borana which is the home for wildlife. Not only have that, the community doing their best to protect the wild animals liked their domestic animals.

"I found a foal Zebra falling into a hole in search of water and struggling to withdraw from the hole. The baby Zebra was tiny due to loss of its weight due to the drought. I helped the foal to withdraw from the hole and I provided water for it. In addition, I washed the foal since it was touched up by mud," Guracha stated. Then, after she washed and fed the foal, she took the little foal to her home and called a local veterinarian.

An animal doctor comes and gives necessary medicine to the foal. After days of follow-up by her and the animal doctor, the foal became healthy and Guracha took the foal to the Park administration. She provided the foal to Nuguse, park head. The park administration accepts the foal with due respect and Nuguse told me that staff of the park visited Guracha's family to honor and recognize the family's protection for wild animals. Now, the foal is with its Zebra family in the park and the park is reviving following the recent weeks rainfall, Nuguse said.

Guracha noted that caring for wild animals is a common tradition of the Borana people and her action is not a unique one. Borana people protect wild animals like their livestock. In their day-to-day activity, during the drought months, every household fulfills its responsibility in protecting the park and the wild animals as it is a resource of the community.

In addition to the community, Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority and Oromia Regional State supports the park's administration during the drought. For the future, Nuguse recommends that empowering the society, building the capacity of national parks, establishing strong financial mechanisms to the parks and promoting the parks would help to build residence during droughts.

Currently, the area is back to its greenery and the wild animals are now enjoying themselves as nature turns its bright face for them.

International

IMF extends Somalia funding to August following election

The IMF accepted the Somali government's request for a three-month extension to examine and endorse planned reforms.

The International Monetary Fund has agreed to extend the duration of a crucial aid package to Somalia, following a long-overdue presidential election last weekend.

The three-year \$400m aid package from the IMF had been set to automatically expire on May 17 if a new administration was not in place by then, with multiple election delays adding to the heavily indebted country's turmoil.

But last week the IMF Executive Board accepted the Somali government's request for a three-month extension until August 17, giving newly-elected President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's government time to examine and endorse planned reforms.

"The extension will provide the time needed to confirm policy understandings with the new government and confirm financing assurances with development partners," Laura Jaramillo Mayor, the IMF's mission chief for Somalia, told AFP



in an email sent late Thursday.

Somalia's international partners have welcomed the election of President Mohamud, with many hoping it will draw a line under a long-running political crisis that has distracted the government from other threats, including a violent armed

uprising and a devastating drought.

Under the terms of the IMF programme, Somalia's debt could fall to \$557m as early as 2023, Jaramillo told AFP in an interview in February.

That in turn would allow Mogadishu to

attract more funding from international partners and help develop its private sector.

One of the poorest countries in the world, more than 70 percent of Somalia's population lived on less than \$1.90 a day. The country is also struggling to recover from decades of civil war and has been battling the al-Qaeda-linked armed group al-Shabab for years.

Every month, the federal government runs short of \$10m to cover crucial expenses such as staff salaries.

Meanwhile, a severe drought threatens to drive millions into famine, and UN agencies have warned of a humanitarian catastrophe unless early action is taken.

Mohamud – who served as president between 2012 and 2017 and is the first Somali leader to win a second term – has promised to transform the troubled Horn of Africa nation into "a peaceful country that is at peace with the world".

Source Aljazeera

Nigeria: Police discover severed head of missing legislator

The Anambra state governor has put up a 10 million naira (\$24,000) reward for information on the killers.

Police in Nigeria have discovered the severed head of a state legislator who went missing last week in the southeastern state of Anambra, where the government accuses separatists of carrying out a spate of killings and kidnappings.

The banned Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) group has been leading calls for the secession of the region, the homeland of the Igbo ethnic group, from the rest of Nigeria. Its leader Nnamdi Kanu is being charged with "terrorism" and treason by the federal government.

Okechukwu Okoye, a legislator in the Anambra state assembly, and his aide went missing on May 15. His head was found a week later in a motor park in the Nnewi south local government area, the state police spokesman Tochukwu Ikenga said.

"The lawmaker was killed," Ikenga said on Sunday. "His head was found along Nnobi road. There is no suspect in custody yet."

The aide is also believed to have been murdered too but there were no mention of finding his body.

Anambra state Governor Charles Soludo has put up a 10 million naira (\$24,000) reward for information on the killers.

IPOB has ordered people in the southeast to "sit at home" on Mondays, a form of civil disobedience to show solidarity with Kanu since last June when he was extradited from Kenya to be tried in Abuja.

Source Aljazeera

Unabated western, terrorist TPLF's...

Getachew Reda, the Spokesperson of the terrorist organization said Tigray cannot exist if Eritrea is not destroyed and Ethiopia is Balkanized. This clearly indicates that terrorist TPLF can never exist outside of wars in which it forcefully uses Ethiopian citizens in Tigray as a cannon fodder on a war it can never win.

With the start of the war a few days back, the Tigrayan fighters are already losing ground in Afar and Amhara and on the border areas with Sudan and Eritrea.

It is still interesting to observe why the so called fiends of terrorist TPLF are not realizing that the crimes being committed by this organization are disproportionately increasing on its own people. Terrorist TPLF leaders need to wake up from their day dreams and stop persecuting their own kith and kin in Tigray.

The point to consider here is what the government should do to foil these conspiracies that are being hatched. In the first place, the political parties in the country must do their part in supporting the government to foil the above-mentioned conspiracies instead of limiting themselves to occasional press releases that show only their political outlook and nothing more.

Second, the public is providing useful information related to national security and this needs to be conducted in a more organized and continuous manner on a daily basis. All citizens are expected to fight off misinformation from any corner instead of spreading it over social media.

Third, there is a need to establish popular community security support structures

across the country that could function voluntarily on daily peacekeeping and assuring stability of local communities in which the youth can spearhead.

Fourth, INSA is already doing commendable activities in monitoring and curbing cyber-attacks on the country but all public and private institutions need to cooperate in providing useful information they come across. Besides, it is important that all government institutions and the private sector develop their own ICT Policy documents and engage in controlling their management and information systems.

Tracking down and making accountable those who use social media outlets for spreading misinformation through false accounts need to be conducted to identify the content of terrorist TPLF propaganda network and prepare combative counter propaganda based on the truth on the ground in possible battle encounters.

Fifth, current economic activities in the country including import substituting agricultural activities need to be conducted in all regions and districts of the country fully involving individual farmers and the private sector engaged in the agriculture sector. Special focus needs to be placed on doubling the export of commodities like coffee, oil seeds, cut flowers and vegetables as well as fruits. The production of gold nuggets needs to be tripled with a special focus to its linkage to foreign exchange earnings.

Six, the battle against counterfeit bank notes, illegal financial transactions, and preparation of fake ID cards as well as fake educational credentials

need to be scaled up. Moreover, the ongoing tracking on contraband trade particularly contraband on gold and precious metals and gemstones need to be accelerated.

Seventh, local public and commercial media centers in the country can develop a common strategy on combating terrorist TPLF propaganda in a more proactive manner and efficiency. The Ethiopian media houses, although they have every ground to effectively combat terrorist TPLF's false propaganda by the truth are usually outsmarted and outpaced by the propaganda machinery of the terrorist organization. This must be urgently rectified by putting more effort in launching combative media outputs by creating agenda that suits to the situation and not only responding to the agenda of the terrorist organization.

Eighth, those internal traitors who are officially collaborating with terrorist TPLF must take into account that Ethiopia is their country which brought them up as citizens, gave them free education and employment and they need to pull out of the identity crisis from which they are suffering.

It should be stressed that terrorist TPLF can never detach the people of Tigray who have been living with their fellow citizens in Amhara and Afar. These people have a historical bond and blood relationship of more than 3000 years. They have a common history of unity and kinship and no internal power or external force can stop and deny this. The entire historians from the western countries and the Middle East are witness to this and the governments in their countries need to know this historical truth and refrain from destabilizing the country.