



The Ethiopian Herald

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Photo: Tsehay Niguse

Ethiopian Athletes get hero's welcome in Addis

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA—Ethiopia warmly welcomed its athletics delegation competing in the World Athletics Champions 2022 in Oregon, U.S., yesterday.

Addis Ababa city residents have come out in droves to welcome the victorious athletics team. The victorious athletes and their team members also received a national award and recognition from President Sahlework Zewde.

Having awarded the delegation, president

Sahle-Work said: "This victory has a meaning of more than just winning medals for Ethiopia and Ethiopians. It is also more than flying our flag high. The victory makes fellow citizens to smile once again amidst the current economic and political challenges in the country," she added.

Appreciating women athletes, the president said that seven of the ten medals have been acquired by women, which has showcased the women's excellence in gender equality.

The teamwork seen during the competition is also another quality that makes Ethiopia

proud of its athletes, she added.

The President also extended her congratulatory message to the general public saying this victory has a symbolic feature of Ethiopia heralding triumph over challenges.

Minister of Culture and Sport, Kejela Merdasa, in his congratulatory remark, also said that the victory has been registered by athletes who are originally from several ethnic backgrounds. "The victory is a typical example of our unity in diversity.

See Ethiopian Athletes ... Page 3

Gov't expresses readiness to peace talks without preconditions

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – Government of Ethiopia disclosed that it is ready to begin peace talks with terrorist TPLF without preconditions anytime and anywhere.

In his twitter message, National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister, Ambassador Redwan Hussien stated that he and Justice Minister Gedion Timothewos (PhD) held talks yesterday with special envoys of United Nations, European Union, and United States of America for the Horn of Africa, Hanna Serwaa Tetteh, Annette



Weber, Michael Hammer respectively. It was learnt that during the talks,

Ambassadors of USA, France, Germany, Italy and United Kingdom in Ethiopia were presented.

As to him, the special envoys and ambassadors were expressed positions of the federal government of Ethiopia that it is ready to talks anytime and anywhere.

The special envoys and ambassadors were also expressed that government's stance that talks should begin without preconditions, and that the African Union leads the process and can solicit logistical support from any source.

See Gov't expresses ... Page 3



T-TPLF's unconstitutional legislation wreaks havoc on aid delivery

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA—As terrorist TPLF has enacted unconstitutional legislation in Tigray, such lawless act has been highly hindering the aid delivery to northern Ethiopia, Prof. Ann Fitz-Gerald said.

See T-TPLF's ... Page 3

Donors

continue providing aid, fertilizers, fuel in Tigray
• WFP delivers aid in Wag Hamra zone, Amhara state

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Humanitarian Aid Agencies and Ethiopian National Disaster Risk Management Commission said that the humanitarian assistance, fuel and fertilizers supplies have been dispatching to Tigray state.

International humanitarian assistance likes USAID, the World Food Program (WFP), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced that the food aid, fuel and fertilizers have been provided to Tigray state.

USAID begins importing duty free fuel for its operations in the war-ravaged Tigray

See Donors continue ... Page 3

Ethiopian Investment Holdings; a way forward to expand investment

Page **6**

Huawei Ethiopia provides cyber security training

Page **8**

News

Russian foreign minister's visit to Ethiopia successful : MoFA

ADDIS ABABA /ENA/ The official visit of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to Ethiopia was successful, according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

Briefing the media yesterday, MoFA Spokesperson Meles Alem said Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held talks not only with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen but also with President Sahle-Work Zewde.

The officials discussed about ways of bolstering bilateral ties and international issues.

During the discussion, President Sahle-Work stressed that Ethiopia and Russia need to expand their political relations in economy, trade, agriculture, and energy, among other spheres.

She added that the multilateral system of international relations must also be examined and renewed.

Russia supports the permanent membership of Africa to the UN Security Council, it was learned.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke also conferred with the



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on various issues of mutual interest.

Demeke said on the occasion that the relationship between Ethiopia and Russia is historical which transcended ages.

He further stated that Russia has been supporting the development efforts of Ethiopia by canceling the debt the country owed to the former Soviet Union and turning it into "Debt for Development" package.

Accordingly, the package will be used to modernize Melka Wakena Hydroelectric Power, improve the capacity of Balcha Hospital, among others, it was stated.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs

Minister Demeke noted also that Ethiopia is committed to the tripartite negotiations on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam which should be completed in a principled and fruitful manner.

Sergey Lavrov pointed out that the joint commission of the two countries should carry out detailed tasks.

In his briefing to the journalists, Spokesperson Meles said that 58,833 foreigners illegally living in Ethiopia have been registered so far, following the announcement of the Immigration and Citizenship Service to get registered.

The Immigration and Citizenship Service is mandated to register and administer legal permits for foreign nationals living in Ethiopia.

Accordingly, the service is registering all foreigners with expired visas, expired residence permits and those without any visa or residence permit as well as refugees or asylum seekers requesting status and residing in Addis Ababa and its vicinities with or without an urban refugee permit.

The registration will continue in regional states where foreign citizens live.



Private Banks urged to follow CBE footsteps

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA— Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) urged private banks to follow its footsteps in investing agricultural sector, and it was reported that CBE has earned 27.5 billion Birr profit for 2021/2022 fiscal year despite global and local challenges.

Presenting CBE's last fiscal year performance, CBE President Abe Sano said that the bank has registered remarkable performance using several banking systems and it has contributed lion's share for the growth of the economy of the country ..

He said that the bank has collected 155 billion Birr deposits over the budget year making its total deposit 890 billion Birr and its total assets have reached 1.2 trillion Birr.

He stressed that the bank has collected 2.6 billion USD in foreign currency from different sources like remittance, currency exchange and export.

The president also noted that the bank managed to increase its number of branches to 1,824 while its number of customers have reached 35.9 million.

As to Abe, the bank has been registering fruitful results via digitalizing the transaction system in the country and enhancing the number of users of CBE Birr, Mobile Banking, ATM and Internet Banking, and it has managed the transaction of 1.2 trillion Birr in the budget year by these modern modes of transaction.

As agricultural sector is the backbone of the economy of the country, the bank has provided more supports to mechanize the sector. To this end, the bank has provided a credit for 55 billion exclusively to supply a fertilizer, he added.

CBE Chief of Board Tekle WoldAtnafu on his part said that the economy of the globe including that of Ethiopia is under the challenge over the last two to three consecutive years. However, the bank registered very amazing performance despite global and local challenges.

He called on private banks to follow the footsteps of Commercial Bank of Ethiopia in investing agricultural sector as it has deployed 60 billion Birr for agricultural mechanization, if they are keen to change the economy of the country.

Ethio telecom secures 61.3 bln Birr revenue

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA—Ethio telecom disclosed that it has garnered a total of 61.3 billion Birr revenue during the just ended 2014 fiscal year.

Presenting the 2014 Ethiopian fiscal year (2021/2022) annual business performance, Company CEO Frehiwot Tamru said Ethio telecom has generated a total of 61.3 billion Birr revenue, 87.6 percent of the target and 8.5 percent increment from that of the previous budget year. It has been offering 67 new and 77 revamped local and international products and services.

Some 146.6 million USD was generated in foreign currency achieving 82.3 percent of its target. In its cost optimization strategy, the company has managed to save over 5.4 billion Birr, she said.

As to her, the company paid 18.8 billion Birr tax and 500 million Birr dividend. And it created jobs for over 360,000 citizens in permanent and temporary bases.

Service outage, infrastructure damage, compromised project execution, COVID-19, increasing operational costs and revenue impacts were seen as challenges during the stated period.

As part of its social corporate responsibility,

the company has contributed more than 422.6 million Birr in kind, cash and service towards address pressing societal challenges. The northern and some other parts of the country crisis have resulted in service outage in 3,473 sites. Out of these, some 1,144 sites are not offering telecom service, she added.

She pointed out that the total subscribers reached 66.59 million achieving 104 percent of its target and showed increase of 18.4 percent subscribers from the previous budget year similar period. Mobile voice subscribers reached 64.5 million, data and internet users 26.1 million, fixed services over 885,000 and fixed broadband subscribers over 506,000.

GtN reaches 8.3 million children, 1.3million pregnant women in six states

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Growth through Nutrition Activity(GtN)was said to be reached nearly 8.3million under five children and 1.3 million pregnant women through its support to health sector's nutrition interventions in its six operational regions.

This was disclosed at the official completion of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Save the Children's six year(2016-2022) multisectoral nutrition and Growth through Nutrition Activity(GtN) that is worth of 77 million USD.

During the closeout event, Chief of Party within Save the children Ethiopia, Leul Berhanu indicated that the project provided assistance to improve the nutritional status of women and young children in six states in Amhara, Oromia, Sidama, SNNPR, South West People's state and Tigray with a focus on the first 1000days of life from conception to age two and adolescence girls aged 10-19.

Moreover, the project was said to improved dietary practices of more than 38,500 directly supported households, increased access to water for 231,000 households and access to hygiene and sanitary products to nearly 149,000 household through private business partners.

He added that it has also strengthened the capacity of 149,000 frontline service providers to derive the implementation of high quality multisectoral nutrition intervention. Moreover, to sustain the nutrition workforce's capacity in to the future, working with higher learning institutions, it has improved the knowledge and skills competence of more than 93,500 graduates who took food and nutrition related courses, as to him.

Furthermore, at national level, he said that the project has significantly contributed to the development of the national Food and Nutrition Policy and Strategy thereby situating a long-lasting foundation to multisectoral nutrition interventions.

Besides enabling proper implementation

of National Nutrition Program, he stressed that the project has supported the effective implementation of one Wash program and Seqota Declaration Initiative by strengthening the existing government system and testing project -led and innovative approaches mainly agriculture, health, education, and water sectors from national to kebele levels.

The project was implemented by the save the children in close collaboration with multiple sectors of the Ethiopian government and in consortium with six international and five local partners.

A photo gallery was also presented at the event to help participants learn more about the project as well as show the type of interventions the project used to successfully create a Model Nutrition Woreda.

Senior government officials, Country Director of Save the Children Ethiopia, representatives of project implementing partners and regional sector bureau representatives as well as USAID's Mission Director, among others, took part at the event.

News

Ethiopia to launch cross-border voluntarism: Ministry

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – Ministry of Women and Social Affairs of Ethiopia disclosed that the nation is going to kick off the cross-border voluntarism in a spirit of Pan Africanism.

This was noted yesterday at the first Africa–Asia Youth Forum which was held in Addis under the theme: “Boosting youth roles in ensuring a sustainable Africa-Asia Partnership.”

Addressing the forum, Women and Social Affairs Minister Ergoge Tesfaye (PhD) stated that the government of Ethiopia launched a youth voluntary service to promote sustainable peace and security, reconciliation, inclusion, and social cohesion in Ethiopia. She also noted that, last year, over 23 million Ethiopian youth participated and served over 63 million people all over the country.

Recently, the government has launched a cross regional youth voluntary service and summer service, she said adding, this is galvanizing Ethiopian youth to unite, appreciate diversity, boosting common shared vision, and values that would add a significant contribution in the peace building process in the country.



She further indicated: “We are also now going to kick off the cross border voluntarism in a spirit of Pan Africanism.

Ethiopia shares many of the challenges and aspirations of the rest of African and Asian countries, as to her.

The Minister also stated that, during over recent years, this beautiful country has demonstrated its ability to nurture its own vision and aspiration for the growth and development of the society. Evidently, this commitment has yielded positive results,

Meanwhile, the Africa–Asia Youth Forum was launched yesterday and stay for three consecutive days. Participants form Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Kenya, South Africa, Senegal, Nigeria, Algeria, Pakistan, Japan, Bangladesh, Iran, among others.

she added.

As to Ergoge, both Africa and Asia have relatively large youth population, a possibility of development, fast growth with ample resources, among others. And, both continents have experienced similar scenarios in history and share past lesson and also the same future ambitions.

She further insisted that now it is the right time for both continents to flourish once again and this will not be possible without meaningful engagement of youth in every sector from policies to leadership, from business to entrepreneurship, from agriculture to industrialization, from human rights to environmental protection and so on.

Ethiopian Athletes...

Each citizen from all ethnic background has its own quality; and we need to have all qualities by strengthening unity. The teamwork experienced by our athletes should be taken as a model not only by Ethiopians, but also by the global community to have the same cooperation.”

President of Ethiopian Athletics Federation, Commander Derartu Tulu on her part said :“Now, we have won 10 medals. So, we have to plan to win more than 10 medals in the world competition to be held in near future in Budapest.”

In connection with the victory ,the diplomatic community also extended their congratulatory messages to Ethiopian athletes bedecked with victory.

Ethiopia finished the 2022 World Athletics Championships by winning 4 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze.

Gov't expresses...

“We also briefed the team regarding efforts made to create collaborative environment and narrow gaps with a commission of experts of the United Nations, and announced that they are allowed for a round trip to Mekelle,” Ambassador Redwan indicated.

It is to be recalled that the federal government of Ethiopia formed a negotiation committee that has seven members, including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, to discuss possible peace talks with the terrorist TPLF group.

T-TPLF's unconstitutional ...

Professor of International Security and Director of Balsillie School of International Affairs, Prof. Ann Fitz-Gerald told local media that there is sufficient data or evidence of severe crimes as well as war crimes corroborated by T-TPLF.

Most of the aid was in the hands of terrorist TPLF and groups working for it. Humanitarian aid delivery met the population figure of Tigray. Tigray people are receiving humanitarian aid as reported by the World Food Program and others, she said.

Calling the Ethiopian government and international community to help the peace talks she pointed out that not only does TPLF's follow unconstitutional legislation and criminal act but it is also hampering the smooth flow of aid

delivery.

She said: “If peace needs to prevail in Ethiopia over the divide and rule fashion, as many citizens have commented, constitutional reform and the abolishment of ethnic federalism has to be well applied.”

As TPLF had clear objectives to pursue border insurrections into Amhara and Afar States, she said it has kept fighting and used these tactics since 1980s, and now group recruitment program has inevitably impacted on humanitarian aid delivery.

“The footage and pictures of aid delivery trucks were repurposed for war efforts. Force recruitment of underage fighters is a war crime under Geneva Convention. Ethiopian Human Rights Commission

(EHRC) made a significant contribution revealing the recruitment of underage fighters by T-TPLF. It is comprehensive with its intentions reflecting real situations in the ground,” she added.

As to her, the issue needs comprehensive reports or research. These children need to be protected by international human rights groups. All efforts need to be made to give them safe sanctuary and support to rehabilitate. Human rights violations have been committed not only in Tigray, Amhara and Afar, but also in Oromia and in conflict affected communities and areas where there have been tragic violence committed recently.

An inclusive national dialogue is well supported to heal and bring reconciliation, she stated.

Donors continue ...

state. The first fuel trucks were dispatched from Djibouti, according to Sean Jones, USAID mission Director in Ethiopia. Besides, Federal authorities have already green lighted the U.S. Agency's request for the imports of fuel. Since last month, the government of Ethiopia has given approval for the USAID to import two million liters of fuel every month, the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires in Ethiopia, Tracy Jacobson said.

Accordingly, the Food and Agriculture

Organization (FAO) and partners are providing critical fertilizers in Tigray state for the 2022 Meher season, with 5,179 metric tons (MTs) already delivered and 1,680 MTs on the way. The provision will benefit over 68,000 families to improve crop production, food, and nutrition security.

In the meantime, WFP trucks and its partners are crossing into the Abergele, Tsagbji and Ziqwala woredas in Amhara's Wag Hamra zone to deliver for the first

time in over a year. Malnutrition rates are far above emergency levels and these lifesaving food deliveries must continue.

Supporting the above idea, National Disaster Risk Management Commission Public Relations Director Debebe Zewudie told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that some 2.6 billion Birr and over 1,000,000 liter fuel have been sent to Tigray state through airplane and route transport during the past over one year.

Opinion

July: Gear shifter month for Ethiopia's highness

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

The summer season while soft of the sun, no matter how hard it may be to see the twinkling light of the stars and the moon, no doubt it ushered in bright hope for Ethiopia.

For the time being the season seems gloomy as the sky is beyond the cumulus cloud hidden beyond the curtain of the fog.

The time revealed the trinity of success in the summer season where the country conceives the fruit for the harvest season. July revealed the miracle of triad of success loaning impoundment, green legacy along with the green flood howling up the flag on the world championship. Everybody lives the curse by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread (Genesis 3:19)

The concurrent situation seemed to understand Ethiopians who have died every moment to the past reborn in the future realizing the present is resurrection.

The trophy that has been gained in the world athletics witnessed the affection of sovereignty and fraternity among Ethiopians.

July is a month where the country astonished the world in impounding the GERD, paying tribute for ecology in the green legacy and at this very moment Ethiopian athletes are on the taking-over lane chasing the supreme medal and hauling up the country's pride.

Ethiopian Athletics delegation that participated in the 18th Oregon World Athletics Championships was accorded with warm welcome upon their arrival at Bole International Airport.

Ethiopia has ranked 2nd in the World Athletics Championships medals and 1st in Africa with 4 gold, 4 silver, and 2 bronze medals with total of ten.

Ethiopian delegates welcomed by the Ministry of Culture and Sports, senior government officials, Office of the Prime Minister and President, and others stakeholders upon their arrival at Bole International Airport.

During the Ethiopian athlete's grand victory and welcoming preparations, Culture and Sport Minister Kejela Merdasa said that "All the delegates have showcased an outstanding achievement through Oregon victory portrays strong unity among Ethiopians"

This victory is unique to our country as it is passing through different internal and external challenges and witnessed Ethiopians unity more than ever," he said.

Ethiopian athletes have portrayed the spirit of unity and shined at the international level which is very interesting and timely in strengthening the spirit of togetherness among the people of Ethiopia and beyond. The delegates and athletes deserve warm

"All the delegates have showcased an outstanding achievement through Oregon victory portrays strong unity among Ethiopians"

recognition.

Special prizes will be provided to the delegates, athletes and other concerning bodies based on their contribution. For his part, Advisor to State Minister Solomon Aliye said that all Ethiopians from all walks of life should welcome the delegates and celebrate the victory together. Accordingly, the celebration took place in different main streets of the capital starting from Bole International Airport.

Moris Rawdal says Ethiopia had the most gold medals and overall African medals at the conclusion of the World Athletics Championships, Oregon

Throughout the race, until the group broke off for the final lap, Tokyo bronze medalist Gudaf Tsegay traded the lead with fellow countryman and 10,000-meter world champion Letesenbet Gidey.

Ethiopia has now won the previous ten women's 5000m World Championships.

The latter presently lead the competition with 10 medals, four of which are gold, while Kenya, which is currently in fourth position, has earned two gold medals and ten total medals.

"The victory that the country has recorded in international competition with firm team spirit of athletes has to be replicated in other sectors for the growth and prosperity of our country

as unity and teamwork pays off" said Athlete Major Haile Gebresellasi.

Talking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) about the recent victory gained at Global Competition 18th edition of World Athletics championships held in Oregon, USA, he said that the shining results that were attained by Ethiopian athletes should be quadrupled in other multifarious sectors in the country.

Despite the challenges they have been through, all athletes have given priority for their Consolidating solidarity pays off, said Haile Gebrselassie, adding the country have come up with marvelous results.

Drawing important lessons from athlete's unity, coordination and sense of respect, all citizens across the nation have to develop a culture of listening to one another, peaceful coexistence and working in collaboration with neighbors and fellow citizens towards making a prosperous nation.

"I strongly believed that Ethiopia will be made a great nation with the cooperation and firm commitment of all its sons and daughters whom everyone would prefer to live and work within the shortest time possible. What matters here is we all are expected to move in unison to create preferable east African nation," he underlined.

So July continued to be a spring board for Ethiopia and a month something worth is convinced to the posterity.

In the very special month Ethiopians have adopted tree planting and protecting the planet from natural calamities which threatens the environment and the economic sectors in particular. As it is obviously known Ethiopia as a developing country is vulnerable to climate induced global warming and climate change.

The nation in its recent past witnessed agricultural yield failure, flood and the drying up of water points and the expansion of desertification due to extreme climate conditions. Therefore the ongoing tree planting venture should be taken as remedial for the mentioned problems.

However, side by side with planting protecting seedlings up to its maturity should not be ignored.

It should also be recognized there is the clearance of vegetation cover and forests hence, the number of annual planted trees must exceed that of the trees cut every year.

One of the top priority tasks of the new administration is promoting the feeling of stewardship for environment and sensuous beauty.

Launched in June of 2019, the Green legacy initiative aims to curb the effects of climate change and deforestation in Ethiopia.

"Caring for the nation involves the

protection of our citizens, just as caring for the land that sustains us involves endeavors like our Green Legacy initiative" Prime Minister Abiy said.

So it seems superstitious that July is the eleven month that contributed a lot in the eleven hour for Ethiopia that its water had been unexploited for centuries. Now it is time to fully utilize the resource to meet the development endeavor.

The premier once said that the Green legacy initiative, we launched in June 2019, is rooted in a vision of building a green and climate resilient Ethiopia. We set a target of planting 20 billion seedlings within a period of four years.

By the third year, we had succeeded in planting close to 18 billion seedlings by mobilizing More than 20 million citizens, throughout the nation.

There are two particularly significant milestones during this three year period that is worthy of note.

The first was on July 29, 2019 when we challenged the nation to plant 200 million seedlings within a 12-hour span. From East to West and North to South, the nation mobilized and exceeded the plan by planting 354 million seedlings.

The second moment was two years later. On June 21, 2021, we once again challenged Ethiopians to go out and plant in a single day.

Goal setting has been critical to the reforms we were undertaking as a nation. Reforms meant examining the manner in which we have been planning and executing as a nation and going beyond.

We set out to build an exclusive process that will enable a large section of society to be custodians of such a grand national initiative first by participating in the execution and then by being custodians for the future.

The most astonishing success on the month is the impoundment of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam which is believed to change a new dynamics in Africa and the world.

July the summer season while soft of the sun is a time of the sky while rains of rapid and falls occurs. Along with the green legacy, Ethiopia is filling the Dam which will lay foundation for mutuality and the cardinal principle of the sovereign right to own natural resource and unilateral project.

What is more July is not a reminiscent of Julius Caesar for Ethiopia who aspires the whole sea and targeting the pavilion of Cleopatra; it is rather a season while soft of the sun the country aspired to change water to wealth.

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

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The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

A shining victory!

Enjoying resplendent victory demands relentless investment coupled with well-coordinated discipline. Ethiopia's recent tremendous achievement at the 18th International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) tournament is the result of persistent discipline inherent in Ethiopians unity.

Following the astounding victorious achievement, the Ethiopian Athletes received a rousing welcome from residents of Addis Ababa yesterday before noon. These athletes registered remarkable achievements at the World Athletics Championships at Oregon, USA. Extraordinarily, Ethiopia's green flood athletes have once again brought 10 more medals (4 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze) that made the nation stand first in Africa and second in the world, next to the USA.

Interestingly, the warmest welcome from the wider public for the victorious athletes who have travelled across the capital has surely demonstrated Ethiopians' unity that has been the secret for their success. It was so glorious to see when the entire public demonstrated deep-rooted unity in celebrating their achievement. The residents shouted with joy, waving the national flag, calling the names of the athletes and sung songs of victory that commemorate the unforgettable triumphs of Ethiopian athletes in the path of history.

Deservedly, a national award and recognition ceremony took place at the National Palace in the afternoon. The presence of President Sahlework Zewde, Sport and Culture Minister Kejela Merdassa and others colored the ceremony. The world-renowned athlete Haile Gebre-Selassie described the victory at the 18th Edition of the World Athletics Championship as a manifestation of a resilient nation and unity. In his latest message, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed described the victory as shining brilliantly. He wrote, "The shining victories the Ethiopian athletes achieved at the 2022 World

Athletics Championships at Oregon are the clearest indications that Ethiopians have crowned and triumphed at the global sport stage resisting all the internal and external challenges."

Actually, this shining achievement is a continuation of the previous accomplishments that have always been reordered by our athletes in all international athletics tournaments over the last several decades. Ethiopians, regardless of the external and internal challenges, have been registering historic and remarkable feats.

Besides the unity, there are secrets that made the Ethiopian athletes successful in the global arena. The leadership takes the lion's share for the shining victory. The current President of Ethiopian Athletics Federation Athlete Derartu Tullu, the first black African woman to win an Olympic gold medal, has demonstrated skillful leadership for this historic achievement. Interestingly, the composition of the team shows that the Ethiopian Athletics Federation is meritocratic and fairly gender sensitive, believing that female athletes can demonstrate their skills at all levels of national endeavors that has been realized as the three gold medals from four were brought by the female athletes. In connection to this, a higher level of discipline and commitment has been an inherent character of the Ethiopian athletes. For several decades, Ethiopians have been registering extraordinary victories in athletics; this shows the pre-existing a deeper level of discipline and strong team spirit among all the members of the team.

All in all, Ethiopian athletes have accomplished astonishing success that demonstrated relentless stance of Ethiopians in the midst of challenges. The team spirit the athletes showed at Oregon is the showcase of Ethiopians unity in their diversity. Above all, this victorious feat is the clearest indication that Ethiopians can realize great achievement when they strengthen their unity, curbing the consequences of ethnic politics.

Opinion

Terrorist TPLF plunged the people of Tigray into abject poverty and destitution

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Terrorist TPLF has virtually enslaved the people of Tigray by denying their humanitarian rights of movement, education, business making and marshaling their livelihood. The terrorist organization has destroyed all the economic infrastructures and marketing system in the region and replaced it with donor based relief livelihood.

The people of Tigray are living in an earthly purgatory where everything is miserable and hellish. Terrorist TPLF has formed a replica of Nazi concentrations camps in the region doing whatever it wishes outside the bounds of law and order.

The terrorist group has plunged the people of Tigray into an economy which is not even common in primitive economies in history where there is no finance or any kind of public of public administration.

The terrorist organization has destroyed the economic fabric in the region by resorting to illicit financial transactions; money laundering and it sponsored illegal contraband trade which is managed by its cadres. The group has organized money transfer groups in border districts in Amhara region and the suppliers ask more than 60 percent of the actual transfer money in fee for their own enrichments.

It is so disgusting TO OBSERVE that female family heads and young girls have been forced to eke their livelihood as sex workers, a practice that is not so popular in Tigray. Moreover group theft, hooliganism

and burglary has become rampant as terrorist TPLF fighters break into stores and properties of individuals in the city. There is practically no police force to protect citizens or enforce any kind of law and order. The economy in the region has already collapsed with no immediate hope in the near future.

For instance, reports coming out of Mekele indicate that, a kilo of coffee is sold at 900 birr while the most essential food items are either no available or are sold with exorbitant prices.

Recently the group opened fire on peaceful demonstrators in Tigray killing more than 50 innocent citizens who were out to express their grievances on the socio-economic condition in Tigray and demanded swift changes.

Over the last two years, the fighters from the terrorist group have looted all banks in Tigray and Amhara region and Afar during their temporary occupation of these regions. According to the estimate issued by the Amhara regional planning bureau, TPLF fighter have destroyed infrastructure and service delivery institutions in the region which is estimated at more than 200 billion birr.

Despite the tons of medicaments and medical accessories terrorist TPLF has looted from Amhara and Afar regions, major referral and general hospitals in the zones hospitals which were looted earlier have now stopped functioning subjecting the people of Tigray to the most unprecedented health hazards. However, the private pharmacies which were established after the arrival of relief medical consignments in Tigray are full with drugs whose owners charge the most exorbitant

prices out of free medical supplies.

Before the war, Tigray had three tiers of health system: primary healthcare unit which includes health posts, health centers and primary hospitals; secondary care provided by general hospitals; and tertiary care served by specialized referral hospitals. There were two specialized hospitals, 16 general hospitals, 29 primary hospitals, 233 health centers and 712 health posts in the region.

A health post, staffed by two community health extension workers (HEWs) implementing the health extension program (HEP), is the lowest health institution structure in the rural areas and is designed to serve one kebele (the smallest administrative unit in Ethiopia). Five Kebeles (five health posts) form a catchment area for a health Centre catering to 15000-25000 rural or 40000 urban population. However more than 70 per cent of this health service delivery system was damaged beyond repair.

Furthermore, terrorist TPLF closed down schools both in Mekele and the zones in the region and turned them into military barracks for its fighters who also ramshackle the school facilities and the compounds. Children who were peacefully going to school were also turned into child soldiers most of whom have now perished during the two rounds of war triggered by terrorist TPLF in the region.

The manufacturing industries which flourished in Tigray are now mostly destroyed or turned into depots for military hardware for the terrorist organization. Manufacturing industries like Adigrat Pharmaceutical industries, Mesobo cement factory, Goda bottle and glass factory,

Addis Pharmaceuticals were all heavily damaged and looted.

In addition, garment and textile factories were looted and destroyed. These include Almeda, Sheba Leather, and DBL garments. The Almeda factory, which employed over five thousand workers, was looted, and destroyed. The other two factories were ransacked.

A preliminary study earlier by Tigray Bureau of Education & NGOs finds that, in Tigray, 88.27 per cent of schools have been destroyed & 2146 students & teachers have been killed.

A study on irrigation finds 30% of existing irrigation infrastructure in Tigray has been destroyed, making 58,936 hectares of land out of use, & reducing 50,000 to beggars. 32 drink and irrigation projects have been abandoned.

Millions are displaced in 39 accessible locations in Ethiopia's Tigray region and neighboring Afar and Amhara according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) 's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) survey, the first official data of this type on the crisis in Northern Ethiopia.

It is to be recalled that the Federal Government has expended more than 100 billion Birr towards the rehabilitation efforts in Tigray prior to its withdrawal from the region as the result of the unilateral ceasefire.

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

Business & Economy

Ethiopian Investment Holdings; a way forward to expand investment

BY HIZKEL HAILU

Undoubtedly development plans designed by the government in order to achieve sustainable economic growth needs huge financial capacity. It is believed that covering this financial demand with tax revenue and loans and aid from foreign governments and institutions are not as much sustainable and viable alternatives.

Therefore, it will be necessary to create an institutional arrangement to attract private investment through creating a favorable condition for private investment which can create a great opportunity to work jointly with the government in a manner that helps to meet the strategic needs of the Ethiopian economy. In addition to this, it is necessary to create a way to ensure that resources owned by the government can provide full and sustainable economic benefits through carrying out integrated strategic control. This system will improve the management of government resources and to get more financial supply.

It is known that Ethiopian Investment Holdings which is responsible for achieving this plan was recently established as per Regulation No. 1263/2014. Ethiopian Investment Holdings includes 27 institutions engaged in finance, trade, manufacturing, logistics, hospitality, construction and real estate, chemical and communication sectors. It is to be recalled that it has started its function last month. It was also stated that the institution will work to create more wealth and increase financial availability through increasing the capacity and competitiveness of the development companies. In particular, it is expected that it will have a great contribution in increasing investment.

Addressing the gathering on first Ethiopian Investment Holdings (EIH) conference, the Finance Minister, Ahmed Shide said EIH's mission is to usher in global investment and modern capabilities to usher with the interest of Ethiopians. Ahmed noted EIH's mandate represents the full ownership rights of the state over public commercial assets, adding that, reliable investment finance is an important resource for the success of the Home grown economic reform introduced by the government.

As to him the EIH will serve as one tool to fulfill this objective. Mentioning that the government is trying to find options to increase the supply of finance from domestic and foreign sources, he announced that Ethiopian Investment Holdings is committed to attract international investment to Ethiopia. As to him, one of the procedures that the government is using to increase the effectiveness of development organizations is the establishment of international corporate governance systems.

Thus, to increase the profit and income of the institutions, it was found to be an appropriate option to gather the companies under Ethiopian Investment Holdings to manage them with modern leadership. This system will play a significant role in achieving sustainable economic growth by alleviating the macroeconomic challenges,



Ethiopian Investment Holdings held its first conference

he noted.

Ethiopian Investment Holdings works in cooperation with national and international investment partners to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of the companies. Through these collaborations, Ethiopia's national interests and long-term economic plans will be realized and the government will provide the necessary support.

The CEO of Ethiopian Investment Holdings, Mamo Mehretu, said, "Ethiopian Investment Holdings is established to implement the long-term development plan set by the government and to obtain additional financing, to create more wealth and to create a broad-based foreign investment.

According to him, the company serves as a strategic investment vehicle to the government. It carries out investment activities to meet the development goals of the Ethiopian government. It is also significant to ensure the effectiveness of government's resources and carrying out investment attraction activities.

Mamo pointed out that the 27 public development organizations have different capacities and profit rates, he also explained that Ethiopian Investment Holding follows strong corporate governance and implements administrative procedures to make all 27 development institutions to be more profitable and effective.

According to Ethiopian Airlines Group Board Chairperson Girma Wake, the public enterprises are managed under one holding company to strengthen their administrative affairs. Ethiopian Investment Holdings should have a strong system to manage. In the process of organizing and managing the companies, it is necessary to be careful so that the companies that record high profits do not become victims and those with relatively low capabilities do not become dependent, he stated.

As to him, it should be noted that the effectiveness of each organization is mainly measured by the profits it has achieved. It is also necessary to manage the communication

of the institutions in a clear and efficient way.

Referring to the experience of Singapore and the United Arab Emirates, Girma said that the practice of investment holdings is a good experience that has brought a successful result. He also said that despite the delay in the establishment of investment holdings in Ethiopia, it is a good step for the country.

"When Ethiopian Investment Holdings is established, it should be understood that it will not replace the board of each public enter. Although all 27 development organizations have their own board, it has to be crystal clear that both Ethiopian Investment Holdings and the government will focus on how to improve Ethiopia's investment.

Ethiopian Investment Holdings works in coordination with the heads and board leaders of the development companies especially in terms of capital utilization, operational performance and management system as well as increasing their international competitiveness. Ethiopian Investment Holdings advises each development organization to strengthen itself according to the plan and performance. This approach helps to strengthen the performance of the country in the investment sector," he explained.

Mola Alemayheu (P.H.D.), a professor of economics at Haramaya University and a senior researcher at "Frontieri" Research and Consulting Firm, said that Ethiopian Investment Holdings will make a positive contribution to the sector in terms of focusing on identifying investment options.

According to him, instead of operating individually, pooling resources and capabilities will help to make investment activities more effective. It also allows paramount importance to build planned investment with fair distribution. Apart from this, it also helps to create a favorable environment for identifying the sectors that should be prioritized for investment.

According to Molla, it is necessary to take experience from the gaps that have

been seen in the past while the company started managing institutions together. The government should further establish a strong monitoring and evaluation system, therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the strong performances and correct the gaps. He also recommended that care should be taken to avoid a repeat of past performance deficiencies.

Habtamu Girma, Economics Lecturer at Jijiga University for his part explained that it is a common practice in other countries to consolidate and manage institutions with huge wealth under one institution. He also mentioned that working together to pool resources helps to reduce the loss of resources, increase the availability of finance and increase the profitability of the companies.

Pointed out that one of the bottlenecks in the investment sector is the problem of financial availability, he underlined that bringing together and managing institutions with large capital capacity will play a positive role in increasing investment finance through expanding and tapping the source.

Ethiopian Investment Holding, which was established to be a strategic development and investment tool that increases the country's economic growth and competitiveness by gathering many government resources. Henceforth, apart from creating an effective management system it has also a great responsibility.

Among the institutions managed by the Ethiopian Investment Holding are Ethiopian Airlines, Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, Ethio Telecom, Ethiopian Maritime Transport and Logistics Services Corporation, Ethiopian Commercial Works Corporation, Hilton Hotel, Berhanena Selam Printing Enterprise, Ethiopian Insurance Company, National Lottery Administration, Ethiopian Agricultural Works Corporation, Federal Housing Corporation, Ethiopian Electricity Service, Land Bank and Development Corporation and Ethiopian Fuel Supply Company.

Art & Culture

Legacy and tradition in Ethiopia's victories at world athletics

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

The results by Ethiopian runners at the recent world athletics competitions once again brought to light the fact that you need not be a global economic power to become an internationally acclaimed athletic power. In the past, athletic success at the world stage was often associated with economic power, the availability of the latest training and coaching techniques and state-of-the-arts training grounds. The United States, Russia, China and many European countries shined at the Olympics and other international competition because they are economically rich and much more learned in sports as they are in other endeavors.

Ethiopia finished second at this year's World Athletic championships, so far its highest achievement at the highest stage of competition. Was this a matter of chance or a reflection of economic might? Why Ethiopia shined at the games while many countries did not even make it to the medal table? Was this a contest between material wealth and mental resilience? These are some of the questions that inevitably come to mind as we ponder over or celebrate what can be described as a moment of national glory that came in the midst of a not so glorious national achievement in other fields of endeavors.

As the sports' gurus tell us, sports are both team and individual performances. Modern sports require an advanced training program and the financial and material requirements that support successful performances at local and international competition. The advocates of modern physical education also tell us that in order for a country to shine at big sporting events, it has to meet the financial and material requirements because sports are increasingly become reflections of the 'soft power' a country has or it is sometimes considered a projection of big power in the general sense of the terms. Sports are therefore powerful image builders and that is why countries give them such a high importance.

Physical education goes back to ancient times. "Originally, in ancient times, physical education consisted of gymnastics to improve strength, agility, flexibility, and endurance. The Greeks considered the human body a temple that housed the mind and the soul, and gymnastics kept that temple healthy and functional. Eventually, structured gymnastic and callisthenic exercise was abandoned in favor of sports."

Physical education developed together with economic development of countries and the big economic powers could also develop a strong physical education tradition integrated in the school curriculums.

"In modern times, especially from the 19th century on, in the U.S., physical education was a required course in most school programs. As school curricula became less formal and structured, physical education became an elective subject. Because physical education is the only subject that is directly concerned with motor behavior, it has, however, maintained its popularity. Emphasis on the meaning of human movement, physiology of exercise, sport sociology, and aesthetic appreciation of movement, as well as the acquisition of skills, are included in



today's curriculum."

In Ethiopia, the advent of physical education as part and parcel of the school curriculum system dates back to the post-Italian invasion and liberation period and the modernization drive introduced by emperor Haile Selassie. The generations of students who went to school at that period must have vivid memories of the gymnastic periods that were routine events. At that time the schools had large compounds and football fields and physical education teachers who dutifully taught youngsters the basics of sports.

The physical education philosophy and programs tried to imitate the Western model. However, it is a pity that the big Ethiopian athletes did not graduate from the physical education programs in schools. As an academic discipline, the philosophy of sport has been in existence for a relatively short period. Although the philosophy of sport as an academic endeavor is relatively young, the philosophical view of sport itself is not new. Although sport was a major activity according to the Greeks and Romans, it lost its importance during the Middle Ages. After the Renaissance, education came to be seen as a necessity. With its incorporation and utilization in the educational curriculum, physical education obviously became more common in the curricula of the Renaissance and Reformation than it had been in the Middle Ages. Opinions about sports of ancient times have influenced those of the modern era. The evolution of physical training from the renaissance to the enlightenment is important because this period has laid the foundations of modern physical training and sport perception.

In Ethiopia sports in general and athletics in particular became relatively more popular after the end of the monarchy and the advent of a quasi republican government modeled after the former Soviet Union where sports enjoyed a very respected and prestigious status. The new government in Ethiopia

shifted its focus from the West to the Soviet Union and launched another period imitation of a foreign model. Imitation may not be bad in itself, provided that it is done critically, it was not however conducive to the resurgence of traditional or national sports practices. Although Ethiopian athletes at that time did well in international athletic competitions, there were however no concerted efforts to modernize traditional sports practices. Ethiopia's participation in international competition was limited to cross country or long distance races that did not require much theoretical knowledge or technical training with modern sports gadgets

Some researchers trace back the history of the sport in Ethiopia to military and school organizations in 1897. "The organization was formed on 4 June 1961. The ability of East African athletes was announced to the world in the 1960 Olympics as barefooted Abebe Bikila took the gold medal in the Marathon. Legendary Abebe Bikila had pioneered what we may call a talent-oriented and natural way of training for endurance coupled with a mentality of winning against the odds. "Abebe was an Ethiopian marathon runner who was a back-to-back Olympic marathon champion. He is the first Ethiopian Olympic gold medalist, winning his and Africa's first gold medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome while running barefoot. At the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, he won his second gold medal. In turn, he became the first athlete to successfully defend an Olympic marathon title. In both victories, he ran in world record time."

For the last many decades, Ethiopian athletes have repeatedly confirmed that what Abebe pioneered was in fact a model for winning races based on Ethiopia's climates, the natural talents of the athletes and the spirit of invincibility that came together to make them powerful, resilient and top winners. There is nothing magical about the achievements of Ethiopian athletes. They work hard under

a climate suitable to long distance race, something that is repeatedly confirmed by the sports gurus as far as advising their athletes to go to Ethiopia for training. Some of them have indeed benefitted from their advice.

At one time or another, sports insiders were talking about using Ethiopia's climate and topography to promote sports tourism, which is a relatively new suggestion at that time. Ethiopia's high altitudes are often singled out as favoring factors for Ethiopian athletes. However, not all countries that have highlands and mountains, have not become great sporting nations. Their athletes may be lacking the natural talent or the spirit of resilience required for victory in long distance races.

In the final analysis, the contest seems to be between technology and nature and that latter is for now the winner. The athletic boys and girls from Arsi, Oromia region as well as the new and upcoming stars from the highlands of Amhara region are both running for a single objective: to maintain and perpetuate Abebe Bikila's legacy of resilience and the winner mentality in order to make Ethiopia great again. The recent international athletic competitions have also taught us some lessons in this regard. Athletics is not of course a regional performance but a national one but diversifications in regional climates and topography may play a role in shaping the physical and mental conditions of Ethiopian athletes. Other athletes from other country can learn from the successes of Ethiopian sportsmen and sportswomen; but they cannot recreate Ethiopia geographic and climatic conditions in their own countries.

It is only by training together and planning a race together with experienced veteran athletes that they could seal Ethiopia's great victory in the face of more powerful competitors. This can also serve as a model for building the great Ethiopian nation; togetherness, and commitment to changing the image of the motherland are two most powerful assets that have sealed their victories. This is not however unique to Ethiopian athletes. Every country that took part in the games know that their athletes love their countries whether they come from the US, China, or Brazil. One of the requirements for athletic greatness may be the love of country and people although financial and other considerations may also positively impact behind the results as inspirational factors.

The challenge for Ethiopian athletic authorities now is to institutionalize the athletic tradition as well as the legacies of the great pioneers in order to prepare worthy replacements for the future. The modern culture of physical education should also be re-introduced and rebuilt so that schools too could take part in this nationwide endeavor to create great athletes who will represent Ethiopia at the highest levels in the future. This is particularly a must if we want to go beyond long distance races and participate in competitions that require advance preparations backed by modern techniques and technology such as in short distance race, high jumps, the pole vault, cycling, swimming, etc.

Science & Technology

Huawei Ethiopia provides cyber security training

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIHER

Huawei Ethiopia has provided the Ethiopian Communications Authority (ECA) from July 25 to July 27, 2022 with a three-day long cyber security training. The training was given by Huawei's top cyber security experts. The training that has been taking place during the aforementioned time frame was attended by 20 experts drawn from various companies in Ethiopia.

During the training, the Ethiopian Communications Authority Director General Balcha Reba (Engineer) stated in his opening remarks that such cyber security training are highly appreciated and acknowledged during this era of technological advancement. Huawei's efforts into building digital Ethiopia is; "based on the premise of a security issue is not something provided by an external body to us, it is a system and a strategy that have to develop internally. It is not only a tactical or technological input; it is also the matter of policy and strategy as well. So, all the leaders as well as the vendors in the industry all together need to work on accountability."

The Director also added that when discussing cyber technology, it is important to understand the who, how, and what. It is a must to understand who the hackers are that affect our systems by stealing data, how viruses work, and which components of our software and systems must function effectively to safeguard our systems. Therefore, such trainings are beneficial in learning more about cyber security issues and acting accordingly.

The CEO of Huawei Ethiopia Chen Mingliang (Jerry) for his part expressed his gratitude and respect to the Ethiopian Communications Authority for the efforts made to coordinate and to build a better-connected Ethiopia and for the endeavors that makes Ethiopia to enter the 5G era.

He also emphasized that we live in a highly interconnected world, where the physical and digital worlds are increasingly converging, and the network boundaries are blurring. Cyber security and privacy protection are increasingly important. And Huawei has established 7 cyber security transparency centers around the world, including 2 global centers located in Brussels and Dongguan (China), 3,000 employees working full-time on cyber security Research and Development (R&D). Each year, and about 5 per cent of its research, development and budget are spent on cyber security and privacy protection related to the research and development. By the end of 2020, he stated that Huawei has held more than 100,000 active patents across over 40,000 families, among which 2,963 are related to cyber security and privacy protection.

The training covered global cyber security challenges and analysis, introduction to cyber security governance standards,



Mr. Chen Mingliang, CEO, Huawei Ethiopia



Engineer Balcha Reba, Director General: The Ethiopian



introduction to Huawei's end-to-end cyber security assurance system, 5G security technologies based on 5G security considerations, and a virtual tour exhibition in the Cyber Security and Privacy Protection Transparency Exhibition Hall.

The public relations director of Huawei Ethiopia Ye Liming also said that after the training, the participants are expected to translate the knowledge acquired from the training in to practice and devoted into the building of digital Ethiopia.

Meanwhile, Shumate Gezaw (PhD) Director General of the Information Network Security Administration (INSA) stated recently that Ethiopia is working to prevent cyber attacks by building its own digital technology capacity.

He said that with the development of digital technology, cyber attack attempts are increasing at the international level.

He further mentioned that cyber attack attempts are increasing in Ethiopia too.

Therefore, he added that efforts are being made to prevent cyber attacks by developing a workforce that is trained in the field and has professional ethics and self-development of digital technology applications.

He also said that the development of digital applications on their own will, is ensuring the right of ownership of technology and thus creating the ability to prevent cyber attacks.

He also mentioned that ensuring digital transformation is the most important for the success of Ethiopia's plans to achieve universal development at all

levels.

In this regard, 75 percent of the cyber attack prevention and protection technologies currently used in Ethiopia are developed in the country.

He further stated that by increasing this effort, Ethiopia will carry out cyber protection activities with fully developed technologies in its own capacity.

He also explained that Ethiopia is working to prevent cyber attacks in a manner that considers the geo-politics of the region.

At present, various activities are being carried out to increase public utility and ensure cyber sovereignty, according to the cyber security administration (INSA).

Society

Preventing, controlling epidemics

BY MENGESTEAB TESHOME

Since the past two or three decades, our world has been experiencing a myriad of problems. Ranging from economic and political challenges to the effects of climate change, such as floods, droughts and hurricanes, as well as the emergence of new health threats, our world has been challenged hugely. Following the problems, the social and economic environment of the global community is disrupted and the health and wellbeing of human beings is threatened.

Especially, owing to that most of the pandemics being too contagious and too risky, and even their characters and occurrences being almost impossible to predict have cost the countries a lot and created confusion among those professionals engaging in the field.

Worse than that, the pandemics being unpredictable and appearing again and again after they have been at the point of declining has left the efforts made to control the viruses more demanding and unfruitful.

The outbreak of debilitating infectious diseases, such as SARS, the Zika virus diseases, the recent variants of COVID-19 and Monkeypox pandemics, among others can be mentioned in this regard.

Even though health professionals and scientist across the world have tried their level best, they could not yet deal with the matter at the desired level, overcome the health threats, and secure the wellbeing of global community. As a result, most of the pandemics, especially COVID-19, have continued threatening the globe.

“We are facing a global health crisis unlike any in the 75-year history of the United Nations — one that is killing people, spreading human suffering, and upending people’s lives. But this is much more than a health crisis. It is a human, economic and social crisis. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19), which has been characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), is attacking societies at their core,” as the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) stated once while expressing the severity of the pandemic and how overwhelming it is.

The situation is not different in Ethiopia. Even though the country has not been endangered by all health challenges, the outbreak of Coronavirus pandemic has impacted it negatively. It has challenged its healthcare system, affected its people health, economy and their social patterns. In fact nowadays, the prevalence rate of the pandemic, its severity and burden, compared to the previous years, has lessened encouragingly.

Recently, the Ministry of Health and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute held a joint press conference on the current status of COVID-19, Monkeypox, Malaria and measles.

Speaking on the occasion, Health State Minister Dr. Dereje Duguma said that almost 75 percent of Ethiopia’s landscape is



suitable for the spread of malaria; and owing to this, 52 percent of the people living in these areas are vulnerable to the disease.

It was enabled to reduce the number of malaria cases from 1.7 million which was in 2020 to 1.2 million in 2021. However, in 2022 compared to the same period in 2021, it has shown an increment by 10.3 percent due to various reasons, he added.

According to the State Minister, following the activities carried out prioritizing prevention and control works, in the last three consecutive weeks, the case has declined at the national level. In the coming months, which are the most suitable periods for the spread of malaria, due attention will be paid and response activities will be strengthened to rid the extrinsic incubation period.

Mentioning the outbreak of measles in some areas where measles’ immunization coverage is low, the State Minister said that Ministry of Health and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute joining hands with regional health bureaus and partners are undertaking rapid response activities.

According to Dr. Dereje, measles is one of the diseases that can bring about death, permanent disability (such as blindness) and serious illness on children. It is also one of the highly contagious and risky diseases. Thus, he urged all parents residing in urban and remote areas to take their children in health stations and immunize them against the virus.

He also urged all stakeholders and partners to increase their participation in the efforts exerted to prevent and control epidemics.

In his briefing with regard to COVID-19 and Monkeypox, Ethiopian Public Health Institute General Director Dr. Messay Hailu on his part said that since the outbreak of covid-19 pandemic at national level, the people have been facing an enormous challenges. Due to the pressure that the pandemic imposes, many people have gone through severe illnesses and many people passed away. Luckily, since January 2022, the wave of COVID-19 pandemic has been decreasing and the number of people infected by the virus has declined.



Photo: MoH

Due to the pressure that the pandemic imposes, many people have gone through severe illnesses and many people passed away

However, currently activities and inclinations that show negligence and delusions about the virus are witnessed among the people. Many people are displaying negligence in terms of exercising and complying with COVID-19 protocols assuming as if the pandemic is completely eradicated. In consequence, currently, the spread of the virus is increasing across the country and the number of COVID cases is augmenting. Thus, the community should adhere to the needed preventive measures and get vaccinated to mitigate the spread of the pandemic, the General Director advised.

While taking about the recently outbreak pandemic, Monkeypox, Dr. Messay said that so far, there is no recorded laboratory confirmed cases of Monkeypox pandemic in Ethiopia. However, so as to strengthen pandemic’s surveillance activities and mitigate the occurrences of the virus, samples are being taken from returnees who have shown some types of skin and other disease symptoms. Treatment and follow up activities are being carried out accordingly as precaution, he stated.

According to the recent information from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there have been over 16,000 cases globally, including in 68 countries where the virus isn’t typically seen



This is Ethiopia

The magnificent view of Ethiopian rainy season

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Ethiopia is characterized by three distinct seasons. These are locally known as Bega (October to January), Belg (February to May) and Kiremt (June to September). The rainfall pattern is also named according to their rainfall distribution. The short rains season, known as the Belg, runs from February to May. This is, then, followed by the long rains season, known as the Kiremt, which is between June and mid-September. During the period from June to August, Ethiopia enjoys its summer monsoon season, when rainfall is at its heaviest; and thunderstorms often occur. Whilst it is quite cloudy at this time of year, visitors can usually enjoy at least a couple of hours of sunshine each day, mostly in the morning.

During the Ethiopian high rainfall season (Kiremit), the rain increases and the funnels of flood arising from Ethiopian highlands flow zigzag down to the lowlands. The smallest rivers flow aggressively eroding and carrying the nation's productive topsoil. When the summer season starts, it is not uncommon looking turbid floods gushing out from every corner making their destination the flanks of bigger rivers. The bigger rivers similarly ebb out towards the lowlands unloading what they gather along their journey. Receiving tributaries' supply, the bigger rivers too conspire to facilitate the outflow of the country's alluvial soil.

One of the fascinating manifestations of the summer season in Ethiopia is the mysterious inundation of temporary and permanent rivers as well as springs that result from the season's high rainfall. Feasting eyes on the scenery and greenery of the surrounding impresses one to keep on admiring mother nature.

The availability of enormous springs during the summertime manifests the landscapes' great potential of gathering water. If the terrain is not exposed to erosion, fenced off from human encroachment and spared from deforestation the land could manage to hold the rain water.

If the parcel of land is well protected and conserved, it will have the capacity of compressing and holding water for a longer period of time. Thus, the land would turf out the water when the water becomes excessive.

Summertime in Ethiopia is manifested by greenery and sprouting crops as well as small shrubs and grasses. The memorable gift of such rainy days is the availability of puddle along the trough.



It just creates a razzmatazz. United, children enjoy the moment gamboling on the puddles. Farmers tend their farming intensively. In addition, during the end of the season, the flowers of crops and trees blossom, turning mesmeric. This is possible after the retreat of the huge rain and cold weather condition.

The summer downpour of the country begins at the beginning of June and last over until September. With the ensuing of warm weather, the season wraps up letting crops to be fruitful.

On the other hand, this season strips the country of fertile soils, decisive for the blossoming; and fruitfulness of crops. Crops growing on the eroded areas give less return or less harvest. Astonishingly, plants' growth during this season is swift. Thus, walking along the broad-leaf forest areas of the country is very much refreshing during the summertime. The way rain droplets, dangling from trees in the forests, might dampen your body but they still create special impressions.

Experts in the forestry sector stressed that a coordinated taskforce is required to stop the aggravating soil denudation caused by the high rainfall in the Kiremit season. Thus, undertaking massive reforestation activities is fundamental to preserve the country's non-renewable soil resource. Forests are non-exchangeable assets of a nation.

The nation needs to focus on planting trees. It as well must see to their growth to alleviate erosion. Trees have a proper response to the aggressively flowing floods. They tackle its speed with their leggy roots.

During the entrance of the summertime the color of rivers in the country turns turbid telling the increasing of the erosion of soil. From the very place the rains land, they collect what they find along their way. Thus, this situation poses a question mark on farmers' production potential and productivity.

Ethiopians have been doing a lot regarding soil conservation and protection. Making terraces along with steeply plateaus like the Konso terrace, promoting afforestation as well as other recovery mechanisms and activities to handle soil erosion have served effectively in managing the outflow of soil.

Ethiopia loses billion tones of cultivatable soil every year. Soil erosion is one of the primary critical problems. It is the main factor to the dwindling away of productive lands.

The River Abay, internationally known as Blue Nile, takes the lion's share of soil erosion in the country. This is due to higher percentage of the river's catchment area and drainage capacity along the nation's highland areas. It

flows making its origin at the area located in the Amhara State, East Gojjam District at a place called Gish Abay.

Super imposed it passes over the Ethiopian largest Lake Tana. It overlaps with the lake and flows some kilometers on it, one of the wonderful scenes of wandering water bodies. An astounding event takes place there. That is the magical showcase of the two water bodies -liquid sustaining movement in detachment. With naked eyes, from a distance, the two water bodies are easily identifiable different. Surprisingly they never mix with each other. They coexist respecting each others' differences.

In addition to conserving resources protecting and preserving the rivers from pollution and contamination with trashes and other odd elements should also be given due consideration. Thus, to sustain the mesmeric natural milieu, there is a call for bolstering environmental protection efforts effectively and efficiently.

In sum, the more a person strives on protecting his/her surrounding and the environment the more benefit will be acquired from nature. Doing the most regarding soil preservation and protection could enhance securing multilateral benefits from our surrounding. Producing adequate crops is possible if the land is protected from wearing away.