

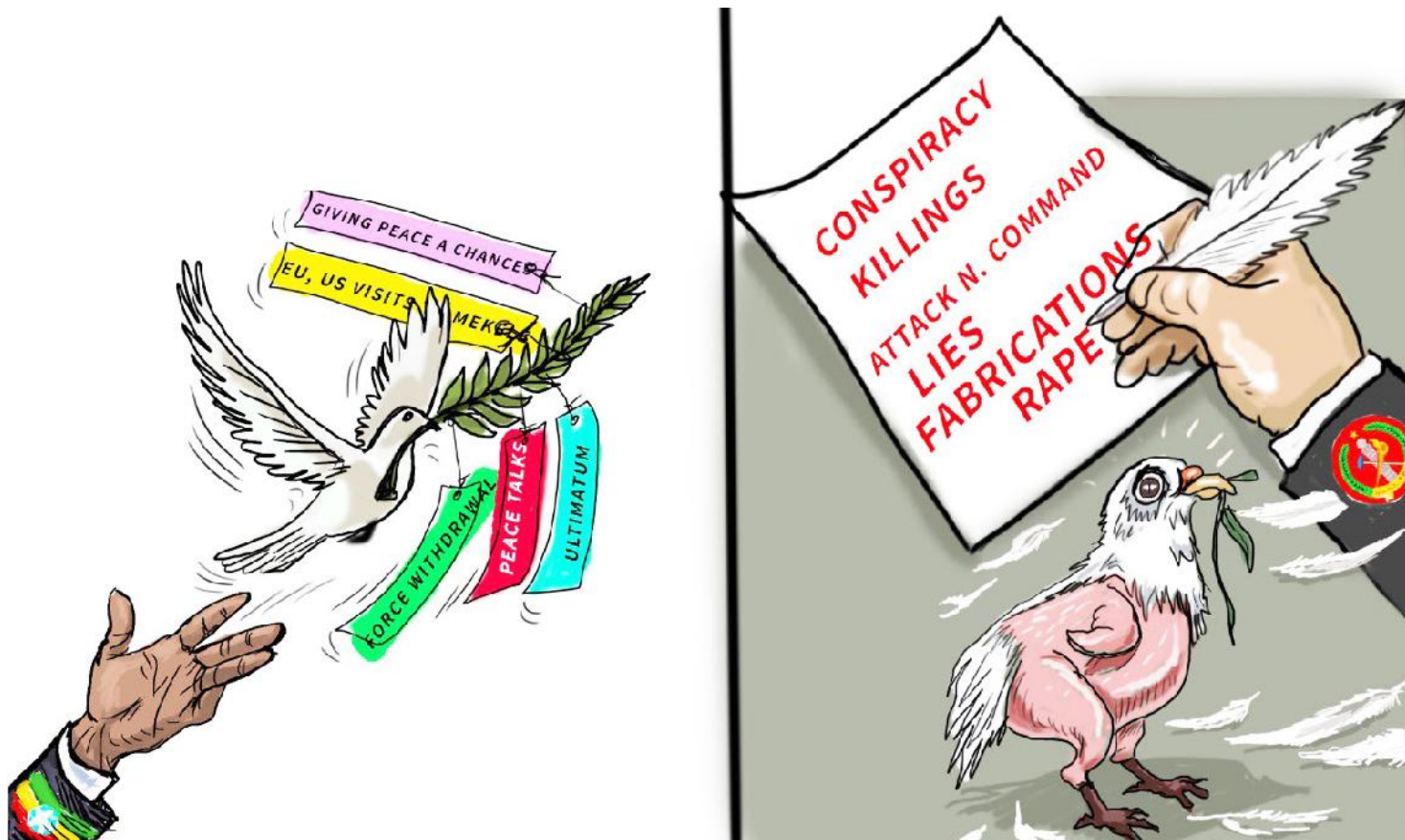


# The Ethiopian Herald

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Page 3

## EPA opens 8<sup>th</sup> photo exhibition to public in Dessie

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA—The photo exhibition of the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) has been staging in various cities of the country since recently is of paramount importance in reflecting the core political events, historical epoch and incidents that follow, sacrifices paid for the sovereignty of the nation among others thereby passing down them to the generations to come, exhibition visitors stated.

As learnt from participants of the 8th 'About Ethiopia' photo exhibition in Dessie Town yesterday at Ayteyef Hall, the exhibition comprises pictures reflecting central political events, historical epoch and occurrences that follow, sacrifice paid for the independence of the nation and the like happened since 1950s and 1960s.



Photo : Dane Abera

The photo exhibition was officially opened by the National Dialogue Commission Innovation and Technology Minister Belete Molla (PhD), Amhara State Prosperity Commissioner, Prof. Mesfin Araya, See EPA... page 4

## Ethiopia's military diplomacy bearing fruits : GCS

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia has been registering remarkable results in fostering military diplomacy with neighboring countries in terms of ensuring peace and security in the region ,said Government Communications Service (GCS).

GCS State Minister Selamawit Kassa made the remark yesterday that the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) jointly with the Somali State Special Force has

taken military action against Al-Shabaab militants who tried to encroach the territory of Ethiopia, Selamawit added the Somalia government has blocked its door to the retreating forces and supported the operation taken by Ethiopia, attributing such actions to the flourishing military diplomacy with neighboring countries.

The Military diplomacy gain has enabled the nation to undertake successful military

See Ethiopia's military ... page 4



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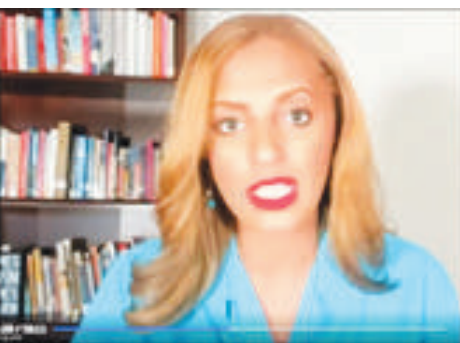
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## "T-TPLF's nature danger to Nat'l Dialogue": Journalist

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA-The old habit of the treasonous Terrorist TPLF group will be the major challenges towards holding a fruitful National Dialogue,Journalist and No More Cofounder Hermela Aregawi said.

Hermela discussed prospects for peace in the Horn of Africa and mounting frustrations with the Biden Administration with Fairfax GOP.

Accordingly, it is difficult and suspicious that undertaking the upcoming National Dialogue with T-TPLF that never hesitated to orchestrated against the country through

See "T-TPLF'S nature ... page 4



# News

## Ethio telecom launches telebirr digital financial services

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ethio telecom has launched a new digital financial service platform via telebirr that provide digital saving and credit services in collaboration with Dashen Bank.

At the launching ceremony held Friday, National Bank Governor Yinager Dessie (PhD) said that telebirr services play a significant role towards excelling the country's digital financial services.

Currently, the number of digital financial services users reaches over 43 million following the launch of telebirr and other platforms that make the country to be competitive with other African countries, he said.

Accordingly, the launch of the service lays the cornerstone towards stimulating the country's digital economy.

He has also urged the public to join digital financial services and other platforms so as to facilitate the transaction process easily.

On her part, Ethio telecom CEO, Frehiwot Tamru said that the financial service has been designed to deliver economically impactful services.

The new telebirr service is designed to provide micro loan, overdraft, and micro saving services for customers, she added.

This service is unique in availing both



Photo: Gebabo Gebre

micro loan and overdraft services without the need for collaterals.

Credit worthiness of the customer and the amount of credit is determined by Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled credit scoring system which takes into account the telecom usage and telebirr transactions made by the customer, she said.

"Ethio telecom targeted to serve more than 12.8 Million unique customers within the

first year of operation with total transaction volume of 108 Million and transaction value of 19.5 billion Birr. Since establishment before 14 months, telebirr surpassed the industry trend and acquired a subscriber base of 22 Million with a total transaction value over 32 Billion Birr," she noted.

As to her, Telebirr generated over one million USD remittances to the country through its integration with international

money transfer operators in 37 countries.

Accordingly, more than 55 service providing organizations have integrated their payment system with Telebirr including; Ethiopian Airlines, Ethiopian Electric Utility, Water and Sewerage Services of various towns, Ministry of Transport and Logistics, Traffic Management Agency, Immigration and Vital Services Agency, Addis Ababa Revenues Authority, among others.



## DBE intensifies community services

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA-**The Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE) announced that apart from providing financial services it has been intensifying providing various community services.

DBE President Yohannes Ayalew (PhD) told The Ethiopian Herald that DBE has been intensifying providing community services towards achieving the development goals of the country.

As to him, development is not only economic growth and its needs to work on other spheres of development endeavours like environment and human development issues.

Thus, DBE has been providing different humanitarian services for different vulnerable groups like elders and the

needy through providing care and monthly financial supports in Addis Ababa.

It also supports different local charity organizations to enhance their humanitarian activities.

The bank has funded Macedonia Home for the Elderly and Mentally Disabled and Deborah Foundation for 30 million and 5 million Birr respectively, he said.

Moreover, it provided 110 million Birr for Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) to facilitate its role of ensuring rule of law in the country.

Accordingly, it also fulfills its social responsibilities through taking part in the national green legacy initiative through planting and caring seedlings in four various parks through allocating 100 million Birr budget.

## Afar IDPs call for adequate humanitarian aid, serious attention

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA-** The internally displaced people (IDPs) in Afar state called on the international aid organizations and the government of Ethiopia to pay adequate attention as they have done for Tigray state in a bid to save millions from starvation. Abdu Robso, herder told Agence France-Presse (AFP) that he and his family had to hastily flee their hometown of Abala, about

60 kilometers (40 miles) away from Tigray border, where TPLF bombarded the area and advanced into Afar.

He said: "At the time when the people in the camps have been exposed to severe hunger in Afar, the food aid trucks rolling up to the nearby hill towards Tigray state. Why this food going to Tigray state without feeding us."

Abdu further noted that he and many males, females and children have been struggling to survive with almost nothing to eat in Erebti camp, Afar state. In this regard, he said, millions were exposed to a grip of humanitarian crises due to lack of emergency aid.

After TPLF's withdrawal from Afar in April, the regional authorities told the displaced to return home and to provide them with help, but Abdu and his family returned to Erebti and still are waiting for aid.

Aldim Abdela, 28, a shepherd on his part said: "What wrong deed we did? Why aid is not



given to us? Most of the displaced have been exposed to various challenges especially they are suffering from serious hunger.

Ali said "When I went to Abala, I saw my house burned down, our homes are destroyed and our cattle have disappeared."

Similarly, Ali Mohammed said his daughter was wounded during the fight and properties have been destroyed and looted by the terrorist TPLF fighters, even hospitals' equipment are plundered and destroyed.

In July, the UN's humanitarian agency OCHA said the situation in Afar remained "dire with alarming levels of food insecurity and malnutrition" due to drought and conflict, displacement, lack of market access, and high food prices even though the WFP has said providing humanitarian assistance continues in Afar state.

Over 13 million people are in need of food aid and they have been living in difficult situations across the Ethiopia, according to the United Nations report.



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The Ethiopian Herald

## Editorial

### Taking “selfie” in Mekele, pushing for “precondition” in Addis

It is much intriguing to see envoys who claimed to have roles of igniting the engines of a peace talk ended up being obsessed with posing for a selfie with a party that is responsible for committing genocide on innocent civilians, recruiting child soldiers, raping women and even desecrating nuns and seizing the people in Tigray as a hostage to quench its thirst to power.

At least freezing a moment with those criminals would have been sensible had the group secured tangible results to achieve its purposes. But it only danced to the tunes of the terrorist group’s machinations.

The criminal enterprise’s forked tongue of course blurred the reality for quite some time until its overly inflated ego was flattened only in a matter of weeks. Almost 80 percent of Ethiopia’s arsenals it seized, and what it called “a lightning speed attack in 45 minutes” on the northern command did not shield its “battle-hardened” fighters from biting the dust.

Remnants of the group had to get harbor in the scorching desert of Kola Tembien for months until the government declared a truce. The warmonger clique’s months of marching and their cronies’ unceasing assistance motivated by an illusionary plan of controlling Addis and taking advantage of the truce decimated only in a matter of two weeks. But still, there are a few entities that opt for appeasing the ringleaders of the criminals that the people and government of Ethiopia have already defeated.

A joint US and EU statement released on August 2, 2022, completely failed to capture the reality on the ground. They also purposely gave a deaf ear to the voice of international organizations such as the WFP.

It was the criminals in their doomed attempt of treachery on the Northern Command that destroyed the telecom and electricity connections. Even after Mekele was under the interim administration of Tigray, there were numerous activities to restore services. But the brutal group had been attacking people deployed to maintain the destroyed infrastructure.

What is included in the statement speaks for itself. “...provided a letter to be passed the government of Ethiopia providing security for those who need to work to restore services.” They indirectly admitted that they were attacking personnel of service-providing institutions that were deployed for restoration.

The “Selfie-obsessed” individuals also failed to comprehend the July 15, 2022 interview of World Food Programs Country Director for Northern Ethiopia, Adrian Van der Knapp on BBC Focus on Africa. He illustrated vividly the commitment of the government to a safe humanitarian delivery. In his interview, he was mentioning that the WFP and partners were able to put 4,000 humanitarian trucks along the Semera-Mekelle corridor. He attributed the capability to do so to the unilateral truce that the government declared.

Earlier in June, the government announced as it had transferred a total of 2.1 billion Birr for humanitarian assistance from July, 2021 to June 3, 2022 into the State. Previously, as Mekele was under the interim administration, the government invested over a 100 billion Birr to restore and rehabilitate Tigray.

The envoys were blown off the course of peace. They tried to push the government to fulfill T-TPPLF’s precondition. The government unequivocally stated to hold peace talks “anywhere,” “anytime” and without precondition, period.

## Opinion

### Unprecedented global challenges are ‘not insurmountable’ – UN chief

BY STAFF REPORTER

Nearly a year ago, the UN chief released his report, Our Common Agenda (OCA), a blueprint for global cooperation moving forward, and reinvigorated multilateralism. On Thursday, he updated the General Assembly on progress made so far, saying the need for the report’s proposals “has only increased.”

“In addition to the triple planetary crisis of climate breakdown, air pollution and biodiversity loss, and the immense suffering caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts are raging across the world”, said Secretary-General António Guterres.

The ripple effects of the war in Ukraine, are contributing to surging food and energy prices, which are hitting vulnerable developing countries the most”, he added, “but while the problems before us are unprecedented, they are not insurmountable”.

Gloomy forecast

Mr. Guterres painted a grim picture of “unabated and growing” global shocks, and a world economy in which “developing countries are being squeezed dry” as new COVID variants again disrupt lives, throwing “the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ...further off course”.

Meanwhile, the climate catastrophe is “mounting by the day” as global greenhouse gas emissions are “at their highest levels in human history – and rising”.

And the risk of nuclear confrontation is “more acute than it has been for decades”.

“Business as usual will almost certainly guarantee a future of constant crises and devastating risks,” stated the UN chief.

‘Have we woken up?’

The report provides a framework and opportunity

to “unite the international community around solutions to this situation,” he said.

“Our Common Agenda was intended as a wake-up call. One year on, we must ask ourselves: have we woken up?”.

It proposes a new global deal to divide up differently power and resources and re-establish social contracts to better manage future shocks and global crises.

The UN chief updated Member States on parts of the Agenda already in motion, including “well advanced” preparations for the Transforming Education Summit in September.

“The largest-ever gathering of learners and teachers will provide an opportunity to mobilize ambition, action, solidarity and solutions; to reimagine education systems fit for the future; and to generate fresh momentum for SDG4 and the 2030 Agenda overall,” said the Secretary-General, noting that the Pre-Summit in June had been “a remarkable success”.

And in September, he will speak about reforming international financial architecture “to tackle historic weaknesses and inequalities,” which will include short-term actions for immediate relief for developing countries, and long-term measures to guarantee resilience.

Agendas for change

The UN’s “five agendas for change” are fostering a “new culture and new capabilities” in the fields of data, digital, innovation, behavioural science, and strategic foresight.

New initiatives are being launched to “unleash the potential of data for people, planet and the SDGs,” he said, pointing to UN Behavioural Science Week that engaged thousands on how to translate scientific method into impacting people and a Futures Lab to strengthen long-term outcomes of programmes.

“Last week the General Assembly adopted

a historic resolution declaring the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, demonstrating your commitment to this important goal,” the Secretary-General continued.

Summit of the Future

He spoke in detail about the planned Summit of the Future, describing it as “a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reinvigorate global action, recommit to fundamental principles, and further develop the frameworks of multilateralism so they are fit for the future”.

Human rights and gender equality will be cross-cutting themes, with a consistent focus on a renewed social contract that includes marginalized groups.

“Inclusion of a wide range of voices is not only the right thing to do, but also the only way we will arrive at meaningful solutions,” he said.

Leaders’ Pact

The UN chief hoped that the Summit would yield an inter-governmentally negotiated Leaders’ Pact for the Future to “reinvigorate the multilateral system and make it fit for the challenges of today and tomorrow”.

It should re-focus efforts on existing climate commitments; address international peace and security threats; realize ambitions on human rights, international justice, and gender equality, including safeguarding rights in digital spaces.

“The Pact for the Future must demonstrate to the world that while we face daunting challenges, we can overcome them with co-operation, compromise and global solidarity,” he said.

The Secretary-General set out proposed tracks for and possible outcomes of the Pact, beginning with a New Agenda for Peace to better address “all forms and domains of threats” and prevent the outbreak and escalation of hostilities on land, at sea, in space and in cyberspace.

His second proposal, a Global Digital Compact, seeks an open, free and secure digital future and his third, a Declaration on Future Generations, includes establishing mechanisms to consider their needs as well as a dedicated envoy.

Stopping arms race in space

He hoped that the Summit would yield a high-level political agreement on the peaceful use of outer space, his fourth proposal, including a commitment to negotiate an international instrument to prevent an arms race there.

An emergency platform to manage future global crises in a “fast, coordinated way,” was his fifth proposal, saying the UN was uniquely placed to manage it.

“The world has paid a high price for our ad hoc responses to recent global shocks...No single organization exists to gather stakeholders in the event of such a global crisis”.

Despite the success of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, he stressed: “We do not yet have the mechanisms we need”.

Twin summits

In closing, he drew links between the proposed Summit of the Future, and next year’s SDG Summit in New York, to “rescue the SDGs”.

The twin summits aim to create conditions for a sustainable, inclusive future, which together with the Paris Agreement on climate change, are “our last, best chance to deliver on people’s demand for a multilateral system that manages and solves global challenges in a timely, effective and fair way”.

Source: UN.org

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

# News

## Admas University graduates over 4,500 students

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Admas University has graduated 4,551 students, which have been attending their education in ten campuses of the University, with Bachelor's degree and technical and vocational training programs.

It was learnt that 1,997 of the graduated students have been graduated with Bachelor's degree and the remaining with technical and vocational training program. And, out of the total graduates, 3,098 (or 68.07 percent) of them are females.

During the graduation ceremony, Admas University President Molla Tsegay (PhD) said that the University has been playing an important role in producing trained human that is greatly needed in the country's development activities.

Accordingly, over the past 22 years, the University has graduated over 80,000 students with Bachelor's degree, diploma, and certificate programs, he said. In addition to Ethiopia, the University has become popular in Somaliland and Puntland, he added.

As to the Molla, along with the regular teaching learning process, the University is contributing its part in providing short

term trainings and counseling services, as well as conducting national and international studies and researches and informing community of research findings.

He further noted that the University will launch doctorate degree programs when it completes the preconditions required in accordance with the guidance of the Education and Training Authority.

Addressing the ceremony, Ethiopian Employers Confederation President Getahun Hussien (Eng.) since its establishment, the University has been playing an important role in the development of science and technology and creation of jobs in the country.

He also called on the graduates to do their best for their families, surroundings and country.



## EPA opens ...

Office head, Girma Yesshitila and Dessie town Deputy Mayor, Samuel Molalign.

As the exhibition is open to visitors, ministers, senior government officials, celebrities, artists, the community there and other invited guests have been paying homage there.

A panel discussion entitled, 'Ethiopia continues surpassing challenges,' was held and revolves around crucial issues of the nation and common national assets.

The 'About Ethiopia' photo exhibition, which will be conducted in 12 cities and towns, is going to be held in various cities in the weeks to come.

## "T-TPLF's ...

murdering the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) without mercy.

T-TPLF and its allies always create an agenda for the Diasporas community to return into power through playing their political game in the name of Tigray people, she said.

As to her, the terrorist group is immersed with dividing the country through ethnicity and has been using this old habit to keep its own economic benefit.

"T-TPLF is suffering the people of Tigray with the war against the motherland where a lot of people dying in it," she said.

On the other hand, she stated the U.S. has not clear and stated policy on Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa stating that why the U.S. chooses economic sanctions than sustaining longstanding partnerships.

Accordingly, it is surprising that the U.S. removed Ethiopia from the AGOA list that compelled millions of women lost their jobs due to the misdirected Biden administration policy.

There are various manifestations that portray misinterpretation of the democratically elected Ethiopian government by the current U.S. administration, she stressed.

## Ethiopia's military diplomacy...

action on the Al-Shabaab militants.

Regarding the recent law enforcement operations, Selamawit stated that some 333 militants of the terrorist Group Shene have been destroyed and other 671 people are arrested and under investigation in connection with complicity with the outlawed group.

Ammunition depots of the terrorist group have also been destroyed in the operation carried out jointly by the National Army and Oromia Special Force, the State Minister indicated, calling the community to support the operation.

On the other hand, the State Minister said that humanitarian assistance has been delivered to over 3 million people

who have been affected by the drought condition in several parts of Oromia state including Borena, Bale, Guji and Hararge zones over the last months.

Still there is a need to increase the humanitarian assistance to those affected by the drought, she said, adding priority areas have already been identified for further assistance.

Since April over 4,300 trucks loaded with food and non-food humanitarian items have entered Tigray, Selamawit said, adding 1,081,000 liter of fuel has also been delivered to the state.

The testimony of the U.S. and EU Special Envoys and Ambassador who recently returned from Mekelle has corroborated the fact that there is enough food in Tigray humanitarian

warehouses.

"Government is committed to continue delivering aid to people in need Tigray. Any interested partner is welcomed to join the humanitarian operation into Tigray and other affected areas without any precondition and restriction."

Government has continued facilitating enabling condition for unrestricted land and air humanitarian operations to the state. Selamawit further called on some special envoys and ambassadors and other members of the diplomatic communities who contacted the rebel group leaders to refrain from giving unconstructive comments that seem to favor the other side. She also reiterated government's commitment to the AU led peace



# Opinion

## Good will, trust; corner stone to bring lasting peace through talks

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Recently the new US envoy to Horn Africa, Mike Hammer and EU envoy Annette Weber visited Ethiopia to hold talks including with TPLF leaders in Tigray. After their visit, they recommended that the government in Addis Ababa must provide services such as electric power, banking, telephone and unrestrained humanitarian aid.

TPLF on its part announced last week that key services should have to be reinstated in Tigray before coming together for the peace talks offering security guarantees for those who are assigned to work to restore the services.

The government of Ethiopia announced its resoluteness to end the conflict through peace full way. It also expressed that it will talk with TPLF without putting any pre condition. It is obvious that no party benefits from war. As a poor country, Ethiopia does not afford war and shoulder the burden that has come due to the outbreak of the war. Tigray is the inalienable part of Ethiopia and the government resolutely showed its concern to the well-being of the people of Tigray.

Even though provocative acts continued by TPLF yet, the government continued sending humanitarian assistance in land and by air to the people of Tigray. But evidence showed that instead of supplying the aid to the public, the officials there utilize the resource to support their war effort against the nation. The war propaganda both from here and abroad continued to ridicule the government's peace effort and their subversive acts by fueling conflicts in many parts of the country. Similar to its past behavior, TPLF put preconditions to start the peace talks. Debrestion Gebremichael, the leader of the group, stated that to start the peace talk, firstly, the government must begin providing the above mentioned services to the region.

As it is well remembered, all the services were in place and the budget to the region was also allocated earlier to the outbreak of war. In addition, various projects financed by the federal government were going on. Budget subsidy also was allocated to the regional government similar to other regions. But as all knows, the budget and other resources allocated to Tigray were abused and TPLF used the resources to build its military capability. It recruited soldiers, feed them and trained, deposited fuel in hidden places to use for its offence. The group in one hand claims as if it is peace lover and on the other it is preparing for the fourth round of war by utilizing the youth as cannon fodder. Debrestion's demand to get service from the federal government indicates his foolishness. No government in the world allocate budget to the warring group let its own people killed and infrastructure demolished. In the modern era internet and social media play pivotal role in orchestrating war and fueling ethnic

*The government every time expressed its willingness to resolve the problem through dialogue accepting the proposal of the African Union for peaceful settlement of the conflict*

violence. The banking service also can boost money laundering used for terrorist act; the electric power can also be used for preparing to the war day and night.

In the first hand all infrastructures used for telephone and internet, hydropower plants and other facilities were demolished by TPLF. Had it have a concern to its own people, it would have protected them instead of changing in to debacle.

Other TPLF officials here and supporters in the diaspora put as precondition the so called western Tigray and southern part to be reinstated to the region before the negotiation begins. This also indicates that its unwillingness to uphold the negotiation in an open hurt.

In the first place, before 1991 while TPLF was waging guerilla war against the then Dergue regime no place was there known as "western Tigray". It was known as Setit Humera and Wolkaite Tsegede under the administration of northern Gondar. The Raya areas in the southern Tigray also were under the administration of northern Wollo. History also tells that no Tigray ruler administered these areas since time immemorial. Some former TPLF officials also proved that the group annexed the Setit Humera areas by force in order to get an out let to the Sudan territory which served to smuggle weapon from abroad while it waged war against the Dergue.

TPLF legalized its annexation of these areas after it assumed power in Addis Ababa in 1991 by overthrowing the Derg regime. Even

that time, it was not an elected government. No resident in the area was asked his/her will to be administered under the rule of Tigray regional government.

If we look the ethnic composition in the area there are various ethnic groups including Amhara, Tigre and others. Therefore, annexing the territory by disregarding the people will not bring peace or socio economic progress rather it remains a breeding ground for conflict.

While it was in power from 1991 to 2018, TPLF was known by its harsh and undemocratic rule. It failed to change its military victory over the Dergue regime in to peaceful victory through conducting free and fair election. It imposed ethnic based nominal federal system but did not bring any peace and stability in which the nation badly needed.

After 2018, when TPLF left for Tigray by abandoning its power tenure in the center, the former Somali Region President Abdile and the current BenishangulGumuz President Ashadle Hassan confirmed that they had no real power in the reign of TPLF. Currently, TPLF accused the federal government as if it violates the constitution which is introduced by the group itself. But the nominal power exercised by the regional governors clearly indicated that how TPLF was governing the country by disrespecting the constitution.

The constitution article 39 and sub article 3 clearly stipulates that any nation, nationality and people have the right to establish its own woreda, zone and region. But people residing in the mentioned areas of Amhara such as Wolkaite Tsegede and Raya were not allowed to exercise their rights which are enshrined in the constitution while TPLF was in power. Even in the past the Wolkaite identity committee submitted its appeal to the House of Federation to exercise their right but no one gave a positive response to their plea. Therefore, we can conclude that there is still constitutional venue to resolve the problems occurred in the mentioned places which TPLF put the causes as precondition for negotiation.

The government since long ago has tried its level best to resolve the differences with TPLF through peaceful dialogue but because of the group's preemptive measure two years ago against the Ethiopian army was dragged to war unwillingly.

After the defeat of the group that escalated its wage to the Northern Shewa last year, the government forces restrained themselves instead of entering Tigray and the government declared unilateral humanitarian cease fire for the sake of peace. This indicates that the government gave priority to peace. It is understood that when the war is broke out not only the combatants lost their life and face casualties but also civilians pay heavy price.

Displacement of people, looting and killing of animals and demolishing of infrastructure

is unbearable to the poor country such as Ethiopia. According to the recent report of the Ministry of Education, more than 1,300 schools were changed in to debacle due to the war and millions of students partially interrupted their education.

Rehabilitating and maintaining educational infrastructure demolished by war is beyond the government's financial capacity. Hence, the Ministry called for local and diaspora donors to stretch their hands to support the reconstruction efforts and it is estimated that more than 2 billion Dollars is needed to fully repair the damage. More than 5 million displaced people are living in camps in appalling condition both in Amhara and Afar regions. These all indicate that how the cost of war is expensive and peace is key instrument for attaining stability.

The government every time expressed its willingness to resolve the problem through dialogue accepting the proposal of the African Union for peaceful settlement of the conflict. It accommodated the peace reconciler former Nigerian President Olesegun Obasanjo and opened the avenue to go to Mekele by air transport. Other delegates both from the US and European Union were allowed to go to Mekele and to talk with the TPLF officials. These all showed how the government is committed for achieving long lasting solutions to the problem.

In contrary to these efforts, the group showed its ambivalent approach towards the peace efforts. It rejected the AU involvement in the peace process and requested the Kenyan President to host the negotiation. TPLF's past behavior indicated that it made negotiation with its rival only to win and to use the negotiation to meet its unilateral objectives.

It has no a history of bringing solution through negotiation with its opponents unless it defeat it. During the 2005 election the opposition parties won significant number of sit in the parliament and at this juncture, TPLF did not show interest to share power with the opposition parties consequently when public resentment started it announced that to make negotiation to settle the problem but when the situation became calmed after weeks, instead of continuing the dialogue, it imprisoned all opposition party members and continued its brutal rule until it was forced to give up power in 2018. Therefore, to bring long lasting solution, there must be true negotiation and unless TPLF is disarmed, accepting its demand to provide services such as bank, internet and electric power will bring a disastrous consequence.

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



# Business & Economy

## Ethiopia's macroeconomic achievement; indicator for nation's remarkable growth

BY HIZKEL HAILU

According to documents from Office of The Prime Minister, Ethiopia's economy has registered a decade of rapid and stable growth. Real GDP growth has averaged about 10 percent over the last decade. However, Ethiopia still faces significant development challenges including; creating jobs for the growing youth population; addressing macroeconomic imbalances; improving export performance and fostering private initiatives.

In order to solve these problems, the government of Ethiopia is undertaking different economic reforms. Ethiopia's economic reform priorities focus on sustaining the current rapid and inclusive pace of growth to create more and better jobs. Specifically, the government's focus is on ensuring sound macroeconomic management, the document explained.

On top of that, the government has established the Macroeconomic Committee which is the central organ that coordinates economic policy making within the government. Chaired by the Prime Minister, it has nearly 10 members including the Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia, Ministers from Finance, Planning, Revenue and Senior Economic Advisers. And the committee is working dedicatedly in order to bring remarkable economic growth of the country.

On its recent report and discussion, the Macroeconomic Committee disclosed that Ethiopia has registered a remarkable performance in most of the macroeconomic indicators during the past Ethiopian fiscal year although there were internal and external challenges.

This was noted by the mid of this week during the Macroeconomic Committee meeting to review the major economic performance of the past fiscal year and to set directions for the 2015 Ethiopian fiscal year.

"Our macroeconomic committee meeting today has confirmed the remarkable export performance this past year — better FDI inflow, decrease in inflation in the past two months, optimal green legacy, volunteer activities, remittance, and automation performance," Abiy said.

"About 20 billion dollars was earned from exports, remittances and direct investment in the fiscal year" He noted. As to him, the export of goods and services reached more than 10.2 billion dollars adding that, these export earnings has reached to 20 billion USD while it includes revenue from remittances and foreign direct investment.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the results achieved in the export trade sector have been fruitful. He said that all of us should be proud of the result as it was a result that came under very difficult circumstances. However, he pointed out that Ethiopia's export potential can be multiplied and increased more.

He further noted that it is difficult to develop a country without increasing exports. Although there are many indicators of macroeconomic growth, the macroeconomic committee shall mainly evaluate what it has brought in



exports through understanding that exports are significant for the growth of other sectors.

During the meeting, the Premier further said that the government will continue its efforts to register better economic performances in all sectors in the ongoing budget year. He added that the mining and energy sectors need a special attention.

As to him, a number of tasks have to be done to reduce the debt stress. In this regard, the promising start-ups should be strengthened.

"If we do the aforementioned tasks properly, next year's results could be better than last year's results. And it is also key we build and expand on this year's achievements," Abiy further indicated.

The Premier promised that the government will try its best to solve challenges in all sectors regarding finance, infrastructure, and bureaucracy.

Presenting the performance report, Planning and Development Minister, Fitsum Assefa (PhD) for her part stated that the performance during the past Ethiopian fiscal year is better in many aspects, mainly in the export sector.

The Minister further stated that the nation secured over 4.1 billion USD from the export of goods. The country also generated over 6.3 billion USD from the service sector. Besides, last year's overall better performance helped the economy to create at least 2.3 million new jobs.

She added that the foreign exchange that has been gained in the exportation of goods is the highest in Ethiopia's history of export trade, and the export sector has contributed meaningfully to the growth of the country's macro economy.

Ethiopia has gained over 5 billion USD in remittance during the past fiscal year, she said adding, that the achievement is remarkable.

As to her, data shows that Ethiopia is the first destination of foreign direct investment in East Africa. And, over 2.3 million citizens have secured jobs in the specified fiscal year. However, the Minister stated that inflation has continued to be a major challenge for the macroeconomy.

Authorities say inflation has been decelerating since June, during which it dropped to 34 percent from 37.2 percent in May. Still, consumer-price growth remains high with the existence of COVID-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine conflict-related challenges adding risks to price hikes in fuel, edible oil, and fertilizer supply line.

According to the Ministry of Planning and Development, Ethiopia's inflation problem has been building up for a long period of time mainly due to low productivity and lack of competitiveness in the market.

The increasing investments in agriculture and the agro-processing sector, which are showing positive outcomes, could help tackle the challenge. The government will continue to exert its efforts not only in addressing the inflation problem but also to register better economic performances in all sectors in the new fiscal year, according to Fitsum.

Members of the National Macro Economy Committee so far underscored that the achievements registered in many spheres of the economic sector have hugely contributed to the improvement of Ethiopia's overall macroeconomic performance. The committee reviewed the major economic performance of the year and set directions for the upcoming budget year in the presence of the Premier.

Cognizant of this fact, the committee reviewed that Ethiopia has registered better performance in most of the macroeconomic indicators during the fiscal year. The performance of export trade has taken the lion's share for the remarkable result of macro-economy, it was learned.

In addition to the success in export sector, the macroeconomic committee also reported that the citizen-oriented development activities have also performed better. According to Finance State Minister and member of the National Macro Economy Committee, Eyob Tekalign, priority was given to all macro-economic sectors during the year.

He further explained that a lot of work has been done to diversify export products in quantity and quality as well as to avoid dependency on only certain products.

As a result, better income was obtained from coffee, mining and other sectors, the state minister said, adding that the income from minerals has, for instance, grown by 64 percent on average. These results have played a significant role in enabling Ethiopia to cope with the domestic and foreign pressures by registering better macroeconomic performance, Eyob explained.

Ethiopian Investment Holdings CEO and member of the National Macro Economy Committee, Mamo Mehretu on his part said that the export sector secured additional 1.2 billion USD when compared with the previous fiscal year.

Despite the prohibition of duty-free opportunity (AGOA) to Ethiopian goods, the CEO indicated that the export performance of the manufacturing sector has been able to grow by 26 percent, he noted.

Approached by Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Export Trade CEO of Ministry Trade and Regional Integration Gemechis Melaku stated that the report was very remarkable that can surly stabilize the nation's economy. As to him, Ethiopia has been able to increase its exports through expanding the export market destinations and other market effects.

"The general export trade in this fiscal year is different from the others in that it has earned billions of revenue. This is the greatest victory in the history of the country. This result was achieved through extensive discussions with the business community and the manufacturer. Legal action has also been taken against those who were missing the law," he elaborated.

According to him, the highest export earning was recorded in coffee sector. While share of the agricultural sector was 105 percent, shares for the industrial and the mining sectors were 85 and 53 percent respectively.

All in all, Ethiopia has registered notable accomplishments in macroeconomic sectors. The secret of the success is rooted in the nation's focus on the indigenous economic structure. As the country has continued registering outstanding achievements in the midst of adversity conditions, it will surely realize the intended prosperity.

# Planet Earth

## Achievements, lessons of the four years Green Legacy initiative

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Ethiopia has exceeded its target plan of planting 20 billion trees within four years through its Green Legacy initiative launched in 2019. During the past three years, Ethiopia has planted over 18 billion trees and until July 30 of the fourth year of plantation season, the country has planted over 5.5 billion seedlings, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. Ethiopia's target during this plantation season, the fourth year of the first round initiative, is to plant six billion seedlings.

Launched in early June 2022, the fourth-year seedling plantation targets to plant six billion seedlings by preparing over seven billion seedlings. Of the total planned seedlings to plant during this rainy season, 52 percent covers plants for food security purposes, vegetables and fruits, while the remaining 48 percent aim for forest coverage and urban beautification. So far, by mobilizing millions of Ethiopians, over 5.5 billion seedlings were planted and from the total planted seedlings; the Ministry of Agriculture announced that 54 percent covers plants for food security purposes.

Umer Hussein, Minister of Agriculture, said that the implementation of the initiative especially its focus on fruits for food security purposes attracts more of the public and that is why the rate of fruits is increasing beyond the target. The people become aware of the benefits of seedling plantation and now the plantation develops to cluster farming of vegetables and fruits in addition to the plantation for forest coverage.

Speaking to Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC), Agriculture Minister Umer Hussein said that he has planted over 250 seedlings only this season by accepting Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's call for 100 seedlings challenge for top government officials. "I accept the challenge and achieved the 100 seedling challenge from the PM. Not only achieving the 100 seedlings but also exceeding the set target. So far I have planted over 250 seedlings and I will continue planting seedlings," Umer stated. The Minister noted that not only he, but the people across the country are also actively participating in the plantation and the fourth year of seedling plantation is underway with the active participation of the people across the country.

Concerning the performance, lessons and achievements from the four years of plantation experience, Umer stated as a country, Ethiopia takes good lessons and secured multidimensional achievements in the sector. Though the initiative brings multidimensional achievements and benefits, the biggest achievement is that it makes the people own the initiative and give due care to planting and protecting trees.

"Though there were difficulties and challenges here and there that can divert the attention of the people not only from the seedling plantation but also even from other

*In addition to protecting the ecology, biodiversity and forest coverage plus conservation of soil, the Green Legacy initiative is contributing its role to developing food and nutrition security at a national level*

day-to-day activities, by challenging the challenges, the people of Ethiopia actively participated in the seedling plantation. The public mobilization during these years was beyond imagination and that is why the performance exceeds the target goal," Umer said.

Generally, according to Umer, the initiative brings huge achievements for Ethiopia. During the initial year of the initiative, the numbers of nursery centres across the country were around 27 thousand, but now the number of nurseries increased to 130 thousand. The initiative also helps the country to give due attention to planting plants for food security purposes and now plantation of seedlings for food security purposes develops to planting fruits for commercial purposes by introducing cluster plantation. So far, according to Umer, cluster farming was only limited to crops, but following the green legacy initiative, cluster farming is implemented in the seedling plantation.

For Umer, the Green Legacy initiative was launched mainly with three objectives. First, it aims to combat climate change and its impacts by fulfilling the national role of Ethiopia though it needs a global response. Secondly, expanding plants for food security and nutrition purposes and the third one was widening the agricultural export bases of Ethiopia. Ethiopia has secured around 24 billion trees so far and the average survival rate over the past three years is over 81 percent, he added. In addition, the percentage of plants for food security purposes is growing from year to year and owned by the people. Hence, if we see these performances, the

initiative was successful in all forms.

"But if you ask me the best achievement from this initiative and the lessons taken from it, it is the mobilization of the people. The commitment and the mobilization of the people of Ethiopia during these plantation seasons was something special and it makes me surprise. This is the best achievement and the people of Ethiopia already own the initiative to make it a culture, it is a big lesson for us" Umer noted. Still, there is a gap in caring for the planted seedlings even in mobilization and awareness. Hence, to make the initiative fully successful, it needs a due attention to for caring and protecting the seedlings.

The average survival rate of the planted seedlings during the past years is over 80 percent and the global agreement to say good performance in seedling survival is 70 percent, Umer stated. If we evaluate the survival rate from this point, the survival rate of the planted seedlings during the Green Legacy

initiative is in a good position. "But, since we are planting billions of trees, losing 20 percent means huge, hence, it needs due attention to increase the survival rate." Except for the limitation in caring, the initiative is successful in all qualifications.

According to Umer, the seedling plantation is now developing to develop trees for economic purposes which has three layers, smallholder farmers with their fields, private sector investors and planting in communal land for mutual societal purposes. By selecting some commodities, now the plantation for commercial and food security purposes is developing to cluster level, especially in banana, mango and coffee.

Hence, in addition to protecting the ecology, biodiversity and forest coverage plus conservation of soil, the Green Legacy initiative is contributing its role to developing food and nutrition security at a national level. Beyond that, it helps maximize commercial trees.



### PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE FOR SALE OF GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA TREASURY BILLS

1. BY TWO WEEKLY TREASURY BILL AUCTION NUMBER 905
2. TOTAL VALUE OF BILL TO BE ISSUED BIRR 20,000,000,000
3. DATE OF SALE OF THE BILL August 25, 2022
4. TYPES OF TREASURY BILLS AND BID AMOUNT

TYPE OF T/BILLS	BID AMOUNT	MATURITY DATE
28 days	1,000,000,000	September 22, 2022
91 days	3,000,000,000	November 24, 2022
182 days	9,000,000,000	February 21, 2023
364 days	7,000,000,000	August 24, 2023

5. THE MINIMUM AMOUNT THAT SHOULD BE OFFERED FOR A BILL IS M BIRR 5,000 AND IN MULTIPLES THERE OF.
6. BIDDERS CAN BID FOR ALL OR ANY TYPE OF BILL
7. BID APPLICATION FORM CAN BE OBTAINED FROM PAYMENT & SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS DIRECTORATE
8. CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID APPLICATION SHALL BE August 23, 2022
9. RESULT ANNOUNCEMENT DATE WILL BE August 25, 2022
10. ANY INCOME OR PROFIT DERIVES FROM TREASURY BILLS IS EXEMPTED FROM ANY FORM OF TAX.
11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM PAYMENT AND SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS DIRECTORATE OR THE BANK'S WEB SITE www.nbe.gov.et

**NATIONAL BANK OF ETHIOPIA**



# Art & Culture

## A house to rent

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHW

Brokers come in all sizes, characters, and backgrounds. I took a day off from the filling station I was working for at the time just to rent a house. I had to leave my place given the warning I received from my landlord. He had increased the rent without even a notice. I was angry about it and decided to find a new place. The only way to find another house to rent is through brokers; and I had to find one before anything else.

The broker I encountered was a well-dressed handsome man. He has gray hair, a well-shaped face that was sun-beaten and darker in complexion, and is of course tall. I met him at local tea shop where brokers usually gather awaiting clients who may look for their service: houses to rent or buy, housemaids to hire, or various commodities to sell or buy. I went to that place because I wanted to rent a modest residential house.

As soon as I entered the teashop, I asked one of the waiters whether I could get a broker to talk to. The waiter turned his eyes to a corner and pointed at Akalu, a popular broker of houses as I came to learn later on. I walked to the table where Akalu was sitting. He was sipping a cup of coffee and smoking a cigarette. I shook his hand and inquired whether he was really Akalu, the broker.

Akalu smiled broadly and shook my hand saying, "My name is Captain Akalu, a member of the former army!" I was not interested in the details of his life and his former profession. I had gone there to get a house to rent and alleviate my worry as soon as possible.

Akalu invited me to sit at a vacant chair nearby. He then clapped his hands and summoned one of the waiters who came to us promptly and took my order. I ordered tea and started to speak to Akalu.

"Err...I've come to ask you whether you can help me rent a house." I said.

"Of course," Akalu said. "I'm here to help you!"

The broker asked me what kind of house I wanted and other related details such as whether I was married or not and how much I could afford to pay for the rent. I answered all his inquiries well before the tea I ordered arrived.

"I see your point," Akalu said quite philosophically, sipping his coffee and pulling on his cigarette, not bothering about what effect the smoke had on me." As I gather from your situation, what you need is a small one-room house in a big compound where there are more than a dozen other residents who are all renters...you will use one common toilet and shower and you'll not enter the compound after 8:00 P.M. Does that suit you?"

"It's okay," I said because I had no choice but to accept his offer. "Can I see it today?" I was desperate to find another house because my former landlord had given me an ultimatum to leave his house and that ultimatum expired the next day.

I sipped the tea Akalu had offered me. He was looking at me as if he had understood how much I was worried about having a roof above my head.

"Don't worry my brother," Akalu comforted me, "We'll go there right now!"

He called the waiter again and covered the bill

for the coffee he drank and the tea bought me. I was in such miserable financial shape that I didn't even try to pay the bill myself as is usually the case on such occasions.

We left the cafe and took a taxi to the neighborhood where the house for rent was located. It was inside a large compound apparently shared by many renters. Their children were playing football in the garbage-littered vacant space. Women were shouting at the top of their voices although I could not understand what they were saying. In short, the compound rather looked like a small marketplace. I was rather expecting a quieter and less populated location.

"Here is the room," Akalu said, opening a small room at the end of the row of houses. As he pushed the door open, a disturbing and pungent smell invaded my nostrils. You know the smell of rooms that were occupied by other people until recently still carrying the mixed smell of the foods they ate, the clothes they wore, and their body odors as well as the choking stale air that they left behind.

Akalu entered the room as he had the habit of entering a house for rent and did not seem to be disturbed by the odor. I hesitated for a brief moment and joined him.

"This is the room. It's enough for you...As you told me you've no wife and children. You don't have dogs or cats, right?!" Akalu said the last sentence loughly.

He tried to smile at his own joke but there was nothing for me to smile about. I did not respond to his humor and he did not seem pleased with my silence.

"What do you think?" He said. "Do you take it or you don't?"

"How much is the rent?" I asked him.

"It's fair," Akalu said. "1,500 Birr only... in addition to the water and electricity bills of course!"

I had no choice. If I didn't rent this room, my former landlord could throw me out or throw away the few commodities in my possession. As I know it from experience, finding a small room with a modest rent is no laughing matter.

"Okay, let it be," I said reluctantly, my heart torn between the fear of finding another house and my monthly salary that hardly covered all my expenses. I was working at a gas filling station and I often survived on the tips the driver gave me now and then rather than on my salary which was not enough to cover my house rent and my other expenses.

Akalu was seemingly happy with my answer and told me to occupy the room that very day unless other renters might come and pay higher rent to acquire it. Akalu's warning added to my worries. So, I hastened to my former residence to carry the few things I had in my possession before, as the broker warned me, other tenants might come and occupy it at this time of serious housing shortage and rising rents.

Akalu told me to bring my things while he would hire someone to clean the room before I returned with my few possessions. I was in such a hurry that I did not ask him when and how I had to pay the rent. Akalu looked generous to me as he wanted me to occupy the room before others would. I understood his remarks as a sign of concern for my well-being.

It did not take me much time to return with my few possessions. I felt relieved because I have found a roof above my head, at least for now. The thought of facing my former landlord who was merciless and the possibility of being thrown out of his house and the resulting shame and humiliation disturbed me very much. I looked at Akalu as a real savior. He had the room cleaned and he even helped me carry my things to the house. The room looked full of furniture because it was small and could accommodate only my bed, two chairs, my old bag, and a few utensils. I used to prepare some of the meager meals I cooked now and then when I ran out of money.

I sat on my bed while Akalu sat on one of the chairs and admired the way I had arranged my furniture and the next topic was about the rent.

"Do you know when you have to pay the rent?" Akalu asked me casually.

"I know...It's at the end of the month; isn't it?" I answered his question with another question.

"Things have changed these days," Akalu added. "The landlords expect the rent to be paid as soon as the house is occupied"

"What do you mean?" I said with a feeling of anxiety creeping into my heart.

"I mean that you have to pay the rent now!" Akalu said more seriously. The tone of his voice had changed from one of compassion to harshness.

I had enough money to pay for the rent although I understood that was not fair to pay in advance. In a way, I had made a mistake. I wanted to ask Akalu why I had to pay the rent before using the room. But that was pointless after I had agreed to rent the house. Besides, my previous landlord too collected his rent as soon as I set foot into his house. Anyway, I should have raised this question before I brought my things and settled in the room.

Why did Akalu keep silent when I went to fetch my things from my former residence? Was it a deliberate act on his part or did he forget to raise the issue then? I was not sure about it. My guess was that Akalu was not a cynic. I knew many brokers are not angels. I have heard so many unpleasant stories about them although I did not believe all of them to be true.

Akalu left the room for a moment and returned with an old man who looked sick and frail. The man was short in stature, with a frail body and a head full of white hair.

"This is the owner of the house," Akalu introduced him to me. "His name is Ato Belachew and he is a very kind man!"

The old man smiled and I saw that a few teeth were missing from his denture while his eyes were small and looked like the eyes of what folks describe as those smart people. The old man sat on the other chair and asked me what I do for a living. I answered his question with politeness and the old man smiled as if he was pleased with what I do for a living.

Then I opened my old bag and fished the money Akalu asked me to pay as rent. I felt like a big burden being lifted from my heart. I thought that at least for the coming thirty days' no one would come to disturb me about paying the rent. The old man took the money and counted it and looked at me in utter puzzlement.

"What's this?" he asked me in a voice stifled

with what seemed anger.

"Well, this is the rent for this month!" I said stunned.

"How much is it?" He asked me again as if he had not counted it.

"Well, it's 1,500 Birr!" I said I was more astounded and even scared.

"But this is only the rent for one month!" He almost shouted in his weak voice. Then he turned to Akalu and asked him, "didn't I tell you that I need at least a three-month rent?"

I was shaking with fear, indignation, and anger.

"No, you didn't tell me that!" Akalu shouted in his turn.

"Yes, I did but you didn't listen to me because you're eager to collect your commission at my cost and run away!"

"Listen to me Ato Belachew!" Akalu said, "You only told me how much the rent is. You didn't tell me the rent for three months!"

The old man rose from his chair and threw the money on my bed as he prepared to go. "What can I do with only one month's rent? Life is expensive and I know how much pain I had to build this house!"

"What have I done to make you so angry?" Akalu asked the old man in a polite voice.

"I had vowed not to trust brokers!" The old man said. "You're no better than the others!"

Akalu tried to explain to the old man that I had not enough money for three months' rent and that I will pay the rest at the end of the month although I did not tell that to him. The old man stopped and turned to me, looked at me, and asked, "Is that true? Is what this man is saying true? will you pay the rest of the money at the end of the month?"

"Yes, I'll!" I said instantly as the prospect of finding another house was a distant possibility.

"I want you to sign on a piece of paper!" the old man said. "It's hard to trust you, young folks, these days!"

Akalu went to the nearby shop and bought a paper. He wrote the agreement and read it to the landlord and I. Then we signed it. According to the agreement I will have to pay a two-month rent at the end of the month if not quit the house. The old man looked at me as he took the paper from Akalu, folded it, and put it in his breast pocket. I felt as if a huge burden was lifted from my breast this time. But another burden was shoved at me. I did not know how I would pay the two-month rent at the end of the first month.

The old man collected the money again and left the room, followed by Akalu who asked him to pay his commission. "Aren't you ashamed to ask for a commission from a one-month rent?" I heard the old man say. "I'll pay you next month!"

At least Akalu did not return to ask me for the commission I owed him as brokers usually collect commission from both sides.

I breathed a long sigh of relief and looked at the ceiling that was torn in many places through which the rain had leaked down, leaving its mark on the cloth. I felt as if a big hole was formed in my life and I envied people who do not worry about paying the rent. I wished there was a world without landlords and rents. I abandoned that idea when I realized that such a world existed only in my imagination.



# Society

## Sharing lifts forgotten soul

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Admassu Kere was born in one of the remote areas of Gojam, in Amhara State. However, it was at his early age, he was compelled to leave his birthplace and came to Addis Ababa leaving his family, his friends, and the village where he had spent lot of unforgettable occurrences and childhood experiences behind.

When life became unbearable at his birthplace, Admassu decided to come to Addis Ababa hoping to get an education in the capital, and lead a better life.

However, when he arrived in Addis, the capital had not welcomed him with open arms. From the moment he arrived, he understood as his childhood aspiration [to have a better life], turned out to be a nightmare.

Leave alone to fulfill his dream, even getting a shelter and support from fellow citizens became unattainable. For that reason, Admassu was forced to sleep in the streets of Addis; and experience all the harshest sides of street life for about six years.

It was at this moment, while he was struggling with the challenges of street life, Admassu met with teen volunteers who had no money; but kind heart, hope and true love.

For Admassu, who was tired of the harshest and the worst sides of life on the streets of Addis Ababa, meeting those young children- *Lejochu*- who were found in the same age group with him- was a God sent opportunity. After he met with those young volunteers, life has started getting improved. Those kind-hearted little children, by bringing food from their houses, used to support Admassu and other street children.

Now, it seems that fortune smiles on those street children and things getting better and better. Those bad days have gone for once and for all. Thanks to those volunteer children who knew the secret of sharing, Admassu is now an adult, a father of three and head of different departments. However, the daily struggle to survive in the street was one of the bad memories he still has

Admassu believes that no one knows his/her future. For this reason, we should live a life of selflessness; we should be accustomed to the culture of sharing love with all who need it. "The love and care that I saw from those volunteer children "*Lejochu*" has completely changed my life and my perspective. It was not only me, but also those whose lifestyle has changed. There are other street children whose life is changed for good. Supporting one another should not be a one season activity or should not be performed for the sake of media consumption or other reason. We should help one another nobly, because we are born to serve others."

When asked how the society could help



Admassu Kere

***Helping the needy needs only compassion, kind heart and willingness aside from having money. As volunteerism is not an activity carried out just for personal gain, or fame, but to help others, show belongingness, love and affectionate regardless of any differences, it should not be performed for the sake of media consumption***

the street children, he said that having an organized system that focuses on life changing program should be promoted at the level of government, individuals, and nongovernmental charity organizations as well. Providing support to street children and other impoverished members of the society helps to utilize their untapped potential for economic growth and should be the prime focus of all - the government, NGOs and individuals.

Seasonality that is triggered by external factors will not bring sustainable change. According to him, individual investors' active involvement in the area should also be encouraged to change the life of street children who are compelled to lead life on streets for various reasons.

Gizachew Ayka, is Head and one among the founders of "Win Souls Ethiopia". Like that of Admassu, Gizachew has a stand that supporting impoverished members of the society in a sustainable manner is instrumental to change their life and make them productive citizens. This is particularly true for street children and other disadvantaged groups.

According to him, the act of voluntarism and the will to share must be cultivated within the heart of every individual. In this regard, coaching children the secret of sharing should be part of every one's life. "Children are the reflection of their parents. They mirror the actions and behaviors of their parents.

Gizachew and his friends were born and grew around Shiro Meda, in the capital Addis Ababa, where economic strains are common among the majority of the communities. Despite the fact that Gizachew and his friends were grown in such villages their economic background did not prevent them from sharing what they got with the needy. Despite all the unacceptable characters and improper practices witnessed among most of those street children, Gizachew and his



Gizachew Ayka

friends are compassionately serving them with whatever they had.

After years of struggle, Gizachew and his friends have enable to support street children in an organized way. Currently, through the wing of "Win Souls Ministry, Bright Star Ethiopia", Gizachew and his groups are working aggressively to improve and change the lives of street children, sex workers and other disadvantageous members of the society.

According to Gizachew, helping the needy needs only compassion, kind heart and willingness aside from having money. As volunteerism is not an activity carried out just for personal gain, or fame, but to help others, show belongingness, love and affectionate regardless of any differences, it should not be performed for the sake of media consumption.

Helping others needs pure heart and dedication. "We had no financial source by that time; but my friends and I started sharing what we got with street children. All we had was courage. That was our biggest resource. We should help others to the point we need to be supported. Superficial support does not change the life of individual. We should do what we want to do for ourselves. If going to college or university is our goal, we must support and exert our potential on an individual we are supporting to achieve that goal."

Our past experiences in the area of education have energized us to work more; invest our energy and time on it. Several street children whom they were once helpless have become independent and responsible citizens because of education. This has totally changed their life. Offering them vocational training and other skill development courses has changed their life.

Feeding or providing clothes for that particular street boy is a first step, said Gizachew. It is not the end by itself. Changing their old and torn clothed or feeding them for some season cannot change their life. As to him, we should support them in a sustainable way and change their lives for real. That is why the organization has given special attention to education and housing areas. When we invest in education and shelter the lifestyle of that particular person will be changed for the better.



# Law & Politics

## National Dialogue: Bold step towards, finding common ground, restoring harmony

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Obsessed by as wide as the poles apart political tendencies and years of acrimonious grandiloquence, conflicts have been unfolding throughout the national territory necessitating an honest and unambiguous national dialogue intending to attain the envisioned destination. In the present climate, Ethiopia has been pulling out all the stops to heal with no trouble significant backlogs of conundrums taking place across the entire territory.

In the current circumstances, the National Dialogue Commission has been bracing for an inclusive and game-changer national dialogue aimed at resolving views as far apart as the poles and throwing cold water on quandaries by creating consensus on major national issues.

As radical political entities residing at home and abroad have been sowing the seeds of abhorrence and discord along religious and ethnic lines among the various Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' of Ethiopia, the country has not accomplished the sought-after goal yet. The circumstances beyond a shadow of doubt need a quick fix that can change the country for the better and bring about lasting peace sooner rather than later.

In the present circumstances, the country has been giving prominence to national dialogue that can bring about a lasting solution to the backlogs of problems surfacing on a national scale. In consideration of the foregoing, the National Dialogue Commission has been discharging its duties and responsibilities with flying colors placing emphasis on bringing about sustainable peace across the country.

The positive moves of the National Dialogue Commission have been winning the hearts and minds of the population as a whole as it is hoped for paving the way for the country's democratic path and prosperity and unshackling Ethiopians from the long-established confrontations.

As a matter of fact, measures that have been taken so far with a focus on maintaining transparency in the preliminary stage of the national dialogue have been providing a foundation for the forthcoming happenings.

Similarly, intending to smooth the progress of the national dialogue, authorities concerned so far have conferred with a broad range of bodies such as religious officials, opposition political parties, media practitioners, and other things of a similar kind.

There is no denying the fact that conducting a national dialogue plays a paramount role in getting to the bottom of the nation's predicament revolving around a vast number of national issues. In the aftermath of the terrorist TPLF group's divisive rhetoric, Ethiopia has been shackled by decades of political differences and unsettled hindrances that need speedy solutions to open up the way for the national dialogue.

But as national dialogue plays a great role in the nation-building process, averting cacophonies and fixing aggressions of manifold sorts through dialogue, all stakeholders should come to the negotiating table without batting an eye.



In the same way, as national dialogue plays a paramount role in cementing national unity and lessening ethnic polarization, and resolving any kind of confrontation and disagreements in multinational and diverse nations everyone irrespective of religion, ethnicity, and other issues should work in close collaboration for its realization.

To this point, a broad range of nations worldwide have staged national dialogues to resolve accumulated problems, find common ground, bolster common values, accommodate polarized views, ameliorating the culture of tolerance, and other things of a similar kind.

As the firm commitment of the government on the subject of inclusive national dialogue plays a most important role in resolving the multi-layered difficulties and ensuring the culture of harmonious coexistence, every Tom, Dick, and Harry should support the commission financially.

By putting their differences aside and taking into account the benefit of conducting a national dialogue into consideration, all Ethiopians from all walks of life should make a maximum effort to stand by the side of the National Dialogue Commission.

On the subject of the issue, a joint discussion was held last Wednesday between the National Dialogue Commissioners and members of the Addis Ababa City Administration Cabinet about the national dialogue preparation process as well as the future activities of the city and the roles expected of the government. During the discussion, Addis Ababa City Mayor, Adanech Abebie said that the city residents from low-income individuals to high-level investors should be properly represented in the national dialogue, and the city administration pledged support to the Commission.

Adanech said that nothing will stop Ethiopians from achieving consensus and unity if they engage in the national dialogue.

Commission Chairperson Professor Mesfin Araya for his part said that the agendas of the National Dialogue Commission mainly focus on bringing topics of discussion to the table.

The work of the commission needs to be done by ourselves and does not require any foreign intervention. Hence, it needs cooperation, and

huge human and financial resources to ensure inclusiveness.

He stated that the discussion will cover all sections of the community from the district to the higher level. The commission will hold public forums in which many Ethiopians will participate because the agenda should come from the bottom of the society in spite of the elite discussion.

Hirut Gebreslase, Deputy Chairperson of the Commission said that the main task of the Commission is to facilitate consultation forums and make the consultation participatory and inclusive in which the discussion areas will be presented from the society itself.

Administrative institutions in the city have been directed by the mayor to provide all necessary support to achieve the commission's mission without any bureaucratic complications.

Be that as it may, experts lately suggested that it is important to use indigenous knowledge to make sure that the proposed National Dialogue is completed with success via creating national consensus across the country.

Speaking to local media, scholars stated that countries like Rwanda and Tunisia have made effective National Dialogue and created national consensus because they applied traditional judicial systems along with the modern ones.

Legal expert Fasil Sileshi stated that Rwandans solved their problems through Gacaca courts, which comprise both traditional and modern judicial systems, following the 1994 genocide. He restated that in Ethiopia there are many traditional judicial systems across the country like Yejoka of Guraghe people, Jarsumma of Oromo people, among others. In every part of the country, elders solve any disputes among citizens in a peaceful way, he added.

He also said that the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission should apply local cultures and values and involve community leaders of every community.

As to him, forgiveness and reconciliation are basic things as disputes cannot always be settled by punishment.

Another legal expert Eyasu Mekonnen on his part indicated that Tunisians have saved their country from dismantling by conducting

National Dialogue and applying traditional judicial systems.

Eyasu further underlined the need to localize experiences of other countries when they are applied during the process of the National Dialogue.

It was learned that the nation's decision to establish the National Dialogue Commission has been welcomed locally and internationally. The Commission recently disclosed that it is traveling to different parts of the country to effectively enlighten stakeholders about its objectives and activities and receiving strong cooperation and acceptance in different parts of the country in its efforts to introduce the objective of the commission.

Commissioner Prof. Mesfin has called on the Ethiopian business community to provide financial and other necessary support for the national consultation project to succeed without any foreign interference.

The Chairperson of the commission told Ethiopian News Agency that the national consultation project is on the agenda of Ethiopians set to realize sustainable peace and development by building consensus.

The lack of peace in a country disrupts economic and social activities, which in turn affects mainly the business community, he noted.

The dialogue is thus an inclusive national agenda that includes the business community too.

Therefore, the success of the national dialogue requires all-around support, including the active participation of the business community, in particular, the commissioner said.

As the Ethiopian agenda should be guided by its own finance, power, and knowledge, the commission will not seek financial assistance from foreign institutions and it is prohibited by decree, he pointed out.

Hence, the financial and labor support of the business community is crucial so that the agenda would not be manipulated by foreign forces due to a shortage of funds, Prof. Mesfin emphasized.

The chairperson further stated that the commission will discuss raising funds with the business community.





Ephrem Endale  
Contributor

# Between you & me

## Gossip-mongering...an Unnecessary Evil!

A fellow we know recently had fallout with a longtime friend; and what a fallout it was; played out in front of shocked friends and things going dangerously close to physical altercation. It was said the intervention of a complete stranger who happened to be nearby saved the day. And I can tell you both of them weren't the types you'd expect to roll up their sleeves and physically challenge anyone. Let me put it this way; both had married children who were already having children of their own! Ha! How about that! If that doesn't give a hint or two I'm not sure what will.

The story was that these supposedly inseparable buddies had adventures which remained between them for decades. You know, those youthful excesses which you do not believe you were part of once you start thinking clearly as the calendars on the wall keep replacing one after another. Yes, in these uncertain times where tomorrow is just an imagination and only today was what is real talking about youthful adventures is a blessing. But then there are things you just can't talk about after reaching a certain age and while being considered as a family man setting examples to others. Of course the incidents might have taken place three or four decades back when your afro hair and bellbottom pants were all there was to the world of civilization.

It happened that maybe by a slip a restless tongue or flooding the veins with too much of hard liquor the other man narrates a couple of such stories to a few guys who

were friend to both. Indeed there were the types of stories which no one wants to recall. Especially when someone was emotionally or otherwise hurt on the other side there is absolutely nothing to tell or muse over. The stories told were more or less such stories. But the info (if we've to call it that) somehow made its way to the wrong crowd; that crowd which picks up every morsel of people's private stories and turn them into some synopsis of a five-hundred page thriller. The fellow I was telling you about heard of it and that was when everything blew up. The sad part is the other guy didn't even have the decency to apologize to his decades old friend! Well, that's how socially twisted this world of ours has become! The friendship has passed the never-to-be-repaired line. These days there are a lot of stories where pure gossip which accomplishes nothing except soiling someone else's reputation are tearing down friendships and even extended families.

Say someone has been spreading pretty bad stuff about a person you know well enough to stand in his defense. The gossip-mongers are so determined to bury your friend's reputation as deep as they can the stories they create and tell outrageous at the least and heinous crimes at the worst.

"I wanted to tell you some story about your friend."

"What story can you tell me I don't already know?"

"You think he's a dedicated husband and father?"

"What are you trying to say? I don't think, I know!"

"But I'm spry to tell you I know secretes no one knows about him."

"Oh, is that so? And what do you know about him that no one knows. Oh, sorry I forgot you told me they are secrets."

"Don't worry. I'll tell you since you're his best friend, and only you. Did you know he has three kids?"

"Don't tell me you are that tipsy at this hour of the morning! What's the secret about that? Of course the whole town knows he's a father of three. Try another story."

"I'm not talking about those kids. I'm talking about three kids he has from a couple of other women." it takes nerves, and I mean real nerves, to try to keep one's cool in such instances. The fellow is talking about someone you know as well as intimately as you know yourself!

"Oh; that's some story, isn't it? And where did you get it from? Maybe, I think, from one of the ladies?"

"I've my sources in places."

Believe me and by the time this story reaches the other end of the town the number of children will grow to five. The wisest thing to do here is just leave the moron stuck there and go wherever you were headed to before he broke your rhythm.

People make plans. They plan about going

through school, landing a good job, building a house, marrying and having children. Isn't that the nicest story everyone wants to hear! The only thing is life might not be as settled as one might think because of the armies of gossip-mongers.

The only thing some of us diligently train ourselves to do is spreading gossip; creating all kinds of stories we think would destroy whoever we want to destroy, and we don't have shortage of such people.

Take my word gossip isn't something you might easily brush things away with a wave of the hand; "Oh forget it; they can talk their throats soar and they wouldn't stir a single hair strand on me." There are people who make it their mission to teach the gossip-mongers some lesson, conventionally or in more 'creative' ways. Now those are real fighters determined to fight all the way to the final bell. Of course that hardly wins you medals; because during the process things might go out of hand and you might involve your innocent family. That's why many prefer to keep their distances from the foot soldiers of the gossip-mongering contingent.

Have you heard of people confronting those who have been spreading all sorts of bizarre stories about me? I can assure you not a single hair strand would be ruffled on me." That must be one hell of a determined fellow. But the story doesn't end there. That is why thinking and rethinking one's next move in the event of being victimized by gossip-mongers.

## The money is flowing...what about the skills!

Finally! I could just imagine these shouts around the football world. The EPL just kicked off Friday night. The other leagues will kick off in the next few days and if you think that's no news around here I've to tell you've some catching up to do. Believe me despite the daunting times we're in, not only locally but globally too such things give you some respite from unending news of doom and gloom. (Anyone who thinks what is happening in Southeast Asia is just some minor incident that will die out in the next few days will have to do a lot of thinking. Even if things suddenly die down, the precedence it sets will be echoing in the coming months and years. You can be sure of that.)

Ok, back to football. I wanted to bring up this issue because a few of us were having a chat about all that has been happening over there. YouTube and other social media platforms are bursting with the discussions about the heart-stopping transfer money involved. Especially the EPL seems to have become a virtual goldmine for everyone involved. With clubs being gobbled up by Middle East tycoons and the money flowing like it never did no wonder there seems to be a cutthroat competition in the transfer market. That certainly is how our chat

began. You know about the five hundred-plus pounds a week salaries plus add-ons; the sixty, eighty million transfer fees and the like. But suddenly someone raised an issue which took our chat in a completely unexpected direction.

One among us who was an occasional football fan says all that was happening in professional soccer was the modern version of slavery. Never did any of us come close to thinking on that line. So I've to admit it took us a minute or two before giving him all our attention. His was a very strong very strong conclusion and he must have good reasons to back it with; he had, in his own way. One important issue he raised, a point closer to us more than his sometimes philosophical explanations, was about the narratives (news, commentaries, interviews or otherwise) that came with all these transfer stories. He said the tone and terminology they use talking about the transfers made the players appear as commodities and not flesh and bone human beings. He stressed that they usually seldom talked about the services but about the individuals. So and so player is estimated to cost 80-100 million Euros on the transfer market and clubs are running all over each other to sign him! And the words used are

"sale" and "buy." The guy has real point there, wouldn't you say? Where's all the political correctness stuff of calling things as they should be called refraining from making inanimate objects of human beings. Now no one wants to go into hair splitting but when you hear that some club has said their star defender is "Not for sale!" you'd be pardoned to think there was something wrong about it.

Once they pen the contracts the whole career of the payers is in the hands of the clubs. Believe me some of the best talents in the sport with the potential to scale even higher up keep warming benches year after year. A substitute goalie of one of the big teams who was promised the number one spot but never got it really took down the conduct of his club calling their action, or inaction, 'criminal.' That's scary. And there are clubs who because of their fanatical muscle seem to 'buy' every talented player within reach and having substitutes who by themselves could have made up a top team which could join any top league! There was some debate over the years that such clubs resort to such practices not to use the skills of those players but to prevent others from making use of them! Professional soccer is not a place where a disgruntled you just jumps

up and announces "Enough is enough; I'm leaving this club for good."

"Not so fast young man; don't forget you've three more seasons with us!" That's like saying "The leash is still around your neck!"

The unlikely story here is that the brass of clubs who, as they say, 'break the bank' signing some expensive payer many times fail to get what they opted for. The weatherman 'predicts' the next day will be a sunny one. You go out with a t-shirt and what happens? The rains come with vengeance soaking you as if you stayed the better part of the month in some sea water. Who is to blame? The brass concludes their new signing would turn things around. And when he turns into a complete flop, who's to blame? Some organization woos someone from another organization promising to pay him twice as much as he used to make in the other place. The guy comes and the miracle he was supposed to accomplish never materializes. The guy is not the wiz kid they thought he'd be. The earth under the feet of the brass, the other players, and fans starts shaking; and it'll be continue shaking the entire season. We've seen many such examples. But, "It's business dummy!" The money is flowing and we'll see of the skills do to!



# In Pictures



Fana Broadcasting Corporation (FBC) has been inaugurated its media complex built in Dese City, Amhara Regional State at a cost of Birr 100 million. The media complex laid on 450 square meters is an 8-story building that includes an up-to-date radio and television studios, meeting hall and multipurpose rooms. Fana Broadcasting Corporation is opening FM stations in different parts of the country to reach the residents of the respective areas. Fana has been serving the residents of the city and the surrounding parts in Amhara and Afar regions through its FM 96.0 for about 12 years. The media complex will help to increase the access, content in terms of quality and quantity.



Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has praised the Ethiopian government's commitment for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in the northern part of the country. According to the Ethiopian Embassy in Uganda, Ambassador Alemtsehay Meserer has discussed bilateral and regional issues with President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. During the discussion, Ambassador Alemtsehay has made a brief about the current issues in Ethiopia. In her discussion, she explained the determined steps the government is taking to peacefully resolve the war in northern Ethiopia, the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and the green legacy initiative that Ethiopia has carried out over the years to deal with the pressures of climate change in the region. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on his part expressed that he appreciates the government's steps to peacefully resolve the conflict in northern Ethiopia and is pleased with the plan to hold peace talks. Stating that the peace of Ethiopia plays a significant role in the security of the region, he stated that Uganda and Ethiopia should continue to strengthen their cooperation in the field of peace and security in the region to jointly prevent terrorism and climate change.



**Ethio-telecom** has launched the Tel bir digital financial service in collaboration with Dashan Bank. The launching event was held in the presence of Ethio-Telecom CEO Frehiwot Tamru, Governor of the National Bank Yanagar Dese (PhD), Minister of Planning and Development Fitsum Asfa (PhD) and other senior government officials. The platform will offer the customers access, deposit and receive money through Ethio-Telecom agents and it is stated that the service creates a comfortable environment for the transaction system. It is learnt that the new digital financial service includes services named after local financial terms such as 'my Pocket', 'box' and 'mela'.

