



The Ethiopian Herald

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Ethiopia next frontier for AI in Africa

• Premier inaugurates Ethiopia's Science Museum

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia's experience in Artificial Intelligence (AI) would be a model for fellow Africans throughout the continent, so said Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.).

The above remark came when the Premier inaugurated Ethiopia's Science Museum and addressed the opening of the first Pan African Artificial Intelligence conference yesterday.

During the ceremony, prime minister Abiy stated that in a short period since its establishment, the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute has made remarkable progress and it has been developing innovative solutions to existing and emerging challenges nationally.

"I do not doubt that our experience will be a model for our fellow Africans throughout the continent," he added.



Photo: Tsehay Niguss

According to the Premier, AI is enabling the country to solve critical challenges in vital sectors, such as health care, education,

agriculture, and governance.

He is hopeful that Ethiopia's Science

See Ethiopia next ... page 3

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UNSC underlines AU-led process on Ethiopia's issue

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) held Informal Interactive Dialogue (IID) on Ethiopia recently and underlined the importance of AU-led process in resolving the north Ethiopia conflict, so said Ambassador TayeAtske Selassie.

Ethiopia's Permanent Representative to the

See UNSC underlines ... page 3

Foreign meddling, Ethiopia's geopolitical significance protracts northern conflict

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The protraction of the north Ethiopian conflict and the country's geopolitical significance in the Horn of Africa are the sufficient backgrounds to infer the involvement of multiple actors in the conflict, a senior researcher in the area said.

See Foreign meddling, ... page 3



Photo: Gebabo Gebre

EPA's Gambella forum centers on elevating Ethiopia

• Highlights discussions to solve differences

BY BILAL DERSO

ADDIS ABABA- Every citizen should work tirelessly to raise Ethiopia up to its name, participants of the Ethiopian Press

Agency (EPA) Gambella forum said, calling the society to get rid of poverty and begging by keeping the proud history of victory.

At the 11th "About Ethiopia" panel discussion organized by the EPA yesterday, the

Government Whip in the House of People's Representatives Tesfaye Beljige presented his article titled "United Nationality and Unity about the Victory of Ethiopia."

See EPA's Gambella ... page 3

Monetizing Human Suffering/
Rights in Africa Using Western
Press-titute Media

Page 4

Efforts to increase dairy
productivity in Sidama
region is yielding results

Page 6

Madingo:
The patriotic,
philanthropist artist

Page 7



News

Ethnic Tigrayans in Addis held rally to condemn T-TPLF

ADDIS ABABA- Members of the Tigray community in Addis Ababa held yesterday a peaceful demonstration to condemn the Terrorist TPLF.

The demonstrators objected to the criminal faction by starting from 6 Kilo and heading towards the U.S. Embassy and holding different slogans.

“The TPLF is a terrorist,” We condemn the TPLF’s continued recruitment of Tigray youth and children into war;” and “We condemn the third round of war that the faction started by abandoning the government’s peace initiative,” are among the voices heard against the criminal clique.



Ethiopia needs investment, not meddling: Int’l Expert

• *AU is right body to mediate Ethiopia’s conflict*

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA—Ethiopia and other developing countries need to be backed in terms of expanding investment opportunities not meddling of some powers in the internal affairs, so stated international expert.

Economics Professor, UN Advisor Center for Sustainable Development Director at Colombia University, Jeffrey Sachs (PhD) said that Ethiopia and other developing countries are expected to be supported well, not meddling in their internal affairs thereby helping them ensure inclusive growth and change and improve the livelihood of the mass.

He stated that most of the time the western powers have talked about developing countries taking the other side of the story without having the clue on the ground. Accordingly, Ethiopia needs necessary support and investment in infrastructure so as to change the livelihoods of its people. For the past decades Ethiopia has passed through difficulties and challenged by violent conflict.

As to the Ethiopian government, finding the way out and mediation whatever the case may be is quite important for all. Mediation doesn’t mean that outsiders are allowed to dictate, rather listen, and make recommendations and win-win suggestions.

“I think Ethiopia should try to find actors not to impose but to help mediate the conflict. African Union would be the right place to mediate Ethiopia’s conflict beyond that there are also countries who help the mediation process,” he said.

He called up on the western powers to stop unilateralism, sanctions and threat because



Jeffrey Sachs (PhD)

the world is extremely weakened by different global challenges ranging from conflicts, climate changes, COVID-19, sanctions put in place on developing countries and all other shocks are hitting the world.

The U.S has used sanctions as a foreign policy step to punish the country, which is a wrong approach. The sanctions will not solve the political problems since it is not the right way. After the end of imperialism, western countries continued meddling in the internal affairs of countries to achieve their mix motives without listening to the voice of Africa properly.

The power relation in unequal and the arrogance is so high on the powerful side. As the power relation is not equal they think that they have capacity to do what they want and they demand establishing puppet administration which serves their interest, he said.

Report unveils Ethiopia’s efficient mega projects execution

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA- As Ethiopia is achieving remarkable economic progress over the past decades, several mega projects that are under construction were set to unlock the country’s economic potential, a reputable report in the area indicated.

Ethiopia’s rapid economic development during the past decade has been served by vigorous public and private expenditure on infrastructure and other construction works. Consistently, the country has invested over 30 percent of the GDP thereby emerging as one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

The La Gare multi-billion dollar housing villages are one of the mega projects. It is a non-segregated community made up of residential, commercial, hospitality, retail, and leisure facilities in one secure and exclusive setting surrounding a park.

Commenting on the expansion of the project, Chairman of the constructing firm Eagle Hills, Mohammed Alaba said that as a hidden treasure in Africa, Ethiopia is wealthy in history, culture and natural beauty. “Our plan is to bring out such attractive locations across the globe showing the beauty and capability within them calling on future residents and tourists to consider new homes.”

Having modern facilities which are of interest to the new generation of clients, La Gar is being under construction on land of heritage and historical lands of the train station which has existed for a long period.

Addis Africa International Convention Center, which is a new convention and exhibition center, is owned by the exhibition center and market development enterprise. It is the largest conference exhibition center in Addis Ababa with conference halls, seven star hotel, and parking lot with capacity of about 2500 vehicles. The project is a stepping stone for Ethiopia to tap businesses in the thriving travel meeting tourism industry, according to experts.

On track of becoming Africa’s gateway into the world, Ethiopia is constructing a new airport that triples Bole International Airport. The largest airport in Africa is set to be constructed in Bishoftu town on a budget of about five billion USD and is expected to increase the current annual capacity of handling 19 million passengers to 100 million.

The other one is a mass transportation improvement program in an effort to build mass transportation operation in the capital; four standardized bus terminals are on their way to progressive construction. Located in Piassa, Mercato, Summit and Megegnagna, the terminals meant to cope with the wide increase of mass transportation needs in the city and will accommodate facilities like cafe, ticket offices, shops and others. The bus station situated in Merkato is the first to benefit from the scheme.

Addis Ababa Djibouti Railway, which is serving as the backbone of the Ethiopian national railway network, the railway’s new standard has a total capacity of 24.9 million tons of freight yearly.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, Genale Dawa III Hydroelectric Plant is set to be operational aiming at increasing the power generation potential of the country. Tams hydropower project is another hydropower project with a capacity of generating 1700 megawatt, being established at BaroAkobo River in Gambella. The project is expected to be completed by 2025.

Aluto-Langano Geothermal Power Station which is also referred to as Aluto-LanganoGeothermal Power Station is the oldest geothermal power station in Ethiopia which is located in between Lake Langano and Ziway. It has the capacity of generating 100 megawatt of electricity.

The Fairfax Oil Refinery Project which is located in the town of Awash about 220KM from the capital Addis Ababa the refinery has the potential of processing six million metric tons of crude oil worth’s four billion USD expected to satisfy the nations demand and East African market, the report remarked.

News

Evidence proves T-TPLF's "Under Siege" narrative as lies

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA- More Conclusive Evidence proved that Terrorist TPLF's "Under Siege" Narrative is a lie and that the UN is helping to peddle it, said a Historian and Blogger Jeff Pearce.

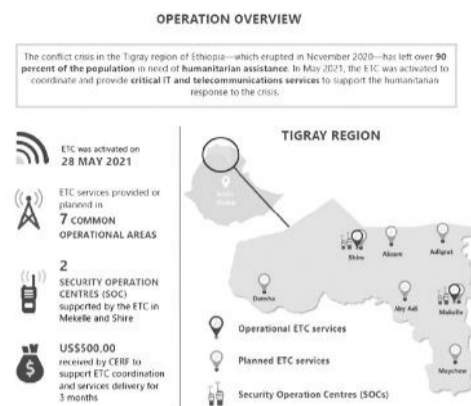
The article published by Sheba Tekeste and Jeff Pearce on jeffpearce.medium.com exposed that many sources have since confirmed they have received regular emails, Whatsapp and Twitter messages from contacts in Tigray for a period of at least the past 10 months.

As to the writers, the UN has worked on its telecoms for more than a year.

Therefore, it is clear that the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) supports and works with the insurgency on undermining the territorial integrity of the Ethiopian state.

This proves that the UN itself has been working on providing telecom access for the state for more than a year and it's deliberately hiding its efforts.

Accordingly, In a Fact Sheet labeled "Tigray Region of Ethiopia-Conflict," the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, under the umbrella of the UN World Food Programme, confirms that it was "activated" more than a year ago to "coordinate and



provide critical IT and telecommunications services" ostensibly to "support the humanitarian response to the crisis."

According to its own document, the ETC claims it went operational on May 28, 2021, though sources show the region had limited Internet access weeks before this. And of key concern is the fact that the ETC says it has operational and "Security Operation Centres" in Mekelle and Shire, with planned ETC services for Axum, Adigrat, AbyAdi and May Chew.

Everyone remembers when a photo circulated online on July 2, 2021 of WFP's emergency coordinator Tommy Thompson casually standing next to Getachew Reda as he talked on a satellite phone. Thompson quietly disappeared, and weeks later WFP confirmed that he had "moved to another country."

UNSC underlines AU-led...

United Nations Amb. TayeAtske Selassie said further that the IID stressed respecting the sovereignty of Ethiopia.

He told local media that during the course of IID ,most member states have showed unwavering support for AU-led peace talks and stood against any parallel peace initiatives.

By the same token, they have also appreciated the Ethiopian government 's commitment to ensuring peace, Amb. TayeAtske Selassie added.

African countries, on the one hand stressed that the AU has to do its job freely and urged some forces to restrain from putting pressures .

According to the Ambassador, more or less, the member states have also come

to an agreement that TPLF is the one that provoked the third round conflict against the government of Ethiopia.

Furthermore, he reminded that though few European countries called for a formal meeting on the situation in Ethiopia however, other member states firmly opposed the format and instead chose to hold IID.

Moreover, though the meeting was held under IID format, he underlined that it has undeniable significance in understanding whether the member states have a change of stance, as well as if they have an information gap regarding the issue of Ethiopia.

Similarly, it helps to deepen their understanding of the Horn of Africa and Ethiopia, as to him.

Foreign meddling, Ethiopia's ...

Foreign Affairs senior researcher Anteneh Getachew told local media that the participation of multiple actors in the northern Ethiopian conflict is undeniable and inevitable. "We shouldn't be surprised by plenty of actors as the country is anchored in several things."

As the Horn of Africa region vital for geopolitical strategy, the conflict catches the attention of national, regional and international actors and the groups could be divided as civil and armed entities, he added.

Noting the interest of some groups is to destabilize Ethiopia and hamper the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and other mega projects, Anteneh highlighted that those groups want to use proxy forces including the T- TPLF to weaken the nation and the Horn at large.

"Some interest groups want to bring back the T-TPLF into power or to destabilize Ethiopia as they have a strategic interest

in Ethiopia. In addition to this, the great superpowers' rivalry and competition in the Horn of Africa has made Ethiopia's diplomacy difficult."

It is evident that there is an interest or competition among super powers to control the region to safeguard their national strategic interest, but they don't want to destabilize the region totally.

As to him, the T-TPLF has tried to make proactive activities to internationalize and regionalize the conflict and attracting global attention including super powers or global actors towards the conflict has a political gain for the faction.

Internationalizing the conflict may give a close watch towards the intervention of some powers to save the criminal group and allowing an exit to its leaders to escape from facing justice for atrocities they committed in Amhara and Afar, the researcher remarked.

EPA's Gambella forum...

In his remark, Tesfaye stated that the current generation has the responsibility to raise Ethiopia up to its name. "We have paid an enormous price for taking up Ethiopia and we must stand together and pay the price for the next generation."

"Everyone should be a patriot for Ethiopia and the society must overcome poverty. We must say that it is impossible for those who used to divide us by taking away the grace that we have been blessed with by nature."

"Adwa is a manifestation of Ethiopia's national unity and its common history and it is an example for the freedom of Africa beyond us," he noted, adding that the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance dam is another manifestation of the country's national unity, which Ethiopians have built together with their money and sweat.

By the same token, the people of Ethiopia should stand together and fight back against the conspiracy of internal and external enemies that aim to destroy the country.

Irrigation and Lowland Areas Development Minister Aisha Mohammed(engr.) also presented a discussion paper titled "True federalism that ensured the participation of the people, about the victory of Ethiopia." In the paper, she stressed that the benefit of the people of Ethiopia that was on paper in the

pre-reform period did not exist in practice.

Aisha further noted that even the ruling EPRDF was only a front of four parties and the system excluded other political groups as allies and did not show real equality in practice. "In order for Ethiopia to win and continue, there should not be a system where only few groups can participate, as it has been for the past two decades."

"States that were classified as allies now control their resources. If we want the people from all corners to line up for the country, equal benefits must be ensured; this truth is being applied in greater measure and variety after the reform. We have learned from yesterday's mistakes and are working on it."

For historian Ahmed Zekaria, consultation issues that have been started as a country continue to be strengthened and through this, it is possible to generate the right solution for Ethiopia's longstanding problems and avert shedding blood for political power.

Mentioning EPA's 11th forum has achieved the aim that it raised on the platform, Gambella State President Umod Ujulu said that bringing down such kinds of discussions to the bottom will generate a big change as a country.

Ethiopia next frontier...

Museum will be a springboard for the emergence of various innovations, he said adding, that such spaces are fundamental for growth and development as a learning society, country, and continent. "As an enterprise that allows us to build and organize knowledge, science is the foundation of our everyday lives."

"The advancement of technology has enabled us to accomplish great things to tackle humanity's biggest challenges. Because of several transformative technological

inventions, we have undergone a total revolution in the way we do things," he indicated.

Premier Abiy further noted that as Ethiopia seeks to reduce poverty and increase shared prosperity, he believes that digital transformation will be a catalyst to spur the nation's ambitious economic growth and stay competitive in this globalized and digital era.

He added that that's why two years ago, the country conceived and put to work the

Digital Ethiopia 2025 strategy. The strategy complements with country's other essential economic strategies, such as Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda and the 10-year development plan, as well as international commitments like the sustainable development goals, and the African Union's continental digital strategy.

The premier said: "The pan African AI conference that has been launched as of yesterday will be an evolving platform for networking, learning, and co-creating across

the continent as we all strive to empower Africa through artificial intelligence." He also called upon all relevant national and continental stakeholders to work together.

It was learnt that the two-day Pan African AI Conference and the Science Exhibition have jointly been organized by the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute, Ethio Telecom, and the Information Network Security Administration (INSA) under the theme: "Empowering Africa through Artificial intelligence".

Opinion

Monetizing Human Suffering/Rights in Africa Using Western Press-titute Media

BY ALMARIAM

PART ONE

“If it bleeds, it leads to fame, fortune and power.” Alemayehu G. Mariam

Nima Elbagir: African Queen of Fake News

Nima Elbagir of CNN fake news was jubilant over her Emmy award for reporting on “exposing the hallmarks of genocide.”

Elbagir could not care less about Tigray survivors, victims and their families. She only cares about monetizing their stories for fame, fortune and power.

Ha, Ha! I had Elbagir pegged on Day 1, and called her out.

Using Western press-titute media for fame, fortune, power and defense of terrorism

There is a lot of money and fame to be made merchandizing the suffering and misfortunes of Africans. Sensationalizing the news sells more advertising. “If it bleeds, it leads.”

CNN caters to bleeding heart armchair liberals who pontificate about all of the things that are wrong in the world but will not do a doggone thing to improve them.

These armchair liberals need constant reminders that the world is a nasty place and only they can fix it. They feed on negativity and need a source that can constantly concoct real or imaginary problems for them.

They say it is easier to catch flies with honey than vinegar. But if you want to sell to armchair liberals, you have to show them and tell them about mangled dead bodies floating down the river.

For CNN, more misery means mo’ money, mo’ money, mo’ money! Right now, CNN is losing mo’ and mo’ money. On August 2, 2022, the NY Times reported: CNN is on a pace to drop below \$1 billion in profit for the first time in years, according to people familiar with its operations, amid steep declines in TV viewership.

For CNN, in the memorable words of Coolio (R.I.P), “It’s all about money, ain’t a damn thing funny.”

CNN literally wrote the book on merchandizing misery.

Even the Washington Post was forced to take special note: Welcome to the new CNN, where journalists and anchors, traditionally restricted by industry-wide standards of impartiality, have been given the green light under network President Jeff Zucker to say what they actually want to say — even if it strikes some as opinionated.

Back in the day, CNN proclaimed it followed standards of Journalistic Integrity:

Whether on television or online, our journalists abide by high standards of ethics and strive to adhere to stringent standards of journalistic integrity. We expect our

reporters, producers and writers to be fair honest and to confirm the facts before online articles or TV segments are released to the end public. We firmly believe in a free and independent press. A fundamental principle of journalism at our networks is the ability of reporters, producers, TV crews, and filmmakers to seek out and report the facts and tell stories without interference from governments

In June 2022, CNN boss Chris Licht messaged his employees they will have to cut back on the use of sensationalized “breaking news” because “we are truth-tellers, focused on informing, not alarming our viewers.”

CNN as the den of “truth tellers” is the understatement of the century. CNN is indeed the citadel of fake news. CNN has made fake news a journalistic faux art.

This art of shameless manipulation and disinformation to influence global policy using fake and manufactured news has been studied by scholars as the “CNN effect.”

Piers Robinson in his incisive analysis, “The CNN effect: Can the News Media Drive Foreign Policy?,” shows how CNN and the Western press-titute media in general operate in global agenda-setting, promoting or impeding implementation of their preferred policy goals, influencing and shaping the policy decision-making process and broadly deploying smear, fear and uncertainty tactics and campaigns to create alarm and panic to shape public opinion to pressure formulation and implementation of their preferred government policy.

Robinson argues the CNN effect thrives by focusing instantaneous and ongoing media coverage on a particular conflict, international incident, or diplomatic initiative, the news cycle effectively demands political attention, as governing politicians attempt to demonstrate that they are ‘on top of’ current issues.

Ethiopia was the original guinea pig for the CNN effect.

The Ethiopian famine of 1984 was the testing ground for the Western press-titute media CNN effect: “Within humanitarian circles there was also a good deal of debate about the apparent power of the news media to cause intervention. Indeed, ever since the 1984 Ethiopian famine, there had been much discussion about the purported impact which the media had had upon crises in the Third World.” (Robinson)

From the Ethiopian famine, CNN and the Western press-titute media drew the



To the #Tigray survivors, victims and their families: thank you for entrusting us with your stories. The recognition for our body of work on Ethiopia serves to counter the false narratives around the reality in Tigray. I'm so incredibly proud to lead this wonderfully dogged team.

lesson that the news media was capable of driving policy to the point of “humanitarian intervention” (military intervention in the name of preventing “genocide,” etc.).

Over the past four decades, CNN, BBC, NY Times, Bloomberg, Washington Post, CBS, NBC, NPR, etc. have been driving aggressive US policy throughout the world including the Gulf War, Somalia and the former Eastern bloc countries.

Their approach is one and the same.

They fill the airwaves and newsprint with sensational and graphic portrayal of human tragedy and suffering, insist Western leaders have a moral responsibility to act, exaggerate the diplomatic evasions of those leaders in failing to act and force them to act in order to avoid the backlash of public opinion.

The CNN effect is all about the use of selective presentation of faux facts (fake/manufactured facts) in emotive and graphic terms to pressure politicians to “do something”, often means humanitarian military intervention.

Their aim is to frame issues to pull the heart strings of Western societies and manufacture consent for war, intervention, sanctions and other forms of aggression oftentimes on non-Western societies.

Elbagir, CNN- The Most Trusted Name in Fake News and Caca Network News

Nima Elbagir’s fake news stories on Ethiopia are classic “CNN effect” propaganda efforts to push the Biden administration into taking sanctions and in the long-term humanitarian

intervention in Ethiopia.

Over the past couple of years, I have written various commentaries on the CNN effect in Ethiopia.

In my September 13, 2021 commentary, “Fight Back CNN’s (CRAP/CACA NEWS NETWORK) Lies, amend Lies and Disinformation,” I showed how Nima Elbagir and Co. used sensationalized reporting with graphic images to achieve the CNN effect.

In one of her sensationally titled fake stories, “Men are marched out of prison camps. Then corpses float down the river,” Elbagir wrote.

As the river’s path narrows, the drifting bodies become wedged on the silty clay bank and their forms appear more clearly; men, women, teenagers and even children... The marks of torture are easily visible on some, their arms held tightly behind their backs. The evidence indicates the dead are Tigrayans. Witnesses on the ground say the bodies tell a dark story of mass detentions and mass executions across the border in Humera, a town in Ethiopia’s Tigray region.

Elbagir did not try to balance the story by including facts the Terrorist TPLF had indeed staged the entire river scene with corpses for international propaganda purposes to show the Ethiopian government is committing “genocide.”

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

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The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

Excelling in project execution

Yesterday, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed inaugurated the newly built Science Museum located in Addis Ababa. Concomitantly, the Prime Minister also launched the technology startups and exhibition that will be on display and open to the public for the next several weeks. Excitingly, as this museum is the first in its kind, it will surely contribute a significant role in the nation's endeavor towards science and technology development. More importantly, the efficient completion of this museum is also the clearest indication of the incumbent's effective project management.

Since the reformist government came to power several changes have been witnessed all over the nation. Numerous projects that were launched in different parts of the country have successfully been accomplished per their schedule; on the whole they have started bearing fruits. The GRED, the Abrehot Library as well as Unity, Entoto and Friendship Parks and other mega projects witness the commitment of the nation towards renaissance and prosperity. And the newly inaugurated science museum is the other fruit of progressive leadership and its reform. Principally, the effective accomplishment of these and other mega projects demonstrate skillful leadership of the government.

Following the introduction of the reform, the reformist leadership took instantaneous measure to save the dwindling projects and launch the new ones. This swift measure was an intelligent response to lift the nation from the pit of terrorist TPLF led system that was prepared for nation's demise. Fortunately, all the reforms and measures taken by the government to sustain the nation have given fresh breath to the dying system that was deliberately orchestrated by the ousted regime, T-TPLF.

Disastrously, almost all the projects that were launched during the time of terrorist TPLF led political system were either for the sake of media consumption or amass unnecessary benefit under the pretext of "development". However, the reality is the projects were tiger on paper that are neither functional nor practical. Most of them were valueless or their existence was in question. This has undeniably resulted incalculable loss on the country's economy.

Among several achievements, accomplishing what it launches has become

the exceptional quality and uniqueness of the reformist government. Besides this, it has also brought to successful ending projects that endured consequences of delay due to the wicked schedule of the TPLF system. For instance, GERD, which once had been under the lists of "failed project" because of TPLF's theft, is now becoming Ethiopia's emblem of unity and perseverance as a result of determined leadership demonstrated by the incumbent.

The newly inaugurated science museum, which is new and unique in its kind in Africa, is a factual testimony of Ethiopia's commitment for science and technology. This state of the art science museum is perched on seven hectares of land in the capital city. The oval shape of the center is an implication of the ongoing development and the nonstop progress of the nation. What is more, the museum truly testifies Ethiopia's dedication towards technological progress and its unreserved effort in the area of technological transformation. The echo-friendly center is built by integrating technologies that lets the museum generate electricity from solar energy. This further justifies Ethiopia's commitment and pledges towards delivering a safe and green environment to the coming generation.

Essentially, the Center is an African Museum that serves as a bridge between the contemporary and the coming technology. As it was highlighted by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, opening the first annual Pan African Artificial Intelligence Conference at the Museum, having such a Museum and conducting PANAFRICON have a vital role in African Digital Transformation, integration, promoting innovation and exchanging knowledge. What is more, integrating Ethiopia's digital transformation agenda is anchored in Digital Ethiopia 2025. Interestingly, the museum will truly serve Ethiopia as a center of excellence. Besides making Addis a smart city, it also serves as a science and technology hub where the new generation will come up with new innovation and discoveries.

In sum, unlike terrorist TPLF's wicked schedules that failed a number of mega projects and resulted incalculable loss to nation's economy, the current government has demonstrated effective leadership that ensures its project executional excellence.

Opinion

Peace-loving Ethiopians made Ethiopia remain peaceful

BY EPHREM ANDARAGCHEW

September, the onset of the Ethiopian New Year, is filled with interesting and colorful public and religious holidays in Ethiopia. The first month of the year has known for three holidays: two-day feast of Meskal that marks the finding of the True Cross, Irreecha (Oromo People Thanks Giving Day), and the celebration of Gishen Debre Kerbe.

These celebrations are great, colorful events and are celebrated across the country which also marks the end of the season of heavy rains and the beginning of spring. These holidays require public gatherings and have composed of religious and cultural dancing and singing. On the religious side, a ritual takes place in a tradition similar to other animist religions.

Although the festivals are celebrated colorfully this year, they were not free from dooms day tellers and plotters who work to turn the holidays into crisis. According to the Joint Peace and Security Taskforce, over 166 terrorist group members who were plotting to turn into a national crisis by inciting violence on public holidays have been arrested.

The terrorist groups were planning to turn the crisis into a national chaos inciting violence during the public holidays

celebrated in September. However, the Joint Peace and Security Task force was able to thwart the plot from its initiation due to the strong preparations and secret surveillance that made the public celebrations peaceful. Hence, about 166 members of TPLF, OLF-Shene, ISIS, and other informal organizations groups were arrested.

The Addis Ababa City Administration Mayor Adanech Abebe said that the peace-loving nature of the Ethiopian people made it possible to celebrate public holidays more effectively than ever. As the holidays are ours, we celebrate together without any difference or division considering that they positively contribute to image building.

At present, it is not convenient to celebrate holidays in public, however, the collaboration and commitment of peace-loving Ethiopians, security agencies, religious leaders, and Abba Gada at all levels made the celebrations to be completed successfully. Hence, "these public holidays have shown that we can be effective in our other works working closely and supporting each other, Mayor Adanech stated.

Indeed, the most important thing about any holiday festival is that people get to enjoy themselves in a safe and secure environment. So, the security apparatus

should involve handling things in a balanced, evening way. As large holiday events and public gatherings may become a target of opportunity due to the concentration of crowds at celebrations, the perceived vulnerability of those partaking in festivities, and the inherent significance of holidays. Likewise, Meskal and Irreecha might become a target for terrorist group.

In its press statement issued, Government Communication Service indicated that the peaceful completion of the public and religious holidays celebrated last week demonstrates the fact that Ethiopians are the guardians of peace in their country.

All of these public and religious festivals and holidays were celebrated by millions of people including several foreign tourists decorated with religious and traditional values as well as accompanied by grand innovative displays without any security threats.

Noting that the general public needs to be praised for its great contribution of concluding the festivals peacefully, the statement said those who traveled to different parts of our country to celebrate the holidays received and were treated with true Ethiopian love. Besides, the federal and regional states' security forces have effectively carried out their tasks in collaboration with the people

and foiled the conspiracies of terrorist groups who had planned to use the holidays for their destabilization acts.

The statement noted that media institutions also promoted the festivals to strengthen national unity and promote domestic tourism and entrepreneurship. The statement indicated that the completion of the holidays in a peaceful manner confirms that Ethiopia can carry out effective activities even in the face of challenges.

Hence, the appreciation should be extended to the security bodies and government structures at all levels, religious leaders, elders, youth, and media institutions for their contribution in this regard.

As we mentioned earlier, public gatherings, festivals, and traditional celebrations create favorable conditions for anti-peace forces to disrupt the peace and stability of the public and country. Thus, the coordinated efforts of the people and the government of Ethiopia, and the role of security forces were crucial for the holidays to be ended peacefully which is worth continuing.

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

Business & Economy

Efforts to increase dairy productivity in Sidama region is yielding results

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

The sounds of the calves and milk cows, which are called “Embwa” in the area, create a different feeling due to their abundance. The voice is strange not only to a stranger, but also to the pastoralist and the farmer, EPA reporter expressed her observation.

A visitor who sees a large number of calves gathered in one place may think that their market has started. On Monday, September 19, 2022, when she was in Bona and Bensa districts under Sidama region, she saw the calves and milk cows that she was amazed by.

Most of the calves in the two districts were obtained through the synchronization method; and the milk cows are ready for additional breeding method by experts.

On that day, the farmers with good results by using the improved breed early and a large number of farmers holding their calves came with their cows to benefit from the breeding seeing the experiences of their antecedents. Professionals were performing their duties from 6:00 AM in the morning to prepare the cows for further breed improvement.

Celebrating the calves’ day born through synchronization method in the just ended fiscal year and launching a new breed improvement program for the new fiscal year was conducted officially. The program was attended by Beyene Barasa, Deputy Head of the Sidama Region and Head of the Education Office including the leaders of the region at all levels and the local community those highlighted the farmers’ movement program.

It was understood that the improvement of animal species in the region has been underway for a long time. Every year it is customary to show the past results and carry out the next launch program.

Such a program is conducted every year in order to carry out the movement to spread the experience of the improvement of animals species started in certain districts of the region and the results obtained in all the districts of the region. The main objective of the movement program is to increase dairy productivity.

It is frequently stated that the farmers are not getting income from the inseparable activities of crop cultivation and animal husbandry in the agricultural sector, especially by offering the animals and animal products to the market. As a country, even though Ethiopia is known for its cattle wealth, it is known that the milk and meat productivity of the animals is low, especially the amount of milk obtained from indigenous cows is very small and it is not possible to meet the needs of the consumers.

The current situation with milk supply and rising prices also indicates this. It is believed that this gap can be filled or improved by using animal breeding methods. The



experiences seen in Bona and Bensa districts show that the method is yielding results.

Some of the local residents, who are engaged in milk production with improved milk cow breeds, have been able to be a model for others, testify about its effectiveness. Tagel Shibru, a youth from the Bona district around Bona 01 kebele, was found preparing fodder for the calves at the door of his house using a processing machine or a fodder cutting machine. Tagel prepares fodder using a forage preparation machine called a chopper, which he obtained from a Canadian research center called “Lifes”.

This work, which started in 2006 with two calves of an improved breed, is making Tagel successful. He is working with the principle of “one calf per year” to increase his benefit by expanding his business.

As the young man explained about the results obtained by the animals of improved breeds than the local animals; calves born with improved breeding methods grow faster. The amount of milk obtained from the cows is also high.

A milk cow with an improved breed can produce up to 25 liters of milk per day. This is much more than the milk obtained from a local cow. Currently, the young man has more than 20 milk and meat cattle, and he has benefited by producing 150 liters of milk per day and offering it to the market.

He said that the value of milk production is high because it creates job opportunities for many people in the chain from care, milking and marketing. It was learned from those who have been engaged in the process working on the spot like Tagel that their contribution is high in increasing the supply and consumption of milk.

According to Tekle Jomba, head of the Animal Resources Development Office of Sidama Region, regarding the efforts being made to increase milk productivity with improved animal breeds in the region; the Sidama farming community gives a special place to the animals. Even when exchanging greetings, next to children and family, they ask about the welfare of animals. Providing to market, he makes the animals a source of income. He utilizes some of them for food, transportation, and security.

He takes great care of these animals. He does not even keep them away from his house. Unfortunately, a farming community that gives such respect to animals is not getting significant benefits from its animals and their products. The problem is not only low productivity of the animal species; it has been identified in different ways that due to lack of paying proper attention to their health, traditional handling and management, lack of fodder and various factors have negative impact on their utilization.

Tekle said that although it is long time since implementation of the method was began to increase the farmers’ beneficiary; it has been done with special attention and a wide movement just following establishment of Sidama as a region.

As to him, there are more than 2.9 million cattle in the region. Only 11 % of them have been improved. The largest number of the cattle is milk cows whose species is not improved and do not produce more than one liter of milk per day. In this situation, it is impossible to meet the needs of the consumers and income of the farmers.

With the revival model to use improved animal species and increase productivity, it has been possible to create farmers and young people who are interested in working in a union. Only in one kebele of Bona district, it was possible to breed more than 300 improved calves. Achieving such results in one kebele, it is easy to imagine that there would be many calves of improved species in 20 kebeles of Bona district. This demonstrates the attention given by the region and the achievement gained. If it is possible to confirm the effectiveness of the activity by expanding the experience, it will be possible to increase the development of dairy and beef cattle in the region in a short period of time.

The region has presented Bona and Bensa districts as model for their results, and the farmers are committed to cultivating, handling and managing fodder for the animals in addition to their desire to breed improved animals. As a result, the activity of working with the farmers from the district leadership to the bottom was encouraging. In general, they have recorded an exemplary performance for others.

Tekle further explained that breeding is being done using improved bulls from India, and the bulls are of two types. Another breed that has been improved by importing female calves from Korea and India is a species that can be used for breeding.

Farmers know the species very well. It is easy to use. Breeding work is done in locally built improvement centers, and hybridization is done locally by experienced professionals. The region provides resources for breeding. Since the service is free, all that is expected from the farmers is to be ready to improve the animals’ species.

If this service is valued in money, it will require no less than 30 thousand Birr to improve one cattle species. It can be understood from the number of farmers found with their cattle in the movement program that was held in one day in one kebele that the farmers are realizing the importance of improving the species and the necessary cost. It can be said that the work of improving the species is inducing initiative.

The region has designed short-term and long-term plans in its efforts to increase productivity by improving the species of the cattle. Effort is underway to improve 60 % of animals’ species within ten years. As per the short term plan, maximum effort is exerted to improve species of 101,000 animals and to obtain 71 thousand calves in the current fiscal year.

There are 30 rural districts and 7 urban administrations in the region and the work on resources, manpower, planning, common understanding, training the farmers and other activities essential for species improvement that started in 37 structures have been completed during the preliminary preparations.

According to Beyene Barasa, Deputy Head of Sidama Region and Head of the Education Bureau; since the establishment of the region, Sidama has been trying to address the people’s demand for development in different ways. Up on accessibility of road infrastructure, easier transportation would be available not only for people, but also for crops products and livestock. Other infrastructural works should also change people’s lives.

This can be achieved consequently to the work that increases the income of every resident of the region. The issue of creating modern breeding by improving animal species plays an important role in ensuring family prosperity. Therefore, result-based work is expected.

The Deputy Head of the State and Head of Education Bureau said that they realized from the day’s program that the current activity is encouraging. He stressed that it is not necessary to carry out agricultural work on a large land, but to increase productivity on a small land. He pointed out that such an approach is a unique method to avoid the problem of land scarcity.

Art & Culture

Madingo: The patriotic, philanthropist artist

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

When the whole nation was celebrating the Meskel Holiday, one of the world's intangible cultural heritages and people were in a total holiday mood, a tragic and unexpected news began to fill the air waves. First it was the usual social media who took the front line but there were the usual suspicions that it may not be true and that someone with ill intentions might have fabricated it to create some cheap attention among the media audience.

But later on as the news got repeated even in more respectable and reliable sources, it began to acquire more and more probability and credibility. When finally the official news media of the country broke the news, it was indeed hauntingly true! The much beloved and popular vocalist Madingo Afework has passed away suddenly in a clinic that is not far away from his residence around Summit.

Condolences began to pour from the highest officials of the country including the prime minister and the president who all expressed their sadness and paid tribute to what the artist has done throughout his relatively brief life.

The circumstances of his death were initially not at all clear as the reports say that the artist did drive his car up to the clinic where he sought medical aid as he was not feeling well. But he was pronounced dead after some time while he was under treatment. The reports say that when the patient was administered an injection he said he felt suffocated and could not continue breathing and that was the end of Madingo.

But there are also other reports from circles that are close to artist, that Madingo did have a concert on the Demera night and that he was fine, and as usual entertained the audience with his marvelous vocal capacity and talent, but that he had made some complaints of a slight heart ailment, not a good feeling. Some say there has never been heard or reported a history of heart ailment of the artist but that he had even gone in search of advanced treatment to Thailand because he had a chronic ailment of his stomach to treat. This was not news that came to the wide audience and there was no news updates also about the then state of his health. What people know is that he was actively taking part in shows and concerts even if he may have felt every now and then stomach ache and the pain that derives from that.

Madingo Afework is one of the top most vocalists the country has and practically all of his songs are adored by music lovers because his performance is exceptional. Up to now he has released only three albums and in about thirty years of activity one may say they are pretty few, but they are all top quality albums. Besides he has also contributed to the audience several single songs that have been loved by not only specifically his admirers and fans but also by the wide Ethiopian audience of

When he passed away, so many people came forward to testify to his kindness and generosity and that he had kids he permanently helped



Ethiopian beats and sounds.

The biggest quality of Madingo that people say is his exceptional voice. Few artists can match the voice and vocal qualities of Madingo. Then the love for the profession is enormous as he began with his career at the age of nine! He was born in Azezo, near Gondar City but was taken to Debre Tabor where he began his artistic career and did a lot of music in Bahir Dar before moving to Addis Ababa. In Addis he came to the attention of every one and began to work in night clubs with the launching of his first album he released alone called 'Siyame Atahulat' or 'who shall I call her' an admiration to the girl's beauty.

Building up on the popularity of this album, Madingo then published another album called 'Ayederegim' roughly 'It can't happen' and by then he had already become a great celebrity. People identified him wherever he went. His face had appeared in all Ethiopian media and his face on his new albums has decorated the city's walls when there were promotional pictures with the new releases. When once he was asked how he felt about the amount of money he managed to secure from the sale of albums and how rich he was becoming, his answer was that money was not the focus of his attention but love from the audience. When he heard his songs play everywhere he went, he felt all the joy of the world that cannot be exchanged for money. Making people happy or contributing to their delight, he said was his greatest achievement and success.

Madingo then was eagerly awaited for new releases given the quality of albums he gave to the public. Talking about how difficult it is to produce an album he once said, it takes not only a lot of time but also the contribution of so many other artists in the field and so much money and so much fatigue, that was why the interval of his production of albums was quite long, especially compared to certain artists who would produce an album every two or three years.

Madingo then released the most successful of his albums some years ago and acquired

great success and admiration from the audience. By then it was undoubted that Madingo had got deep into the annals of Ethiopian modern music along with the classic and well renowned artists in the hearts of every Ethiopian. Madingo was well admired for his patriotic feeling and he showed it in his performance preaching Ethiopian unity and splendor. The single song he released during the Ethiopian millennium fifteen years ago called 'Anbessaw Agessa' meaning the "Lion is roaring" has become a classic song that excites every Ethiopian and the video clip went viral throughout where Ethiopians live. It pays tribute to being Ethiopian with all the qualities of bravery, patriotism and defense of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. As the origins of his artistic history are traced to the military establishment where he was selected to be a part of their artistic group, he has been a bit indoctrinated on what nationalism means and what the defense of one's nation means. It is there where he developed this huge sense of being a true Ethiopian irrespective of language, ethnic or religious differences and could be a good example of what being an Ethiopian should imply.

Madingo is also someone who has never refused to use his artistic talent to help raise funds for certain disadvantaged communities and when he is called to take part in certain similar events he is the first one to consent and participate actively. More significantly he has been to the war front at every occasion when there was need to entertain and raise the morale of the armed forces in the various military engagements against enemy forces. He is well received by the national defense forces as one of them and with the military uniform he looks like one of them.

The patriotic songs he plays on those occasions are really electric and fills the military with exceptional spirit. That was among the most notable contributions he made to his country and that he has deserved the praise and acknowledgment of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and President

Sahlework Zewde. Both have expressed their deep condolences at the sudden death of the artist at only forty four. There was of course a feeling that he had still a long way to go and a lot more to do.

His fans were devastated by this tragic news on a holiday but the entire nation has been immersed in this sad day. Death is not something new and no wonder people die at a certain age. For instance we lost another huge artist just a year and a month ago in Alemayehu Eshete, one of the trademarks of modern Ethiopian music. But we knew that Alex had several medical issues including a heart case and with the contribution of his eighty years, there was great sorrow for his loss but not suddenness. May be with startling similarity with the case of Madingo, people were remembering the sudden death of another beloved vocalist Tamrat Desta in his late thirties who passed away some years ago. The circumstances of his death were never made clearly to the public and some have speculated that there might have been medical error. But there were no concrete evidence released to the public. Of course many people die suddenly of various crises, mostly heart attack and explosive blood pressure. And there may be thousands of such cases anywhere but evidently, as they are not celebrities, they do not come to the attention of the wide public.

One other huge quality of Madingo that few people may have known is his charity work. When he passed away, so many people came forward to testify to his kindness and generosity and that he had kids he permanently helped and there were people who were feeling very sorry for these people now that he is gone. In this respect he was a real hero to be emulated.

Finally, we have come to know that his fourth full album was ready for release and that he was actively following up on this latest work to be published soon. Unfortunately destiny did not allow him to live the glory of his latest album to which his fans and admirers look forward to enjoying in his memory. The public knew that Madingo was working on this album but they did not know that it was ready for publication and would be released as soon as promotional activities are completed.

In one of the songs released in anticipation of the album, Madingo sings about death and how helpless we are in front of this natural phenomenon. Some were heard saying that it appeared that he anticipated his destiny. I have known Madingo in several occasions including at the wedding of my brother where he was the lead singer and in his private night club where I went a few times with friends. We met also his sister and brother, both artists. I have personally witnessed how respectful he is to people, how he greeted me and others with modesty, without any air of being the famous icon, a quality all celebrities be the vocalists or instrumentalists or members of any other artistic fields should treasure. Madingo was an artist to be emulated and let his soul rest in peace!

Global Affairs

More conclusive evidence that TPLF's "Under Siege" narrative is a lie -, that the UN is helping to peddle it

The UN has worked on its telecoms for more than a year

BY SHEBA TEKESTE AND JEFF PEARCE

As reported in August, Tigray has had limited telecom and Internet access for some people in the region at least as far back as early May. Many sources have since confirmed they've received regular Emails, Whatsapp and Twitter messages from contacts in Tigray for a period of at least the past 10 months.

Now comes evidence from the UN itself that it has been working on providing telecom access for the region for more than a year. And it's deliberately hiding its efforts.

In a Fact Sheet labeled "Tigray Region of Ethiopia — Conflict," the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, under the umbrella of the UN World Food Programme, confirms that it was "activated" more than a year ago to "coordinate and provide critical IT and telecommunications services" ostensibly to "support the humanitarian response to the crisis."

The Fact Sheet can be traced to the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster's website, etcluster.org, but it's hidden from general viewers — and you will search in vain for any visible Fact Sheets on Tigray in its "Operational Updates," despite a plethora of available Info graphics and Situation Reports on Nigeria, Syria, Libya, and other locales.

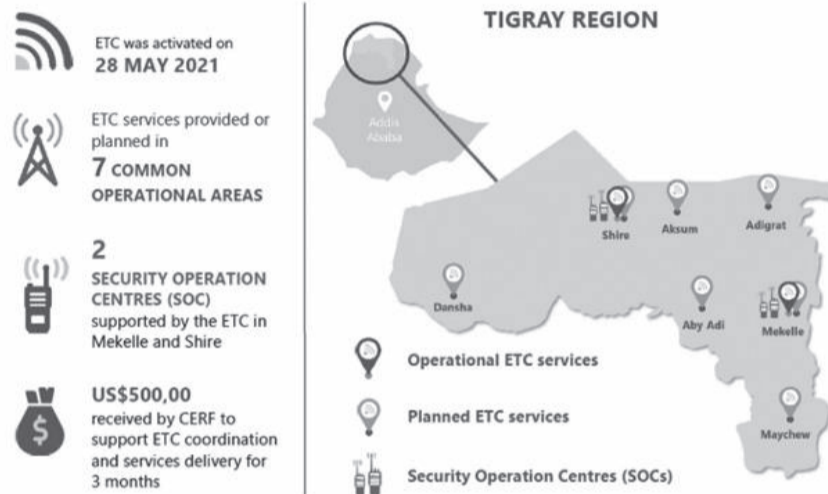
But according to its own document, the ETC claims it went operational on May 28, 2021, though sources show the region had limited Internet access weeks before this. And of key concern is the fact that the ETC says it has operational and "Security Operation Centres" in Mekelle and Shire, with planned ETC services for Axum, Adigrat, Aby Adi and May Chew. A Security Operation Centre means various scenarios for mobile phone networks, including satellite phone and VHF/UHF networks.

This, despite relentless and false statements from the Director-General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom and his TPLF allies in international media and within the international system, including the EU's Joseph Borrell and analysts like Crisis Group's Will Davison, that Tigray remains "under siege."

The cluster also has planned ETC services for Dansha, which is not even in Tigray but in Wolkayit, a region which belonged to Amhara but was forcibly annexed by the TPLF in 1991 and is now under federal protection. The map provided in its document therefore

OPERATION OVERVIEW

The conflict crisis in the Tigray region of Ethiopia—which erupted in November 2020—has left over 90 percent of the population in need of humanitarian assistance. In May 2021, the ETC was activated to coordinate and provide critical IT and telecommunications services to support the humanitarian response to the crisis.



accepts the TPLF's "Western Tigray narrative" and implies that it would support and work with the insurgency on undermining the territorial integrity of the Ethiopian state.

Given that the Fact Sheet was produced and distributed in June of 2021 and no updates are easily available, it's difficult to tell how far along the ETC has progressed in providing these services. But critics — and the Ethiopian government — would be within their rights to ask hard questions, especially in light of the pressure the government has come under to repair the very telecom and power infrastructure the TPLF has continuously taken down! For instance:

Why has the U.S., EU and UN itself repeatedly condemned Ethiopia in public for denial of telecom services when a UN cluster has access to the region and is clearly at work on restoring those services?

Why is it hiding the progress of ETC operations from the general public on its website?

How far has the ETC progressed in restoring telecoms? Given that it began its work in May of last year, it is impossible to believe that the ETC would be so incompetent that it hasn't already restored a substantial portion of services. If so, why is the UN — and Tedros Adhanom in particular — still lying about this?

Given that the WFP has failed to publicly follow up on the TPLF's blatant theft of more than 570,000 liters of fuel and 12 tanker trucks and the UN refuses to follow up publicly on the assaults and kidnapping of its own staff, as revealed in its own documents, to what extent does the TPLF have access to telecoms intended for "supporting humanitarian efforts?"

Hard questions should be asked as well about how the ETC got into Tigray in the first place. According to its own unfortunately named "UN-Spider" website, the ETC can be activated not only when the "coordination efforts of the international community are strained" but when efforts of the national authority to the crisis do not meet humanitarian standards."

The implication here seems to be that the UN can decide for itself if a sovereign state is up to the challenge and can move to insert itself. In the case of Ethiopia, this was impossible as the

UN needed the authorities' cooperation to a large extent to gain access, but the wording is disturbing.

Even more cause for potential concern is that "within 48 hours of a disaster, the ETC provides vital security communications services and voice and Internet connectivity to assist the response community in their life-saving operations. These services include: Telephony, Local Broadcaster Support, Establishment of effective two-way Common Feedback Mechanisms, Internet Connectivity, Customer Support, Security Communication Systems, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Coordination."

If we take the ETC at its word that it was "activated" May 28, 2021 but that it can provide such services within 48 hours of activation, that means that the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) lied to the world in its Flash Update dated July 1 of last year when it claimed, "Throughout Tigray, electricity and mobile networks are cut, and few communications are only possible via satellite phones and VSAT connections in a few agencies' compounds in Mekelle, Shire and May Tsebri."

At a minimum, the OCHA is guilty of a lie of omission by not disclosing that ETC was working to restore and provide services. And everyone remembers when a photo circulated online on July 2, 2021 of WFP's emergency coordinator Tommy Thompson casually standing next to Getachew Reda as he talked on a satellite phone. Thompson quietly disappeared, and weeks later WFP confirmed that he had "moved to another country."

And given that UN and U.S. authorities have not bothered at all to mention the cluster's ongoing work to restore and provide "telephony, Internet connectivity," etc., we ask again: what is the extent of the services restored and provided as of today? How many thousands have such services restored? Or is it merely the TPLF elite, who somehow manage to get their tweets out and communicate to their supporters in the West despite a "siege?"

Proudly listed among the ETC partners as of July 2021 is the U.S. Department of State. In light of Samantha Power's crusade to "weaponize" American aid initiatives as a foreign policy club for the Biden administration, people should wonder: How much do American interests direct the activation of ETC operations?

Law & Politics

Criminal TPLF: A loyal proxy of Ethiopia's arch foes

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It has become apparent that Terrorist TPLF's war against Ethiopia is part of the long sought-after smear campaign to weaken the state and install a puppet government in the country. And, TPLF is the Trojan horse of Ethiopia's longtime foes and special interest groups.

The ongoing hybrid war waged against the country is much more beyond the narrow political interests of the reneged TPLF clique. TPLF is only the instrument of foreign entities who have been striving to meet their interest by stocking violence, and getting the country into a vicious circle of war and conflict. And, the end goal is to have the democratically elected government of Ethiopia swayed into their demands.

The unwarranted pressure and the extreme silence on TPLF's war crimes also play into this far-fetched and wicked objective. Emboldened by neo-imperialists, financed by Ethiopia's arch enemies, and turbocharged by its lust for power, the errant TPLF enterprise is engaged in war-mongering acts to destabilize and descend the country into anarchy.

The unholy alliance between the rag-tag TPLF group and paymasters in this regard is nothing but quid-pro-quo. As the unlawful group has been endeavoring to preserve some interest groups residing at home and abroad, some foreign entities have been many a time and oft coming up with layers of conspiracies, remaining tightlipped and parroting TPLF's stand to whitewash the crimes of the bloodstained group.

Forming coalitions with the disgruntled group, some foreign enterprises have been playing a part in besmirching the positive images of the country and twisting Ethiopia's arm that cannot happen anytime.

The silence of the global community and the coordinated conspiracy of TPLF and its enablers are encouraging the criminal gang to sustain inflicting crisis and chaos in the country and commit heinous crimes with impunity.

The other thing is that following the misguided policy of some foreign entities and the low-rated international media outlets towards Ethiopia, the criminal organization has continued launching fresh attacks in various parts of the northern part of the country.

Afterward, the criminal organization leaders had been toppled from power, foreign entities have been bankrolling cash, providing training, and equipping the rogue TPLF element.

As things stand at present, regardless of the continued unwarranted pressure and smear campaign against the country from internal and external actors, Ethiopia has been numberless times standing tall and resisting encounters.

On the heels of the nefarious deeds of some foreign bodies going on behind closed doors, the lives of quite a lot of innocent civilians have been claimed to leave many parents childless and helpless.

In a similar vein, for the sake of accomplishing their hidden agenda, some countries at all hours of the day and night have been knowingly or unintentionally taking sides with the Terrorist TPLF group that does not believe in burying the hatchet and living in peace as well as harmony.

Ethiopia has been facing baseless pressure from foreign affiliates on account of the synchronized information warfare that kick-started since the onset of the criminal enterprise's attack on the Northern Command of the Ethiopian Defense Forces.

Rather than familiarizing all and sundry with barefaced lies that make matter worse, rub salt in the wound, and cause a conflict to become more intense, some foreign agencies for the love of attaining their hidden agenda have been rubbing shoulders with the ragtag group.

It is abundantly clear that instead of bringing the terrorist group to justice, some entities have been putting unjustified pressure on Ethiopia and echoing their baseless accusation of the illegal group, and belittling the positive moves unfolding in every nook and cranny of the country.

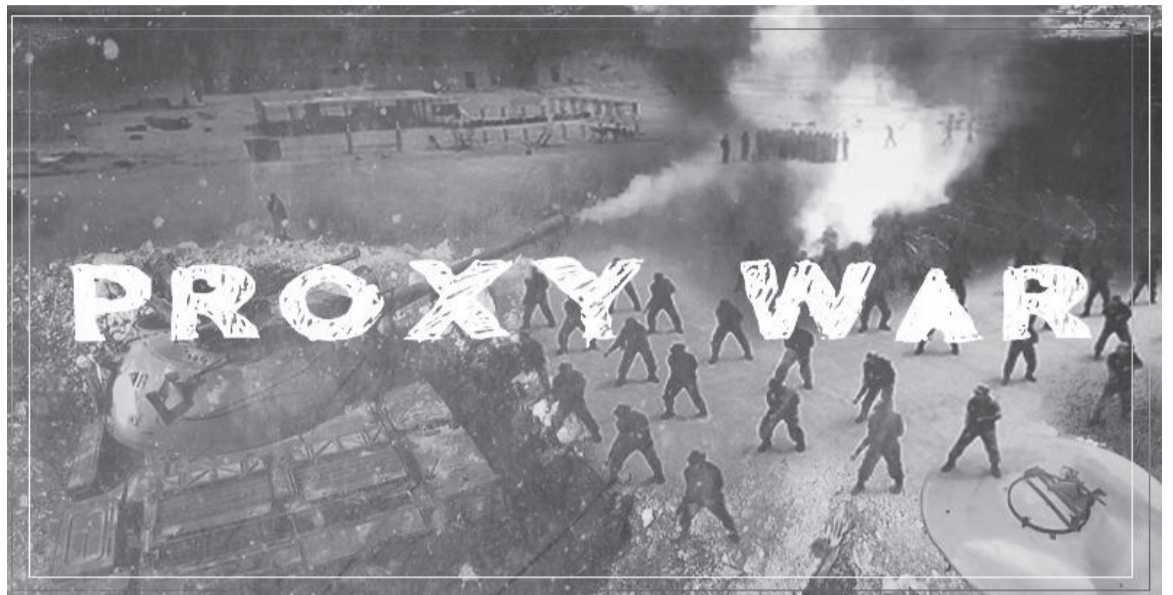
Though the criminal syndicates have been intensifying tensions and aggravating rhetoric as a means to attain their veiled purposes, some foreign actors have been sparing no effort to defame the promising moves surfacing across the country.

The wider international community did not utter a single word of condemnation against the evil deeds of the criminal enterprise except giving the cold shoulder to the unflinching stance of the government to make peace happen. Similarly, notwithstanding the fact that a wide range of mayhems has been committed in the northern part of the country, some entities have been working with paid activists and sympathizers aimed at concealing the nefarious deeds of the group.

The sad thing is that merely for the love of putting in place their hidden agenda, some nations have been giving the cold shoulder to the evil deeds of the group that has been exposing to risk the existence of non-combatants. In the present climate, the group that considers itself the emancipator of the people of Tigray has been triggering unspeakable pandemonium.

Although the people of Tigray paid a lot of sacrifices on account of the reckless actions of the rough element, some foreign entities kept on brushing off the existing reality on the ground and perplexing the wider international community.

The war the Terrorist TPLF has waged against the Ethiopian government is a proxy war that is supported by some interest groups who wish to restore the radical clique and preserve their best interests, a renowned historian said.



Speaking to an international media, historian and independent journalist Thomas C. Mountain stated that these interest groups, whether they are in the media, human rights mob, amnesty international, or human rights watch, they are all 'liars for hire.'

"There is a series of atrocious activities by the criminal group resulting in their own people rebelling against it. In the T-TPLF second offensive, an Australian woman doctor reported on how it was difficult to bury dead bodies in Afar since the outlawed faction looted and destroyed heavy equipment."

He further highlighted that those interest groups don't care about the people of Ethiopia. They want to get back their control over the Horn of Africa but the T-TPLF is being destroyed.

"What these interest groups are going to do since the T-TPLF is being destroyed is a good question. Because whenever the terrorist enterprise is destroyed, they jumped in and say ceasefire and negotiation. Give them a chance to rebuild and rearm but the people of Ethiopia are completely fed up."

Mentioning the Ethiopian government has launched a major food security program where it has been planning massive fields of wheat and it is on the verge of exporting it, the historian stressed that if the Ethiopian Diaspora contribute two % of their income, the nation wouldn't need all the foreign aid or loans.

Revealing the crooked intentions of the foreign entities, Hermela Aregawi, an independent journalist argued that the sheer lies about Ethiopia with regard to the northern conflict are truly eye-opening experiences for the Horn of Africa (HoA).

Speaking to international media, the Ethiopian-American independent journalist Hermela stated that all the unfounded allegations of mass killing, rape, and others against the Ethiopian and Eritrean governments and their soldiers have been done overnight with no access to the Tigray state.

She added that, in many cases, their sources are Terrorist TPLF activists in the Diaspora as well as the main T-TPLF leaders like Getachew Reda. And also, the way the conflict has been handled by some international organizations,

including media outlets and UN agencies is eye-opening for Ethiopians, Eritreans, including the people in the region.

The fake news that has been circulated by these mainstream media is inaccurate, malicious, and intentional, according to Hermela. She also indicated that the Horn has about 200 million people just in that land alone and then a lot of people that live all over the United States and elsewhere.

Many people including her have the perception that the international media outlets were at least trying to tell the truth about different conflicts around the world. "But there were exceptions to that in terms of what we already knew like what happened in Iraq, Libya, and other countries," she added.

The journalist restated that, in November 2020, the T-TPLF attacked the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) which was in the Tigray, and the group took a lot of arms and killed a lot of soldiers. However, she added, a lot of the mainstream media outlets obscured the fact that the Ethiopian government took an offensive, which was a defensive response to that brutal attack.

As to her, all the international media outlets that have no reporters that work for these outlets are all saying something that is not completely true. "It is hard to believe that. That is how the world works if you were not aware of it before."

She further explained that when the war started, the mainstream media was saying that the Ethiopian government was trying to kill off ethnic-Tigrayans which did not line up with her experience and with the experience of a lot of people including those who eventually became T-TPLF activists.

The terrorist group was ousted from power in 2018 after six years of struggle of the people, and the officials of the group had retreated to Tigray where they had originated and started galvanizing the people saying 'we are going to war for the survival of Tigray', she also indicated.

However, Hermela added, the people of Tigray have been largely poor, and officials of the T-TPLF never cared about these people where they originated from, but now they felt the need to get back into power.

Planet Earth

The Wolf Man of Simien!

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

“In May 2020, a wolf (Red Fox) was wounded in its natural habitat after being gunned down. I found the wounded wolf in a very critical situation since the bullet hit its back leg. The wolf was on the way to lose its life. At that time, with the scouts of the Simien Mountains National Park, we treated the wolf like a human providing all necessary medications.

It was a very arduous task to treat the wounded wolf. By then, I invited veterinarian from Debarik town to treat the wolf. Recognizing that the wolf was critically wounded, the veterinarians decided to cut the leg. But, I refused the decision, instead advised him to give necessary support with follow-up. If the wolf lose its back leg, it would tough to survive.

Following the matter for 50 consecutive days together with scouts, the wolf was fully recovered and became healthy. Then, we send it to its habitat and multiply itself,” explained the wolf man of Simien, Getachew Assefa.

Getachew Assefa, conservationist of wolves (Red Fox) in Simien Mountains National Park, was born and raised in Debarik Town, North Gonder Zone of Amhara State in Ethiopia. Debarik is a

town found near the UNESCO registered Simien Mountains National Park. The Simien Mountains National Park is known for its eye-catching topography and home for different wild animals, especially the well-known endemic animals of Ethiopia. He enjoyed his childhood in this beautiful mountainous and wildlife rich area known for its attractions.

As he grew in this rich wildlife site, he has a special connection with natural attractions. After he completed high school education, Getachew joined The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP), a programme aimed to protect and conserve the Red Fox, a wolf endemic to Ethiopia, in 2002. EWCP was established in 1995 to help the Red Fox since this endemic wolf was endangered. Getachew joined this programme as a conservationist of Red Fox in Simien Mountains National Park and surrounding areas. He was the only person assigned for this position by EWCP.

Since then, almost for over 20 years, his life has been attached to wildlife. The Red Fox which is an endemic wolf was endangered since it was targeted by the community residing around the park due to less awareness towards wildlife. Without limiting itself in protecting the wolf, Getachew has also raising awareness of the community at large. With this, he

contributed a lot in increasing the number of Red Foxes in Ethiopia.

“I fell in love with Red Foxes after I joined EWCP. Even though I found a lot of opportunities that make me more beneficiary, I could not detach myself from wolves,” Getachew told *The Ethiopian Herald*. For Getachew wolves are not considered as dangerous animals but lovely creatures.

“Once you approach wolves, it is hard to depart from them. You never experience any conflict within a wolf’s family and the love between one another is incredible. They also unite to defend their family from external enemies,” Getachew stated.

Getachew restated that he joined the wolf conservation, attending in depth training on wildlife conservation in EWCP head office which is found at Bale Mountains National Park. After that, he has been offering training in different parts of the Amhara Regional state. Menz Guasa, Abune Yoseph, Abuhay Garya are some of the park benefited from the opportunity.

As a member of EWCP, Getachew has been played a greater role in increasing the number of wolves in Ethiopia. The programme was started to conserve and increase the number of Red Foxes in Ethiopia since it was endangered.

Currently, though the number of wolves is increasing, it requires more effort.

For the contribution he made so far, Getachew has gained various recognitions from different organizations including UNESCO. He also gained a nickname called: the wolf man of Simien so as to recognize his contribution in the conservation effort of the wild wolf.

Now, Getachew is among the three finalists of the “McKenna-Travers Award for Compassionate Conservation 2022.” The award was established by Born Free Foundation which is the major donor for the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme. The award, which aims at promoting individual conservationists, has got its name by the founders of the programme.

“Ethiopian wolves are the world’s most threatened canned, with only around 500 individuals remaining. With a team of Wolf Monitors and Ambassadors, Getachew carefully watches over the wolves that roam Simien Mountains National Park,” the foundation on its website stated to promote Getachew.

Getachew, the finalist, calls all Ethiopians to vote for him at the “Born Free” website since one selection criteria is public vote. Now, online voting is open to the public.



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Efforts required saving Babbile Elephant Sanctuary

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The Babbile Elephant Sanctuary is located 560km east of Addis Ababa and 25 km south of the city of Harar. The sanctuary is located between the Oromia and Somalia States and has *Loxodonta africana orleansi* wildlife species. The sanctuary, in part, encompasses a plateau, as well as the lowlands of the valleys of the Erer, Dakota, Fafen, Gobe, and Borale Rivers.

The Sanctuary hosts special elephant species called *Loxodonta africana orleansi* and provides several different ecological services. It is also a tourist attraction site. Nonetheless, the sanctuary is currently in a worrisome situation. Hence, it becomes a concern that needs serious attention and intervention to reverse the situation.

Haramaya University Research Affairs Vice President Associate Professor Tesfaye Lemma said that currently, the sanctuary has faced severe man-made and natural challenges. Illegal settlements by those who live around the sanctuary have come to grab land. Expansion of agricultural land un-researched investment activities, poaching, and climate change, invasive migrant



Photo By Fuad Ahmad
Elephants surrounded by illegal settlers

weeds, and frequent drought are factors that affect the sanctuary.

The problem is very serious, complex, and multi-dimensional. It has also political and economic dimensions that require collaborative action and commitment of the two regional governments in moving the legal settlers from the sanctuary, he underlined.

Because the sanctuary has been shrinking in terms of area, the quality is deteriorating, and the number of elephants is decreasing. Besides, the elephants are exposed to all kinds of attacks destroying the crop of surrounding farmers, and even attacking people in the nearby village. As a result, there is serious human-elephant conflict in the sanctuary, he elaborated.

To solve the problem, Haramaya University

and Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that enables them to reverse the situation through research-based intervention since the recurrent drought, population growth, and increasing demand for agricultural land need scientific solutions.

However, the university prepared short, medium, and long plans for the project but it requires a lot of money that can be covered by neither Haramaya University nor the Authority. Hence, it is key to mobilize additional resources, for the time being, from development partners since it is a global issue. Those especially who are interested in preserving ecology and animals like elephants can work with us, he added.

The project will link the historical city of Harar, the Babbile Elephant Sanctuary, Dakota stone, Lij Iyasu detention area, Kundudo Mountain with its wild horses, and so on. Because linking them can save the sanctuary by creating an attractive tourism hub in the eastern part of Ethiopia that can benefit the country and the people of the two regions, Prof. Tesfaye noted.

To make this project real the support of the federal and the two regional governments as well as other stakeholders are imperative. As

it is known that the county under the Prime Minister’s office has various initiatives such as a green legacy, dining for the nation, and so on. Hence, the University wants to appeal to the office to include the project and scale up the initiative into the western part of Ethiopia to save and restore the Babbile Sanctuary.

As well, the sanctuary serves as a buffer and protects the expansion of deserts from Ogaden to Harergeh’s low lands. “If we lose this resource, we will not lose only the elephants but the ecology will change forever and causes drought, desertification, the loss of biodiversity, and so on. It also expanded deserts to other parts of eastern Ethiopia. So, it requires serious awareness creation tasks for the communities, political leaders, regional governments, and other stakeholders.

It is imperative, therefore, to prioritize and show concrete commitment to implementing measures to reverse the illegal settlement, supporting the Ethiopian wildlife conservation authority. It is also essential to support Haramaya University to do a series of detailed and rigorous research to design and implement evidence-based management strategies for the sanctuary.